

# Europe Club — a retreat to cultures of foreign lands

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL  
Campus Reporter

A round table of seven students, a lingering aroma of pizza, dark beer and the Europe Club: Aggies from 17 countries are meeting as they do each week to practice their native languages, discuss problems and share each others' company.

Each of the members shares a common struggle with University life as visitors in a foreign country, said Mehmet Sahinoglu, president of the club.

"People get together, because they have a common element and it is easy to make contact with someone from the same area," he said.

To grow more accustomed to this new culture as well as different people, the 68 members of the Europe Club get together in informal meetings, Sahinoglu said.

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"Americans stay apart and it is hard to get introduced," Norbert Dereu of Belgium said. "It's hard to have real friends with whom to share problems."

Dereu said he seldom associates with Americans in his leisure time.

Twenty-two Americans are also members of the Europe Club, one of the eight international student organizations on campus. They join the club because they are interested in European cultures, said Woody Smith, a modern languages graduate student.

Aside from the 22 American members, however, according to a study by Sahinoglu last fall, most Texas A&M students believe that interna-

"I found it strange that everybody said 'hi' to me on campus. In Europe people do not readily greet each other on the street. That does not mean that I am unfriendly." — Catherine Balandras, an entomology graduate student from France.

tional students have something to offer.

His study also indicated that with age and increasing education people

become more tolerant toward foreign students and women seem to be more comfortable than men around them.

Catherine Balandras, an entomology graduate student from France said she suffered from an "Aggie culture shock."

"I found it strange that everybody said 'hi' on campus," she said. "In Europe people do not readily greet each other on the street, except when it is someone you know. But that does not mean that I am unfriendly."

The club interests Balandras because she says everybody has a diffe-

rent story to tell and the American members are open to other cultures.

Most conversation at meetings is informal and in French, English and German only interrupted by occasional announcements.

Politics is a major part of the club discussions on Wednesdays, Dereu said.

"Americans don't talk much about politics the way we do," Smith said. "We talk about different ways of organizing society," Dereu said. "Americans talk about Republicans and Democrats, but I still can't see any difference between the two," he said.

Many non-Europeans are attracted by the language tables that the Europe Club holds each week, said Terry Noyes, a senior in history.

"I think it's one of the big things that the club has to offer," he said.

"We talk about different ways of organizing society. Americans talk about Republicans and Democrats." — Norbert Dereu from Belgium.

"People talk slowly and help each other."

Besides meeting informally at a local pizza parlor the club has film evenings and makes trips to culturally interesting sites like an Indian reservation or a folk festival. Yet the most popular activity is the Wednesday meeting, Noyes said.

## KAMU nets over \$14,000 in 16 days of Festival '80

Friday wasn't a good night for the Aggie basketball team but it brought in dollars for KAMU-TV, Texas A&M University's public television station.

With two days left in the 16-day fund-raising Festival '80, the televised game on Channel 15 pushed the station far past its initial goal. A record \$5,500 was raised during the telecast bringing the total \$200 over

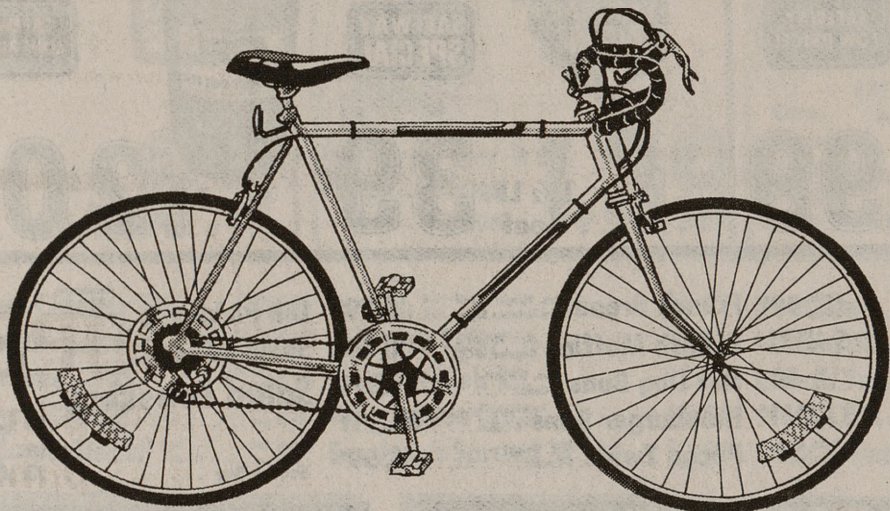
the initial goal of \$10,000.

By Sunday, the final day of the festival, KAMU had raised a total of over \$14,000. The amount topped the station's previous fund-raisers.

The goal for the festival was reset three times since the start. The donations are tax-deductible and go strictly to pay for both Public Broadcasting Service and local programming.

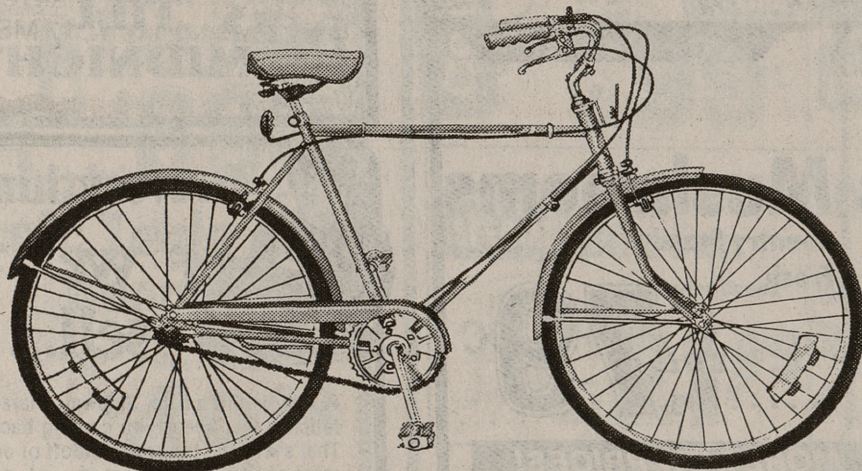
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