

Deng's economic legacy: 'Made in China' prevails

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deng Xiaoping, the ardent communist, unleashed free-market forces that will soon push China past the United States as the world's largest economy.

That transformation — Deng's biggest legacy — is already felt in a multitude of ways by American consumers and factory workers.

Sixty percent of all the shoes sold in America are made in China. More than half the toys bear a "Made in China" label.

And it's not just shoes and toys. It's shirts, dresses, jeans and sweaters. It's household appliances, telephones, answering machines, computers and office fax machines.

In all, America imported \$51.5 billion worth of products from China last year — a 13 percent increase from 1995 and up from near zero 20 years ago before Deng started China trading with the West.

Now America is China's biggest foreign market. The economic revolution that Deng set in motion in 1978 has showered Americans with pocketbook benefits in the form of cheaper consumer goods — and has provided Chinese workers with a rising standard of living.

"Deng pulled off the biggest economic transformation of this century. He turned China from a basket case to a world economic power," said Greg Mastel, trade specialist at the Economic Strategy Institute.

Mastel is author of an upcoming book that predicts China's economy, by one measurement, will overtake the United States to become the largest in the world by 2009.

Deng's economic legacy, however, has also meant a soaring U.S. trade deficit that has cost thousands of American factory jobs, lost to lower-wage Chinese workers. The Chinese have followed the Japanese model, pushing growth through exports while protecting their domestic industries.

American corporations, eager to crack a market of 1.2 billion people, have repeatedly been thwarted.

President Clinton has argued that America needs to "compete not re-

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trade specialist

view" in the new global economy. His administration has sought to keep U.S. consumers happy by lowering domestic trade barriers while pursuing trade deals to tear down barriers to American exports.

But the 1996 figures show that so far that effort has failed miserably with regard to China.

For 1996, America managed to export just \$11.9 billion in manufactured goods and farm products to China, a tiny 1.9-percent increase compared with the 13-percent surge in Chinese products coming into America.

That pushed the U.S.-China trade deficit to \$39.5 billion last year, the biggest deficit America has ever suffered with any country other than Japan.

Using a Commerce Department benchmark, the deficit would translate into more than a half million lost jobs — workers whose plants closed because they could not compete with China's lower wages.

America's trade deficit with China has risen every year for the past decade and is expected soon to surpass the deficit with Japan, America's perennial trade headache — probably this year.

The Clinton administration has stepped up pressure on China to lower its numerous trade barriers and buy more American goods.

Until it does so, Clinton officials have promised to continue blocking China's membership in the World Trade Organization.

Microsoft packs pressure into 30-minute interviews

By KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

Two days, 25 UNL applicants and a chance to work at Microsoft.

And if it seems like pressure, it is. Destry Hood, test manager for Microsoft Internet Studio, said each applicant is interviewed within half an hour.

During this time, applicants offer information on their background experience and also have to solve a few coding problems.

"People want to do well," Hood said. "They're nervous because they know that there are going to be technical problems."

A solution, Hood said, would be one-hour interviews.

Yet with the number of applicants this year, such an interview length

would not be possible.

Hood, a former UNL graduate, said this year had more applicants than the past few years he has visited UNL.

"We're not really sure why exactly," Hood said. "But we're glad to see it."

Last year Microsoft hired five UNL applicants — two as full-time employees and three as interns.

Hood said probably no more than four or five applicants would be considered for Microsoft positions within development, program management and testing.

The requirements for such applicants include a knowledge of coding and good problem-solving skills.

"We want them to succeed," Hood said. "With all that goes on (in interviewing) it might not seem that way, but we do want them to succeed."

Williams ordered to serve jail time

From Staff Reports

Tyrone Williams has been ordered to begin serving a six-month jail term by the judge who sentenced him four months ago.

Williams, the former Husker who is now a cornerback with the Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers, was denied an appeal of the sentence by the Nebraska Court of Appeals.

Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn, himself a former Husker, ordered Williams to begin serving the term Monday.

Williams pleaded no contest Sept. 10, 1996, to a felony count of unlawful discharge of a firearm and a misdemeanor count of third-degree assault. He was charged with the crimes in January 1994 after he smashed out the window of a car at a stoplight and then fired two shots into the car as it sped away.

Firm plans to spam e-mail users

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It's about to get much easier for advertisers to send junk e-mail on the Internet.

Cyber Promotions Inc. will launch the first bulk e-mail-friendly Internet provider in the nation on March 17. It will allow computer users to send millions of commercial ads — also known as spam — for a single monthly fee.

Nearly all Internet providers now prohibit customers from sending unsolicited bulk e-mail and will cancel a person's account if he or she is caught.

"What people are doing is jumping around from one (Internet provider) to another, and they don't have a secure home. We're going to give them a home," said Cyber Promotions founder Sanford Wallace.

