

Axed Reagan aide silent about Iran deal

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former national security adviser John M. Poindexter, following the lead of Lt. Col. Oliver North, invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination yesterday and refused to testify before a Senate panel about the diversion of Iranian arms sale profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee said discussions have begun over the possibility of securing testimony from North and Poindexter by granting them immunity from prosecution.

A committee source said it would be correct to infer that both North and Poindexter had asked for immunity.

But Chairman David Durenberger, R-Minn., and other committee members said no decisions had been made and it is only a distant possibility at this point that the panel will seek immunity for anyone.

Durenberger did say, however, that the committee will expand its investigation and seek testimony from members of President Reagan's Cabinet.

Poindexter, a Navy vice admiral, was in the committee's eavesdrop-proof hearing room for more than an hour yesterday.

His attorney, Richard Beckler, told reporters later that while Poindexter wanted to cooperate with the committee and "wishes to fulfill every request the president has made,"

he nonetheless advised him to take the Fifth Amendment because other investigations are looming, including a possible criminal investigation by an independent counsel.

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- Weinberger criticizes advisers.

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North, who was fired from his National Security Council post, appeared before the Senate panel on Monday and also invoked the Fifth Amendment. Attorney General Edwin Meese III has identified North as the only person who knew precisely about the diversion of funds.

Meese said Poindexter knew something about it, but didn't try to stop it. Poindexter resigned as national security adviser after the disclosure.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan's instruction to his former aides was "they should tell everything, consistent

with the advice of their private counsel."

Both Durenberger and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy said they do not believe the refusal of the two key figures in the investigation to testify would create a major hole in the mosaic the panel is piecing together.

"There are an awful lot of significant witnesses," Leahy said. "We will piece together what we need to know with or without them."

Durenberger added: "North didn't do anything by himself. Everything he did in this entire caper had to have a response. If we can get everybody at the other end of all those phone calls and plane trips, we can find out what went on."

Meanwhile, one committee member, Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., urged President Reagan to "come clean with the American people" or face Watergate-style investigations and news leaks that could paralyze the government and destroy his administration.

He said he was positive that Reagan had authorized the Iran and Contra connections and believed that Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger knew about it as well.

All have denied any knowledge about the diversion of funds until it was disclosed by Meese last week.

Durenberger accused Hollings of breaking the committee's rules of secrecy.

"Sen. Hollings has to decide whether he's going to be a member of this committee or



AP Laserphoto

John Poindexter.

get off the committee, because that's a violation of the rules," he said.

Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., who will chair the committee with the opening of the 100th Congress next year, has said the panel should turn over all of its findings to the single

supercommittee expected to be created to take over the investigation.

But Durenberger said the committee, still in GOP hands, will complete its work "before David Boren becomes chairman" because its task is "not to be politicized."

He said that the panel could finish its investigation as early as next week.

On the immunity issue, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., said, "Those things are discussed."

But Durenberger indicated the possibility was, at least for now, not very high.

Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, said granting immunity to witnesses was not being considered seriously at this time. "I think it would be very premature," he said.

Hollings, too, said he would oppose granting North or Poindexter immunity.

"The more we investigate the more we are going to be on a diversion and the more we are going to paralyze the government for the next six months," Hollings said.

He said Reagan should grant his former aides executive privilege to prevent them from testifying before Congress and admit that he had authorized their actions.

"We need the president to come right on top of the table and come clean with the American people," Hollings said.

He said he was positive that Reagan knew about the affair but admitted that he was basing his contention on "circumstantial evidence" and news reports, not on testimony taken by the committee.

PSU named in suit

By MARTY IRVIN
Collegian Staff Writer

The University has been named in a \$10,000 lawsuit involving a former Altoona campus student who became a paraplegic after injuries suffered in an alcohol-related accident at the Commonwealth campus two years ago.

The suit was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh by Maria Hensley, 20, and her mother, Joyce Jones, both of Riverhead, N.Y.

Hensley was involved in a car crash near the Altoona campus shortly after midnight on Nov. 27, 1984.

According to the suit, the crash left Hensley a paraplegic. The suit also stated that the Sigma Psi Delta fraternity at the Altoona campus served alcohol to Hensley, who was then a freshman, at a party held outside the Altoona campus grounds.

