

Counselors help students select fields

By CINDY JACOBSON
John was graduated from high school in 1973 and is now about to receive his college degree. He doesn't know why he chose his major, or what he wants to do with that degree or even if it is what he wanted at all.

Although hypothetical, this situation is not uncommon according to personal, academic and career counselors at Texas A&M University.

Not only seniors face this problem. Most students at one time question their curriculum choices, the counselors said.

Selecting a major in preparation for a career is not simple for stu-

dents and the counselors understand this problem.

Students 18 and 19 years old are expected to choose a major without enough exposure to the working world. It is difficult for them to know what job would be suited to them, Dr. Wade Birch of Personal Counseling Service said.

"Some students can only list about eight jobs to choose from when actually there are some 40,000 listed in the United States Dictionary of Occupational Titles," he said.

Unaware of job alternatives, the students also are confronted with parental pressures, salary considerations and prestige associated with the major of their choice, he added.

Every student has had to face the problem of selecting a major. No

one can choose a major for an individual, but counselors like Birch try to help students understand themselves more completely and identify personal influences that affect decision making.

Academic counselors like Ronald Lewis take personal factors into consideration, but they focus on the student's aptitude, capabilities and expectations.

Vocational tests may serve as a guide for students who have a hard time narrowing their interests down.

Once the interest has been found, counselors look at the student's capability in that field and help determine if his or her goal is in the realm of the real world, Lewis said.

From there the counselors help the student plan a curriculum. They do not stress making a decision.

"Decisions are too limiting," Lewis said. "Plans can be changed more easily."

While freshmen and sophomores seek guidance in the selection of a major, seniors and graduate students seek to be reassured that they majored in a field right for them.

"A number of seniors and graduate students are still searching for that feeling of certainty and decidedness," Lewis said.

How can someone obtain this secure feeling? By self-examination. Louis VanPelt of Career Placement Services said students should organize their thoughts.

Along with interests, capabilities and expectations, they should consider the job market and the actual working world.

They should see if there is a de-

mand for graduates with a degree in the major considered, what kind of job is offered, the salary that can be expected and where that job would be located.

All counselors agreed that there is no set solution in solving the question of what to major in. At best,

they can advise and inform.

But they are available for assistance and hundreds of students seek their help every month. The Personal Counseling Service is in YMCA 017, the Academic Careers Counseling Service is in Academic Building 107 and the Career Plan-

ning and Placement Center is on the 10th floor of Rudder. Each office has counselors available for additional information. A brochure will be coming out naming the place and the person to see for particular problems, said.

Sun power may reduce electric bill

The sun may save your utility bill. A Texas A&M University researcher said a combination of solar power coupled with standard electrical utilities could keep energy prices within reason.

The price of electricity is not going to go down and conventional methods of producing electricity are not going to be totally replaced by nuclear, solar or wind power. With this new system there is still hope for the consumer, said Dr. A. D. Patton, an electrical engineering professor.

Patton, conducting investigations funded by Sandia Laboratories, said the final figures aren't in, but the operation of parallel energy systems may be promising, "particularly in the Southwest."

There are such things as solar total energy systems that can produce electricity and heat. Solar collectors can produce a working fluid at 600 degrees which can drive a turbine that produces electricity and still have 200 plus degree exhaust to produce air-conditioning and heating," Patton said.

"However, this system requires heat storage and has no alternative in case of breakdown or maintenance, all of which makes it economically unattractive by itself," he said. "Our alternative is to eliminate or minimize storage required for nights and cloudy days by having the standard utilities ready for use when the solar system is not."

"Another hypothesis of this system is that solar energy peaks at the same time as the air-conditioning load," Patton said. "If the solar power system is operating at its peak then the strain is removed from the standard utility grid which, in turn, means a savings for everyone."

This couples a savings in fuel expenditures as well as capital outlay costs for new equipment. The total savings will give a rough idea of the money that could economically be invested on the parallel solar energy system.

"If we can come up with a bench-mark figure, it will give manufacturers something to shoot at in the areas of cost for solar systems," Patton said.

"Sandia has provided a computer program into which we can plug most of the variables associated with this experiment," he added. "Information on the energy demands for a Texas utility company (cooperating with A&M) and the weather data for the region served by the company (converted into solar information) are all put into the computer which will produce figures on potential savings by use of the system."

A&M women win state title at drill meet

Texas A&M University women's and University of Texas at Arlington men's teams won Texas ROTC championships here Saturday.

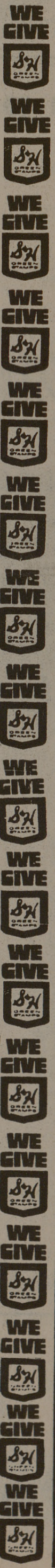
Nine teams battled in the state title meet sponsored by the Texas Adjutant General's Department. Combined points in inspection and basic and fancy marching phases decided the championships. The competition was judged by personnel from the Eighth Marine Corps District.

UT-Arlington's Sam Houston Rifles unseated the A&M Fish Drill Team that has been state champions since 1972.

The Texas A&M Women's Drill Team swept all three phases in claiming its first state championship. UT-El Paso placed second.

UT-Arlington fashioned its victory with second places in inspection and basic drill and first place in fancy drill. The team's 839.3 (out of 1,000) point total surpassed the A&M team by 17 points. The Fish Drill Team claimed firsts in inspection and basic drill and second fancy drill.

Other winning teams were from Tarleton State and Northwestern Louisiana State. Teams from Missouri and Arkansas also competed.



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