Pour the sand into place. They use two ridged chakpurs to "chakpurs." The monks each long, narrow funnels called work Tuesday.

The sand is poured through brightly colored sand a time, bent over to meticulously place. Then they will destroy it. "Your back gets very sore and be careful not to sneeze."

"We must also breath slowly and sit behind the information tables. It will take the monks five days to finish the dinner table-sized art. Then they will destroy it. Creating the mandala requires precision," Dorje said.

Up to four monks work on it at a time, bent over to meticulously place brightly colored sand on a blue platform. The design was sketched onto the platform when the monks began their work Tuesday.

The sand is poured through long, narrow funnels called "chakpurs." The monks use two ridged chakpurs to pour the sand into place. They fill one chakpur with sand and the other with a small amount of sand to trickle out.

Dorje explained the mandala is created for the Buddha and for healing. "Everybody needs peace and love," Dorje said.

The monks meditate while they work, reciting prayers and scripture. Dorje described the mandala as a palace for meditation.

Sometimes they briefly chat with each other in Tibetan while they refill or change sand colors. Otherwise, the only sound coming from the mandala is the rat-ta-tat-tat noise of the chakpurs rubbing together. Dorje, along with the other monks, studies at the Drepung Gomang Monastery in Southeast India. They spent the past year learning how to make mandala for their trip to America, Dorje said.

Drepung Gomang was the largest monastery in Tibet before the Chinese occupied Tibet in 1959 and destroyed the monastery, Dorje said. Many monks were killed in Tibet where they have rebuilt the monastery.

Dorje, now 28, joined the monastery when he was 9 years old. He had never traveled to America but is enjoying his experience here. "It's amazing. You have great roads and continuous electricity. It's very nice," Dorje said.

He also said he likes eating at McDonald's and Burger King. "We always look for the big yel-low M," he said.

Behind the monks and Mandala is the technology store in the bookstore. "We are doing ancient tech-nology next to modern."