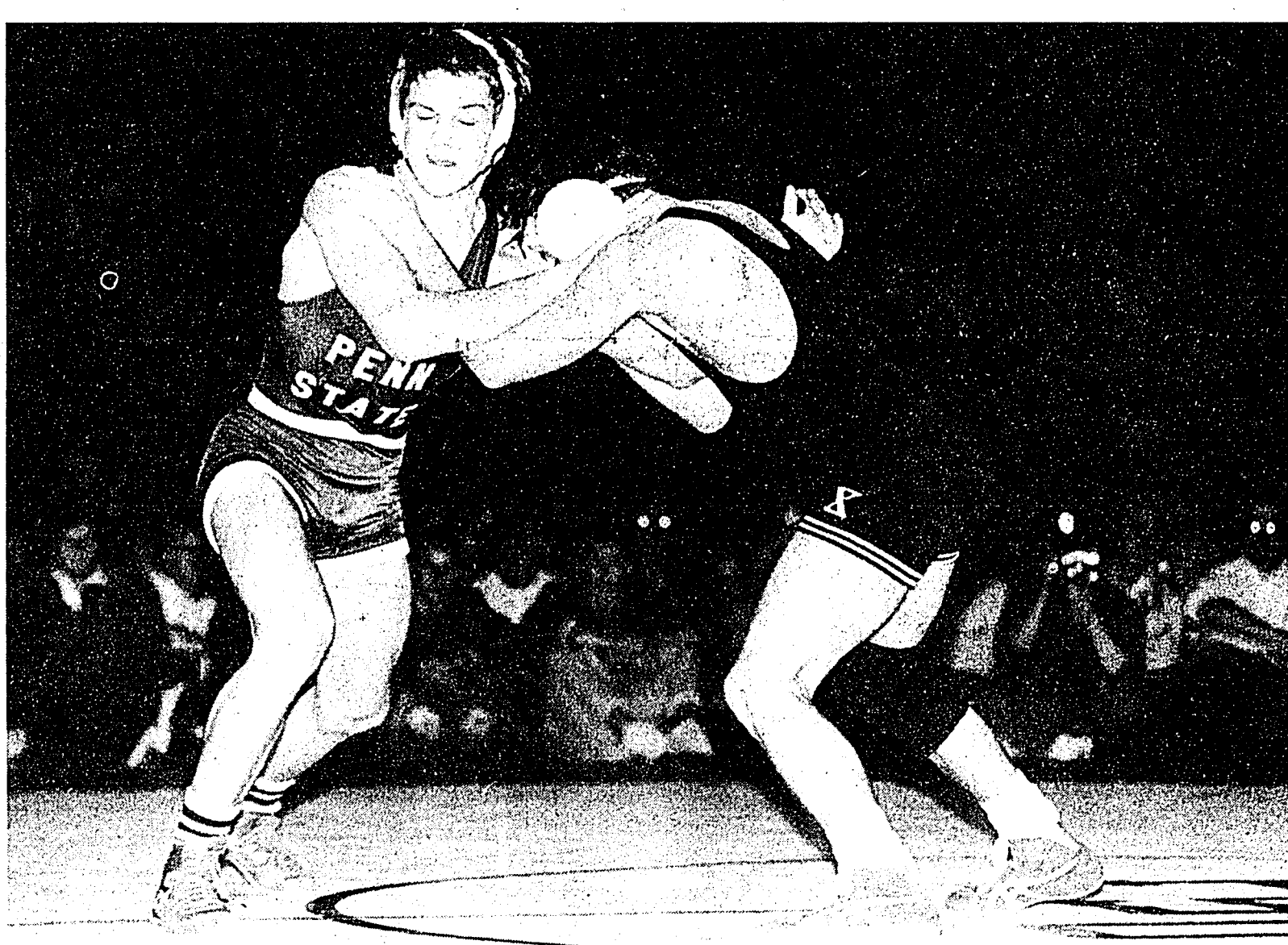
Altoona police said Hensley lost control of her vehicle and struck a utility pole while driving to her residence hall after the party. Her car flipped over an embankment and landed in the parking lot of Altoona campus' east wing dorms, according to police reports.

Hensley had a blood-alcohol content of .13 at the time of the crash, according to the suit. A blood-alcohol content of .10 is considered legally drunk.

Vince Lackner, a Pittsburgh attorney representing Hensley and Jones, said a similar suit was filed in the U.S. District Court in eastern New York in January but was dismissed voluntarily by the plaintiffs in March.

The University's Office of Public Information had no comment on the pending litigation.

Mark Faulkner, a lawyer with the University's law firm of McQuaide, Blasko, Schwartz, Fleming and Faulkner Inc., said his office "has not yet received a copy of the lawsuit," but will defend the University.



Collegian Photo by John S. Zedlick

Locked in combat

Penn State wrestler James Martin helps the Lion grapplers achieve victory over No. 1 ranked Iowa with his win in this match with Hawkeye matman

Steve Martin before a crowd of 7,646 supportive home rooters at Rec Hall last night. Please see story on Page 10.

Friends and family deal with gays

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on gay and lesbian students at the University. Today's article addresses roommate and family reactions to gay and lesbian students.

By ERIC SCHMIDT
Collegian Staff Writer

Ken Meyers (senior-geography) went through 10 roommates in four semesters while he lived in the dorms. Of the 10, he only got along with three. One roommate lasted about 15 minutes, he said.

"He came in and totally flipped out," Meyers said, "then ran to the coordinator and got his room switched."

Meyers' roommate problems stemmed from his sexual preference — he is open about his homosexuality.

Roommate problems are a concern that most gay and lesbian students face at the University.

Heidi, a sophomore who asked that her full name not be used, said her roommates found out that she was a lesbian last semester.

"They totally shut her off and refused to even speak to her," she said.

