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the Oracle

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St. Paul police arrest fake-ID mastermind

Former Hamline student Christopher Peterson garnered \$350,000 by selling false driver's licenses

Matt Lutz
Associate Editor

St. Paul resident and former Hamline student Christopher James Peterson, the alleged mastermind behind an estimated 3,500 fake Minnesota driver's licenses, was apprehended on April 6 while fleeing from an encounter with St. Paul Police in the Hamline University Heights parking lot.

Peterson, 23, was at Hamline when plainclothes officers attempted to apprehend him while he was meeting with students on campus.

Peterson fled the scene in his ve-

hicle, driving directly at the officers who attempted to arrest him, said spokesperson Paul Schnell in a press release. Peterson was arrested nearly a half hour after he fled. He stated later that he fled because he believed he was being carjacked.

He is currently charged with three counts of aggravated assault and one count of fleeing police in a motor vehicle.

The informant in the sting operation, herein referred to as Jane to protect confidentiality, had been wired for the past month prior to Peterson's arrest.

"If it weren't for me, he wouldn't



Christopher Peterson

have been caught," Jane said. According to Jane, the arrest did not go as planned. She was supposed to be in the car when Peterson was arrested. In addition, it was planned

that Peterson and Jane were to be arrested at the same time.

"He was very smart," Jane said. She also stated that Peterson's IDs were slightly thinner and more pliable than their state-issued counterparts.

She stated that Peterson took pictures in the study lounge in Peterson Hall and in the basement of Bush Library. In addition, she said that Peterson never wanted Hamline students as customers. Instead, he wanted to use Hamline as a place to bring clients to take pictures.

Peterson returned the ID he made for Jane in three weeks because his printer had broken. Generally, however, it took him two weeks to manufacture and return IDs, she said.

After his arrest, police confiscated Jane's ID to be used as evidence.

Jane also stated that Peterson had

recently flown out to Las Vegas to set up business out there. He was interested in any location with college students, she said.

In attempt to gain more customers, Jane said that Peterson would reward clients who brought in more customers by refunding them their money and even making clients part of his business if they brought in enough new clients.

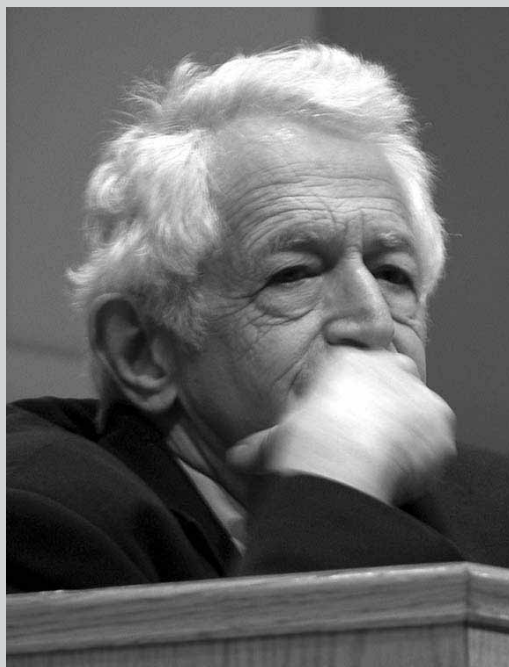
It is estimated that Peterson made over \$350,000, selling fake IDs for \$100 each.

Peterson has not been charged with any crimes related to forgery, although the charges are pending, according to Schnell. At the time of the arrest, Peterson had forty applications in process.

Police may attempt to charge Peterson at the federal level. That determination will depend on if the

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A voice for creative democracy



Mandy Sevelin/Oracle

American pragmatism scholar Richard J. Bernstein delivered the 2004 Hanna lectures in philosophy last Wednesday and Thursday. Bernstein is a celebrated scholar of American pragmatism and has edited and published numerous books on the topic.

New directions for media publications

Media Board will ensure free speech for Oracle, Liner, Fulcrum

Katherine Scherman
Reporter

After three years of discussion, Hamline's student media organizations will form the Student Media Board next year, severing their ties with HUSC, and have free speech without retribution, said CLA junior Graham Lampa, former Oracle editor-in-chief.

"Having a newspaper that functions under student government is problematic, mainly because of the First Amendment," said Brian Voerding, current Oracle editor-in-chief. "You end up having to rethink what is put in the paper because of fear of budget cuts."

The Media Board will provide an "apolitical" organization, said Lampa, so that media organizations can function separately from student government.

"The main benefit of having a media board is to provide more independence for student organizations that need to be free to express themselves," said Lampa.

The Media Board will oversee the budgets of the Fulcrum, Hamline's literary journal; the Liner, Hamline's yearbook; and the Oracle, keeping these organizations separate from government institutions.

"The leadership of [the Fulcrum, Liner and Oracle] felt that the student congress had too much control over the budgets and prevented the Oracle especially from being able to criticize the executive board, because we al-

ways feared that our funding would be cut dramatically as it has been, without fail, every year," said Lampa.

In addition to managing the budgets, the board will serve as a public forum for students to specifically address Hamline publications.

