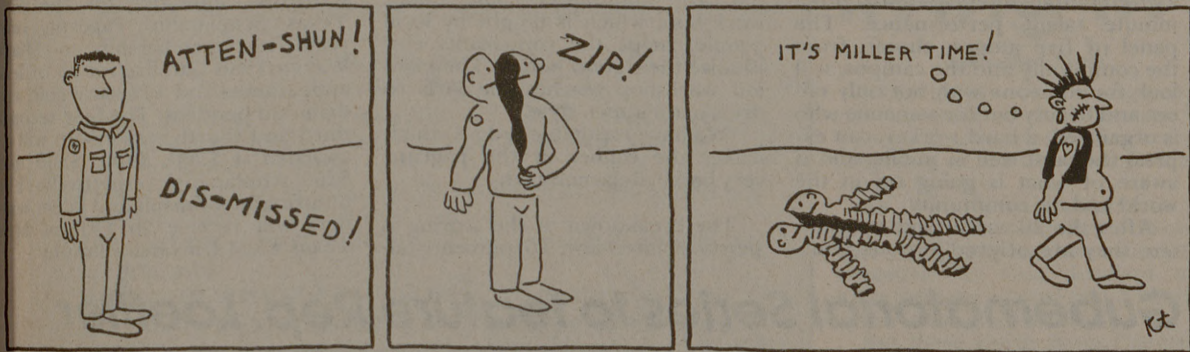


# State and Local

Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



## MSC Council approves sale of laser photograph posters

By MEG CADIGAN  
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center Council unanimously approved the sale of laser photo posters at Texas A&M Monday.

Other important business included a request from the president of the Mexican Students' Association, Angel Gonzalez-Mendez for fundraising help to aid Mexican earthquake victims.

David Klosterboer, executive vice president of programs, said the laser photos will be full color, moderately priced and should yield \$9,600 profit.

He said the proceeds from poster sales will benefit student development programming at the MSC, which includes the fall and spring leadership programs and retreats, and freshmen leadership programs.

The project requires an initial outlay of \$5,400. This funding was allocated by Enrichment Fund Board during its meeting last week-end.

Jill Thrash, vice president for development, said, "The purpose of

the Enrichment Fund Board is to provide contact for students for fundraising."

Thrash said the board's leadership consists of Chairman Wade Seidel, Vice Chairman for Public Relations Joe Arredondo and Vice Chairman of Finance Charles Plum.

She said the board is vital in helping MSC committees achieve their fundraising goals.

Jim Reynolds, director of the MSC, said committees this year are expected to solicit \$300,000 in contributed income.

Thrash said the Enrichment Fund Board is assisting MSC student development to raise its long-range goal of \$6 million in endowment funds.

In other business, the Mexican Students' Association made a presentation on the situation in Mexico after the two recent earthquakes there.

Gonzalez-Mendez said his group is planning to work through the San Antonio Red Cross to get aid to

Mexico. He said about \$300 has been raised by his association so far.

International Student Association President Luis Rodriguez said, "Thirty-six thousand students here at A&M can do better than that."

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society and the MSC Fall Leadership Committee also appeared before the council.

OPAS Chairman Jody Boarnet reported that 1,806 OPAS season tickets had been sold already.

She said season ticket sales combined with 212 tickets given to OPAS corporate sponsors left only 494 seats available for individual ticket sales.

Boarnet attributed the success of season ticket sales, in part, to a two-for-one student ticket promotion run by OPAS.

Fall Leadership Chairman Sharon Schultz said the Fall Leadership Conference was successful in both its fundraising and student development goals.

## Tuition crunch

Devaluation of currencies affect foreign students

By JUNE PANG  
Staff Writer

The recent currency devaluation in such countries as Venezuela, Peru, Argentina and Brazil accompanied by an increase in tuition is causing some Texas A&M international students to wonder how they will be able to stay at the University after this semester.

