

Film examines plight of missing dissenters

By Michael Fisher
Of the Emerald

"Las Madres," a documentary film about the mothers of missing Argentine political dissenters, and its maker attracted about 120 people to the Latin American Studies Center Tuesday evening.

The film contains interviews with and footage of Las Madres de la Plaza del Mayo, the group of women who gather each Thursday in front of the presidential palace in Buenos Aires to demand from the government release of information about their missing relatives.

Susana Bleustein-Munoz, who made "Las Madres" with colleague Lourdes Portillo, read a brief introduction to the film and answered questions from the audience afterward.

"I'm not satisfied with what the Argentine government has done in this situation, and neither are the mothers," Munoz said.

In the past 10 years, an estimated 30-40,000 civilians have been kidnapped, tortured and killed as political subversives by the government. The film details this period of Argentina's history and documents the stories of some of the women whose family members disappeared because they openly disagreed with the government or engaged in activities the government deemed threatening.

One woman told of how her son disappeared shortly after he began building a daycare center for children living in the shantytowns of Buenos Aires.

Since the film's completion, nine top military leaders in the former government have been tried, of which five were convicted and four acquitted.

Munoz said the mothers now "want the military to release the files of those who disappeared, telling who took them and where, how and where they were tortured, and where they were buried."

College students can get credit cards even with student status

By Mike Rivers
Of the Emerald

Access to credit may now be just a phone call away. Students wishing to cross their palms with plastic may now call the College Credit Corporation, which upon request will send a kit containing credit applications from major credit card companies and instructions on how to proceed.

There is one hitch, however. In order to be eligible, a student must be a junior, senior or graduate student.

Ed Soloman, president of the College Credit Corporation, says that 10 years ago it was extremely difficult for a student to obtain a credit card. "Students were routinely turned down because they were college students," he says.

Soloman says that student complaints about this discrimination prompted him to set up a business marketing credit card applications to students. Soloman says his company represents and markets a number of large companies in the credit card business.

"We help students establish credit with top line companies like Sears, Zale's and VISA," he says.

Soloman's company usually works with campus student organizations that need to raise funds. In addition to making money, student groups utilize his business in order to gain practical business experience, he says.

When a student calls his company, Soloman says they screen the student for his or her academic status before sending the student a kit explaining the program.

The kits contain several applications. Students are encouraged to return the completed

applications, which are then reviewed for completeness. If a student forgets to sign on the dotted line, the company will return the application to the student before mailing the application on to the credit card company, Soloman says.

"This is a special college program," Soloman says. "Applications are given special consideration. It's the best chance a student has of obtaining a credit card."

An estimated 1,000 to 2,000 students from the University utilize the services of his company each year, Soloman says. Students interested in obtaining a kit can call 1-800-245-6665.

Students can also get their own credit through direct contact with Sears, says Susan Duchak, a Sears representative.

While Sears does occasionally use Soloman's service, they also have their own direct mailing program, Duchak says. The Sears company has had a program of marketing applications to students for more than 10 years, she says.

"We consider the market to be important to us," she says.

She says their program is also geared mostly toward students who are upper classmen. She estimates they reach 85 percent of the upper class student market either through direct mail or by means of campus advertising, such as poster and newspaper ads.

When asked about the risks associated with student applicants, Duchak says her company believes obtaining credit is a good learning experience for students in terms of learning to meet commitments and taking on responsibility. It also helps students establish a credit background, she says.



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