The board consists of six representative spots, open to all Hamline students. Board members cannot be appointed or elected members of HUSC, nor can they serve on the editorial boards or equivalents of organizations belonging to the board.

The organization will prevent the influence of student congress and make it easier for the Oracle and other publications to write objectively, said David Hudson, assistant professor of English and faculty advisor to the Oracle.

"If the newspaper criticizes the government and, as a result, the government cuts their budget, there is always the appearance that the newspaper is being punished," said Hudson. "It's the appearance of conflict that corrupts the system."

The idea of a media board was developed in 2001 when Richele Hansey served as Oracle editor-in-chief, said Lampa. Problems regarding censorship became too much, and the decision was made that a division between student media and student government was necessary.

The student government was holding the "purse strings" of the newspaper and really "micromanaging."

MEDIA BOARD continued on page 2



Hamline history six feet under Student Alumni Board to bury time capsule

Andrew Harpold
Staff Writer

The clothes you wear really will matter in a hundred years. Or at least they will when the Hamline students of the future open up the time capsule, which will be laid behind the cornerstone of the Klas Center.

The Student Alumni Board (SAB) is currently holding a contest in order to receive personal student reflections and photography of the Hamline experience.

The time capsule, measuring just 4" x 9" x 12", will serve as a marker of the current Hamline legacy.

Time capsules celebrate history, but SAB is not as interested in filling the time capsule with historical treasures.

The role of the board is to actively preserve what really matters, said DeeDee Shogren, SAB programming chair.

What matters to SAB is a time capsule that captures students' personal experiences.

According to Kristen Neurer, 150th anniversary coordinator, the historical information is bound in the archives already, and what is missing are the real stories from the students who lived in the time.

A time capsule can link all who have the shared opportunity of attending Hamline. There is an intangible thread of similarity in the classes of Hamline, whether you went to school here fifty years ago or you attend Hamline now. There is an experience that is shared. They are lasting elements, said Molly Glewwe, assistant director of CLA alumni relations.

MEDIA BOARD continued from front

said Hudson.

Part of the reason that separating the two organizations took so long is that "we have no actual First Amendment rights ... because we're a private college. The university chooses to behave as if these rights existed," Hudson said.

Last year the idea really came together, said Hudson.

"The idea was to try to create a model that would make all of the publications as free and independent as they could possibly be, while still recognizing there is accountability [to the student body]," he said.

In 2003, Lampa spent a lot of time researching similar organiza-

'A time capsule can link all those who have the shared opportunity of attending Hamline.'

The idea for the time capsule came about when Shogren and SAB felt that the Klas Center groundbreaking ceremony was focused mainly on the donors and was not necessarily welcoming to students.

When SAB was invited to take charge of the time capsule, the board began brainstorming how to get the students involved.

The contest is open to Hamline CLA, graduate, and law students.

The contest, whose rules are spelled out on the 150th anniversary website, will collect prose, poetry, and photography.

The submissions will be judged by a panel of faculty, who will decide what will go in the time capsule.

The top submission from each of three schools will receive a \$50 cash prize.

All submissions will be kept, and the ones not selected to be in the time capsule will be kept in the archives.

Archives about student lives can be powerful. Some archives go back to when Old Main was where students slept, ate, and went to class.

Those stories make you feel connected, bridging the gaps between generations, Neurer said.

Currently, ideas for what else will be included in the time capsule are currently being tossed around. Things such as a menu of Sorin, a Hamline ID card and a tuition bill are being considered, and SAB is open to ideas.

The contest deadline has been extended to April 21. Any questions about the time capsule can be directed to sab@hamline.edu.

tions and eventually formed plans for the Media Board, said Hudson.

The upcoming academic year will be the first of the Media Board's existence.

Six representatives were elected last Thursday. The first Media Board members are Elia Albarrán, Anne Wetter, Naomi Doriot, David Bronsahan, Tim McDonald, and Lindsay Bacher.

In the future, elections will be better publicized, but this year it was a matter of just getting it going, said Voerding.

"This is a huge step forward, not just for these organizations, but for the whole campus community. It is a way for us to maximize freedom," said Hudson.

HUSC-funded athletic orgs survive as resolution tabled indefinitely

Joshua Humphrey
Managing Editor

The Athletic Department Responsibility Act was tabled indefinitely last Tuesday by the HUSC general assembly, preserving funding athletic organizations currently receive from student government.

The resolution, coauthored by EAC chair Anne Wetter and HUSC vice president Matt Loecker, would have effectively removed all athletic organizations from HUSC charter status, eliminating any funding support for those organizations.

According to the resolution, affected organizations were those "whose purpose is to compete in athletic competitions or provide entertainment at athletic competitions."

The resolution, introduced on the HUSC floor over a month ago, was debated multiple times on the floor. Concerns were raised by representatives, including the ambiguous definitions of both "athletic organization" and "athletic competition." Also addressed was a perceived lack of accountability for student organizations exhibited by student government.

The general assembly had twice

voted to table the resolution for a week before last week's vote.

