

# The Joy of Internships (The Pain of Art)

By Regina T. Harrington

Diversity is a gift. We, the faculty, staff and student body of St. Andrews, are so accustomed to a diverse setting that the idea of living any other way seems inconceivable. However, in small towns like Laurinburg, where the railroad tracks still represent a social line of division, diversity is not something that should be taken for granted -- especially in the fields of art. While fulfilling my Creative Writing internship as an assistant to the director of the Scotland Arts Council, I had to face that reality.

The director of the Scotland Arts Council, a non-profit organization, is Martha Gibson. She is responsible for handling administrative and financial details. Her duties also include guiding separate committees (composed of different entities with individual goals) toward the organizational goals of (1) educating the public about the arts, and (2) making arts events accessible and affordable to the community. All of this has to be accomplished while reflecting the ethnic diversity of the entire community. The community itself consists of a diverse and eclectic collection of races and tastes that range from classical opera to foot stomping, bluegrass mountain music. Neither the majority nor minority must at any time feel alienated. This seems simple enough, but it is not when faced with the ultimate organizational goal of remaining financially sound.

The bylaws clearly state that "membership in the Council shall be available without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin to individuals." However, with the general view among minorities, such as the local Native and African Americans that I spoke with, being that the Council is created for a "white, elitist, social group," diversity in membership is some what limited. Gibson states, "Being inclusive of the whole community has been my main challenge since I began here." The challenge is made more complicated when considering the fact that the majority of members are still middle to upper class Caucasians. Non-profit organizations survive by donations and successful fundraising. "Members deserve and demand a return on their donation -- something within the Arts that will appeal to their tastes," Gibson adds.

Gibson is saddened by the necessity of standards implemented by politicians to only maintain funding to Arts organizations with a certain percentage of programs geared toward minority groups. "But we did not have to make much of an adjustment because we were already gearing toward becoming more well rounded," she states. Unfortunately, Gibson sometimes must square off with individuals who fail to grasp the importance of promoting diversity and consider her views too eclectic. members are still middle to up-

Then there are others who do not consider Ms. Gibson eclectic enough. An example of such an occurrence was during the first year of the Kuumba Festival (a celebration of African American Arts). Ironically, the committee members constantly challenged her authority to assist and manage large scale events. Why? "It was felt that she represented a view thought to be contrary to their own and they felt that she threatened the integrity of the event," one participant states. Gibson simply desired to help things run smoother and not alienate other members of the community -- the same rule she applies for all community events. Gibson is also a master of African Dance. However, while organizing classes in a low income community, the young participants were shocked to discover that they had a Caucasian instructor. Gibson states that "overcoming such prejudices as to who should do what is just one of the things that has to be overcome." I must add that both Kuumba and the African Dance classes are successful annual events in Scotland County.

The internship program was a good introduction into the world outside of the small community of St. Andrews. It also helped heighten my interest in becoming more involved with public programs that reach out and touch people who have not had an opportunity to live in a diverse setting.

## Why Try Intramurals?

By Ron Simpson

In two separate polls recently conducted on college campuses, students and administrators cited alcohol as the single greatest problem facing institutions today. In fact, it is so prevalent, that as many students will die of alcohol-related deaths as will eventually get their masters and doctoral degrees. The St. Andrews Intramural program strives to help change that statistic.

On average, 75 percent of all college students participate in recreational sports programming on residential campuses with facilities dedicated to recreational sports. We are blessed to have excellent facilities for our intramural programs here at St. Andrews (racquetball courts, extra gym, soccer fields, track, etc.) On some campuses, the student participation rate has been reported at over 95 percent. At St. Andrews our goal is 100 percent participation in some type of recreational/leisure form. Have a suggestion? Let me know or better still come by and talk with me about what we can do to incorporate a new program or make an old one better.

On most campuses, more students, faculty and staff participate in recreational sports activities than nearly any other program. This also provides an excellent environment for students and faculty to interact outside the classroom. We want that environment to improve here at St. Andrews. There is no better outlet (stress buster) than a vigorous workout, a mile-jog, a challenging chess match or walking on our beautiful campus.

**Cairn Deadline March 15 (before Spring Break)**  
**Submit your writing and art to Brad Johnson,**  
**box 5209, or Becky Stacy, box 5619**