

## Facebook users should use caution

While reports of harassment and false impersonation have been common in phony phone calls and fake e-mails, similar fraud hasn't been reported on Facebook until recently. Now a number of complaints relating to Facebook personal profile page hacking are surfacing.

In response to the trend, the Better Business Bureau in late January issued a warning on its Web site, intended for Facebook's 150 million users: know who your friends are and keep your sensitive information private. Facebook says it is taking measures to reduce impersonations. The popular site also offers these preventative tips for those who want to take the security of their online profile into their own hands:

- Be suspicious of anyone - even friends - who ask for money over the Internet. Verify their circumstances independently, either by calling them directly, or checking with mutual friends.
- Choose a strong password and use unique credentials for each of your Web accounts. Facebook says hackers tap into one site and then try to reuse passwords on others.
- Use an up-to-date browser that features an anti-phishing blacklist.
- Use and run anti-virus software on your computer.
- Reset your Facebook password if you suspect your account has been compromised.
- Have more than one contact e-mail address. This will help if one of them is hacked.

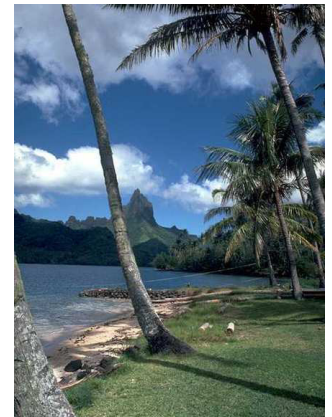
## Playing it safe during Spring Break

At this time of year, many students are anxious to leave the frigid Wisconsin climate, studying and annoying roommates behind to enjoy a week of traveling. Whether Spring Break involves lying on a warm beach or skiing in the mountains, planning ahead will help ensure a safe, fun vacation.

At this time of year, travel companies offer packages on line to fit any student's budget. In fact, some packages may appear too good to be true. Before investing your money, research the company offering the package you're interested in. It is also wise to research hotels and resorts to ensure they meet your needs and expectations. For more information on travel agencies and companies, log on to the Better Business Bureau web site, [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

When traveling outside the U.S., it is important to learn about the culture, laws and customs of the country you plan to visit. Laws pertaining to drug and alcohol use differ greatly from those in the U.S. Most countries, including Mexico and Jamaica, enforce strict laws governing underage drinking, public drinking and disorderly conduct. Also important is determining the country's current climate regarding attitudes toward Americans and becoming aware of travel alerts issued by the Department of State. A U.S. passport is now required for travel to Mexico, Canada and other countries where more simple forms of identification were accepted in the past. More detailed information on these topics can be obtained through the Department of State's web site, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

For additional travel safety information and tips, please see page two.



## Prevent license plate related thefts

Nearly 25% of the thefts in Milwaukee in 2008 were of license plates or registration stickers. The Milwaukee Police Department asks you to be aware of suspicious activity near parked cars, especially when suspects are seen spending an unusual amount of time near a car's license plates. Call police to report suspicious activity.

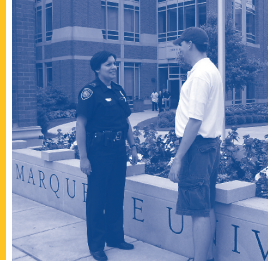
To prevent yourself from being a victim of a license plate theft, consider the following:

- Using as many screws as available to attach your plate
- Using theft-resistant license plate screws (available at local auto parts stores)
- Cleaning your license plate before affixing the sticker
- Using a razor blade to make several small cuts in the sticker once attached
- Using clear nail polish hardener over the sticker

**SECURE.**



**AWARE.**



## Tips to ensure a safe, enjoyable vacation

Public Safety offers the following suggestions to keep your dream vacation from becoming a nightmare experience.

- If using credit cards, be very private about account numbers and receipts.
- Leave your travel itinerary and copies of travel documents with family or friends at home.
- When traveling abroad, familiarize yourself with the laws relating to bringing prescription drugs into the country.
- Remember to bring along insurance information.
- When traveling by bus, train or plane, do not bring along subscription magazines with your name and address. It is not a good idea to let people know where you live and that you are away from home.
- In public restrooms, do not hang your purse or bag on the hook of the stall door. It is easy for a thief to reach over the door and remove items.
- When seated at a restaurant or café, place your bag on the ground with your foot through the strap. It will then be noticeable if someone attempts to remove the bag and will serve as a reminder to take it with you when leaving.
- Stay in hotels with good security features, such as key cards, deadbolts and peepholes on the door.
- A "do not disturb" sign gives the impression someone is in the room.
- Use hotel safes and safety deposit boxes to store credit cards, passports, jewelry and cash when not in use.
- When traveling, remain with groups of people you are familiar with. Never travel in an unfamiliar area alone or with someone you just met.
- Never leave food or beverages unattended, especially in bars and clubs. Never accept food or drink from someone you don't know.

## LIMOs available during break

During Spring Break, LIMO vans will operate nightly from 5 p.m. until 3 a.m. LIMO rides can be requested by calling 288-6363.

## Crime statistics

The statistics below reflect the more significant incidents (including attempts) reported from on- and off-campus areas to Public Safety, November 2008 - January 2009.

	Nov.		Dec.		Jan.	
	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off
Sexual assault	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	2
Battery	0	1	1	2	1	0
Burglary	0	1	3	1	2	0
Theft of auto	0	0	0	1	0	0
Theft from/damage to auto	2	2	0	2	0	1
Other thefts	12	1	4	3	7	1

## House watch available during break

Public Safety is offering its Vacant House Watch program during Spring Break. Through the program, students residing in the near off-campus neighborhood can register their homes to be monitored during the time they are away. Vacant House Watch registration forms are available on line at [www.marquette.edu/dps](http://www.marquette.edu/dps) or at the Public Safety office, in the 16th Street Parking Structure.

## Spring Break Blitz 2009

Whether your Spring Break plans take you to the beach, the mountains or home to visit mom and dad, planning ahead will ensure a safe, relaxing and enjoyable vacation.

Prepare for Spring Break by attending the 9th annual Spring Break Blitz on Tuesday, March 3rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Union.

Many campus and community representatives, including Public Safety, will be on hand to answer travel questions and provide safe, healthy travel tips. For more information, contact the Center for Health Education and Promotion at 288-5217.

The Awareness is a publication of the Marquette University Department of Public Safety. Its purpose is to provide members of the university community with timely and accurate safety and security related information. Questions and comments are welcome.

[www.marquette.edu/dps](http://www.marquette.edu/dps)

Public Safety 288-6800  
 LIMO/Safety Patrol 288-6363  
 Emergency 288-1911