

Professor Roy Takes Trip To China

By Jana Miller

Mr. Edward Roy, sociology and religion professor, had the unique opportunity to visit China this past summer. Only seventeen teachers chosen from all over the country had the chance. Each teacher was investigated before being granted permission to join the elite group.

The group assembled at Kent State University and their trip lasted for a total of seventeen

days. Within that time they visited five cities, Canton, Chang Hi, Nan King, Tintin and Peking.

The Chinese travel agency had everything well prepared for the Americans upon their arrival in China. They escorted them to several of China's prominent palaces. They enjoy their visits to all the cities, but Mr. Roy found Peking the most enjoyable. In Peking Mr. Roy visited the Temple of Heaven, an example of

extraordinary craftsmanship. The Temple of heaven is the place where kings' used to go to pray for good crops. Mr. Roy observed an unexpected aspect of

the Chinese culture, 'The Democracy Wall.' The Democracy Wall is two blocks of bulletin boards. The Chinese post up their frustrations and anxieties on massive bulletin boards for the public to view.

Mr. Roy found the Chinese to be friendly and very curious. The people of China who knew how to speak English would attempt to carry on a conversation with the

American tourists. Overall, the teachers had an excellent time. They went mainly for education, but they also gained a great deal of cultural experience.

One touching experience that

Mr. Roy encountered was the love parents show for their children. Mr. Roy said, "Communism seems to have brought them closer. Changes are taking place in China, but slowly; they want to preserve. Though they are happy with their present way of life, they will never have the Freedom that we enjoy."

Merritt's Merits: Dylan, The Eagles Do It Again

By Tim Merritt

Slow Train Coming:

Bob Dylan is, perhaps, one of the most misunderstood figures of the rock era. Never has one performer been forsaken by his "fans" so many times, only to re-emerge and prove them all wrong. He did so after being booed off the stage at Newport, and he's done it again with "Slow Train Coming."

Not that Dylan needs any justification from anyone, but "Slow Train Coming" is not merely a "religious" album. It is a statement of faith, though I realize - and Dylan states - that we live in a time when faith is deemed irrelevant.

It was Dylan who spoke the truth in the Sixties and then watched it die. There were others, of course, but Dylan was not as mystical as The Beatles and not as earthy as the "folksinger." Dylan spoke the

universal truths instead of the timely maxims, and he survived the collapse. Dylan was the true visionary of that period, and, unlike John Lennon, he could not simply say "the dream is over" and go into hiding. Dylan had to know why.

It was also Bob Dylan who almost died himself in a motorcycle accident, and who suffered through an arduous divorce. Those sort of things happen all the time to anyone, but, with Dylan, they were personified in a manner that was meaningful to anyone. So when Dylan sings "you got to serve somebody," he is saying that, in the end, faith is all there really is. Faith is what pulls you through. In a period when the things that mark a progressing society are noticeably missing, Dylan's social comments becomes even more relative, if relatively is what is sought. Maybe Dylan has more to

tell us; perhaps, we quit listening too soon.

The Long Run

After three long years, the breathless (well-not quite breathless) wait for Eagles fans is over, but The Long Run is not exactly what one expects after three years. It seems as if The Eagles as suddenly making records in their spare time.

While the first track, "The Long Run," does come close to matching the early Eagles' style, the group's sound has changed radically from their days of backing Linda Ronstadt. The music is, by all means, more sophisticated, but the band seems to have misplaced the elements that set them apart.

Joe Walsh's "The City," the theme from the film "The Warriors," is included - Walsh, of course, still with the group, which is touring with six members for the first time.

Other outsiders lend a helping-hand in The Eagles' production, such as Jimmy Buffet, who helps out on backing vocals on "The Greeks Don't Want No Freaks," a song in the tradition of Animal House. Bob Seger also co-wrote

"A Heartache Tonight," about the best on the album.

The Long Run is a great album, an Eagles' album, but - with the "new-wave" competition - has long will the Eagles' name be enough to propel their albums right to the top.

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