

Secord Was Not First Choice for Provost's Lecture Series

By Tara McKinstry

With the controversy sparked by Major General Secord's Sept. 29 visit to Penn State Harrisburg, the *Capital Times* looked into the selection process of speakers for the Provost's Lecture Series.

Dr. Leventhal, provost and dean, said that since this is a community outreach program, the committee chosen to select the lecturers hoped the speakers would give the audience insight into current issues.

"The series should facilitate learning whether it encourages research into the issues or the speakers," she said.

The criteria for choosing the retired major general was a little different than for choosing other speakers.

An ad hoc committee formed this summer when two of the previously selected speakers Malcom Forbes Jr. and Alan Ableson cancelled their appearances.

The committee had to find a speaker who would:

- * be available at such short notice,
- * be affordable, and
- * be a newsmaker.

Secord fit the bill.

Some committee members had reservations about inviting him to speak so they went to the community and to some faculty members for their opinions.

They found no real opposition so they asked him to speak.

Brad Hemstreet, director of Community Relations, said he thinks the inclusion of Secord in the series has brought about a lot of good things.

"It has fostered a lot of diversity of views. Since you must seek facts before you form opinions, it has created a lot of research into Iranscam," said Hemstreet.

Hemstreet said he does not see Secord as the problem.

"He's only a symptom of the problem. The problem is the fact that the government takes liberties with the Constitution."

Another aspect of the series that concerns students is that the political speakers in the series are conservatives.

In response to that, Leventhal said that Susan Sontag, a liberal whose talk is titled "AIDS as Metaphor," will be speaking about more than AIDS.

In the past, the college has been accused of having a too liberal series. For example, when Ralph Nader came to speak, area business leaders were up in arms, explained Leventhal.

If the objectives of this lecture series are better met by having a controversial speaker who sparks interest and increases attendance, then so be it concluded Hemstreet.

Provost Decides to Re-evaluate Lecturer Selection Process

By Kimberly Anastas

After receiving two letters from faculty members concerned about Richard V. Secord's appearance on campus, Dr. Ruth Leventhal, provost and dean, said that she will ask the director of Community Relations to re-evaluate the selection and consultation process of choosing speakers for the Provost's Lecture Series.

Eton Churchill, assistant professor of humanities and communications and coordinator of the communications program, wrote a letter which included 14 faculty signatures to Leventhal requesting that Secord's involvement in "Iranscam" and the 23-count indictment charged against him be mentioned in his introduction at the lecture.

The provost responded that she intended all along to mention Secord's



indictment and involvement in "Iranscam."

Louise Hoffman, associate professor of humanities and history and a signer of Churchill's petition, wrote a letter to the provost which was signed by 26 faculty members addressing concerns of the selection of speakers and their educational value.

Hoffman's letter suggested that lecturers brought to campus should speak to classes or with faculty and students in addition to a public lecture and press conference in order to enhance the educational value of their visits.

Leventhal said she too believes that speakers who encounter faculty and students directly would be valuable.

"We try to get that in a contract. Some speakers [on this campus] have spoken in classrooms. Secord's agent said he doesn't do that," she said.

Michael Young, professor of political and public affairs, said Secord's visit to campus was very beneficial.

"It's important to have people like Secord on campus because one of the main reasons for a university is the exchange of ideas."

Hoffman's letter also expressed concern over the fact that the appropriate faculty be consulted before choosing the lecturers.

This year's series, "Controversy in Communication," was planned without any consultation from the communications faculty.

Leventhal said that although the selection committees for the series have been different since the series began in 1986, "We have tried to have a representative committee every time."

The speakers are selected ultimately through the Office of Community Relations.

Brad Hemstreet, director of Community Relations, said Secord was a last minute decision because three speakers including Mike Royko, and Malcolm Forbes Jr. backed out before their contracts were signed.

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African National Congress Rep. Speaks on Campus

By John Yagecic

On Sept. 22 Susan Mnumzana, a representative of the African National Congress, spoke to a handful of students and faculty in the Black Cultural Arts Center.

Mnumzana addressed the problems being faced by South African blacks and the role of the United States in changing South African government policy.

She presented the listeners with a picture of what life is like for blacks in South Africa.

She told the audience about seven-year-old children who must stand trial as adults because they threw rocks at the soldiers who killed members of their family the night before.

Mnumzana spoke of the 60 youths currently on death row who, unlike their American counterparts, are absolutely assured of being put to death.

She discussed the system for division of land where 87 percent of the land is owned by the small white minority while the entire black population occupies the other 13 percent.

Mnumzana criticized the United States' reluctance to take action against the National Party.

She addressed the United States' excuses for not issuing sanctions against American corporations in South Africa.

The U.S. government says that sanctions would only hurt the black South African people, but Mnumzana said that so few blacks are employed that even if all the black employees were fired it could not add to the current suffering.

"People are hurt enough by the system," she said, "they are willing to

make the ultimate sacrifice to make the future bright for their children."

Another reason the U.S. government has given for not fully supporting the African National Congress is fear of the ANC's Communist affiliation.

"Americans are paranoid about Communism," Mnumzana told the audience.

"Does a Communist system mean we suffer less? Do fewer people die?"

Mnumzana said that the ANC, being in desperate need of supplies, will accept whatever is given to them.

If the Soviets offer aid and the United States does not, said Mnumzana, what choice does the ANC have?

Mnumzana said that when they come into power, the ANC will strive to educate all people of South Africa -- black and white.

Only in education, she said, can such a human tragedy as apartheid be prevented from happening again.

Racial separation, she said, began in the late 1800s when the British moved into and colonized most of Africa.

The ANC, which is the oldest liberation movement in Africa, staged its first campaign against the British in 1910.

The campaign was peaceful but unsuccessful.

In 1948, just after World War II, the National Party came into power in South Africa and they have remained there ever since.

The National Party made the brutal apartheid system national policy immediately after coming into office.

The lecture was followed by a reception in the BCAC.



Susan Mnumzana spoke on life in South Africa at the BCAC Sept. 22

Joe Kupec