Wetter said that the purpose of the resolution was to address not only funding but also liability issues. For example, if a lacrosse player were injured in competition, HUSC could potentially be held liable for the student's injury.

And, according to Wetter, HUSC currently lacks the resources, legal or otherwise, to adequately represent and protect themselves if such a conflict were to arise.

The resolution also stated that HUSC "will do everything in its power to place pressure on the athletic department to take responsibility for new athletic organizations and make them stop simply shirking their duties and dumping new teams onto student congress."

However, Wetter and other members of HUSC had been in talks with athletic director Dan O'Brien, and she said that he expressed reluctance to fund the organizations due to budgetary constraints.

With the resolution tabled indefinitely until next school year, Wetter, student athletic orgs, and the athletic department will attempt to further address concerns over the viability of the act.



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Essential ingredients for cooking up a fake-identification empire

1. Computer and scanner

Computers only need to run a few software programs, so any Mac or PC made in the last five years will suffice. A professional scanner is required to scan photos at or above 300 DPI, which is the resolution at which most ID cards are printed.

2. Digital photo printer

Thousands of major companies print identification cards for employees on digital photo printers, and there are currently no federal regulations restricting their sale. A high-quality digital photo printer can print a full-color ID card in 30–35 seconds. They also overlay holograms on the ID cards using advanced laser etching.

Some printers have the ability to encode magnetic stripes on cards. Printers without the capability of magnetic-strip encoding sell for around \$2,000–\$4,000. Printers with the capability of magnetic-strip encoding go for \$10,000–\$12,000. Pictured at top right is Fargo Electronics' HDP 820.

3. Card stock

The common professional choice are PVC magnetic-stripe cards. All state identification cards are printed on PVC stock. Magnetic-stripe cards come in two versions: brown stripe (LoCo) and black stripe (HiCo). LoCo and HiCo stand for, respectively, low and high coercivity, which is the strip's ability to resist the encoding and decoding of information. High-quality fake IDs are made using the black-stripe cards.

Fargo Electronics prices 500-count magnetic stripe card packs at \$100–\$125.

4. Software

Fargo Electronics also sells EPI Suite, one of numerous software programs that works with digital photo printers. On EPI Suite, a user can design templates, write data to be encoded into magnetic strips, and control other elements, including color and font.

Adobe Photoshop or a similar photo-design program is also essential in the creation of realistic-looking templates.



5. Templates

Now legality becomes a concern. There is no single template for state identification cards, which makes them notoriously difficult to reproduce. Fake ID cards are typically done using a combination of freehand and Adobe Photoshop techniques, using a scanned legitimate ID for comparison. Templates are guarded secrets and are often traded and sold among fake-ID manufacturers. Resources can be found at www.fakeidman.org, a site encompassing issues of ID manufacturing.

6. Bar Book

These books, kept by bars, rock clubs, and other 21+ venues, are updated regularly and show examples of all identification cards, including passports, state IDs, visas, and others. They're not essential, but they are often helpful when comparing final products.

FAKE IDs continued from front

U.S. Mail and the Internet were used in the purchase and distribution of identification cards. Currently, the forgeries constitute a gross misdemeanor in Minnesota.

Police used an undercover sting to purchase one of Peterson's IDs, which led to his eventual arrest.

Although police first obtained information about Peterson when a student was caught with one of his IDs, they declined to reveal how they first decided that Peterson was making the licenses.

The IDs Peterson produced were nearly impossible to detect, according to Schnell. He said the only flaw in the IDs was that the magnetic strip on the back did not work.

"The quality was second to none," Schnell said, as quoted in the *Star Tribune*. "We were virtually unable to detect any difference from these and the state-issued licenses. They were almost exactly the same."

St. Paul police suspect that Peterson used agents on college campuses

and in surrounding neighborhoods to recruit clients, along with word-of-mouth advertising.

According to the St. Paul police, Peterson used an animal rights petition as his clients' application. Students signing the petition provided

Peterson with any information they wanted, along with a required signature.

Peterson's computer, printer, scanner, laminating machine, car, and cell phone were confiscated by the police. Police said that Peterson's computer contained records of clientele, including names, phone numbers and photos.

St. Paul Police are currently offering unconditional amnesty for anyone who sends in their Peterson-made fake ID, promising that no questions will be asked. Schnell told the *Star Tribune*, "If they do not return them, they might face investigative scrutiny down the road as the case progresses."

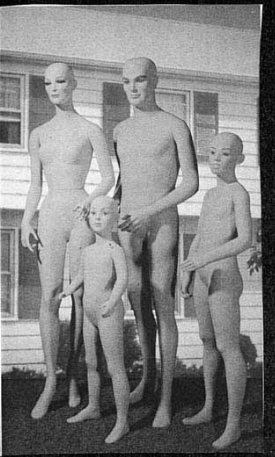
Students wishing to return their IDs can send them to the St. Paul Police Vice Unit, 367 Grove St., St. Paul, MN, 55101.

"We were virtually unable to detect any differences from these and the state-issued license."

Paul Schnell

St. Paul Police Spokesperson

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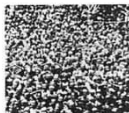
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