



By John Ward
Yes, the Art Guild is still accepting members. No degree of artistic ability is required but just a genuine interest in art and a willingness to give a little of your time and energy.

But what exactly is the Art Guild? Paraphrased from the charter, the guild is an organization pledged to giving exposure to the Arts in the St. Andrews and Laurinburg communities. Toward that end, the guild has several projects in the works. They will be constructing huge banners to

welcome parents at Parents Day. The guild also plans to renovate and complete the sculpture garden adjacent to Vardell, and to construct a sign to have outside the art gallery. Also, the guild will open every art show on Monday night in the Arts.

So, if you're interested in art and like to have fun in the making, get involved and contact one of the officers.

Mary Chapman--President;
Norahma Burch--Vice-President;
Paul Vosteen--Treasurer; Meg Ridgely--Secretary.

The Highland Back Stage

By Amy Sarno

Never has there been a truer statement, before someone said that Theatre is the only fine art anybody can become involved with. Anybody and everybody is invited to become part of the mystical entertainment that appears on the stage; especially at a place like St. Andrews. This school year is a prime time to start working with the Highland Players because of their lack of man power and this fact leads to a chance to experience a true feeling of accomplishment.

Theatre does not only consist of a director and assorted actors creating a picture on stage: the backstage people are also important in creating the illusion to the audience. Robbie Rankin, director of the Theatre Department at St. Andrews, describes backstage work as "all the work that goes into a production before it is seen by the audience." Backstage, then, includes the director, scenic designers, light designers, artists technicians, costume crew, and many other jobs that most people never consider while watching a show. The reason that all of these jobs are important is because "a good set has to pick up the style and has to help actors play and make the audience believe what they are seeing. A good set must also use the space wisely and be completely feasible," says Kirk Gilmer, the Highland Players' technical advisor. This statement means that the designers and director have to do loads of research and analyzing of the play in order to make it believable for the audience. One of the most interesting dimensions of the backstage experience is working with the lights. In working behind the scenes, "the lights are the closest thing to acting

because it's live," said Gilmer. The way the lights shine determines mood, rhythm, and even movement of the actors. Another fulfilling job is building the set itself. "To be able to see what you've created makes it easier to come closer to perfection," declared Rankin. Building a set is more than art, however, it is also very important that the platforms, the balconies, and all the furniture is safe for the actors to use. Since safety is important, good carpentry skills are a must. Therefore, the technicians themselves do not play a minor role backstage. All the jobs behind the curtain are important and give many people more excitement than any stage experience.

This year, more than ever, the St. Andrews Theatre Department needs people who are willing to work. Over the last year, the department has lost their technical director thus making backstage work more difficult. When asked how this year will be, Robbie Rankin sighed, "Well, there are two ways to meet stress-to go "Oh my God" or meet it with a challenge." And a challenge is how Rankin is approaching it. "Our motto is to teach," says Rankin, and teach is what she is setting out to do. For the next production, "An Enemy of the People" by Henrik Ibsen, Rankin is asking people to come out and get into what is going on backstage. If the stage seems fascinating and acting is out of the question, a place in the theater still exists for everyone. Gilmer claims, "There's a lot of work, but there is a level in which anyone can fit in." Backstage work can be a learning experience and it can also give someone a great sense of accomplishment to see the end result in a production.

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