

Planetarium has many laser shows on tap for holidays

On Dec. 3, the Lane E.S.D. Planetarium will begin its special holiday show, "Laser Nutcracker at the Planetarium." *The Nutcracker* continues to be a holiday classic for all ages. Imagine viewing Tchaikovsky's classical masterpiece in a whole new light. The Lane E.S.D. Planetarium promises to present a "pure rainbow of colors producing brilliant imagery and animation that will charm and enthrall your whole family."

"Laser Nutcracker" has been shown across the United States to the delight of audiences young and old. The planetarium will premier an updated version in Eugene to celebrate the joyful spirit of the holiday season.

"Laser Nutcracker" will feature more than 2,500 frames of fun-filled animation and will last about 35 minutes. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Call 687-STAR for more information.

The Lane E.S.D. Planetarium has been open since 1979 and is the second-largest planetarium in Oregon. The main coordinator and director of the show is John Elvert, who began building crude telescopes and rockets when he was 10.

Elvert writes the scripts to his shows, which need about two to three months of preparation.

"I usually brainstorm for hot topics in astronomy, usually a topic that explains some of the more exciting things to know about the universe, that can be explained to an audience ranging in age from 10 to 70 years old," he said.

"Starflight," the current show being presented, is considered to be "the classic trip-through-the-universe show." The show attempts to explain the myriad of wonders of the universe from the volcanoes of Mars to the surface of Venus to faraway marvels such as quasars, pulsars, exploding stars and black holes. "Starflight" is being shown now through Sunday. Shows are Thursday and Friday at 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m.

"Voyages of the Mind," beginning Jan. 15, will explore the cultures of the Chinese, Egyptians and Native Americans and their astronomical knowledge of the sun. This program will explain how these three different cultures used their knowledge of the sun in their societies.

Another feature of the planetarium is "Laser Fantasy" — laser shows that run every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. On Friday and Saturday, "Laser Fantasy" presents Aerosmith at 8:15 p.m., Jimi Hendrix at 9:30 p.m., Led Zeppelin at 10:45 p.m. and Pink Floyd's *The Wall* at midnight. On Sunday night, Metallica fans can enjoy laser shows at 8:15 and 9:30 p.m. Admission for all laser shows is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.

The Lane E.S.D. Planetarium is located at 2300 Leo Harris Parkway, just behind Autzen Stadium. For show times, call 687-STAR, or call 687-6500 for more information.

— Rachel Beyda

Foreign students face holidays

If you were 8,000 miles away from home, what would you do for the three weeks in between fall and winter terms? Many of the 1,605 international students registered at the University have to face this question and come up with alternatives to going home for the holidays.

Margo Ramsing, an international adviser and a director of the Friendship Foundation at the Office of International Exchange and Education, works with international students and said that during winter break "a few go home, but very few because it's expensive."

Ramsing said that if international students don't travel back to their home countries, they visit friends and family within the United States, Canada and Mexico. Many, through special arrangements, stay in the dorms. There are also programs that give international students the opportunity to stay with host families. Such programs are mentioned in the annual international student newsletter, and students frequently ask for applications.

"I've signed a lot of those forms," Ramsing said.

From Dec. 21-29, International Friendship Ministries is sponsoring an International Students Holiday Hospitality Tour to Orlando, Fla. The majority of the trip will be spent sightseeing and going to Sea World, Disney World, Kennedy Space Center and Universal Studios. Students will spend time with host families as well as stay in motels with other international students.

Two other programs, Friendship International House at Christmas and Christmas International House, place international students with host families in more than 25 states. Any international student 18 years or older studying at a U.S. college or graduate school is eligible to apply for either, regardless of race, nationality, religious background or marital status.

Daniel Lee, a sophomore in business, is from Malaysia and "wanted to join this host family program" but chose not to because it ended too late. Instead, Lee will return to Malaysia for his brother's wedding and will come back to Eugene on Dec. 22. He has decided to spend Christmas in Portland with a friend from Malaysia, and he hopes to celebrate an American Christmas with his friend's host family.

Another international student who has the good fortune of being able to go home over winter break is Sayaka Miwa. Miwa, a senior in Chinese and Asian studies, will return to Japan for job interviews and to celebrate the biggest holiday in Japan — New

Year's. For Miwa, the last day of the year in Japan is spent preparing large amounts of food: chicken, cooked beans, fish, rice cakes and other traditional delicacies. Miwa's family will also go to a temple, where New Year's Eve will be celebrated by ringing bells and making prayers for good health and prosperity in the upcoming year.

Arnim Fischer, a graduate student in landscape architecture who is from Germany, was surprised to find out that a traditional American New Year's does not include fireworks. In Europe, New Year's is celebrated by lighting off little rockets.

Fischer, who will not return to Germany over winter break and will spend his first Christmas away from home this year, said, "I'm sure that I'll miss it. I'm not sure yet what I will do. What would be nice is to celebrate Christmas like Americans celebrate it."

Fischer has many things he'd like to accomplish over break: He'd like to leave Eugene and travel to Portland, Seattle or Canada, spend time with friends and fit some skiing into his schedule.

Even though she is Buddhist, Sunita Grung, a sophomore in computer science who is from Nepal, is looking forward to celebrating Christmas "in a typical American setting." She frequently feels homesick and would like to return to Nepal over break but said, "It takes a lot of money. I can't afford that right now."

If she were to visit her home during December and the beginning of January, there would be no major holidays to celebrate. The people of Nepal, who are primarily Buddhist, have their most important festival, called Dashera, in September or October, and the Nepalese New Year falls somewhere either in April, May or June. Grung says that she celebrates both American and Nepalese New Years.

Among international students at the University there seems to be a certain eagerness to experience America during winter break. Sandra Loeffelmann, a freshman from Austria, is reluctant to take the long journey home. She would rather spend time with her friends in Hawaii.

Lee is sacrificing a Christmas at home with his family in Malaysia so he can "feel what it's like in the States" to celebrate Christmas. To all international students — those staying in their dorm rooms, visiting friends, exploring areas around Oregon and the rest of the U.S., those taking up quarters with host families or those traveling back to their homes — have an enjoyable and relaxing winter break.

— Tasha Eichenschner

TUBA

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... we're bound together by our love of the tuba and the delight we have simply playing melodies and harmonies all in low bass ... it's a wonderful rich sound."

The TubaEnsemble uses its profits to fund the OTA scholarship fund, which awards aid to qualifying low-brass students at the University's School of Music.

Although many people see the tuba as solely an accompaniment to the rest of a band, Huenink said that playing at the "bottom" imparts a lot of responsibility and power. "It's not a joke instrument," he said.

Huenink said the bottom instruments, in conjunction with the conductor, are mainly responsible for the rhythm and pace of the band.

Apart from this, Huenink derives a lot of pleasure from playing the tuba.

"There's an enormous satisfaction in being the root of a chord, getting the absolute pitch and building the whole rest of the triangle of sound — that's part of the fun of playing bottom parts," Huenink said.

— Alaina Baum

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