

Iranians comment on Iran-Contra deal

By Sean Nelson
Of the Emerald

Last week the nation saw a momentous event in history: the testimony of Secretary of State George Schultz, the highest officer responsible for the administration's foreign policy, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Schultz claims President Ronald Reagan knew nothing about the diversion of arms profits from the Iranians to the Contras. "I know that because I've heard him say it in private as well as in public," Schultz said.

But the Iranian students at the University have a different perception of the hearings.

"I think the president knew what was going on and that there is still some kind of relations between Iran and the United States government at this moment," Firooz Arash of the Iranian Student Organization said. Arash also is a research associate of the Institute of Theoretical Science.

"If you have a policy-making system, it is illogical to believe

that it was made without the knowledge of the director of the system," Arash said.

"I think the President didn't know because people around him had the intention of making money by selling U.S. weapons," said Mohssen Golafshani, an Iranian graduate of the University of Utah. Golafshani temporarily is residing in Eugene.

"They (the Reagan administration) would do it (sell arms) in the future if they got the chance," Golafshani said.

Rear Adm. John Poindexter testified earlier only he and Lt. Col. Oliver North, as well as the late William Casey, then-director of the CIA, knew exactly what was going on.

Adm. Poindexter testified that he did this in a "deliberate decision" to protect the president from political embarrassment, and to release American hostages in Iran.

"My primary concern is that it not only helped to get the hostages out, but it also escalated the Iran-Iraq war,"

Arash said. "Iran sent human waves (suicide troops) into Iraq because of implicit support from the United States," he added.

"Billion-dollar weaponry systems will cause war in different parts of the world," Golafshani said.

"I personally believe that the U.S. has discredited herself among other nations by maintaining a neutral stance officially and at the same time doing business under the table," Golafshani said.

"This (the Iran-Contra affair) has given the U.S. an excuse to increase its military presence in the (Persian) Gulf area," Arash said.

"The U.S. stance is that if we don't sell the Iranians weapons, the Soviet Union will," Golafshani said. He is concerned about this kind of black and white cold-war rhetoric.

"Such an increased military presence is not in favor of peace, and increases tension dangerously in the region," Arash said.



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Jamie Klund, assistant sports information director, couldn't guarantee the waivers would improve the Ducks' performance on the football field, but did say that the State Board's decision would help Oregon athletics.

"It's great — not only does the money help out, but it gives us a vote of confidence that the state is going to help fund school athletics," Klund said.

According to Klund, \$580,000 in scholarships was awarded to University student athletes last year, with \$210,000

issued to non-residents.

Although the waivers will not cover every athlete on a scholarship, they will go a long way in funding athletics, Klund added.

ASUO President Kasey Brooks, along with other state student body presidents, lobbied the State Board for tuition waivers at Thursday's meeting, and expressed delight with the decision.

"It's a good precedent for the Board to set because previously there hasn't been any state aid to school athletics in Oregon.

Pressure put on students to fund school athletics through incidental fees will be eased," Brooks said.

The State Board also mandated that any state institution proposing a change in level of competition or adding or dropping a sport must have prior approval of the Board.

In addition, the Board now will review incollegiate athletic fiscal policies and review the tuition waiver policy on an annual basis.

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longer depending on how much research needs to be done, said Phil Lemman, a spokesperson for the Attorney General's office.

State System Vice Chancellor William Lemman said the question of freezing OSPIRG's funds is still under discussion. But personally he would not like to see all the funds frozen, he said.

"I would like to see their funds pro-rated in a way so (OSPIRG) would have money to operate on until a decision is

made," he said.

OSPIRG State Chairwoman Maureen Kirk said she was surprised the board acted.

"Freezing our funds would destroy our program," she said. OSPIRG has new staff coming on in two weeks, and the group would be unable to pay them.

Kirk doesn't believe the board will freeze the funds because the group has been funded for the last 16 years and three Attorney Generals' opinions have allowed its funding, she said.

University student James Randall, who has been pushing against OSPIRG's funding for a year, also was surprised the board took action. He plans on sending the Attorney General's office all the information he has collected against OSPIRG, but hopes the group doesn't lose all its funding, he said.

"I hope it (OSPIRG) stops its involvement in partisan politics and shifts back to the more consumer orientated issues it used to focus on," he said.

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copies of the ordinance to the heads of state of countries possessing nuclear weapons and to various Oregon officials.

Since that time, the letters have been mailed and some of the signs have been posted, Keller said.

According to Deborah George, a Keep Eugene Nuclear Free member, the legal issues surrounding the ordinance have been resolved.

"It's a political debate right now," George said.

"I don't believe any side of this issue would disagree with the fact that there was some legal clarification that needed to

be made. But that has now been done. That has been agreed to by all parties involved. So that no longer is the issue," Keller said.

Both George and Keller charged that the appointment of certain members to the task force was politically motivated.

"The mayor (Brian Obie) appointed a task force that was obviously split from the beginning. They were chosen because they were in opposition," George said.

"It's sort of like appointing prostitutes and drug pushers to a task force to discuss how to clean up downtown," Keller

added.

"Our fear is that the City Council will get a recommendation from the task force saying, 'Here is the most watered down version we could come up with and this is what the majority of people on the task force agreed to,' and the City Council will somehow interpret that to mean that that is what the people of the city of Eugene want," Keller said.

The ordinance passed with 59 percent of the vote during the November general election, allowing Eugene to become one of 132 nuclear free zones in the United States.

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