

Check us out

Chinese students kick off new year

By KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

The Chinese Year of the Tiger will be brought in with a roar on Saturday evening with fun, food and entertainment, all courtesy of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

The Chinese New Year, which officially began Thursday, is being celebrated at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Saturday in order not to conflict with students' busy weekly schedules.

The festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with traditional Chinese games on the second floor of the Nebraska Union.

Chinese Students and Scholars Association President Fuming Zheng promises gifts for everyone who participates.

At 6:30 p.m. dinner begins in the Centennial Ballroom with members of the student association serving a number of dishes, including rice, fruit and other authentic Chinese fare.

The performance begins at 7:50 p.m. in the ballroom and features singing and dancing.

Groups of all ages will be part of the performance. High school and elementary school students will be

performing various dances, including an umbrella dance.

Singing groups and a Chinese drummer will be on hand. The performance also will include a dance familiar to most cultures for its size and color - the lion dance, which will be the highlight of the evening.

"The lion dance is very traditional and very attractive," Zheng said.

Zheng is excited about the entertainment; the entertainers were selected by the association, and the competition is stiff. Only 15 of the 75 acts that tried out made the cut.

"We spend a lot of time preparing this," Zheng said, "The children's dancing is very interesting and all are quality acts."

The event has become very popular with Chinese groups around the area, with sponsors including local Chinese restaurants and even a Chinese church in Omaha, Zheng said.

More than 500 people are expected to attend the event, which has become an annual tradition at UNL, Zheng said.

Ticket prices include all the festivities and are \$10 for non-members and \$7 for members of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

They can be picked up at the door Saturday.

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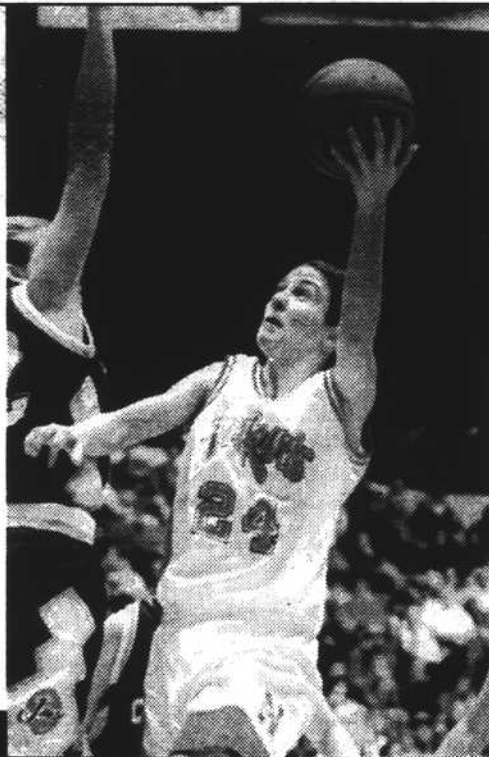
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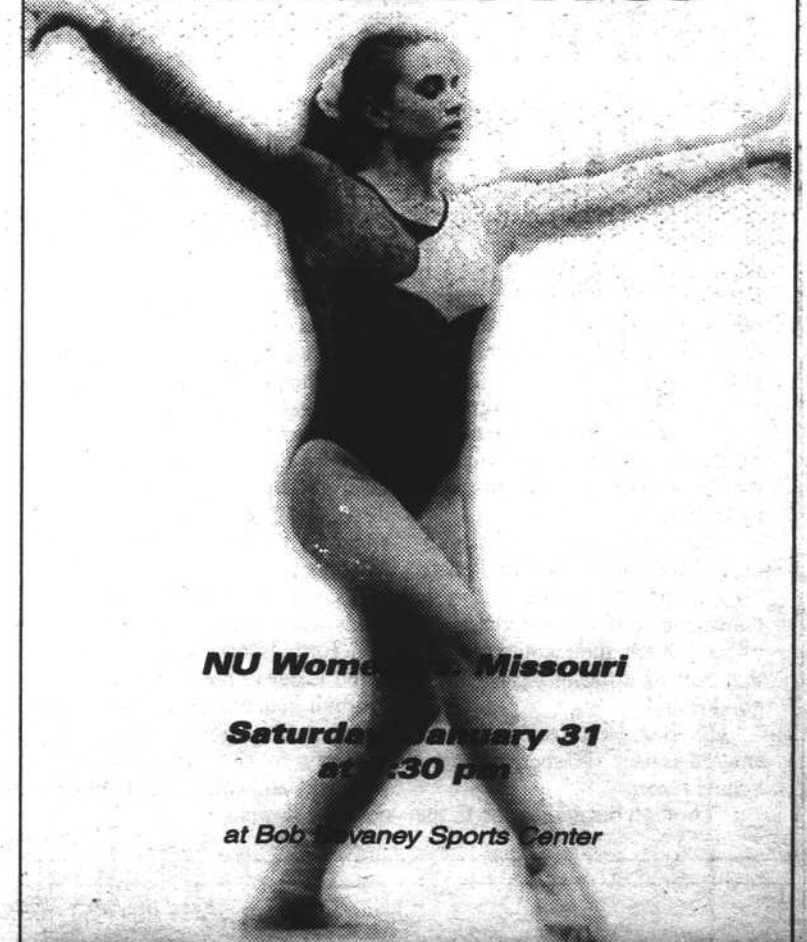
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