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Oregon Daily
Emerald

Horton pledges changes in LINT

By JOSHUA MARQUIS
Of the Emerald

Lane County District Attorney J. Pat Horton reiterated campaign pledges to re-vamp the Lane Inter-Agency Narcotics Team (LINT) at a Tuesday night meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Criminal Justice Planning.

The committee is a lay advisory panel to the Lane Council of Governments and recommends funding programs for area law enforcement agencies.

Horton told the group he had made substantial changes in the staff of LINT in keeping with the changes he had proposed during his campaign. Replacing Richard Frambes, a former Oregon State Police officer, as co-ordinating investigator for LINT is James Sharpe, previously a sergeant with the Eugene Police Department. In addition Horton named a new project director for the LINT team, deputy district attorney Morris Merten. Merten was formerly an assistant United States Attorney, specializing in organized crime prosecution.

Horton explained it "has taken government a long time to realize that the team, or task-force method is the best way to fight organized crime or narcotics traffic," and that LINT serves a valuable function in this regard.

Horton stressed that with limited manpower and resources, "we are going away from the practice of investigating casual or incidental users of marijuana and aiming towards drug wholesalers." The D.A. commented that "we must necessarily separate marijuana from other narcotics in order to deal effectively with the problem."

Horton emphasized that the district attorney's

office was going to leave most marijuana offenses and personal possession cases to the individual Lane County law enforcement agencies to pursue on their own. "We just have to ignore it, for the most part," he said.

Responding to questions as to the structure and control of LINT, Horton explained that the team is made up of at least one member of each contributing agency, which include the Eugene, Cottage Grove and Springfield Police, the Oregon State Police and the sheriff's office.

The team acts under the co-ordination of an investigator from the D.A.'s office. "Since the district attorney's office is not in the business of investigation, per se, it is easier for us to co-ordinate the team," explained the district attorney.

LINT itself is in turn audited by a board of directors, made up of the chiefs of police of participating departments, the sheriff, the local commander of the state police and the district attorney.

Horton termed the progress report issued by LINT last year, which listed seizure of approximately 140 pounds of marijuana and about a gram of heroin, as "disappointing" considered the time put in. Horton indicated he was pleased with the efforts of the team under his administration, referring specifically to the recent arrest of a Eugene man for possession about \$1000 worth of heroin.

Commenting on the use of the mis-demeanant citation, Horton explained provisions of Oregon law allow police agencies to issue citations for misdemeanors and certain other crimes which can be considered misdemeanors (such as possession of less than an ounce of marijuana).

Horton stressed that the citations are issued on the basis of whether the defendant is likely to show up in court or not. The usual standards for such a determination are whether the person lives in Eugene, whether the person is a student or works locally. The advantage of the citation system, says Horton, is that it allows a little more flexibility in the law. "Not everybody charged need be taken to jail," said the district attorney.

Commenting on the prosecution of drunk driving cases, Horton observed that in the past some 90 per cent of all drunk driving cases were reduced to charges like careless driving and violators fined. Horton said he "had instructed his staff" to start prosecuting drunk driving cases.

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For PE activities

Style of sweat suits to be same

All students wanting to jog, exercise, or engage in athletics will wear the same type of sweat gear for extra-class activities within a few years, according to Vernon Sprague, head of the Physical Education department.

Sprague explained Monday the unavailability of sweat clothes for two women who recently wanted to use the zippered sweat shirts but were denied their use.

"There are quite a number of the zippered sweat shirts in the department now, but these are on a high priority for classes," Sprague said Monday. "The rest are checked out to students at registration time for the whole quarter."

"The more expensive sweat shirts with the zippered front, the ones the women students like to wear, cost two to three times as much as the others, and it just isn't worth that much difference in price," Sprague said.

"We are going to phase out the zippered sweat-suits completely," Sprague said. "Everybody will wear the same type within a few years."

Sprague added that all of the available zippered gym suits are in use by those in classes, and that women students who currently wish to use the zippered suits will have to use the regular less expensive sweat clothes.

"Five or six years ago, the prices for the two types of sweat gear were about the same, but in recent years, the ones with the zippers in the front have become much more expensive," Sprague said.

Using the department's sweat clothes for recreational purposes is a popular past-time for students on campus. The facilities for storing and using these clothes and athletic

equipment make these activities attractive, he said.

"We allow the students to check out and use these clothes, we give them storage facilities, let them use the baskets, and lockers; we provide locks for them, launder the clothes for them when they need it, I just don't think you could find better services than that anywhere," Sprague said.

Johnson asks reforms in state's penal system

Oregon Attorney General Lee Johnson emphasized the need for an improved criminal corrections system in a discussion with a University political science class Tuesday night.

The present ratio of one probation officer for every 100 parolees "is absurd," Johnson said. He believed the proper ratio should be one probation officer for every 35 parolees.

"We need more correctional facilities of a community type," Johnson stated.

He said 32 per cent of the funds from the Law Enforcement Assistance Act in Oregon go towards corrections. He hoped to "enlarge the piece of pie corrections is getting."

The committee that apportions the funds has designed a rehabilitation and treatment program that Johnson described as "a Cadillac."

Johnson also gave his support to an unqualified newsman's shield law. Although he originally believed that "every citizen has a duty to testify about what he knows," he had changed his mind recently.

"It's more important to have the free flow of information," Johnson said.

Although the unqualified newsman's shield law presently before the Oregon legislature "does leave a chance for abuse," Johnson supported it.

Johnson also said he had "no particular objection" to Lane County District Attorney J. Pat Horton's practice of only giving citations for the casual use of marijuana.

He believed the "drug problem is overwhelming agencies, anyway," so they concentrated on the "easy arrest."

"I'm not to the point of legalizing marijuana," Johnson added. Johnson also indicated he did not approve of the initiative passed in Washington last fall requiring financial disclosures by lobbyists. He said that during his time as a representative he knew of no legislator who had been "paid off."

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