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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Education...

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)



Present: (6) Senators C. Potter, Shibilski, Grobschmidt,  
Darling, Huelsman and Roessler.  
Absent: (2) Senators Jauch and Fitzgerald.

Moved by Senator Grobschmidt, seconded by Senator Darling, that  
**Assembly Bill 227** be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch (by polling),  
Shibilski, Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman,  
Roessler and Fitzgerald (by polling).

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0, Absent 0

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Paul Rusk  
Committee Clerk



October 10, 1997

# Changing ID Numbers: Social Security Numbers Cause Privacy Risk

## Executive Summary

### Background

Every UW System institution, except for UW–Green Bay, currently uses students' Social Security Numbers as their student ID numbers. Through this system, students' numbers become accessible to an unimaginable number of people. ID cards and ID numbers are used in the libraries, dining halls, class registration, recreational facilities, class scheduling, and general identification purposes on campus and in the surrounding community. Students who have tried to change their ID numbers out of concern for personal safety are often actively discouraged or discover that their school has no official guidelines about changing ID numbers.

United Council has worked actively on this issue for the past three years. In April, the United Council General Assembly voted to support AB 227, the Student ID Number Bill introduced by State Representative Marlin Schneider (D–Wisconsin Rapids). If enacted, this bill would prohibit the UW System Board of Regents, technical college district boards, school boards, or private school governing bodies from using identification numbers that are identical to or incorporate a student's Social Security Number.

### Requested Action

The Board of Regents should take a proactive stance on student privacy issues by instituting a system-wide policy prohibiting the use of Social Security Numbers, or any permutation of them, as student ID numbers.

### Discussion

A recent article in the Wisconsin State Journal reported stolen Social Security Numbers as the fastest growing form of fraud in the United States. An estimated 1000 people per day experience the difficulties that go along with what is essentially the theft of their identity. Since Social Security Numbers are used as identification numbers at insurance companies, the department of motor vehicles, banks and credit institutions, schools, private businesses, hospitals, among other places, they have become the key to acquiring vast amounts of private information about a person.

In the University of Wisconsin System, not only are the numbers on student (and sometimes faculty) ID cards for countless strangers to see, they are also used for posting grades, as e-mail addresses, printed on dining hall receipts, and listed on campus election rosters. Students in the system have already reported problems resulting from people gaining access to their Social Security Numbers, including credit fraud. The potential for privacy invasions because of the current ID number policy presents a significant safety concern for students.

When students apply for admission to the UW system, that application contains an explanation of how their Social Security Number will be used (see attached sheet). The explanation does not mention its function as a public identification number, and also assures students that their number will only be released in the circumstances listed. Many students are told, via their university handbooks, that they may have their ID numbers changed. When students have attempted to pursue this change, however, they have been actively discouraged and in some cases refused this right. Inconsistencies in policy increase the difficulty for students as they try to protect their privacy.

While universities need access to the numbers in order to process financial aid, it is not necessary to use them as general ID numbers. When Social Security numbers were first implemented, the federal government specifically stated that they should not be used for identification purposes. The Privacy Act of 1974 further enforced the legal right people have to protect private information and their Social Security Numbers. UW-Green Bay's successful implementation of a new ID number system demonstrates that discontinuing use of Social Security Numbers can happen. While a few schools have gone so far as to keep ID numbers off of the ID card, they still use Social Security numbers as ID numbers. Students at every UW institution deserve to have their legal right to privacy protected.

## Contact

For additional information on this item, contact United Council Women's Issues Director, Julie Wroblewski at 608/263-3422.





# United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

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122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 263-3422 Fax: (608) 265-4070

February 17, 1998

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: John Grabel, Legislative Affairs Director

Re: Assembly Bill 227

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Assembly Bill 227, which seeks to protect students by assigning them an identification number other than their Social Security Number, was passed out of the Assembly February 3. To date, the bill has passed both the Colleges and Universities and Joint Finance Committees as well as the Assembly without a dissenting vote.

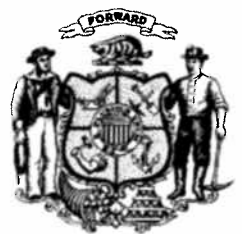
As you can see, there is widespread support for this bill, which was amended before passing out of committee to eliminate the majority of the costs associated with the original version of the bill. Students and administrators have worked together to make this bill acceptable for all agencies it affects. At this time we are unaware of any opponents to this legislation.

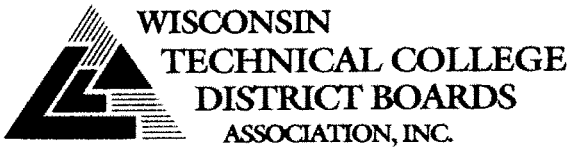
Students have been working on this issue for over three years and are excited about the possibility of this bill being signed into law this session. This is an important step in protecting students' rights as well as their safety. We look forward to your support. If you have further questions, please feel free to call me at 608/263-3422. Thank you.





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





22 North Carroll Street  
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Fax 608.266.0122

Paul Gabriel  
Executive Director

February 20, 1998

Senator Calvin Potter  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Potter,

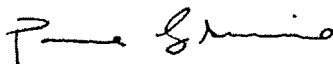
I understand that the Senate Education Committee will consider AB 227 at its February 25th hearing. The Boards Association and WTCS staff have worked with Representative Schneider to amend this bill assuring that a prohibition against using Social Security numbers in student identification numbers: 1. will not take effect until 2000; 2. will apply prospectively only to new students when the bill takes effect; and 3. will not prohibit the collection and maintenance of Social Security numbers for legitimate purposes so long as they are not used as ID numbers. Based on the amendments accepted by the Assembly, we do not oppose the bill. I will attend the hearing but do not plan to testify. If it would be helpful to the committee for me to testify for informational purposes, do not hesitate to contact me.

The Committee will also receive a budget adjustment bill briefing at the hearing. We support the provision of \$500,000 GPR in FY98 to Chippewa Valley Technical College through the Wisconsin Development Fund. This funding supports construction of a technology training and distance education center in Eau Claire's Gateway Business Park. Both the Chippewa Valley District Board and the local business community support this project.

Finally, we support a provision in the budget bill to extend the sunset to 1999 for the building of technical college facilities to be leased to others. This change will allow a limited window of time for Waukesha County Technical College to implement a project creating a new facility to provide new and expanded training options for WCTC nursing and health professions students. The facility would be leased and operated by a local health care provider identified through an open RFP process. There would be no fiscal impact.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Paul Gabriel  
Executive Director





# United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 263-3422 Fax: (608) 265-4070

Testimony of

**John Grabel**

Legislative Affairs Director

## **Student Identification Number Bill (AB 227)**

Before the Senate Education Committee

February 25, 1998

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Senator Potter, members of the committee, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the Student Identification Number Bill (AB 227). United Council fully supports this bill.

