

Students hold on to 'Nite'

Annual event celebrates culture of India

By KARL ANDERSON
Staff Reporter

Saturday night was a time of celebration as members of the India Students' Association and the public gathered for India Nite '97.

The annual event, which included dinner, dancing and music, as well as a short skit, was held in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Centennial Ballroom of the Nebraska Union.

The evening was organized and sponsored by the ISA, a student organization that helps students from India adjust to the university and community by providing them with a familiar cultural atmosphere.

Ravindra Rathi, vice president of the ISA, said the event was designed to expose people to the different traditions of India and to give people a sense of Indian culture.

This year's India Nite was special because it also celebrated India's 50th year of independence from Britain.

The evening started with a traditional Indian welcome song given by Sada Sivudu. Following the song, the ISA welcomed two guest speakers to the microphone.

Theron Snell, the director of foreign student programs in the International Affairs Office, talked about the work his office does with international students and organizations. Members of his office help foreign students adjust to the new environment they find when they come to the university for the first time.

The final speaker of the evening was Linda Crump, associate director of affirmative action and diversity programs. Crump talked about the importance of people celebrating who they are and the importance of people working together in the university.

A multimedia presentation high-

lighted some of the accomplishments India has made in the past 50 years, including its emergence as a major center for software technology and a film industry giant.

The show also honored some of India's national heroes. Mahatma Gandhi, who led India's struggle for independence, Mother Teresa, and author Rudyard Kipling were included in the presentation.

The dinner was catered by Sitar, an Indian restaurant in Omaha. The food was served buffet style and offered guests a variety of different Indian dishes.

"The food was wonderful," said Bob Bergstrom, associate professor of English.

The cuisine included chapatis, or unleavened bread baked on a griddle; Tandoori Chicken, which is prepared in a clay oven called a Tandoor; and paan, a very rich Indian pudding that includes rice, almonds and spices. Rice is served with most Indian meals and is a staple in most Indian diets.

Dinner was followed by a six-man band that featured two keyboardists, an electric guitar, a drum set and a vocalist. The band played seven songs that presented a sampling of modern Indian music, which resembled American dance music.

The first dance was a popular Indian dance that depicts a recently married daughter leaving her parents for the first, and probably last, time.

One of many masters of ceremonies explained that when Indian women marry, they typically never live with their families again. The dance is designed to show how delicate the separation between daughter and parents can be.

The evening also included a short skit entitled "The Pit." The skit depicted a universal citizen who falls victim to the middle class struggle, represented by a deep pit.

The man is helpless as various nemeses of society, a journalist, a politician, a lawyer and two government workers, try to take advantage of him while he is trapped in the pit. The man finally frees himself when he becomes aware of his own sense of pride and empowerment.

A Jugalbandi, or drum competition, was performed after the skit. The Jugalbandi was described as a musical debate between two drummers who try to outperform each other by playing a more complicated drum rhythm. A fashion show displayed some of the typical clothing worn by people from India. Common among Indian women is the "sari," a versatile, one-piece dress that is often brightly colored. The sari is considered to be the national dress of Indian women.

The evening concluded with one last dance originating from the Indian state of Punjab. The dance, called the Bhangra, was traditionally performed by farmers after the harvest. Now, however, the dance is performed at many official functions as a celebration of the joy of life.

The four-hour event attracted more than 150 people and gave guests the opportunity to experience Indian culture and traditions firsthand.

Rosemary Bergstrom, administrator in UNL's division of the College of Nursing, said the evening gave people a chance to meet and talk with international students.

Paul Vinton, a senior psychology major, said he and his wife enjoy Indian food and culture and were impressed with the whole evening.

"The whole thing was great," Vinton said.

RHA considers open test bank

By SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

RHA

"These tests are meant to be study guides, not an easy way out."

PETRA ECCARIUS
RHA speaker

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Residence Hall Association voiced its support for the idea of an open test bank for all UNL students Sunday.

The idea that RHA supports consists of a test bank system that will be open to all UNL students. The tests in the bank would be photocopies provided by students.

If this test bank is approved in the future, professors would get a memo informing them of the bank and how it works, Brendan Arnold, Harper residence hall senator, said.

"If professors don't want their tests in the file, I will do everything I can to keep it that way," Arnold said. "We don't want any cheating, plagiarism or disrespect within the test bank."

Arnold said as of now this plan is just an idea.

"I am going to see where this goes, and if I get some support then we can see what happens," he said.

Arnold said, along with RHA President Ben Wallace, a formal proposal will be developed within the next few weeks.

Arnold said RHA plans to take the idea to James Griesen, vice chancellor for academic affairs, and also to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"There are a few people that I want to meet with and get ideas, and see if the idea is a feasible

one," Arnold said. "I also want to take this to ASUN and see if they have any problems with it."

RHA members had some ideas on how the test bank should work in the future.

Petra Eccarius, RHA speaker, said she thought the tests should be provided without answers on them.

"These tests are meant to be study guides, not an easy way out," Eccarius said.

Wallace also discussed future improvements in communication between RHA and the students living in the residence halls.

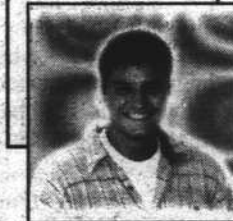
Wallace plans to begin holding round table discussions in January with the residents.

"I want to get more input from the students living in the halls and see what kind of things they want," Wallace said.

Wallace said he wanted to make RHA more visible to students and do more reaching out to the halls.

N O V E M B E R 1997

M	T	W	T	F	S
17	18 MEN'S & WOMEN'S PRE-SEASON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ENTRY DEADLINE	19 MEN'S BASKETBALL/V VS. WESTERN ILLINOIS DEVANEY, 7:05 PM	20	21 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL/V AT TEXAS TECH, 7:00 PM MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING/V NIKE SPIRIT CLASSIC DEVANEY	22 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL/V AT BAYLOR, 7:30 PM M/W SWIMMING & DIVING/V HUSKER SHOOT-OUT DEVANEY
23 MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING/V HUSKER SHOOT-OUT DEVANEY	24 M/W CROSS-COUNTRY/V NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS GREENVILLE, SC 11:00 AM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/V VS. CREIGHTON DEVANEY, 7:05 PM	25 MEN'S BASKETBALL/V VS. COLORADO STATE DEVANEY, 7:05 PM M/W 8-BALL POOL/I ENTRY DEADLINE	26	27 WON'T FIT ON 28TH... WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/V CABLEVISION CLASSIC DEVANEY	28 MEN'S FOOTBALL/V AT COLORADO 1:30 PM WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL/V VS. TEXAS A&M COLISEUM, 7:30 PM
29 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL/V VS. TEXAS COLISEUM, 7:30 PM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/V CABLEVISION CLASSIC DEVANEY	30	31 MEN'S BASKETBALL/V VS. TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO DEVANEY, 7:00 PM			



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DOING IT

The UNL Men's Club Rugby team capped off another successful season with a first place finish in the Great Plains Region and an impressive 10-2 overall record. Thanks to their Great Plains victory, UNL's rugger qualified for the upcoming Western Regional Tournament for the third year in a row. The team heads to Regionals ranked 5th in the West. A first or second place finish would advance the Huskers to the sweet sixteen semi-finals, the next step down the road to the national championship in California.

Just when you thought the action was winding down, the second half of the season begins in early spring. Team captains Eric Zimmerman and Josh Rhetmeyer are confident that most of the 30 members will take the field again, but they're always on the lookout for new blood. If you love rugby and you've got the competitive spirit, give them a call at 438-8762.

—Megan Wiegert