

Local commissions debate collection of SSNs by police

The human rights and police commissions also discussed policy for the EPD's drug detection dog

By A. Sho Ikeda
Senior News Reporter

The Eugene Police Commission and the Human Rights Commission met for their annual joint meeting Thursday evening and discussed issues regarding the Eugene Police Department's use of Social Security numbers as identification for law enforcement purposes.

The Eugene Police Commission also approved policy recommendations for Eugene's first drug detection dog since the early 1990s.

Members of both commissions listened to public concerns of EPD's current practice of collecting Social Security information by officers during interactions with community members.

Marion Malcolm, a former member of the Human Rights Commission, questioned the necessity of requesting social security numbers from individuals during traffic citations, arrests and other contacts between police and the community.

"What I do know what (collect-

ing Social Security numbers) does is create intimidation," Malcolm said. "I hope that this practice of asking for Social Security numbers will be repudiated."

Lt. Rick Siel explained that Social Security numbers are vital to law enforcement because as one of four critical personal identifiers — the others being name, date of birth and driver's license number — they assist officers in making accurate identifications during contact with citizens.

Siel said a person's identity could be complicated by a number of circumstances. For example, if a person doesn't have any valid identification or if the credentials presented don't seem to match the person's current appearance, an officer may need additional information to determine the individual's identity. For these reasons, Siel stated, Social Security numbers offer a unique identifier that can help determine the identity of individuals.

Critics of the practice cite concerns with privacy, potential misuse of an individual's personal information, liability from false arrests and the increase of distrust between the community and police officers. Police officials said they were aware of these concerns and have taken steps to reduce disclosure of Social Security

numbers when releasing otherwise public documents.

"We recognize that we need to better educate the public and our officers," Siel said.

Police Commission Chairman Tim Laue approved a motion to discuss the issue in a future joint meeting between members of both commissions.

EPD may request Social Security numbers as part of a traffic or misdemeanor citation, during a field interview or when taking a person into custody. Individuals may refuse to disclose their Social Security number to police, in which case the refusal is noted in the report.

The Police Commission concluded the meeting by approving policy concerning Eugene's new drug detection dog, Kyra. Kyra was acquired by EPD in June from Gresham police department after it discontinued its drug detection dog program.

Officer Hart told the Police Commission in a meeting last month that Kyra was deployed about 38 times since August 1, resulting in the acquisition of 28 ounces of "controlled substances" with an estimated value of \$20,000.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikedadailyemerald.com.

Media critic, pundit draws laughs, praise from LCC audience

Jim Hightower draws a crowd of 700 to LCC to hear his criticisms of left- and right-leaning politicians

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

Author and liberal pundit Jim Hightower spoke to a packed house at Lane Community College on Thursday night as part of the third annual Peace, Justice and Media Conference, provoking raucous laughter and murmurs of agreement from the 700-strong crowd.

The cowboy hat-wearing Texan, on tour to promote his book, "Thieves in High Places," let loose with biting criticism of everything from the Bush administration to Wal-Mart to media elitism.

"We are gathered here in open defiance of King George the W," Hightower said to considerable applause. "We want the power to control the decisions that affect our lives."

Hightower used his spotlight to criticize "Bushco, corporate kleptocrats and wobblycrats," Democrats who Hightower said have "Jell-Oed" instead of aggressively attacking the right.

Hightower received an overwhelmingly positive response from the predominantly middle-aged crowd.

"It's rare when you get someone with such humor and insight to get his point across," said Eugene resident Alan Zelenka. "At the same time, he's so optimistic."

A former Texas agricultural commissioner, Hightower sought to inspire the audience with stories of successful grass roots movements. He specifically cited a drive in Glendale, Ariz., that Hightower said prevented Wal-Mart from building there.

Wal-Mart "sucks the economic life out of our communities," Hightower said.

Hightower also attacked Wal-Mart's

treatment of women.

"When you reach that glass ceiling at Wal-Mart, they ask you to Windex it," Hightower said.

The Bush administration's tax policies also met Hightower's acid tongue.

"The burden is on the workaday folks in this country," Hightower said. "They get the gold mine, we get the shaft."

Speaking with a Texas drawl, Hightower relentlessly criticized President Bush, faulting him for failing to launch a 10-year program for energy independence in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001.

Hightower said an aggressive drive for energy independence — replete with solar, geothermal and wind power — would lessen the United States' dependence on the Middle East.

"We would never fight another oil war in this world again," Hightower said.

