

## A few words . . .



## About our library

By **MIKE RINGLEY**  
Student Congress President

Because several students have contacted me with questions, comments, and complaints concerning hours, services and insufficient periodicals and reference materials in our library, I met with Dr. Edward Walters, director of libraries, to obtain some answers.

Presently, the UTD library is open a total of 70 hours each week during the regular semester. The library hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Due to budget cuts, the library staff has had to undergo some "stretching" but is currently providing all normal services, with the exception of the media software section.

These cutbacks are partially the result of a state bi-annual funding formula that is based on average enrollment figures with current operations funded from the 1978 figures. However, because 1980 is a base year and enrollment has increased substantially, the funding for the next two years will probably be increased. Dr. Walters believes that the increase will be sizeable enough to allow for an enlargement of staff. Also, the funds may allow a library hours increase to 89 hours, which conforms more to other area facilities.

In response to questions related to the inadequacy of UTD periodical holdings, Dr. Walters stated that UTD maintains a current holding of more than 3,000 periodicals at a cost of \$279,000 per year. The state funds only \$179,000 with the rest covered by bond sales.

An additional problem has been a 23 percent inflation during the last two years on these periodicals, particularly in the science areas. For example, the *Chemical Abstracts* subscription in 1977 cost \$3,000 per year but in 1979 had increased to \$4,500, with the ten-year index costing \$10,000. With costs such as these, Dr. Walters asserted, no single library can maintain all the necessary materials for all disciplines of study.

Don't be discouraged, however, if the library does not have a necessary title. UTD is a member of the Interlibrary Loan System. This system supplements the holdings of individual members by member access to the cumulative holdings of the 17 area institutions. A daily courier network provides two- to five-day service on the delivery of most materials requested. If an article from a journal is needed, a photocopy can be ordered for a small fee. Additionally, books can be checked out via our library. Future extensions of this system are planned with a recently obtained \$70,000 grant.

If your organization, club, or college steering committee wants to donate a periodical subscription not currently available in our library in order that it have more centralized access in a more secure environment, the library staff will assist you as much as possible. Dr. Walters encourages such donations as a method of satisfying special interest demand. Please contact the library staff for further information.

Dr. Walters reaffirmed the library staff's desire to provide the optimal services and materials for student needs. However, students can aid the library in this mission in the following ways:

1. Do not reshelve materials after use. Incorrect reshelving creates "missing materials."
2. Do not mutilate source materials. At present, the library provides open stacks. This may have to change.
3. Please submit your comments, complaints, and suggestions directly to Ms. Sherrie Schmidt, 690-2950.

In order to more fully provide for UTD library user needs, Dr. Walters encourages this feedback.