

Local

Four experts at forum discuss Chinese issues

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Reporter

Chinese efforts to match the American standard of living were among topics discussed Sunday afternoon at Texas A&M University in a forum on Chinese issues.

Fifty people attended the forum presented by the Chinese Student Association and the International Student Association of Texas A&M.

A major issue on the Chinese mainland is the effort to catch up to the United States' standard of living, said Dr. Teh-kuang Chang, political scientist at Ball State University. Modernization of mainland China, a goal of the Communist Party for many years, consists of four major areas: agriculture, industry, national defense and scientific technology, he said. Chang, one of four political ex-

perts who spoke at the forum, also said that only through involvement by all the people of China could modernization take place.

"The political modernization of the Proletariat is needed so that others can become involved," Chang said.

Chang and Dr. James Tsao, professor of political science at Houston Baptist University, said that no modernization could occur in China unless there is social freedom for the people. "You cannot have political stability without democracy," Tsao said. Freedom of speech is the foundation of democracy and the Chinese need to avail themselves to speak freely whenever possible, he said.

Tsao said Taiwan has put basic practices of democracy to work, but more is required before Taiwan can be judged a success.

Dr. Ignatius J.H. Tsao, a member of the department of political science at State University of New York, described the Party's idea of democracy. "The dictatorship of the proletariat is put over as a form of democracy since theoretically all power is in the hands of the people, with everybody exercising a dictatorship, thus making a democracy," he said.

Dr. Richard H. Yang, who is from the Department of Chinese and Japanese at Washington University, said the United States should be more careful in deciding policies with China since Chinese policies can change radically, as shown by China's denouncement of Mao Tse-tung.

"It is important to realize that China is no card to be played at her expense," Yang said.



Dr. Teh-kuang Chang, political scientist at Ball State University, speaks at a forum on Chinese issues. Staff photo by Greg Gammon

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A&M designs future shuttles

As the space shuttle Columbia is prepared for its second launch in October, two Texas A&M University researchers are among those working to perfect future models.

Dr. Dave Norton, an aerospace engineer, is testing a solution that may prevent ice from forming on the shuttle's large center fuel tank. Chunks of ice are believed responsible for some of the damage done to the shuttle's outer tiles on its maiden voyage.

Dr. Dara Childs, a mechanical engineer, is overseeing creation of

a test facility designed to simulate forces affecting seals in the shuttle's turbo pump.

Both projects are conducted through the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, part of the Texas A&M System, and are aimed at improving the efficiency and safety of future flights.

Tiles on the space shuttle are strong thermally, Norton said, but were not designed to take direct shocks. Scientists believe that ice pieces form on the tiles between the fuel tank and the belly

of the shuttle, then crack and chip the tiles.

Norton and a colleague are testing a "fix" that would warm the outer surface of the shuttle's liquid fuel tank and prevent ice from forming.

In early 1982, they plan to put a 1/50th-sized model of the shuttle into the experiment station's wind tunnel to test the solution's effectiveness. The tunnel will simulate the earth's boundary layer and conduct actual performance testing.

Childs and others, during the shuttle's design stages in 1975-76, were concerned that instability might be caused by seals in the turbo pumps. But there was little test data on which to base designs,

he said.

"It is almost impossible inside the turbo pumps with seals to measure what is happening," Childs said. "What we have here is build a facility that can measure high Reynolds numbers similar to those created in the shuttle."

Reynolds numbers are also figures important in the design of any system that controls the flow pattern of fluids such as rocket fuel.

The concept was Childs' and was designed by a colleague. The facility resembles a giant maze and fills a small building at Texas A&M's research center near Bryan.

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HEALTH NEWS

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By Dr. Stephenson

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