"In February 1983, it was 4.30 bolivars to \$1 (U.S.)," said Luis Rodriguez, the president of Venezuelan Students Association about the Venezuelan currency. "Now, it's 15 bolivars to \$1."

Rodriguez explained that Venezuela's huge debt prodded the government to devalue the currency, hoping the devaluation would stimulate more exportation and curb the money flow to other countries.

"The (Venezuelan) government says up to December this year, foreign students can have \$490 per month for living expenses, and \$2,500 per academic year for tuition at the old rate," Rodriguez said. "Within this limit you can use the old money rate. But if you need more money than that, you'll have to buy American dollars at the new rate."

Rodriguez said many Venezuelan students are spending their \$2,500 limit this semester. With this semester's tuition increase, an average foreign student taking 15 credit hours needs \$1,800 for tuition per semester.

What about next year?  
"That's a problem," Rodriguez said. "I don't know how the Venezu-

elan government is going to handle next year. . . . After December, only those who are wealthy can stay here. Those who are not so wealthy will have to either go home or transfer."

In Peru, 6,000 soles — the Peruvian currency unit — was equivalent to \$1 in December 1984. Now it ranges from 18,000 to 20,000 soles per dollar, depending on the current exchange rate of the bank or market used, said Rosa Yupari, the president of Peruvian Students Association.

Yupari said the devaluation in Peru started in 1968 when the former president was overthrown by a military government. The military government distributed the wealth of the rich to the poor, but didn't know how to manage the economy, she said.

Yupari said Peru's military government lasted until 1980 when a democratic government was adopted. But, she says, the new government inherited the bad economic situation and the currency remains unstable.

Although there are no restrictions on the money flow from Peru for students to pay tuition, the high tuition and living expenses make it impossible for an average family to send their children to study here.

"Most students here come from families who have business backgrounds," Yupari said. "They have to have a wealthy family if they don't have scholarships to support them."

The Brazilian and Argentine governments also have devaluated their currencies.

According to Flamarion B. Diniz, the president of Brazilian Students' Association, Brazil's foreign debt is the highest in the world. The bad economy caused high inflation and fewer number of students are studying abroad now, he said.

"This year we have very few students," he said. "When I first came here, we had many students from Brazil."

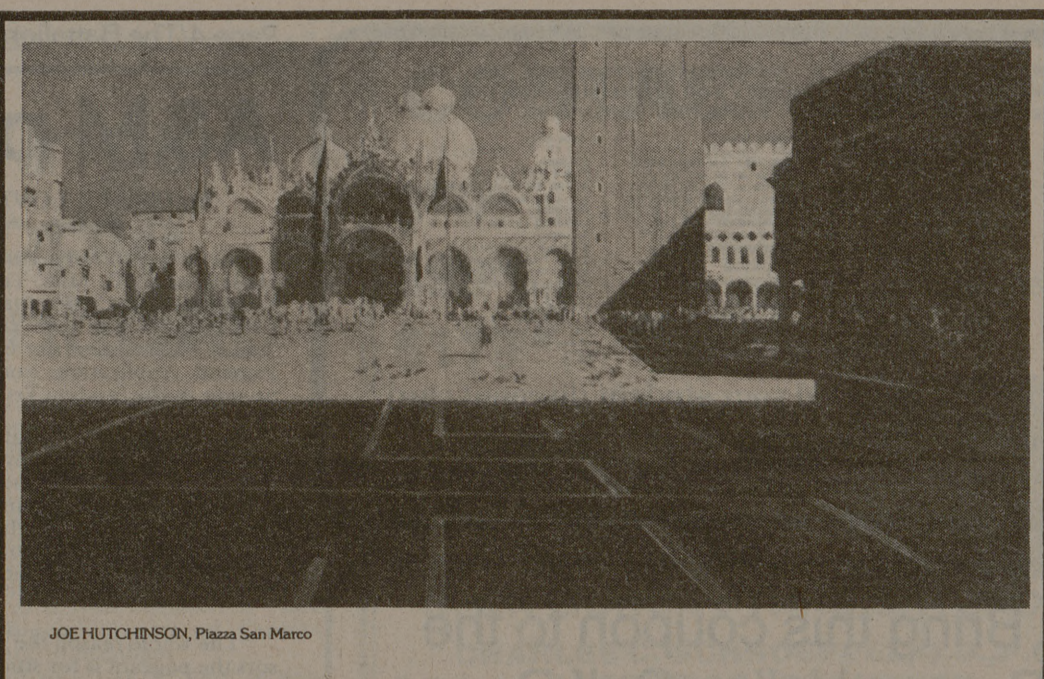
Diniz, who came to A&M in 1982 to get his Ph.D. in Chemistry, said when he came here there were about 60 to 80 students from Brazil, and now there are only about 30 students.

