

world

# Peking cafe — oasis for western culture

United Press International  
PEKING — The prostitute, cheeks rouged and hair curled, stared self-consciously out the window of the noisy, smoky cafe that vibrated with Western disco music and laughter.

At another table, six raucous students, one fingering an American cigarette lighter, happily tossed questions to a pair of equally inquisitive foreigners.

Near the door two youths in expensive, Western-style overcoats, offspring of the "new class" of well-heeled Chinese bureaucracy, sprawled in their chairs trying to look sophisticated and bored.

The Peace Cafe is one of only two European-style cafes in Peking where Chinese can lounge over Western-style coffee. The other is in the Peking zoo.

But the Peace is the only place where prostitution is frankly evident in a country that claims not to have any.

It is also the only cafe where respectable Chinese mix with foreigners. Government bureaucrats

come to show off their leather jackets and other signs of China's slowly growing affluence.

Six youths came in with two girls. The young men slouched around their table like villains in a 1930 "Fu Manchu" movie.

After a while, one of the youths approached two Africans at a table and then scurried back to confer with his companions. Soon the foreigners — diplomats or students — left and the girls shot out the door after them.

The youths, cigarettes dangling beneath mustaches, swaggered off, padded winter coats thrown over their shoulders in the best Mediterranean style.

"You sometimes see prostitutes here," said a Chinese teacher who frequents the cafe.

"I do not like black men," another customer hissed. "They go after our Chinese girls."

Peking's "nightspot" actually closes at a demure 9 p.m. But it opens at 10 a.m. and by day is a haven for unemployed youths or workers with weekdays off.

The cafe made its debut Jan. 1 under the liberalized post-Mao regime. Exuberant customers enter through a traditional Chinese portal with a tiled roof into a long, narrow room with beige walls and dingy curtains on the latticed glass doors. Each table is covered with a white cloth and glass top and cheerful vase of paper flowers.

A girl behind a glass case sells pastries that hint of wallpaper paste. Waiters wisely collect before filling orders for the table-hopping crowd.

The cafe is an annex to the Heping (Peace) Hotel, built in 1952 on a narrow sidestreet off Wang Fujing shopping street. Like all first class hotels, the Peace is reserved for foreigners. But both Chinese and foreigners are allowed in the cafe, while Chinese are barred from other hotel cafes. In restaurants, foreigners usually are hustled to special private rooms with higher prices.

A second smaller room in the Peace Cafe is patronized by older Chinese, well-dressed couples who sip coffee in a more dignified atmosphere.

The Peace is expensive for the Chinese. Beer costs the U.S. equivalent of 33 cents a pint, more than the

price of a quart in ordinary restaurants. A lychee sundae costs 80 cents, equal to a day's pay for some workers.

Sundaes, soda, beer and pickles are consumed at once — with forks and spoons. Not a chopstick is in sight.

The prices keep customers in the well-to-do category. "We have lots of money," said one pub crawler.

One student wore an expensive leather jacket. Another patron wore a gold chain necklace outside his heavy winter coat, the better for everyone to see. Even indoors, students all wore new fake fur Russian-style hats.

A youth in a blue padded ski jacket, the new Western fashion in Peking, slapped expensive leather gloves against his palm in an attempt at casualness as he surveyed the house. His Peking "slash-and-burn" haircut identified him as a native, not overseas, Chinese.

A tipsy young man examined a foreigner's Mickey Mouse watch and repeated, "I saw a cartoon in the party newspaper that said President Carter is a mouse."

None of the young people had heard of Mickey Mouse.

The customers chain-smoked American cigarettes and cigars. Western disco music faded in and out from a portable radio on a teenager's table. Finally, the news came on.

United Press International  
TIJUANA, Mexico — Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo has ordered construction of a \$130 million concrete canal from Rodriguez Dam to the U.S. border to end perennial flooding in Tijuana, a border city of 1 million.

Announcement of the presidential decision was made Saturday in Ensenada by Baja California Norte Governor Roberto de la Madrid.

The canal would follow a zigzag course roughly along the present channel of the Tia Juana River, a

distance of 14 miles, including a stretch of downtown Tijuana where a \$120 million concrete canal is already in place. It was built following destructive flooding two years ago.

This week's flood caused \$98 million damage in Tijuana, threatened to burst Rodriguez Dam, killed at least 11 people and inflicted another \$1 million in damage across the border in the Tia Juana River valley of San Diego County and in Imperial

Beach, Calif., where the river meets the sea.

Under terms of a border treaty the United States was paying emergency water Saturday Tijuana at the rate of 3.150 gallons a minute to relieve a shortage caused by destruction of a strip of aquifer.

About 200,000 residents of the northern Tijuana, which draws water from the still muddied Rodriguez, live without drinking water Saturday.

"Are there cafes like this in the United States and in France and Italy?"  
Millions.  
They looked awed.

## Portillo orders new canal to end flooding in Tijuana

## Dracula is star in TV soap

United Press International  
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Count Dracula has been transplanted from Transylvania to the movie screen to the Broadway stage and now turns up in an even stranger scene — a Brazilian television soap opera.

Every night for 50 minutes beginning at 7 p.m., viewers of the Tupi network watch "Dracula," a soap opera its creators call more of a romance than a horror show.

