

**GROUPS**

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"People fear China because of 1989 Tiananmen Square," Cheng said. "It was a disaster because China is Communist. Students wanted more freedom and more right of speech. It was the government and students against each other. After that, we feared China."

Cheng said that over the next few years the world will see changes China will make in Hong Kong.

"Only with time can we tell what effect China will have on our people," Cheng said. "I hope there is no dramatic change."



PHOTOGRAPH: Shannon Castle

**Xin Wu** signs his name on a banner in celebration of Hong Kong's return to china with his father, **Chen Wu**, looking over. The Texas A&M Chinese club hosted a celebration in the MSC Friday.

Economics are a major factor in the Hong Kong transfer, because Hong Kong is better off financially than China, Cheng said.

"There's so much money going through Hong Kong that I want to go back there to work," he said.

Of Hong Kong's 6.3 million-person population, 98 percent are of Chinese descent, and 2 percent are of other ethnic groups. The island has few tariffs and a labor force of 2.8 million, making Hong Kong a favorable area of trade and economic growth for China.

Annai Hwang, an international studies graduate student from Hong Kong, said she feels there will be no dramatic changes as Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule.

"We do not fear at all when China takes over Hong Kong," Hwang said. "We have a background with China. It is as much a part of Hong Kong as Hong Kong is with China."

At 11 a.m. CST yesterday, ceremonies in China and Hong Kong recognizing the handover were broadcast worldwide on television. Hwang said watching the ceremonies made her feel like she was witnessing history.

"The exchange should have been seen by everyone around the world," she said. "Everyone should have stopped what they are doing and watched the TV."

Hwang, who moved to the United States last year, has studied religion in Asia, and said religion in Hong Kong is as diverse as it is in the United States and will not be changed by the turnover.

"Religion is not a major factor in the Hong Kong society," she said. "I think China will respect that."

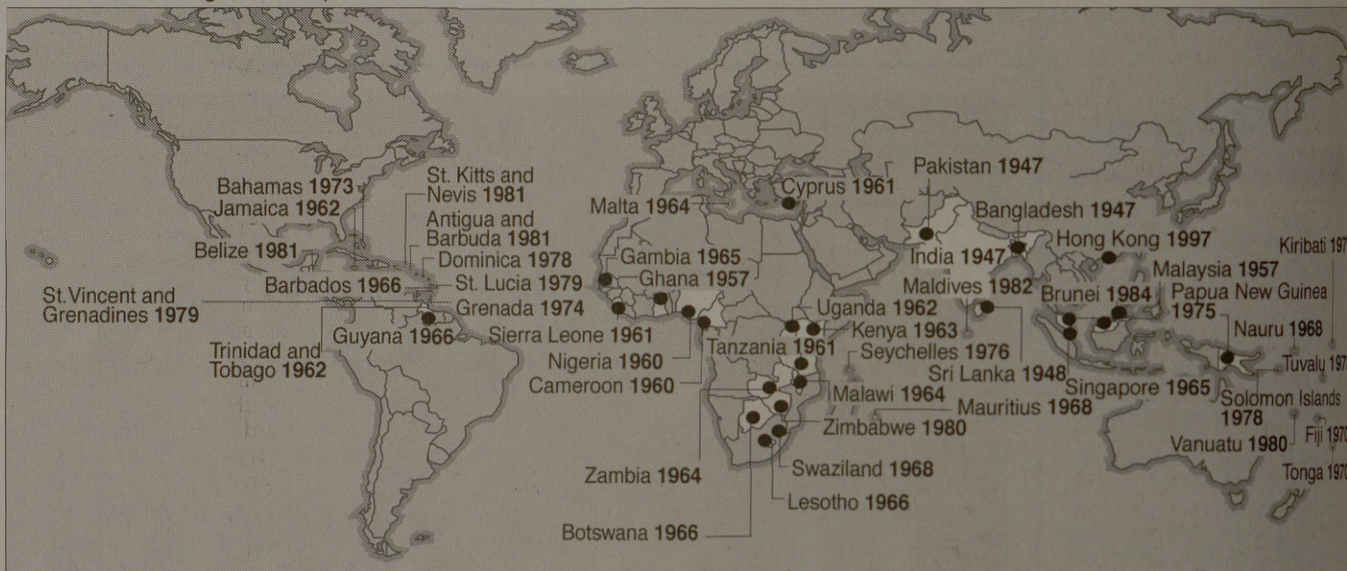
Hong Kong has an eclectic mixture of non-Christian religious groups representing 90 percent of the population.

The ceremonies Friday night included speeches, a video on the "Opium War" and performances of dancing and singing.

The China Club at A&M has more than 400 Chinese student members. Six hundred people attended Friday's ceremony, including China Club members, their families and members of the Hong Kong Club, which has close to 100 members.

**Dwindling empire**

Colonies that have gained independence from Britain since 1947:



**HANDOVER**

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Britain had sharply protested the use of armored vehicles, saying they would frighten people. But they were met by hundreds of people lining the road in pelting rain, waving flags, banging cymbals and applauding.

Some cars stopped, Chinese officers got out beaming, and they were garlanded with flowers.

Then 10 navy ships sailed in, some carrying troops at attention on their decks. They sailed under the Tsing Ma road-and-rail suspension bridge, the world's longest and a symbol of the wealth and knowhow that make Hong Kong so valuable to China.

A protest rally by democrats, who oppose moves to trim civil liberties and dismantle the elected legislature, proceeded peacefully after the new, post-colonial government yielded to their demands to deliver speeches from the balcony of the legislature.

