

Guitarist defeats disability

Musician shares talent in concert

By Liz Tisch
The Battalion

Tony Melendez taught himself to play the guitar at age 16, performed before Pope John Paul II when he was 25 and is the subject of a soon-to-be-released television movie at age 29.

His musical talent is not the only reason why his fans love him. Melendez has a special gift.

Born without arms, Melendez has mastered guitar playing with his feet.

"I saw a friend of mine tuning his guitar, so I went home to tune my father's guitar," Melendez said. "I was just messing around and it (playing with his feet) worked, and I've kept at it ever since."

Now, through the efforts of one Texas A&M student, students are invited to see Tony perform free of charge at 8 p.m. Thursday in Rudder Theater.

Dennis Macha, a junior psychology major, arranged for Melendez to play at A&M because of the lasting effect Melendez had on him.

"Because I was a friend to his wife, I was invited to their wedding," Macha said. "Ever since I met him there, I



PHOTO COURTESY TOEJAM MUSIC

Tony Melendez, a guitarist who has performed around the world, will give a free concert at 8 p.m. Thursday in Rudder Theater. Melendez, born without arms, taught himself to play the guitar with his feet at age 16.

dreamed of having him perform at A&M. He is so motivational and inspiring."

Macha asked for support from the St. Mary's Catholic Church Student Association to bring Melendez to College Station.

"This concert is a gift to the University from St. Mary's Church," Macha said.

The upcoming concert at A&M will be just one of the several hundred Melendez has performed throughout the

world. He has appeared on several television programs including "The Arsenio Hall Show," "Geraldo," "Good Morning America" and "The Sally Jesse Raphael Show." A major network is presently preparing a made-for-television movie about Melendez' struggles throughout his musical career. The movie is scheduled to be aired this year.

Melendez was born in Nicaragua without arms after his mother took the

prescription drug thalidomide to relieve morning sickness.

To receive proper medical care, the Melendez family moved to California. He was fitted for artificial arms in the United States. He now refuses to wear them.

"I used them up until junior high, but my feet still did everything better, quicker and neater," he said. "I would tend to throw everything down on the floor to write, to turn pages, to play with toys."

Tony said growing up without arms was hard but he learned to live with it.

"People will always stare, but after a while you either learn to live with it or just hate everyone for doing it," he said. "I've learned to live with it."

Melendez said he proved his acceptance of his handicap by releasing three albums and beginning work on future ones.

Although he said he feels content with the way he was born, he wishes he could do other things that require arms.

"With arms, I could hold my wife or put my arm on somebody's shoulder if they needed it," he said.

Melendez said he did not mind being referred to as handicapped or disabled.

"I know those are just labels like being called white, brown, or green," he said. "But I prefer most of all to be called human, just like everybody else."

Snack bars, delis tax almost all items

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

Confusion over what items can be taxed in Texas A&M's food service facilities has been cleared up by University administrators and the state comptroller's office.

Items not normally taxed in grocery stores or convenience stores are taxed if sold in a snack bar, deli or restaurant.

The Battalion has received several calls and questions about food services' policy for taxing items like fruit and vegetables.

Pat Oberton, a spokeswoman for Comptroller John Sharp's office, said snack bars, which are considered "restaurants," tax almost all food items.

She said generally speaking, if the eating place has tables and chairs for people to sit down or provides utensils for customers, it is considered a restaurant.

Lloyd Smith, director of food services, said an apple sold in a snack bar would be taxed, whereas an apple sold in a gro-

cery store probably would not be taxed.

He said milk, for instance, which normally is not taxed, is taxed in the snack bars on campus because it is considered a single serving, as in a restaurant.

Oberton said any food kept hot to serve is taxed, as well as individual-size portions of food that are ready to eat, when sold in a "restaurant."

However, when individual-size items, such as bags of potato chips or fruit juice, are sold in a convenience store, as opposed to a "restaurant," there is no tax on them.

Student Body President Ty Clevenger said that in Fall 1989, Student Government looked into food services for charging taxes on Aggie Bucks.

He said food services was charging an initial tax on Aggie Bucks and was also taxing products bought with Aggie Bucks.

He said as soon as the situation was discovered, food services moved quickly to correct the problem.

Clevenger said since then, Student Government has not looked into its taxing policy.

UPD emphasizes tips to prevent date rape

Texas A&M's Crime Prevention Unit of the University Police Department offers information about date rape awareness.

It's hard to think of someone familiar — a date, a steady boyfriend or a casual acquaintance — as a rapist. Familiarity makes you less inclined to trust your self-protective instincts.

Being forced into having sex, even if it's by someone you

know, is still rape, and it is a crime. Nothing you do, say or wear gives anyone the right to assault you, sexually or otherwise.

Men and women are both responsible for preventing sexual assault. Poor communication, mixed signals or body language that contradicts the spoken word are often key factors in date rape.

MATHEMATICS CONTEST

Annual FRESHMAN and SOPHOMORE Mathematics Contest

Thurs., April 4 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Freshman Contest - Rm. 216 Milner

Sophomore Contest - Rm. 304 Milner

1st place-\$100 2nd place-\$60 3rd place-\$40

Prerequisite for Freshman contest is knowledge of calculus through Math 151 or equivalent, for the sophomore contest knowledge of calculus through Math 251 or equivalent.

Tonight: "Culture Shock!"

Bonne Bejarano-Sandars of Multicultural services will discuss issues involving minority scholarships, minority recruitment and retention, and other multicultural issues from

7-8:15 p.m.

Room 410 Rudder Tower

Dinner for two from Oxford Street Restaurant and Pub, Confucius Chinese Restaurant, Taco Cabana, and The Grapevine will be raffled off after the discussion.

Call the RHA Office at 845-0689 for more details

Cultural Shock will return on April 10th

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The Texas A&M University College of Medicine offers the Ph.D. degree in Medical Sciences. Areas of specialization include: Anatomy and Neurobiology; Cardiovascular Sciences and Vascular Cell Biology; Pharmacology and Toxicology; Microbiology and Immunology; and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Students may also interact with faculty of our research institutes: Microcirculation Research Institute, Institute of Ocular Pharmacology, Institute of Molecular Pathogenesis and Therapeutics, Center for Health Systems and Technology, and Center for the Study of Cell Surfaces. Faculty research programs are wellfunded and the college offers above average stipends (\$10,000-15,000).

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