As you heard in Ms. Wroblewski's testimony, there are many dangers associated with Social Security Numbers falling into the wrong hands, and there are numerous opportunities for this to happen on UW campuses.

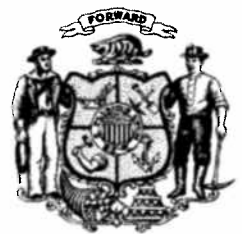
For the past three years, United Council has worked to educate students on the dangers of their Social Security Numbers being used as their ID numbers and to help students on UW System campuses understand their rights regarding the use of this number. As you can see, education and awareness have not solved many of the problems associated with Social Security Numbers.

AB 227 is the first step in solving these problems as it would eliminate many of the issues associated with identity theft on UW campuses. The bill before you today is the result of compromises between the bill's sponsor, Representative Schneider, UW System, and United Council.

The bill has been amended to eliminate most of the costs associated with the change. The bill passed without objection from the Joint Finance and Colleges and Universities Committees, as well as the Assembly. We are currently unaware of any opposition to this legislation.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# The University of Wisconsin System

Vice President for University Relations  
1708 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
(608) 262-0766 FAX (608) 262-3985

February 25, 1998

TO: Members of the Senate Education Education  
FROM: *Margaret Lewis*  
RE: AB 227 (Social Security Numbers)

## **UW System Position: Support**

Assembly Bill 227 as modified by the Assembly, would require the Board of Regents to assign every student a unique identification number which is not their social security number by the year 2000. Currently, all UW campuses assign any student an ID number other than his/her social security number who requests it.

The amendment reduces the implementation cost by spreading the cost over several years, and applying the bill only to new students.

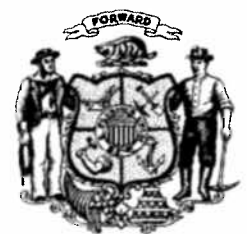
In the course of upgrading their computer systems over the next two years, all of the UW institutions (13 four-year campuses, the 13 colleges and UW-Extension) can achieve the desired privacy results by the year 2000.

Note that the social security number must still be collected pursuant to federal law for employment, research, the new Hope Scholarship, and other financial aid purposes. The social security number is also needed as a back-up method of identifying students or alumni who may have lost or forgotten their new ID number.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this legislation.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 263-3422 Fax: (608) 265-4070

Testimony of

**Julie Wroblewski**

Women's Issues Director

## **Student Identification Number Bill (AB 227)**

Before the Senate Education Committee

February 25, 1998

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Chairman Potter and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the Student Identification Number Bill (AB 227). United Council fully supports this bill.

When students enroll in the University of Wisconsin System, they are putting their trust in the state of Wisconsin to provide them with a safe learning environment. The widespread use of Social Security Numbers as Student Identification Numbers presents a significant threat to UW System Students' safety and privacy.

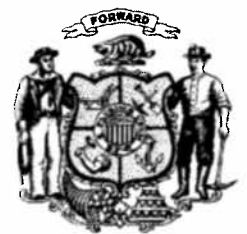
Social Security Numbers are used as ID numbers for an endless amount of records, including medical records, citizenship, credit reports, bank accounts, driver's licenses, insurance, and employee records at private businesses. The increasing use of technology for keeping these records means that once someone has your Social Security Number, they literally have access to your entire life.

When Social Security Numbers are used as Student ID numbers, the chance of someone gaining access to the number is limitless. Students must use their number for everything from class registration and checking out library books, to using computer labs and recreational facilities. On many campuses, ID numbers are even used to post grades. Each time this happens, students' Social Security Numbers are available to countless other students, staff, and community members.

Students have already reported crimes resulting from this breach of privacy, including credit fraud and stalking. These crimes are not isolated instances; statistics show that identity fraud (crimes committed by illegal use of Social Security Numbers and personal information) is the fastest growing form of non-violent crime in the country.

AB 227, by eliminating schools' use of Social Security Numbers as general ID numbers, will protect students' safety and privacy. We urge you to support this bill. I thank you again for this chance to speak to you.





To Whom it may concern,

I am a UW Oshkosh student. When I transferred to UW Oshkosh no one told me that I could put a different number on my student identification card other than my social security number. A student identification card can be seen by anyone. When checking out a computer key students have to leave their card at the front desk or when students go to the fitness center they have leave their ID at the desk. Students' social security numbers are also written on hall activity cards, computer cards, fitness center cards, and on a list that all CA's have. I didn't realize the dangers of having my social security number on my student identification card until someone began using my social security number to harass me.

At UW Oshkosh students register for their courses over the phone by using their social security number and birth date. In the fall semester of 1994 someone had dropped the courses I had registered for the spring semester 1995 and replaced them with courses that I didn't need. I changed my courses back and the next day my courses were changed again.

During this semester someone had also put my horoscope from a newspaper in my mailbox, wrote my social security number on the chalkboard in my reading methods class and on a table in Stewart's second floor study lounge. Someone had also left messages on my door congratulating me on how well I did on an astronomy test. The astronomy teacher had used the last four digits of our social security number when posting grades.

Also during the fall semester of 1994, a female student stood outside my reading methods class and my astronomy lecture before these classes and frequently followed me back to the dorms after these classes. She did this on a regular basis. Once in a while she would show up before or after my other classes.

Occasionally she made rude comments to me. For example, in the beginning of the fall semester 1994, I tried an aerobics class and decided that I preferred running over aerobics so I quit going to the aerobics class. She was also at some of the aerobic sessions that I had went to. One day she came up to me and asked me if aerobics was too much for me.

When I decided to report the instances I felt like no one believed me. The only thing I could do was have someone talk to her and I was scared this would provoke her. I also didn't have any evidence and felt like making a report was pointless. So I never did file a report.

