

International Festival Offers Fun And Color

By Jocelyn Daniels

The brightly colored flags hung over the heads of the approximately 300 people in the North Carolina Central University Student Union. Before them Linda McGloin danced her way down to the floor while perfectly balancing a lighted candle on the top of her head.

The audience applauded appreciatively this graceful display of skill and that of eight other Paraiso Dancers.

The "Dance of the Lights" which, according to Ms. McGloin, symbolizes an expression of joy, was one of several presentations during the International Festival held at NCCU on April 18.

Presented for the past four years, the festival has grown from a backyard get-together to a full-scale community event displaying fine regalia.

"It's just a strange thing how much this festival has grown," said Dr. Eugene Eaves, who along with his wife organized the first festival.

"It started in our backyard," he explained, "by inviting friends from different parts of the world.

"Everyone brought a

covered dish and we ate together," he continued. "We even painted signs on cardboard to show country representation. We just had a good time sharing among each other. Each year, more and more people have become involved, so we decided to expand it and move it to Central so that even more people could share the experience.

"The festival," he added, "is designed to acquaint the community with the beauty of the world. It's not based on political sanctions or any of that. It's just a friendly way to get together and show how much alike we are."

Nevertheless, each of the presentations portrayed characteristics of its specific culture.

Among this year's program participants were Brother Yusuf and Hayes Samir, the Sullivan Dance School, the Prescott Ensemble, Rafiq Bandukwala, accompanied by Romesh Mathur and The Little German Band Dancers.

"I love to do it," said Rhesa Versola, one of the Paraiso Dancers. "I have been dancing a long time. But it was just last year that we officially organiz-



A GROUP OF DANCERS entertain the crowd at the recent International Festival. The Festival is sponsored each year by the NCCU Center for International Studies. (Photo by Mayfield)

ed, gave ourselves a name and started performing more.

"It's a way to be enterprising and act as an ambassador for my country, to bring the Philippine and island spirit to many different people."

From all indications, the participants' mission was accomplished.

"It's really nice," said Rosalind McCormick, a NCCU junior English major

from Charlotte. "The different things (songs, dances, displays) are what make it so interesting. This is my first time coming and I'll probably come again next year.

Festival hostess Gwendolyn Bell did everything to ensure that end.

"As hostess," she explained, "my job is to make sure that the guests are comfor-

table, give assistance, directions, and just help make sure the festival goes on as planned.

"The reaction to this year's festival," Ms. Bell asserted, "has been very good, very successful."

Ms. Bell explained that success is measured in several ways — by the number of participants, the attendance of the general public, and the comments of the guests.

Aseelah Rashid, first-time festival goer, decided to attend at the personal invitation of Ms. Bell.

"I came because I am interested in different people and customs," Ms. Rashid said. "And I found what I came for."

The Y.E. Smith second grade teacher's assistant extended the spirit of the festival by dressing in a white crinkled gauze pantsuit designed from a pattern from India. The loose fitting garment was accented by a matching African head wrap, dangling earrings, a wooden necklace and a multi-colored Kenya bag.

"I've learned what we all know," Ms. Rashid pointed out, "that no matter what

your culture, religion, have to come together, what we need to be able to grow to understand other."

The only thing missing the festival, Ms. Rashid said, was her children.

"I definitely will come next year," she vowed, "and bring them. Children need to be early not to judge but to see differences. We don't have too much in common."

Dr. Eaves, founder of the festival and NCCU professor and director of the Center for International Studies, said that the festival is just one of the events that promote international understanding and camaraderie.

"We are all in this together he said. "We need to know how we fit into the total picture of that world."

Eaves emphasized that the festival is not only to be accomplished, but such events as the International Festival where and caring take place.

"It's like a pie," Eaves offered as an analogy. "If you're looking at ourselves as one slice, we need to learn how to share it with the whole pie."



OFF TO THE RACES — A Triangle Trophy player takes off to first base after hitting a sharp single to right center field. (Photo by Mayfield)

Three Teams Comprise Triangle Trophy's Commitment To Softball

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must agree to and sign a list of 18 rules that govern the organization. Violation of these rules means being put off the team.

"Fortunately," Alston said, "I've not had to make an example of anyone. I don't think we will have to."

In many ways, the Triangle Trophy teams reflect Alston's outlook and perspective on life. In other words, he runs the teams like he runs himself.

Determination, dedication and just sheer guts form the cornerstone of Alston's life in everything he does.

