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The University of Texas at Tyler

December 10, 2001 • Special Section Vol. 2





—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

CHOWIN' DOWN: (left to right) Jasmine Wong, sophomore, Elina Hong, senior, and Mary Perry, junior, eat from a smorgasbord of international foods at the cultural festival held at UPines on Nov. 13.

UPines residents share night of cultural foods

by Robert Boggs
Staff writer

Exotic smells filled the University Pines Apartments' clubhouse as students sampled international foods at a cultural festival held Nov. 13.

About 10 students cooked foods ranging from spaghetti to barbecue to be judged by fellow residents in a taste contest.

Although the focus of the event was on foreign dishes, the American culture was not ignored. Freshman Katy Loffer saluted the United States with homemade apple pie.

Prizes were awarded to the top three dishes. Freshmen engineering majors Jimmy Nowell and Cody Webb received first place and \$50 for their "guiso," a Mexican stew.

"It was a pretty good deal,"

"You learn who can cook and who can't, so that's the house you go visit."

— JIMMY NOWELL
UPINES RESIDENT

said Nowell, who didn't think he was going to cook until the day of the festival.

Resident Rashida Salam received \$25 for her two dishes. Salam won first place at last year's festival.

Roanne Ehlers, an international student from South Africa, won a gift certificate for dinner at Jucy's Hamburgers.

Many students seemed enthu-

siastic about the chance to sample the food.

"You learn who can cook and who can't, so that's the house you go visit," Nowell said.

The festival was "very popular" when it was held for the first time last year, Jenny Sims, managing director of UPines, said.

"It was a chance to come together and appreciate different cultures," she said.

The event was a good opportunity to bring international students together and feature them, Sims said.

In preparation for the festival, UPines staff members decorated the clubhouse with painted flags from different countries.

The party was coordinated by the seven resident assistants on staff as one of the monthly programs for residents.



—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

MAN AT WORK: UPines resident Dinesh C. Neupane helps out before the cultural festival at UPines by painting a flag of Nepal. The flags were made to show the different countries represented at the apartments.



—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

COME AND GET IT: Rachel Wheeler, junior, has her plate filled with spaghetti, the last of the long line of dishes cooked by UPines residents.

The Patriot

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People from around world come together

Students participate in International Day, teach children about their countries

by Shalina Ramirez

Staff writer

University of Texas at Tyler students offered an inside look at various cultures around the world through stories, songs, and other group activities as part of International Student Week.

"We are very fortunate at UT Tyler to have an international community," Joanne Buendtnr, an area volunteer of Russian descent, said.

The International Student Association presented the program in the Robert R. Muntz Library.

"I was very pleased with how it (the program) turned out," Buendtnr said. "The kids were obviously interested."

Kitty Groth, who attended the program with her three children, said she knew her children enjoyed the program because they actually sat still throughout the presentation.

"I think it's good to hear from people from other countries," Groth said. "At this point in the children's lives they don't get to see much of the country. This is a way to bring the country to them."

Groth's 10-year-old son, Joshua, said his favorite part of the program was learning origami, the art of folding paper into shapes.

Groth said the program was an "extra enjoyment" for her sister and two nephews to participate in while visiting from California.

"It was really great for them be able to be here," Groth said.

Buendtnr began the program by entertaining children and parents with songs played on her piano accordion.

"There are many, many cultures that have accordions in their music," Buendtnr said. "Many countries use the accordion as an instrument in folk songs."

To make her point, Buendtnr played examples of songs from other countries such as a German polka, "La Cucaracha" from Mexico, and "Knack-Knack-Patty-Whack," which originated in England.

"There is a commonality of melodies between countries and cultures; we're all the same in certain ways and different in other ways," Buendtnr said. "That is what this international day is all about."

Yuriko Abe, a graduate student from Japan, drew the audience's attention by reading a story about a stonecutter who had visions of grandeur.

Abe read a story of how a Japanese stonecutter, tired of swinging his ax, dreamed of becoming the most power-



—Shalina Ramirez/The Patriot

FROG SONG: (left to right) Satoo Nakai, Joanne Buendtnr, Yuriko Abe and Mutsumi Gravitte try to get area children to participate in a sing-a-long about frogs. The activity was part of a program sponsored by the International Students Organization and was designed to bring awareness to other countries and cultures.

ful being on earth.