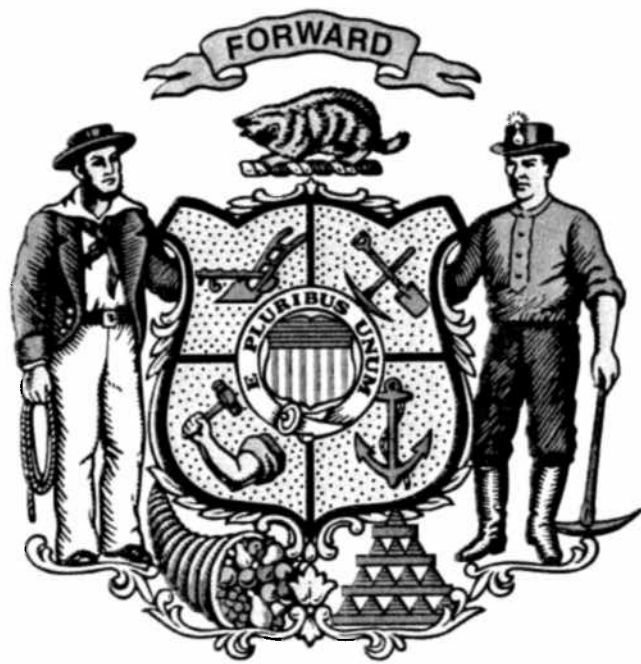
In the fall semester of 1995 the harassment started again. Someone had been putting in my social security number in the computers at the meal lines in elmwood commons. The machines are put in the hallway at 3:45 p.m and are left unwatched until 4:30p.m. when supper begins. When Mike James, the Director of University Dining Services, looked back at the reports, the reports showed that someone had been regularly putting my social security number in the machine at 4:00p.m., so that when I came to eat supper it said I had already been there. One time my number had been punched in at 7:05 a.m. and at 7:16 a.m. in the same day.

I can't prove who has been using my social security number to harass me but now this person can use my social security number to apply for credit cards, magazines, etc. and find out all my private information such as how much money I make and what medicines I use. I have called the IRS, consumer protection, and the social security number office and all three places are unable to protect me form this harassment. All three institutions could not believe that a school would be so careless to put social security numbers on students' ID cards, computer certification card, and fitness center membership cards, etc. When I talked to my credit union they also couldn't believe a school would actually put a students' social security numbers on their ID cards for everyone to see.

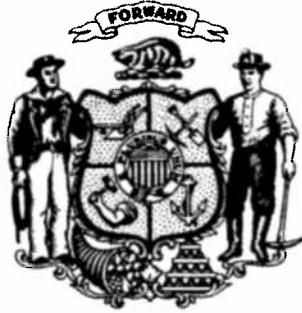
People don't realize the dangers of having their social security number on their student identification card until something bad happens to them. I realize that it would mean extra work for schools to put another number besides the social security number on students' identification cards but isn't a little extra work worth protecting someone else? I think it is time for people to start looking out for one another instead of looking to see what is easiest for them. Schools need to stop putting students' social security numbers on their identification cards so that no one else has to go through what I have.

Thank You.

UW Oshkosh student



# State of Wisconsin



1997 Assembly Bill 227

Date of enactment: April 17, 1998

Date of publication\*: May 1, 1998

## 1997 WISCONSIN ACT 128

AN ACT to create 36.11 (35), 38.14 (14) and 118.169 of the statutes; relating to: the use of a person's social security number in his or her student identification number.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 36.11 (35) of the statutes is created to read:

**36.11 (35) STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.** The board may assign to each student enrolled in the system a unique identification number. The board shall not assign to any student an identification number that is identical to or incorporates the student's social security number. This subsection does not prohibit the board from requiring a student to disclose his or her social security number, nor from using a student's social security number if such use is required by a federal or state agency or private organization in order for the system or the student to participate in a particular program.

**SECTION 2.** 38.14 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

**38.14 (14) STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.** The district board may assign to each student enrolled in the district a unique identification number. The district board shall not assign to any student an identification number that is identical to or incorporates the student's social security number. This subsection does not prohibit a district board from requiring a student to disclose his or her social security number, nor from using a student's so-

cial security number if such use is required by a federal or state agency or private organization in order for the district board or the student to participate in a particular program.

**SECTION 3.** 118.169 of the statutes is created to read:

**118.169 Pupil identification numbers.** A school board, and the governing body of a private school, may assign to each pupil enrolled in the school district or private school a unique identification number. The school board or governing body shall not assign to any pupil an identification number that is identical to or incorporates the pupil's social security number. This section does not prohibit a school board or governing body from requiring a pupil to disclose his or her social security number, nor from using a student's social security number if such use is required by a federal or state agency or private organization in order for the school district or private school to participate in a particular program.

**SECTION 4. Initial applicability.**

(1) This act first applies to students who are first enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System, a technical college, a private school or a school district on the effective date of this subsection.

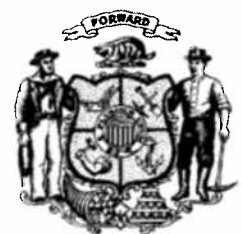
**SECTION 5. Effective date.**

(1) This act takes effect on January 1, 2000.

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 1995-96: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

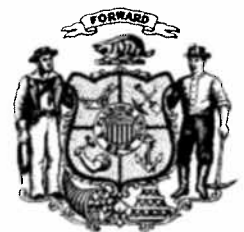


I would be happy to tell you what happened. Over this past summer my Credit card company called me and told me that my bill was five months past due. I asked them how that could be, because I had not received a billing statement stating this. When they told me the balance on the card I realized that the card was not mine. I asked when the card was issued and where it was sent. They told me it was issued in April of 97 and sent to my old dorm address. The address they sent it to was from my second year here. I had not lived there in almost a year when the application was filled out.

From as near as we can figure someone with access to my social security number was able to access the information needed to fill out the applications and receive the cards.

Any other questions feel free to contact me.

Jeff Anderson





# POINTER



## Social security number unlocks doors of privacy

By Mike Beacom and Krls Wagner  
Corros In-Clear News Editor

Everyone's life is dependent upon security in today's journey through a fast-paste economy. A lot of records, including high security records such as a patient's medical history, can be accessed by entering a few bits of information into a system's database.

However, what if those crucial bits of information could be obtained by anyone, especially a potentially dangerous individual?

An individual knowing an important piece of information, like a social security number, could lead to detrimental effects to another's personal security. Following an American citizen throughout their whole working career, a social security number can be one key element in obtaining restricted records.

With this in mind, two *Pointer* reporters set out to see if they could get a certain individual's social security num-

ber and then what records they could retrieve with it. In a matter of no time a social security number was obtained through a listing of class grades.

In almost every building spotted across campus a list of social security numbers exist. Individuals have the opportunity to pick a random number off the posted walls or watch someone scan for their grade. Not only are social security numbers dotting the university, but they are also mandatory information on other papers like registration forms, grade reports, and scantron test sheets.

After acquiring the nine digit number, a spring schedule and an unofficial transcript were retrieved within two days. Medical records could have been picked up with one more piece of information, a birthdate. One must question the difficulty of getting a birthdate when the accessibility of social security numbers doesn't appear to be a challenge. *The Pointer* decided not to retrieve the medical records based on the safety of the individual involved.

