

Knights of the Round Table

"Here does battle: Sir Berek Von Langentol and Squire Ambros Blackrose!"

As the herald's thin sonorous accent floats across the arena of colorful flags, two marshals stride together, ceremonial staffs at the ready. Clack! They meet, and the marshals quickly step back from the battle zone as the shout, "Lay on!" slices the air.

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Have we time warped 800 years back to the age of knights and chivalry? Are we lost in Olde England, around A.D. 1165 or so? The presence of Oregon State University's Memorial Building 50 feet away makes this phenomenon unlikely. A confused onlooker, however, may view a small, somewhat comforting paper placard reading, "Need Help? Ask!" pinned to the cloak of a leather-clad warrior right out of Sherwood Forest.

Meet Fulk Toppinson. His name is actually Chris Havel, a forestry senior at OSU. But in the somewhat bizarre organization called the Society for Creative Anachronisms, members can research and create fictional characters from

any culture and any time in the past before the year 1650.

Fulk, for example, was born in 1296 and served as a mercenary for England's King Edward II in 1312. But in an embarrassing encounter with some outnumbered Scots, Fulk and his fellow Brits ran from the battlefield.

Another persona with an interesting history is that of Catherine Faber of Eugene, known to the society as "Lindrael a ceilerion." Lindrael was born in Ireland of a noble family and fostered in Wales.

Faber views her participation in the society with dreaminess. According to Faber, Lindrael is currently on a ship, homeward bound, and all of modern society is merely an illusion to her.

"The SCA is for romantics and intellectuals; it's for historians and hobbyists," Havel remarks. The whole thing began in 1966 at Berkeley, Calif., with a costumed medieval May Day festival and now boasts chapters throughout North America, and some in Europe and Australia. There's even a chapter aboard the USS Nimitz; battles there occur on the flight deck.

The SCA world is divided into kingdoms, principalities (a



smaller region in bond to a kingdom), local baronies of 25 to 150 members, shires (local groups under 25 members) and cantons, which are shires in bond to a barony. Oregon, Washington, British Columbia

and parts of Idaho and Alberta, Canada, comprise the "Kingdom of An Tir," and the Eugene barony is "Adiantum." Kings and princes are chosen by combat every six months, and a king's word is law (within legal

parameters, of course).

The Barony of Adiantum was founded in 1974 by Michael of Dragonswood, and in February of 1976 became a Barony. It is ruled by Ulfhedinn inn Veg Farandi, commonly known as



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