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Madrigal feast conjures up seasonal spirit

By ANN CERVENKA
 Staff Writer

Lord Raleigh and his lords and ladies will host the Madrigal Dinners in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom starting Wednesday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 9.

The MSC Madrigal Dinner Committee is sponsoring the fourth year of the performances, which will be from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The Christmas dinner is set in a 16th century Renaissance manor, in which minstrels, jesters and jugglers dressed in medieval costumes entertain the audience, said Tracie Woods, MSC Madrigal Dinner Committee chairman.

"We try to get the audience involved," Woods said. "The people sitting at the heads of the tables will be honorary lords and ladies."

Before dinner, a character on stage will make a toast, and audience members will be served wassail, a hot spiced-apple drink. The medieval dinner will consist of pork chops, baked potatoes, buttered carrots and flaming plum pudding for dessert, Woods said.

After dinner, the madrigals will sing modern Christmas carols, she said.

The committee began recruiting officers in the summer. In late September, students and members of the community auditioned for one of 30 roles to sing, juggle or play in the brass quartet, she said.

Next year, the dinner will be moved to the Hilton so more people can attend, Woods said.

About half of the 1,650 tickets have been sold.

"We are expecting ticket sales to pick up," Woods said. "We hope to sell out."

Tickets are on sale at the MSC Box Office for \$14 for students and \$17 for non-students.

English teachers protest writing as punishment

United Press International

"I must not play my personal radio in the classroom; it is inconsiderate and disruptive," the student wrote for the 99th time.

It's a good bet the student's mom or dad also had a bout or two of "punitive writing" as it is called, while going to school. The same for grandparents. "Crimes" drawing such punishment differed through the generations, ranging from letting a mouse loose to, in grandpa's time, bringing a snake to school.

But the practice of giving writing as punishment lives on.

English teachers don't like it one bit, however. They condemn "writing as punishment" and want it stopped, according to a resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English in Detroit.

The teachers said their experience and other studies confirm that students given punitive writing assignments form negative attitudes toward writing.

The resolution called on the National Council to:

- Condemn punitive writing assignments.

Discourage teachers, administrators and others from making a punishment of such writing as copy-work, sentence repetition, original paragraphs and themes, and other assignments that inhibit desired attitudes and essential communication skills.

Disseminate this opinion to the appropriate audiences, including the general public.

In addition to making the punished individual hate writing, punitive writing, the NCTE says, does not fit the goals of writing put down by the NCTE Commission on Writing. The commission said, "The writing act should include the process of imagining an audience, setting goals, generating ideas and notes, producing drafts and revised text, and editing the product to meet the audience's expectations."

On another battleground, the nation's English teachers swung at "text abridgment" — a publishing practice of shortening or adapting works of literature.

Branding such practice "censorship," the NCTE adopted a resolution urging publishers to report changes in text and explain the

nature and extent of alterations. promotional information and teachers' guides.

Another resolution urged a change of journalism courses in English curriculum.

Supporting the position, NCTE said, is this:

• The proliferation and use of print and broadcast media that everyone develop critical in the interpretation of news information.

• Journalism courses give students an understanding of how communications media function but also involve them in the communication process. They are central to English making their effective use of and written language.

"Students in journalism use and develop their communication skills in the collecting, and editing of news; they interpret and evaluate news information in the press; they also about the rights, responsibilities power of the press and media," the NCTE said.

'Bellologists' jewelry designs are catching the ears of the famous

United Press International

NEW YORK — 'Tis the season for the tintinnabulation of bells, says a jewelry designer whose jewelry catches people by the ear as well as the eye.

Terry Mayer's very small sterling silver bell designs, each hand-crafted, number around one hundred now and include shapes of animals, fruits and flowers.

Helen Hayes and Carol Channing are among actresses sporting her comedy-tragedy mask bell — comedy one side, tragedy, the other. Princess Caroline of Monaco has one of the kitten bells; Princess Diane, the bunny bell.

"I say this is the season for the tintinnabulation of the bells," says Mayer, founder and head of Terry-Mayer Ltd.

"From jingle and sleigh bells to the ones that 'ring out the old and ring in the new' we are serenaded by a recurring rhapsody of bells."

If you listen, she says, your ears will pick it up from the street-corner Santas, missionary folks, store-piped music, church steeples chimes, toys, and maybe even from someone wearing a Terry-Mayer bell.

Mayer calls herself a "bellologist" — a scholar of bells. The word is not in the dictionary. She coined it to describe her pursuit of bells. The research has made her a living encyclopedia of bells over the six years since she first got serious about them.

She is so into bells, in fact, that she has become head of the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Bell Association, a 40-year old interna-

tional organization based in New Heights, Penn.

After the American Bell Association unit she heads held a meeting at Riverside Church in Manhattan, Rockefeller family church, in ample, she made "a touching ceremony," when reaching the top of stairs to the bell tower.

Standing by a bell that weighs some 20,000 pounds, she read a message that was printed for a see.

"O ye angels of the Lord praise Him, praise Him and Him forever," the message read.

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