Two pieces of personal information as well as the possibility of getting medical records placed on our desk raised

some enormous questions regarding the accessibility of personal information and the policies used by administration in matters of student record security.

It is clear many administrators were unaware of the lack of security cross-checking being used by their employees. David Eckholm, UW-Stevens Point's Director of Registration and Records was surprised to find out his office gave out a schedule and a non-official transcript to the wrong person.

"I'm not very happy about that," said Eckholm. "I'm surprised (the reporter) was able to do that. I thought we were asking for name, social security number, birthdate and current address."

The ability to access records with just one number was also eye-opening to Chancellor Tom George, who could not believe a picture ID was not required.

"It's beyond me that just with that number you can get all this stuff. I'm puzzled that no other ID, your drivers

SEE PRIVACY ON PAGE 14

## Privacy

Continued From Page 1

license or student ID would be asked for," said George. "We all have one (an ID)."

Eckholm does agree that security should not be overlooked but feels too many identification checks can be a nuisance to the student body.

"If we start to put too many barriers in front of students, we become less of a service and more of an impediment," said Eckholm. "Most people don't go around memorizing social security numbers."

George noted that medical records are and should be extremely secure, but a simple trip to the health center in Delzell Hall proves a student's health care reports are not as sacred as George would believe.

A health record release form requires a student's social security number, birthdate and signature. No picture ID was asked for. One can find out HIV test results, medicine prescriptions, mental health reports and virtually a complete medical history.

Director of University Health Services and the Lifestyle Improvement Program Bill Hettler stated that several workers have attended seminars on the essential need for security when handling medical records. The health center has also thought of implementing a program that would bring the student's picture ID up on a screen when requesting medical information, but the program has only been considered.

So is the university doing anything about the problems of security, especially the over use of social security numbers?

A committee has been formed to investigate the problems with social security numbers throughout the university. The committee plans to eliminate the unnecessary use of a social security number, which will take a full analysis of all the security systems and other various programs used university-wide. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Greg Diemer plans to resolve some of the social security number problems by the end of next semester.

"There's a lot of students who think they have to use their social security number and student ID number and they don't," said Diemer.

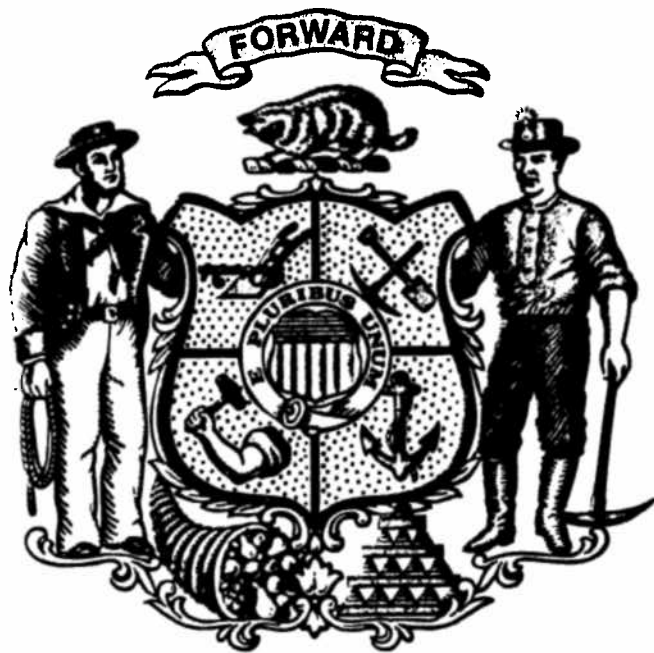
The committee does not see a relationship between accessing personal information and protecting one's social security number. They feel the issues raised by this article are internal problems and not relevant to their task at hand.

"I suspect it's probably stoppiness in the front ranks. Most people are trusting. 99.9 percent of the time everything is above moral copacetic," said George.

Even though fraudulent retrieval of personal information is rare, ignoring the possibility could lead to a serious problem within the university.

It is clear that currently there are not enough security checks being made on campus when handing out personal information. Don't students deserve to keep their personal information private and not so accessible?

*Editor's note - The information obtained for this investigative piece occurred late last semester. We made our findings clear to the committee referred to above. Yesterday, we obtained a different person's schedule once again at the records and registration office. A social security number and name were once again the only pieces of information given.*



# Safeguards can reduce chance of a problem

The security of your Social Security number is endangered. An acquaintance recently entered my name into a computer search program and came up with not only my Social Security number but also the confidential numbers of my wife, the previous owners of our house, and eight tenants of a duplex we entered seven years ago.

Jerry Kleczka, a congressman from Milwaukee who recently proposed a law to protect personal privacy, says his staff named his Social Security number in less than three minutes on a commercial data base.

For years, only privacy advocates have been sounding warnings against pervasive use of the line-digit, government-assigned number for everything from medical patient IDs to rivers licenses. That number — attended only to help trace indi-

viduals' lifetime earnings and benefits — is now the combination to a locker that's filling up with intimate details of our lives.

Alarm over the issue is becoming more mainstream. The latest issues of both Kiplinger's and Money magazines include articles on protecting your financial privacy. In a Money survey, 88% of 550 Americans polled expressed concerns about such matters.

From last October through May, the federal government logged nearly 4,900 complaints of Social Security fraud, more than twice the number received in the previous 12 months.

The Social Security Administration did little to allay such fears when, a few months ago, it used the Internet to display financial data on millions of Americans. After public outcry, the agency pulled the plug on the service.

And though both federal and

# Money Matters



JOEL DRESANG

Wisconsin lawmakers are entering restrictions on the use of Social Security numbers, both also are considering expanded use of the numbers. Carole Doeppers, Wisconsin's one-time privacy advocate, has found measures in the proposed state budget that would require Social Security numbers for moms, dads and kids on paternity papers, as well as for couples on marriage licenses and divorce

filings.

"The dragnet goes on," says Doeppers, head of the Wisconsin Data Privacy Project for the American Civil Liberties Union. "There's just a bunch of mixed messages here, and it's getting worse."

Instead of waiting for the government to protect us, we can take some safeguards ourselves. For instance:

- Keep it to yourself.** Don't carry your card with you. Never give your number to someone you don't know, especially over the phone. When asked for your number on an application, question why. For information, see the privacy site of the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.
- Watch the trash.** Destroy documents containing your Social Security number and other financial information before throwing them away. Crooks looking to steal your identity aren't beneath sifting through

your garbage for data.