After experiencing life as a rich man, the sun, a cloud, and a finally mountain, the stonecutter realizes the most powerful being of all was himself in his mortal form as a stonecutter.

"It was interesting to see how the children are interested in other cultures," Abe said.

Honduras native, Monica Tato, used finger puppets while reading "Little Rabbit."

"When I was contacted by Joanne, I thought why not?" Tato said. "I had a lot of fun. It is very rewarding to see the kids get involved."

Tato also displayed a small, colorful novelty item known as a "worry" doll.

Tato said worry dolls were put under pillows at night to take the "worries" of the day away.

Foreign exchange student, Satoo Nakai, brought the story, "The Dragon's Tears," to life with numerous sound effects and paper-slides.

Paper slides, much like large flash cards with bright illustrations, helped tell the story of a boy and a dragon.

The boy, unafraid of the dragon, invites him to his birthday party.

Overcome with happiness the dragon began to cry creating a river with his tears. Having no way home across the river, the dragon offers the boy a ride on his back.

Before reaching the village the dragon turns into a beautiful boat that was admired by all, according to the story.

Children from the audience participated in performances of various foreign songs about frogs as Buendtnr, Abe, Tato, Nakai and Mutsumi Gravitte lead the group in a melody of croaks and riddles.

The group then acted out a skit about a farmer and a turnip.

Area children played the parts of family members and animals as the participants struggled to pull a turnip from an imaginary garden.

Satoo and Gravitte from Japan used a piece of string and their fingers to tell a story about a farmer and his yams.

Gravitte made different patterns with the string across her fingers while

"At this point in the children's lives they don't get to see much of the country. This is a way to bring the country to them."

—KITTY GROTH
STORYTELLING ATTENDEE

Satoo narrated.

As the program came ended, children and parents were invited to ask questions and stay for an arts and craft session on Origami.

Valeria Rios said she and her two children were happy to be there and really enjoyed the program.

"It was wonderful. Each person had so much to offer," Rios said. "I think the children will remember this."

A University of diversity

by Melissa Jacquez
Staff writer

For some American college students, wading through the application process and securing funds for college is at its best, an inconvenience and at its worst, a hassle.

International students, however not only must fill out the usual applications, but also meet federal requirements and get permission from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before getting final approval from Immigration and Naturalization Services.



For 2000-2001, the U.S. has 547,867 international students. California has the most international student with 74,281, followed by New York and Texas with 58,867 and 37,735, respectively, Donna Henson, international student adviser for UTT, said.

So imagine what it is like for the 41 University of Texas at Tyler students representing 22 countries from Canada to Poland to Zambia.

They know how high the hurdles can be to attend college.

HENSON,
ADVISER

When applying to a U.S. college or university, the student must be able to prove English language skills and financial resources, among other things.

Henson said many families start saving for their child's American education when the child is born.

In other cases, entire communities pool their resources for the student's funds, she said.

Henson said she remembers one former student who told her when he needed money, his whole community came together to support him.

Henson said, after acceptance into a college or university, the school sends the student an I-20 form, which is a certificate of eligibility for American study. They then take that form along with a completed visa application to a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home country.

There, they have a personal interview, present documents such as a valid passport, and a photograph, and after meeting all requirements, they are issued an F-1 student visa.

Henson said this visa gives them permission to study in the U.S., although the INS determines the length of time and final permission to enter the country.

When the students arrive at their college or university, they often need someone to ease them into the transition from the life in their home country to American life.

Henson has been the liaison between foreign students and the University for two years.

In her time here, she said she has talked with many students about their trials from being in a foreign country. For instance, one hungry student was at the grocery store looking for something inexpensive to eat. He saw a can of Crisco with a picture of fried chicken on the front, thinking it actually contained fried chicken. He even dug to the bottom of the can expecting to find the chicken, but of course, there was none.

Foreign students should not fret because Henson is not the only way to get acquainted with the U.S.

International Student Organization

The ISO offers a place for foreign and American students to come together to learn about each other. The club also has other functions specifically for foreign students, such as getting to meet the dean of their college. Henson said many of them do not have that accessibility in their home countries.

The ISO also has a reception each year to honor the graduates. Last year, there were three graduates, Henson said.

The foreign students all are automatically members of the club, which they learn about through a special orientation for international students, Henson said. About two-thirds of the members are active in the club, which provides a way for students to integrate into American culture.

