

No more freaks

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was famous on Freak Street because I used the ayurvedic system of medicine, which does not have any side effects, unlike the Western allopathic system."

Few tourists visit Srestha now. He spends much of his time visiting friends on Freak Street, a stooping man in his 60s who shamooles from restaurants to shops, reflecting with their owners on more affluent days.

Dipendra Purush Dhakal, Nepal's director of tourism, said today's tourist spends more money and stays in Katmandu three days during a trip to Nepal that averages 12 days.

That means "most visitors go to other places," he said. "The hippies didn't go anywhere outside Katmandu and didn't spend much money."

Two reasons the hippies have disappeared are the 1972 ban on the sale of narcotics and the requirement that a Western visitor who stays in Nepal more than 30 days buy \$10 worth of the local currency for each of those days.

Only two shops still have address boards proclaiming Freak Street. The scores of others have reverted to the original Chinese, which means a "line of houses."

Chinese students lead the struggle for democracy



Students conducted demonstrations throughout small towns in China including these students in Chengde.

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out the chant which we had come to recognize as, "Long live democracy!"

It was a warm evening, but dark. The only light was from the bare electric light bulbs strung overhead that served as Beijing street lights. Our group hung onto each other's hands with all our strength, knowing that if we ever let go we would never find each other again in the crowd. People often ask me if I was afraid. I tell them that I was never at any time in fear of the crowds, but I was terrified of getting lost from the others and with my poor sense of direction, not being able to find my way back to the hotel.

Once the crowds did part to make way for a little band of about 15 students, marching toward the center of the Square and carrying a large flag held aloft. As they passed the light, I could see the kerchiefs around their heads, their shirt sleeves rolled up and the deadly determination on their faces. These were the young men

preparing to join the fast.

Our group spent the next two weeks traveling in the south of China, where I saw no evidence of student unrest except on TV. In my opinion, the people from the south seemed to be more sophisticated, more Westernized and less friendly like democracy."

I heard one shopkeeper grumble, "Those students have always had full bellies. When you have a full belly, you can worry about things like democracy."

Nobody was prepared for the massacre that occurred on June 4 in Tiananmen Square. The embassies called the hotels and told their citizens to leave China. A plane carrying a group of tourists landed in Beijing, only to turn right around and take off again. Nobody had any idea what might happen next.

We all felt great sadness for the many friends we left on the other side of the world.

Gerry Forster is a freelance writer from Livonia. She is working towards her bachelor's degree in Humanities at University of Michigan.

Art and antiques come to Midland

The 80-acre fairground at the edge of Midland is poised to come alive again soon with the season's first Michigan Antique Festival, slated for June 2-3.

And come alive it does. More than 1,000 dealers from all over the country sell antiques, collectibles, crafts, folk art, and just about anything else — including special-interest vehicles of every description. More than 30,000 folks stream through the gates during the two-day show to browse and buy. Together, they make up what is now one of the largest events of its kind in the Midwest.

Those browsers and buyers will find every sort of treasure, from baseball cards to birdages, from silverware to tall shakers, displayed in dozens of colorful outdoor booths and in five large buildings on the grounds. And they won't go hungry while they search; the selection of food vendors is ample, adding to the carnival atmosphere.

Now in its 22nd year, the festival premiered as an antique car show and swap meet. Thanks to plenty of bored spouses, who yearned for something to do other than "talk cars," the event soon grew into the multi-faceted extravaganza it is today.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, it became an annual tradition, enjoyed equally by serious collectors and by those seeking nothing more than an entertaining day in the sun.

What's more, it now takes place three times each summer. In addition to the June 2-3 event, Michigan Antique Festivals will also be held July 28-29 and Sept. 22-23, rain or shine.

The antique car show and swap meet didn't get lost in the shuffle as things grew, either. 100-plus antique, custom, and special-interest cars, trucks and vans of all descriptions take their places in the display area at each festival, for an enjoyable

"Show and Shine" weekend.

In addition to the regular car show, each event will include a special "Featured" display. June's focus will be Trucks and Vans; in July, Volkswagen "Bugs" will take center stage; and in September, the Street Machines will strut their stuff.

ALL IN ALL, there's something for everyone, and the \$3-per-person per day entry fee makes the Michigan Antique Festival one of the least expensive forms of family entertainment around — particularly since kids under 11 enter free. Weekend campsites are available, too, right at the fairgrounds.

