

With trends come major changes in land of the lotus

"The big things in China right now are sunglasses, nylon stockings, permanent waves, pleated skirts and shoes with heels," said Dr. Jiu Hwa Upshur, associate professor of history at Eastern Michigan University.

"These new trends in apparel are just a hint of the major changes occurring in China since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976.

Upshur and 10 others toured China this summer for two weeks. The EMU tour group joined two other groups from Stanford University for a non-traditional tour of the Chinese mainland.

"We saw much more than regular tour groups because we were associated with universities and because we spoke Chinese," Upshur said.

"One student in the group was a criminal justice major who wanted to tour a Chinese jail. I thought our Chinese guide would faint when we asked for

that tour," Upshur said. After cutting their way through bureaucratic red tape, the group found themselves on a two-hour tour of a maximum security Chinese jail.

"Many of those in the jail were members of the Red Guard during the Cultural Revolution. It's a lost generation. They dropped out of school during the revolution and now if you're over 25 years of age in China, you can't attend college.

So they can't go to school, many don't like farm work, but they don't have other job skills."

Many others in China are disenchanting by the new China.

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Communist Party is now only for position seekers," Upshur noted.

Most Chinese, Upshur found, are no longer afraid to talk to foreigners, although few speak any language other than Chinese, making communication difficult.

Most freely admit that life is better than before Mao's death, with more

freedom, more food and more material good given as examples.

The tour group saw other obvious signs of Marxism declining. Posters of Mao were still being taken down from city walls and Mao's remains in Peking now can only be viewed three mornings a week with special permission.

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Intra-German relations is topic of EMU talk

Gerald Syring, an authority on German politics, will present a one-day seminar titled "Aspects of Intra-German Relations" on Oct. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Tower Room of Eastern Michigan University's McKenney Union.

Syring's talk, which will be given in German, is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Bilingual Studies at EMU.

A resident scholar and lecturer at the Institute for Political Education in Baden-Wuerttemberg, West Germany,

Syring was born in East Germany in 1939 and fled to the West zone when he was 18. After fleeing East Germany, Syring studied at the University of Freiburg where he earned the German equivalent of the master's degree.

Syring is on his first lecture tour of the U.S. For further information on his seminar, contact Professor Rebecca Schrader in the Department of Foreign Languages and Bilingual Studies at Eastern by calling 487-4199.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

UM-D workshop for businesswomen

A business development workshop for women will be presented Oct. 10 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The Women's Pre-Business Workshop is "intended to acquaint the prospective woman business owner with what she must know before making a sound decision to go into business — as a manufacturer, retailer, or service supplier," the workshop planners say. "Emphasis will be placed on methods of planning, organization, finance and promotion."

The workshop, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fair Lane Conference Center on the UM-D campus, is sponsored by the Economic Development Administration University Center at U-M, the U-M

Extension Service and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Several key workshop speakers are women experts in business and owners who will offer tips on pitfalls to avoid and on overcoming the special problems women often face in the business world."

Workshop speakers include Willa Mae King, attorney; Lou Ann Wittbold, C.P.A.; Arthur Anderson & Co.; Yvonne Carter, loan officer, National Bank of Detroit; Patricia Braden, U-M researcher; and Yvonne Gill, owner, Tween's Cafe, Birmingham.

For registration information, contact the Industrial Development Division, Institute of Science and Technology, U-M, at 764-5260.

Xi'an, similar to a farmer's market in the U.S. Free markets have only been in operation in China since Mao's death.

In addition, the tour group explored the network of air raid shelters built under Peking during the height of the Soviet-Chinese border clashes. These shelters, said Upshur, now are used as hospitals, dorm rooms, kitchens, storage and for power generators.

The group also toured a museum at Xi'an near which a major archeological excavation is taking place. Recently, 4,000 ancient replicas of men and horses were found buried in a "football-size field."

A tour of a First Century tomb and a site at Luoyang, with some 30 large Buddha statues were highlights of the group's sojourn as well.

"The Great Wall was really impressive as well. I had seen pictures of it, but actually seeing it has so much impact. You realize how important it was for China's defense with gatehouses for the guards located about every mile on

the wall," Upshur explained.

The tour also included an elementary school, a children's hospital, a commune, factory, stores and the Foreign Language Institute (a Peking university).

Being a tourist in a country just recently opened to foreigners was an unique experience too for the group, Upshur noted.

"The Chinese really didn't know what a tourist wanted. The guides couldn't speak English very well."

"Hotel space was the biggest problem. The group sometimes stayed in rest homes formerly reserved for high level party officials. They were very posh suites," said Upshur.

For Upshur, the visit was a return trip to a country her family fled when she was young. Upshur attended high school and college in Australia and later earned a master's degree and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. Her special is modern Chinese history, and she is presently working on a book about Chinese history.

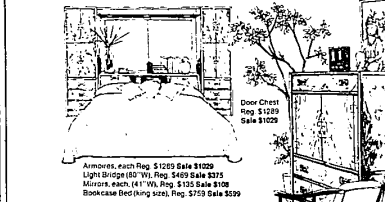
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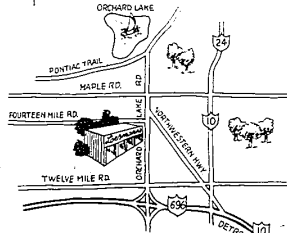
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