

Local

China ready to share with U.S.

A&M prof observes China

By VENITA McCELLON
Battalion Reporter

The day begins early in Peking with music and exercises in the street at 5 every morning. After that comes breakfast and then the rush-hour traffic of the 3 million bicycles the Chinese ride to work.

The influence of the United States hasn't changed these aspects of life in the People's Republic of China, said Dr. John B. Herbich, a Texas A&M University professor who spent a month in China this summer on an exchange program.

Herbich conducted seminars at the Da Lian Institute of Technology for 92 engineers, professors and graduate students. While he contributed his knowledge of ocean technology, he also observed the Chinese culture and the western influences that are becoming more obvious in the daily lives of the Chinese.

The Chinese people are hungry for knowledge of the culture of the United States and the industrial and agricultural technology that is used here, said Herbich, head of the Ocean Engineering Department at Texas A&M. The modernization of China has become a major concern of its people, especially since the United States opened diplomatic relations with China on Jan. 1, 1979.

"They're getting impatient that the United States is not responding to their quest for knowledge," said Herbich. The Chinese are ready to learn and share with the United States, he said.

The advancement of some aspects of Chinese life create an ambiguous scene when compared to the traditional Chinese culture.

"There are great contrasts between very primitive methods of agriculture and very modern tractors," Herbich said. "You also see products coming from the farm communities in horse-drawn vehicles and you see 747s sitting at the airport. People are digging trenches by hand and you see an air-conditioned bus."

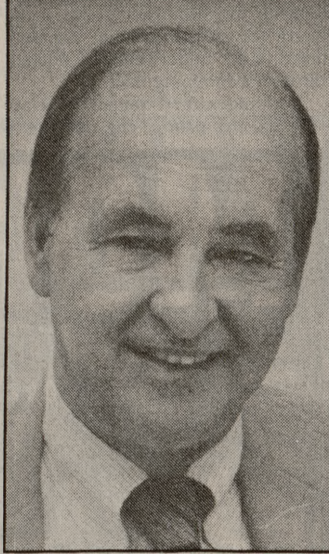
The more primitive aspects are a reminder that total modernization is far away.

The morning exercise routine began with a wake-up call of music, Herbich said. Everyone took to the streets for an hour of exercise, including calisthenics, table tennis and jogging. The streets filled from 7 to 8 o'clock as workers walked, bused or biked to work through a city of 8 million people. There are no private vehicles in the city, but the bicycles are parked in a lot with attendants, similar to major parking lots in the United States.

Although Herbich said most of the people he was in contact with spoke some English, his lectures were channeled through an interpreter.

"After each sentence I would pause and they would translate it," he said. "Everyone in China is trying to learn English. On the radio you'll hear English lessons several times a day."

"Almost everywhere I went they stopped me on the street to say hello



Dr. John B. Herbich and to try out their English words. There would be groups of almost 10-20 people surrounding me when I went out.

The people all responded to Herbich in the same way, he said, as if instructed to do so. Herbich said their familiar introduction was, "We are so happy about your coming here. We are so happy that China and the United States are going to cooperate."

"I think the press and radio are most favorable to America," Herbich said, "and the government really sets

the tone. The tone is to cooperate."

Herbich's part of the cooperation began in 1979 when a delegation of Chinese visited the University, including two from the Da Lian Institute. The delegation discussed an exchange of professors and students and joint research efforts, both of which they thought would benefit China. Herbich's trip was the first in the exchange, which may later include bringing graduate students from Da Lian to Texas A&M.

Ocean engineering is of particular interest to the Chinese, Herbich said, because of oil exploration in the Yellow Sea.

Herbich said that the Chinese were good hosts.

"Several times I was invited to their homes. I know it was difficult to shop without supermarkets, and they prepared a feast with 30-40 dishes."

The majority of foods prepared were vegetables and seafood, which included octopus and seaweed, Herbich said.

"After a while I wouldn't put my glasses on so I wouldn't know what I was doing," he said.

Herbich said he hoped the United States would take an interest in the cultural and scientific exchange with the Chinese. He said the Japanese are already gaining a foothold on trade with the country.

"I think the U.S. is a little late and possibly missing the boat. I don't think we can ignore that many people. The only way they will learn is from us."

Bowl teams compete

Three teams will participate in the final matches of the Texas A&M University College Bowl Tournament tonight. Competition will begin at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center main lounge.

Tonight's winning team will enter the regional tournament to be held here in February.

Last year's Texas A&M team placed third in regional competition, behind Rice University and Texas Christian University.

