

BEWARE OF CHECK SCAMS

February 26, 2007

Dear International Student,

We would like to warn you about giving cash to another person in exchange for a personal check. These situations are often scams so please beware any time you encounter such a situation.

Here are two examples of check scams:

1) A person approaches you and claims to have money in the bank which s/he cannot access. The person requests cash in exchange for a personal check. You give the person cash. Days later, you learn from your bank that the person's check is bad (ie. there is no money in the person's checking account) so you can't cash the check.

2) You advertise a room for rent in the Spectrum. A person contacts you indicating that s/he wants to rent the room and sends you a check for the deposit. S/He then changes his/her mind and asks you for a refund of the deposit. You send the refund. Then you find out from your bank that the person's check was bad so you lost the money.

These are two examples of how check scams can occur, but there are many others. Please be wary of anyone who wants cash from you in exchange for a check.

Sincerely,
Ellen Dussourd