

Cultural carnivals afford new horizons

Food, song, dance spice up Turkish Independence Day

By ANN MARY LANDIS
Staff Reporter

Food, music and dancing made the third annual Turkish Night feel more like a party than an educational experience. But organizers and participants said it was both.

Turkish Night, which was sponsored by UNL's Turkish Student Association, celebrated Turkish Independence Day and taught the audience about Turkish culture.

Lutfullah Turkmen, president of the Turkish Student Association, told the audience he was glad the group could introduce them to Turkish culture.

"We believe after tasting Turkish culture, you will become friends of Turkey," Turkmen said.

Aliakber Aktag, a UNL graduate student, played Turkish folk music on an instrument that looked like a small guitar. He sang in low, melodious tones.

Orhan Yenen, a researcher in the UNL physics department, then gave a music presentation.

Yenen played taped songs from periods of Turkey's history, including one from the 1600s — the time of the Ottoman empire — and a modern

song that used Western composition techniques. At times the audience clapped with the beat.

He also played an Islamic religious song, noting the high percentage of Turkish citizens who are Islamic. During one song, a couple in the audience spontaneously got up and danced, and another couple followed.

To show off the customs of Turkish dress, a man and two women modeled traditional clothes. The women wore colorful vests, headpieces with coins and cloth, and flowing pieces of cloth over pants. The gold headpiece coins signified a woman's marital status, or if she were ready to get married. Gold coins hanging around their neck represented the status of the family in society.

The dancers used pieces of cloth, strings of coins, and candles. At the end of the night, the audience had the chance to try Turkish folk dancing. Many members of the audience left saying they'd gained a new understanding of the culture.

The audience itself was a diverse group.

Ranging from babies in strollers to gray-haired adults, the audience had various homelands: Turkey,

Korean percussion represents nature

By JOSH FUNK
Assignment Reporter

The sharp, hard clash of the mallet striking the jang gu cut through the rumble of the drums with a driving rhythm that echoed through the sanctuary of the Culture Center Saturday night.

The sounds of this miniature bronze gong controlled the cadence of the other drummers on stage and signaled a change in beat.

The crowd began to clap along, and someone jumped up to dance as the sounds of the "Sa mul nolri" indoctrinated the audience into the Korean Paradise.

The performance of the Sa mul nolri, along with traditional dance and song performances, highlighted the celebration of Korean culture Saturday night sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Korean Student Association.

"Sa mul nolri," or four-instrument play, is a traditional form of

Korean folk music that celebrates the harmony of different elements of nature.

Each of the four instruments used, a large and small jang gu, a large drum and a two-headed mid-size drum, represents elements in nature.

The Sa mul nolri brings all four of these percussive elements together to create harmony.

Before the performances, a traditional Korean meal was served with rice and four main dishes:

■ "Jabchae," a noodle dish created from sweet potatoes. The noodles are then cooked and served cold.

■ "Kimchi," which is pickled and spiced vegetables with a distinctive and perhaps dangerous flavor to the unaccustomed palate.

■ "Galbi," a seasoned beef dish. Strips of beef are flavored and cut into chopstick-sized pieces.

■ "Kimbap," which is Korea's version of sushi. Rice, vegetables and some meat are wrapped up in

seaweed.

In Korea the food varies greatly by region, said Hyosik Hwang, an English literature graduate student.

Every town and sometimes every family has a distinctive version of these dishes, Hwang said.

An atypical member of the performance that night was Cecil Howell, a senior African-American computer science and international business major.

Howell is the first non-Korean member of the Korean student organization.

He joined to learn about other cultures and because of his Korean friends, Howell said.

The global community everyone is talking about is now, Howell said.

The entire event was organized by Jiyeon Yoo, a senior business management major.

"We hoped to create a better understanding of Korean culture," Yoo said.

Pakistan, India and Indonesia.

The audience also got to taste Turkish food. A mixture of hard-boiled eggs, olives, onions and potatoes was served cold. A combination of beef, tomatoes and onions reminded some of American foods.

Some people said the dessert tasted like baklava, a sweet pastry.

James Foote, an educational assistant in the Teachers College, called the evening "very enjoyable."

"It was an evening to broaden cultural horizons," Foote said, "and

broaden the belt-line."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he appreciated what cultural nights did for the university.

"I think it's evenings like tonight that make a university a culturally

Regents OK trainer for non-athletes

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and rehabilitation equipment in the training rooms. The activity would not interfere with Weber's university duties, the request states.

Under NU bylaws, an employee must get regents' approval before providing professional services for a fee to outside businesses or government agencies and before providing professional services with the use of university facilities.

