

Regional

Judge rules evidence sufficient to take Davis to trial for felony

McMINNVILLE (AP) — A Yamhill County district judge decided Tuesday that there is sufficient evidence for former state Rep. Drew Davis to stand trial on two felony charges of tampering with drug records.

Judge Wayne Harris issued the ruling after two Newberg police officers and a pharmacist recalled the events that led to the former lawmaker's arrest following a police chase Aug. 29.

Davis, 38, of Lake Oswego, is accused of trying to fill a phony prescription at a Newberg pharmacy. The pharmacist became suspicious and telephoned police, who arrived shortly after Davis left the drugstore.

A 15-mile car chase ensued. The car was abandoned, but police using tracking dogs found Davis nearby.

Davis, who also is charged with eluding police, reckless driving and reckless endangerment, remains free on bail. A trial report conference was scheduled for Nov. 13 in circuit court.

Davis served in the Oregon House for eight years until 1982, when he was defeated in the Democratic primary. He later switched party affiliation to Republican and waged an unsuccessful campaign for Congress against Rep. Ron Wyden. He is president of the conservative American Freedom Coalition.

District Attorney John Collins told the judge he thinks there is strong evidence that Davis phoned in three different phony prescriptions to three Newberg-area pharmacies.

Collins said the state hopes to show Davis made conflicting statements about the case to police and to a reporter for The Oregonian.

The newspaper quoted Davis after his arrest

as saying he had phoned in the prescription to the Newberg pharmacy and had phoned in about 10 phony prescriptions during the past few years without getting caught.

Davis also was quoted as saying he had panicked when police showed up at the pharmacy.

Michael A. Douglas, owner of Mike's Medical Pharmacy in Newberg, testified that he received a prescription for the pain-killing drug Vicodin on Aug. 29. He said he became suspicious because the prescription was phoned in from northeast Portland using the name of a Gladstone doctor and was being filled in Newberg.

One of the arresting officers, Robert Hughes, said that when Davis was apprehended, he told officers he had been kidnapped at gunpoint. Hughes testified Davis also said police were making a mistake and there was another suspect hiding in the brush nearby.

The officers said Davis offered the information without being asked.

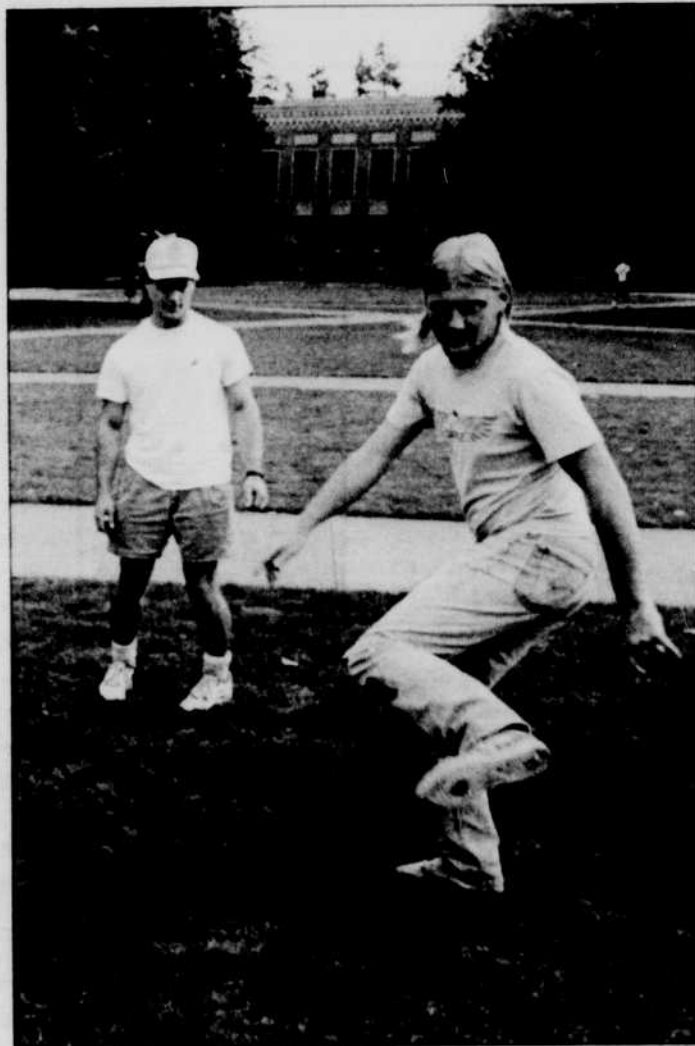
Davis did not speak during the hearing. Afterward, he was uncharacteristically quiet.

"I think there are some facts that need to be straightened out that were misrepresented in court," Davis said. "I can't get into them."

"I'd love to say a lot, but I'd lose my lawyer."

His attorney, Tom Montgomery, said he had advised his client "to make very few comments at this time."

At a news conference Sept. 14, Davis claimed Newberg police lied about evidence found in the trunk of his car. Police said they found soft-core pornographic magazines, a machine gun and prescription pill bottles in the trunk.



Kick up your heels

The lawn in front of the Knight Library becomes an ideal setting for an impromptu hacky sack session Tuesday afternoon

Photo by Eric Evans

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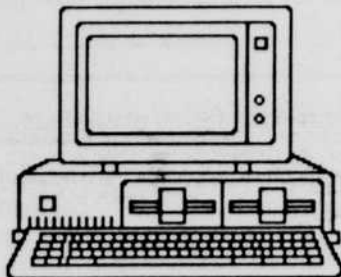
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