Henson said, most of the international students want to learn more about the American way of life, and the club offers the students a way to contribute to their new home.

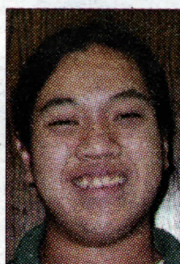
"They really do not want to reach out to the community," Henson said.

One way some of the international students are reaching out is through a story telling program. Students from countries such as Nigeria, Japan, Honduras, and Nepal are coming together to tell folk stories to elementary school children.

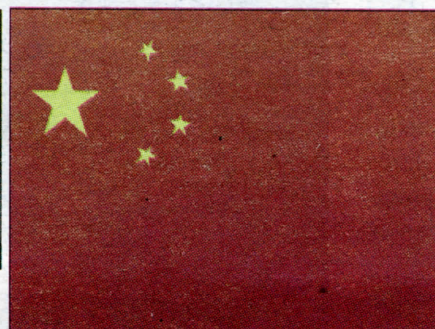
Satoo Nakai, of Japan, said they are doing this because "we want the children to know that there are different cultures in the world."

Other international students were willing to talk about their lives and experiences in the U.S.

China



KOO



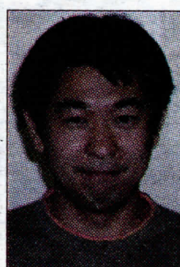
Wing On "Wayne" Koo is a junior Computer Science and Mathematics major from Hong Kong. He has been in the U.S. for more than three years. Because many people had a difficult time pronouncing his name, he is now going by Wayne.

Koo chose to study in America because he said schools in Hong Kong are very competitive, and there are more people who want to get in than there are positions in the schools.

Koo started school in America at Kilgore College, and he chose UTT to finish his bachelor's degree. He said UTT was attractive to him because of its affordability and because they wave the English language test. After Koo finishes his bachelor's, he plans to go to graduate school and eventually earn a doctorate. When he completes these plans, he wants to stay in the U.S. because "there is a lot of opportunity" with education and jobs, he said.

Koo said he likes the U.S., but the cultures are very different. "We don't always greet people back home" the way Americans greet everyone, even minor acquaintances. Koo was hard pressed to find anything wrong with the U.S., but he does not like the fact that students almost have to have a car to go anywhere.

Japan



MIYAMA



Fumio Miyama is a junior Finance major from Japan. He said he came to the U.S. because he "wanted to see another world." Miyama also wants to stay here to work after graduation because he said, "I feel there is more opportunity here."

Miyama said the only thing he misses, besides his family, is eating Japanese food, but the good outweighs the bad. He said he also likes the



people here because in his opinion, Am feelings.

The hardest thing about moving here though Miyama studied English for six came here, I couldn't hear anything." As language does not necessarily mean a s When Miyama was new here, he accept because he knew little English, he was ba going on.

Hondur



TATO



A master's student in psychology, Ho to the U.S. in 1994 because she said, "a d a lot better, plus [the U.S.] a very good e

Tato said she likes many things about people, and the organization of the countr expression. Even though this country of said she misses the environment of Honc ly wild" at soccer games; and she could s meringue and go out for great Honduran

Tato started learning English at an earl difficulty when coming here, although sl excited she would prefer to speak Spanis

One problem for Tato was the America tries people kiss when they greet each oth reach in to kiss, and guys would be like v

Tato plans to earn a doctorate in psy



mericans are more open with their
was learning the language. Even
years in Japan, he said, "When I
many students know, studying a
tudent understands conversation.
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nduran native Monica Tato came
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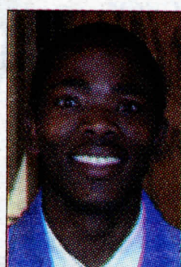
the U.S. including its beauty, the
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fers many things Tato likes, she
luras where people go "absolute-
ay up all night dancing salsa and
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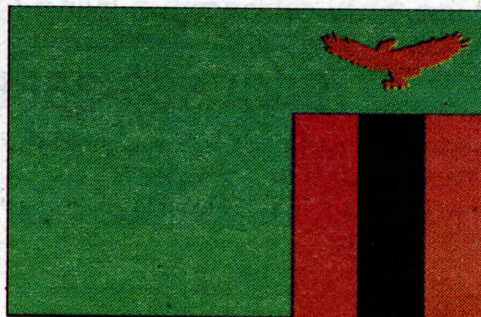
chology, but she does not know

where she wants to practice. Because her father is from Spain, she has
options in Spain, Honduras, and the U.S.

