

STATE AND LOCAL

# Thoughts on a capitalist future for the Chinese end 30th SCONA

By ANN CERVENKA  
Staff Writer

The 30th annual Student Conference on National Affairs concluded Saturday morning with a summary on "The Emerging China" and implications on future relations between the United States and China.

Dr. Harry Harding, author of several articles on Chinese domestic policy and relations between the United States and China, discussed five common questions raised about China since the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung in 1976 and the initiation of reforms by Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping.

The first question is whether or not China is moving toward capitalism.

Harding said China has become more capitalist, using a loosely defined type of capitalism.

However, China is far from a capitalist system when it is strictly defined as private ownership of the means of production, he said.

Although individual enterprise has expanded, most urban employees work for the government. Harding said in an urban work force of

114 million, less than 1 percent are self-employed whereas 75 percent are employed by the government.

The second question is whether or not China is renouncing Marxism.

The role of the Marxist ideology in China has shifted from strict dogma to a flexible set of methods to analyze problems and broad goals, Harding said.

Harding next explained China's movement toward democracy.

He said although policies have become more liberal, the reform movement that began after the death of Mao cannot be exaggerated.

Reforms have allowed more freedom of choice and expression, a deactivated Marxism, more competition and decreased the role of the party.

However, China still does not want the degree of pluralism that the United States has.

"The political reform has gone less far than the economic reform," Harding said. The Communist party still has broad political powers and limits individual rights.

The fourth question is whether

the reforms are irreversible. "Policies in place today are not necessarily the ones that will be in effect later," he said.

Whether or not the reforms remain depend upon the degree of retrogression or the reversal of development.

If the retrogression is mild, unpopular or ineffective, aspects of the system will be adjusted or abandoned, he said.

A severe economic and social breakdown would result in a decision by the government to permanently cancel all reforms.

Because the reforms are risky, they have aroused serious opposition from traditionalists and survival depends upon the personal authority of the leader, Harding said.

Harding said he is optimistic about the reforms and believes they have only a 30 percent chance of cancellation.

He said although the reforms cause serious risks, the Chinese government can deal with them. He also feels the opposition is losing clout as Deng directs a social transition away from the policies of Mao.

"If the reforms fail, the alternative is not Maoism," Harding said. Rather, China would adopt a government similar to that of the Soviet Union.

The final question is whether China is an ally or an adversary of the United States.

"China is likely to be neither a friend nor foe of the United States," he said.

However, Harding believes the two countries can still cooperate and have a mutually beneficial relationship.

In fact, continued reform in China could be a link to more successful foreign relations, he said.

China and the United States share many common views and goals. Both are concerned with the expansion of Russia, want peace in Taiwan and favor American involvement in Asia, he said.

Although many people believe China is moving toward capitalism and democracy, Harding told the audience not to fall victim to the long standing hope that Shanghai will become another Kansas City.

## Chinese sovereignty discussed at SCONA

By LORIE WOODWARD  
Reporter

The problem of Chinese sovereignty is not an easy diplomatic question to solve, a three-member panel told approximately 200 people during SCONA Friday afternoon.

"No one here will probably propose an immediate solution to all the problems inherent in the slogan 'One country, two social systems', but we hope to air some ideas," said Dr. Suzanne Barnett, a Chinese historian at the University of Puget Sound and moderator of the discussion.

Chinese sovereignty involves the Chinese people's concern with Chinese territory, Barnett said. Hong Kong and Taiwan are of particular importance, she said.

Whether or not Taiwan is actually a part of China has been a continuing sore point between the two countries.

Ping Chen, a Chinese doctoral candidate at the University of Texas, said Taiwan is a part of China and has been for centuries. The problem that exists is how and when the two will be reunited, Chen said.

In addition to popular feeling for reunification, Taiwanese independence is not acceptable to the Chinese because of the strong cultural and historic ties between the two countries, Chen said.

Dr. Tsung-Kuang Lin, professor at Drake University and a native of Taiwan, disagreed.

The common ethnic background between the Chinese and

Taiwanese does not provide a mandate for the inclusion of Taiwan with China, Lin said.

"To say that Taiwanese culture is but a minor branch of the main Chinese culture, as the Chinese have claimed, is to ignore the tremendous impact of Japanese and Western culture on the island," Lin said.

"They (the Taiwanese) have developed such a high degree of self-identity that their affinity to the Chinese on the mainland has become minimal."

Though the conflict between Taiwan and China will exist for some time, Britain and China have reached a settlement which will return Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Dr. Tomas Bellows of the University of Texas at San Antonio said the agreement guarantees Hong Kong will keep a capitalist economic system and a high degree of autonomy. But, he said, the Chinese government will have constitutional powers that could reduce much of Hong Kong's autonomy.

The Hong Kong agreement has been considered a model for handling the Taiwan situation, but Bellows said he did not think the Hong Kong solution would be applicable to Taiwan.

Bellows said such an agreement would not be acceptable to the Taiwanese because the Chinese government would have the power to interpret statutes and the power to select the chief executive.

## Education laws affect Houston rodeo

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The effects of the state Legislature's newly passed education reform laws are not only being felt in the classroom, but also at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, officials for the event say.

Junior entries in the livestock

competition total 16,603 this year, compared to 19,854 in 1984 and 32,139 in 1983, according to show officials' figures.

Michael McCravey, assistant manager of the livestock competition, said junior entries are down because

more youths are staying home for classes this year.

"House Bill 72, which says that kids can be out of school on excused absences not more than 10 days a calendar year, has something to do with it," McCravey said.

To make up for the stringent school attendance laws, livestock show officials moved all the junior breeding beef heifer events to the last weekend of the show. Nearly all the junior events are held during the show's second week, as they were in previous years.

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