

Asian groups celebrate

By TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

NATHAN JOHNSON, left, a junior economics and international business major, and Aki Fumi Fujii, an exchange student from Senshu University in Tokyo, play friends in the drama "Rumble in Roppongi" Saturday night. The play was part of Japan-Pakistan Night 1998 held in the Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom.

“None (of the countries) detracts from the light of the next. We have light that is bright enough to shine and large enough for all of us to share.”

CECIL HOWELL
GFJ promotions coordinator

“Though we haven’t been active lately because numbers are low, I said we would be back with a bang,” he said. Yanai agreed and said the celebration would help boost awareness of GFJ, already 100 members strong.

Out of all the countries in the world, he said, “none detracts from the light of the next.”

“We have light that is bright enough to shine and large enough for all of us to share.”

Sun, moon and stars are more than just symbols on the Pakistani and Japanese national flags.

The three celestial bodies, though seen from different points of view, are a sample of things we share.

So was the theme of Japan-Pakistan night, kicked off with a bang by the Pakistani Student Association and Global Friends of Japan Saturday night.

Kari Yanai and Azhar Kalim, maters of ceremony, said each group complemented the needs of the other in planning the event, which explains the joint celebration.

Yanai said PSA, with many years of experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, brought planning expertise to the event.

Meanwhile GFJ, though only 1 year old, provided support in numbers, she said.

Before the spectacle began, long lines of eager taste-testers moved to receive portions of eastern gastronomic delights like chicken mughlai and oshi sushi.

The crowd of 300 dined while soaking in the melodies of a three-piece eastern ensemble composed of tabla drums, sitar and keyboard.

Students dressed as samurai warriors re-enacted the battle of Genji and Heishi, a drama based on a true story from 12th-century Japan.

The night culminated in a multi-ethnic fashion show, highlighting traditional and ceremonial dress from two Asian nations.

The joint production was a triumph for both student groups.

Saad Alavi, PSA president, said the success of the evening proved PSA is as strong as ever.

Huskers sign books

By CHAD ELLSWORTH
Staff Reporter

Following their four seasons as the Blackshirts' battering rams, two former Huskers-turned-authors on Saturday took time to promote their new book.

Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter both appeared at the Nebraska Bookstore Saturday afternoon to autograph copies of their new book, "Wistrom and Peter: Heart and Soul."

Husker fans of all ages turned out to pick up an autographed copy of the book and to wish the former Blackshirts the best of luck in the NFL.

"They're going to do well in the NFL," said Maureen Hooker of Lincoln. "We're going to be reading about them in the future."

Some Husker fans wanted to thank the two men for their contributions to the team over the years.

"They contributed a great deal of intensity and spirit to the team," said Garland Bare of Lincoln. "We're going to miss them."

Peter said they had gotten the idea

from other athletes who had written books in the past.

"We sat down after the season and decided to go ahead," he said.

They kept notes during the season about different situations and feelings they had, Wistrom said.

"We wrote about the little things that people may not realize when they watch a game or read about it," Wistrom said. "It's nothing really earth-shattering, but it shows the processes we go through."

The book, which was co-written with Associate Director of Athletic Academic Programs Keith Zimmer, covers the two's feelings after the 1996 loss to Texas in the Big 12 Championship and the victory of the 1997 national championship.

Ken Johnson, general manager of the Nebraska Bookstore, was pleased to host the former Huskers.

"It really is a privilege to have these two athletes in our store as they reflect on the 1997 national championship and move into their pro careers."

Kerrey supports gay marriage

OMAHA (AP) - More than 300 people - including Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey - signed a newspaper advertisement showing support for an Omaha church where a minister performed a lesbian unity ceremony.

Members of the First United Methodist Church took out the ad in Saturday's editions of the Omaha World-Herald. It invites readers to a community rally next Sunday in celebration of diversity.

Those who signed the ad also included several ministers and rabbis. The ad comes two weeks after

more than 100 Omaha-area churches condemned same-sex unions in a World-Herald advertisement. Organizers of Saturday's ad said it was not intended as a response.

"This was planned before we ever heard about that," said church member Deb Kenney, who organized the latest ad. "We wanted to show we're not a one-issue church and to demonstrate that we have lots of programs and activities."

The advertisement makes no mention of the same-sex ceremony conducted at the church last September.

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