In light of the festivities of Christmas, Channukah and the New Year, many international students have shared with us their thoughts on the great festivals of their culture.

"In Algeria, the festival of 'L'Aid-El-Kebir' symbolizes the sacrifice of the ceremonial lamb by Abraham instead of his son. Each family kills a lamb, which is sacrificed and then eaten during a big feast. About two months after this festival, the Algerians celebrate another festival, 'L'Aid-Essaghir' during which everyone fasts from sunrise to sunset for a whole month. On the last day of Ramadan, there is a big feast." (Fall holiday)  
—Mokhfi Boudiaf, Habib Ghazi, Abdelmadjed Mahrez, E'79

"In the small island of Palau, one of the 21 islands that make up Micronesia, in the Pacific, the people of the Modekngei tribe gather together with their priest once every season and sacrifice various foods to their idol. The people chant messages to the idol, and the priest in turn chants the message of the god back to the people. After two days of ceremonies, this festival ends in a big feast."
—Beketel Elbelau, A'79

"In India, perhaps the most colorful festival is 'Govinda', commemorating the mischievous antics of Lord Krishna as a child. Legend has it that the young Krishna's favorite pastime was to raid the cheese vats with a group of friends. Since these vats were stored in a high place, usually suspended from the ceiling, they built a human pyramid until the vat was reached, broken, and its contents consumed. During the festival, the streets are packed with groups of people dancing until they reach one of these vats, or 'matkas', as they are called, which are hung up the night before, suspended from buildings on either side of the streets. The dancers then proceed to form a big mountain until the 'matka' - which can be up to 3 stories high - is reached. The person at the top then has the privilege of breaking the clay pot with his head, spilling fruits, candy and money, which is then shared."
(August holiday)  
—Pradeep Kapadia, E'78

Durga, the demon-killing Hindu goddess, from the Vedas.
"What is Micronesia?" is a question frequently asked of me. Micronesia, my home country, is a group of 214 islands in the Pacific Ocean, 96 of which are inhabited. These islands are a protectorate of the United States, meaning that they are under the protection of the United Nations, granted by the United Nations until 1981, at which time we Micronesians decide on a self-governing state.

Micronesia is located just north of the equator, about 500 miles from the Philippines, 1000 miles from Japan and 3000 miles from Hawaii. The islands occupy a 3000 mile range from the Marshall Islands in the west to Palau in the east.

Micronesia has been under four super-powers. In order, it has been under the sovereignty of Spain, Germany, Japan and now, the United States. After World War II when the U.S. obtained possession of Micronesia from Japan, its islands were divided into six geographical, ethnic and cultural districts, each one having its own administration appointed by a high commissioner, who in turn is appointed by the president of the United States.

Living is very easy in Micronesia - the average temperature is 85°F, with low humidity. Truly, it is the only self-sufficient, unspoiled non-commercialized group of islands in the world: a paradise in which over 85% of the total population (mostly unemployed) live on abundant fruit, vegetables and fish.

On the political scene, there has been a separatist movement by the two districts on each end of the island belt, the Marshall Islands and Palau. Both districts prefer a separation from Micronesia in order to practice a more direct, independent association with the U.S. Due to ethnic and cultural differences, the two districts would prefer to remain independent from each other also. In addition to this, a third district, the Northern Mariana Islands just recently elected to become the first U.S. commonwealth of the twentieth century.

Personally, I would like to see Micronesia stay as a group of islands, having political and economic unity, because this would help to maintain a diffused political power system among the districts. By doing this, the traditional power in Micronesia can be maintained so that the common people will have a greater political right to exercise their democratic freedom without destroying the traditional system. I feel that there is no urgent need to impose political reform, for westernization will eventually supplant the system, and replace it with a democratic system which the U.S. has hoped to institute for so many years.

Beketel is a Political Science major at Tufts

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Manuel Rondon, Venezuela, E'77 and Yoko Ichikawa, Japan, J'80 on their marriage! The international community at Tufts would like to extend their best wishes to Manuel and Yoko who are now living in Maracaibo, Venezuela where Yoko is learning Spanish and Manuel is working as an engineer.
AFTER GRADUATION, WHAT?

In February an evening seminar will be held on exploring post-graduate opportunities. Jeff Gibson of the Career Guidance and Placement Office and Leslie Long will speak, and two returning students, Milly Kiung, Hong Kong J'77 and Celeste Krijt, Curacao J'77 will talk about their experiences on practical training. If interested, call the International Office X545.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EMERGENCY LOAN FUND

For students who find themselves temporarily broke due to a delay in the mail or other unavoidable reasons, the International Student Emergency Loan Fund can provide up to $50 on a short term basis. All international students are eligible. You may ask for the guidelines and forms at the International Office.

SKIIING, ANYONE?

Anyone interested in learning how to ski or in skiing opportunities available this semester? Come to a meeting at the International Office Lounge on Thursday, January 26 at 4:00. If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, call Pradeep Kapadia at 666-8677.

CULTURE HOUSE RESIDENT STAFF SIGN-UP

Positions will be available for the academic year '78-'79 for the job of Head Resident in a culture house or dormitory on the Medford Campus. Graduate students or faculty members are eligible and should call the International Office for details. Undergraduates may apply for jobs as resident assistants for next year at the Dean of Students Office. Compensation for Head Residents is free room, and sometimes a meal plan. Compensation for resident assistants is $700 off the room fee.

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION CLASS

Leslie Long will be teaching a course at the Experimental College next semester on Intercultural Communication. The course will explore how people from different countries communicate with one another and cultural barriers that block communication. There will also be an opportunity to study in-depth a culture other than your own. Participants will spend a week-end at an Intercultural Seminar with students from both the United States and other countries who are attending universities in the Boston area. Field experiences will include visits to Chinatown for Chinese New Year and an Indian movie sponsored by the Indian Community of Boston. The course (#38 S) will meet on Wed. 3:00-5:30.

LEGAL INFO

This is a reminder to all international students and staff here on non-immigrant visas as well as to permanent residents.

In the month of January all foreign citizens are requested to report their address to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. For this they are to obtain an Address Report Card from any major Post Office or from the International Office in Brown House.

Anyone who is temporarily absent from the U.S. during the month of January should report his/her address as soon as possible.
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE - APPLICATIONS

The International House, 13 Sawyer Avenue is a residence made up of students from the United States and around the world (currently Barbados, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, and the Philippines.) The group enjoys international dinners, slide shows, lecture presentations and parties. If you might be interested in living in the House next year, complete the following information and send it to the International Office, Brown House. Selection of residents is made in the spring. Application for all Culture Houses will soon be available in the Housing Office.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

I may be interested in living in the International House next year.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

YEAR MAJOR

Return to the International Office, Brown House.

International Office
Brown House, 38 Professors Row
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155