

Martial arts, lectures flavor Japanese fair

Festival brings games, traditions and arts to UNL.

By **KIMBERLY COFFEEN**
Staff Reporter

Ritual tea ceremonies and the clatter of bamboo swords took the place of fast food and the electronic sounds of video games, as a taste of Japanese culture came to the Nebraska Union Thursday.

The fifth-annual Festival of Japan featured guest speakers and demonstrations of Japanese martial arts and traditions.

The festival's keynote speaker was Tatsuo Tanaka. Tanaka, Consul General of Japan in Kansas City, talked about the relations between Japan and the Midwest United States, especially the dramatic change in Japanese-U.S. relations since World War II.

"I am sure that Japan has become the U.S.'s best friend," Tanaka said.

Nebraska has become a good friend and trading partner of Japan as well.

"Nebraska is Japan's No. 1 customer," he said.

Akira Yamamoto, an anthropologist at the University of Kansas, spoke about the importance of language diversity and the similarities between Japanese and Native American languages.

"Cultural language diversity has been the way of human survival and languages are the most important ways of expressing our views of the world," he said.

Of the 6,000 languages in the world, Yamamoto said, only 300 are

spoken by more than 1 million people. Only 50 percent of the world's languages will survive past the year 2000, he said.

As the pool of diverse languages shrinks, Yamamoto said, so do people's insights into different cultures.

"When we look at languages, we see how people think. It is a mirror for people's minds," Yamamoto said.

William Samonides, an art history professor at KU, showed slides of Japanese architecture. Andrew Tsubaki, of KU's International Theatrical Studies Center, spoke about the traditions of Japanese theater.

Besides the lectures, the festival featured demonstrations of martial arts and Japanese traditions.

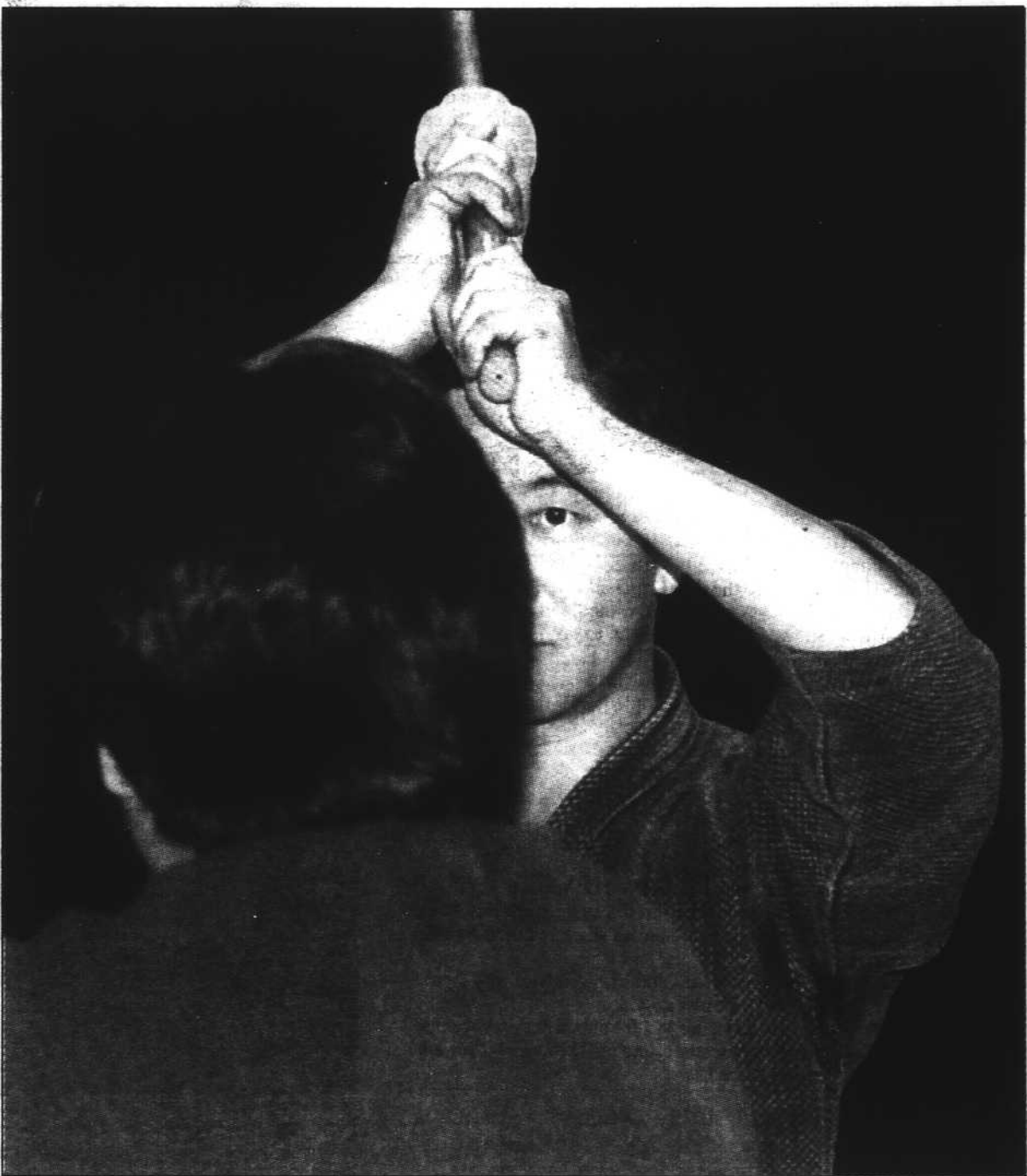
Shoichi Nagase, Vice Consul of Japan in Kansas City, and Richard Schmidt, martial arts instructor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln demonstrated Kendo, a martial art similar to fencing. The two teamed up with three other men to perform ancient martial arts.

