

International Banquet a night of culture

By Marcia Warkentin

The Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union Saturday provided a taste of cultures from all over the world.

It was the night of the second annual International Student Banquet. Eighty-four national flags lined the room. The suits and dresses worn by the guests were interspersed with saris, kimonos, batik shirts, kaftans, ajabhegbes and other national costumes. Background music ranged from Western classical to the folk songs of Africa, China, Japan and India.

The International Students Organization, which sponsored the event, had planned on only 500 guests, but about 580 people packed the room to sample 13 dishes from seven countries. Using recipes from their home countries, students prepared the food, which included dishes such as chicken curry, bean pie, potato salad, yellow rice, coconut pudding and baklava.

The evenings cultural show began with three dances: a bamboo dance from the Philippines, in which a couple danced in and out between two bamboo poles, a graceful Chinese sword dance; and a festive Nigerian dance.

A group of Lebanese students performed two popular Lebanese songs and a belly dancer performed the Arabian tray dance by balancing a tray of lighted candles on her head.

Several Indonesian students performed folk songs and the marga pati dance, a dance imitating the movements of a tiger in the jungle.

Japanese students performed two traditional Buddhist dances which ended with their holding up their mino kasas or large hats, which spelled the words "Nebraska" and "Japan."

The highlight of the cultural show was the demonstration of a typical Malaysian marriage ceremony on stage, complete with costumes, martial arts and dances. At the end of the ceremony, Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, Peter Levitov and Judy Wendorff of the International Educational Services were invited on stage to give their blessings to the "newly wedded" couple. They did so by sprinkling bunga rampai (flower petals) and air mawar (rose water) on the heads of the bride and groom.

The last event was a global fashion show, displaying clothing from 11 countries.

Special awards were given to the following people and groups, who were nominated by UNL's international community for their help to international students: Cecil Steward, dean of the College of Architecture; Edward Nemeth,

association professor of educational psychology and social foundations; William Long, associate professor of English; the International Educational Services staff and the Lincoln Friends of Foreign Students.

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Convocation to feature population speaker

Rafael Salas, Under Secretary of the United Nations, is scheduled to speak at a 2 p.m. convocation Tuesday in the East Union.

Salas is the executive director of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities. The fund is used to administer international programs for population control in Third World countries.

Salas, a native of the Philippines, will discuss population growth and its relationship to the Third World.

Also speaking at the convocation will be Werner Foros, president of the Population Institute in Washington. He will talk about what actions the United States should take concerning the population control problem.

The convocation also will feature local speakers. Admission is free and all UNL students are encouraged to attend. The convocation is sponsored by the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Institute for International Studies and the UNL sociology department.

Salas also will speak at a nutrition seminar in the East Union at noon the same day.

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