



Xia ma, a concoction consisting of ground pork and vegetables, proved a popular dish at China Night. Thomas Patterson Emerald

Annual China Night honors Year of the Horse in style

■ The yearly celebration features food, dancing, games and martial arts exhibitions

By Danielle Gillespie
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Chinese Student Association brought Chinese culture to campus during its China Night held Sunday in celebration of the Year of the Horse. The year's name comes from the zodiac legend of Buddha inviting all creatures to celebrate the new year with him. Only 12 animals came, and in their honor, Buddha named a year after each animal. People are said to possess the traits of the animal represented by the year in which they were born.

To begin this year's annual event, the CSA served ma po tofu, vegetarian curry, beef and scallions and a number of desserts and appetizers. They also had two tables set up to sell Chinese decorations, cards, bookmarks, decorative rocks and other cultural items.

A lion dance choreographed by CSA member Adam Liang opened the performance portion of the evening as a sign of good fortune, prosperity and longevity. A lion dance is often performed during the Chinese New Year's celebration.

Following the lion dance, five CSA members did a three-series jump rope routine choreographed by A. J. Yin. In the first routine, two members jumped rope together, and then all five members came together to do a double-dutch routine. To end their performance, Yin did an individual jump rope routine.

"Jump roping is a traditional pastime for children in China," Yin said. "I learned to jump rope in elementary school, and China Night is an opportunity to perform and have fun."

University graduate student Rose Wang had plans to sing some traditional and modern Chinese songs, but because of a recent illness, she did a piano duet with Linda Hwang. Wang and Hwang played three Chinese children's songs, "Lily Flower," "Open the Veil" and "The Boat Song." They also played two Chinese folk songs, "Love of Kung-Ting," and "Offspring of the Dragon."

"Chinese folk songs usually describe the scenery to reflect our



China Night greeter Melanie Yang, traditionally clothed, pauses between visitors. Thomas Patterson Emerald

emotions," Wang said. "Sometimes the scenery is used to present love and other times honor for one's country."

For the final performance, six members of the University's Wushu Club team did a series of martial arts routines to music. They used straight swords, broad swords, spears and chain whips in their performances, and they also demonstrated the southern fist and long fist as two different empty-handed styles of contemporary Wushu.

To end their performance, they did a sparring set, which is a choreographed fight scene between two members of the group.

"We have performed at every China Night since our club started

in 1994," Wushu Coordinator Lynnette Buchanan said. "It has been a tradition for us."

To end the evening's events, CSA had a game room for audience members to participate in children's games. The children's games consisted of a dice game that is similar to blackjack and a Tang BoHu Dian QuiXiang game, which is similar to Jenga. Other games included a memory game where people try to match Chinese characters, Bottle Up, which requires a person try to make a bottle on a string stand up, a blowing paper game, where a person tries to blow a piece of tissue paper as high as possible and a hoop toss game, which is a ring toss

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