

President's appointments criticized by local officials

By Dave Berns
Of the Emerald

President Ronald Reagan's appointing of Energy Secretary Donald Hodel to head the Department of Interior and White House personnel director John Herrington to replace Hodel has received strong opposition from Oregon environmentalists.

Hodel, a University law school graduate and former editor of its law review, will succeed retiring Interior Secretary William Clark who announced his resignation last week. Herrington will replace Hodel and work towards the dissolution of the Energy Department.

In disclosing the appointments, Reagan's deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said both Hodel and Herrington will commence a study on the "re-organizational options" available to the president in merging the functions of the two departments. The study will take into account energy, natural resource and defense policies, Speakes said.

Speakes added the two will work for both the effective and efficient management of natural resources.

However, Oregon environmentalists are concerned with Hodel's past environmental record and Herrington's lack of a record.

George Callies of Portland Greenpeace characterized the Hodel appointment as "not very inspiring."

"The Hodel appointment is a turn for the worse," he said. "While Clark worked for some (policy) stability, Hodel will more enthusiastically carry Reagan's banner."

John Charles of the Oregon Environmental Council doesn't believe the appointments signify a policy change within the administration, however.

"It is essentially a change of style over substance," he said. "During the Watt secretaryship, it was Hodel who did most of Watt's political maneuvering."

Hodel was Watt's top deputy during his leadership of the Department of Interior.

Oregon Congressman Jim Weaver criticized the Hodel appointment by pointing to Hodel's role in the development of nuclear power in the Northwest.

Hodel was director of the Bonneville Power Administration from 1972-1977. During this period the BPA began major construction of five nuclear power plants in the Northwest that have since been the subject of heated debate.

"As BPA administrator, Don Hodel made billion dollar mistakes building nuclear reactors the Northwest didn't need and will never complete," Weaver charged. "That's the record that got him his job at the Department of Energy."

Lane County Commissioner Peter DeFazio, who has been a long-time critic of both Hodel and nuclear power in the Northwest said, "It's amazing this guy can cause one of the greatest financial disasters in the history of world, and he's awarded by being appointed Secretary of Interior."

Herrington's appointment was greeted with less criticism although most of those who were contacted were not familiar with Herrington's background.

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Help available to drinkers

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

Drinking Decisions Inc. is offering a class designed to help problem drinkers identify, evaluate, and modify potentially destructive abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

The class, which begins today at Lane Community College, will be taught by state-approved Drinking Decisions substance abuse specialists.

"The 12-week course is most effective for people who are trying to change behavior pertaining mostly to alcohol and drugs," explains Laura Kubiak, Drinking Decisions public relations coordinator. "However, I used it to stop smoking. You track your behaviors and find out why it's done."

The program was started in 1978 after two local alcoholism counselors realized Eugene had no out-patient program for people for whom in-patient care was inappropriate, she says.

"A lot of people are scared to death of intensive in-patient care. Our program is less threatening, so many people are more likely to come to

us," Kubiak says.

Many people taking the class include drunk drivers arrested and ordered by the court to attend the class. Drunk drivers who are first offenders and who successfully complete the course will have no record of conviction, adds Jackie Shannon, adult program coordinator and counselor.

"Many college students come to us this way," Shannon says. "We'd like more students to come to us voluntarily. This is a group we feel we'd work well with."

Shannon says the organization offers an initial free half-hour consultation to "find out what's going on, and if it's appropriate for that person to join the program," Shannon says.

Drinking Decisions also has special programs for people who have decided to quit drinking completely, in addition to a substance abuse program for youth under 18, and a six-week general alcohol and drug information class.

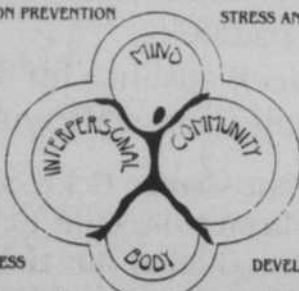
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