Zambia



TEMBO



Godfrey Tembo, a native to Zambia is majoring in Computer information Systems. He started college at Navarro College in Corsicana, but came to UTT because it is one of the few schools that offer scholarships in music to non music majors, and "I love East Texas," he said. Music is important to Tembo because he sings with the Zambian Acapella Group, which is how he came to the U.S. The group was representing Highland Village Christian School in Zambia to raise money to build more schools in their country. In Zambia, only 20 percent of students finish school.

After Tembo graduates, he plans to go to graduate school for business administration. After that, Tembo wants to go into politics in Zambia. He said it works to his advantage to have a degree from the U.S. His ultimate goal is to become president in Zambia. "That's my biggest dream," he said.

There were a few things that were hard to get used to, including the language. Tembo has been speaking English for 15 years, but he said, "It's a learning process that you learn everyday," especially where "Texan" English is concerned.

The weather was also hard to get used to because it does not get very cold in Zambia, and the music group has traveled to 35 states, including some very cold ones. Tembo said that out of all the states they have been to, everybody has been very nice. He is impressed with how well everybody has treated them.

He said he also misses his grandmother making him food, but he could not think of anything he did not like about the U.S.

The Geo Quiz

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1. If you flew directly from Moscow to Bangkok, you would be traveling in what immediate direction?
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a. methane b. hydrogen c. helium d. argon e. propane
3. The Barvarian Alps take their name from a region in what country?
a. Switzerland b. Poland c. Germany d. Lithuania e. Austria
4. Which country extends further south?
a. Cuba b. Algeria c. Japan d. Egypt e. Mexico
5. What is the term for molten hot rock flowing on the planet's surface?
a. lava b. magma c. geyser d. lahar e. loess
6. Name the porous by-product of soft coal that is used as a fuel in the iron and steel industry.
a. charcoal b. coalite c. coke d. limestone e. kaolin
7. Panama City is in the same time zone as?
a. Toronto b. London c. Winnipeg d. San Francisco e. Denver

answers: 1. d 2. a 3. c 4. e 5. a 6. c 7. a

The Raven and the Wolf

Patience delivers victory

Editor's note: The Raven and the Wolf, The Zambian Folk Tale As told by Godfrey Tembo

A long time ago, when buffaloes had wings (buffalo wings), in the village of Kalima, Chief Chimanga, lived a raven and a wolf. The village people and all who lived there depended on maize (corn) as their staple food.

The people, the animals, and the beasts of the air depended on rain for water. The lion ate the impala, which ate the crops that the people planted. They were all connected in the circle of life.

Ravens are well known for picking and eating meat left over by other animals such as lions, hyenas, and wolves.

One year, there was a drought. The drought devastated the people of the village and all the animals in the region. Food became scarce; the crops died and the grass withered.

One evening a raven picked up a sizable amount of meat left over by a lion. Proud of the meat hanging out of its mouth, the raven

flew and sat on a twig of the tree getting ready to eat the meat.

Out from the distance came the wolf, sniffing for the chunk of meat the raven had picked up minutes earlier.

The wolf sat underneath the tree thinking of the way he could have some of the meat. No creature was on the open, not even a mouse.

The wolf said to himself, "If I can only make the raven open its mouth, surely the meat will fall and the whole thing will be mine."

He began to talk.

"Good evening Mr. Raven. What's the occasion? You seem dressed up today," the wolf said.

The raven has black feathers and a white strip on the front. He did not say a word. He was busy looking at the meat right in front of him.

"Oh! Mr. Raven, you look great today. Over the years many of my friends and enemies have talked about your beautiful singing," said the wolf as he sat

there hoping that the raven would respond.

"Can you please give me a little tune and I will do anything for you?" the wolf said. "I will make sure that you get a piece of meat each time I catch an Impala. Let me hear your voice sir."

The raven sat there and never said a word. The wolf started a song, which went like this:

*I am the wolf
Wolf, wolf, wolf,
I like to sing,
Wolf, wolf, wolf,
And dance,
Wolf, wolf, wolf*

Each time the wolf sang, "Wolf, wolf, wolf" he would shake his body in such a way that the raven was tickled to death.