The Michigan Antique Festival will be open from 8 a.m. until dark on Saturday, June 2, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 3. The Midland Fairgrounds are located at U.S. 10 and Eastman Road, Midland. For information or to reserve a campsite, call the Festival Hotline, (517) 793-8393, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Chinese give warm welcome

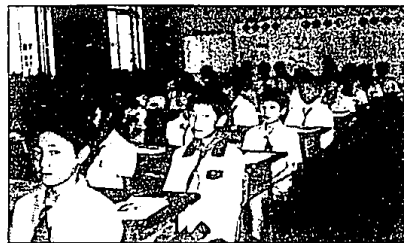
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There are few cars and trucks, but most people get where they're going on sturdy bicycles. Refrigerators, washing machines and TVs are shared by groups of neighbors who pool their money in order to buy them. Nothing is wasted.

I saw none of the drabness usually associated with European Communist countries. The people seem to exude energy, always smiling, chattering, gesturing. Parents love to hold up their colorfully dressed toddlers for us to admire.

Everywhere we went, people were friendly and wanted to practice their English. Over and over again we heard such phrases as "our American friends," and "our two countries are growing closer and closer." We were able to wander where ever we liked and always felt safe and surrounded by well-wishers.

WE TRAVELED by train to Shijiazhuang, a town about 200 miles



GERRY FORSTER

Order and discipline are maintained in this elementary school in Chengde. This typical Chinese school has 800 students with only eight teachers.

south of Beijing, where the mayor came out to greet us that first evening. When we disembarked from the train, we caught quite a stir. Several hundred blue-clad peasants jumped out of their train to line the platform and stare dumfounded at us as though they could not believe we were human beings. On the other hand, in the market place in Shijiazhuang, I was very moved when a woman with tears in her eyes, hugged me and kissed me on both cheeks for no other apparent reason than that I was American.

One evening, our group attended a performance at the Hebei Theatre of Performing Arts. As we entered the theatre, the entire audience rose to their feet and gave us a 10 minute standing ovation. It occurred to me that perhaps we had unwittingly paid all their admission fees and they were thanking us, but when I asked Mr. Soong, our leader, what the season was, he told me that they were applauding us because we were honoring them by traveling so far to visit their city.

travel bits

Danes train

Be a Dane for a day and join the Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in a one day train ride to the annual Danish Festival in Greenville.

The Trains For Danes excursion is offered Aug. 17 and 18 and will depart each day from the former C&O depot on East Grove St. at 10 a.m., 1:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4 p.m.

The ride takes a historical look at rail travel, recalling an era when the railroads were the most popular form of transportation used. The train will roll along the Mid-Michigan Railroad's former C&O trackage through southern Montcalm and northern Ionia counties to Belding and return.

Tickets may be purchased from the Danish Festival headquarters in the Greenville Chamber of Commerce Office, 202 South Lafayette St., Greenville.

Mapped out

The west Michigan area will be all mapped out with asparagus, blueberries and cherries marking festival events and other attractions listed in a guide recently published by West Michigan Tourist Association.

Historic villages, museums, dinner cruises, harness racing, dune rides, canoe liveries and a snowboat are also listed on the map.

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Science with sports

Flinn's Sloan Museum in the Cultural Center is displaying Science of Sports, a hands-on exhibit that uses sports as a springboard into science discovery.

The idea behind the exhibit is to illustrate and teach scientific principles through the use of sports.

Visitors participate in most displays and are given a score card for tests, trivia quizzes and computer games. The gallery is divided into six areas: locker room gymnasium, training room, arena, dugout and science decaathlon.

The most graphic presentation occurs in the arena. Kids stand, strapped for safety, in the middle of a spinning platform. As they extend their limbs and then tuck them closer to their bodies, they learn how twirling skaters speed up and slow down.

The locker room comes complete

with jerseys and equipment. The training room is used to test breath control, reaction time, peripheral vision and hand-to-eye coordination. And the dugout has a display championship trophies and rings surrounded by photos and illustrations.

Science of Sports will be on display May 15 through Aug. 26 in the Sloan Museum located in Flinn's Cultural Center, 121 E. Kearsley St. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens and \$2 for children ages 5-12.

For more information, call (313) 762-1169.

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