

New freshmen begin
orientation this weekend
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Bils pleads innocent to criminal charges

By Stephen Maher
Of the Emerald

Six weeks after charges against him were dropped, University law student Willy Bernard Bils was rearrested Monday in Lane County Circuit Court.

Bils pleaded not guilty to two counts of criminal simulation, and one count each of first degree forgery, second degree criminal trespassing and tampering with a witness before Judge F. Gordon Cottrell.

Bils previously had been charged with two counts of criminal simulation and one count of second degree forgery.

Oregon Revised Statutes defines criminal simulation as an attempt to defraud — to make or alter an object to have antiquity, rarity, source or authorship that it doesn't have.

According to a February police report, Bils allegedly

paid a Eugene free-lance researcher \$500 in November 1986 to write a class paper for him.

Bils was arrested March 9 and pleaded not guilty three days later.

In late May, the charges against Bils were dropped. At the time neither the district attorney's office nor Bils' attorney, Daniel Goff, would divulge why the dismissal occurred.

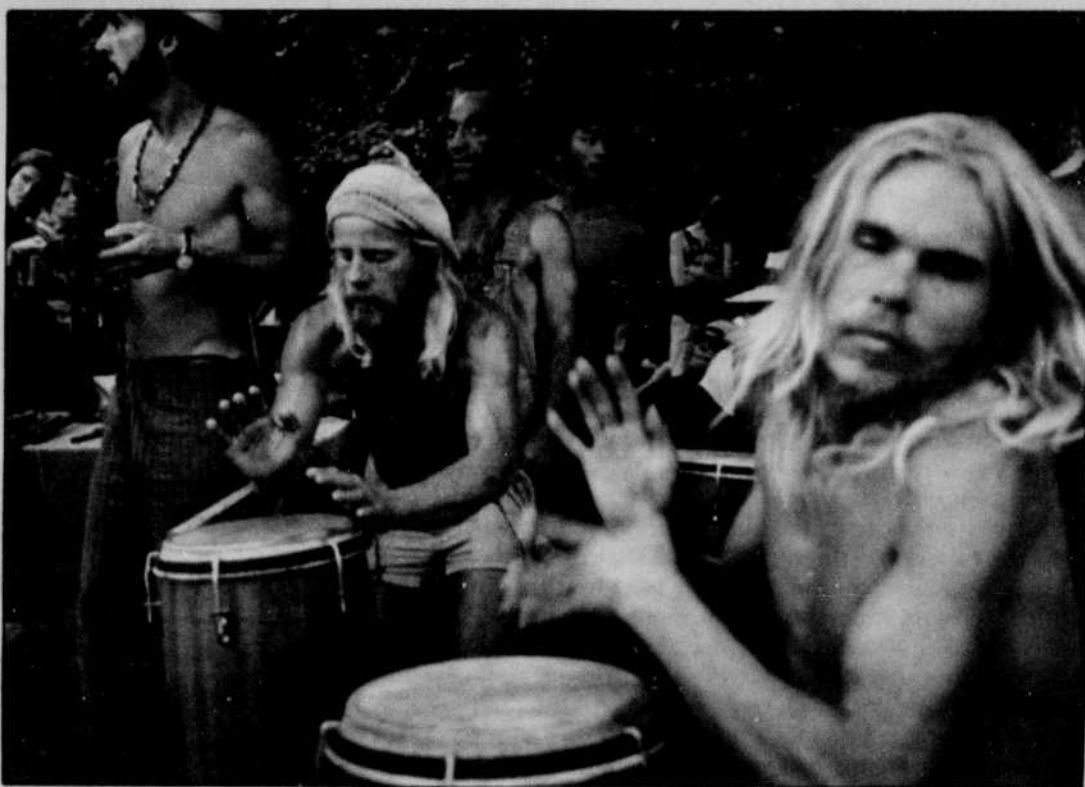
After his first arrest Bils was granted a leave of absence from the law school for medical reasons. According to a law school official who was contacted Monday, Bils remains on a leave of absence and is technically still a law student.

Eugene police Sgt. Chuck Tilby, who has handled the investigation of the case, failed to return phone calls Monday. Police reports regarding the additional charges also were unavailable.