Check the record. Every other year or so, order an earnings statement from Social Security showing how much you've paid in to the system and what you can expect to get out. That's a handy planning tool and can show you whether someone else might be using your number. To order, call (800) 772-1213 or visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility: [www.cpsr.org/doc/home.html](http://www.cpsr.org/doc/home.html)

Write to Joel Dresang c/o Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, P.O. Box 371, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or [jdresang@on-wis.com](mailto:jdresang@on-wis.com)

Joel Dresang appears regularly on "Dollar Signs" at 8 p.m. Fridays and 1 p.m. Sundays on WMTV-TV (Channel 10) as well as at 1:30 p.m. Sundays on other public TV stations statewide.

**Lowest AIR FARES**  
Aug. 8, 1997

**FLY**  
Fly to 100+ destinations  
Fly to 100+ cities  
Fly to 100+ airports

**International destinations**  
Lowest quoted for departure within two weeks, connecting service

Mexico City	\$539	UA/C/O/AA/NW
Rio de Janeiro	1,106	UAA/AA/CO
Frankfurt	940	D/C/O/AA
London	1,100	US
Paris	940	AA/D/CO
Shanghai	1,760	NW/UA
Tokyo	1,540	CO
Hong Kong	1,440	DL

**Domestic destinations**  
Lowest quoted for departure within two weeks, connecting service

Toronto	\$147	AA/D/UA/VA
Boston	\$233	NW/CO
New York	\$236	NW/W/UA/AA/VA
Philadelphia	\$194	TW/AA/AA/ADL
Washington, D.C.		

**Other cities:** Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Washington, D.C., Wichita.

# Columbia tries to cool sell-off talk

New York Times

Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp. has received expressions of interest from a number of potential buyers of portions of its business, but it is interested only in selling its home care operations, the president of the company said Friday.

# Generac plant to employ 100

By PAUL CIKONIS  
Special to the Journal Sentinel

Generac Corp. will build a 135,000-square-foot plant in Whitewater that will eventually employ 100 people, the company announced.

Dawn Tabat, vice president of human resources at Generac, said negotiations to buy land for the plant are ongoing. The building should be ready for operations by the beginning of next year.

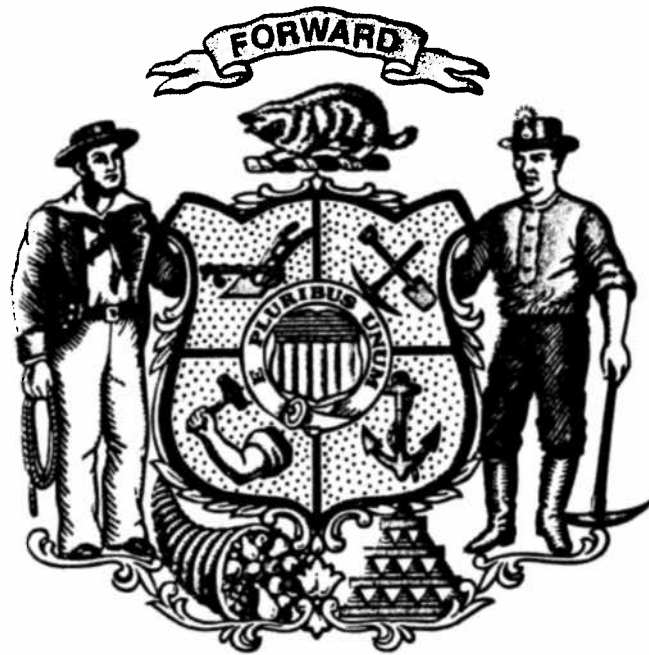
The Whitewater assembly plant will be Generac's fifth ex-

Some workers will be transferred to Whitewater from the company's other plants in Waukesha, Jefferson and Eagle.

"There are lots of openings available right now at all three facilities," Tabat said. "Some of the new jobs will end up in Whitewater."

**dent**  
1955 & P  
Power Generator Assembly  
of various sizes 1000-2500

Generac makes portable generators for home use and large standby power systems, commercial and industrial use.



# Thieves use technology to steal identity

## Data services under fire

By Stacey Singer

Sun-Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale  
William Dwyer lost his identity in 1994 at a Hollywood, Fla., used-car dealership in which he had never set foot.

That year, authorities told him, someone at the dealership probably dialed into the Equifax credit reporting bureau and rifled through electronic credit reports, looking for a good target.

The thief settled on Dwyer, an aerospace engineer for NASA in Houston. He copied Dwyer's private information and sold it to a Nigerian organized crime ring.

**'They usually get away with it — and it ruins people's credit for the rest of their lives.'**

Ed Madgo  
Broward County Sheriff's Office

Over the next four years the personal data about Dwyer and his wife, Sandy, were used to obtain 42 credit cards. The impostor Dwyers racked up charges throughout South Florida totaling \$35,000. They bought everything from gas to groceries, leaving bill collectors to hound the real Dwyers.

The ordeal came to an end this year, Dwyer said, after the couple filed suit against more than 20 creditors for negligence in issuing the cards.

"People don't believe you," Dwyer said. "That was the worst part. They treated you like you were some sort of real, slick crook."

With a Social Security number and a few facts, thieves can appropriate identities to apply for driver's licenses, telephone service, car loans and charge cards, or to steal benefits such as pensions and Social Security payments. By one industry

Please see IDENTITY, Page 8A

# Identity

Continued from Page 1A

estimate, about 1,000 people a day in the United States fall victim to the crime.

As personal information becomes easier to disseminate via computer, and more widely available to criminals, politicians are calling for new privacy protections.

They include banning the sale of credit headers, the identifying data used by credit rating firms, prohibiting the sale of Social Security numbers and making identity theft a specific federal crime.

In early August, President Clinton signed a related law barring Internal Revenue Service employees from snooping through tax files without a legitimate reason.

But South Florida police say it may be impossible to stop identity theft, which they say has become as commonplace as pickpocketing.

As politicians debate solutions, they're looking to the firms profiting from personal data.

Those companies range from Atlanta-based Equifax to Database Technologies in Pompano Beach, Fla. Feeling that glare, the firms argue that the benefits they provide, such as easy credit and fraud-fighting tools, far outweigh the risks of inadvertently assisting identity thieves.

Police say the crime of stealing someone's name and credit is so common that officers can do little except shrug.

"When a report comes in about unauthorized utility hookups or charge-card applications, they file the crime report and hope a lead drops out of the sky," said Ed Madgo, who supervises the economic crimes unit for the Broward (Fla.) County Sheriff's Office.

