

# N O R T H E A S T T O D A Y

January 5, 1987

## ¡Prospero Año Nuevo!, Fröhliches Neues Jahr, Beátus Novus Annus, Bonne Année

A splash of perfumed water, a gift of money in a red envelope, a late-night vigil to visit relatives. . . . These aren't party hats, noisemakers and "Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot," but they are means of breaking in the new year.

While NMSU faculty and students from Monett, Mo., to Boston raised the spirits of 1987 on Dec. 31, foreign faculty and students remembered traditions of their own just as successful in aging Father Time.

### LATIN AMERICA:

Here, the New Year celebration mirrors the Hispanic emphasis on the family and the Church.

"In Latin America, it is very important for the family to be together at the stroke of midnight," native Costa Rican Vera Piper, instructor of language and literature, said.

Families attend Mass on New Year's eve—New Year's day is a Catholic holy day of obligation to commemorate the circumcision of Jesus.

"In Chile, (as in other Latin American countries) we visit relatives after the Mass. Then we go to parties with friends," freshman Juan Velasco said.

Often, Velasco said, the streets are teaming with people en route to visit relatives after Mass.

The biggest difference between the celebrations here and in Latin America? The noise level, Piper said.

"It's so quiet here. In Costa Rica, you can hear the noise; there's lots of music and the church bells ring," she said.

### WEST GERMANY:

Noisemaking during the New Year celebration, according to an ancient belief, drove out the evil spirits of the old year. Today's tradition in the U.S. of small noisemakers and blow horns is just an echo of earlier days here when men and boys fired their shotguns to blast away the old year. Besides the fireworks and din at Times Square in New York City, the most noise the average American makes is with his mouth.

West Germans, though, have noisemaking down to an art.

"What is certainly different in West Germany," said graduate student Heinz Greschke, "is that we use firecrackers. I think Germany is the only place even in all Europe where they still use fireworks. It is a big show."

The traditional West German New Year meal: carp and a type of jelly doughnut.

### JAPAN:

The Japanese spend the first three days of the year "drinking lots of sake and beer,"

senior Mitsuyuki Yamada said.

They also spend those days visiting relatives and the shrine of Buddha.

"We pray for a successful year," Yamada said.

### CHINA:

"Parents put money in a red envelope and give it to the children," Hong Kong native senior Ernest Mak said, explaining a Chinese New Year tradition. The amount can vary from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars.

The Chinese use a lunar calendar; the date of New Year's day varies between January to February and lasts three days. The New Year feast is more important than Christmas to the Chinese. The three days are spent visiting relatives and eating traditional foods. They have a special flower tree to symbolize the New Year, and an all-night open market is held Dec. 31.

"Oh, yes, and we have all-night TV," Mak said, a rare treat in China.

### LAOS:

You could get doused with a bucket of water on New Year's day in Laos.

The celebration, which is their religious new year from April 13 through 16, includes a tradition that everyone must remain wet for three days. The tradition stems from the blessing of the Buddha shrine with holy water at the beginning of the new year.

"The young people go to the beaches to swim during these three days," senior Khamphouang Ratanabovorn said.

Similar to our noisemaking, the houses in Laos are swept clean of evil spirits before the new year.

"We also celebrate Jan. 1. We call it the International New Year. But, in April, it is a much bigger party," Ratanabovorn said.

### FRANCE:

A large main meal on Jan. 1, le reveillon, is the center of the French New Year celebration. The traditional goose with chestnut stuffing, champagne and pate make up the meal. Aunts, uncles and cousins flock together to celebrate.

"This New Year will be particularly difficult for the French," Betty McLane-Iles, assistant professor of French, said. "They're having a national railway strike that has just paralyzed the country," she said. Europeans depend heavily on the railway system for travel.

The French give small gifts, le etrennes, and cards to celebrate the New Year.

"The New Year is primarily a family time together. Sometimes, the family will go to a restaurant to celebrate on New Year's eve. But, New Year's day, the family celebrates at home," McLane-Iles said.

