

# Foreign students spend holidays abroad; in USA

By Mary Fastenau

If UNL foreign students were home for Christmas, for most, it was only in their dreams.

Many foreign students, however, spent the holidays in the homes of friends, roommates or host families according to Linda Becker, international student adviser.

A number of programs across the country offered foreign students the chance to live with American families during the holidays, she said.

One of these programs, Foreign International House, gave Mr. and Mrs. Talib Essa the chance to spend Christmas in Orlando, Fla.

Essa, an agronomy graduate student from Iraq, and his wife spent their vacation with a couple from Orlando who were near the age of he and his wife, around 30.

Essa said it took three days to drive their Volkswagen to Orlando, but transportation was their only cost.

Disney World, the Kennedy Space Center, Sea World, Circus World and Cyprus Gardens were some of the places Essa said the foreign students in his group visited.

Essa said he wishes he had known about the program before.

"It helps students see other parts of the country without spending much money," he said.

Becker said other students used the vacation to travel across the country. She said many foreign students have a "network of friends" across the country whom they visited during the holidays.

Other students remained in Lincoln during vacation according to Ron Hruska, student assistant for graduate students in Selleck Quadrangle.

Hruska said there were about 30 people who stayed in the dorm for the majority of vacation. He said many of these were foreign students who were gone for several days.

He mentioned a group of people from Taiwan who rented a car for a few days and drove to Missouri.

Hruska said the kitchen was open and students could fix their own meals.

He said people who were staying off campus with friends would occasionally eat at the dorms.

Hruska, a graduate student in life sciences, said most foreign students were "out and about" during vacation.

It can be difficult for foreign students to find housing in the dorms, Becker said.

She said her office, International Educational Services, and the housing office

work together to find housing for all students.

This vacation was unusual because the graduate portion of Selleck Quadrangle was the only residence hall that stayed open, according to Dania Inguanzo, head resident of International House.

She said Piper Hall is normally open during vacation, but there were only four people who wanted to stay this year.

Students get away if at all possible, said Inguanzo, a graduate student in human development and the family. A few Nigerian students went home, she said.

Inguanzo, who was born in Cuba but has lived in the United States since 1962, said she did not think the foreign students were lonely during the holidays.

However, she said, "You're really aware that American students go home to spend time with their families."

## VD check takes two tests

By Deb Shanahan

The University Health Center (UHC) is asking its patients to submit to two tests for gonorrhea to protect students against a new strain of gonorrhea that is penicillin-resistant, according to the UHC chief of staff.

Dr. Ralph Ewert said although there have been no reported cases of the penicillin-resistant gonorrhea at the university, UHC is asking patients to return a week after a penicillin treatment for another test.

"So far we haven't seen any of the penicillin-resistant (strain). I hope we don't, but I'm sure eventually we will," said Ewert.

The penicillin-resistant gonorrhea, called "super gonorrhea", has been reported in Nebraska, according to Grey Borden, a spokesman for the State Department of Health.

Borden said two cases were reported in Omaha, the last in June 1977. He said none have been reported in the Lincoln area, and none since June in Omaha.

This strain of venereal disease has been in the United States since March 1976,

according to the National Center for Disease Control, which notified the Health Department to look for it. Borden said the center had traced the first cases back to the Philippines.

"This new strain of gonorrhea produces a chemical called beta lactamase, which wipes out penicillin," explained Borden. "Other infections have produced this chemical, so it's not really anything new. It's just that this is the first time we've seen a venereal disease do it," he said.

The only way of testing for this particular strain of gonorrhea, according to Borden, is for the doctor to treat the patient with penicillin, and ask him to return in about a week for more testing.

Spectinomycin, a drug used for treating infections in people allergic to penicillin, is effective in controlling "super gonorrhea," said Borden.

Borden said he did not think the new type would become a major public health problem because so few cases had been reported.

He added that it is difficult to identify cases because people do not always come back for the second testing, and not all cases are reported in the first place.

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