

## Foreign students

# Season activity differs

The glitter and gala we associate with the Christmas season has a somewhat different meaning to UNL's 559 foreign students.

Sophomore chemical engineering major Victor Bishop, a native of the Dominican Republic, says his home country has no Christmas trees as we know them because of the tropical climate. Rather, the people of the Dominican Republic use small trees with no leaves and many twigs which are painted white and decorated with ornaments much like those we use.

The traditional Christmas celebration, according to Bishop, takes place on Jan. 6, the feast of the Three Kings. On this day, the "Three Kings" bring gifts to the children, much as "Santa Claus" does here.

Bishop added that today most people in the Dominican Republic also celebrate Christmas, complete with Santa, on Dec. 25, and that this is the day that the majority of people exchange gifts.

### Combined traditions

Bishop plans to spend the Christmas holiday at home. As his family is partially American, he says he will probably celebrate Christmas with some portions of both traditions.

Mehrdad Eman, a freshman electrical engineering major from Iran, said that in his country the people don't celebrate Christmas at all. Rather, their yearly celebration the coming of the new year.

Eman said he plans to spend the holidays in Oklahoma visiting friends from Iran, and that he really has no plans to celebrate Christmas.

Sophomore predoctoral student Peter Kwan is from Hong-Kong. He reported that as Hong-Kong is has connections with Great Britain, the observance of Christmas is virtually the same in home as it is here. Kwan plans to spend the holidays here in Lincoln with his brother, where he will celebrate Christmas in the same way as an average American student.

### Family celebration in France

Bernard Marquis, a graduate student from France studying political science and international organization at UNL, said that the way one celebrates Christmas in France depends largely on religious affiliation.

The Catholics, generally go to the "Messe de Minuit", or midnight mass, then return home for hot chocolate and sweetbreads. On Christmas Eve, the French children leave their slippers by the fireplace so that Santa Clause may put their gifts in them during the night.

On Christmas Day, there is generally a large family dinner. Marquis stressed that "Christmas in France is a family celebration and always takes place in the home." He said that most people do put up trees, but that these aren't so important the the traditional manger scenes.

Marquis also said that non-Catholics usually celebrate with a midnight dinner, "le reveillon", which includes turkey, oysters, white wine, champagne and often caviar.

Marquis said that he plans to spend the holidays traveling with a Lebanese friend, and will celebrate Christmas with his friend's family according to their customs.

## Neb. Union holiday hours

### Nebraska Union Holiday Hours

Dec. 20: Building, South Crib and Vending 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; North Crib 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Harvest Room 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; South Desk 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; North Desk and games 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Colonial Dining Room closed.

Dec. 21 to Dec. 25: Union closed.

Dec. 26 and 27: Building, South Crib and Vending 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Harvest Room 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Bookstore and Barbershop 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Bank 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; North and South Desks, North Crib and Games and Colonial Dining Room closed.

Dec. 28 and 29: Union closed.

Dec. 30 and 31: Same as Dec. 26 and 27. Campus Bank closes at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Jan. 1: Union closed.

Jan. 2 and 3: Same as Dec. 26 and 27.

Jan. 4 and 5: Union closed.

Jan. 6 and 7: Same as Dec. 25 and 26.

Jan. 8-10 (General Registration): Building, South Crib and Vending 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Harvest Room 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; North Crib and South Desk 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; North Desk 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Games 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Bookstore and Barbershop 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Bank 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Colonial Dining Room closed.

Jan. 11: Union closed.



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**MAGEE'S MERRY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS:**  
**DOWNTOWN: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.;**  
**Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**GATEWAY: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.;**  
**Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**