

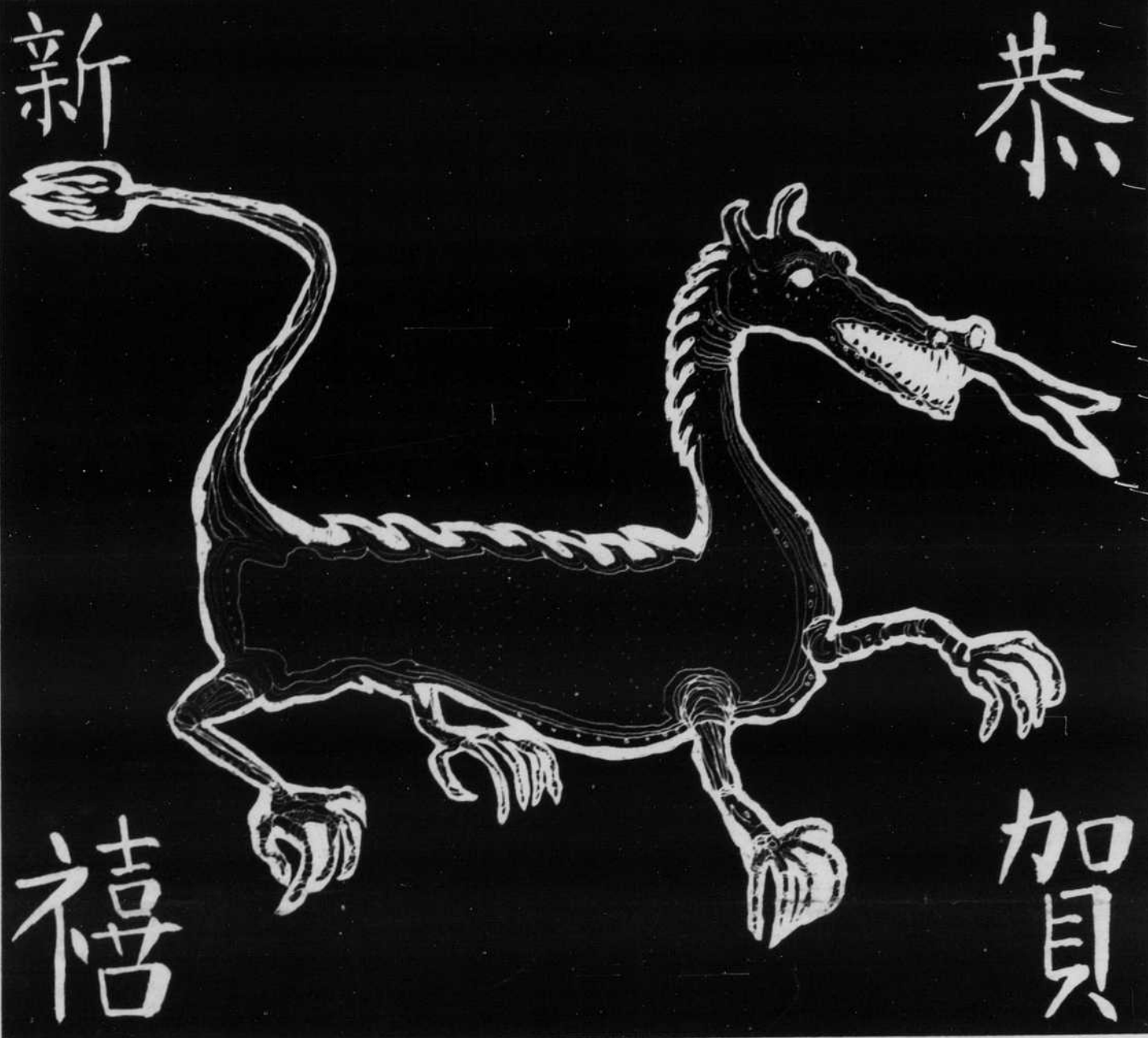
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'Happy Chinese New Year'

Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

Dragon rules new year in Chinese lore

By ED JONES
Of the Emerald

Welcome to the year of the Dragon.

Saturday a quarter of the earth's population celebrates its most important holiday, the Chinese Lunar New Year. With dancing, drinking, new clothes and a break from work, the streets will be filled with fireworks and merriment as the Chinese people continue the ancient agrarian rites seeking an auspicious beginning of the New Year.

According to legend, the founder of Chinese civilization, The Yellow Emperor (Huang Di) in the year 2,674 B.C. ordered the creation of an ordering of the Celestial Stems and Terrestrial Branches that make up the 60-year cycle used since to measure time.

