## bservations of China A Yankee's o

by Gary Puckett

gation to China for the AIDS symposium (of which Ken Tomory imagine. was a member) was one of seriobservations were also a part of what we are accustomed to. the trip. Many of Tomory's ob-Western world in the affairs of a about 12' by 18'. socialist country.

It's difficult for the people of Tomory said. the United States to visualize the

many people," Tomory said. "The as well as its drawbacks. city of Beijing has 10 million

different from that which West- traception," Tomory said. erners are used to. (A vision

Beijing being similar to freeways in Los Angeles, except that they While the purpose of the dele- are choked with bicycles instead of cars.) This is quite difficult to

Also, living quarters are ousness, sightseeing and personal much different in China than

"Housing units are arranged servations reflect the interest the like a courtyard. The average entire world shares in the ancient home for six people is no larger history of this great country. Also than half the size of this room," of interest are the observations Tomory said. This indicated a which reflect the interest of the home for six people in a space

"There is very little privacy,"

China is a socialist country. experience of simply being among From a Western point of view this a population as vast as China's. fact is seen as detrimental to the "One thing I was always individual. However, socialism in aware of was the presence of so China seems to have its benefits

"People belong to work units. people and seven million bicycles." These units usually provide hous-While this type of mass trans- ing and often provide such beneportation is certainly clean and fits as medical and dental care as

comes to mind of city streets in the Chinese whose population, as people per square mile compared



Ken Tomory stands in front of the picturesque mountains of the Chinese countryside.

fuel efficient, it is obviously much well as family planning and con- of 1989, was 1,069,628,000. To to 64 people per square mile in after dark except the infamous put this in perspective, the Chi- the United States (1980 census). eunuches and the emperor. The Contraception is important to nese population averages 288

per capita is \$116," Tomory said. the tranquility within the city "This is difficult to relate to our contrary to the warring lands economy, but everyone works. outside its grand gates. Walking The income of the average busi- through such a place truly cannot nessman is not much different be described. Then behold the from that of a doctor." While this gate that opens to Tianneman doesn't provide much incentive to Square, the place where many

visiting China is the Great Wall. Revolution, the People's Monu-Concerning his visit there and ment and more.' elsewhere, Tomory issued this with its creation. The wall was able to make the trip. built over several centuries and stretches for over 1000 miles. It thank Student Government at was built to defend the land and UNLV. Without their support the fortresses of the great and many trip would not have been possible," warlords and imperial kingdoms. said Tomory.

Next we were off to see the grounds were the home to only of the people more than any other. the emperor and his concubines. No man was allowed in the city not the becoming."

"The average annual income many halls of the city represent the individual, no one has to suf- revolutions began and ended. fer the misery of unemployment. This led to Chairman Mao's Tomb, Of obvious interest to anyone the monument to the Cultural

Obviously, China is of interdescription: "We were shuttled est in many ways. These include off to the Great Wall. A feat of historical, political, cultural, sopure astonishment bearing the ciological and economical interlives of many Chinese who toiled ests. Tomory was fortunate to be

"I would definitely like to

One statement of Tomory's Forbidden City. These amazing seems to sum up his observations

"They are into the being, and



The world famous "great wall" was one of the many beautiful sights visited during the trip.

## symposium exchanges

Ken Tomory, a student rep- ture of multiple disciplines. It People's Republic of China. He nia at San Francisco. She is the fore reconvening in Hong Kong. Institute of Virology, the teams tory and character. was invited to partake in a multi- Director of AIDS activities at San Each team had tedious schedules enjoyed cultural visits as well. disciplinary delegation on the Francisco General Hospital. management of HIV Disease.

The delegation, composed of 138 members, was put together by the People to People International Citizen Ambassador Program. This program was established under President Eisenhower to enhance bilateral exchanges among the peoples of the world. The exchanges are set up under the auspices of technological, medical and scientific realms to promote the better understanding of joint efforts on global problems and advancements.

The symposium was at the request of the Ministry of Public Health of China and the Chinese Medical Association. The two-day symposium convened in Beijing with bilateral exchanges between American and Chinese experts. The broad exchanges on HIV entailed topics in diagnosis, treatment, research, prevention, psychology, sociology, ethics, education, law and religion.

The delegation was the first one in China of its size and na-

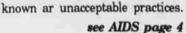
from morning to night. Between

After the Beijing symposium, site visits such as western hospi- The Great Wall, The Forbidden resentative from the Campus was headed by Dr. Constance the delegation split into four tals, Chinese traditional medical City and Tianneman Square were Committee on AIDS at UNLV Wofsy, professor of clinical medi- teams and traveled to two inner hospitals, anti-epidemic stations, among China's capital sites and recently has returned from the cine at the University of Califor- provincial capitals separately be- AIDS surveillance centers and the each city offered their own his-

> AIDS, in China, is still an unknown epidemic. Currently they have approximately 446 carriers of HIV. This is different than the abundance of cases that are in the U.S. One reason is that China has only been open to the rest of the world for less than twenty years.

Chinese methods for HIV antibody testing are costly and are not widely available in most of the country. Of the known cases, 360 are found in the Yunnan Province which is bordered by Burma, Loas, and Thailand (The Golden Triangle). Drug trafficking is known to be commonplace in this area. Intravenous drug use is claimed to be responsible for these cases. As for sexual transmission and homosexual contact, the beliefs of Chinese society and culture are stern: these simply do not occur.

The routes of transmission are still being discussed as un-





Almost everywhere one looked in China, there were striking differences from our Western culture.