

Theft robs man of credit

■ Oregon man urges lawmakers to prevent identity theft after Social Security number fraud

By John Hughes
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Oregon man who "can't obtain credit anywhere" after a dozen people used his Social Security number urged a House committee to crack down on identity theft.

Shon Boulden of Hillsboro, said he learned of his problem eight months ago when he tried to switch his bank account from one bank to another.

He learned that 12 people had used his Social Security number to get car loans, open bank accounts and establish credit at stores such as Home Depot, Wards and Dayton Hudson.

"I have been denied a car loan," Boulden, 23, told the House Banking Committee, "and have been denied a personal loan. I am very lucky that I didn't have to have a credit check done to get my apartment or I might not have a place to live."

The committee held a hearing on a bill by Reps. Darlene Hooley, D-Ore., and Steve LaTourette, R-Ohio, that allows consumers to require verification before their credit is extended.

Hooley said she is hopeful the bill could be passed before Congress adjourns for the year this fall.

Boulden said his problem still hasn't been worked out even though he has spent several days on the telephone with creditors and credit bureaus.

"I fear every day that I won't be able to get this fixed and that I'll have bad credit my whole life," Boulden added.

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porting local news. Ever notice that the weather gets the same number of minutes of coverage every night, even if nothing's happening to it?

When's the last time a TV station did a half-hour in-depth report on anything other than University of Oregon football?

Only a couple radio stations even half-heartedly cover local news. The Eugene Weekly provides a good thumb-in-the-eye dose of news you won't get anyplace else. The Register-Guard does a good job, mostly because it still has a wonderful staff. But that may not last because it's run by a power-addled publisher who seems determined to destroy it all by trying to bust the union.

Q: Is Eugene a cultural waste-

land, as some argue?

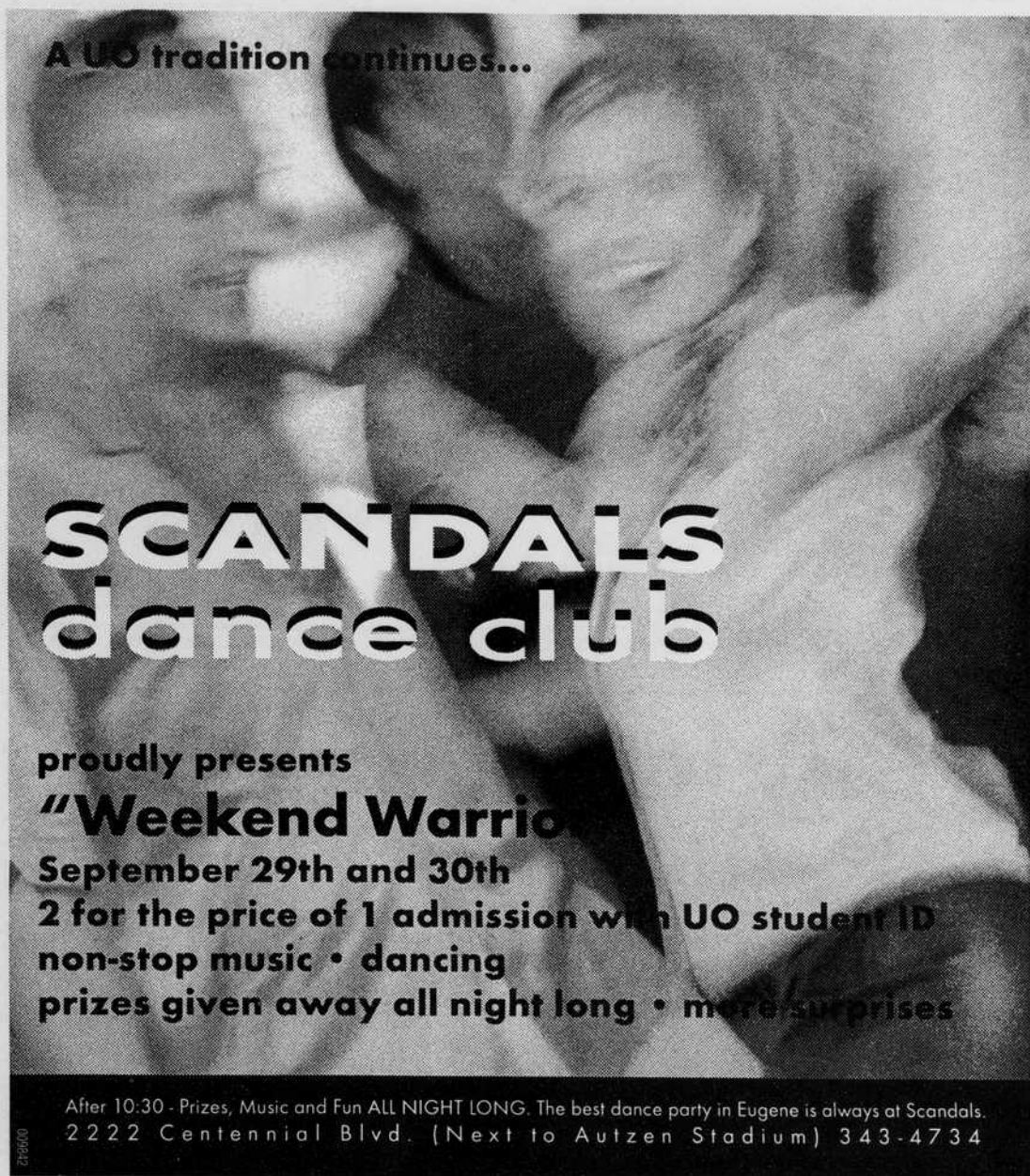
A: Are you kidding? Willie Nelson was in town just last month.

Q: What kind of impact does the university have on the city of Eugene?

A: If another damn student rides his bike in front of me against a red light ... never mind. The University has mostly a wonderful impact — with its sheer mass of brain power for the community, the local participation (and money spent) by its faculty, staff and students, and the cultural events it brings to town, the facilities — from library to Autzen — that it shares with the town.

And if students ever got organized, they could really have an impact. The University precinct always has the lowest voter turnout — but imagine the effect of 15,000 student votes on local elections. Scary, isn't it?

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