A one-man media machine, Hightower urged audience members to circumvent the mainstream media to get their message out.

"It's just another profit center," Hightower said. "The media has become the elite."

In addition to his books and radio appearances, Hightower spreads his message through Hightower Lowdown, his political newsletter. Hightower claims it is the biggest political newsletter in America with 100,000 readers.

Hightower, in the tradition of George Orwell, criticized the political left as well.

"We did not get (a progressive energy proposal) from the Democrats," Hightower said.

Hightower's event was the largest in the history of Lane Community College, according to LCC instructor Steve Candy.

The Peace, Justice and Media Conference, sponsored by the Eugene-based Justice Not War Coalition, will continue through Sunday.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothowerdailyemerald.com.

NEWS BRIEF

University to be featured on Discovery Channel

Local archaeology, modern technology and old-fashioned 19th century cannibalism come together Saturday night when University research is spotlighted in a Discovery Channel program about the Donner Party.

Guy Tasa, an assistant adjunct an-

thropology professor, will be featured on the show "Unsolved History" using the University's field emission scanning electron microscope to study bone fragments from one of two Donner encampments excavated this summer. The episode has aired twice this week and will be repeated a final time Saturday at 7 p.m.

— Caron Alarab

EARN \$50 IF YOU CHEW TOBACCO & WANT TO QUIT

If you are between 14-24 years old, try this free program we have developed and are testing to help you quit chewing. Call

Deschutes Research at 1-888-345-8744 to see if you qualify.

Research funded by the National Cancer Institute.

McKENZIE RIVER GOLF COURSE

We invite you to play our beautiful golf course along the scenic McKenzie River, with immaculate greens and a mature, manicured landscape.

Located off Deerhorn Road Hwy. 126 to Holden Creek, cross bridge to Golf Course.

See why we are the jewel on the river. 41723 Madrone



896-3454

Weekdays Mon-Fri

\$10 - 9 holes

\$17 - 18 holes

with UO ID



Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

NEWSROOM — (541) 346-5511

Editor in chief: Brad Schmidt
Managing editor: Jan Tobias Montry
Freelance editor: Aimee Rudin
News editors: Jennifer Bear, Ayisha Yahya
Senior news reporters: A. Sho Ikeda, Ali Shaughnessy
News reporters: Caron Alarab, Chelsea Duncan, Jared Paben, Chuck Slothower
Pulse editor: Aaron Shakra
Senior Pulse reporter: Ryan Nyburg
Pulse reporters: Natasha Chilingirian, Arwen Ungar
Pulse columnists: Helen Schumacher, Carl Sundberg
Sports editor: Hank Hager
Senior sports reporter: Mindi Rice
Sports reporters: Jon Roetman, Jesse Thomas
Editorial editor: Travis Willse
Columnists: Joseph Bechard, Jes-

sica Cole-Hodgkinson, Peter Hockaday, David Jagernauth
Illustrators: Steve Baggs, Eric Layton
Design editor: Adelle Lennox
Senior designer: Sean Hanson
Designers: Kimberly Premore, Kari Pinkerton
Photo editor: Adam Amato
Senior photographer: Mark McCambridge
Photographers: Danielle Hickey, Lauren Wimer
Copy chiefs: Kim Chapman, Jennifer Sudick
Copy editors: Gabrielle Barber, Brandi Smith, Ben Pepper, MacKensy Thompson,
Online editor: Erik Bishoff
Webmaster: Eric Layton
BUSINESS — 346-5512
General manager: Judy Riedl
Business supervisor: Kathy Carbone
Receptionist: Sarah Go-racke
Distribution: Mike Chen, John Long, Matt O'Brien, Michael Sarnoff-Wood, Ben Swagerty

ADVERTISING — DISPLAY 346-3712 CLASSIFIED 346-4343

Director: Melissa Gust
Sales manager: Michelle Chan
Special publications and classified manager: Hilary Mosher
Sales representatives: Tim Bott, Army Feth, Patrick Gilligan, Megan Hamlin, Kim Humphries, Alex Hurliman, Tyler Mack, Shannon Rogers, Dan Sawaya, Sherry Telford, Katherine Vague
Assistants: Liz Carson, Katy Cooney, Thomas Redditt, Keri Spangler, Kate Workman
PRODUCTION — 346-4381
Manager: Michele Ross
Production coordinator: Tara Sloan
Designers: Jen Cramlett, Kristen Dicharry, Matt Graff, Andy Holland, Marissa Jones, Jayoung Park, Jonah Schrogin