

Chinese students usher in the 'Year of the Goat'

By RACHELLE AYUYANG
Collegian Staff Writer

While many University students toasted New Year's Day last month, others celebrated it last weekend.

Hong Zhong (freshman-nursing) said she went home last Friday to celebrate the Chinese New Year with her family. They watched a Chinese New Year parade on Sunday in Philadelphia's Chinatown.

She said the Chinese New Year celebration was more exciting for her than American New Year's because it allowed her family and relatives to get together.

But other students remained in State College as the Year of the Goat, lunar year 4689, got underway.

Most Chinese international students called home to extend New Year's wishes to their families, said Yichung Rau (graduate-electrical engineering), a member of the Chinese Student Association.

Rau said he felt homesick for Taiwan at a time when his family was together there.

"I missed home, my relatives and good food," he said.

Dat Nyugen (junior-electrical engineering) spent the new year away from his family in Washington, D.C., but he found kinship with members of the Vietnamese Student Association. The group organized a banquet with cultural entertainment for the New Year.

The CSA, feasted on Chinese delicacies, watched movies and viewed a live performance by a Penn State Karate

Club member in the HUB Ballroom.

In China, preparation for the month-long celebration traditionally starts 15 days before New Year's Day, in the 12th lunar month.

Families clean their houses to greet the year anew, Rau said. Families also hang banners on their houses that proclaim the words "Good Fortune" or "Spring," implying a fresh start.

On New Year's Eve, celebrators eat a dinner consisting of 10 (a lucky number for the Chinese) dishes at 6 or 7 p.m., Suhmei Liang (junior-computer science) said.

At midnight when the new year is ushered in, food is placed on an altar as a sacrifice to dead relatives, Rau said. This worship invokes the family's deceased loved ones to share in the food and celebration in spirit.

"They gave us life," Rau said. "We ask them to protect us and give us fortune."

Firecrackers are then ignited to thwart the evil cannibal ogre Nien, Rau said.

New Year greetings are exchanged and money enclosed in red envelopes are given to children for luck, Liang said.

In Nyugen's home, he said, his religious grandmother burns incense and prays before the Buddha shrine for their family's good health, prosperity and happiness.

"The value of family associated with the new year ties my family closely together," Nyugen said.

Student, police differ on a

By DAVE EICHLER
Collegian Staff Writer

A University student from Pakistan said another student assaulted him because he is an Arab. But police say the attack was not racially motivated.

Farooq Kalim, 20, said the attack occurred the evening of Feb. 2 at Delta Chi fraternity, 424 E. Fairmount Ave., and took place after his friend, Raymond Aporta, argued with fraternity members.

Kalim said he tried to intervene in the argument on his friend's behalf and was told to leave the party.

As he was walking away, Kalim said he saw his friend accosted. Kalim went back to help, was thrown to the ground and kicked by two fraternity brothers and a pledge.

The attack, Kalim said, accompanied by taunts of "you Arab" and "towel head." Kalim said friends who were present told him of other taunts, but he could not confirm them.

Tony Hinson, president of Delta Chi, said the incident was not racially motivated and that the pledge acted in self-defense after Kalim charged him.

"There were no racial slurs at the time," he said. "Something like that would be totally absurd."

State College police Cpl. Tom Hinson said that at the time of the assault there were no reports of racial insult. He said police believe the case is alcohol-related and is still under investigation.

In a news release issued Feb. 21, State College police said reports

Borough may begin housing ins

By KRISTINE LAMEY
Collegian Staff Writer

The State College Planning Commission may recommend that the borough begin its own rental housing inspection program.

After debating the feasibility of such a program at yesterday's worksession, the commission may recommend next week that the State College Borough Council establish a program to check for violations of health and safety regulations.

Some commission members want a borough inspection program because they believe COG does not conduct inspections frequently or thoroughly enough, borough planning director Carl Hess said.

Other members question the feasibility of the program, citing concerns over costs despite the fact that such a pro-

gram would be a rental property

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