

# Dancing, Medieval dress, fantasy, all

By ANGEL COPELAND

Battalion Staff

Classes on everything from belly dancing and knife throwing to medieval desserts and the War of the Roses were taught by members of the Society for Creative Anachronisms at Texas A&M last weekend.

An anachronism is a person or thing that is chronologically out of place, especially one appropriate for an earlier time. Members of the society adopt a personality from the Middle Ages, which they consider prior to 1650, complete with appropriate dress and mannerisms.

The classes were part of an event called the University of Ansteorra, and was hosted by the Texas A&M chapter of SCA known as the Shire

of the Shadowlands.

The College Station area was given the name Shadowlands because it lies in the "shadow" of the major cities of Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Ansteorra is made up principally of Texas and Oklahoma and is itself part of the Kingdom of Antenveldt.

The event was held in Rudder Tower over the weekend and members from all over the kingdom shared their favorite aspects of medieval life.

Only things that are considered "in period" are part of the "real" world of fantasy the members build around themselves. Other matters of the 20th century are considered "mundane" and not important as they recreate the past.

Members use special society

names instead of their mundane names when they gather for an event. For example, Leon the Indecisive is a graduate student in public administration at Texas A&M and taught a class on knife throwing. Leon, who declined to give his mundane name, is a three-year member of the society.

SCA has over 2,300 dues-paying members and claims regular participation by ten times that number.

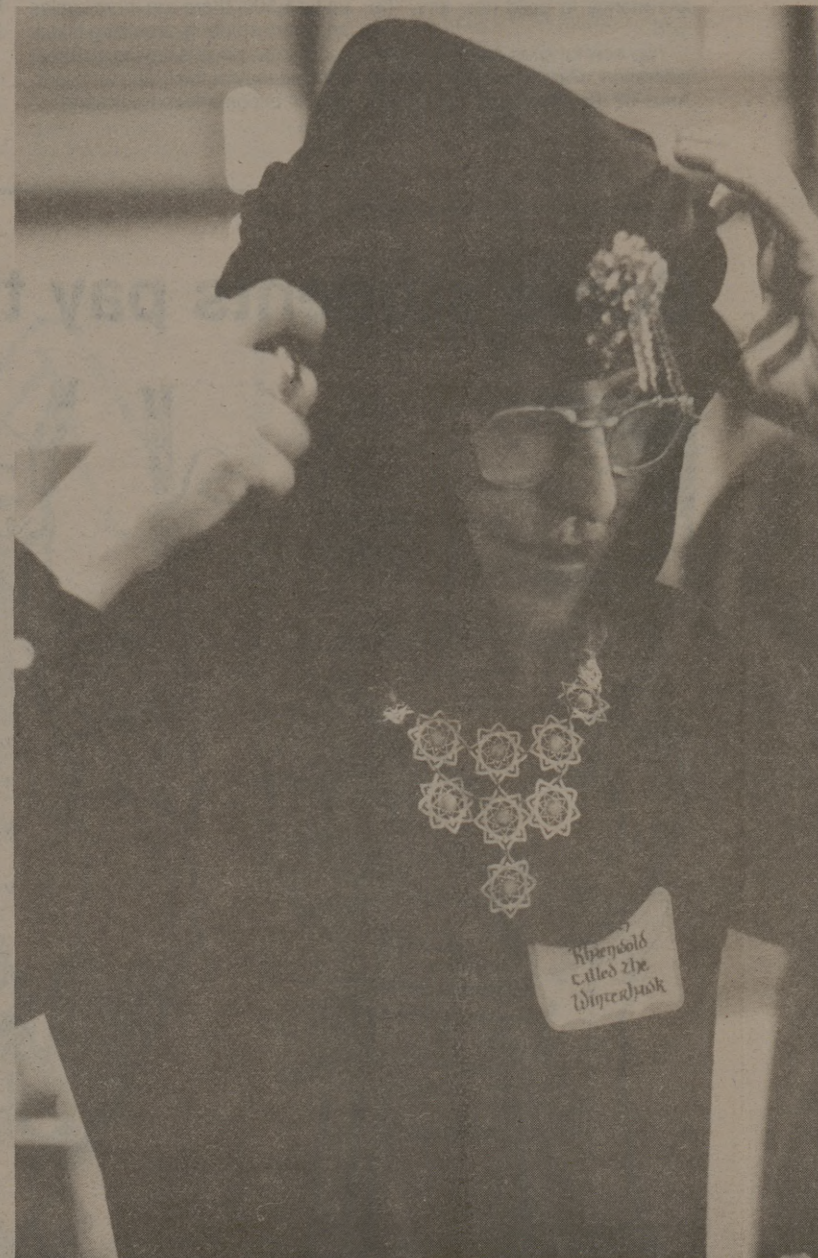
The Society attracts members of all ages. One of the youngest members, 13-year-old Llewelyn of Swansea joined about two years ago when his older brother became a member. Llewelyn said he doesn't mind being one of the few children in the society, and said his friends think his participation is "pretty strange" but "neat."



A Medieval period chalis holds a member's refreshment.



Mark Rutledge drinks out of a stein at Society's Feast and Fest.



Martin Catt from Dallas wears a traditional Medieval costume.