## 1987 Spring Semester Schedule

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

8:30 a.m.—Registration  
Residence halls and apartments open

### Wednesday, Jan. 7

Late registration, today through Jan. 13  
Free add/drop, today through Jan. 13  
7:30 a.m.—classwork begins  
5-7:30 p.m.—Registration for evening classes, today through Jan. 13, Registrar's Office, A/H 104

7 p.m.—First session of evening classes

### Saturday, Jan. 10

8 a.m.—Registration for (and first session of) Saturday classes. Registration will be held in classrooms.

### Tuesday, Jan. 13

Last day to register and/or add classes

### Wednesday, Jan. 14

Change of schedule fee (\$5) begins

### Tuesday, Jan. 27

Last day to drop first-half block courses without code

### Friday, Feb. 6

Graduation applications for undergraduates (4 yr. & 1 & 2 yr. cert.) due

### Tuesday, Feb. 10

Last day to drop first-half block courses with code

Last day to receive refund for withdrawal from school

### Tuesday, Feb. 17

Last day to drop full-semester courses without code

### Friday, Feb. 27

#### Mid-term

Last day of first-half block courses

### Monday, March 2

First day of second-half block courses

### Friday, March 6

7 p.m.—Residence halls close

### Monday, March 9

Midterm break begins

### Sunday, March 15

10 a.m.—Residence halls open

### Monday, March 16

7:30 a.m.—Classes resume

### Tuesday, March 24

Last day to drop full-semester courses with code

### Friday, March 27

Last day to drop second-half block courses without code

### Friday, April 10

Last day to drop second-half block courses with code

### Thursday, April 16

7:30 a.m.—Spring vacation begins

### Tuesday, April 21

7:30 a.m.—Classes resume

### Monday, May 4

7:30 a.m.—Final examinations begin

### Thursday, May 7

9 p.m.—Final examinations end

### Friday, May 8

10 a.m.—Commencement

2 p.m.—Residence halls and apartments close

# THIS WEEK

## NOTES

**The Northeast Today** entry deadline is 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to Monday's issue. Forms are available in the Public Relations Office, A/H 202.

**Student Senate** applications for a freshman representative and councilman will be available Wednesday. Applications are due at 5 p.m., Jan. 14, in the Student Senate Office, SUB. Class representatives must maintain a 2.2 GPA, and councilmen must maintain a 2.5 GPA. For more information, contact the Student Senate Office, 785-4193.

**The Snackbar**, SUB, will be open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. today, and will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. beginning Tuesday.

**Pickler Memorial Library** will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. today, and from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday. The library's regular hours of 8 a.m.-midnight will resume on Wednesday.

**Applications for grants** and interest-free loans for sorority women are available in the Greek Life Office, Ryle Hall Foyer. Applicants must be residents of the greater Kansas City area and be a senior by the fall semester.

**An informational meeting** and clinic concerning Bulldog mascot tryouts will be held at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 13, in the Pershing Building Little Gym. Tryouts for the mascot will be at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 15, in the Little Gym.

**"Dames at Sea,"** instead of "El Grande Coca Cola," will be the SAB's Sixth Annual Dinner Theater. It begins at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 16, 17 and 18, in the SUB, Georgian Room. Tickets are \$9 or \$5 with an SAB sticker. The price includes a buffet-style dinner and admittance to the play. Tickets will be available Wednesday through Jan. 16 in the SAB Office, SUB.

**Women interested in sorority life** may register for Spring Rush from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Jan. 19-23, in the Greek Life Office, Ryle Hall Foyer. Cost is \$3, and a 2.5 GPA is required. A Spring Forum about sorority life will be at 7 p.m., Jan. 25, in the SUB, Alumni Room.

**The Residence House Association** will sponsor a "Dancing in the Sheets-Welcome Back Toya Dance," from 8-11 p.m., Thursday, in Kirk Gym.

**The Residence House Association** will meet at 7 p.m., Jan. 13, in the SUB, Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**"Back to School,"** an SAB movie, will be shown at 7 and 9:15 p.m., Jan. 9, in Baldwin Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 or free with an SAB sticker.

**Ling-Kang Yeh Go and Roxas Yeh Go**, students from the Philippines, will display Philippine artifacts beginning Jan. 7 in Pickler Memorial Library.

Welcome  
Back,  
Everyone