



Bottoms up! The below zero temperatures failed to stop these ducks from diving for lunch.

Photo by Mary Anne Golon

Professor favors U.S.-China relations

By Cindy Coglianese

After supporting Taiwan with military and economic aid since 1949, breaking relations with Taiwan was the only alternative left to the United States, according to a UNL political science professor.

Peter Cheng was born in Chiayi, Taiwan in 1930, the year that Taiwan became a Japanese colony. He lived in Taiwan until he was 28 and had completed his bachelor's degree at Taiwan National.

Now a U.S. citizen, Cheng said he is for the normalization of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

"It is inevitable that the United States would establish relations with Peking," Cheng said. He is pleased with President Carter's insistence that the Taiwan issue be settled peacefully, he added.

"The United States has been looking after Taiwan interests since 1949 both economically and militarily. The United States doesn't owe anything to Taiwan," he said.

The open relations between the United States and China was in the best interest of both countries, he said. The United States can offset trade deficits by trading with China, while Russian communist progression in Africa and Asia can be counter-balanced.

Also, negotiation provides China with security against Russia, he said.

The Taiwan government will face a restructuring in "days to come."

Communist propaganda may weaken the Nationalist Chinese anti-communist resistance and promote faster unification, Cheng said. Another possibility would be a "no talk-no unification" stand between mainland China and Taiwan. Cheng predicted this could last for several years.

The alternative Cheng said he preferred, would set the government in Taiwan in accordance with the majority in Taiwan.

The fourth possibility, he said, would be unification with mainland China with autonomous rule in Taiwan.

Though Taiwan calls itself the "free China", Cheng said the country currently rules as a police state.

"They (Taiwan) have a fear that the communists will try to take over either by submissive methods or military action," he said.

Lincoln will experience partial eclipse

For the inhabitants of the earth, the solar eclipse is a unique spectacle.

"To see the earth darken at midday, creates an awareness of the sun beyond any other," said Jack Dunn, director of the UNL planetarium.

Feb. 26th, the shadow of the moon will fall on the surface of the Earth, creating an eclipse.

"The shadow of the moon is only 232,000 miles long, compared to the Earth's shadow of 859,000 miles in length," Dunn said.

Since the Earth and moon are both moving, the shadow follows a path on the Earth. Only within this path

can a total eclipse be seen.

"The earliest records of eclipses come from China. The Chinese believed that the sun was being swallowed by a giant dragon," said Dunn, then the people threw fireworks into the street hoping to scare the dragon enough to spit up the sun.

"Conditions in this area will let us see a partial eclipse of 84 to 90 percent obstruction," said Dunn.

There are ways to view the eclipsed sun safely.

"Pinhole projection is a safe, practical way to watch the partial eclipse. *Sky and Telescope* magazine suggests that a small hole in a window shade may project the image into a darkened room," Dunn said, adding that one should never look directly at the sun.

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