Three years ago, it was about 100 cruzeiros — the Brazil currency unit — per \$1, now it is 6,000 cruzeiros per \$1. In black market, the exchange rate can go as high as 9,000 cruzeiros per \$1, Diniz said.

In Argentina, the inflation rate from June of last year to June of this year is nearly 1,000 percent. Since June the government enforced new regulations and the exchange rate has been stabilized. In August, the inflation was 3 percent, said Alberto Livore, president of the Argentine Club.

"Every time the government devaluates, the families (of students who study here) have more difficulty in supporting them," Livore said.

Like the situation in Peru or Venezuela, Livore said, "It's not possible for people to come here if they don't have a wealthy family or scholarship."



JOE HUTCHINSON, Piazza San Marco

## SUMMER '85

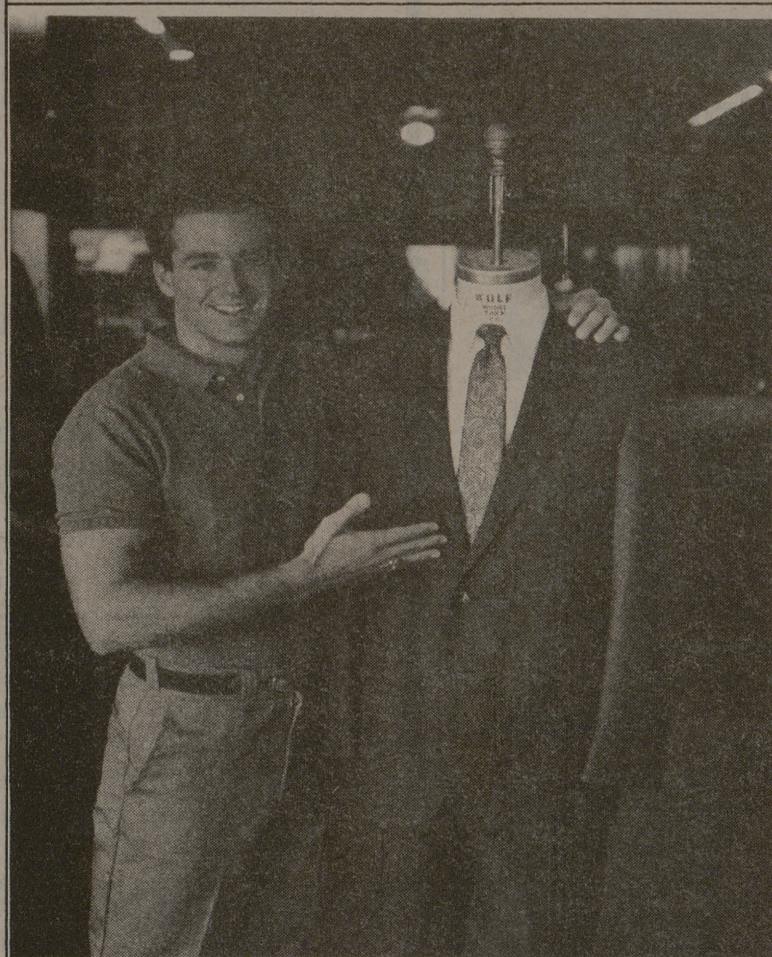
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