

Celebration: Several student groups ran booths at event

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the year," Cha said.

The group was just one of the many clubs and organizations that the crowd, which numbered in the thousands, came to see.

The parking lot and exhibition halls filled quickly at the Lane County Fairgrounds, as the celebration offered entertainment, food and an overall cultural experience.

In the day's line-up, no Asian culture was excluded from the venue. Acts included music from the Indonesian Orchestra, a Chinese Lion Dance and Tibetan folk dance and music. As soon as the first drum beat was heard, crowds made their way to the main stage, with only standing room available.

Asian cultures were also represented during the martial arts performances, which took place throughout the day, showing strength and technique.

New to this year's celebration was the presence of Tibetan culture. Tibetan culture was shown through various art forms, including dances, a slide presentation and a booth from the Northwest Tibetan Culture Association.

"We want to get the message across about China's occupation of Tibet and that we have a unique culture that we are trying to preserve in the United States," said Tenzin Chungtratsang of the Portland-based group.

Although Chungtratsang said it was the organization's first year of attending the celebration, he said representatives from the NWTCA will attend the festival annually in the future.

The arena also contained a marketplace that sold fine fabrics, incense and other collectibles. At one booth, University student Pattra Mullert was carving intricate flower designs in vegetables. Mullert said she has attended the celebration for the past three years. In the ninth grade, she came to the United States from Thailand, where the carving was a part of a required cooking class in school.

"It's fun once a year, but not every day," she said.

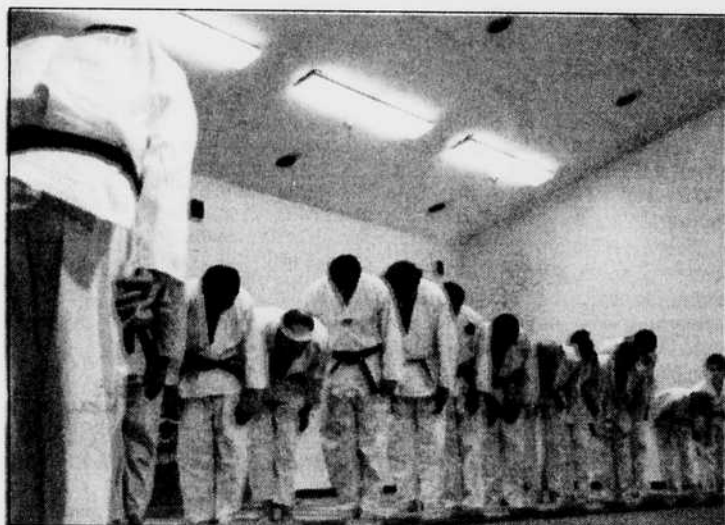
Mullert said her favorite part of the celebration was the variety it offered.

"It's interesting because each



Chris Hanai-Willis, a member of Waka Daiko, plays Asian drums that are almost bigger than he is.

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Members of Huang's Martial Arts bow to their teacher, Kyu Hwang, during a taekwon do demonstration on Saturday.

AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

year there's something different," she said. "You see new faces; you see other people."

The University's Chinese Student Association tried its luck with a food booth, where students cooked original Chinese food dishes. "We estimated 50 orders," said Wayne Wang. "We

are not professional, and we are already over our estimate."

Ultimately, the CSA, which designed its booth in a Valentine's Day theme, attended the celebration to have fun.

"It is an opportunity to get involved with the Oregon community," Wang said.



Rinchen Khayab plays the drums and sings during a performance of a Tibetan folk dance.

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