

Society for Creative Anachronism brings Middle Ages to modern life

By Stephanie Mencimer
Emerald Contributor

You may have seen them in the EMU, dressed in ornate medieval costumes dancing to Celtic folk music. Or maybe you've seen them dueling on the lawn with Dark Age weaponry. Perhaps you mistook them for Shakespearean actors.

But they're not actors in the traditional sense of the word. They are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a national organization dedicated to recreating medieval and Renaissance life and culture.

"When you go to an (SCA) event, you will see anachronism embodied. You will see a range of styles and arts of a thousand years at the very least, all in front of you at once," says Beth Davis, sophomore. "We take the creative arts and sciences of medieval and Renaissance time and play with them."

"Actually," says Lloyd Perez, senior, "we drag the Middle Ages screaming and kicking into the 20th century."

SCA began in 1966 in Berkeley, Calif. as a medieval theme party staged by a graduate student before she went into the Peace Corps. The party was such a hit that the original guests continued the tradition.

The idea caught on, and in 1968 the parties incorporated

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Photo by Kate Jost

John Brinegar, University student and occasional knight, fights off an attack from another knight beneath the Jefferson Street overpass at a Students for Creative Anachronism battle exercise.

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