

A&M hosts 'Kings College'

Want to make armor—fight in it?

By SCOTT HARING
Battalion Reporter

Have you ever wanted to know how to make chain mail armor? The chance to learn is this weekend. Medieval military tactics and calligraphy are courses being offered at the event. The local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronisms (SCA) is holding a "King's College" Saturday and Sunday in Rudder Tower on

the Texas A&M University campus. The college, held once a year in different locations, will draw people from throughout Texas and Oklahoma.

Lord Otto the Merciless, known to everyone outside the society as Gary Butler, is in charge of the college. He expects 75 to 100 SCA members from other chapters to attend.

The local chapter, made up almost totally of Texas A&M students, is called the Shire of the Shadowlands. The Shire is part of the principality of Ansteorra (Texas and Oklahoma), which is in turn part of the kingdom of Atenveldt (the Rocky Mountain states and the Southwest U.S.).

The classes will last from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The registration fee is \$2.

The courses will be taught mostly by members of the society, but the local chapter has arranged for A&M professors to teach a couple of courses.

There will be classes in weaving, leather-working, and spinning yarn by hand. Calligraphy (ornamental letter-writing) will also be taught along with the popular armor and tactics classes.

Otto said fighting is what attracts most people to the SCA originally. The combatants are required to wear steel helmets for safety, and their "weapons" are padded rattan wrapped with electrical tape that are the same basic shapes as swords, maces and axes. It still hurts when you get hit, Otto said, but serious injuries are extremely rare.

There will be a fighter practice and mass melee (20 people to a side) Sunday morning from 8 to 11 a.m. at Hensel Park. The society is getting ready right now for a war with the Middle Kingdom (the Midwest United States) to be held in Oklahoma in a couple of weeks.

The high point of the weekend, Otto said, will be the feast and revel Saturday night. Everyone is invited, but reservations are necessary and the cost is \$4. At the revel, the Prince of Ansteorra, Sir Simon of Amber, will hold court. Ansteorra is "Egyptian or something" for Lone Star, Otto said. There will be dancing and traditional music, along with poetry and a story-telling competition.

The SCA has a cubicle in the Student Programs Office (845-1515), or Lord Otto can be contacted at 822-5785.

A&M official raps column on Corps

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

A top University official has questioned the accuracy and fairness of a recent report by nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

"It was not an accurate portrayal of the problem here at Texas A&M," said General Ormond R. Simpson, assistant vice president for student services.

"First of all, I've never heard anything about armadillos. I don't consider the statements about dead animals as being facts. I don't know them to be true."

The article stated that dead animals such as armadillos had been thrown into the female cadets' dormitory.

Simpson also questioned Anderson's statements about sex discrimination at Texas A&M University.

"It was not a fair explanation of the problem we have here. We have problems, we know we have them and we are working on them. But I don't think they're discrimination against women."

"I don't think we have a discrimination problem at A&M, but a resentment problem," he said. "There is a vocal minority here that resents the presence of any girls in the Corps. Responsible Corps staff members do not have this resentment."

Simpson said that while "we do not have discrimination here, some of the actual acts themselves may be construed as discrimination."

Simpson said an example of an act that may be construed as discriminatory was an incident described by Anderson concerning the barring of a female cadet, Melanie Zentgraf, from the Color Guard. "If she was factually correct about the incident, it was probably pretty blatant discrimination."

Wednesday night Zentgraf said she was one of four cadets who tried out for Color Guard, which is responsible for carrying the flags at all Corps functions, when she was a freshman. There are four positions in the Color Guard.

The cadet said she tried out and made it four times her freshman year, but after the fourth time she was told that no woman could be in the group. The position was filled by a male cadet.

Simpson said that to his knowledge neither Anderson nor any of his aides visited Texas A&M University. The retired three-star general said one of Anderson's assistants called Col. Kenneth Durham in mid-February, but did not talk with any other University officials.

Simpson said Anderson learned of

the problem through a letter written to the columnist. He said the letter also might have been sent to senators and other congressmen. He said he did not know who wrote the letter, but had learned the author was not Zentgraf.

The general said he first heard about the letter last November.

Zentgraf said some of her friends and family had written letters to different organizations after she told them about her experiences at Texas A&M. The cadet said as far as she knew the letters had not been written until late December or early January.

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