

Expert looks at Chinese after chairman's death

By PATRICIA HINSBERG

Stark University political science professor John Rue is one of a small band of American scholars who makes his living with an ear to the ground a finger to the wind and an eye to the horizon.

That's why he's a China watcher and so must exercise the combined skills of a super-computer and a literary critic.

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AS HE SPEAKS. Rue leans back in the chair behind his book-laden desk, then lights another in a series of cigarettes. With nervous energy, he flips through stacks of papers and thumbs through note cards.

Avoid from being an authority on the machinery of the Chinese political system, he is a writer who often publishes in literary magazines, poetry. That's delicately wrought with an austere, Oriental simplicity.

'There's no one among China's leaders today who's quite as creative as Mao. I'm curious myself about what will happen.'
—John Rue, OU professor

He also is one of the most highly respected books on Mao Tse-tung's early struggles to form the Communist party.

As author of what he calls "one of the most favorable biographies about Mao," he naturally has positive feelings toward Mao, whom many political analysts view as a traitor among modern politicians.

AMONG MANS. Rue is a professor of political science at Stark University.

He also points to the chairman's triumph that he is a great asset to the government for the masses. In the 1920s, when the Communist party was still in its infancy, it was a weak and struggling party.

He believes Mao's approach to socialism contrasts with the brand practiced in the Soviet Union, which Rue describes as the most obvious of commands to the masses. It is a man writing people to be better.

among China's leaders today who's quite as creative as Mao. I'm curious myself about what will happen. Will the new leader tighten up so ordinary people will have less chance to speak out or will they continue today's policies?

Rue's foreign policy at least. Rue speculates, will stay largely the same for a while. Soon after Mao's death, China's news writers brawled with reports of a street riot led by Mao's widow, former actress Chang Ching. Rue, however, is skeptical.

What he does not feel might endanger the regime is what are China's prospects with the Helmsman to chart its course? Even Rue says the answer can only be guessed at. There is no one that she could have prevented a substantial threat to the new leadership.

Despite hints in recent Western news stories—that Rue says were incomplete accounts of Chinese reports—Mao's widow, Mao Zehou, also is a leading trail for her all-out efforts.

Says Rue: "I don't see much whether she'll be put to death. That's just not the Chinese way of doing things. Instead, after her trial, she'll probably be sent somewhere for re-education."



JOHN RUE

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