

Arts & Entertainment

Import food stores cater to a variety of international tastes

By Merry Hayes
Staff Reporter

Crammed between toilet seats of Knight's Plumbing and the paint cans of Kryger's Glass Company lie figs from India, flour from Pakistan and gum from Greece.

King Tut's Groceries and Imported Goods, 1642 O St., sells Middle Eastern, Greek and Oriental food, pastries and gifts.

Beneath the posters of Nefertiti, the Sphinx and the pyramids of Egypt lie Turkish coffee, Syrian spices and Russian mustard.

Stacked on the shelves are cans of squid, coconut milk, curry powder and Campbell's soup. Campbell's soup?

"I sell a little bit of food from American groceries," said Yosry Bishay, owner of King Tut's. "Foreign students on campus can come here at night instead of driving a long time. I have the stuff they need."

Stacked on more shelves are bottles of olive oil from Greece, Spain and Italy. Olive, vegetable and corn oil are stored in bulk, and customers can fill their own jars. Customers can refill their jars with fresh honey made in Fairmont.

Bishay said the most popular items are Greek olives, red lentils, fresh baklava, pita bread, halva (a Lebanese sesame-seed desert) and feta cheese.

Cheeses galore

He said the Greek and Bulgarian feta cheeses are favorites of Iranians, Greeks, Lebanese, Syrians and Oriental people. He said he also sells this cheese to the Cornhusker Hotel and the University Club.

Bishay said King Tut's sells more imported cheese than any other store in Lincoln. These hard-to-find cheeses are imported from France, Switzerland, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. Two other hard-to-find items are precooked and prepackaged gyros lamb

meat and fresh lamb meat butchered in Wilbur.

Once a week Bishay sells falafel sandwiches he makes from African and Turkish fava beans. King Tut's sells small fava beans, large fava beans, split, cooked and canned fava beans.

Other rare imported goods available are Egyptian shell necklaces and key chains and "early Islamic coins" dated from 700 to 1300 B.C.

Another import food store, **The Saigon Market**, 1035 G St., sells imported goods from Thailand, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea and France.

Huan Van Nang, son of the owner, said for four years the Saigon Market has been catering to Lincoln's Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean and Indian populations.

"I sell for my people and for some Americans," he said. "They need a place to go for Asian food."

Stacked among the sardines, bamboo shoots, pickled lime, chili sauce, tamarind and fish maw from Thailand are radishes, facial creams, clothes and video cassettes from Taiwan; pickled leeks, mushrooms and bonbons from China; blankets and ginger-root tea from Korea; and pate, butter and coffee from France. Other oddities sold there are "Zero Zero Cockroach Traps" from Japan. The box, designed with dead and dying cockroaches in tuxedos, claims the product will "Hit'm where they live!"

Oriental videos

Chinese and Taiwanese videos such as "Buddha's Magic Palm," "The Fallen Family" and "Billboard of Gods" can be rented, and Chinese pills for over-eating, over-drinking, hemorrhoids, impotence and low spirits can be bought there.

The Oriental Market, 612 N. 27th St., also offers a variety of Asian foods.

Sirirat Ruenprom, who with her husband has owned the store for 10 years,



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Avan Van Dant waits on customers at The Saigon Market, 1035 G St.

said some of the Japanese food she sells cannot be found in other Lincoln stores.

Some examples are Japanese noodles, roasted seaweed, soy-bean paste, yam cakes and fish sauce.

She said another rarely found item is Asepto soap. This is Nigerian soap used for skin problems.

She said the best-selling items are the 20 to 25 brands and flavors of noodles.

"The instant noodles are very popular because they are convenient," she

said.

The Oriental Market imports beans and canned tropical fruit from Thailand, soy-bean and sugar-cane soft drinks from Singapore, soy sauce from Jakarta, chocolate spread from Italy and vegetable seeds from China. Other rarities sold are candy from Switzerland, red pepper from Holland and seasoning from Hong Kong.

Convenience for refugees

Ruenprom said most of her customers are Oriental and about 15 to 20 percent are American.

She said the Oriental Market is convenient for refugees because they don't have to travel to bigger cities to find Oriental food.

"Long ago, when I came here in 1972 (from Cambodia), Lincoln didn't have Oriental food. I had to go to Omaha to get it," Ruenprom said.

She said an increase in the number of refugees in Lincoln cause the creation of Oriental food stores.

"Now everywhere you can find Oriental food in cities like Lincoln," she said.

Orchestra concert

Tonight's Lincoln Symphony Orchestra concert features Cynthia Lawrence, winner of the J. Edmunds and Thelma Miller Award for Young Artists. The 8 p.m. performance, under the direction of Robert Emile, will be at O'Donnell Auditorium on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus, 50th and Huntington streets. "Symphony Previews," a pre-concert introduction to the evening's program, will be given at 7:30 p.m. Ticket information is available through the symphony office, 474-5610.

Lawrence will play the "Concerto for Saxophone and String Orchestra" by Lars-Erik Larsson. Written for Sigurd Rascher, the renowned Swedish virtuoso, the work explores the limits of

the technical abilities of the saxophone.

Also on the evening's program are "Symphony No. 7" by Beethoven and "Escales" by Jacques Ibert. Described as a work of profound contentment and irrepressible gaiety — an "essay in human happiness" — the symphony is more subtle and no less profound than Beethoven's famous Fifth Symphony.

"Escales" ("Ports of Call") is a colorful work in which each movement describes a different exotic setting. The second movement is particularly evocative, with an extensive oboe solo recalling the Moorish atmosphere of Tunis.

Arts & Entertainment Letter

Murphy not in Tones on Tail

I didn't think it could happen, but the Daily Nebraskan has reviewed a record twice (Review Board, Jan. 26). At the beginning of the fall semester the DN published a favorable review of Love and Rockets' new album, "Express." And on Monday Charles Lieurance once again sings the praises of "Express." It seems apparent to me that Lieurance liked the album so much he was just dying to lend his writing talents to a review of it, so the editor said, "OK, wait until next semester, and if the record is still on the college charts, you can write a second review of it." But it's not the review I object to, not even the fact that it has already been reviewed. It just seems like Lieurance should check

his facts before giving a history of the band.

The most glaring error is in saying that Peter Murphy was in Tones on Tail, which was in fact a solo effort started before the breakup by guitarist Daniel Ash and Glen Campbell (a Bauhaus roadie). It later grew to include Bauhaus drummer Kevin Haskins, but never Peter Murphy.

Despite the errors (like calling the Power Station "Power Supply"), Lieurance does manage to notice the elements in "Kundalini Express" that no one seemed to catch, especially the T. Rex and Stones references, but he overdoes the catchy phrases like "darkly psychedelic buzzsaw guitars," "midtempo riff-

rockers'" and "schizophrenic hodge-podge." He also apparently doesn't recognize that "Ball of Confusion" was Love and Rockets' first single from way back in '85, and was stuck on the end of side one by the American record company and thankfully doesn't appear on the import version.

Thomas Irvin
Lincoln

Editor's note: Evidently a reviewer wrote a critique of the import version of the album last fall. We received a domestic review copy of "Express" from the record company and forgot that it had already been reviewed. We regret the error.



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