College Bowl competitors quickly respond to questions related to history, politics and current events. Each team consists of four University students.

The College Bowl Tournament, a special project of the MSC Council, began last October with 25 teams.

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I wonder if there's such a thing as a spiritual dentist. I think my whole personality is full of cavities.

We're not sure if we qualify for being "spiritual dentists" or not, but if you feel like this, we would invite you to come in for some "fillings" this week.

Hot Line workers will listen when nobody seems to care

By PAMELA RIMOLDI
Battalion Reporter

It's Saturday night. Everyone is at the Dixie Chicken sipping some brew or cutting a rug at the Electric Cowboy — that is, everyone but Tammy.

She sits in her dorm room once again, feeling lonely and depressed, dreading the moment when her roommate will burst through the door, bubbling over with tales of the fun she had on her date.

Tammy crawls into a bed for the night wishing she had a friend or just someone to talk to about her loneliness.

But Tammy does have someone to talk to, someone who cares and wants to listen — on the Crisis Hot Line.

A call to the Crisis Hot Line would put her in touch with a person who wants to help find ways to solve her problem.

Part of a volunteer's job is to direct the caller to an appropriate place for help. The Hot Line also serves through crisis intervention.

For example, if a runaway calls looking for shelter, a hotline worker can find a place. The volunteers are also instructed on how to help a woman who has just been raped and doesn't know what to do.

The hotline also gets calls from distressed people considering suicide. During such types of crises, the Hot Line can help by calming the person and allowing him to talk to someone who is concerned.

The volunteers are trained how to listen effectively. Also, the first thing Mary Orndorf, the hotline coordinator, tells new volunteers in training is that they will not solve anyone's problems.

The preface to the Crisis Hot Line training manual reads, "Abraham Lincoln said, 'You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.' At some point the caller must become responsible for himself. In that manner he can take credit for working through his crisis without relinquishing that accomplishment to someone else."

How does a hotline worker go about helping a caller help himself?

First, by assessing the seriousness of a call. All calls are treated seriously, but some, such as an attempted suicide, are more urgent.

In this case, a worker develops a relationship with the caller so he can identify exactly what the problem is. After discussing the problem, the volunteer and caller can discuss a

plan of action to solve the problem. The key to being a helpful volunteer is careful listening. In enhancing listening skills, volunteers are taught to maintain a non-judgmental attitude and to direct full attention on the caller and his crisis.

Workers must listen carefully be-

cause the caller's tone of voice can indicate the severity of his crisis. An unusually low, flat voice may be a sign of depression while abnormally rapid speech may indicate use of amphetamines or great emotional stress.

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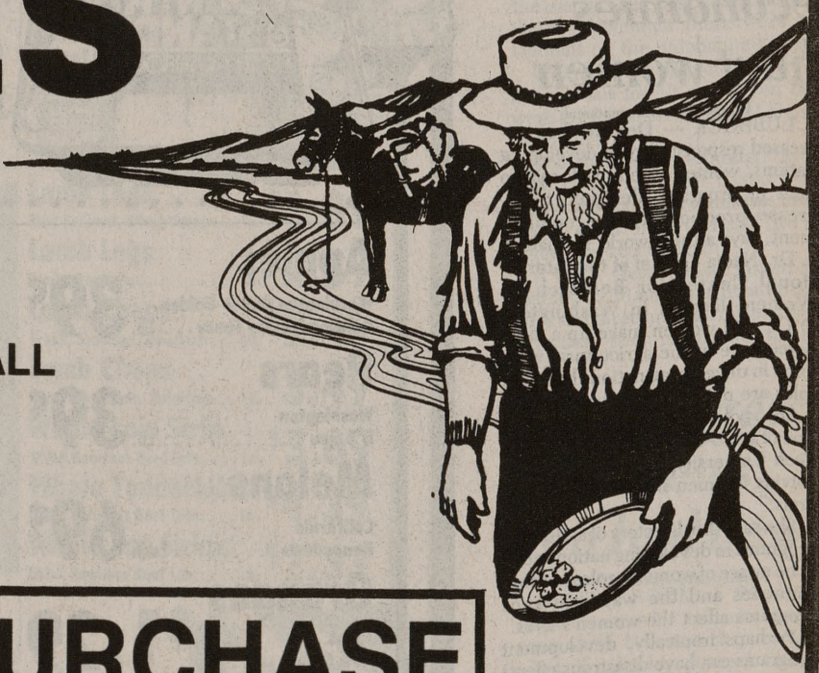
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