

# Fake IDs not worth repercussions

Fake ID's are on the rise for high school students

by Tia Rotolo and Yiorgos Zervas

With increased accessibility and sophistication, fake IDs are popular for high school students who may not understand the serious repercussions.

It used to be that fake IDs were bought before college. Bars and clubs are at the hub of nearly every University social scene and fake IDs are seen as "necessities" for students who want to go out with their friends.

But now, even high school students are starting to invest in fraudulent identification. A senior girl said she got a fake because she wanted to be more independent. "I also like to go to concerts and sometimes they're 21 and older," she said. "I really hated missing out on things."

They aren't cheap. Fake ID's usually end up being around \$100 per person for two copies. They grow in price depending on state, sophistication level, and the person administering the order.

Arham Shiekh, a college freshman, notes the differences depending on who is in charge of the order from watching his friend who profited from them last year.

"I know my friend, who essentially sold them as his job, would upcharge the buyers about \$10-15 so he was always assured to make a hefty profit on an order," Sheikh said.

Buying through a seller, while more expensive, alleviates the majority of the risk. A freshman at Indiana who used to buy fakes in bulk for him and his friends knew the risks all too well. "The whole thing is extremely sketchy," he said. In addition to forfeiting large sums of money to unknown destinations in foreign countries like China and Russia via Western Union, students are also willingly sending their personal information across the internet and world.

But many students are oblivious to the real risks that come with fake ID's. One senior girl said that getting caught isn't a concern for her: "I'd like to think I'm smart about how and where I use it. I don't really think about getting caught at all," she said.

However, these fake IDs have serious repercussions that many high school or college students are unaware of. Especially in Illinois where fake IDs are classified as a class four felony, young students can end up in serious trouble. Police liaison, Josue Perez, shares that while most first-time offenders don't receive jail time, there is the possibility of getting your real license taken away for up to two years.



Students in high school are ignorant to the consequences of using a fake ID for illicit purposes. | Illinois.gov

"Punishments are dealt with case by case, depending on the severity of the situation. If we think it'll lead to something more severe, then they'll get into more trouble," Perez said.

Since it is a class four felony, possession of a fake ID can lead to jail for up to four years and a \$25,000 fine. Even older siblings who let their younger siblings borrow their ID for a trip to the liquor store or a 21 and older concert could face a fine

of \$2,500 as a class A misdemeanor. The use of a real fake ID without any relationship to the person can be classified as identity theft.

Many students are oblivious to getting caught. "The FBI knows how kids get them," Perez said. "They'll track your movements online."

While the repercussions are serious, students placing themselves in danger is the real trouble. Perez notes that the reasons for buying

fake ID's are solely for illegal activities, but these illegal activities come alongside unexpected dangers.

"Kids put themselves in danger when they're underage and hanging around adults," Perez said, "They tend to overdo it. That's when we find them, half dead due to alcohol poisoning or something worse. They're purposefully entering a harmful environment."

## Students have "Saturday Night Fever" for Homecoming



Either dressed up in formal-wear or costumes, students of all grades dance and reconnect under one common disco ball at the 2016 Homecoming Dance Saturday. | Pearlman

by Tia Rotolo

Cave people, famous couples, vegetables, and farmers all conglomerated under one, shining disco ball mecca.

It's homecoming. Dancing ensued in the disco-themed gym where students either dressed in costume or formal-wear, shimmied and hustled in "funky" nature.

New Trier paid homage to the great disco era with decoration and music. Strobe lights and the Bee-gees illuminated the Gates gym. Junior Jacob Imber recounted his experience. "The decorations were cool. The music was really good," he said.

This year, New Trier added some differences to the dance. Most noticed by the students, the snack table in the back of the gym was extremely well-liked. Blue

Gatorade and Milanos fulfilled student's needs as they continued to dance in the mosh pit. Junior Alyssa Marcus loved the snacks. "The Oreos were really good," she said.

But upperclassmen still control the dance. Dressing in costume, juniors and seniors subtly battle for the best themes in comfy, sometimes funny outfits while poking fun of the formal sophomores.

Many themes leave lasting

impressions. Marcus noticed a group whose theme took the cake. "I saw a group that was dressed as old people. They were going hard in the mosh pit, it was really funny," Marcus said.

Even in different groups, friends use the dance as a common meeting ground. This was senior, Sarah Gediman's favorite part. "I really love to see my friends from other groups at the dance," Gonya said.

Despite the themes, students

of all grades interact at the dance.

Wherever the night may take you, the dance is commonality for nearly all students. With the bright lights and disco music, students can either dance or find time to reconnect with friends from different groups.

Junior Julie Resnick notes the connecting factor of the dance.

"The school really made sure that everyone interacted through the music at the dance," she said.