The result was a calendar, corrected by astronomical observations, that bore 12 animal signs. It is by this calendar that 1976 is considered the year of the dragon.

Throughout the Far East, this calendar system still has meaning. A carefully recorded tradition indicates that Chinese civilization is now 4,650 years old.

Today, the traditions of the past remain strong even in revolutionary China where, according to one Chinese student from Shanghai, the practice of sweeping and cleaning out the house, wearing new clothes and visiting between families is still practiced with fervor.

The New Year celebration is primarily an agrarian holiday to pass the idle winter season and welcome the coming Spring. During the week-long New Year holiday it is believed that whatever actions a family exhibits produce a like fortune in the following year.

Thus, a lot of good food is eaten at holiday meals, forecasting the quality of the coming year's provisions. And, no un auspicious or malevolent words are uttered during this time. Offending children get their mouths wiped out with tissue paper.

Great respect is shown during the Chinese New Year celebration to the aged members of the family. And, sacrifices are traditionally offered to ancestral shrines.

Perhaps the most important deity honored at the year's end is the Kitchen God, Tsao Chun. His portrait occupies a place in family kitchens where he watches the household. He departs to heaven at year's end to report on the family members who try to appease him with offerings of sweet food and wine.

And, after a bonfire and firecracker send-off, Tsao Chun leaves the house, with the occupants breathing easier till next Year.

Appointment fills IFC vacancy

David Paar, a freshman accounting major, has been appointed to the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC).

He replaces David Donley, former vice-chairman of the committee, who resigned from his position Jan. 15.

The appointment was made by Jim Bernau, ASUO president. The ASUO constitution provides that the chief executive will appoint individuals to fill committee positions vacated between elections.

Bernau says he made the selection based on a thorough investigation. The search for a new member was advertised and applicants were accepted for a five-day period. Interviews were then conducted for approximately a week.

The two finalists left after the week of interviews were "very hard to choose between," says Bernau. "They're both highly-qualified people. But Paar is definitely superior."

Bernau says the specific criteria he used in determining the appointment included the candidate's objectivity, budgeting background, ability to work with others and experience with bureaucratic processes.

He says he appointed Paar because "he definitely demonstrates the ability to be a very valuable IFC member. Through the interviews he showed that he is objective, reflective and capable of making rational decisions."

Bernau to request changes in State Board procedures

By JAMES DIETZ
Of the Emerald

A proposal calling for radical changes in the tenure and promotion procedures employed by Oregon's colleges and universities will be aired before the State Board of Higher Education in the next two months.

The proposal will go before the board's Committee on Instruction Feb. 24 and the full board March 23.

Spearheaded by ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau, the Associated Oregon Study Lobby (AOSL)-backed measure asks for two major changes in the Board's administrative rules: Instructor's teaching proficiency be given more weight by the promotion and tenure committee; and, the inclusion of students on these committees.

According to Bernau, who has recently issued a policy statement on the subject, the present promotion system attaches too much importance on a candidate's research accomplishments, while nearly neglecting that person's teaching activities.

"In the promotion and tenure evaluation," says Bernau, "we find that research is about 80 per cent of the decision and instruction only 20 per cent. Students suffer in the classroom because of this. We feel instruction is the primary responsibility of the institution, and it needs to be emphasized."

Giving more importance to a professor's classroom instruction would call for increased participation from students, and they are the best qualified to gauge instruction, he added.

"Students should help make the decision as to an instructor's teaching. They experience it every day. Now the decisions are made by a faculty member's peers,

although they don't go into the classroom and experience it first-hand."

Bernau and the AOSL want a professor's instruction and research to be of equal importance before the promotion and tenure committees. "We are interested in a balance. We feel that research is good, so long as it improves instruction."

"The claim is made by many people that good research reflects good teaching. If that is the case, then let's evaluate instruction."

Citing two recent cases at the University where two "outstanding" instructors were denied tenure, Bernau observes, "These denials make us think that in times of financial entrenchment, the University seems to find it much easier to grant tenure to professors who are good researchers and to ignore teachers who are good instructors. The University will keep professors who are good researchers but lousy teachers."

Bernau feels that if students become members on the promotion and tenure committees, more attention will be focused on an individual's instruction.

"The tendency will be that students will protect their own interests during the procedures," he explains. "This will encourage professors on the committees to take a closer look, also."

Bernau views the rules he and the AOSL are proposing as an attempt to formalize the promotion process.

"A long time ago they called the university a sort of club, where the 'old boy' promotion system was employed. Although that is now changing, we still have the problem of camaraderie. This means that a faculty member who is well liked within the department stands a better chance of promotion or tenure than a faculty member who is not."