"From the beginning our vision Dracula is going to have a social focus," writer Rubens Filho said. "Vampirism will be shown not only as a mere terror nomenon but also in the psychological aspect, the human relationship and principally the socio-political relationship."

### DIETING?

Even though we do not prescribe diets, we make it possible for many to enjoy a nutritious meal while they follow their doctor's orders. You will be delighted with the wide selection of low calorie, sugar free and fat free foods in the Souper Salad Area, Sbis Dining Center Basement.

**OPEN**  
Monday through Friday 10:45 AM-1:45 PM  
**QUALITY FIRST**

### MSC Great Issues Presents

## Who Should Play God?

Impacts of Genetic Engineering with Ted Howard

**Tuesday February 5**  
Rudder Theater 8:00 p.m.

Students 50¢ Non-Students 1.50

CAMPUS  
Showtimes 7:45 & 9:45 846-6512  
A story about having the courage to be what you are

### RUNNING

UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER

MANOR EAST 3  
MANOR EAST MALL

DUSTIN HOFFMAN  
**Kramer vs. Kramer**  
7:25 - 9:40

BETTE MIDLER  
ALAN BATES  
**THE ROSE**  
DOLBY STEREO

THE ELECTRIC HORSEMAN  
PG

7:15 - 9:45

PLITT Southern Theaters  
846-6714 & 846-1151  
UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER

CINEMA I  
DAILY ENDS THURS.  
7:30 FEB. 7th  
9:40  
THE STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM  
**E.T.**  
PG

CINEMA II  
DAILY  
7:40  
9:30  
THE PRIZE FIGHTER  
A Knockout Comedy!  
PG

MSC Aggie Cinema  
this week's movies  
**To Catch A Thief**  
WED. 7:30

**NORTH DALLAS FORTY**  
FRIDAY SAT. 7:30 & 9:30

MONTY PYTHON  
**LIFE OF BRIAN**  
FR. & SAT. Multiple

2000 E. 29th 822-3300

**SKYWAY TWIN**  
DON'T MISS OUR MONDAY NIGHT SPECIAL.  
EVERY MONDAY ADMISSION IS ONLY \$1.50 PER PERSON  
7:15 EAST 11:20

JOSEPH WAMBAUGH'S  
**THE ONION FIELD**  
A True Story  
ALSO AT 9:55 CITY ON FIRE  
7:15 WEST 9:55

**STAR TREK**

**A WEDDING**  
PG © 1978 20th CENTURY FOX

SUNDAY  
your marketplace the  
**WANT ADS**  
Battalion Classifieds  
Call 845-2811

Looking for some excitement?  
Join MSC Cepheid Variable  
Wed., Feb. 6, 8 p.m.  
308 Rudder Tower

# DEALS

## STEELER UNIROYAL

UNIROYAL BUILT IT TOUGH...



- Square shoulder tread design for better mileage.
- Patented tread design tested in over 7,000,000 miles.
- Two wide steel belts for strength and protection from road hazards.
- Whitewall design.

**AT A PRICE THAT'S TOUGH TO BEAT**  
**\$49<sup>24</sup>**

METRIC SIZE	ALPHA NUMERIC REPLACEMENT	PRICE	F.E.T.
P185/75R-13	ER78-14	\$49.24	\$2.36
P195/75R-14	FR78-14	\$7.96	2.52
P205/75R-14	FR78-15	\$0.71	2.61
P205/75R-15	GR78-14	\$2.14	2.62
P215/75R-14	GR78-15	\$5.00	2.79
P215/75R-15	HR78-14	\$7.96	2.80
P225/75R-14	HR78-15	\$9.29	2.95
P225/75R-15	LR78-15	\$6.43	3.09

All prices plus F.E.T. and tire off your car.

## TIGER PAW™

BIAS-PLY POLYESTER WHITEWALLS

**\$30<sup>71</sup>**

SIZE	PRICE	F.E.T.
A78-13	\$30.71	\$1.93
C78-14	\$3.57	2.13
E78-14	\$5.00	2.26
F78-14	\$9.29	2.42
G78-14	\$0.71	2.45
G78-15	\$3.87	2.60
H78-14	\$3.67	2.65
H78-15	\$4.86	2.93
L78-15		

All prices plus F.E.T. and tire off your car.

## LAREDO RV

BIAS LUG RAISED WHITE OUTLINE LETTERS

**\$80<sup>09</sup>**

SIZE	PRICE	F.E.T.
12-15/4	\$87.27	\$5.30
12-15/6	\$0.91	5.44

All prices plus F.E.T.

## UNIROYAL LAND-TRAC

POLYESTER RAISED WHITE LETTERS



**\$65**

Size 10-15/4, raised white letters, tubeless, plus \$4.68 F.E.T. No trade-in needed.

# SALE

LAND-TRAC tires for all kinds of Vans, Pick-ups and four-wheel-drive Vehicles.

Prices good through Feb. 15, 1980

## PILGER'S TIRE & AUTO CENTER

400 E. University Dr. College Station 696-1724  
Home owned and operated

## MSC TRAVEL

### SUN TRIP TO ACAPULCO

March 7-11  
\$313.00 includes:  
Roundtrip trip transportation  
Four nights accommodations  
Tickets to 3 discos  
Bay cruise  
\$75 Deposit; Signups close Feb. 6



FOR MORE INFO CALL MSC TRAVEL 845-1515