The handover started seconds before midnight, when the Union Jack and the colonial flag came down. Eight seconds after midnight, the Chinese flag was in place alongside that of the newly renamed Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

"This is both a festival for the Chinese nation and a victory for the universal cause of peace and justice," President Jiang declared to the global array of foreign and Chinese VIPs assembled for the change of flags in the Hong Kong Conven-

tion and Exhibition Center.

"July 1, 1997, will go down in the annals of history as a day that merits eternal memory," the stocky, bespectacled president said. "From now on, the Hong Kong compatriots have become true masters of this Chinese land."

Charles, heir to the British throne, said Britain was "proud and privileged to have had responsibility for the people of Hong Kong ... to have been part of the success which the Hong Kong people have made of their opportunities."

The prince's presence lent added historical resonance to the ceremony. It was his great-uncle, Lord Mountbatten, whom he strikingly resembles, who presided over the decolonization of the Indian subcontinent 50 years ago — the beginning of the end of empire.

**HARASSMENT**

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Tarlow said the attending students felt the police were not helping to protect them from harassment.

"I asked the students if any felt they had been discriminated against in

Northgate. They all raised their hands," he said. "I asked who felt they were helped by the police. No one raised their hand."

Before the meetings started, international students were not reporting crimes and incidents that occurred, Neralla said.

Many international students are graduate students and do not have the time

to fully complete and follow up a crime report, Neralla said, and many students also were wary of police.

"Because of cultural backgrounds, some foreign students do not feel comfortable with coming to the police," Neralla said.

In some international students' home countries, police forces are militant or work differently than those in the United

States, Todd said.

A "community-oriented" police officer, Lt. Paul Price, has been assigned to keep in contact with the Northgate students about any concerns they have.

A meeting will be held in July for all citizens to discuss sidewalk and lighting improvements.

"It is our goal as a department to provide services to all citizens," Todd said.

Neralla said increased police patrol around the Northgate area has given a better sense of security to residents, and international students are pleased with the response the police department has given.

"The College Station Police Department is being very helpful in this situation," Tarlow said. "I am very proud of them. This is a problem that has been ignored for some time."

**HOUSING**

Continued from Page 1

Evertt Spaeth, director of architecture at Half Associates, said his firm worked with Vanderweil to study the 2.6 million square feet of A&M's 106 residence hall buildings. He said the study took five months to complete.

Spaeth said the study found it would cost the University \$308 million to rebuild the residence halls. He said this figure puts the \$26 million renovation cost, less than 10 percent of the \$308 million it would take to rebuild, in perspective.

Mizer said the department does not plan to build any new residence halls at the present, but the department is studying what kind of residence hall rooms should be built eventually.

Mizer said the department is looking into apartment-style residence halls.

He said work to combine three modular residence hall rooms on the first floor of McFadden into one suite-style apartment should be completed this summer. He said four students will be able to try out this new type of residence hall room this fall semester.

The layout of the apartment will allow the residents to share a kitchen and living room. The two bedrooms each will be equipped with a bathroom.

The two bedrooms each will be shared by two people and will be separate from the living room area.

Eric Williams, Residence Hall Association president and a senior biomedical science major, said allowing students to try out this new style of residence hall is one of the many ways the Department of Residence Life is seeking student input.

"I think the common resident in the next year is really going to see it," Williams said.

Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Residence Life, said he will give a long-range housing report to the Board of Regents in September detailing the department's work over the past three years, including salaries, staffing, organization, renovations and the results of the Half Associates and Vanderweil Facility Advisors study.

Sasse said the Department of Residence Life does not receive any funding from the state. Funding comes from the money students pay to live in the residence halls, interest on deposits and bonds sold for new housing.

But the department must have the Regents' approval on how it spends its money.

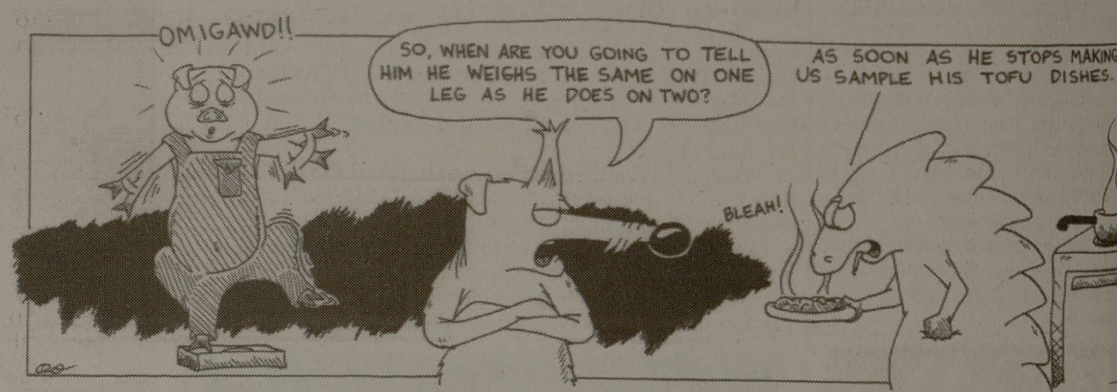
"Any large amount of spending has to be approved by the Board of Regents," Sasse said.

Mizer said the department spends \$1 million on improvements to facilities each year, but next year it hopes the Board of Regents will allow it to increase that amount to over \$1.5 million next year and \$2 million the next two years.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 100° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 101° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 101° Low: 75°

**Sketch**



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