The raven laughed at the silly dance of the wolf. The meat slipped from the raven's mouth and fell right into the wolf's mouth.

With a little patience and creativity, at last the wolf got what he wanted, and his stomach was full for a long time.

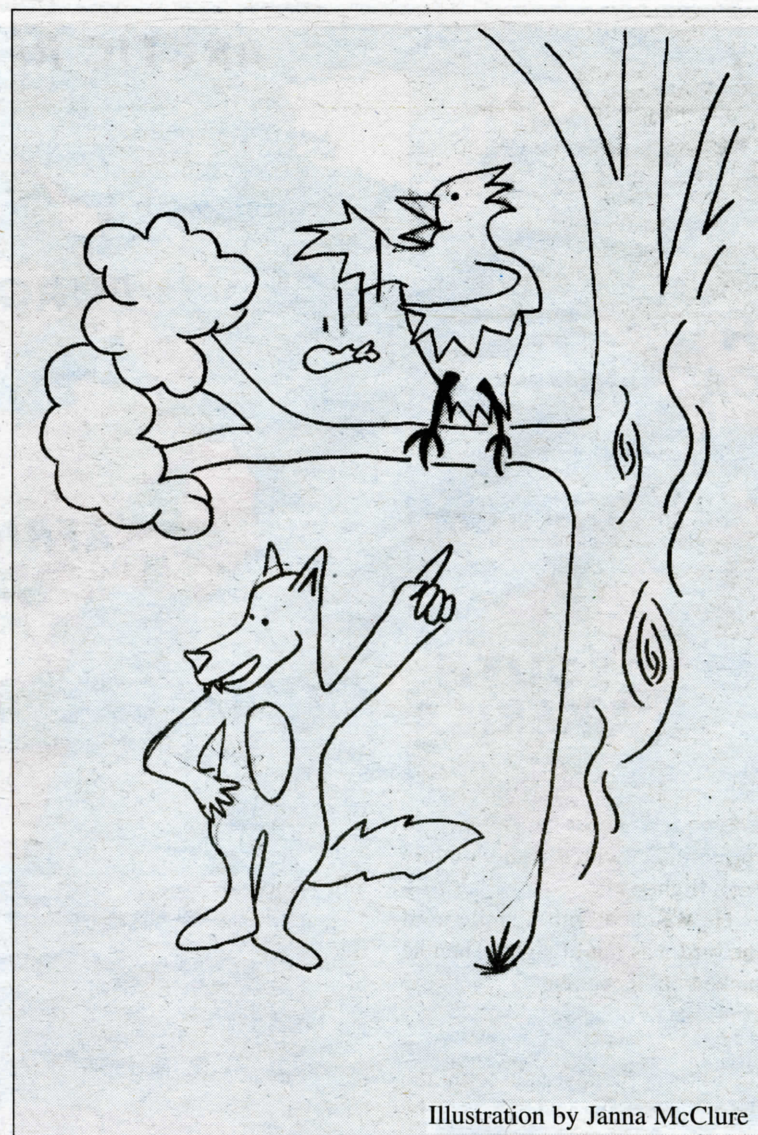
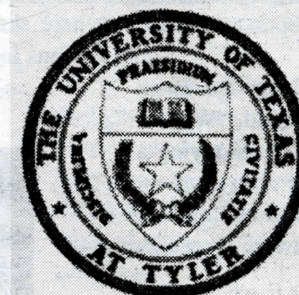


Illustration by Janna McClure



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Kindness repaid in mysterious ways

International folk tale 'The Crane Maiden' shows contagious compassion

Editors note: The following Japanese folktale is taken from Tales By Mail Book One and was submitted by Satoo Nakai.

Many years ago, near a small village, there lived a poor old man and his wife. On one of those typical days the old man gathered a large bundle of wood, put the load across his shoulders and slowly shuffled off to the village where he hoped to sell the wood for food.

As he shuffled along, he noticed a crane was struggling, having been caught in a trap.

Putting down his load he went to the crane, talking to it calmly as he approached. The bird was not injured and so the old man freed the crane, which immediately took flight.

He watched with a smile until the bird was out of sight. Then he picked up his bundle of wood and continued on his trek.

Fortunately, he was able to sell the wood quickly and with the money he bought food to take home to his wife.

