

Economist receives award

Chinese learn Aggie know-how

(Continued from page 1.)

consequences they've had. You can't achieve good objectives by bad means. Good objectives are flawed by bad means of force and coercion." Then Friedman said he didn't want to dwell on the abstract, but wanted to get closer to home, so he talked about the financing of higher education institutions such as Texas A&M.

"No other government program imposes burdens on the low income people for the benefit of middle and upper income classes like the financing of higher education," Friedman said.

He said that the average income of those who pay taxes for others to go to school is vastly lower than the average income of a graduate or of the family that sends a student to school. He asked the audience to justify that on equity grounds.

Then Friedman struck at another sacred cow: social security. "Lower income classes start to work at age 16 and 17, no later than 18 years old," he said. "But we in the middle class are lucky if our children are self-supporting by age 25. So the lower income class pays taxes for more years and usually dies earlier."

Friedman concluded by saying he often challenges audiences to name a significant government reform in-

tended to help distribute income from upper to lower class that succeeds in doing it.

"Will our society have the will and sense to disband the aspects of these programs that have become a failure?" Friedman asked.

He said he's optimistic from the long run point of view and is encouraged by the public's popular will to limit federal spending.

"This is a democracy and sooner or later, it will prevail. We shall learn from our experience and correct it."

Samuelson began his presentation by saying he and Friedman had been friends for a long time. He said he once told his students that if Milton Friedman had not existed, he would have had to invent him.

Samuelson, too, questioned the title of the program, said that maybe the focus of the program was a bit misplaced and instead of centering on the roles of government in the market, the talk should be on the roles of society in relation to the market.

"The question I want to address goes outside economics," he said. "What do we know of political economy and what do we know of economics? Is an economy organized primarily on market principles and a stable one? The question I'm asking is of political stability, not its economic stability."

"It's pointless to inquire which is

more important, the market or the state," Samuelson said. "That's as pointless to inquire which is more important, heredity or environment. Without heredity we wouldn't be here, but without environment there would be no human beings."

Then Samuelson seemingly unintentionally got a laugh from the audience when he said, "Before I leave the common sense behind and take up economics, let me emphasize one more thing: order in society is as important to economic well being as is technology, capital and equipment and labor skill."

Samuelson said the one thing about a democracy with all its inefficiency is that everything hangs up. He said you know exactly what temperature is below the surface, but the one thing about imposing a political order is you can never know what the temperature is below.

In conclusion, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor said, "Economically in the long run, the worst thing that could happen would be to draw the battle lines for a final showdown on that which should be rendered to the market and that which should be rendered to the state."

Both economists answered questions from the audience and from the press at the end of their presentations.

By ROBERT LEE

Campus Reporter
Adapting to life in another country can be hard, but for five Chinese mainlanders at Texas A&M University, the rewards have outweighed some of the difficulties.

Three of the Chinese are studying and doing chemical research on rare earth elements. They have been working since September with Minoru Tsutsui, a chemistry professor.

Zhang Rong-Ben, 39, and Chen Li-Ban, 36, are research associates from the Institutes of Chemistry in Peking. Yang Jihua, 40, is from the Chung Chung Institute of Upright Chemistry in northeast China.

Zhang and Chen plan to stay at the University for two years while Yang will be here for four.

"Our country is very rich in rare

earth elements (mainly lanthanum, a metal), and we have come here to learn how to use them as catalysts," Chen said.

A catalyst is a substance which speeds up or slows a chemical reaction without itself being consumed. In China, rare earth catalysts are used in industry, Tsutsui said.

The three Chinese researchers said that they do not have the knowledge or equipment in China to do their own research.

"The cultural revolution has held us back," Chen said. But, he predicted that within 10 years, China will be able to compete with the United States in rare earth chemistry.

Two other Chinese mainlanders are also studying at Texas A&M. Zhang Jianhua, 35, works under Hans Schuessler, an associate professor of physics. Zhang has been

working in Schuessler's laser laboratory since he arrived in January. Cheng Ke-di, works with Chemistry professor Ian Scott. Cheng is a research associate from a Peking medical institute, studying plant alkaloids.

The group's most difficult problem has been learning English. They all watch television; Chen says it improves oral comprehension. But, he said that the University has been

helpful and patient with everyone in the group.

"We appreciate the University very much," he said. "Everyone is kind and we live a happy life here."

The five Chinese will go back to their families in China as soon as they complete their studies. And when they get back, they say they will put to work what they have learned to help modernize their country.

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