

# CSA celebrates Chinese New Year

■ **PARTY:** The Chinese Student Association celebrated the Chinese New Year with food and dance

By Dana Williams  
Multicultural Issues Reporter

Students used their talents to educate University students while celebrating the 1997 Chinese New Year last night. The Chinese Student Association (CSA) gave students a taste, touch and view of Chinese culture by presenting traditional foods, customs and performances at the celebration held in the EMU.

Students in the crowd gasped as the Lion Dancers jumped off of the stage and danced through the isles to begin the night's performance. Next, students staged their own talk show complete with a monster and a god to explain the origin of the Chinese New Year. Students in the University's Wu Shu class demonstrated the techniques of the martial art form. Other performances included a native Taiwanese dance, The Dance of the Youth and a Mongolian Folk Dance.

The event began with a cultural exhibition which gave students a hands-on look at the history and traditions of China. One highlight of this event was the dress-up table where students could get their pictures taken wearing traditional garb from the Ching Dynasty and other royal clothes.

When comparing this year's celebration with last year's Joseph Chen, a CSA member said, "It's kind of different, more people are participating." Students also got excited about the fortune-telling table. Fortune-telling is an important part of Chinese culture and everyone wants to know the future, said Wayne Chung-Hua Wang, CSA director and event coordinator.

Hundreds of years ago the Tsu Wei Dou Shu form of Chinese fortune-telling was a serious and



Seniors Shu-fen Hsu and James Shih try on traditional Chinese wedding garments during China Night in the EMU.

tedious process. Last night, Chinese students sat with their laptops punching in answers for the fortune-telling software to calculate. "People think it's superstitious but this is how people used to live their lives in the old days," Elin Mok of the Hong Kong Student Association said. "Now people do it because they're curious — they think it's mysterious."

The historical relics presented at the exhibit were more than just a reminder of Chinese history for those who were raised in China. Many of the objects presented represented familiar legends used to instill morals in young Chinese children. "They use something simple from history to teach children that you must have good behavior," said Wang.

Many students said that their favorite part of the celebration was the food. Students were served a formal dinner prepared

by student volunteers. Preparing for the event took the help of about sixty students, Wang said.

"I think everybody worked a lot for the China night events," Wang said. Community members of the Chinese Church also helped with the event.

"I'm really impressed by the amount of food they have, and by the amount of preparation" said student Amita Malakar, "I see the ushers everywhere, everybody looks so committed."

The CSA plans to use the money raised from the event to educate Americans about Chinese culture, Wang said. They will show movies every month for students. Wang said the organization's next big project will be creating more informational links to their Web Homepage. They want to make more information about China easily accessible for students.

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