

## Event will help unite Malaysian students

By Joy Ludwig  
Staff Reporter

Malaysian food, culture and drama will be highlighted at UNL's annual Malaysian Night on March 9 in the Nebraska Union.

This year's theme, "Land of a Million Smiles," will emphasize the multiculturalism of the people from Malaysia, said the event's coordinators, Katherine Bong and Felicia Leong.

Leong, a senior human resource management major, said the event would include the three races of Malaysia, which are Malay, Indian and Chinese.

"The purpose of the event is to unite all the Malaysian students and promote the Malaysian culture to the United States and the Lincoln community," Leong said.

The event will begin with a lion dance, a traditional Chinese dance performed only on special occasions, followed by a Malaysian dinner.

A Chinese musical called "Niu-Lang-Zhi-Nu" — a fairy tale and love story where a farmer falls in love with an angel — will be the evening's first drama, Leong and Bong said.

Bong, a senior finance major, said the musical drama would be emotional and tear-filled.

Leong said students had been working on the drama for about three months, and her cousin, a tailor in Malaysia, hand-made the seven angel costumes.

After a slide show, Bong said a modern drama, "A Dream, A Will, A Family," will show how Malaysian families strive to save money to send their children to U.S. colleges.

"It's really hard to earn that much money to send their child to school,

*"The purpose of the event is to unite all the Malaysian students and promote the Malaysian culture to the United States and the Lincoln community."*

**FELICIA LEONG**

Malaysian Night coordinator

but it also unites the family," Bong said.

Leong said a fashion show later in the evening would feature three types of clothing, contemporary, traditional and Batik.

She said Batik was a formal, hand-made, colorful style of dress similar to what government officials usually wear.

One of the last events will be a Chinese opera, "You-Long-Xi-Feng." Leong said this humorous love story was about a king who fell in love with a village girl.

She said the ancient Chinese costumes used in the opera would be the highlight of the night.

The event is being organized by the Nebraska University Malaysian Students Association. About 100 students helped organize the event, which Bong said was expected to attract more than 400 guests.

She said few tickets were left, but she would try to find tickets for any students who are interested.

More information is available from Bong at 438-7832, Leong at 438-1835 or Siang-Full Koo at 477-5094.

## UNL to offer classes over web

By Chad Lorenz  
Senior Reporter

High school students who take correspondence courses from UNL soon will be able to study for some of their classes in front of computer screens instead of over textbooks.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in July will start an enhanced distance learning program, in which high school students can take four classes over the World Wide Web, said James Sherwood, associate director of telecommunications for Distance Education.

The project will put multimedia learning materials, such as text, pictures and sound bites, on the web for enrolled students, he said.

"The increased access is the real key here," Sherwood said. "A student could do this at 3 in the morning or 3 in the afternoon."

The system provides an alternative to the 40 high-school-level correspondence classes that now are conducted through the mail, he said.

Four of these classes — global perspectives, chemistry, writing and geometry — will be available first, Sherwood said. The department eventually hopes to offer all 40 classes if the first four are successful.

Initially, students will use a web browser such as Netscape to log on to a UNL distance learning home page, he said. Students will need an assigned personal identification number to get into the page.

In the future, students will use specialized software now being designed by the National Information Display Laboratory at the David Sarnoff Research Center in Princeton, N.J.

The software will allow students to configure the learning materials to their own learning styles, Sherwood said.

Students who learn visually can use pictures, graphs and diagrams, while those who learn best by reading can use only text.

"Theoretically, learning will be made easier, funner and more successful," he said.

Sherwood said he hoped and expected distance learning by computer to be more effective than in-class lectures. The department will watch the students who use it to measure their academic progress, he said.

Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey helped secure \$2.6 million from the General Service Administration to pay for the project.

The project is part of Kerrey's vision to promote education and technology in Nebraska, he said in a press release.

"What we are announcing today was science fiction just a few years ago."

## Proposals leave racing out of AKsarben's future

OMAHA (AP) — A horse racetrack was not included in three proposals from architects who spent several days dreaming up options for AKsarben property.

The Douglas County-owned track is struggling financially, and live racing will not be held this season. Racing enthusiasts hope live racing will resume next year.

Thirty architects and planners volunteered three days of work to come up with proposals for the 350 acres at AKsarben. Each plan offered on Friday included a University of Nebraska at Omaha campus of up to 100 acres, a civic center or arena with up to 7,000 seats and exhibition space, a park of up to 50 acres and small and privately developed businesses.

Kenny Rosen, the head of the company that oversees racing for the county-owned track, called the proposals premature.

Rosen said simulcasting would continue at the track and a measure on the November ballot would give vot-

ers the chance to approve off-track betting. He said a live meet in 1997 also was possible.

John Sova, the architect who helped organize the work done by the Omaha chapter of the American Institute of Architects, said the group decided to leave out the racetrack and livestock barns because they covered up to 250 acres and did not leave much to work with.

Douglas County Board members George Mills and Mary Ann Burgeson said they were bothered that none of the proposals included a racetrack.

Mills, Burgeson and County Board Chairperson Clare Duda said they would have liked to have seen a place in the plans for events such as the Douglas County Fair and the River City Roundup rodeo.

But the three board members and fellow board member Kyle Hutchings said the concepts were exciting and might be a new focal point for discussion.

## Stars

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will start making offers soon. Star City Hockey will seek its players during the player draft starting May 14.

The franchise office will be added to the coliseum after renovation is completed, but for now a temporary office and ticket phone line has been set up.

The franchise is already taking season ticket requests at 438-5555, though the price of tickets hasn't been decided.

Renovation of the arena will begin after the UNL rodeo on April 14, Skold said. The conversion should be complete by the beginning of the State Fair on Aug. 23.

Only events of the Lancaster County Fair will be displaced while construction continues, Skold said. The horse shows and rodeo will be moved to the grandstand.

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