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Translation by Ranjit Bolt

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Campus gets many views from abroad

By Neil Feldman
Staff Reporter

Racial and ethnic diversity, an area that University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials have often trumpeted to the school community, is particularly evident by the wide range of international students at UNL.

International House, a section of Neihardt Residence Hall that houses students from abroad, is a place that brings global harmony alive.

The Far East, Europe, the Middle East and Oceania are four regions that are represented at the International House.

Most of the foreign students initially have chosen UNL over other American schools because of its respected academic programs and noted atmosphere for studying.

Faisal Hussain, a first-year student from Pakistan, said the engineering program was why he chose UNL over other schools in the United States.

Hussain, who has been in America for only six weeks, said he appreciated the quiet atmosphere associated with Lincoln.

"Pakistan is an overcrowded country," Hussain said, "and it is not a good place to study. In Lincoln it is quiet and rather peaceful, which makes it a much better atmosphere for studying."

Karen Fairclough, a junior political science major from Great Britain, said she was on an exchange program and chose to attend UNL because it was centrally located and was smaller than other schools she originally considered.

"Though I looked into several other American schools," Fairclough said, "I liked the centralized location of Lincoln and the size of UNL."

Fairclough said she had been impressed with the hospitality and generosity of the people, especially the professors.

"It's pretty amazing," Fairclough noted, "that some of the teachers here give you their home phone number. This is unheard of in England."

The British student also said Lincoln's landscape was noticeably different than England's scenery.

"The flat terrain of Nebraska is quite different from England," Fairclough said. "It seems as though there is nothing but corn outside the cities."

Also noting a significant change in scenery was Angela Dillon, a junior international affairs major and a student assistant at the International House. Dillon, who is from New Zealand, is studying in the United States for four years and is not on an exchange program.

"Back home there are lots of sheep, but here all they have is cattle and corn," Dillon said. "There



Robin Trimarchi/DN
Ng Hsiao Chin, a sophomore business student from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia wears a contemporary-styled traditional Malay dress.

are many places in New Zealand where the terrain is relatively open, but not nearly as flat as here."

She said she kept a stuffed toy sheep in her room to remind her of home.

Many students said their biggest dilemma had been getting used to driving on the right side of the street.

"They drive on the wrong side of the street here," Fairclough said. "Throughout most of Europe the driving is the complete opposite of the United States. This has taken quite a while to fully get used to."

Several of the European students said the speed limits in America, particularly on interstate highways, were too low.

"I think an 80 mph speed limit would make things a bit easier on freeways," Fairclough said.

She said Britain had 90 mph speed limits on major highways.

Shona McIntosh, a junior math major from Scotland, said she was amazed at the courtesy that automobile drivers display toward pedestrians.

"It is rather strange how cars stop for you if you step off the sidewalk," McIntosh said. "People here are really kind in that regard."

Hsiao Chin, a sophomore business major from Malaysia, said Nebraskans were generally nice, though she prefers her home over Lincoln.

"I think it is a good learning experience," Chin said, "but I would not want to stay here permanently." Because of the different mean-

ings of certain English words in Europe and Oceania, a lack of understanding occasionally occurs with these foreign students. Although many of the problems have been relatively minor, Angela Dillon told of an embarrassing situation that occurred recently at a convenience store.

She said that a few weeks ago she went to a store in Lincoln to purchase some erasers for school. However, in New Zealand the term for eraser is "rubber." So when she asked the clerk for some "rubbers," she did not exactly get what she had in mind. After explaining to the clerk what she meant, Dillon walked away with a half dozen erasers and a smile sprawled across her face.

A lack of understanding has occasionally been a problem for four Malaysian students, Leng Fong, Shan Shan, Sok Kim and Hsiao Chin, all of whom are juniors studying business, live in the International House.

While they did not elect to graphically explain the situations, they all agreed that they have experienced some type of misunderstanding at UNL.

Faisal Hussain highlighted the principal reason for living at the International House.

"The reason we choose to live at the International House is to meet people with different ethnic and racial backgrounds," he said. "The International House is a learning experience as well as a place to sleep."