



## Superheroes boost some bank balances

By GLENN KRAMPOTA

**Battalion Reporter**  
David Heiligmann, a junior journalism major from San Antonio, retrieved a discarded comic book about a group of mutant teen-agers from a file cabinet. Today the 94th issue of The X-Men is worth \$50, Heiligmann says.

Not every issue of his 1,500 book collection returns such profit, he says, but the joys of comic book collecting have kept him at it for nine years.

"I got started on a trip to Colorado," he says. "I picked up a Justice League No.101 and I decided I wanted No.100, too. These were part of a trilogy so I needed No.102 to complete the story."

That is how he got started. By the time the 150th issue of the Justice League came out, he says, he had a complete set, one through 150.

Heiligmann enjoys the artwork and storylines, he says, but the real lure is the fantasy air that surrounds them.

"A lot of it's the idea of having

powers beyond the mortal ken," he says. "That appeals to me."

And as Heiligmann's experience with an unwanted X-Men comic illustrates, comic book collecting can be a sound investment.

Ed Graham, a senior physics major from San Antonio, also collects with an eye to the investment angle. His interests and methods of collecting are a bit different though, he says.

"I don't overextend myself on older ones," Graham says. He goes chiefly for current comic books, buying 20 separate comics a month.

"I'm more of a book reader," he says. "I O.D. on all these comics once a month and then that's it until the next month."

Graham says he has been buying comic books since before he can remember, but actively collecting only for the last several years. And what is odd, he says, is that he can't really remember how he began collecting.

"I just started hanging on to a couple, I guess," he says. "A few friends gave me some of theirs and it just picked up."

A third student collector has been at it for only about a year and a half. Doug Dodson of Alvin cannot now recall what caused him to pick up his first comic book.

"I had read a few of my uncles' when I was real young, but for the most part I thought comic books were pretty dumb," he says.

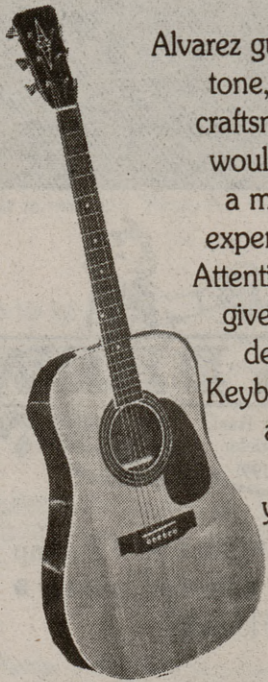
"I bought a few once I got into college that turned out to be really good as far as the story went, so I started buying more and more," Dodson says. "Some of them really are stupid, but after you buy them a while you get to where you know what to expect quality-wise."

Dodson said he is very interested in collecting older issues, and plans on doing so once he "gets his feet wet."

All three students engage in a

David Heiligman, a junior journalism major and collector of comic books, is pictured here with a small portion of his collection. Heiligman estimates he could make a down payment on a new car with the comic books he has now.

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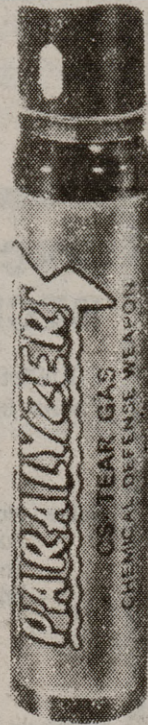
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