

Identity theft: stealing who you are

It's a dangerous world out there and now it has gotten worse—people's identities are being stolen from them.

Now I haven't had the misfortune of having my identity stolen from me, thank God, but due to recent re-

cense or an identification card.

Some sound advice to protect yourself from identity theft is to make copies of everything you have in your purse or wallet including credit cards, debit cards, driver's license, etc. Always have your credit card telephone numbers somewhere, since they are located on the



Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

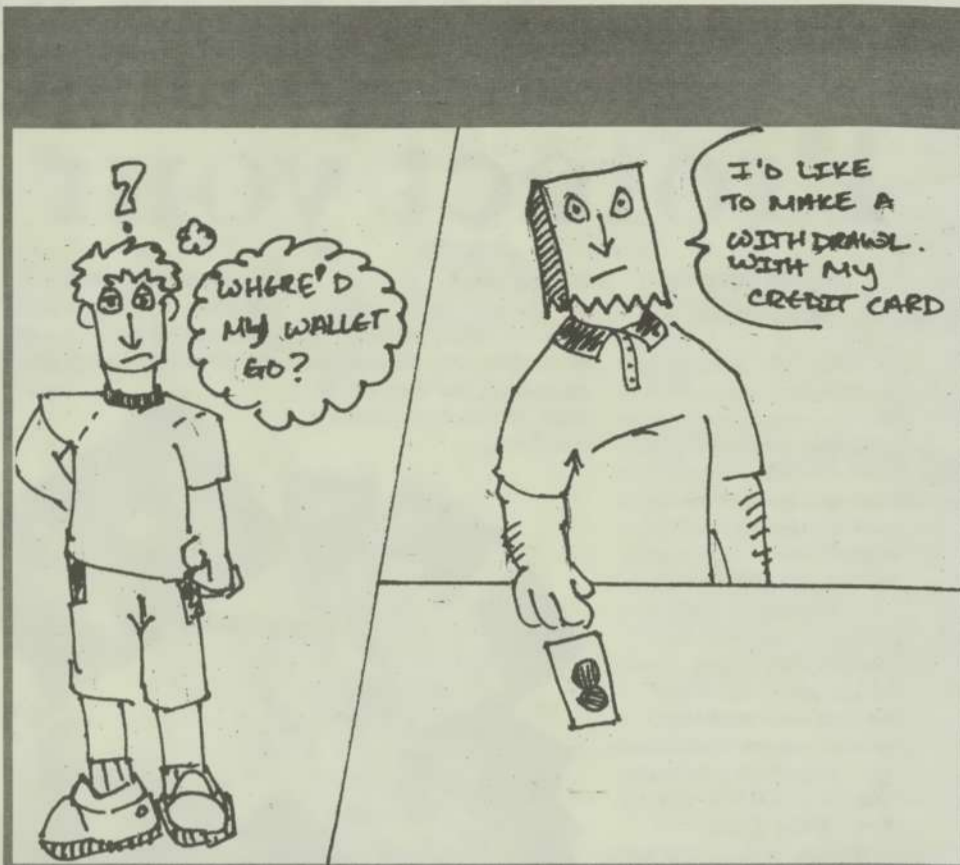
Say It Loud
&
Proud!

ports by KATU Channel Two News it seems more and more people are being told they are not who they are. Unfortunately, these vandals of one's identity have found various ways to hack into computers, and take valuable, private information about a person.

In Nov. 2001, Jody Gene Oates was arrested and charged with identity theft and forgery when authorities seized computer disks that had information that affected more than 2.5 million Oregonians. However, he was held on a \$1,000 bail and released the next day. The records that were seized held Oregonians with last names beginning A through Z if they had a driver's li-

back of the card if it's stolen. It's difficult to get the number. Once your cards or ID has been stolen, report it immediately so you have a police report to fall back on. Cancel all of your credit cards. Call all of the national credit reporting agencies and have them put a fraud alert on your credit report so if anyone tries to obtain credit under your name it will flag your report. They will have to call and get personal authorization from you for any new credit lines.

If these tactics are not followed, your identity could disappear and be replaced by someone who is not really you, but got your information and ran with it.



By Jon Baggs

Has your identity ever been stolen?



Kyndra Needham

Major: Psychology

"No. I usually don't bring my wallet."



Jeremy Crooks

Major: Manufacturing

"No. I watch my wallet."

Photos and quotes compiled by Salena De La Cruz and Maggie Jirasek



Brandon Mihajcic

Major: Criminal Justice

"No. Keep really important documents at home...Watch your stuff."



Marvin Noble

Major: General

"Yes. Now, I just don't carry my wallet."

Is it Spring Break yet?



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