

# Capitalism on rise in China Hood

By Neil Feldman  
Staff Reporter

China, the last true communist power, appears to be veering off its old course of hard-line ideological and social principles.

According to China Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese government, People's University, a major institution in Beijing, is offering new courses in marketing, trade, personnel management, international business, taxation and small-business management.

Parks Coble, a professor of Asian history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he was not at all surprised to hear this report.

However, Coble said capitalistic college courses were not a new thing in China, and that the People's University was following in the footsteps of other schools.

"This is a trend that began with other universities in China," Coble said. "Most institutions in China are now permitted to set up private businesses," he added.

Although China remains under communist rule, the leadership has injected capitalist-style

reforms into the government to stimulate economic growth.

Major industrial complexes continue to be owned by the government, but privately owned factories, restaurants and shops are now being permitted.

Coble said the Tiananmen Square crisis in 1989 was primarily a reaction to the idea that China was pulling away from communism. While that idea may be true, Coble said, the country is not heading toward democracy because its historical ties to communism are too strong.

"The Chinese government wants economic change without political reform," he said. "That is why they are not opposed to capitalism in the college curriculum."

Although some Chinese people would like to see the door slammed on communism, Coble said any changes would be slow and undramatic.

"It's important to understand that communism has existed in China for thousands of years, and something that old isn't going to change overnight," he said.

Officials at the People's University told the China Daily that their reason for the change in curriculum was to make it more practical.

Continued from Page 1

Instead of focusing on "Just Say No," Logan said, Winners works on building the person from the bottom up.

"This program is geared to build self-esteem," she said. "A lot of the problems we see in this community are the result of low self-esteem and the thought that life is a dead-end road."

Self-esteem is also vital in the curriculum of the center's Rites of Passage class. Unlike Winners, which is open to anyone, Rites of Passage is offered only to African-American students.

Rites of Passage teaches history from an Afrocentric viewpoint, Logan said.

"The class is about defining yourself how you wish to be defined, not how other people define you," she said.

Rites of Passage was originally created to help young African Americans form positive racial and cultural identities and to help them during their transition from adolescence to adulthood.

The African tradition of manhood and womanhood training has been adapted for modern times by focusing on teen-agers' needs in their community.

One of the class teachers is Anne

Onyekwuluje, a UNL instructor.

Onyekwuluje teaches Sociology 217, the study of nationality and race relations, in addition to the Rites of Passage course at Malone.

She said she made time to teach at the center.

"I teach Rites of Passage because it's a crucial program for African Americans," Onyekwuluje said. "It's vital that they identify who they are and for them to realize that it's OK that they are African American."

"I have found, as an African American myself, I have to give back to my community," Onyekwuluje said. "I find myself really getting into this class."

Seven principles are presented to the Rites students: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, creativity, faith, cooperative economics and purpose, she said.

Then, Onyekwuluje said, the students discuss each topic in depth and learn how to apply them in their daily lives.

Part of the homework for the class, she said, is to take class knowledge — and then live it.

"It's about learning to work together and making the problems of their brothers and sisters their problems, too," Logan said. "It's about bringing unity back so that they care about each other."

## Speaker

Continued from Page 1

He said crises often stemmed from factions gaining power and trying to establish independently-ruled states or enclaves.

De Blij gave Bosnia as an example most were familiar with.

"First Yugoslavia broke up into five republics," he said, "and their problems weren't resolved. Now there is a plan to further break up Bosnia into 10 more republics. This will not resolve the Balkan conflict."

De Blij said nation-states should try to reduce geographic borders rather than to create new ones.

Reiterating the significance of religious struggle throughout the world, De Blij said fundamentalist movements must be quelled in Europe and the Middle East to point the international peace process in the right direction.

Unfortunately, he said, it looks like religious conflict will continue to persist into the next century.

De Blij closed by painting a bleak portrait of the future of international peace, arguing that the world would continue its rapid nose dive if regional conflicts continued to break up political boundaries.



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