U.S.-China initiates student exchange

By Richard Salz

Early this year, 13 American students will be travelling to China as members of the first official exchange program. They will be studying in China for one year. In the past, US exchanges had been limited to two months or less

Among this group will be Lucy Jones G. of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department. She hopes to study the Chinese methods of predicting earthquakes, which are said to be extremely accurate. Also going will be Tom Gold, a 30-year old doctoral student in the department of sociology at Harvard. He plans to study economics or modern Chinese literature.

Most of the details about the exchange have not yet been finalized, however. The group was originally to leave early January before the Chinese New Year. Now, according to Gold, they will leave sometime in late February.

Hanham says Hums plans nearly ready

(Continued from page 2)

The review of the first five-year plan last year showed that the section had done better than had been hoped. He added that the section hopes to move to Building 20 to acquire lab space and to be together.

"Music is practically autonomous now," the dean continued. He also pointed out that the section already had a de facto department head. He said that the Institute is in the first stage of planning for an "Arts Building" on the eastern side of campus near the psychology building, (E10) The proposed structure will eventually house the visual arts, music, and drama in that order.

The Science, Technology and Society (STS) section is already a special program, but it uses the Course 21 numbers. Hanham added that eventually STS will become part of the New College.

The History and Literature sections are working on new curricula and are beset with "uncertainties about the directions in which they are moving," according to Hanham. He said that it is not clear yet what will happen to them.

"The Department may not need a new department head," said Hanham. He explained that a counselor of two or three section leaders might be more workable in the new situation. He added that he would become acting head again if the department is not reorganized by the time Mazlish leaves.

Out of over 100 applicants, twenty were selected to be interviewed in New York City. The next day Gold was informed of his selection. "It all happened rather quickly," Gold noted.

"This is an important historical stage. We're being called on to play a role. We've not just students, but will be representing the United States," Gold observed. "It's up to us to represent American society to the Chinese." He also noted that their public role will be when they return to the United States. Currently, three major groups sponsor Chinese exchanges. The National Council on US-China Trade Relations works on setting up exchanges between American businessmen and Chinese administrators. Recently the Chinese have shown great interest in modernizing their industries.

The National Committee on US-China Relations arranges cultural and political exchanges. For example, in 1974 they arranged for a group of Chinese martial arts experts to tour the US, giving shows across the country.

The Committee on Scholarly Communications, organizer of the current exchange, was founded in 1966. In the past, it has handled one month scientific exchanges. It is housed in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) building in Washington, DC, and is jointly run by the NAS, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the social Sciences Research Council. The current exchange will be funded by the International Communications Agency, formerly the United States Information Agency.

Chinese education has been in a state of flux for over ten years, and still is. "This is an exceptionally exciting time," said Gold. "All of the issues I'm interested in are up for public debate now." He also observed that the Chinese students studying here will probably form the vanguard of the new methodology.

While Gold is "tremendously excited" about the possibility of studying in China, it has caused some problems. "I had wanted to get married," he explained. "But I decided to postpone my marriage because I wouldn't be allowed to take my wife."