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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
THEATRE

Second Season
Production

A Thread in the Dark

by Hella Haasse
translation by Della Couling

Arena Theatre
Feb 4-7 & 12-14
8:00pm

U of O Tickets
EMU 346-4363
UT Box Office

Evenings of Performance

ID THEFT

continued from page 1

application for him over the phone so Chung could receive a packet of information.

Chung, an economics major, said the woman then prodded him into answering each of her questions. She asked the University sophomore for his address, his birthday, his main sources of income and other personal information. Chung reluctantly supplied the information, sensing that something was not quite right. Then she asked for his Social Security number, which raised an immediate red flag for Chung.

Chung was not the only student to receive a suspicious phone call asking for personal information in the last month. Department of Public Safety Interim Director Tom Hicks said University students have contacted his office about two possible cases of identity theft. DPS doesn't usually receive any calls about identity theft.

Identity theft is a crime in which an impostor obtains personal information, such as a person's Social Security number, and uses it to obtain credit, merchandise and services in the name of the victim. In a report released in September 2003, the Federal Trade Commission estimated that 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2002, costing consumers \$53 billion.

Hicks said the first case of possible identity theft occurred on Jan. 16 in Carson Hall. A student reported receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be from the University doing a survey, but the student became suspicious when the person on the other line asked for a Social Security number.

Hicks said this was the first time in recent memory that someone tried to trick students out of their personal information using the guise of a University employee.

The second incident occurred on Jan. 21 at H.P. Barnhart Hall. A student reported receiving a suspicious phone call from someone trying to push a credit card, but the caller did not identify what company the caller was with. Hicks said DPS has still been unable to link this incident back to a perpetrator.

Hicks said students need to be especially cautious when it comes to filling out credit card applications over the phone because that is one of the most popular scams people use when trying to commit identity theft.

Chung said he became suspicious about the phone call he received as soon as the saleswoman asked him for his Social Security number. After that, he told her he wasn't interested in applying for the credit card, but the saleswoman had a hard time taking "no" for an answer.

Chung said he wanted to hang up, but she kept telling him they were on a secure line and always returned to the question: "What's your Social Security number?" Chung said eventually the woman became angry at him and asked him why Chung went so far in filling out the application if he wasn't interested in getting the credit card.

"The really alarming part was how obsessive she got about trying to get my Social Security number," Chung said. "The pressure tactic really

HOW TO AVOID BEING VICTIMIZED

You can't shield yourself completely from identity theft, but you can minimize your risk by completing the following steps:

1. Shred all personal documents. "Dumpster diving" is a popular form of obtaining personal information.
2. Guard your PIN at ATMs. Never write the number down anywhere in your purse or wallet.
3. Have your checks delivered to your bank or post office box, not your home address.
4. Avoid putting outgoing mail in your home mailbox. Take it to a postal box.
5. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse.
6. Never give out your personal information on the phone unless you know who you are speaking to.
7. Do not use your credit card number on the Internet unless the Web site has a secured, encrypted system.
8. Take your name off promotional lists. You can opt out of pre-approved offers for credit cards for a two-year period by calling (888) 567-8688.
9. Order your credit report twice a year and review it carefully. If you find any discrepancies, write each of the three main credit agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — and explain the situation.

Source: Department of Public Safety

drives you crazy. At the time they were talking to me, I thought I was being a hard-ass by not giving them my info."

Chung eventually hung up the phone, but the experience had alarmed him. After talking with a few friends, he found out that a number of students in the residence halls had received similar phone calls, which he suspects were from the same company.

Chung said the most dangerous thing about listening to a sales pitch for a credit card over the phone is that callers never stop pushing at consumers to answer their questions.

"People try to make you feel guilty or stupid, but that doesn't mean you are that way," Chung said. "They're just trying to get your money off you."

Contact the news editor at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

Call for Nominations Faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards

Nominations due: **MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004**

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are invited to nominate any current faculty members appointed at .50FTE or greater, tenure or non-tenure related, who have taught at the University of Oregon for a minimum of two (2) years for distinguished teaching awards. The **Ersted Award** and **Thomas F. Herman Award** for distinguished teaching are presented annually to award winners at Spring Commencement. Each award is accompanied by a recurring monetary reward for the recipients. (Please note: Graduate Teaching Fellows have their own competition and are ineligible for these teaching awards.)

Eligibility for Awards

Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching

The late Mr. A. J. Ersted established the **Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching** so the University of Oregon could annually honor faculty members "who have taught comparatively short periods and have demonstrated exceptional abilities to induce students to reason and not merely memorize." The Ersted Award is presented only to faculty who are early in their teaching careers (and who have taught at the UO at least two years). This teaching may occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching

This award honors senior faculty members who have achieved outstanding records as teachers. The **Thomas F. Herman Award** is presented only to faculty members who have academic rank at the University of Oregon for at least seven years, and who have demonstrated long-standing excellence in teaching and have contributed significantly to student learning at the undergraduate or graduate level.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS at <http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/Awards/Nomination.html>, or via e-mail to gwens@uoregon.edu, or fill out this form and send to: Distinguished Teaching Awards, Office of Academic Affairs, 207 Johnson Hall, 1258 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. If your nomination is e-mailed, please make sure to include all the information asked for below.

I nominate (print clearly) _____ Dept. _____
for the (Please check one) ☐ Ersted Award ☐ Thomas F. Herman Award
My reason(s) for nomination are: (you may attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

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E-mail (print clearly) _____
Please check your status ☐ Faculty ☐ Student ☐ Alumni ☐ Staff

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