

Sunday, Oct 31, 1999 The Wichita Eagle

ASIAN

From Page 17A

sounds and tastes of Asia.

They joined thousands of other people who ate fried rice and noodles, egg rolls and skewered, barbecued meats as they watched a fashion show, with people like Paul Chen, a Learjet business development manager from Taiwan who wore a costume from China's Ching Dynasty, which ended 88 years ago but lasted for 268 years. He wore a shiny yellow tunic and pants with dragon designs and a flared, round hat with a large simulated pearl in the middle. Black yarn hung in a long braid down his back.

The crowd saw Grace Wu and her students perform Tai Chi, a series of slow, graceful martial-arts movements that develop strength and peace of mind.

They watched 29-year-old housewife Gauri Jog twirl around the stage in a satiny yellow dress, spinning seemingly effortlessly on her knees. It was part of a classical Indian dance called Kathak. The 29-year-old has been practicing the dance since she was 8.

They saw six girls from the Wichita Chinese Language School, ages 6 to 11, do a traditional Chinese New



Fernando Salazar/The Wichita Eagle

From left, Peggy Chang, 10, Hannah Wu, 9, Tiffany Hwang, 8, and Alice Hwang, 11, perform the Chinese Lantern Dance on Saturday at the Asian Festival at Century II.

Year's dance. The school, for children 5 through high-school-age, helps acquaint the girls with their ancestors' culture, said Christie Yang, the principal.

At one point, the girls had to twirl bright red squares of cloth. Backstage, their mothers, hidden behind banks of curtains, smiled proudly as they watched every coordinated

movement.

They had been practicing the dance on Saturday afternoons for the past four or five weeks. But were they nervous as they waited to go on stage? No way, said 10-year-old Peggy Chang. They've performed many times, she said.

"Like years," said 11-year-old Alice Hwang.