

local

Sci-fi collection is a source of pride

By CHARLIE MUSTACHIA
Campus Reporter

Aggies and science fiction — no place but the Texas A&M University library.

The library's science fiction collection, the most extensive in the Southwest, began in 1970. In nine years it has grown to over 13,000 volumes and 7,000 periodicals, not including manuscripts, art portfolios, records, tapes, broadcasts and fan magazines.

The selections include the majority of the writings of Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, Arthur Clarke, Jack Williamson, Harlan Ellison, Andre Norton, Chad Oliver, Roger Zelazny and others.

The collection originated almost by accident. A small science fiction collection was offered to the library at a low price. Librarians Vicki Anders and Hal W. Hall took an interest in the subject and initiated the collection's purchase.

Because many of the books in the collection are antiques, they are kept in a humidity-controlled room and are used mainly for research.

The collection contains some magazines that, because of their rarity, are worth hundreds of dollars, including the first issue of "Amazing Stories," the first science fiction magazine.

Don Dyal, special collections librarian, said although the rare books are important, a bulk of the collection is just \$1.95 paperbacks.

"The sum total of the collection is worth more than the individual parts," he said.

Dyal said there is a great deal to be learned from science fiction because authors sometimes use present-day problems in relation to the future.

This collection is important to the university, Dyal said.

"There are people who know A&M for no other reason than the fact that it's got a science fiction collection."

When science fiction authors toured the collection during last year's AggieCon X, a campus science fiction convention, Dyal said, "they had never seen so much science fiction in one place. They saw things they had only heard of."

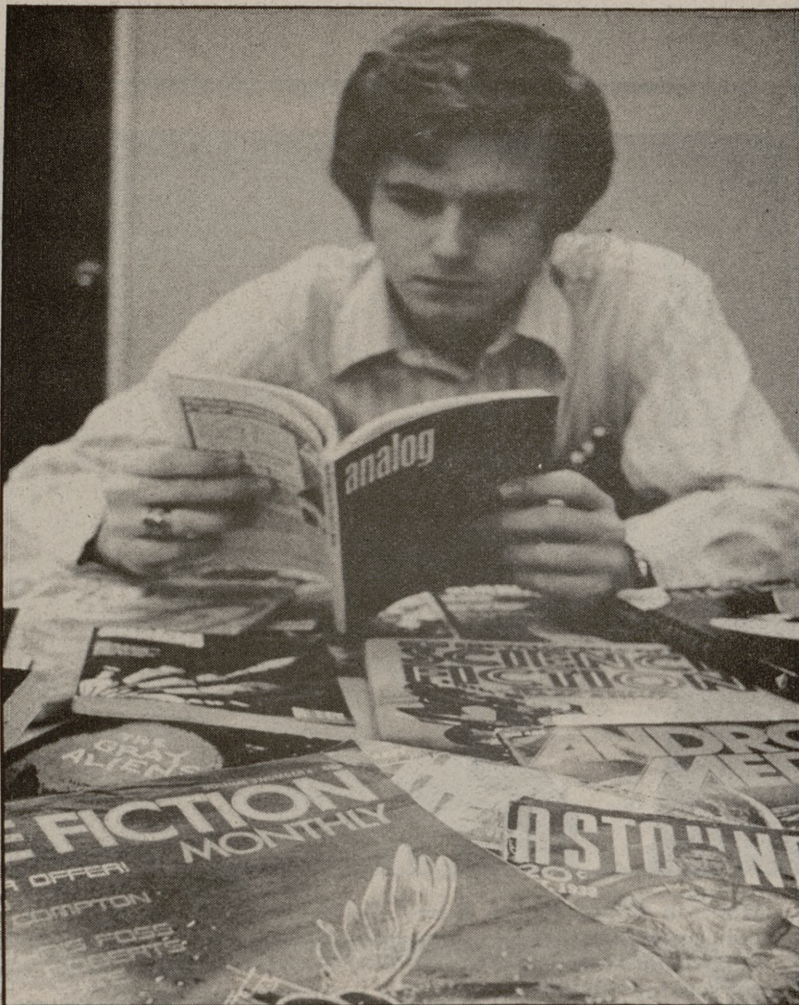
For research purposes, the collection contains manuscripts, galley proofs and notes from Asimov, Avram Davidson and Michael Moorcock.

The collection also has a collected paper series which contains interviews, typescripts of conferences and photocopied articles from the many sources interpreting science fiction.

The periodical section of the collection contains about 5,500 "fan-zines," by science fiction fans.

