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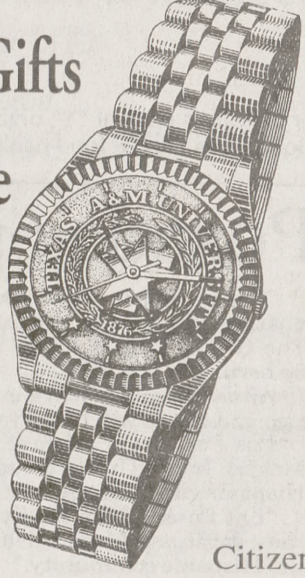
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Reporter to discuss media, Mexico crisis

□ CNN correspondent Lucia Newman is hosted by the Kyle R. Younts International Forum.

By Melissa Keerins
THE BATTALION

Lucia Newman, a CNN Latin American correspondent, will speak on the "Media Depictions of the Mexican Crisis," from 2-4 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

Lucia Newman is based in Santiago, Chile, and covers the breaking news in Central and South America.

Newman has reported on the contra war in Nicaragua and South American drug involvements and has produced an eight-part series, "Notes from Nicaragua," that documented the ongoing civil war in that country.

Newman was an assistant news producer in charge of Latin American coverage for a multicultural television station, Australia's 0-28 Network.

Newman will discuss how the media influences society through its coverage.

A group of panelists, which will expand on Newman's speech, includes Dr. Douglas

P. Starr, journalism professor; Dr. Edwin E. Aguilar, assistant political science professor; Dr. Margarita Gangotena, assistant speech communication and theater arts professor; Dr. Benigno E. Aguirre, sociology professor; and Dr. Henry C. Schmidt, associate history professor.

Dr. Ann M. Alsmeyer, international coordination director, said most students are not as informed of the Mexican crisis as they should be.

"Many of us are not as aware as we should be of the economic and political crisis in Mexico and how it affects us at Texas A&M," she said. "This forum will give us an opportunity to learn more about the situation there, as well as what it's like to be working behind the scenes as a CNN journalist."

which was established in 1994 in memory of Kyle R. Younts, is hosting the speech. Younts established the forum to provide an opportunity for students to learn about current political, cultural and economic events around the world.

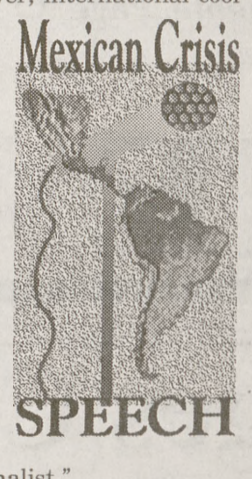
The L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, with the Student Government International Programs Committee and the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture, are sponsoring the forum.

Luke Altendors, L.T. Jordan Institute for the International Awareness director, said Newman will talk about her perception of the media's depiction of the Mexican crisis.

"The Mexican crisis occurred during the [transition] of presidents and the devaluation of the peso," Altendors said. "The fall of the peso dealt with the opening of the international markets."

Amelia Taurel, International Programs Committee chair and a senior international studies major, said there have already been speakers at A&M on the political and economic side of the Mexican crisis.

"No one has ever depicted how the media sees it," Taurel said. "CNN and other news organizations don't say much about Latin America."



Texas lawmaker defaults on education loans

□ U.S. Rep. Stockman voted to tighten student credit as part of the Balanced Budget Act.

BEAUMONT (AP) — U.S. Rep. Steve Stockman, who voted to tighten credit to students, has defaulted on more than \$15,000 in education loans, the Beaumont Enterprise said in a copy-right story Tuesday.

Records show a taxpayer-sup-

ported agency paid a claim last year to lenders for five student loans made to Stockman when he failed to make payments, the newspaper said.

The congressman's office, however, contends that the loan guarantor's records are incorrect and that Stockman has paid part of the debt.

Stockman, R-Friendswood, made a \$2,000 payment in 1994 that was not credited to his account, and he never should have been put on a default list by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan

Corp., an aide told the newspaper.

The loan agency's records obtained by the Enterprise show that the guarantor of student loans paid a claim on May 16, 1994, to lenders for five student loans made to Stockman totaling \$15,630.08.

The TGSLOC records showed it paid the loans because Stockman was in default. But the records did not include the disputed \$2,000 payment.

Stockman on Tuesday distributed a photocopy of a canceled check to show he paid the \$2,000.

Stockman voted Nov. 20 to change the loan program as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, which would kill \$3.5 billion in subsidies to student loan lenders and guarantors and start the clock on interest as soon as a student graduates rather than after a six-month grace period.

Stockman "is saying it should never have been in default and to say he defaulted on his loan is incorrect, because he didn't," said Stockman's press secretary, Jennifer Murray.

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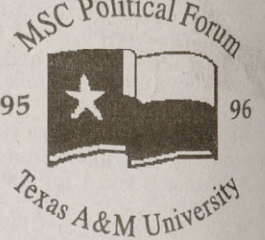

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