Late in the day, after he had returned home, there was a light tapping on the door. The old man opened the door to a pretty young girl who bowed her head as he greeted her.

She spoke softly, "Sir, it is very cold outside, and I have no way of protecting myself from the weather. Would you allow me to come inside so that I may warm myself before your fire?"

The old man, taking immediate pity on her, called to his wife who was cooking in the kitchen, "Good wife, put out another bowl as we will have company for dinner this evening."

The old woman came out of the kitchen, wiping her hands on her apron.

"Oh, come in, my poor dear, and warm yourself while I finishing cooking. I do not have much, but you are welcome to share in what little we have."

After dinner, the couple noticed how weary the young girl appeared to be and they insisted she rest herself in their bed. That night the old couple slept on a pile of straw.

When they arose the next morning, they found the young girl had not only cleaned their cottage from the stove to the floors, but she had also prepared breakfast for them.

The couple, who had no chil-

dren of their own, felt as though she was a daughter to them and invited her to stay with them for a while.

Other young children in the neighborhood soon met the young girl and brought the sounds of their joy and laughter in to the small home, to the total delight of the old couple.

The Lunar New Year, which is the greatest holiday of the year in Japan, soon arrived and the old couple wanted to celebrate by giving the girl a present to express their love for her.

But it had been a severely cold winter and the old man had been unable to cut any more wood to

sell. Because of this, they were unable to give her anything.

"My dear," the old woman said to her, "we both wanted so badly to be able to give you a gift on this Lunar New Year's Day, but we have no money. We want you to know that you have been God's blessing to us and that we love you very much, even though we cannot show it to you with gifts."

"Oh, you are a very sweet couple," exclaimed the young girl. "You have given me food and shelter and your love. Those are very precious gifts to me. But now, I would like to repay you in one small way. I want to weave some beautiful cloth for you to take to the village and sell. But I want you to promise me one thing first. Neither you, nor anyone else, can see me weaving the cloth."

"That is a very unusual request, but we will honor your wishes," repeated the couple.

A small room with a loom for

making cloth was set aside for the young girl. For three days and nights the girl worked without stopping.

The old couple was curious, but continued to honor their promise.

At last, the door slid open and the girl presented them with the beautiful cloth. It was delicately woven and as light as the

"I'll give you ten pieces of gold for it!" said one woman.

"Twenty!" shouted a fat man.

"Fifty pieces of gold!" another called out.

Finally, the old man was able to get 100 pieces of gold for the cloth.

The old man was extremely happy. This was more money than he could make in several months of selling wood.

He bought rice and a pretty kimono for the young girl and returned home.



Illustration by Janna McClure

They all had a big Lunar New Year's celebration and everyone was very happy.

But it was a long and cold winter that continued on.

Again, the young girl thought she should weave another bolt of cloth to help the old couple.

Once more she requested that no one see her weave and, again, the old couple agreed.

But the neighbors heard the sounds of the loom day and night for three days, and when they saw the old woman come outside to shake out a rug, they came to her.

"We have never heard of anyone who could weave for such a long period of time without stopping. Something unusual must be

going on."

The old woman replied, "I am also curious, and feel as you do, but I made a promise that I would not let anyone see her weaving."

But the neighbors continued to talk to and prod her until at last the old woman decided to look in and see what was going on.

She went inside and bent down to look through a crack in the door.

Just then, her husband saw her and tried to stop her, but she had already peeked in and gasped in amazement.

She couldn't believe her eyes! There, sitting at the loom, was not the young girl, but a great white crane, pulling her feathers from its body and miraculously weaving them into cloth!

The old woman stepped back from the door, and before she could tell her husband what she had seen, the door opened. The young girl stepped out, thin and pale, holding a half-finished bolt of cloth in her hands.

"My dear parents," she said in a soft, quivering voice, "I am the crane that you rescued from the trap. I wanted to repay your kindness by weaving a bolt of cloth for you. But you were so kind to me in my human form that I wanted to repay you with another bolt of cloth."

Her eyes began to fill with tears that grew larger in her eyes until they rolled down her cheeks.

"But, now that you have seen me in my true form as a crane, I can no longer stay with you as your daughter. I must leave and join the other cranes, which are even now flying overhead. Listen and you can hear their cries."

With this, she kissed each of them tenderly and walked outside the house.

