

Photography by Dominic DeCusatis



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dessert, as was chosen this year.
"Throughout the feast wine
traditionally flowed freely," Dr.
Jumpeter commented, "and so it
did at ours — except on student
night."

In the medieval period there
were no forks. People had knives
and spoons for what was
necessary, but primarily they us-
ed their fingers. The first time
the chorus performed the feast,
the guests were given the option
of using forks. At the second
feast, on student night, a
humorous plot prevented the
guests from using forks. At a cer-
tain point in the ceremony the
chorus members were supposed
to pick up their forks and place
them on the table before the king.
On this night, without Dr.
Jumpeter's knowledge, the
chorus members gathered up all
the guests' forks as well as their
own, and placed them before the
king. The guests — some very
reluctantly — were forced to use
their fingers.

The feast included a hand
washing ceremony. In medieval
times large bowls of scented
water were passed among the
guests so that they could wash
their hands at the end of the
meal. The Highacres chorus pro-
vided warm, scented towels for
the guests to wipe their hands.

During the entire meal there
was constant entertainment,
either singing or some other type.
This year there was a magician
at the feast, going from table to
table performing magic tricks.
There were also a jester and a
troubadour at the feast. In
medieval England a jester was
usually employed by a household
until he became out of favor with
that household. The troubadour
was a wandering singer. He also
acted as the area newspaper, in-
forming people of what had hap-
pened in neighboring towns that
he had come from. As part of this
year's entertainment there was
also a skit involving a tourna-
ment between the jester and the
troubadour in which the two tried
to subdue a dragon.

The medieval-style costumes
worn by the chorus members in
the feast were made by Mrs.
Eberts, a resident of the Hazleton
area.

The hall was decorated ac-
cording to medieval tradition,
with long tables, and banners
which were made by the Hazleton
vo-tech class.

Sandra Humenick is
shown serving to some of
the guests the traditional
toast. The warm drink,
served in the "wassail
bowl," was a mixture of
apple juice and spices.



During dinner, the court
jester (Jon Weaver) and
the troubadour (Finn
Petersen) entertained the
guests. The two competed
in a jester's test to see
which would be King of
Jesters.

Large crowds of nearly
100 were in attendance
both nights of this year's
Medieval Feaste. Guests
actively participated in
the feaste by asking the
King's permission to re-
fill their wine glasses.

