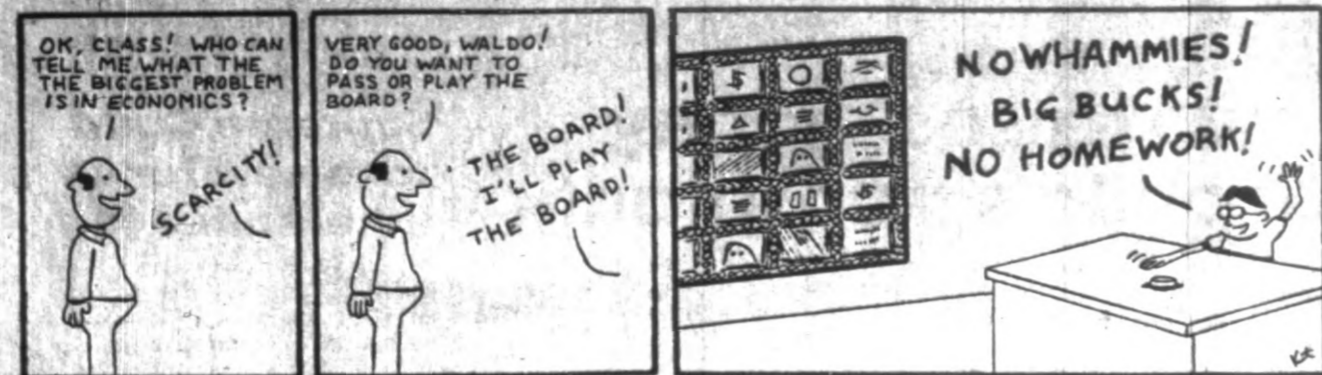


Warped



Waldo



SHOE



SCONA chairwoman keeps active

By SANDRA SUTPHEN
Reporter

Perpetual motion best describes Linda Thomas. Thomas is the chairwoman of MSC Student Conference on National Affairs, a senior business major, a Muster committee member and she works 16 hours a week. Even though Thomas, who says she sometimes attends between eight and 31 meetings a week, usually begins her day with a 7 a.m. meeting, she says this semester is the first time she isn't over-involved. "I've enjoyed being able to put 100 percent in one thing," Thomas says. "I've finally seen what the results of my capabilities are."

Thomas says she's not the only woman who has served as SCONA chairman, but she is the first to be selected through the rigorous interviewing process now used. "SCONA has probably one of the best interviewing process I've been through, certainly the hardest," Thomas says. Thomas says SCONA has been a great experience. She says it has given her an opportunity to travel around the United States and meet important people. Thomas says she doesn't get nervous meeting and speaking with influential people because she knows that what she has to say is important. "You can't say something like SCONA is fun — it's work," Thomas

says. "The fun comes from doing the best that you can, and the real fun comes from seeing the results of what you've done." Thomas says she would describe herself as determined, and she is determined to experience all she can in her life. This determination has caused Thomas problems in the past because she wanted to be involved in activities related to each of her interests. Thomas says there isn't enough time for her to be involved in everything she wants. Thomas says she can't stand the thought of not being involved and doesn't want just to be on someone's staff.

Second languages good for international businesses

By NELDA PENA
Reporter

Although English is considered the primary international language, a person has a better understanding of business negotiations if he is familiar with foreign languages, said the department head of modern languages. Dr. Luis F. Costa, one of four panel members discussing the importance of second languages in international business, spoke Monday

night at a program sponsored by the MSC International Programs Committee. The program featured three faculty members and one student. The panel discussed their views on secondary languages. Costa said a person should expect more out of a second language than just "chit-chat." The learning of a second language helps a person better understand the culture of the second language, he said.

The same view was shared by the rest of the panel. Lee Ann Heard, a graduate student in the business college, said her internship experiences increased her awareness of both the cultural and business aspects of other countries. Heard interned this summer in West Germany with company which manufactures Porsches. She has an undergraduate degree in German and says it helped her communicate with the Porsche executives.

Deanna Wormuth, coordinator of the English Language Institute, said English is defined as the world language for communicators. "The language to best succeed in business communications is English," Wormuth said. Dr. Frances Edwards, an assistant management professor, related to the audience some of her experiences as director of the English curriculum at Tokoyo's English Academy.

Luminarios celebration here tonight

By TAMARA BELL
Staff Writer

In Mexico, the nine days before Christmas are celebrated with a procession called Luminarios. At Texas A&M, the Luminarios will be celebrated tonight at 6 p.m. at All Faiths Chapel. The procession, sponsored by the MSC Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, is a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn, says Mary Jane Rodriguez, public relations officer for the committee. "Luminarios, or posada, is a Hispanic tradition," she says. "It begins on Dec. 16 and continues for eight nights. There's the procession, then a rosary and finally a fiesta. Every night at the fiesta, Mexican pastries and hot chocolate are served. A piñata is broken every night, too. Each night Mary and Joseph are turned away because there's no room at any of the inns. On the last night, Christmas Eve, they are allowed shelter."

The luminarios, candles in paper sacks, are in front of the house, Rodriguez says. The symbolism is the family that lets Mary and Joseph into their home also lets the baby Jesus into their lives. Rodriguez says the procession at A&M will last only one night for about an hour. Because of dead week, she says they didn't want to keep people away from studying for too long. The posada will start at All Faiths Chapel, she says. A short song will be sung in Spanish before Mary and Joseph, played by Alma Naldonado and Sergio Lujan, begin their journey. Christmas carols will be sung in English as Mary and Joseph travel to the three "inns": Legett, Puryear and Hart halls. At each stop, a committee member will sing a negative response in Spanish to the question "Is there any room at the inn?" When the procession reaches the MSC, Mary and Joseph will be allowed shelter, Rodriguez says. Candles, luminarios, will surround the side of the MSC which faces Rudder Tower. Then the procession will move to the nativity scene and sing "Silent Night." Cookies and punch will be served afterwards. To add authenticity to the procession, Rodriguez says Mary and Joseph will be wearing costumes. She says she tried to rent a donkey, but because of liability she couldn't get one. Rodriguez says the procession is the committee's gift to the A&M community. The candles will be set up at the MSC today and Wednesday for people to see, she says.

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