

# Woven with love

## Bolivian fair trade alpaca wool warms hands, hearts

BY BETHANY COURY  
Assistant Features Editor

He's wearing only a thin, olive green sweater and a plain gray scarf. At 9:30 a.m., it's 35 degrees and he's been standing outside on the windy Quad since 8. But is he cold? No — he's wearing alpaca wool.

One of the best wools in the world, he said. It's the warmest wool you can buy, and it's made with love.

Mario Andrale was stationed on the Quad Nov. 1 to 5, selling alpaca wool through Chasqui Manos a Bolivia Fair Trade Co-op. Andrale said alpaca wool has 21 microns, the measurement of the warmth of the wool, which he said is the best.

Andrale lives in Oregon, but he didn't always. Born in Bolivia, his family moved to America when he was 16, driven out by the political regime. He got his bachelor's degree in business at the University of Texas and his Master's in business and marketing from Washington University. But he never forgot his roots.

"I see how [factory workers] get exploited and everything and learn about how they can be making more money, and they can live better," Andrale said. "Fair trade is the best way to work."

Manos a Bolivia is a non-government, minimal-profit organization that helps its indigenous people in rural areas make a livelihood.

Andrale said that workers often will make something such as a sweater and sell it for \$5 when it really costs \$20 because they need the money for their kids, for food or for their livelihood.

"Be aware of what you buy," Andrale said. "Buy fair trade —

fair trade means you think of the people and help the people get paid well, and they're not being robbed. ... When they're fair trade, you pay them what's fair to them, and they live better."

The people who run the co-op do social work putting water and electricity in Bolivian towns and teaching kids Spanish so they can go to school.

"[The workers] are doing it in homes," Andrale said. "They can take care of their kids, and they're much happier. They can live better lives — their kids can go to school. Once their kids can go to school, they can go to college like in America. They can

graduate and can be somebody better in life. And then you become a better country."

Senior Christina Taylor was interested in the alpaca wool for many reasons — the weather, Christmas presents and the fact that it's an alternative market — but it was the fair trade aspect that hooked her.

"There's a person behind who made this stuff, not just factories," Taylor

said. "[Corporations are] looking at the profit margin, whereas this is looking at the quality of life."

Manos a Bolivia has been coming annually to Truman for eight years, sponsored by Sigma Lambda Gamma, Truman's only multicultural sorority.

Senior Madhura Kulkarni, president of Sigma Lambda Gamma, said the sorority's main goal is to bring cultural events to campus while also performing a service.

"It benefits our campus — If you buy something, it gives you a sense of satisfaction," Kulkarni said. "You got people something. You helped somebody in Bolivia, helped them get their livelihood. ... If we help somebody in Bolivia, it helps us."

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Christina Taylor  
senior



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index  
From left, junior Jacob Grace, sophomore Kaitlyn Hall and senior Cari Guernsey sift through woolen items on the Quad on Friday. Hall said this was her second trip to the tent, after buying gloves earlier in the week. "They make great Christmas gifts," she said.

Sophomore Emily Daniels tries on a pair of gloves under the Alpaca tent Friday on the Quad.

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## Football vs. Nebraska-Omaha

### 2 p.m. Saturday @ STOKES STADIUM

#### WHERE TO WATCH ON TV



BROADCASTING  
NETWORK

KSMO-TV (Kansas City) — broadcast over the air on channel 62 and channel 10 on most cable systems

Eagle Cable (western Kansas) — Channel 15

Cox KS Cable system — Channel 22

Cablevision (St. Joseph area) — Channel 20

Mediacom (Columbia, Jefferson City, Springfield, etc.) — Channel 22



COMING UP: Men's Basketball home opener vs. Culver-Stockton, 7:30 p.m. Monday