His new bulk e-mail-friendly network begins with local dial-up numbers in the Philadelphia area and 800 numbers for use around the country. Customers will pay about \$50 a month to send unlimited amounts of mass unsolicited commercial e-mails.

Critics complain such junk e-mail costs recipients money to transmit, store and read, unlike regular junk mail or phone sales that only use up a recipient's time.

"This is just an online version of how your private life is being sold,"



MATT HANEY/DN

said Ram Avrahami of Private Citizen, an anti-junk mail group based in Naperville, Ill. "And if it gets out of control, the Internet will soon become worse than what our post-office boxes have become."

Wallace said Cyber Promotions may encourage more responsible spamming.

"Our goal is to legitimize the bulk e-mail industry and not abuse it,"

Wallace said.

He said all Cyber Promotions network customers must honor requests to remove a consumer's name from receiving such ads.

Wallace, known as the "Spam King," said Cyber Promotions is an extension of the Internet advertising service he has run since 1994. The company sends up to 4 million e-mail ads each day.

Fight at Recreation Center leads to injuries, arrest

From Staff Reports

Two University Police officers were treated and released Wednesday evening after chasing down a man who was wanted on a warrant.

University Police were called to the Lee and Helene Sapp Recreation Center at 4:45 p.m. on reports of a fight. When officers arrived, the fight had broken up.

After finding the two men, officers began to get names. After one man tried to elude inquiries, University Police Sgt. Bill Manning said, police ran a check on his name.

Otha Serrell Jr., 22, was wanted on a bench warrant for failure to appear in court. When officers told him he was under arrest, Manning said, he ran.

Cpls. Brian Petersen and Brian Scusa grabbed Serrell, Manning said, and Serrell bit Petersen on one of his biceps.

Serrell then ran through the recreation center and police caught up with him near the southwest entrance of the building. There, in a scuffle, Scusa was shoved and Serrell was arrested.

Serrell had complained of wrist pain and head injuries, Manning said, but the handcuffs that were placed on him were loosened, and doctors at Lincoln General Hospital could find no injuries.

Rec center stays secure; conflicts out-of-ordinary

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The scanners tell them who is eligible to use the facility, Campbell said.

Inside the facility, Campus Recreation uses staff to monitor behavior. There are two facility managers with walkie-talkies who rotate through the recreation center.

The walkie-talkies are monitored by administrative staff, recreation center staff at entrances and University Police.

The administrative staff also makes rounds of the facility. Besides those managers, some areas such as the weight room have specific supervisors. When behavior problems arise, the recreation center has a discipline code to handle situations.

All offenses at the recreation center are turned over to judicial affairs for

review, and offenders could be suspended from the recreation center, he said.

"We don't make judgments on things," Campbell said. "But we do have our own penalties."

Students caught fighting are suspended from the center for at least a week.

"We try to teach students to be responsible for their behavior, and they learn about the consequences," Campbell said.

One of the most common problems at the recreation center is students who try to gain unauthorized access.

"Often times students try to intimidate their way in after their cards are rejected. We respond quickly to diffuse the situation," Campbell said.

Any student concerned with anything they see at the recreation center can tell the staff, and it will handle the problem.

Petersen drove Scusa, who was complaining of shoulder, back and arm pains, to Lincoln General Hospital.

Serrell was arrested for misdemeanor assault, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest and giving false information to a police officer.

Senators differ on death penalty

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Catholic Conference, said the death penalty had never been shown to reduce murder rates. He said the criminal justice system should focus on sociological factors that contributed to the problem.

"Let's get rid of the death penalty and focus our time and attention on issues that are involved in murder rates," he said.

Other bill proponents noted that the United States is the world's only remaining democracy allowing the death penalty and said vengeance should be rejected as a basis for law.

The Judiciary Committee heard no opposition testimony to Chambers' bill.

However, the committee next heard testimony on LB390, which would restrict the number of state

court appeals by death row inmates to one in a three-year period following the death sentence.

Jensen said long lapses in time between murders and executions in recent Nebraska cases had highlighted the need for a more efficient system. He said the law would apply primarily in cases where the inmate's guilt was not in doubt.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," Jensen said.

Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg said recent state Supreme Court decisions had effectively eliminated the death penalty by allowing death row inmates too much flexibility in the appeals process.

"An endless series of appeals does not constitute justice," he said. "Only by a law limiting the number of post-conviction appeals can

the death penalty be preserved."

Stenberg and other bill supporters faced harsh criticism from Chambers, a Judiciary Committee member.

Chambers accused Stenberg of being driven by personal motives and questioned whether the law would allow prisoners their constitutional rights.

Stenberg said death row inmates wanting to issue further appeals would still be able to plead their cases in front of the state Board of Pardons or in federal district courts.

Chambers pursued the same line of questioning with Jensen. Chambers said the law would provide no protection for death row inmates who were able to establish their innocence only after their appeal had been exhausted.