Eye On Culture

Penn State Delco Kicks Off The Chinese New Year

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The fight of the typhoon that came to Delco was not of any tropical sort, but the name of a song. The sonorous battle between notes emanated from Chinese string instruments such as the Guzheng, conducted by Ms. Junling and Ms. Wong, of Peter Tang's Chinese Ensemble.

Together they crafted exquisite harmony in the Classroom building lounge for the Chinese New Year celebration. "The band was a good choice. The music is relaxing. Where's the wine?" said one student. The organization's members behind this spiritual celebration, the Asian American Club, were well dressed in traditional Chinese clothing. Jade Chen the president of the club gave an interactive introduction to the event keeping the crowd's minds off the aroma of the pending cuisine and on the upcoming performances.

She promised us an enjoyable traditional Chinese new year celebration, music and great raffle prizes. Immediately after she left the microphone, music began and a lion came from out of nowhere, dancing, and occasionally brushing up against people in the crowd, gathering smiles as it passed with its furry tail and beard. The Chinese new year is a celebration which contains symbolism in everything. Red colors are immeasurably displayed in clothing and decoration and there is an influx in the purchase of bonsai money trees, which ward off bad luck. Even the Tai Chi performance contained symbolism, it utilizes slow movement and internal energy.

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The crowd in this celebration had the opportunity to learn much. Mr. Wu, one of the performers explained to us that one of the instruments used, the Erhu a Chinese type violin can imitate people's language. He also said that it is typical for people during this celebration for people to meet and greet one another you by saying we wish you make a fortune.

When the intermission came in the performance Jade suggested everyone eat. The ensemble continued to serenade the crowd while the line for food gradually lengthened, some of the cuisine consisted of succulent roast pork and chicken fried rice. "All of which was delicious, I don't care too much for pork, but this is tasty, I hope there's seconds," said another student. As everyone enjoyed their food and listened to the music the raffle began. After a little searching for a ticket holder or two no prizes remained.

Even the crowd didn't leave empty handed, yielding golden chocolate coins and little souvenirs. Upon the ending of the show, the performers welcomed students like Peter Spizzeri to make an attempt at playing an instrument. Mr. Tang then wished everybody a peaceful and healthy Chinese new year.

Middle East, Getting Cold?

By Paul Michael Hurych
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Early in February Russian president Vladimir Putin criticized the United States for what he said was its "almost uncontained" use of force around the world. He claimed that the use of unilateral force against countries in the middle-east has spurred a new nuclear arms race due to many sovereign nations wanting the means to protect themselves. Not to mention that president Bush broke the non-proliferation treaty by continuing to work towards a missile defense system, thus threatening the balance of mutually assured destruction with Russia held since early in the Cold War

Putin has been under criticism from the West for quite some time due to the dissolution of his cabinet and perceived power mongering with oil over nearby countries. Isn't it a bit hypocritical for the US to criticize Russia for exercising power over other countries when it has been doing the same thing?

What I have been wondering for quite some time now is what makes the United States, and specifically the Bush administration and a diminishing number of Republicans, think that the US is always right? The answer that I keep coming up with is that we aren't right always right. Putin simply called the US out on double standard that it has been displaying. We are living in a time where our civil liberties are becoming virtually non-existent all in the name of "safety." Now we've reached a point where the Bush administration claims that it will not abide by any legislation passed by the new democratic congress pertaining to the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Yet we criticize totalitarian regimes around the world for "threatening liberty." I have news for all of you; liberty is being threatened here at home every day.

Photo from google.com

What we need to start to realize is that Politics, local, national, or international, are never black and white. It all depends on which side you're on. Imagine if the US were in a position where another world power was trying to force its will upon us with the threat of military action. We wouldn't like that very much would we?

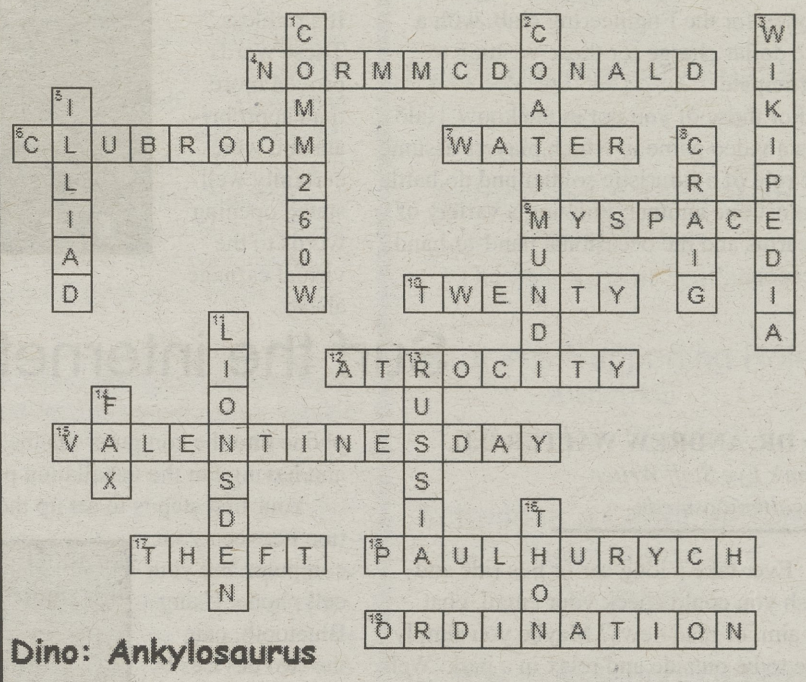
Trying to force other nations around the world to conform to what we think they should do is kind of like telling your neighbor that they can't put in a new home security system at gun point because you don't think that they need it.

Please don't mistake what I'm saying. I believe that the US has a right to defend its own sovereignty. However, I think that right extends to every other sovereign nation in the world so long as it does not infringe on the same right of other nations.

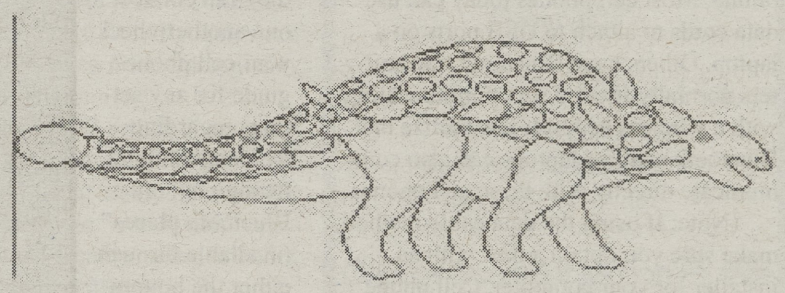
For the time being, we only have one world to live in. We need to try to get along the best that we can. This means that sometimes you have to swallow your pride and compromise.

Perhaps Bush could do with a good lesson in humility. Until then, we need to try to see issues from both sides before we get up in arms.

Crossword Answers



Dino: Ankylosaurus



By Dr. Andrew Walter D.D.