"It wasn't really harassment, but it was very uncomfortable, and it was where I lived," Heidi said.

Although Heidi tried to talk to her roommates about her sexuality, they refused to listen, she said.

"Bill," a senior who asked that his real name not be used, realized that he was gay when he was a sophomore; he then told his roommate and his roommate's girlfriend about it.

Both were extremely positive and supportive about it, he said.

In his junior year, however, Bill was living with two other "extremely homophobic" people whom he did not tell.

"I figured I had to live there," Bill said, "and it would be better not to open up yet."

Bill made no efforts to hide his sexual preference, he said, but never brought the topic up for discussion. He is currently living with a gay roommate.

It is common for gay students to live together, Heidi said. Consequently, non-gay students and gay students rarely have the chance to interact with each other.

"There needs to be an awareness on campus that there are gays here," Heidi said, "... that and (the fact) that we are a very important part of the University."

Gay students also have difficulty talking about their sexual preference with their parents.

Heidi recently told her mother that she is a lesbian, she said, and it has made life at home easier for her because she no longer has to lead a double life.

"I'd go out to the bars then I'd come home and be a good little girl," Heidi said, "but it got to the point where I couldn't do that anymore. And I don't like keeping things from my mother."

Tracy Alderman, president of the Lesbian Gay Student Alliance, said she told her mother she was a lesbian while they were driving in the family car.

"I just came home out of the blue one weekend and I was driving along with my mother," Alderman said. "I said 'Mom, I have a problem.' She asked me what it was and I told her 'Mom, I'm gay.'"

"She pulled the car over — we were on a side street — and looked at me like 'are you serious?'"

She said her mother was very supportive but added, "She still hopes I'll get married and have kids some day."

Alderman has revealed her homosexuality to one of her two brothers and is not certain if her father knows, she said. The brother who does know has been very supportive, she added.

Meyers said both of his parents have made an effort to understand his homosexuality. His half-brother is also gay, Meyers said, so his father had dealt with the experience before. This time, he said, his father's reaction was not to disown him like his half-brother. His father has even taken some steps to locate Meyer's half-brother whom he has not contacted in 10 years.

However, Bill's parents did not react so supportively, he said.

Since his parents are Catholic, they have adopted the church's stance on the issue which he said is: "It's not your fault that you're gay, but you still should never be sexually active."

He has tried many times to get his parents to read books about homosexuality, Bill said, or to discuss the issue with him, but they refuse to do so.

"(My parents) treat it as a handicap like Down's syndrome," Bill said, "a handicap that I was born with and they can't do anything about. My mother's attitude is that 'I deal with it by not dealing with it.'" Bill said.

Hazing concern in past

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series on hazing practices by fraternities. Today's article deals with hazing in the 1950s and '60s, and tomorrow's will address hazing in the 1980s.

By VICTORIA PETTIES
Collegian Staff Writer

The death of Thomas Clark, a freshman pledge at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1956, sparked concern about hazing practices here at Penn State in the 1950s.

The MIT freshman was found at the bottom of a reservoir a week after he had been taken into the country and told to find his way back to campus, a common fraternity hazing practice then.

Reports at that time said that Clark had evidently mistaken the reservoir for a field, tried to cross it in the dark and fell in.

Fraternity hazing practices received attention both here at the University and nationally during the 1950s and '60s.

According to a 1956 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, various hazing practices during the three decades prior to the 1950s increased because "the pull of fraternities has become so great in modern undergraduate circles that victims are willing to submit to humiliation and torture in many cases in order to be accepted into full fledged membership."

The article said none of the stunts, which often included beatings and subjecting members to weird and humorless practical jokes, were meant to be harmful and some had been performed for so long without accidents occurring that they had become traditional.

In the 1950s, hazing incidents were considered isolated but years earlier, pledges sustained serious injuries or died performing the same rituals.

Abandoning a prospective brother far from the campus to make his way home without money or directions, as was done in the MIT hazing incident, is one of the oldest forms of hazing known.

Kenneth Nelson, University professor emeritus in accounting, said that hazing was not a problem in the 1960s at the University.

"Hazing was definitely not talked about (in the 1960s) as much as it is talked about today," said Nelson, a University fraternity adviser for 31 years. "I do not recall hazing ever being an issue here."

However, Lee Upcraft, vice president for Counseling and Health Services, said hazing at the University was more prevalent in the 1960s than today "partly because it was generally accepted."

Fraternities are under more pressure not to haze due to the recent wave of anti-hazing legislation, Upcraft said, adding: "fraternities have toned down hazing today."

The day after the MIT hazing incident, Penn State's dean of

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thursday

fyi

The access road off Bigler Road between the University poultry farms and Nittany Apartments will be closed indefinitely beginning this morning and will be open only to people parking in the Nittany Student Lot and an adjacent lot.

People driving toward the Indoor Sports Complex, ice skating rink, tennis club and East Area Lockers must use McKean Road, which will be opened at 8 this morning.

The road is being closed for construction of a steamline.

weather

Today, windy and cold with occasional snow flurries. High 35.