

Oregon man arrested for counterfeiting

SEATTLE (AP) — An Oregon businessman has been charged with being part of an international counterfeiting ring that passed \$14 million in phony U.S. Treasury checks at a Vancouver bank.

Michael Christopher Busher, 38, of West Linn was arrested March 14 at his home by U.S. Secret Service agents on a warrant filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle. No trial date has been set.

The warrant accuses Busher of bringing checks, counterfeited in Hong Kong and routed through British Columbia, into the United States and cashing them at the Vancouver branch of Seattle First-National Bank.

Court documents said Busher deposited \$14 million in the phony checks. Of that total, \$5 million has not been recovered, the documents said.

Also charged with conspiracy and counterfeiting were Har-

vey Wong and Xiaoshan Lin, both Hong Kong natives who lived in Vancouver, British Columbia. The pair are scheduled for trial on May 21 in Seattle.

The indictments claim the conspiracy began as early as January, when Wong and Lin met with William McElroy in Vancouver, British Columbia, and asked him to cash counterfeit checks for them. McElroy went to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who contacted U.S. authorities.

"According to McElroy, Wong told him that he and Lin were acquiring the checks from Hong Kong. Wong said that whoever would cash the checks would receive 40 percent of the proceeds. Wong told McElroy that they had checks with face values of several million dollars," court documents said.

Working with authorities, McElroy accepted a check for

\$1.4 million from Wong, to whom treasury agents later faxed a deposit slip.

Wong and Lin were introduced to a Secret Service agent and told him they had \$18 million to \$20 million in Treasury checks.

If the agent would cash them, Wong and Lin said they would give him 30 percent of the face value, reserving 10 percent for McElroy, apparently as a commission, court documents said.

Wong and Lin then were arrested and were released on bail March 13. However, the release was rescinded and they were rearrested March 15 when federal authorities discovered the bail money was, in fact, proceeds from a counterfeit check, according to a March 23 detention order.

Busher, at the time of his arrest, was vice president of sales

for a Lake Oswego company that was incorporated in July as a wholesale lumber seller. The complaint against Busher alleges that he opened corporate accounts at Sea-First bank under the names West Pac Sales, Ltd., the Lake Oswego lumber business, and for Barclay Trading Corp., a company that was incorporated in Victoria, British Columbia, in January.

On Feb. 3, Busher deposited \$2 million in phony checks in the West Pac account and \$5 million in the Barclay account.

"According to officials, during the next two weeks Busher deposited nine U.S. Treasury checks valued in excess of \$14 million into the Barclay account," the complaint against Busher said.

"These funds were repeatedly transferred back and forth between the West Pac account and the Barclay account."

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Celebrate Spring Well!

April Wellness Month



April is dedicated to wellbeing and the dimensions of health - emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual and social. Throughout the month, various campus groups are sponsoring programs that highlight wellness issues and promote healthy activities. Get involved! Join in April's activities and celebrate spring well!

		FREE classes! • meditation • metaphysical journey Call 346-4305				Hunger Cleanup To get involved, call OSPIRG: 346-4377
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	League softball and tennis begin today \$25 each call RIM: 346-4113	9	10	11	12	14
				Natural Highs" presentation by George Obermeier 7-9 p.m. 100 Willamette call COSAFE: 346-3105		League soccer begins today \$25 fee call RIM: 346-4113
Easter	Recycling Awareness Day Anti-Dioxin Rally Call OSPIRG: 346-4377	Youth AIDS Prevention Theater 7:00 p.m. Bean Complex	18	19	20	21
15	16	17		"Ducks on a Roll" wheelchair basketball 7 p.m. - Mac Court call 346-3724 for ticket info		
Earth Day				Elections today and tomorrow	"Aerobi-Fun" 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$2.00 Gerlinger Sun Porch call RIM: 346-4113	Health Conference Noon - 5:00 EMU Century Rooms Call Women in Transition: 346-4099
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Frisbee league begins today \$20 fee call RIM: 346-4113	29	30		

COSAFE
Wellness Month has been coordinated by COSAFE and the Dean of Students' Office. For more information, contact Joanie Robertson, Assistant to the Dean for Training and Prevention, at 346-3105.

Campus Organization for a Substance Abuse Free Environment