Theater crew work brings little limelight

'Team effort' important behind the scenes of dinner theater production

Like a scene from *Snow White*, the "whistle while you work" atmosphere pervades the Rudder Center scene op where the stage crew is busily at work building the ets for a coming production.

The banging of hammers on nails, the grinding of saws n wood, and the mingled scents of sawdust, glue and et paint create an aura of hard, but creative toil in the

rge, garage-like room. The crew of a theater production is its carpenters and ists — its magicians. They build the sets, arrange and roduce the lighting and sound for a performance and eate mystery and surprise with special effects.

The work of the crew is what makes an audience lieve," and yet the crew members seldom get any Leslie Rhorer, a junior physics major on the crew and

n the cast of the coming dinner theater production of You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Runng," said most members of a production at Texas A&M niversity are not theater arts majors.

"There's no prejudice on cast or crew between those ho do have majors in drama and those who do not, thorer said. "Both have the same chance at getting a art or working on crew.

Bob Wenck, director of the production scheduled to un Thursday-Saturday, said the set crew for one play in 968 consisted of all business administration majors. They built the revolving stage which has been used everal times by the department and was recently re-built to be used in "You Know ...," he said. Ginger Lewis, who recently changed majors from

environmental design to theater arts, is one of the few eater arts majors involved in the coming production. She is on the crew, working as a paid student assistant, out not in the cast.

She calls her vocation "art for money," but actually, ewis said, she has serious ambitions to do technical work in either set design or lighting when she graduates.

by SCOT K. MEYER

Battalion Staff
If you are a male between the ages

of 18 and 20, you probably already

ow that Uncle Sam wants you.

What you probably didn't know is

hat, a couple of weeks ago, NBC's Today Show was also looking for 18 to

But there were no posters with a

gim looking Fred Silverman pointing and saying "I want you," nor were there slogans like "Join the few, the proud, the peacocks!" There was not even a need to register at the

ocal post office.

NBC did all of its recruiting over

he phone, in one morning. But they

wo college students of the affected

age group to give one-minute pro and con arguments. Texas A&M came within five mi-

nutes of being represented on the show, Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of

The University News Service had

student activities, said.

ere only looking for two people. The Today Show decided to stage debate about the proposed reg-stration of 18- to 20-year-olds, using

vear-olds

n of 25

Aggie ice d

y W. Pu

Aggie misses TV draft

war, would you go?

to fight for them," he said.

333 University

They're having

the time of their

lives, committing the crime of a lifetime.

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED (GD)

York said the question to be de-

serve your country during a time of

York would go, "because I have

grown up in America and I believe in

American values. I would be willing

Lewis, who got her start in theater crew work last spring in "Guys and Dolls" and "When Are You Coming Back, Red Ryder?" said, like most crew members, she had little formal training in crew work, but she likes to be creative. Lewis and Rhorer agree that "anyone on crew can be expected to do anything.

The crew members said a variety of things motivate them. Many crew members say the job is "expected" of

"If you don't make a role, you're sort of expected to help with the production," Rhorer said, "and like me,

In one play, a phone failed to ring and a quick-thinking actor pretended to call his answering service instead.

even if you get a part, crew work is still expected of you. In the dinner theater production, the crew consists of the 12 actors and about six extra helpers, Wenck said. Another incentive for helping out only with the set, sound or lighting is the time involved. It takes more time to be a member of the cast than to help out on crew.

must memorize lines and work on characterization. Director Wenck said members of the crew can come in any time they are free and work for a couple of hours.

Actors rehearse scenes four to five hours each day and

There is always a crew head, another crew member or the directors to explain what to do if someone is unfamiliar with the job to be done.

Rhorer, who acted in high school, said he has headed set crews, sound crews, and was in charge of special effects for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last fall.

"It's fun and a chance to be a part of a play," he said. When asked about the lack of "glory" in crew work,

would be willing to fight to see that

same oportunities, or better, that I

York said he was not in the Corps,

and he does not intend to enlist in

the military. York said he does not

believe in a peacetime draft, but he

846-9808

of—I wouldn't have had to go to my Poly Sci class the next day." summer, and the experience just reinforced my beliefs, "York said. "I

bated was: "If you were called to the next generation will have the

I worked in a vet hospital over the supports draft registration.

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most crew members said they felt it was not that impor-several minutes of monologue to cover up the error.

Crew work, the members stress, is team work, and, as in many team sports, it is the entire team effort that creates recognition.

Most of the time, an audience will not notice the technical part of a play unless something goes wrong. Sometimes, actors have to cover up for technical mis

Rhorer told of an incident when, in one play, a phone failed to ring and a quick-thinking actor pretended to call his answering service instead. He also invented

Even with the pressures, hard work and mistakes, technical work, like many creative jobs, "creeps into the

Director Wenck and R. O'Valle, technical director for You Know ...," said that theater work, no matter what becomes addictive.

"We put on a play about every six weeks — whenever we need a fix," they said, laughing.

For crew members at Texas A&M, all the world is, indeed, a stage. But its members are not only players some of them are crew members.

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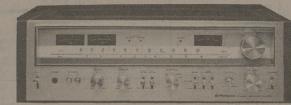
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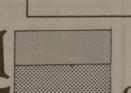
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been contacted by NBC, and it cal-ed Adair and asked her if she knew MANOR EAST MALL anyone who could do the segment.

Adair called Alan York, a junior iology major, and asked if he was terested in giving the pro argument on the show. He would have had to be ready to leave in two hours. He told her he could do it. "I was sitting here waiting for the tcase out and ready be packed," York said.

Although York had been found nd had agreed to do the segment within five minutes, a Princeton University student agreed to do the oot before UNS could get back to

the Today show people.

When asked whether not getting to go was a let-down, York said: "kind T PLITT THEATRES tion, or ling to this ki

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