

Fake IDs buy trouble, not beer

By ALAN WRIGHT
Of the Emerald

"Can I see some I.D.?"
It's a question that causes some people to start stammering and back red-faced out the door. Others assume bored expressions and dig for wallets. Store clerks check the birthdate on a driver's license, and check if the picture matches the customer's face. Then they check one more thing — is it a fake?

Bogus identification cards have become so common that "not a day goes by that someone doesn't try to use a fake I.D.," says Jerry Swartz, part-owner of Hilyard Street Market.

A large percentage of the offenders are underage University students trying to buy alcohol.

Devoted underage drinkers have devised very creative fakes, Swartz says. A common fabrication reads "Official State License."

"If it says official, it's always fake," he says.

Some place their photo on another's I.D. and then re-

laminates it. Sometimes it works. Bob Rice, owner of Tom's Market, says he can spot these immediately.

Some pseudo-Oregon drivers licenses look terrible, Rice says. He displays two false Oregon identification cards he confiscated that are so different in color they look like they were issued from different states.

Swartz recalls one underage customer who tried to use a Canadian identification card with an American social security number on it.

Dale Turbin, manager of McKay's Market says he is afraid that a local fake identification mill exists to meet the demand.

Claims by store clerks back up Turbin's fears and keep the Oregon Liquor Control Commission on the lookout.

Founded in 1933 following prohibition, the "hard-nosed" OLCC looks for minor offenders, as it regulates the purchase and sale of alcohol and investigates liquor license applications.

If a store clerk does sell beer to a minor, a fine might cost the store \$500 or a revoked liquor license.

"If you lose your liquor license, you are out of business," Turbin says.

OLCC inspectors use a variety of techniques to investigate stores that may not be verifying liquor customer's ages.

They check people as they come out of the store, but that's mostly a "hit and miss situation," says OLCC inspector James Miller.

Investigators also work in plain clothes and watch for employees who fail to check identification.

Not surprisingly, store owners object to OLCC's covert practices.



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"All it takes is the proper currency..."

Emerald Graphic

"They always pick on us to help them," Swartz says. "They don't make our lives easy. The OLCC likes us to be their long arm of the law."

Most stores selling alcoholic beverages will now only accept an Oregon drivers license, an Oregon identification card or an OLCC card.

"Seems kind of hard-nosed, but we've had two tickets for \$500 already and we don't want anymore," Swartz says. "If we do get a ticket, then we'll prosecute the minor that caused us all the problems."

Underage drinkers who try to buy alcohol themselves "jeopardize my livelihood when there are so many people around to buy it

for them," Rice says.

The OLCC instructs most stores to confiscate the fake identification and turn them in. The OLCC then tries to find the alleged violators.

The organization doesn't prosecute minors but issues citations for them to appear in circuit court if they are 18 years old or over, or in juvenile court if they are under 18.

If a falsehood isn't obvious, but a store clerk still questions the identification's authenticity, the customer must fill out a statement-of-age form, which charges the signer with a fine of up to \$250 or 30 days imprisonment for misrepresentation, Rice says.

The primary defense against

false proof of age is to educate the store and tavern owners about how to detect fakes, Miller says.

"The one way to stop minors is education; it is a better policy than trying to catch them in the act," Miller says.

That's not always easy — except for some clerks.

"One sure sign is if they look young and buy Schlitz Malt Liquor," says Swartz. "They must think it's strong, but it's just such a sure sign I can't believe it."

Swartz has developed a keen eye for the under-21 set.

"If they get nervous or act strange or get mad if you don't sell it to them, then it's definitely a fake."

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Atiyeh may call extra session to cut Oregon budget next year

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh said Tuesday there is a reasonable chance he will call a special session of the Legislature next year to cut the state budget.

"The whole thing amounts to how much (the budget deficit is) as to whether there will be a special session," Atiyeh told reporters at a news conference. "I would say the chances are reasonable there might be one. I'm not yet prepared there will be one."

The governor said he was disappointed in state projections that predict the Oregon economic problems will be worse than had been anticipated in 1982-83.

The governor has the power to cut state

budgets across the board, but he said if the shortfall reaches the \$70 million to \$100 million range, he may be forced to call a special session of the Legislature to make selective budget cuts.

Asked if the state can absorb more budget cuts, the governor said, "If you don't have the money, you can't operate at a deficit. We have no alternative."

The governor said he would not ask the Legislature to raise taxes because the lawmakers had a negative response to such a suggestion during the 1980 session.

"If I read the mood of the legislature, they'll be disinclined to raise any more revenue," Atiyeh said. "It's not my intention to ask for any."

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