

# Fake ID: Forgery damages career prospects

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legal, but this isn't true.

"Novelty is having an Elvis Presley ID in your wallet," Ellis said. "These Web sites make it easy for students to get sucked into committing a felony without realizing it."

Kaplan wasn't impressed with the quality of the fake Oregon ID when he got it in the mail, Ellis said. The hologram was especially bad, but he thought he could pass it off in Texas over the summer.

"I have a real problem when seemingly nice kids do dumb-shit stuff," Ellis said. "He shouldn't have been carrying it around if he wasn't even using it."

Most fake IDs are confiscated by bartenders, store clerks and restaurant employees. They're usually

sent to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which hands them over to the district attorney, OLCC Administrative Assistant Amanda Cooper said.

On average, the OLCC receives about 100 confiscated IDs from Lane, Douglas, Benton and Lincoln counties each month, Cooper said.

"I don't want students, just for the sake of a beer, to have a felony on their record," Ellis said.

EPD Sgt. Terry Fitzpatrick said fake IDs are a big problem in Eugene. He echoed Ellis' concern about felony records being ever-present throughout the life of a college graduate who could have otherwise had more potential for success.

Even if the felony is plea-bargained down to a misdemeanor, it

will continue to show up as a felony arrest on local law enforcement computers and an officer will be less likely to let the offender off with a warning, Ellis said.

An employer might give an applicant who is a convicted marijuana user a second chance if they say they've been clean for a long time, "but not with forgery," Fitzpatrick said. Charges of that nature depict "core honesty values," he said, and are less likely to be overlooked.

"Kids don't understand how serious this can be. It can follow them for 10 or 20 years," Fitzpatrick said, adding that when they finally get it off their record and are ready to start anew, they'll be pushing 40.

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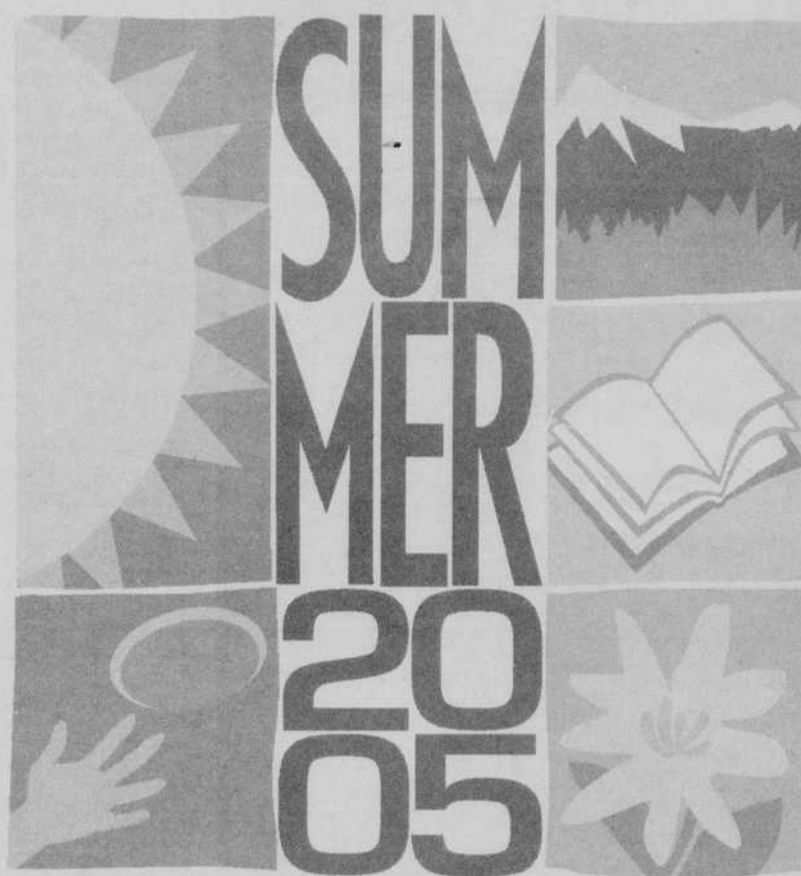
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