Bils was the founder of a campus group called UO Students for Equity in Insurance. In 1986 he threatened to sue the ASUO over alleged mismanagement of the student health insurance program.

Then in late January 1987, Bils asked for the resignation of then-ASUO President Steve Nelson and ASUO Legal Services Attorney Karsten Rasmussen. Bils charged Nelson with mismanagement of the insurance program and Rasmussen with conflict of interest.

Bils, who has reportedly moved out-of-state, refused to comment on the case after his arraignment.



Making music

Two bongo players entertain at the 17th annual Oregon Country Fair. The two players, like other spectators were invited to test the instruments for sale. After awhile, a concert was generated by the visitors who played. The fair featured music, crafts, and art as well as information booths.

A record-breaking crowd of more than 20,000 attended the event held July 10-12 on the 242-acre premise.

Photo by Diana Moy

Dutch elm disease strikes Eugene

By Ted Fuller
Of the Emerald

More trees infected with deadly Dutch elm disease after a 1986 outbreak has Eugene City Arborist Jeff Hale scrambling to minimize and contain losses.

Tests confirm a tree in the Bethel-Danebo area of North Eugene, one of 290 American elms, was infected with the deadly disease, which then had to be cut down Monday.

Hale said he has since sent four more samples up to Oregon State University for testing; two from the University area and two from northwest of Coburg road.

Losing five more American elms to Dutch elm disease doesn't worry Hale as much as the spread of the disease does.

"The number is not bad," Hale said, "but the spread is."

Dutch elm disease, named after Dutch botanists who were the first to identify the fungus deadly to American elms, has killed an estimated 50 million to 100 million elms in the United States, and at least another 50 million in Europe. Eugene lost 18 trees to the disease when it was discovered here last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that \$100 million is spent annually to remove and replace diseased elms. The city of Eugene spent \$13,558 removing infected trees last year.

Though billions have been spent worldwide to fight the disease, there are some costs that can't be measured in terms of money. There is no way to put a value on a towering shade tree in an urban landscape. Besides the beauty people see in a 70- to 90-foot tree, there are practical benefits as well.

According to scientists, neighborhoods that lost trees to Dutch elm disease experience increases in local temperatures, wind speeds and local soil erosion. Air pollution levels also rise.

Scientists also say the elm is its own worst enemy in dealing with the disease because the tree's immune system responds by producing a

gummy substance to isolate the fungus. This substance clogs the sap system, cutting off the tree's circulation. The tree quickly dehydrates and dies.

American elms are most susceptible to Dutch elm disease. Other types of elms, most notably the Chinese and Siberian varieties, are resistant. This leads scientists to believe the disease

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Willy Bils

Willamette Street change proposal creates tension

By John Henrikson
Of the Emerald

The Eugene City Council held a heated public hearing on Monday concerning the proposed re-opening of the Willamette Street mall from Eighth to 10th streets to auto traffic.

More than 300 people attended the forum, which was held at the Community Conference Center, to advise the council of public opinion before a final decision on the matter is made this fall.

Two members of the City Council, Mayor Brian Obie and Councilor Rob Bennett, declined to sit on the Council for this issue because of a perceived conflict of interest concerning their downtown business holdings.

"I think it is in the community's best interest that I step aside," Obie said.

After a short presentation by the Eugene Downtown Commis-

sion and Seattle architect Don Miles, who originally proposed the plan, audience members presented comments.

Citizen both for and against the re-opening spoke — sometimes very emotionally — but the crowd largely seemed opposed to the plan.

Ruth Miller, a member of Friends of Downtown, told the council Willamette Street "should be preserved as a special place without traffic." The traffic, she said, is "not needed and not wanted."

Others were even more direct in their opposition. "Do not destroy what is most livable in this city and what will one day be your historic heritage," Dr. Betty Sible advised the council.

A poll taken by Arline Hastie of Green Pepper Fabrics and presented to the council showed 313 downtown merchants and employees opposed the re-

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Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

An American elm tree outside Allen Hall is one of 290 elms in Eugene susceptible to the often fatal Dutch elm disease