



staff photo by Colin Valentine

Taking it all off?

Well, almost. Robert Campbell, a junior biochemistry major from Houston, strips down for the MSC Hospitality Committee's Mr. Aggie contest. The contest, which was a promotion for the Miss Texas A&M Pageant, was held Wednesday afternoon. Campbell won

the contest from a field of 13 contestants on the basis of appearance, poise, costume, originality and personality. The contest was judged by a panel of contestants for the title of Miss Texas A&M University.

Aid package will prevent 'new Cubas,' Reagan says

WASHINGTON—President Reagan, saying the United States must act swiftly to prevent the emergence of "new Cubas," Wednesday announced a sweeping U.S. aid package to promote democracy in impoverished nations of Central America and the Caribbean.

The president's announcement, in an address to the Organization of American States, came amid increasing administration concern about Cuban and Soviet intervention in the Western Hemisphere.

"If we do not act promptly and decisively in defense of freedom," Reagan said, "new Cubas will arise from the ruins of today's conflicts."

"Let our friends and our adversaries understand that we will do whatever is prudent and necessary to ensure the peace and security of the Caribbean area."

The president's speech at the OAS headquarters in Washington emphasized his firm beliefs in the American concept of success through hard work and free enterprise, the same framework he put forward last year at the Cancun, Mexico, summit conference.

He said the strengthening of the economies of the small nations will pay political dividends through making governments popular with their citizens, but he never strayed far from making sure that all concerned — including Moscow — know the economic initiative is put forward under a protective umbrella.

"A new kind of colonialism stalks the world today and threatens our independence," he said. "It is brutal and totalitarian. It is not of our hemisphere but it threatens our hemisphere and has established footholds on American soil for the expansion

of its colonialist ambitions." Accordingly, Reagan announced he is seeking up to \$60 million in supplemental appropriations in the current 1982 budget for military aid, including small arms, patrol boats, helicopters and communications equipment, to the region. An administration spokesman said the package would

al to help prop up the economies of the poorer nations in the area with a massive inflow of U.S. dollars.

"This economic proposal is as unprecedented as today's crisis in the Caribbean," he said. "This commitment makes unmistakably clear our determination to help our neighbors grow strong."

The overall program is designed to protect what the president termed "a vital and strategic and commercial artery for the United States."

The main points of the program include Reagan seeking congressional authorization for:

— One-way free trade and the elimination of duties on all imports from the Caribbean Basin nations except for textiles and apparel. A safeguard mechanism would be created to protect any U.S. industry seriously hurt by such imports.

— An extra \$350 million appropriation for 1982 to pro-

vide emergency assistance to several countries.

— Favorable treatment of textile and apparel exports to the region while efforts are continued to tighten import controls from other major suppliers.

"Make no mistake," he said, "the well-being and stability of our neighbors in the region are in our own interests."

He said nearly half of the trade flow, two-thirds of the nation's oil imports and more than half of the strategic trade brought into the United States come through the Panama Canal or the Gulf of Mexico.

Reagan said the United States shares a common destiny with the some two dozen nations rim the Gulf-Caribbean which he termed the "third tier" of the United States. He said those nations under economic siege "can be lifted through better trade relations with the richer nations of the hemisphere."

"Let our friends and our adversaries understand that we will do whatever is prudent and necessary to ensure the peace and security of the Caribbean area." — President Reagan

absolutely not involve American combat troops.

The president also requested \$350 million in supplemental economic development assistance in the current fiscal year.

Asked if Nicaragua could be considered a communist country and thus subject to the ban imposed on Cuba, Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Enders said he would not go that far, but "the trends are very unfavorable."

If Nicaragua wants the assistance, Special Trade Representative William Brock said it depends on how the Nicaraguan government conducts itself.

The president's warning against further communist expansion in the Caribbean basin backed up his sweeping propos-

Today's Almanac

United Press International Today is Thursday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 1982 with 309 to follow.

The moon is moving toward its first quarter.

The morning stars are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

There is no evening star. Those born on this date are under the sign of Pisces.

On this date in history: In 1901, J.P. Morgan formed the United States Steel Corp. in New Jersey, to become the na-

tion's first billion-dollar enterprise.

In 1967, American warships began shelling Vietnam.

In 1975, President Ford warned Cambodia would soon fall to the communists unless Congress approved his request for \$222 million in new aid.

A thought for the day: American Philosopher William James said, "There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision."

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