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Biden's Visit Starts Distinguished Visitors Speakers Series

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DAYTON, Ohio, October 27, 1976 -- Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del) is the first visitor scheduled for the Distinguished Visitors Speakers Series for 1976-1977. The series, being planned by the office of university activities, will bring a variety of prominent people to speak at UD for the general public and is free of charge.

Thirty-three year-old Sen. Biden is one of the youngest men elected to the U.S. Senate in its history at the age of 29. Biden is noted for his leadership in the Senate for fighting to end forced busing of school children. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, he is sponsoring legislation which would require that all Federal programs be limited to four years only, unless specifically re-authorized by Congress on a case-by-case basis. Such a policy would help get rid of costly, outdated programs.

Biden also sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, one of the Senate's most prestigious committees. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, he sponsored the bill -- now -- law that extends Federal prohibitions against discrimination in granting financial credit, and he has worked for legislation to improve housing opportunities for all Americans. He also took part in the effort which resulted in the passage of the 1974 campaign reform bill. Sen. Biden will appear at UD on Thursday, November 3, 3 p.m. in Boll Theatre.

Other speakers in the series include William Buckley, a nationally syndicated political columnist, editor, author and the T.V. talk show host of "Firing Line." Buckley has served as a presidential appointee to the five-member Advisory Commission of the U.S. Information Agency as well as the 28th delegation of the United Nations. He will be appearing January 6, 8 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

A special attraction of the series will feature Reggie Kuhn, a 71-year-old activist who is the head of the Gray Panther Organization. She will speak at UD on January 12, 3 p.m. in the KU Ballroom. However, she will be in residency here in Dayton on January 11, 12 and 13 speaking for nursing homes, senior citizens, those in government, and at Wright State.

The fourth scheduled speaker is Alex Haley, the famous author of the novel, "Roots." His book, a saga of black history, is the topic of a 12-hour television series to be presented on ABC at the end of January. He will speak at UD February 6, 8 p.m. in the KU Ballroom as a highlight for black history month.

The last speaker of the series will be Helen Thomas, chief of U.P.I.'s White House Bureau who has been covering White House affairs since the Kennedy era of 1961. Thomas is also the author of "Dateline Whitehouse" and "World Without End." She is better known in recent times as the late Martha Mitchell's confidante. She was selected as one of the top ten women for 1975. She will appear February 24, 3 p.m. in the KU Ballroom.

The series of prominent visitors will be re-enforced and augmented by an array of mini-courses, workshops and seminars, some to be offered in preparation for and follow-up to the major addresses. Any mini-courses that will be held are always offered for one credit hour, equivalent to 15 class hours. More information on which mini-courses will be scheduled will be available at a later date.

The series is being sponsored by the student association, the vice president for academic affairs, the political science department, the office for moral and religious education, the UD mothers' club, the faculty wives, and university activities.

For further information about the series contact Ellie Kurtz, chairperson of the Distinguished Visitors Speakers Series under the office of university activities at 229-2637.

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