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Confessed Valley Drug Dealer Draws Prison Term

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Before a packed courtroom of concerned San Lorenzo Valley parents and community members, Superior Court Judge Rollie Hall today sentenced a confessed drug dealer to three years in state prison.

Calling him a danger to society, Hall sentenced Michael W. Gianera, 28, of 110 Locust St., Ben Lomond, to the 'middle' prison term for possessing cocaine for sales.

Gianera was taken into custody immediately, over the objections of defense attorney George Sherinian.

Gianera's case had drawn wide attention among valley residents. More than 60 letters from parents of youngsters and from other concerned citizens had been sent to Judge Hall and Assistant District Attorney Steve Muni.

Most of the letters repeated the same theme — that the so-called co-

caine culture is destroying families and threatening the moral fabric of the country by damaging the youths who come in contact with the drug.

The case also has prompted one Ben Lomond businessman, who asked to remain anonymous, to begin organizing local businessmen to fight for strict enforcement of the drug laws.

"Santa Cruz has one of the worst reputations of any city in America for cruising, drugs and sex," he said. "It's time 'us guys' who set a pattered for law enforcement to take a stand. We have the laws, let's obey them."

Gianera was arrested last November after sheriff's deputies had investigated complaints of extensive drug dealing at his home, which at the time was on Main Street in Ben Lomond.

The first complaints were received in May 1981 when parents of a 16-year-old girl called deputies and said they believed their daughter was being held

against her will and was "high on drugs" inside Gianera's home, according to probation reports.

In October, deputies held a stakeout and in nine hours witnessed nine people go in and out of the home — presumably for drugs.

When Gianera was arrested, deputies found a "7-Eleven" store of drugs, said prosecutor Muni today in court. Among the drugs found were 8.8 grams of cocaine, three grams of psilocybin, five grams of hash oil, marijuana, scales, packages, pieces of glass with white powder and books with names and computations, indicating drug activity, the probation reports said.

In calling Gianera a "danger to society" Judge Hall noted that 10 weapons were found in Gianera's home at the time of arrest — including a loaded small-caliber handgun in Gianera's pants pockets, a loaded semi-automatic .22-caliber handgun under a

cushion in the living room, and two other loaded high-caliber handguns, as well as knives and rifles.

Hall said he couldn't reach any other conclusion than that Gianera made his living selling drugs — "to whoever came to the door."

That included teenagers and young adults, the judge noted.

Muni argued succinctly for state prison, saying the sentence would do two things: Sit send a message to the community that if a person deals drugs, he'll go to state prison; and would rid the community of a what he called a sore.

"Let the community know. Help us by sending him (Gianera) to state prison. We can't tolerate (drug dealing). The price is too high," said Muni.

In imposing the sentence, Hall considered Gianera's criminal record, which dated back to when he was seven years old. Among the convictions were selling LSD and buying metham-

phetamines, he said.

Also, the judge noted that Gianera admitted making 15 sales a week from his home and that he was "criminally sophisticated."

A supplemental probation report revealed that as recently as June — after Gianera entered his guilty plea — parents of two young women in the valley told probation officers that their daughters were still visiting Gianera's home and doing drugs.

Many of the more than 30 persons who watched the sentencing today left satisfied with the results.

"I'm impressed with the way the judge did his job," said one observer.

Another added, "Michael Gianera is not the issue...We all know what the rules are and we should face the penalties. The problem requires somebody to take a stand and execute the law — now."