

Fond thoughts of home fill Chinese new year

By Chris Hegarty
Staff Reporter

A weekend of events is planned for some UNL students to ring in the new year.

The Chinese new year, that is. The Chinese new year is marked by the first day of the lunar month, usually in late January or early February, and is the start of a Chinese celebration known as the Spring Festival. Tuesday was the start of the new year.

The high point of the celebration is the eve of the new year, marked by firecrackers and loud celebrations.

Bin Gong, president of the Chinese Students Association, said celebrating the holiday in America was difficult because it was not widely observed.

"Here we don't have the atmosphere to celebrate," he said. "In China, you can hear the fireworks everywhere. It's quiet here. That makes it hard."

On Saturday, the Chinese Students Association will host events to celebrate the new year, which include a dinner at Mr. Panda's restaurant, 2900 N 70th St., from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$4 per person.

The Association also will host a dance from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.

The group also will show videos in the Nebraska Union of new year celebrations in China.

The new year is also an important time of reunion for families, but for many Chinese students at UNL, returning home is not possible.

"I miss home, and I called them," said Huang Xuanning, a graduate student in electrical engineering. "It is all I can do right now."

Zhang Xuanqi, a 42-year-old chemistry research scholar, said some students called home just to

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BIN GONG

president of the Chinese Students Association

listen to the fireworks.

"For young students, they will miss home," he said. "They called home (Monday) morning to hear the fireworks. Everyone can hear the fireworks over the phone."

The lunar festival dates back to a time when, according to Chinese legend, a wild beast appeared at the end of winter and devoured villagers. But the beast was afraid of drums, firecrackers and the color red.

Every year villagers would paint objects red and explode "bamboo crackers" to protect themselves.

Jessica Chong, assistant program coordinator for the International Affairs Office, said the color red was still important in the new year celebration.

"Everyone still wears red. No one wears black," she said. Chong also said when younger family members visited older ones, they received small red packets with money in them.

Huang said the new year meant a lot to him.

"The beginning of the new year is full of hope and full of luck. It is so important to me and my family," he said.

Former student faces lawsuits

From Staff Reports

A former UNL student charged with five counts of felony assault is now facing a double lawsuit in connection with the same incident.

Scott Schwaderer, a senior business management major last fall, ran into several people with his pickup truck Nov. 13, after they made a comment about his cowboy hat, police said.

Jeffrey and Denise Benne, two of the victims in the incident, filed lawsuits in Lancaster County District Court Tuesday seeking medical compensation for their injuries.

Jeffrey Benne, 29, reported suf-

fering a sprained ankle, cuts and abrasions. His suit asks for \$634.55, the amount of his medical expenses.

Denise Benne, 27, reported suffering fractures to her skull, pelvis and right shoulder. Her medical bills totaled more than \$12,500.

Both lawsuits also name Paul Schwaderer of Grand Island, Scott's father. The lawsuits argue say the 1989 Ford pickup that Scott Schwaderer was driving belonged to his father, and was thus Paul Schwaderer's responsibility.

Police reports stated that Scott Schwaderer, 22, had been at The Neighbors Lounge, 7010 O St., singing karaoke. When he came off the

stage, reports state, someone in a group of four couples, which included Jeffrey and Denise Benne, said "nice hat."

Schwaderer was wearing a black cowboy hat at the time.

He later met the group in the lounge parking lot and after a verbal exchange, drove into them with his truck, reports state. Schwaderer left the scene, but later called 911 and turned himself in.

Schwaderer also was charged with one count of driving while intoxicated.

Attempts to reach Schwaderer or Herbert Friedman, the Bennes' lawyer, Wednesday night were unsuccessful.

Loudon worries about costly Union

By Melanie Brandert

Staff Reporter

The time has come to prepare the Nebraska Union for the future, Director Daryl Swanson told ASUN senators Wednesday night.

A proposed \$10 million expansion would extend the union to the north and renovate the University Bookstore, union administrative offices, the food court dining room and other existing areas.

It also would provide additional

meeting rooms, a new 300-seat auditorium and more businesses, such as a music store and a dry cleaner.

In addition, the expansion would upgrade mechanical and electrical systems and modify handicap-accessible areas to bring them up to federal requirements.

Swanson gave a slide presentation to senators, showing vital areas in the union that were in need of renovation or expansion.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, told senators that the

university could not use state tax dollars to build non-academic facilities.

"It's very clear that we wouldn't get another state dollar for this," he said.

Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said his main concern with the expansion was its cost and how student fees would be affected.

The senate also passed a referendum introduced by Loudon that would ask students if they would support an increase in student fees.

Plainsmen

Continued from Page 1

"This is not advocating someone to pop some doctor with a bullet," he said.

He said everyone should remember the inalienable rights guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence.

"This doesn't mean you have the right to spread your legs in the back seat of every car you want to spread your legs in," he said.

Rights belong to the innocent, he said, and not to criminals, such as those who torture and torment children. He said abortion tortured and tormented babies.

He said that because fetuses "cry and struggle when their arms and legs are ripped off," they were the same as babies.

"They say if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck," he said, "it probably is a duck."

Ball then pointed to the noose. "This stands for the judgment of God," he said. "... Abortion is legal because the public accepts it as legal, but it's not legal in the eyes of God."

During Ball's demonstration, Sheryl Schrepf stood 3 feet from him

and contested his statements. Schrepf is the executive director of Nebraska Planned Parenthood Voters for Choice.

Schrepf, the former executive director of the Preterm Clinic in Brookline, Mass., — the site of two shootings — said the noose and plate demonstration would incite violence against Planned Parenthood of Lincoln.

"They're trying to say we're pulling the heads off babies? That's absurd," she said. "That's not exaggeration. That's lying."

Schrepf said this was the first contact she had had with the Plainsmen. No matter what groups show up to protest, she said, the clinic will open in May.

Charles and Mary Lue Gove said they hoped it wouldn't. The couple watched the demonstration and said they supported Ball's views.

"I spent 22 years in the Air Force and went on 35 missions in World War II," Charles Gove said. "This is not what I did it for. The Supreme Court is dead wrong."

The Goves said they were not members of the Plainsmen but had several friends who were.

The Plainsmen was founded in March 1994. The organization has more than 400 members, with 80 percent in Omaha and Lincoln. The rest of the members are from central and western Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Illinois.

"Our purpose is to restore the Constitution," Ball said.

Although the group started with a focus on repealing the assault weapons ban — most of the members are also members of the National Rifle Association — Ball said the Plainsmen was not a single-issue group.

"The gun has no value except in the protection of values," he said. "The purpose of the gun is not for duck hunting. It's to protect the values declared in the Declaration of Independence."

Ball said the Plainsmen advocated capital punishment, especially in cases of child molestation.

"We're grass-roots. We're local," he said. "We're trying to be good citizens."

"We think we're losing our liberties to protect the guilty and damage the innocent. We want to make sure we have public virtue back again."

Office helps decipher forms

From Staff Reports

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will be offering assistance in completing the 1995-96 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Renewal Applications in the Nebraska Union during February.

Financial aid staff members will

be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 6-8, 13-15 and 20-22, in the first floor lounge area of the union.

Students are encouraged to bring the appropriate supporting documentation, such as tax returns or applications. For more information, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at 472-4242.



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