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Iranscam Key Player Speaks To PSH, Community

By Nathan Rapelje

Major General Richard V. Secord (retired) defended his role in the Iran-Contra affair giving an historical account of America's covert operations in that region for more than 4 decades Thursday, Sept. 29 in the Capital Union Building.

Opening the 1988-89 lecture series entitled, "Controversy and Communication" before an audience of

proclaiming he had found a smoking gun before consulting the knowledgeable sources.

Secord said, "All his initial statements were wrong."

Secord roots American involvement in an increasingly dangerous post-war era that was hostile to the United States and that was dealt with by President Truman by threatening the use of newly developed military weapons. Secord



Richard V. Secord, keyplayer in "Iranscam" at a press conference in the Gallery Lounge.

nearly 250 people, Secord said, "We can clearly see the Reagan Iran Initiative was the right thing to do at the right time for the right reasons."

"The Real World According to Secord" -- the title of his prepared remarks -- was questioned by the audience after a brief 20-minute lecture that netted Secord \$9,000.

Defending against the accusations of profiteering, Secord said that he did not profit from the sale of arms though it would have been legitimate and said that he was not fully reimbursed for all of his expenses before the operation was blown.

In answer to questions concerning the 23-count indictment against himself and the other operatives, Secord said, "My defense is, no laws were broken."

Secord blamed former Attorney General Ed Meese, whom he described as an outsider who examined a small number of documents and went public

described our involvement as "geo-strategic" and "geo-political" due to the large crude oil reserves of the region.

Secord's involvement with Iran began as a member of an 80-man, covert special forces team sent by President Kennedy in the early 1960s to support the Shah's army in the fight against Soviet and Iraqi-backed Kurdish nationalist rebels.

Secord served in Iran again in the middle and later seventies during the Carter administration until the demise of the Shah.

Representatives of the Christic Institute, a private organization that had filed suit against Secord and others in Miami, distributed leaflets before the lecture, which was stayed and peaceful from beginning to end when Secord exited for the patrons' reception.

Turn to page 2 for further coverage on Secord's visit to campus.

Students Want Child Care Center on Campus

--Administration Agrees There's a Need

By Nathan Lee Gadsden

Graduate student Craig Dunigan wants an on-site child care center at Penn State Harrisburg.

Dunigan's wife, Christine, works full time, so the Meade Heights couple sometimes need someone to watch their two children.

Noel Williams, a University Apartments resident assistant, said many other students face the same dilemma.

Williams is also the acting president of the Married Student Union, soon to become the Parents' Student Union.

"Being students, none of us have a whole lot of money."

He said the need for child care services exists at PSH and the establishment of a center would "influence the ability of people to come back to school."

Dr. James South, associate provost of Administrative Operations, said he doesn't know of any statistics that prove the lack of on-site child care prevents many parents from attending college, but he agrees that the need exists.

According to South, the PSH administration has studied the issue over the last three years and is in favor of the idea.

If established, such a center would not be the first at a Penn State campus.

New Kensington's Cooperative Care Center, currently in its 10th year of operation, is now recognized as a student organization.

This year, for the first time, the Center is eligible for student government funding, meaning parents will no longer have to pay a nominal fee to use the center.

Parents must, however, continue to match the time their children spend in the facility, or they must provide periodic services, such as cleaning, washing toys, etc.

South does not favor the New Kensington model for use at PSH because primary staffing is provided by student volunteers; many receive academic credit for their work.

He said state licensing regulations mandate the use of a professional staff.

The New Kensington center is not

state-licensed, meaning parents would have to pay more than a nominal fee.

Liability insurance and safety are other issues that must be considered for licensing.

One of Dunigan's main concerns echoes the sentiments of other parents: "Being students, none of us have a whole lot of money."

Any child care system will have to be affordable to those expected to use it.

Therein lies a dilemma.

South said a properly run center would incur a \$25,000 per year operating deficit, not including start-up costs and staff salaries.

Subsidies could be sought, but that's an option the PSH administration doesn't want to take.

"The main issue is whether we can make quality child care available in a cost-effective way that doesn't require subsidies," said South.

Although financing problems must be resolved before on-site child care becomes a reality at Penn State Harrisburg, Dunigan, Williams, and others concerned can be optimistic: The administration is developing preliminary plans for the possible renovation of a Meade Heights unit as a site and it is actively pursuing the possibility of hiring a private contractor to provide services.

Perhaps a concerted effort by all involved will help move the project even closer to reality.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Int'l Community 3

Amnesty Concert 4

WPSH 5

Interview with Elvis 7

Salsamba Review 9

"Smiling Jack" 12