

# Learn and create crafts at the MSC Craft Center

By JEFF WRIGHT  
Reporter

About 6,000 people a year use the MSC Craft Center, which offers students, faculty, staff and the Bryan-College Station community educational craft classes at night, in the afternoon and during the weekend.

"The Craft Center strives to be the best facility possible," supervisor Wayne Helton says. "We stay on top of things in our business so that more people will want to use our facilities."

The center is located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center, below the Art Gallery. You can find facilities and supplies for wood-working, stained glass, pottery, airbrushing, glass etching, bike maintenance and much more. Professional instructors teach the classes including working professionals, students and anybody else in the community who knows the art of the craft, Helton says.

Any student with a valid Texas A&M I.D. and anyone over 18 years old can enroll in the craft classes.

Non-students must purchase a \$2 I.D. card that is good for one semester. Membership cards are required for anybody working in crafts that require the use of specialized equipment. A full-time and part-time staff is always available for help and instruction of the craft or the machinery.

Workshops are offered at different times during the week. The workshops are set up to introduce you to new crafts or to acquaint you with an old one. All workshops are aimed at individual projects so the students can be as creative as he wants to be. Enrollment is limited so that the instructors can give the students the personal attention they need, Helton says. Registration for the workshops will begin on Sept. 10 and will run until the classes fill.

Along with the semester workshops, the craft shop offers one day Christmas workshops from Nov. 26 through Dec. 7. Here the class meet one time, learn the basics about a craft and go home with a product. The fee is set according to the craft and covers all materials and instruction.

The Craft Center will host a Fall Craft Festival on Oct. 2 and 3 and a Christmas Craft Festival on Nov. 27 and 28. Both festivals will be held around Rudder Fountain and down the sidewalk going to the academic building, Helton says. The fall festival, geared mainly to students, will have about 45 merchants displaying and selling their goods. The Christmas festival will have about 75 merchants from all over the state and will be aimed at the general public as well as students.

From Sept. 1 to Sept. 30, the craft center will host Creative Encounters V, an arts and crafts exhibit to be held in the MSC Gallery. The show will be composed of artisans showing original handbuilt material, and the media, Helton says. The shows contain pottery, decoy carving, wood-working, weaving, airbrushing, watercoloring, jewelry and the like.

The only public woodshop in the Bryan-College Station area can be found at the craft center and can be used for \$20 a semester. Hardwood, not plywood, is sold at the center to make it more specialized.



Sponsoring outdoor craft fairs — occasionally cursed with rain — is one function of the MSC Craft Center. The fairs are held in the Rudder Fountain area.

# Women's ensemble recruiting

By Karl Spence  
Reporter

The Texas A&M Women's Chorus, fresh from an overseas tour, is recruiting heavily this year, director Patricia Fleitas says. She invites all female students with a love of music to apply for it.

"We hold auditions during the first two weeks of classes," she says. "You can sign up on the day for an audition appointment." The five-year-old, 60-member group faced a big turnover many of its long-standing members graduated last spring. But the chorus veterans departed, and the other singers enjoyed a mer concert tour of England, Wales — a special event made possible by six months of fund-raising. The group gave ten formal concerts on the tour, including Cardiff, Bristol, London and Oxford. They visited other cities as well, staying with British families wherever they went.

"It seems like such a long ago," Fleitas says. "It was such a rewarding experience for all of us, not only being there, but getting to know the people."

Fleitas reports that the group's audiences were very receptive. The best audience was in London where a full house of 2,000 greeted them a standing ovation and demanded several encores.

The trip was made special by music and its settings. Fleitas Singing sacred songs in abbey chapel towers and hearing voices resound in ancient cathedrals brought tears of joy to the eyes of nearly all her singers.

"I saw very few dry eyes," she calls.

Closer to home, Fleitas looks forward this year to continuing to expand her group's joint work with women's choruses from the University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University. Various performances are scheduled, including Christmas concerts, an Easter Spring Concert, benefits and town trips. In the meantime, the chorus practices four nights a week.

Fleitas says that singers are given a perfect voice or be a reader of music to win a place in the chorus.