For example, Alston came to Durham from Pittsboro in 1958 to play baseball with the defunct Durham Rams, an all-black American team that was part of the old "Negro" League. But baseball began dying in Durham during the early 60s, and in 1960, Alston, prompted by his longtime friend and fellow ballplayer, David Parker, switched to softball.

He started with the old White Rock Church fast pitch team.

At about this same time, Alston, who has been with Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill for 18 years, starting off as a

dishwasher and working his way to a research assistant in the immunology department, decided it was time to fulfill his lifelong dream of being in business.

"I researched 22 businesses, looking into what the marketplace needed and what opportunity existed for me," Alston said. "I settled on the trophy center because Durham did not have one, and because softball was then almost as big as it is now."

Thus was Triangle Trophy launched.

About 1972, Alston, Parker and some other players formed a slow pitch softball team, sponsored by B&G Grill. Then, according to Alston, Modified Pitch softball came to Durham. About half of the B&G team wanted to switch to modified pitch. About half wanted to stick with slow pitch. Alston took the slow pitch aggregation and formed Triangle Trophy's first softball team.

Five of today's players on the men's team were among the original Triangle Trophy softball players. They are: David Parker, who once played and coached, but now just coaches; Albert "AB" Allen, a hardhitting first

baseman; James (Mante) an outfielder; Gerald catcher and pitcher, and

"That's another one of the keys," Alston explained. "I've found that you have a nucleus of leaders. You can't be successful without the nucleus."

So in 1970, Alston launched his business. In 1974, he launched a softball team to help advance his business.

In 1977, Alston launched his service.

"We had a tournament in Greensboro," he explained. "and we left Durham with a team spread out over 120 miles. Only four of the cars got to the game. Triangle Trophy game. I promised myself whenever I got to the game, I would be there, too."

So Alston bought a bus. Now, three buses later, he has another lucrative business.

"So I guess you can say my family, my business and my ball," Alston conceded. "I've had a lot of fun and it's been a lot of fun and profitable, too. What more can you ask?"

Dr. Eaves Tries To Bring A Global Picture To Students

(Continued From Front)

start thinking globally. The major issues confronting the world today such as trade relations, the allocation and conservation of resources, population, energy, poverty, inflation, etc., will all require international solutions.

Finding solutions to the concerns mentioned, is a challenge Eaves is ready to tackle. Already plans are being made for several trips abroad. Students are scheduled to travel to South America to study art and Spanish, to Greece to study history and France to study French and cultural civilization.

It's the type program that Eaves not only strongly advocates, but has, himself, taken advantage of.

Eaves' longtime interest in international studies has been demonstrated by earning a master's degree in French and a doctorate in Romance Languages.

He was a Fulbright Scholar and spent six years in France studying the language and the country.

His tenure at NCCU as a French professor, administrator, director of the Honors Program, director of the Graduate and Professional Opportunity Program and professor of Modern Language, have all widened his global interests.

His determination to enhance international studies and understanding is not only seen through his professional life, but also through his personal life.

With his wife, Quincey, to whom he gives all the credit, the Eaves have been sponsoring an International Festival for the past four years to promote better communication and understanding among people of all nationalities.

The event, which began in 1981 in the back of their home with fun, food and fellowship, has now grown into a well-attended and well-organized yearly event held on the campus of NCCU.

For Mrs. Eaves, who shies away from any public recognition of her successful achievements in this area, and Eaves, it's a labor of love that brings people together and promotes sharing and caring.

That same interest is promoted when Eaves steps into the pink Honors Building on the hill at NCCU, which also houses CIS.

CIS, which is funded through foundations, donations and federal grants, promotes five major objectives:

1. To strengthen and expand the international dimensions of the university campus;

2. To expand and strengthen the university's present programs and services to its international student enrollment and to increase the number of international students enrolled at the university;

3. To provide for increased faculty involvement in the design of new and revised curricular programming which will lead to

the formation of minor cluster concentrations in international studies;

4. To foster renewed interest at the university in the international development of the community, state and region; and

5. To support and participate in cooperative and academic programs beyond the university.

Future program expansion includes residencies by diplomats and international scholars and student exchange programs. Already on schedule for the fall of 1985, NCCU will welcome to its campus His Excellency, Dr. Clovis Maksoud, Ambassador of the United Arab League to the United Nations.

"To some people," Eaves said, "the program may seem pale in comparison to a major discipline, but we have to start somewhere."

"When all is said and done," he added, "we are a part of the world, not just standing alone, but part of the sum total and we need to find out how and where we fit into the world."

No doubt, the North Carolina Central University Center for International Studies under the direction of Dr. Eaves, has made an excellent beginning.



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An estimated 700 million persons till the soil in China.

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