

# Police arrest teen-ager for 1995 slaying

**KILLING** from page 1

She said considering the rough backgrounds some of the boys in the home come from, she never expected anything like this to happen, "but you always worry about it."

"Considering the number of boys there at the time, you wouldn't

think it was possible."

The seven boys currently in the house hadn't had time to discuss the news, Beggs said, but she was planning to get them all together later Thursday evening.

"We're all in a state of shock right now," she said. "They all liked him."

And even after Hopkins' confession to police and herself, she still held faith that her "son" was innocent.

"He was somebody we liked and enjoyed having around," she said. "Even if he did do it, and it sounds like it could be possible, we certainly won't desert him."

# Mid-Autumn festival honors togetherness

■ The Chinese celebration will promote an atmosphere of unity.

By GREGORY P. KRAFFKA  
Staff Reporter

Those looking to experience new cultures will want to make sure they attend the annual Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, the second biggest event of the Chinese calendar year.

The festival, sponsored by the Chinese Student and Scholar Association, will be from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday at Trago Park, 22nd and U streets.

Fuming Zheng, president of the CSSA, said this year's festival will retain the elements that have contributed to its popularity over the years, like an atmosphere of togetherness.

The festival will feature two big lanterns made in the shapes of animals as well as moon cakes, he said.

These delicacies, made with flour and sweet fillings of nuts, mashed red beans, lot seeds and Chinese dates, will be available to adventurous eaters. Additional foods being offered include fried rice and noodles, barbecued chicken wings, pork and hot dogs.

The event will also offer activities like volleyball, tug of war and a water balloon toss. Following the festival, a Chinese movie will be aired at the UNL Culture Center, Zheng said.

The upcoming festival has been celebrated in different ways over its long history.

The origin of the festival is uncertain, but the most popular legend dates back to the Hsia Dynasty (2205-1818 B.C.).

According to this legend, a beautiful woman named Chang-O stole an elixir from her husband that would ensure her youth, and make her immortal. When she swallowed the elixir, she ascended to the moon. Although her youth and beauty were preserved, Chang-O was doomed to

## 1 involvement

stay there forever.

During the Tang dynasty, 618-906 A.D., the festival was made an official holiday because of the moon's importance to Chinese farmers. The moon was a timepiece reminding them when to plant and harvest their crops.

Because of this, in times of worship the Chinese have given special attention to the moon.

When China was ruled by the Mongolian people during the Yuan dynasty, 1280-1368 A.D., the unhappy Chinese population organized a rebellion. The rebels communicated with each other through messages hidden inside special cakes - later called moon cakes.

On the night of the moon festival the rebels overthrew their foreign rulers. The Chinese eat moon cakes in remembrance of this event.

Today, the festival is celebrated to recognize the importance of family unity. It is a day in which families gather together and hope for a better life. Lanterns, symbolizing good luck, happiness and prosperity, are made in the shape of animals and hung on houses or carried by children.

In addition to hosting the annual Mid-Autumn Festival, the CSSA offers many opportunities to Chinese students.

Practical problems that the organization helps to solve include housing and family conflicts. The organization helps adapt students to American culture, while at the same time retaining Chinese culture and values. Zheng said the three stated goals of the CSSA are:

- To enrich cultural life of Chinese students.
- To enhance relationships between Chinese students.
- To promote friendships between Chinese students and American students.

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