"Unless the criminal is caught in the act of using the fraudulent documents, the cost and effort of an investigation is too much for the scale of the nonviolent crime, police say.

"They usually get away with it — and it ruins people's credit for the rest of their lives," Madgo said.

Thieves obtain personal data in many high-tech and low-tech ways, he said.

Some thieves have stolen bills from a home mailbox or pulled receipts from the garbage. Some

rifle through public records or misuse their access to credit bureaus such as Equifax and a similar, newer industry known as the individual reference, or "look-up" services. These services compile detailed dossiers on people, from buying habits to driving records.

"Look-up" services have generated the most controversy.

For a fee, companies such as Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, Axiom, TRAC Inc and Database Technologies Inc sell data about anyone in the United States. Their customers include collection agencies, private investigators and prospective employers.

Data can include information such as Social Security numbers, as well as detailed descriptions of assets, purchasing patterns and anything available electronically through public records.

The profiles they develop are used by law enforcement, private investigators, journalists, businesses doing employee background checks, finance companies verifying records, bill collectors checking for assets, and more.

Fred Joseph, a Pompano Beach

private investigator, uses his access to Database Technologies for nearly all of his investigations, whether it's for a business owner looking into a potential partner or future in-laws checking up on a prospective bride.

The look-up service charges \$1.50 a minute. A person's profile, complete with Social Security number, latest address, driving history, professional licenses, gun ownership, car ownership and incarceration history costs between \$15 and \$30.

"I might order a criminal record or a driving record, I might pull up past addresses or see if they own any real estate or boats, see what kind of cars they drive," Joseph said. "You can run, but you can't hide."

As members of the public learn of look-up services, they're protesting, asking for their names to be removed from databases and alerting their congressional representatives.

Last year, three senators asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the industry after growing concerns about misuse of the data through identity theft. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., was outraged when her staff successfully pulled her Social Security number from the Internet in three minutes. A report is due later this year.

Feinstein isn't waiting. In April she introduced a bill to bar the sale of credit headers and to prevent state motor vehicle departments from disclosing Social Security numbers.

"We don't know where this information is going, or how it is being used," Feinstein said as she introduced the bill, dubbed the Personal Information Privacy Act of 1997. "These records can be disseminated around the world in seconds."

The look-up industry insists its members can police themselves.

Most refuse to sell to customers who don't have an obvious professional use for the information, such as lawyers or journalists. Others require users to agree to the responsible and legal use of the data, although they don't track their use.

Above all, look-up services say, they serve an enormous need in today's fast-moving, disconnected society, helping regulators and police fight fraud and find missing persons. They assist journalists' investigations and help single parents find ex-spouses behind on child support.

One police department found an abducted child, thanks to resources sold by Database Technologies, the company reports. The noncustodial parent had gone into hiding with the child — yet the address turned up in the database.

And the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support Inc., known as ACES, reports a 90 percent success rate locating deadbeat parents using the P-TRAK service of Lexis-Nexis.

If government tries to restrict look-up services, a group of the services warned in a paper presented to the FTC in June, they will assert First Amendment free-speech rights.

"They can't stop it — we're using public records," said George Bruder, spokesman for Database Technologies. The industry says it can and is policing itself.

Since Feinstein's staff easily bought her Social Security number, the company responsible, Westlaw, has made it much more difficult to access its databases online.

And after protests erupted last year throughout cyberspace over Lexis-Nexis' P-TRAK service, the company responded in two ways: It now allows people to see their own reports for about \$10, compared to the \$80 it normally charges its customers, and it no longer sells information with complete Social Security numbers.

Still, people's deep-seated fear of look-up services is justified, argues Beth Givens, director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, based in California, and author of "The Privacy Rights Handbook: How to Take Control of Your Personal Information."

Her group has tracked several cases of people being denied jobs because of a shoplifting or drunken driving charge in their past — sometimes, in error. One of those was Broni Kelly, a temporary department store worker in Temecula, Calif. Unknown to him, a person who found Kelly's missing wallet was caught shoplifting. The thief presented Kelly's ID as his own.

For the next four years, Kelly could not find work at another department store, and he didn't know why. Finally one store told him: a shoplifting incident appeared on his background check.

Today, Kelly is suing the look-up service, Stores Protective Association of California. The case is expected to go to trial in October.

"It is an invisible industry to the American public," Givens said. "If someone makes a decision about you, whether it's insurance or employment, you have no ability to know what they used to base that decision on."

She wants look-up services to notify people when information is sought about them, and to give them the opportunity to correct damaging errors.

The industry won't voluntarily go that far, saying it would be too costly. But it has vowed to educate the public about its resources and its role. In its remarks to the FTC, the look-up industry also promised to "protect against the misuse of the information" and to "take reasonable steps" to ensure its accuracy.

Where children are concerned, it promised not to sell nonpublic information, such as buying habits, without parental consent.

The industry argues that look-up services will help fight identity theft in the long run, not increase it, primarily by giving investigators a valuable search tool.

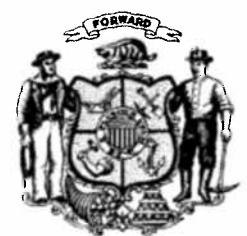
"In reality," the industry told the FTC, "eliminating or sharply restricting individual reference services would not curb identity fraud, but instead would permit it to continue with one less tool for preventing or stopping it."

In Dwyer's case, it took a Secret Service task force, investigating the Nigerian ring and others, to uncover the fraud and explain to him what happened to his stolen identity.

"A person who has this happen to them is totally innocent. You're just walking down the street and just hits you," he said. "And then nobody believes you."



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Eau Claire  
Spectator  
10/15/97

# SECURITY ISSUE

## Using social security numbers for identification can be a dangerous policy

AMY GLASER  
News Reporter

Every time a Blugold card is shown, a valuable piece of information is displayed and, if misused, could make one's life difficult.

It's not the quality of the picture which some students find lacking, it's the social security number.

Students face a problem with universities using social security numbers as identification numbers, listing them on student IDs and professors using them to post grades, said Julie Wroblewski, women's issues director for United Council who handles student privacy issues.

Anyone can call up and obtain a piece of information about the student and, in doing so gain access to the social security numbers (SSN) as well as obtaining other information, like a birth date which makes it even easier to commit fraud," she said.

There's a potential problem when using a SSN for identification purposes because it's used for many

purposes, and many people have access to them, Wroblewski said.

"Using SSNs as an identification is convenient because it's easy not having to memorize another number. But I can see where it could be dangerous because that is you identification to the government," sophomore Sarah Hatele said.