An exhibition of the Japanese game "Go" and a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, known as chanoyu, rounded out the seven-hour festival.

Tanaka said the festival was a good way for UNL students to learn about the Japanese culture.

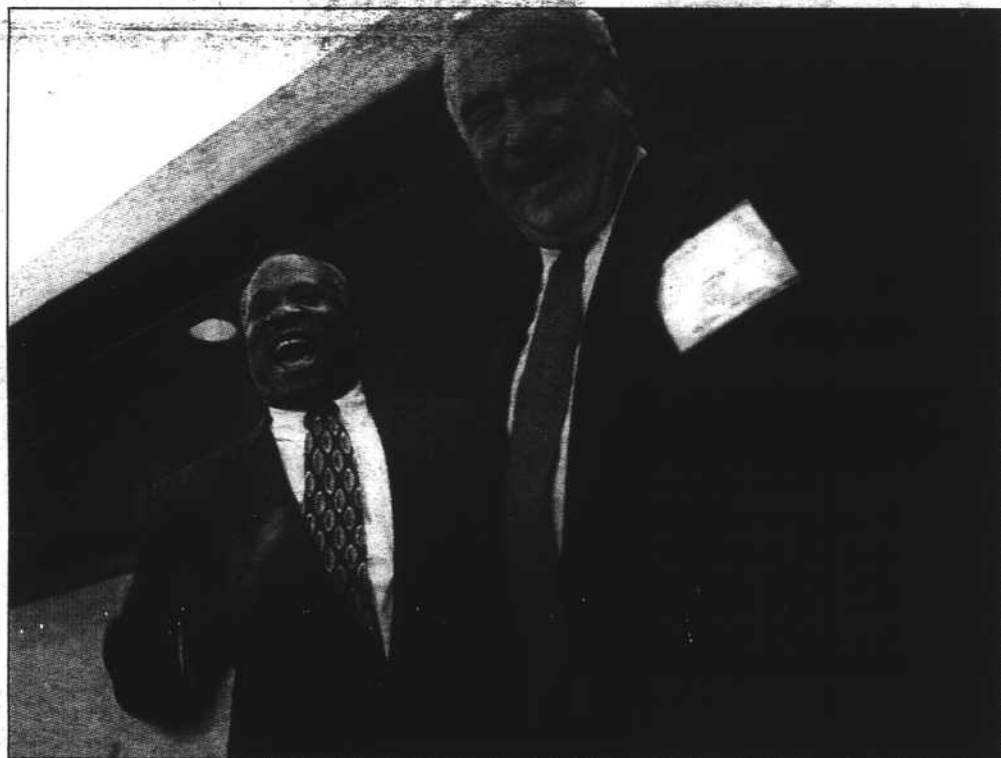
"I hope that this festival continues for years to come because it is a great way for others to learn more about the Japanese culture and its meaning," Tanaka said.

