

## Survey Fact Sheet

### COLLEGE STUDENTS PUTTING THEIR PARENTS AT RISK FOR IDENTITY THEFT

*New survey uncovers student behaviors that could threaten parents' financial security*

College students are indifferent when it comes to their personal security. That's among the findings of a new online Campus Security Survey<sup>1</sup> of approximately 1,000 college students, which found most co-eds routinely turn a blind eye to a variety of common-sense safety precautions. And the real cause for alarm? Students who ignore their own personal security not only put themselves at risk for identity theft, they put their parents' financial security in danger.

The survey, conducted by [uni-ball](#)® pens and the [Identity Theft Resource Center](#) (ITRC), also included 1,000 parents, 87 percent who indicated they worry about their kids' well-being. And worry they should: some of what may be keeping them up at night:

- **Old School:** Three out of four parents (74 percent) indicated they believe students are at moderate-to-high risk for identity theft. Fewer students -- 21 percent -- said they were concerned about having their identities stolen, and only 13 percent said check fraud was a key concern. However, with identity theft costing victims \$5 billion annually, students ignore this at their own risk.
- **Lock Up:** 59 percent of students said they feel safe on campus "most of the time," yet only 60 percent admit to locking their doors, and one in 10 has allowed people into their apartment/house whom they do not know. However, it only takes a minute for someone to grab a piece of junk mail off a student's desk and use it later to open a credit line.
- **Falling on Deaf Ears:** Although 89 percent of parents said they had discussed safety measures with their students before they left for school, students are not heeding the warnings. In fact, 40 percent of students said they provide their social security numbers online, 9 percent share online passwords, and 7 percent say they take no safety precautions at all.
- **Safety Snub:** Identity theft is not alone on the list of student-snubbed security issues. According to the survey, only 44 percent of students are concerned with having their personal belongings stolen (laptop, mp3 player, purse, etc.), 40 percent regularly leave their apartment or dorm doors unlocked, and only 34 percent are afraid of walking home from campus at night.
- **Write Offs:** 57 percent of students write checks for rent payments and other purchases, yet only 11 percent use a secure gel pen, like a uni-ball pen with specially formulated Uni-Super Ink™ which can't be washed out, helping prevent check fraud. According to the ITRC, people often overlook traditional pen-and-paper risks, but they are significant. Using a secure pen prevents thieves from washing the ink off of a check and changing the amount or making it payable to themselves.
- **Sign, Please:** 71 percent of students sign class registration forms, 65 percent sign checks and financial aid forms and 62 percent sign credit card receipts (with 5 percent reporting other uses), showing the need for a secure signature.

For more information and tips to protect your security on campus, visit [uniball-na.com](http://uniball-na.com).

<sup>1</sup>The survey was conducted online with a random sample of 1,055 men and women aged 18 to 54 who are parents of children that are attending college and 1,006 men and women aged 18 to 25 who are attending college -- all members of the Impulse Research proprietary online panel. The Impulse Research proprietary online panel has been carefully selected to closely match US population demographics and the respondents are representative of American men and women 18 to 54 who are parents of children that are attending college. Research was conducted in June 2009. The overall sampling error rate for this survey is +/-3% at the 95% level of confidence