**I think we should get a different system because they (people) can get personal information about you and really mess things up.**

-Meagan Wiederhoeft  
Freshman

SSNs for identification purposes and when the Blugold card system is updated in the near future this will be taken into consideration," he said.

"I think we should get a different

♦ See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 12

# Homecoming few problems

## 15 underage drinking citations

STEVE HYDEN  
News Editor

The charge: students were out of control during homecoming weekend. The verdict according to campus and city police: not guilty.

"(It was) a fairly good weekend," said Lt. David Sprick of campus police. Campus police dealt with 31 cases during homecoming weekend.

About 15 of those were underage drinking citations, and about 12 were

## Pumpkin brothers



JUNIORS STEVE (LEFT) AND MIKE (RIGHT) of the Sigma Phi members helping Farmers Market.

SOCIAL SECURITY (next page)

# Students have option to change ID number

System produce... people can get personal information about you and credit mess...

It's a big change and it's going to take a massive effort by the students and the university, he said.

Students are able to change their identification number in the registrar's office if they feel the need, Carzilli said.

Problems with missing SSNs haven't happened in Eau Claire, but students at UW Green Bay, Platteville and Oshkosh face experienced difficulties.

That students occurred at Green Bay causing the university to switch to a different ID system, Wroblewski said.

grades, her extracurricular, aerobics class and other information that could only be known from her SSN.

A student at Platteville is sorting out problems from someone stealing his ID card and opening up charge accounts and committing other fraudulent acts, she said.

The most frequent abuse is someone using a stolen SSN to apply for a credit card or charge account, Wroblewski said.

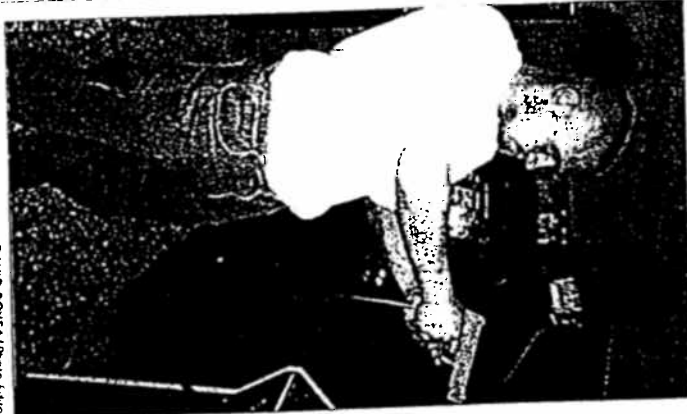
People can also apply for a driver's license, car loan and steal benefits as pension and social security payments, Wroblewski said.

Although schools need SSNs for purposes such as financial aid, the numbers are protected by the 1974 Privacy Act, Wroblewski said.

Wroblewski suggests students change their identification number and be skeptical about giving their SSN to anyone.

Once you give it out to the wrong person, it could make your life very difficult and hard to straighten out," Carzilli said.

# Freeze dirtbag



DAVID BOYEA/Photo Editor JUNIOR JEFF GOETT takes aim while playing a video game in the Eau Claire Center arcade Tuesday.

# City police have patroling foot

Captain Jerry Matysik of the Eau Claire City Police echoes Sprick's positive comments.

"We were real pleased with the homecoming week end," Matysik said. "If every homecoming were like this one, it would be great," he said.

Matysik said police typically deal with loud parties, vandalism and underage drinking during homecoming weekend.

"There were a lot more people out there than normal," he said. "Obviously we had a lot of alcohol-related incidents."

To deal with the greater number of students city police had extra officers on patrol.

There were four extra officers working "party squads" along with two extra supervisors, Matysik said.

When the police are out

# 15 underage drinking tickets given

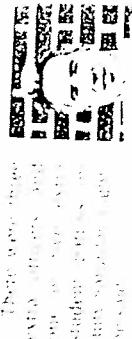
traffic citations consisting mainly of speeding violations and failure to stop at stop signs.

The weekend was dark, with rain on Saturday and Sunday.

The change students were out of control during homecoming weekend.

The weekend was dark, with rain on Saturday and Sunday.

# Homecoming presents few problems for police



There were many extra officers and extra supervisors on duty during the homecoming weekend.

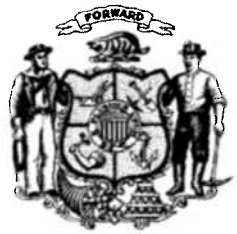
# CURRY ISSUE

times pic





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# *Fox inside*

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**Who are we  
crying for?  
Page 6**

October 15, 1997

# Fox~Times

Volume 5, Number 4

University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley

A  
I  
R

Photo by Craig Trost



**Jodi Rosin kills another ball en route to victory over UW-Marquette. The team won 15-6, 15-6, 7-15, 15-1**

J  
O  
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I

## RIGHT TO PRIVACY

**Craig Trost  
Business Manager**

Imagine if someone could find out where you live, your class schedule, access your e-mail account, medical records, and your financial aid information all within a matter of minutes. This isn't science fiction, this is the computer age. Welcome!  
The University of Wisconsin-

Fox Valley currently uses social security numbers (SSN) as student identification (ID) numbers. This number is used for registration, financial aid, e-mail, and library use on campus. Off campus your SSN is used for medical facilities, banking, credit card companies, etc.

Imagine if your identity could be stolen. This became reality for one student at the UW-Platteville, whose

SSN was stolen and someone opened credit card accounts using it.

In the fall of 1994, a student at UW-Oshkosh was stalked because a fellow student gained access to her SSN. Her classes were cancelled and unnecessary courses were added. Her horoscope appeared in her mailbox. Meals she didn't eat were charged to

See SSN Page 2

## SSN: UC fights for students

Continued from page 1

her dining hall account. One day she found a congratulatory note on her door after doing well on an astronomy exam where her professor posted grades using the last four digits of students SSN's.

"I don't agree with it (using SSN's as student ID numbers), says Michael Wochos, student association president. "It violates our privacy."

Under the Privacy Act, students have the right to have their ID number changed to something other than their SSN. This occurs rarely because students either aren't aware of the magnitude of this issue or they don't know how to get their ID number changed.

SSN's are used in the Student Services Office to access students files. To have your ID number changed to something other than your SSN, make your request to the Student Services Office and they will provide you with a new ID number. To have your SSN removed from your ID card, go to the library and request a new ID number. Your new card will be ready, at no charge, within a few days. To have your e-mail password changed, go to the computer lab and ask a lab assistant.

The one problem with the current system is it can only handle one student ID number. For students who are receiving federal financial aid this cre-

ates a road block. Because federal financial aid requires using SSN to identify students, those students receiving aid are stuck with their SSN as their ID number and thus helplessly exposed to SSN fraud.

