

Shortened Chinese New Year still a bang

Sharon Barris
Capital Times Staff

Red-colored objects and symbols of ancient money pieces honor the Chinese New Year celebration.

Ann Yang, a junior originally from Taiwan, gave a presentation on the traditional celebration of her ancestors, which began Feb. 4.

The Chinese New Year was celebrated for 15 days in the past, but for many people, modern times have shortened the holiday to one day.

This day is a time for worship of the gods at the temple, and worship of ancestors at home. Symbols of money are a very important part of the holiday, Yang said.

Dumpling-shaped coins adorn an altar set up in the home, said Charles Lee, a structural design junior, whose family still celebrates the 15-day holiday. The altar is a tribute to the ancestors, and an invitation to return in spirit.

The money symbol is then burned as an offering every morning and night for

five days.

To show respect for ancestors, families prepare fresh seafood dishes, and present them on the altar for five minutes. Fruits, incense, paintings, fireworks, and symbolic dough figures also decorate the family altar.

Once the altar is torn down, it is burned, and firecrackers are set off outside to commemorate the end of the celebration.

Other New Year's activities include puppet shows, lion dances and dragon dances.

The lion and dragon costumes are made with red and gold materials. Red is the good luck color, and gold symbolizes ancient money.

Acrobatic lion dancers perform to get money from the crowd to benefit their organization. Anyone who gives money to the dragon is said to have good luck all year.

The dragon costume requires 30 to 40 people, who dance in front of the president's home on the first day of the Chinese New Year celebration.

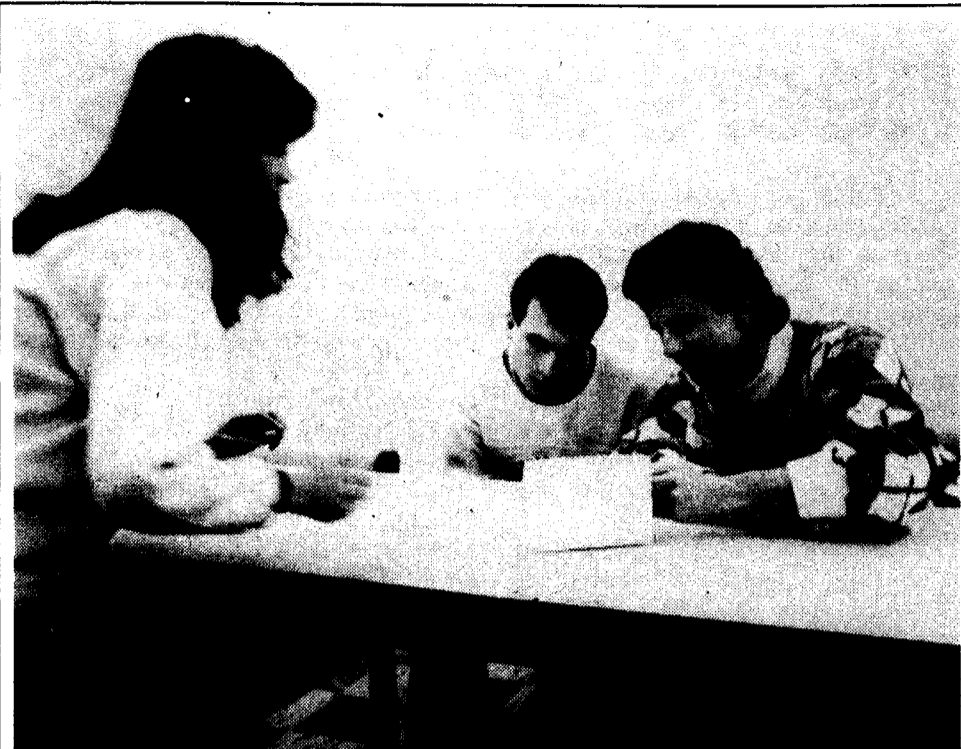


Photo by Mike Starkey

Junior Ann Yang, a native of Taiwan, shows junior engineering majors Thomas Bracken, left, and Arkadiwsc Kempinski photos of a past Chinese New Year celebration during her presentation on the Chinese tradition sponsored by the Citizen of the World Club.

Budget, from page 1

University Park library."

William J. Mahar, head of the Humanities Division, said although the division has not been asked to cut back specifically, "We're sitting out this rough weather and hoping the storm will pass."

Casey's proposed budget, released Feb. 6, eliminated funding for private, state-aided colleges, saving the state \$76.1 million. State-related schools, including Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State University, face cuts. Penn State University funding will be cut 3.5 percent, resulting in \$249 million in funding.

Two Penn State Harrisburg professors said the economy plays a key role in the budget-making process.

Michael Young, assistant professor of politics and public affairs, said, "The state

budget is hostage to the economy. If the economy continues to lag, it'll be worse. If the economy picks up, it'll be better."

Robert J. Bresler, division head of Public Affairs, agreed, saying "If the economic forecast is a bit more optimistic, maybe some of the cuts can be restored."

According to Bresler, revenue must increase to improve the economy. One way to increase revenue is to hike taxes, he said, adding that state governments work in a "counter-cyclical" fashion.

"They raise taxes in bad times and cut them in good times," Bresler said.

Young said, however, "In an election year, there is no possibility of putting a tax increase into the budget."

He said politicians want to gain support from their hometown voters, but "there's not much in this budget to go home and brag about."

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Terrance Glenn Wolf

joined the pack on February 24, 1992 at 6:40 p.m.
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