"They don't have to have anything prepared for the audition," she adds. "We just have them

# Elvira's outlandish stage garb enables 'Mistress of the Dark' offstage anonymity

United Press International

BOSTON — Cassandra Peterson could do one of those credit card TV ads that start: "Do you know me?"

She can walk down the street without being mobbed by adoring fans, or eat in a restaurant with nary a glance directed at her mounds of red hair, tons of freckles and slender figure.

That is, until she dons her Elvira garb: A tight, slinky black dress seductively slit up the front, a flowing black wig, a padded bra and 4 inches of makeup.

Then she's unforgettable.

As Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, Peterson is hostess of the television program "Movie Macabre," which originated three years ago in Los Angeles. It is now syndicated in 42 markets nationwide, and Elvira is fast becoming a cult heroine.

With classic B-minus horror flicks

as the fare — "Tomb of the Blind Dead," "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" — how could she miss?

Not only is Elvira sexy, she's also funny. She's part movie critic, part advisor-to-the-lovelorn and part comedienne, tossing off sarcastic remarks and double entendres in a variety of voices.

Whatever her appeal, Elvira is a bonafide hit. "They either like the humor or they like the cleavage," said Peterson, who is in her early 30s.

"Elvira's just a weird combination of different elements. I liked certain people like Morticia Addams (of the 1960s 'Addams Family' television series). When I was little I really was in love with Cruella DeVill in the (Walt Disney) movie '101 Dalmatians.' I always liked sort of mean, sexy women.

"My mother used to own a costume shop so that may be where I

got my theatrical experience. I was always dressing up in costumes. I was always wearing garter belts and high heels when I was 7.

"I knew I wanted to be a sex symbol of some sort. They'd try to make me wear something cute like a tiger costume and I'd say, 'No, I want to go as Cleopatra,'" she recalled.

Born in Manhattan, Kan. ("I always tell people I was born in Manhattan and leave out the Kansas part"), Peterson longed for the limelight from an early age. At 17 she found a job as a showgirl in Las Vegas. She said Elvis Presley saw her perform and encouraged her to pursue a singing career. She traveled to Europe and danced at the Lido de Paris. While touring Italy in a rock band, she was spotted by Federico Fellini and cast in his film, "Fellini Roma." Returning to the United States, she starred in her own nightclub revue, then joined the Los An-

geles improvisational group, "The Groundlings."

Then came Elvira.

"At the beginning I looked at the whole thing as a one-day-a-week job. I thought, won't this be great. I can go down one day a week and shoot for five or six hours and go home and then have six days left to go out and pursue real acting jobs. And I'll be in makeup so no one will know it's me."

Now Elvira consumes all of her time. And why not?

As herself, Miss Peterson makes scale wages. But as Elvira she is becoming rich. She owns all the merchandising rights to Elvira T-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, buttons, costumes and wigs.

Among projects coming up: an album, combining monster, new wave and rock 'n' roll music; a book about bad movies and Elvira's comments on them; a film project about Elvi-

ra's "real life" ("Real low budget, just like my movies. It has to have the same kind of cheesy look"); an Elvira nightclub act she hopes will tour the country, and a line of greeting cards already on the shelves.

Peterson said she does not confuse herself with her alter ego.

"Some people think I'm really that way, that I really look that way and act that way. But I'm really the most normal person in the world."

She lives in Hollywood in a house — "a white English Tudor with a white picket fence" — she shares with a dog named Vlad and two cats named Thisbe and Hockett. A resident lizard and a python, a gift from fan, and are called Liz and Dick.

"I think in order to really make a character work, inside somewhere there's got to be that core of reality that you never let escape," Peterson said. "That's why it's nice to be Elvira."

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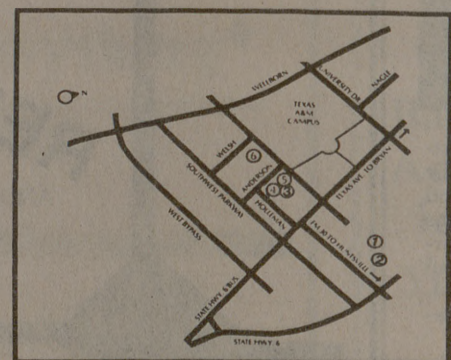
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