Fighting on behalf of students is the United Council (UC). The UC is comprised of student government representatives from all schools in the UW System as well as seven full time staff members. On April 19, the UC General Assembly voted to support Assembly Bill 227 which will eliminate the usage of SSN's as student ID numbers. The bill is currently being discussed in committee.

"We are encouraging students to request their student ID numbers be changed," said Julie Wroblewski, UC women's issues director, who is heading the push for student ID number reform.

In 1995, *Money* magazine listed SSN theft as the fastest growing form of fraud. A recent Wisconsin State Journal article estimated that 1,000 people per day experience SSN theft.

UW-Green Bay has recognized that students need to be protected. A committee was formed to examine usage of SSN's. In December of 1996, the committee's recommendation was accepted to use the International Organization for Standardization numbers as the primary ID number for students, faculty, and staff.

It is important for students to understand their rights. Professors can not report your grades by using SSN's or any combination thereof. You have the right to change your ID number. You have the right to privacy. You have the right to identity. Do you understand your rights as they are written above?

If this concerns you, speak to your Student Association representatives

## Pentium Lab attracts students

By Tim Morey  
*Fox~Times* Staff Writer

This semester the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley has updated one of its main computer labs, and students are urged to make full use of the new Pentium lab.

The Pentium lab currently offers access to e-mail accounts, helpful lab assistants, and computers that have recently been networked. The network Tangents include all of the familiar programs and applications available in the main computer lab. The lab will exclusively be open to students, as scheduled classes are held in the larger computer lab.

The funding for the new lab was supplied by a combination of two sources. A government grant, which was applied for in 1995, covered half the cost, and the remainder was paid with a portion of tuition dollars.

According to Professor William Bultman, the process of organizing the acquisition of the computers took a total of nine months, a relatively short period of time. The 24 computers that are in the Pentium lab were delivered a week before school started and were installed the first week of classes.

When asking how long it would take before another lab would be updated, Bultman said that another grant proposal would be submitted within the next three years, but hinted that improvements in the other labs would certainly be a possibility within the next year or so.

If you would like more information about the new Tangent computers, visit the Tangent web-site at ([www.tangent.com](http://www.tangent.com)).

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# icks ald goal, 200

A restriction of the contest as that the chosen participants are not to have ever kicked in organized football.

"I never did any kicking other than messing around in the backyard," Wisnicky said.

The Titans assistant coach Job Canny, said the contest was artistic. "He said he hopes the suit will draw more students to tan sporting events.

Canny also credited fellow Assistant Coach Sahl Shaheed and eMarketing Event Directors for their parts in creating the contest. In basketball season, an B.A.-style three-point contest might take place in addition to a half-court shot contest with a ward similar to last weekend's old goal contest.

Wisnicky will be mailed a 10,000 check, which he said will be used for his college education.

# OSA member suggests students change identification numbers

BY ANNE SANFELIPPO  
Reporter

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh students should not be forced to use their Social Security numbers as student identification numbers, according to Oshkosh Student Association member Maggie Brown.

"There is no reason that you should have to use your Social Security number," Brown said. "It even says on the back of your Social Security card, 'Not intended to be an ID number.'"

Many schools in the University of Wisconsin System, including UW-Oshkosh, use students' Social Security numbers as their primary identification numbers. However, representatives of The United Council of UW Students said strangers have access to students' identification numbers and can find out their grades, addresses and other personal information.

Julie Wroblewski, United Council women's issues director, said there have been cases of students being tracked down by their identification number and harassed.

Social Security numbers have also been used fraudulently.

Brown said students should contact the Administration Office to have their numbers changed. New identification cards cost \$10. However, the students' Social Security numbers will always be used for financial aid and registration.

Brown suggested students wait until the end of the fall semester or the beginning of the spring semester to request changes because switching numbers can cause problems with records of grades.

Some UW System schools are realizing problems result using Social Security numbers as identification numbers. UW-Green Bay students have identification numbers that are different than their Social Security numbers. While the school does use Social Security numbers for some things, only a small number of people have access to the numbers. UW-Stout, UW-Whitewater and UW-Milwaukee are also changing their student identification numbers.

"If students feel that their ID numbers are being used inappropriately, they must contact OSA," Brown said.

# Faculty Senate reacts negatively to general education credit proposal

BY JIM COLLAR  
Contributing Editor

limit of 25 students per course section, which requires that

throughout the last three years and will be included in a report on general

rejected by the Faculty Senate. Even with the review, the



WSJ 11/12/97

# Ex-UW worker charged in electronic forgery

## Misuse of professors' computer files alleged

By Brenda Ingersoll  
Police reporter

A former program assistant at UW-Madison used computer files to steal the identities of two professors, according to a complaint charging her with obtaining private financial information to seek credit.

Constance Miles, 35, admitted using her access to the files of all university employees to glean information about credit-worthy targets, police said in the recently filed complaint.

In one case, Miles picked an art professor's name at random from UW files and went home, where she logged onto the World Wide Web to contact a company "that can take orders for anyone requesting a credit report on anyone in the United States," the complaint said.

Using the art professor's credit report, Social Security number and bank account numbers, Miles later impersonated the professor in a telephone call to a Wheaton, Ill., bank, in which she applied for a \$25,000 line

of credit, the complaint said. The shocked professor alerted authorities when the bank sent the completed application to the professor's home for her signature, rather than to Miles' address, as Miles had requested.

In another case, Miles obtained a MasterCard under a sociology professor's name and ran up nearly \$3,000 in charges, the complaint said.

Miles, also known as Constance Grider, was booked into the Dane County Jail Tuesday on 11 counts of forgery, two of obstructing police and two of computer crime. She was released pending an initial court appearance scheduled for Monday.

Miles, 2818 Tucson Trail, could not be reached. A person who answered at Miles' UW-Madison work telephone number said Miles had left her job as a Program Assistant II in July. Miles' home phone was disconnected. Her attorney, T. Christopher Kelly, was



Miles

home computer to get personal information about the woman from the Internet.

The charges that Miles obstructed police stem from lies she allegedly told when questioned by investigators, according to the complaint.

As for the forgery charges, it said she impersonated an attorney and a bank representative involved in two civil cases filed against her. Miles allegedly faked their signatures in letters she sent to the court, falsely claiming that money judgments against Miles had been vacated.

Staff writer Elizabeth Brixey contributed to this report.

traveling and could not be reached Wednesday, an aide said.

In another case listed in the complaint, Miles admitted to university police that she got a Visa gold card under a third woman's name, after using her