

Love Boat continued

developed an appreciation for the Chinese and Chinese-American culture, she added that seeing Taiwan also made her appreciate the United States more.

Li said the exposure to the Taiwanese culture was invaluable for him because it changed his perspective on Taiwan and on being Chinese.

"I had never seen all those places before," he said. "The food was great, and all the culture — we even got to see a Chinese opera, which was something I had never seen before. We went to the Marine base and saw the Chinese drill team. That made me proud to see how organized they were, how much they're trying and how they're not just some third world country out there.

"When I came back, I was proud to be Chinese."

Overall, past participants have highly recommended attending the program. But the program is what you make of it. "If you go [to find] a boyfriend or girlfriend, then it is a meat market," Hannah Lee said. "If you go to learn about your heritage and you want to meet people, the locals, then it is a more fruitful and worthwhile experience."

"It's as much of a meat market as it is here, except there are more Asians," said David Lee, when asked if the Love boat was as much a meat market as proclaimed.

Hannah Lee went with the goal of learning the Chinese language and said she accomplished this. "I took the initiative to

experience [what] a Taiwanese college student experiences— we shared about ourselves and I improved my Chinese," she said. She also says that it was good for her Taiwanese counselors to practice English.

Not all people are that motivated, however. Cheng said she didn't learn Chinese from the program, even though she intended to.

Not all people go on the Love boat with a clear goal, either. "I had nothing better to do, and my mom signed me up," Chen said.

Most people return with an altered perspective of Taiwanese people and their culture, as well as a new view of Chinese-Americans or Chinese in other foreign countries. They return declaring the Love Boat to be, if not the best experience of their life, at least a worthwhile one.

Li said the program changes people's outlook on life and influences their direction in life.

"We're at an age where people are wondering where to go," he said. "You sit around and exchange ideas. It's a good program."

If you are interested in attending the Study Tour, write to: Service Division; Coordination Council for North American Affairs; 1074 Stockton Street; San Francisco, CA 94108, regarding the Overseas Chinese Youth Language Training and Study Tour. Applications are due around February, but early application is encouraged.

Journey continued

Some of the dances were peaceful and calm. Others were energetic and flamboyant.

Sophomore pharmacy major Youa Lee said that she liked the flute dance the best because it was so peaceful. The flute was played in part of a Chinese folk dance presented by dancers from Duke University.

"[It was like being] in another world," Lee said.

One dance that was more lively was the festive "Bhangra" Indian dance. Particularly interesting in this dance were the feet movements of the men and the hip movements of the women. Colorful jingling scarves worn by the women and jubilant calls by the men also enhanced the music and overall rhythm.

The evening concluded with goodbyes in the different Asian languages.

Most said that they left with more insight into the great diversity of the Asian cultures in their Journey Into Asia.

Vicki Cheng contributed to this story.



"(Journey Into Asia) is a celebration of Asian culture in a way that's not controversial," says junior Shirley Liu, coordinator of the celebration. "You have to play into stereotypes to get people to come. From there, other programs can explain the stereotypes."



Nguyen Thao Ly, Tra Diem Thi, Nguyen Tuyet Van, Nguyen Quynh-Nhu, Tran My Duyen, and Nguyen Hanh Dung circled elegantly in a Vietnamese dance to the song "Saigon".



Bhangra! SANGAM dancers leap to the festive rhythm of Bhangra, a dance which is traditionally celebrated during the harvest season.