

Stall Street Journal

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www.plymouth.edu/finaid

Financial Wellness Newsletter

IDENTITY THEFT

It can happen to YOU!

With the holiday season fast approaching, most students are beginning to think about the perfect gifts for friends and family. Whether you are shopping online or in stores, don't become a victim of IDENTITY THEFT.

THE FACTS:

- In 2008, nearly 10 million people were victims of identity theft (an increase of 22% since 2007)
- The average amount per victim taken is \$500
- Stolen wallets and documents accounted for 43% of all identity theft, while online methods accounted for 11%.
- **I in every 10** U.S. consumers have been victimized by identity theft

Potential Identity Theft Documents:

- Social security numbers, drivers licenses, credit card numbers, ATM cards, etc.

How to protect yourself:

- *Protect your debit and credit cards*
Carry as few cards as possible and make sure to take all receipts
- *Protect passwords and PINs*
Chose hard to guess passwords and never give out your PINs
- *Protect Social Security numbers*
Only give out your SSN when absolutely necessary
- *Handling personal information wisely*
Review all statements carefully and shred all documents

Source: <http://www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs17-it.htm>

For more information on how to protect your identity, visit the financial wellness link on www.plymouth.edu/finaid/

Looking for a gift for someone special?

Check out the Gifts from Hands and Heart Blog!

- Variety of gift ideas, from store bought to home made
- Detailed instructions on where to buy and how to make all items
- **ALL GIFTS COST \$10 OR LESS!**

Please visit the Gifts from Heart and Hands Blog at:
www.heart-and-hand.blogs.plymouth.edu

Come visit the PSU Financial Aid Team!

Located in the garden level of the Speare Building, across from the HUB
Room 108
Phone: 603-535-2338

Open:
Mon+Tues: 8.30AM-4PM
Wed: 10AM-4PM
Thurs+Fri: 8.30AM-4PM

Have a great Thanksgiving break!