Also included are extensive holdings in historical, critical and bibliographical works.

The books may be used in the special collections reading room, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



John R. Joyce, a graduate student from Tulsa, Okla., takes a few minutes off to take advantage of the Texas A&M University library's science fiction collection. Photo by Janet E. Golub

Women engineers' society to sponsor conference here

The Society of Women Engineers at Texas A&M University is sponsoring a conference today and Saturday for girls in Texas high schools who are interested in engineering.

Registration for the conference is from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. today on the second floor of Rudder Tower. It is to be followed by a welcome program in 601 Rudder which will include a slide presentation featuring women in engineering.

A banquet is to be held at 7 p.m. in

226 MSC. Lee Hornberger, nical engineering professor at University of Santa Clara, will be awarded.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, four different engineering departments will be given and exhibits of companies will be shown in by of the Zachry Engineering. The conference ends with a barbecue.

Student work force increases at A&M

By PETE HALE
Campus Reporter

An increase in part-time jobs at Texas A&M University means more students are working, and they're making more money than ever before.

There is an increase in the number of student workers, said C. E. Fink of the Student Financial Aid Office, "especially those working part-time on campus."

Fink is in charge of employment and counseling for the department. On-campus and off-campus student worker positions are posted in his office, but, he said "We're not an employment agency."

Fink said from September 1979 to January of this year there has been an increase of about 300 student workers.

While lags in bookkeeping make an accurate number difficult to compute, Fink said there are over 4,000 students on the Texas A&M University payroll.

Counting expected turnovers and replacements, 1,670 new employees have been added to the payroll since September. Fink compares this with a total of about 3,300 new workers for all of 1979.

Recent changes in the University pay scale have made campus jobs more competitive with off-campus jobs. In September, wages for student workers increased from \$2.50 to \$2.90 an hour, the same as the federal minimum wage rate. On Jan. 1, 1980, another increase boosted the student rates to \$3.10 an hour.

"This is about what most off-campus jobs pay," Fink said.

The number of students working on campus and working off campus are about the same. One reason many students like to work on campus is the convenience of being able to work and attend class easily.

"With an on-campus job students can arrange work hours around their class schedules, allowing more time for studying and general student life," Fink said.

Most off-campus jobs have standard hours and students are often unable to work when an employer would like them to.

For some students the benefits of working off-campus might outweigh the convenience of being close to class. Some off-campus workers are allowed meals, vacation and holiday pay, and in some businesses, a scholarship program has been instituted to draw more student help.

Students employed by the University are not eligible for benefits such as holiday or sick pay, nor do they receive vacation pay.

Fink feels the need for more money, rather than the experience gained, is the major reason for the increase in student workers.

Relative to actual education costs, "living expenses have all risen a great deal," Fink said. "Students just need more money to get by on."

The constant expansion of the University, as well as the overall growth of the Bryan-College Station

area, is resulting off campus.

Dr. William E. McFarland, director of the Student Financial Aid Office, agreed with Fink regarding the availability of jobs.

"A growing shortage of full-time help has created many openings, and we feel any student who wants a job can find one," McFarland said.

McFarland said students generally work from 10 to 20 hours a week, but advised they should never work more than their academic requirements allow.

Students looking for a job may check current listings of job openings at the Student Financial Aid Office on the third floor of the YMCA Building. They may also check with their various academic departments, the Sterling C. Evans Library, dining halls, or other offices on campus.

USED GOLD WANTED!

Cash Paid.

diamond brokers international, inc.

693-1647

DIETING?

Even though we do not prescribe diets, we make it possible for many to enjoy a nutritious meal while they follow their doctor's orders. You will be delighted with the wide selection of low calorie, sugar free and fat free foods in the Souper Salad Area, Sbis Dining Center Basement.

OPEN

Monday through Friday 10:45 AM-1:45 PM

QUALITY FIRST

BLACK OAK ARKANSAS

is coming to T.J.'s
Monday, Jan. 28
Tuesday, Jan. 29

tickets: \$5 at the door
\$4 with A&M ID card

Black Oak Arkansas will only be at T.J.'s two evenings. Don't miss their great music!



Overstocked. Out of stock. No Customers. No Sales.
When I bust loose, there's Cuervo & lime juice.

Bust loose with Cuervo Gold. Dash a splash over ice and add some Rose's® lime juice. Your mouth's been waiting for it.

CUERVO ESPECIAL® TEQUILA 30 PROOF
IMPORTED AND BOTTLED BY © 1980 HEUBLEIN, INC., HARTFORD, CONN.