

Tuesday, September 18, 1990

## Nin Hao from Taiwan

Tropical Taiwan keeps Chinese traditions, art, culture thriving

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Although the origin of Taiwan's Chinese name, T'ai-wan, is not known, Portuguese who explored the island named it Formosa, meaning "beautiful."

Taiwan is a leaf-shaped island about 100 miles off the southeast coast of the China mainland. It is approximately 245 miles long and 90 miles across at its widest point.

Mountains cover about two-thirds of the island, which also has beaches, lakes, waterfalls and hot springs. A variety of tropical flora and

fauna dot the landscape.

Its largest city, Taipei, is the capital of the Republic of China and home to 3 million of Taiwan's 20 million people.

Most people of Taiwan embrace, at least nominally, a combination of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucianist beliefs.

A Christian minority of less than a million is divided between the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, and a large number of Muslims live in the larger cities.

Traditional Chinese arts and crafts flourish in Taiwan today. The National Palace Museum in Taipei houses an immense collection of ancient Chinese paintings and books, pottery, porcelain

and sculptures.

Popular culture includes Chinese and Taiwanese opera and puppet theater and Chinese folk dances. All major mainland regional cuisines are represented, especially in Taipei.

During the 1970s and 80s, the government gave increasing attention to cultural development, establishing art museums, libraries and performance centers in major cities.

The ROC government sees itself as the trustee of Chinese culture, which it believes has been jeopardized, if not destroyed, on the mainland.

The government strives to present representa-

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Photo courtesy of MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness

Three members of the 1990 Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission from Taipei, Republic of China, perform the elegant fan dance.

## Foreign students adjust to freedom in U.S.

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

When Chieh Peng left Taiwan three years ago, she already had classroom knowledge of English and was accustomed to the fast pace of city life.

But when she arrived at Texas A&M to work on her master's degree, Peng wasn't ready for the freedom she found.

Peng, president of the Chinese Students Association and a graduate student in oceanography, says the most noticeable difference between

her country and the United States is the freedom American students have.

"Here you have the freedom to ask questions, to challenge the old ways of doing things and even drink Cokes in class," Peng says. "But in Taiwan, things are much more restricted."

When Peng first arrived in the United States three years ago, she says she was more accustomed to following a strict routine.

"In Taiwan, students have to study ahead of everything else," Peng says. "But when I came to

A&M, I saw there was much more freedom."

With all these new privileges, Peng says life at A&M can become very confusing. She says most A&M students from Taiwan join the Chinese Student Association to stay in touch and help each other adjust to life in the United States.

She says members of CSA are active, and have planned many activities for this semester.

"Right now we are co-sponsoring

the 1990 Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission," Peng says. "We also have groups for folk dancing, chorus, tennis and many other activities."

Even with all the functions, Peng says she still misses Taiwan. She says she misses food from her homeland the most.

"We have to go to Houston to get anything close to good Chinese food," Peng says. "There is almost

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## Chinese foods find favor for their unique flavors

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

Chinese food is considered by some the epitome of Chinese culture.

People have traveled hundreds of miles to experience its unique flavor and taste. One Chinese travel brochure even calls it "food for the divine."

According to the brochure, the combination of ingredients and their appearance when mixed is what separates Chinese food from all other cuisines.

Meats and vegetables are diced or chopped into bite-sized pieces or sliced paper-thin so they don't take

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## TAIWAN

*Nin Hao* is the formal Mandarin Chinese translation for hello.

The Battalion intends to periodically focus on the countries and cultures of international students at Texas A&M.

## Chinese arts presented tonight

Students from Taiwan universities will present "an adventure" in Chinese songs and dances at 7 tonight in Rudder Theater.

The Youth Goodwill Mission from Taipei, People's Republic of China, is making its 17th annual international tour.

Performers will use Kung-Fu, Chinese dance, traditional costumes, folk arts, and *Kuo Chu* (opera) to display intricacies in Chinese culture and folklore.

Acts include a women's party during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), a fan dance, a martial arts demonstration, an excerpt from a Chinese opera and a traditional tea ceremony.

The opera will display the four categories of traditional Chinese opera: *Ching*, the masculine role; *Tan*, the feminine role; *Ch'ou*, the painted face and the clown.

This year, three units of the Goodwill Mission will be sent overseas: one each to the East and West coasts and one to the Middle East and Africa.

The MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness, Chinese Students Association and International Student Services are sponsoring the program.

Tickets are \$3 and can be purchased at the MSC box office in Rudder Tower.

More information can be obtained by calling 845-1234.

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## PRESENTATION & RECEPTION

Tuesday, September 25, 1990

College Station Hilton 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

casual attire - refreshments provided

All seniors and masters candidates in engineering, accounting, finance, computer science and BANA are invited.

We will be interviewing through our Job Fair on September 26 in the MSC.

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