Chancellor James Moeser said the university's modest request of Weber's fees was intended to keep the cost of his physical therapy treatments low for students, staff, and community athletes outside the Athletic Department.

Regents may have misunderstood the reason his fees were low compared with academic faculty, he said.

As a result, "they were asking for the university to take a bigger rake of this guy's fees," Moeser said.

NU President Dennis Smith said the university takes a higher percentage of faculty members' fees because of higher indirect costs involved in their outside employment.

The percentage is not intended to discourage faculty from consulting outside the university, Smith said.

Moeser agreed: "I encourage faculty to work outside the university."

Ford said he and other faculty members planned to further discuss university's share of their outside employment revenue with Moeser at a meeting of his Executive Committee.

"My concern is not what the fee is, but whether professors at the university have the same access to the facilities that the Athletic Department has," Ford said.

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion requested the regents' General Affairs Committee develop a new, more consistent university policy for sharing faculty and staff members' outside employment revenue.

In other action Saturday, regents: ■ Expanded the University of Nebraska Minority Student Scholarships Fund, making funds available to students on the Kearney campus.

Since 1989, only students attending the university's Lincoln and Omaha campuses were eligible to receive the scholarships.

The scholarship endowment fund started with a \$800,000 legislative grant in 1989. After an additional legislative grant this spring, the fund now contains \$1.3 million.

■ Approved expanding the UNL Crisis Leave Sharing Policy to all four NU campuses.

The program allows faculty members and staff to donate up to three days of vacation leave per year to a crisis leave pool.

Then, other employees suffering from a serious illness or family crisis may apply to receive days from the pool instead of taking unpaid leave from work.

Based on the 18-month pilot program at UNL, the universitywide annual leave donations will total

about 1,500 days, and about 900 days will be used by employees in crisis.

The program could cost the university up to \$50,000 per year. But John Russell, NU director of human resources, said he believed the cost would be much lower.

■ Approved paying separate architecture firms to begin designing renovations for UNL's Richards Hall and the West Center and Communication Building in Kearney.

Both buildings are included in the university's 16-building, \$95-million deferred maintenance initiative.

Construction on Richards Hall could start by the summer and be completed in 1999.

■ Authorized NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne and another university official to negotiate a post-season football game.

■ Approved spending \$381,000 to install a new elevator in the north wing of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on East Campus.

■ Approved the Athletic Department's spending \$1.8 million to renovate portions of east and west Memorial Stadium.

■ Approved an exception in the university's bidding procedure that will prevent unexpected expenditures on capital construction projects.

■ Approved leasing land to the Nebraska Health System on which to build a walkway between Clarkson and University hospitals in Omaha.

Approved plan will pay early retirees' insurance

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Regents

"It allows the university ... a much greater level of flexibility (of hiring)."

DENNIS SMITH
NU president

The university could save millions of dollars while helping make retirement easier for some faculty members under a new retirement health care plan approved by the NU Board of Regents Saturday.

Under the plan, the university will pay the full amount of early retirees' annual health insurance, provided the retiree is a tenured faculty member age 59.5 years or higher with a decade of service to the university.

These payments will continue until the retiree is eligible for Medicare, which now occurs at age 65. The plan applies to all four NU campuses.

Lee Jones, NU executive vice president and provost, said the plan will help older professors to retire early. Then, the university can hire younger professors at the assistant professor level, he said.

The salary difference between older professors and new faculty could save the university between \$2 million and \$3 million annually.

Jones estimated 30 to 40 percent of university faculty members eligible for early retirement would retire under the plan. If all eligible faculty members retired, the university would save \$7 million annually, he said.

"The concept is a little bit cynical," said Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha.

But other regents, NU President Dennis Smith and UNL Academic Senate President Jim Ford said they had yet to find a drawback under the plan.

"It allows the university, on all four campuses, then, a much

greater level of flexibility" in hiring, Smith said.

When an older professor retires, the university can decide to hire a replacement or redistribute funds to hire a professor in a different discipline, Smith said.

Ford said some older professors need to retire early for health or other reasons, and he approved of the plan's helping those professors and saving the university money at the same time.

However, the plan's early retirement bonus is not lucrative enough to encourage the university's best professors to leave and work elsewhere while continuing to collect retirement benefits — an action called "double dipping," he said.

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion said he thought that, instead of encouraging the best professors to retire early, the plan would encourage the worst professors to leave the university.

"It may be a quality issue to allow a disgruntled professor to retire," Miller said about the plan. "Better quality, potential lower costs, I'm for it."

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