The festival was presented by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Kawasaki Reading Room for Japanese Studies. The reading room was established in 1992 through a gift from the Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp.



SEIJIRO KIYOMICHI, right, charges Hiroshi Notuka during a Kendo Kakarikeiko demonstration Thursday afternoon as part of the Festival of Japan at the Nebraska Union.

SCOTT BRUHN/DN



MATTHEW WAITE/DN

U.S. SUPREME COURT Justice Clarence Thomas shares a laugh with former Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court William Hastings Thursday morning in Omaha. Thomas appeared before the Nebraska Bar Association.

Thomas still enjoys his work

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cases that had been held over from the previous term because of the vacancy he filled. He also had to get ready for four other cases to be heard three days later.

"It was a heavy docket, and it was one that I was not prepared," he said. "Judges should know their docket."

His first day of judging was Nov. 1, 1991 — the morning of his investiture. It was there that Thomas finally realized where he was.

During the investiture, he was asked to sit in the chair of Supreme Court legend Justice John Marshall. It was the first moment he had to think about what had happened.

"I thought 'Oh my goodness, this is the Supreme Court,'" he said. "It all converged sitting there in the John Marshall chair."

Thomas said with a wry smile that the last

five years of his term on the court is history. He said the sitting justices told him the first five years on the bench are an adjustment period — Thomas called them his rookie years.

Thomas said his rookie years have been filled with challenges.

"You can look at the color of my hair to see what effect it's had," he said.

But the challenges have come from the work, not the institution, he said. Now that civility is in fashion in Washington, Thomas said the court has always had respect for each other.

"In five years, I have yet to hear an unkind word," he said. Thomas said more rancor has come from outside the court about their decisions, not inside the court.

"There should be civility," he said. "But we agreed long before it was fashionable."

"It was judging. It was what we thought judging was all about."

Wilson runs unopposed in NU regents campaign

Lone candidate says higher admission standards, gender-equity progress among accomplishments

By **ERIN SCHULTE**
Senior Reporter

After six years on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, Regent Chuck Wilson of Lincoln will run unopposed this year to regain his position.

Wilson, a cardiologist with the Nebraska Heart Institute, said he had been a major player during his time as a regent in enacting several important campus policies like gender equity and open board meetings.

Wilson was a strong supporter of raising admission standards, and said he emphasized that it was not an attempt to exclude students, but an effort to make sure people are prepared for university academic work. The resolution for a stronger core curriculum also was written by Wilson.

"Students of all disciplines should be exposed to a common core of science and humanities," Wilson said. "I think (journalism students) should know the difference between a molecule and an atom."

Wilson also wrote a regents' policy statement on the role of research at UNL. Some regents had proposed that the university be restricted to just research that generated profits.

"I think that would have been very damaging," Wilson said.

The statement led to improvements in evaluating teaching performance and deciding who should receive tenure.

Women on campus have Wilson to thank for progress in gender equity.

Wilson said he suggested and later was chairman of an ad hoc committee that dis-



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CHUCK WILSON
NU Regent

cussed gender equity. He wrote a policy statement listing goals and strategies for improving gender equity at NU campuses that will be reviewed every year, he said.

Wilson also was instrumental in opening regents' meetings to the public, he said. Although the board still has closed meetings for things like contract negotiations, he said there are no longer closed meetings each month.