



## FAKE IDs

### Former student assists minors' efforts to get rowdy

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Staff Writer

Age is just a number, but there comes a lot of responsibilities as people age. When you're 18 you can buy cigarettes. When you're 21 you can drink. Some students who can't wait to get a little rowdy may purchase fake IDs.

There are minor consequences when flashing a fake ID at the bar: a ticket or a warning or a slap on the wrist. But those mak-

ing and selling fake IDs run the risk of felony charges, hefty fines and possible jail time.

"I've been making and selling ID's on and off for a little over a year now," said the 24 year-old source who wishes to remain anonymous—let's call him Hansen. "It's pretty easy if you have everything you need and are willing to bend the law a bit."

Hansen claims to have made at least 25 fake IDs in total, selling them at anywhere from \$100 to \$200

a piece.

"I usually judge the price off of how much I think they (minors) will pay," Hansen said.

For some students at Boise State, coming by a fake ID is pretty easy. All you need is someone who knows someone and a little extra cash.

"When I was underage, I bought a fake ID for \$140," said Brandon Patterson, a senior biology major at Boise State. "The guy had a very official setup in his family's extra cabin;

it looked like he had been doing it for a while."

Setups may vary of course. Hansen makes fake IDs in his laundry room, using a roommate's printer and some glue.

"The first thing I do is get a head-shot of them with a sheet in the background, then I load it up on Photoshop and put it into a template," he said. "Colorado is the easiest—mostly because I've made Colorado holograms already."

Once the template is

filled with the user's personal information, Hansen prints the template and the hologram and glues them together.

"Real IDs use PVC plastic, but the government made it so home printers can't use that so I use Teslin paper, which is pretty much the same thing," Hansen said.

It takes Hansen about an hour to make a fake ID. However, manufacturing fake IDs comes with some legal troubles.

According to The New

York Times, a student at the University of Georgia received a felony detailing a three-month prison sentence and \$6,500 in fines for selling fake IDs to fellow students.

"I'm not worried about the legal trouble. I keep my little operation pretty secret and small enough not to draw any suspicions," Hansen said. "I only make these for people who know people I know so I there's always a level of trust there as well. It's not like I'm doing this forever."



## Security bounces fake IDs out the door

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While bouncers downtown see several fake IDs there are some that stand out as the “best.”

“This is perhaps single-handedly the worst fake I’ve seen in my life,” said Will Denney, security personnel for China Blue, shaking his head while looking over the plastic badge whose likeness could have been easily replicated on MS Paint. “It’s like the kid never looked at a real ID before trying to pass this off.”

Denney has bounced at China Blue for three months and sees between three and seven fake IDs on Friday and Saturday nights. Denney also watches out for drunken individuals and breaks up fights. But his main job is to prevent youngsters from getting in the doors: to him, it’s a very important job.

“First off, it’s illegal,” Denney said. “If a police officer decides to come into the bar and catches a minor in the bar, the bar gets fined. You kind of don’t want that. You don’t want a ticket for serving alcohol

to a minor.”

A ticket for serving a minor alcohol is an enormous black mark when it comes to liquor licenses; enough tickets could cause the bar to lose the ability to serve alcohol. This is why security personnel are trained to spot fake IDs.

According to Denney there are certain things bouncers watch for when checking IDs.

“The big one is holograms,” Denney said. “With (fake) IDs, even with really good ones, there’s always just something off about it.”

According to Denney,

fakes sometimes have repeating numbers, the edges don’t line up quite perfectly and colors might be too bright or dull.

Denney sees a lot of fake Arizona and Ohio IDs at the door. Mostly, he said, because they are the easiest to fake.

“With Idaho you have to renew every four or eight years,” he said. “But with Arizona, I’ve seen some (real IDs) that don’t expire until 2055.”

If it isn’t a true fake ID, Denney will see duplicates or dou-

bles of ID cards. Duplicates occur when a real ID is used for a minor.

“Let’s say you and your friend look pretty close, but she is 22 and you’re 19. To the untrained eye you look the same,” Denney said, explaining that duplicates pop up when someone “loses” their license but actually gives it to a minor or loans it out.

Regardless of the method, security takes pride in making sure they aren’t part of a minor’s consumption.

“I just prepare myself (to catch fakes) because they don’t care about their own safety,” said Louis Edward, assistant manager of Whiskey Bar. “If

they cared they wouldn’t be here; they wouldn’t be doing that.”

The most IDs Edward ever pulled was 13 on Mardi Gras a few years ago while bouncing for Main Street Bistro.

Edward believes that bars see more of these than liquor stores because scanners easily catch duplicates and fakes. There is also a higher chance for minors to face consequences if they attempt to purchase alcohol at liquor stores.

“Once I know it’s fake and I have them cornered I always give them that option (to leave),” Edward said. “I drank before I was 21, which is why I always give them that one chance to walk away.”