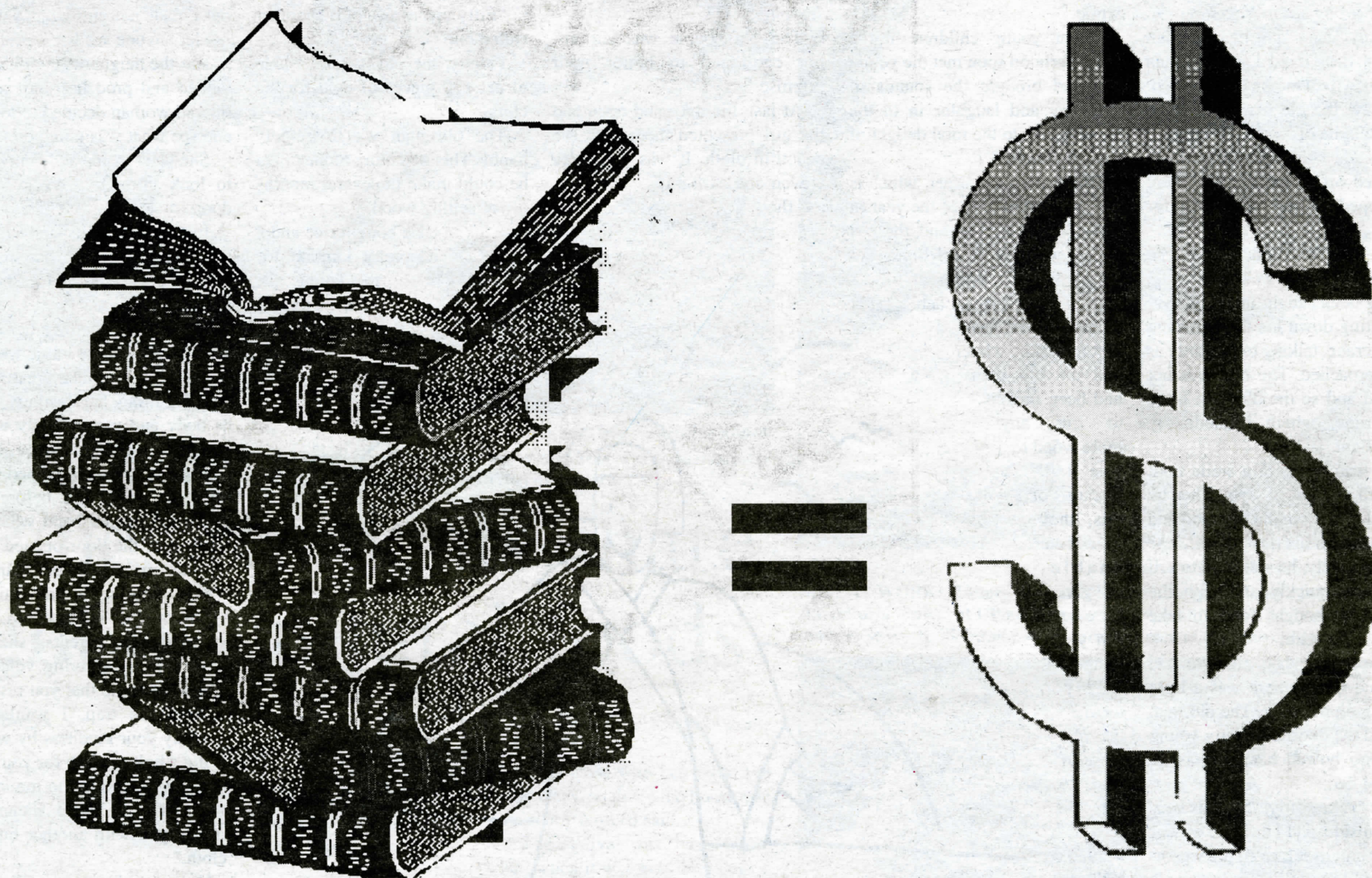
As they watched, she began to become blurry to their sight,

Then suddenly she was back into focus, not as a girl, but as a crane.

With a great swish of her wings, she left the ground and then as her wings lifted her higher and higher, they looked up at her with tears in their eyes.

They waved goodbye to her sadly, and in reply heard a single cry of 'Koh' as she circled one last time. Then the crane joined the others overhead and in a few moments the crane maiden was gone forever.

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