

Local

U.S. criticized at program

Policies create more problems

By LISA DICKSON
Battalion Reporter
The threat of U.S. military involvement in Central America would escalate the political and social problems of several Central American countries, a University

of Houston professor says. "U.S. policy towards Central America today is that the more we are involved, the more we will secure and assure civil rights, democracy and liberty," Dr. Margarita Melville, a professor of anthropol-

ogy, said to an audience of about 350 people attending a program on U.S. policy in Central America Friday night.

The program, sponsored by the International Student Association, included a panel discussion by eight Texas A&M student representatives from various Central American countries and the U.S.

"If the (political) conflicts escalate, the U.S. is ready and poised for intervention," Melville said.

This attitude of military readiness is based on the mentality that the situation would improve if the U.S. were to get involved, whereas she said she believes that U.S. military intervention would escalate the problems.

"The kind of statements being made by the State Department indicate that the United States is getting ready for very active participation," she said.

The State Department, she said, is viewing the conflicts in Central America through an "East-West prism," considering the U.S. relationship with Eastern Europe as a crucial factor.

This view causes misunderstandings about the Central

American conflicts, she said. She cited parallel aspects of the Vietnam war, such as the fighting between a trained army and a largely unarmed peasant population.

Governments in countries like Guatemala and El Salvador, which have seized land and forced citizens to work as poorly paid migrant workers, contribute to unrest, she said.

Also, during recent elections in Guatemala, all political opponents to incumbents were killed. Terrorism of this kind is being used by certain governments to frighten the people into siding with the government rather than with guerrillas, she said.

The guerrilla fighters are people who decide not to stand around and be killed, but to go into hiding and begin to fight back, she said.

Audience reaction varied throughout the speech. Carlos Zuniga, a senior agricultural economics major and the representative of Guatemala during the discussion, said he believed the guerrilla opposition consisted mainly of Cuban Communists.

OCA to discuss Christmas dance plans tonight

The Off-Campus Aggies will meet at 6:30 tonight to finalize plans for their Dec. 4 semi-formal Christmas dance. The meeting is

in 701 Rudder Tower.

The OCA Christmas dance, which is for all Texas A&M students, will be at the Lulac Hall in Bryan and begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are available in the MSC box office for \$8 per couple.

The "Texas Nuggets" will play country and western music, and warm-up music will be provided by a band of OCA members, Sheldon Wolstein, OCA public relations chairman, said.

The Aggie Blood Drive, the MSC All Night Fair and committee projects and activities for the spring semester also will be discussed at the meeting.

save energy a very bright idea



Dr. Margarita Melville

Staff photo by David...

College Bowl representatives determined in tonight's finals

By FARA ALEXANDER
Battalion Reporter
The 1981 College Bowl final matches are scheduled for tonight in 410 Rudder Tower.

Percenters, The Vagrants and Bert, Ernie, Big Bird and Cookie Monster, comprise Texas A&M students.

The game is set up in a double elimination bracket, in which the winner of a match competes with other winning teams, and the losers play for a consolation title, said Chairperson Kathy Westerfield.

In the finals, the winner of the winners' bracket will play the winner of the consolation bracket, she said.

The winning team and the four

high-scoring individuals Texas A&M compile an elite member All-Star Varsity Squad which will compete in February regional tournament at the university of Texas.

The winners in regional petition will go to the College Bowl national tournament.

Westerfield says this team has a good chance at nationals.

"We have a good team, hope they do well," she said. The semi-finals begin at 8 p.m. and the finals at 8 p.m.

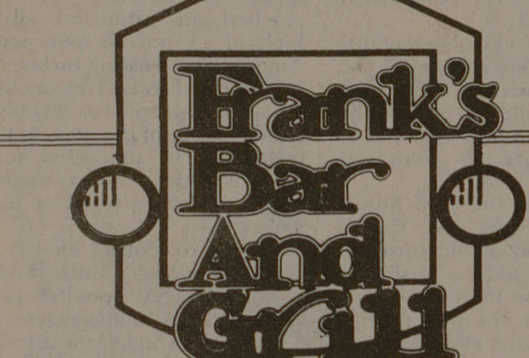


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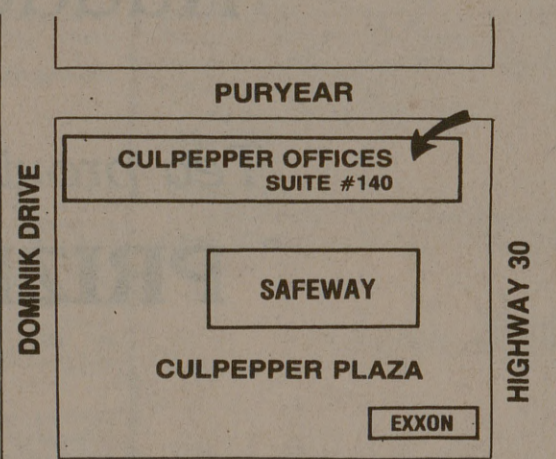
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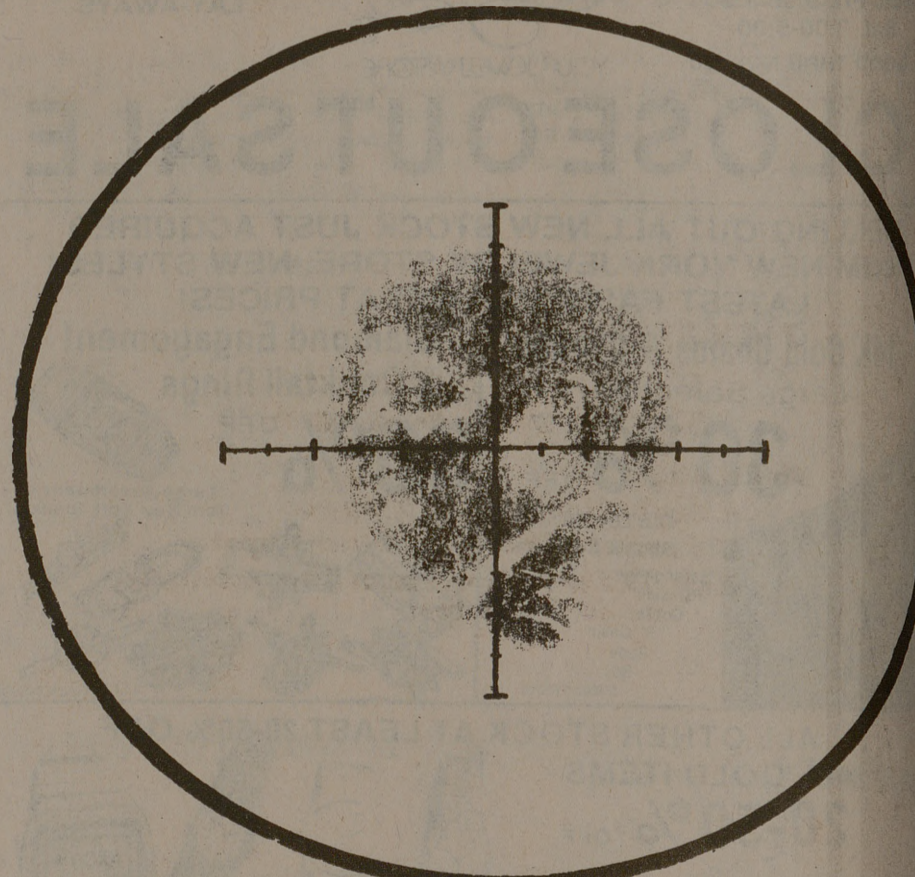
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