

SCONA group visits Chinese

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Reporter

Visiting "The Emerging China", and comparing its culture with American culture was how four students began preparing for the thirtieth Student Conference on National Affairs.

"The Emerging China" is the topic of the 1985 conference.

"China is a collective-oriented society where the sum is greater than the individual, while here the individual is important," SCONA Chairman Sid Galindo said.

"The Chinese are in awe of all things new," said Galindo, a senior economics major. "Americans are objects of fascination; even the amount of money we spend, although it seems trivial to us, is incredible to them."

Galindo was one of four SCONA representatives to visit China May 17-30.

"Free ideas and their exchange is what SCONA is all about," Galindo said, "so when funding for the trip became available, we went."

As part of their five-city tour the group visited Peking University.

"It is not like A&M, where you see students milling around," Galindo said. "The guides told us we were at the university, but I couldn't tell a difference. Their campus is very different."

Galindo said academics at Peking University seemed very limited in scope and student activity was less than at American universities. Galindo added the group only spent one day on the campus — one would have to stay there much longer to get

a better understanding of the university.

"Apart from just seeing the country, we had the goal of getting Chinese students to come to A&M for the SCONA conference," Galindo said. "If we get delegates to come from China, then it was unquestionably a success."

To help with the arrangements, SCONA members enlisted the aid of Li Keqiang, secretary general of the All China Student Federation. "If you are a student in China, you are a member of the federation," said Galindo. Their Chinese hosts seemed receptive to the idea of sending a delegation, Galindo said.

SCONA sponsors an annual conference each spring on a topic considered by the committee to be of national or international importance.

Once the topic is selected SCONA invites approximately 250 people who, Galindo said, would not otherwise be at Texas A&M. Delegates discuss the topic for four days with speakers and professionals in the field.

The Chinese trip was the first major trip for SCONA, Galindo said. The MSC Travel Committee offered the trip for \$2,100 and SCONA raised money to send a delegation.

Galindo said the trip probably cost more than the \$2,100 but the Chinese government might have subsidized part of the trip's expense.

Repayment of the loans will go to a travel fund for SCONA members, Galindo said.



It's Bonfire Time

Photo by DAVID LEYENDECKER

Steve Cross, a senior mechanical engineering major from Pearland, demonstrates while Karl Joeris, (far right) a senior building construction major from San Antonio, explains the

proper method for chopping down a tree. Cross and Joeris taught safe cutting procedures in the first cutting class Monday evening at the Grove.

Young businesses, part-time employees common

Translation companies in transition

United Press International

NEW YORK — The translation business shows all the signs of being an industry in transition. Most of the companies are new to the game, and most of the employees are part-timers.

The Corporate Word, a Pittsburgh-based translating company, recently conducted a survey on translating businesses throughout the country and found the majority less than six years old, with nearly 90

percent having formed since 1970.

International trade always has been important to American business. But the demand for translating business documents is picking up because foreigners now expect to see correspondence and documents in their native language, said Gregory Zaretsky, Corporate Word president.

"The French, for instance, are very proud people. Usually they want to do business in the language

in which they're most comfortable," he said. Some Arab states have laws requiring that correspondence coming into the country be written in Arabic, he added.

The infant industry may be due for another shakeup soon as computerized translations become more sophisticated. The Corporate Word is developing a system, for instance, in which documents can be phoned into a computer, translated, and then edited by a native speaker.

About 100 translating companies out of 900 contacted responded to The Corporate Word's survey. They reported having an average of only three full time workers and about 22 part-time employees.

The industry rule of thumb is that it takes one person-hour to translate a page of text — about 250 words. The average national price, Zaretsky estimated, is about 17 cents a word, although charges range from 40 cents to 6 cents.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A black Takara 10-speed bicycle was stolen from in front of a student's apartment on Jones Street.

- A maroon clutch purse was stolen from a seat on the west side of Kyle Field during the A&M Consolidated High School football game.

- Fifty dollars in cash was stolen from a wallet left in the first floor restroom of Moore Hall.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- Someone broke the passenger-side window on a 1981 Ford

Mustang in Parking Annex 30.

- Someone damaged a 1982 Toyota parked on Jones Street by walking across the hood, roof and trunk.

TERRORISTIC THREAT:

- An A&M Consolidated High School student working for the KANM-FM radio station on campus reported she received a call from an anonymous man who requested she play different types of Nazi songs. She made a remark over the air about the request. The man called back and said he was going to come down to the station and "get" the people working there.

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