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Celebration fun, food to ring in Asian new year

By Stephanie Mencimer
Emerald Reporter

A T'ang Dynasty Chinese Lion Dance will scare away evil spirits and help usher in the new year at the opening of Sunday's fifth annual Asian Celebration.

"The Lion Dance is a traditional way of opening things — it is a symbol of good luck," said Ken Nagao, one of the celebration organizers.

The lion is characterized by the ornate head with blinking eyes, ears that wiggle and a gaping mouth that is manipulated by the dancer inside its head. The head alone weighs almost 25 pounds.

The largest festival since its conception, this year's Asian celebration is sponsored by the Eugene/Springfield Asian Council and the Eugene Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Performers from around the Northwest will provide entertainment on the main stage of the Lane County Fairgrounds. Several University students will be contributing their artistic skill to the event, including a law student from Seattle who will play the Taiko drum.

First- and second-grade students from the Japanese Immersion School will also be singing and dancing for part of the afternoon's entertainment. The school was the first program in the nation to devote half of each day to Japanese language education.

Miyoko Maeda, a professor from Tokyo, will be flying in from Japan especially for the celebration to fill in for one of her music students who had originally been scheduled to play the Koto harp at the celebration.

University students from various Asian countries will be putting on a fashion show displaying

traditional ethnic costumes, many of which the students brought from their homes abroad.

Carrie Matsushita, public information coordinator from the Eugene Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, said the event is designed for families and people of all ages.

"The event is a lot of fun," Matsushita said. "There is a lot to do and a lot to eat."

Asian folk tales, games, crafts and songs will be set up for children from ages three to 10 to keep them busy while parents participate in crafts such as Thai vegetable flower-making in which ordinary vegetables such as radishes and cucumbers are carved and shaped into ornate flower arrangements.

Other crafts include Japanese paper-making, origami, Chinese embroidery and batik.

A large component of the celebration will be Asian cooking demonstrations. Nagao said many of the foods featured in the event are not available in the Eugene area, such as Indonesian, Malaysian and Philippine cuisine.

The Asian celebration first began in an effort to broaden awareness of Asian culture.

"The celebration is a good opportunity to get an overall flavor of the Orient," Matsushita said.

To help cover the costs of the \$6,000 event, Continental Airlines has donated two round-trip tickets to Tokyo that will be put up for a silent auction during the day-long celebration.

Eugene is one of the few cities in the country that has an Asian council with representatives from a large number of ethnic groups. The council has representatives from Japan, China, Korea, Pacific islands, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$1 for adults and free for those 18 and under. For more information contact Richard Lin at 343-8584 or Ken Nagao at 687-9600.



Photo by Steve Card

Music, food, costumes and games from Japan, China and several countries will be featured at the fifth annual Asian Celebration Sunday.

Students take issue over bleached paper cup use

By Jennifer Thomas
Emerald Emerald Contributor

You see them everywhere. Bleached paper products in the form of cartons and cups. They are convenient, biodegradable, and inexpensive. But along with these advantages, there are the questions of pollution and health hazards.

Since the eradication of plastic foam from the University of Oregon campus in the spring of 1989, the use of bleached paper products seems to be the best alternative.

The pollution hazard seems a real one with the prediction of the Erb Memorial Union using an average of 875,000 to 900,000 cups this academic school year.

The health hazard rests on the possibility that the chlorine used to bleach the paper might leach into the drink in small amounts and cause cancer.

Matt Snyder, co-director of the Survival Center, said bleached paper would be an issue of the future although there is little movement in the University at the present time.

"Getting rid of the bleached paper products would be easy. All it would take would be one person to start a petition," he said.

Students at the University of North Carolina has been successful in banning the use of bleached paper on their campus. At the beginning of

this academic year, their environmental group, the Committee of Student Environmental Action, used the group's funds and purchased 600 plastic 12 ounce cups, selling them for \$1 apiece.

At this time, the group has sold most of the 600 cups and plans on ordering 2,000 more.

"Although this would only take care of 10 percent of the campus," said Mark Chilton, head of the project, "I'm pleased with the turnout."

Near the University's campus, 12 restaurants help with the project by offering discounts on drinks to people who come in with the cups. Each of the restaurants is listed on the side of the cup.

Closer to home, South Eugene High School students have filed a petition to ban milk sold in bleached cartons. Joshua O'Brian of the South Eugene Environmental Club, said the students filed the petition because of the Oregon Administrative Rule for Educational Facilities. This rule states that food with toxic chemicals cannot be served in a school cafeteria.

O'Brian said the alternatives to the milk cartons would include small glass or plastic bottles if the superintendent approves of the petition.

"Non-bleached paper would be nice, but it's not sold in the United States," O'Brian said.

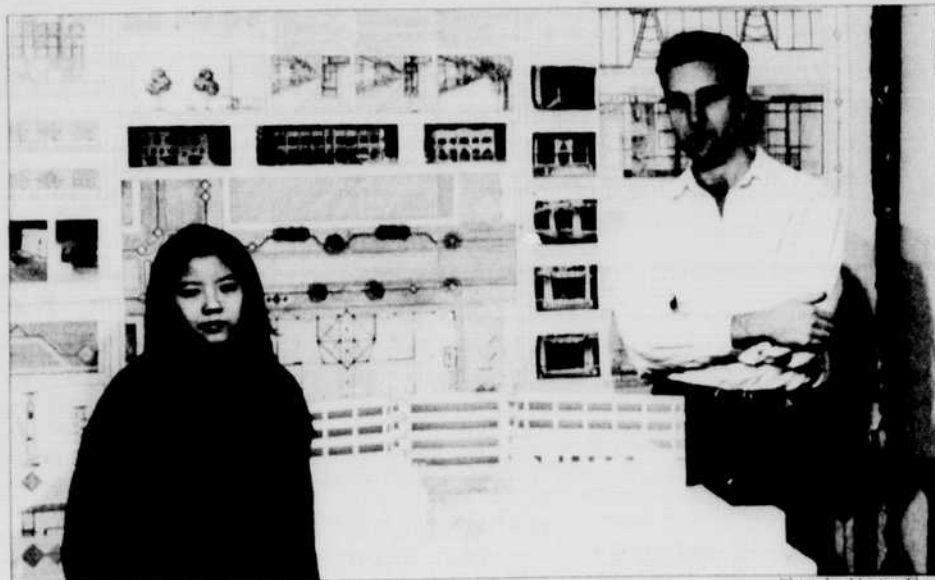


Photo by Martin Thier

Grace Cheng and Dan Brombaugh have designed a plan to remedy downtown traffic problems calling for construction of a gate to open and close Willamette Street.

Students design traffic plan

By Jeff Klein
Emerald Contributor

Two University architecture students have developed a possible solution to the downtown traffic controversy.

Seniors Grace Cheng and Dan Brombaugh have designed a gate that would allow Willamette Street to be opened or closed depending on the need of the downtown.

The design calls for two tower-like monuments to be placed across from one another, and inside each tower would be an arm that could be raised or lowered to open or close the street to traffic.

The idea was presented to the Eugene City Council at a Jan. 31 meeting with other student architects working on the Schaefer's Building Project, which began last March.

"The arms could be down during things like the Eugene Celebration," Cheng said. "Both pedestrians and automobile traffic would be welcome. Speeds for cars would be kept low."

Brombaugh said he got the idea after a trip to Portland. The class took trips to Portland and Seattle to contrast those cities with Eugene.

"The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

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