

## Singing of pirates highlights Norman grown-up play day

By Tami Althoff

Staff Writer

The Oklahoman

Saturday, April 21, 2006

NORMAN – The Medieval Fair is home for people such as Harvey the Corpsman and his companion, Lady Donna. Dressed Friday in full period pirate clothing, with temperatures in the upper 70s, both said they felt quite comfortable in their get-ups.



“What I wear during the rest of the week, what I’m forced to wear by society, is a costume,” Harvey said. “This is my life” Harvey is a 21<sup>st</sup> century schoolteacher by day and a member of the Bilge Pumps, a singing pirate group from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, by night. Lady Donna performs stage combat with the Redland Rogues of Oklahoma City.

“There’s pretty pirates, and then there’s the Bilge Pumps,” Harvey said.

Delcrest Junior High students from Del City said they couldn’t wait to hear the pirates.

“After we check out the jousting, we want to hear the pirates that sing about drinking and beer,” said Matt Haivala, and eighth-grader.

Haivala and schoolmates Kyle Smith, Randy Grauman, and A.J. Theesfield were dressed in makeshift medieval costumes, thanks to the school art department.

“We’re having our Medieval Fair April 21-22, so we’re here to get some ideas,” Haivala said. Savannah Hledick, a sixth-grader at Hefner Middle School in Oklahoma City, said she was attending the fair as an “incentive trip for a grade.”

Hledick’s school was one of several at “School Day” at the fair Friday. Her class is studying the Middle Ages, and seeing the period acted out in living color wasn’t too impressive, she said. “I’m not into that stuff,” she said, biting into a big piece of poultry. “But the turkey legs are yummy.”

Even if you don’t like turkey legs or singing pirates, Lady Donna said there’s no reason to miss this year’s fair.

“It’s a beautiful day, and it’s basically a free event,” she said. “It’s a wonderful chance to come out and play. Grown-ups don’t play enough, and they need to play.”

“You can go away being an entirely new person if you choose,” Harvey the Corpsman added.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Medieval Fair continues from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. today and Sunday at Reaves Park, on the corner of Jenkins Avenue and Constitution Street in Norman.

Admission is free, and free parking will be available at Lloyd Noble Center. A free shuttle will transport fairgoers from the Lloyd Noble Center parking lot.

For more information about the Medieval Fair, go to [www.medievalfair.org](http://www.medievalfair.org)