



The Seahawk

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New 20's are counterfeited after only three weeks

ASHLEY PARKER

STAFF WRITER

Counterfeits of the new \$20 bills have already surfaced in Brockton, Mass., according to MSNBC news.

This report came on Oct. 30, just three weeks following the issuance of the new 20s.

The bills were not discovered at the time of the transaction and no arrests have been made. The 20s were only color copies of real bills; no attempt was made to duplicate the security features.

The new 20s, which were introduced on Oct. 9, have an array of security features including: three colors, a color-changing 20 in the lower right corner, an embedded security seal, an array of gold twenties on the back and an Andrew Jackson watermark



Andy Bader/the Seahawk

visible on the back.

They were thought to be "the most secure currency in U.S. history," said federal Gov. Mark Olsen.

CNN reported on Nov. 8 that nine people have been arrested

nationwide for trying to use counterfeit 20s. "Digital technology makes counterfeiting easier and cheaper," according to the report.

The government has launched a \$33 million advertising cam-

paign to inform consumers of the security features on the new bill. An interactive tutorial on the bill is available on the Treasury Department's Web Site.

More than 200 media events outside the United States have

been planned to launch the new bill since two-thirds of our currency circulates globally, says the MSNBC report.

The 20 is the most counterfeited bill in our currency. It was last revamped in 1998 to deter counterfeiters.

The federal government reports that \$44 million in counterfeit money was passed last year.

Counterfeiting is a federal crime and offenders face up to 20 years in prison and huge fines.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of the new bills is up to the consumer.

The government is relying on people to check for the new security measures during a cash transaction.

Plans are underway for new 50s and 100s to be introduced in 2004 and 2005.

Music to your ears: CD prices are dropping

KRISTINE KLAMMER

STAFF WRITER

Universal Music Group announced that they will be cutting the prices of their CD's from between \$16 and \$18 to \$12.98.

This could solve one dilemma that college students and music fans around the world have been experiencing recently. Issues relating to downloading music and increasing album prices have come to light since the crack

down by the government and the Recording Industry Association of America.

"UMG is responsible for almost 30 percent of all album sales in the United States, so we are uniquely positioned to try this new strategy. We strongly believe that when the prices are dramatically reduced on so many titles, we will drive consumers back to the stores and significantly bolster music sales," said Doug Morris, Chairman and Chief Executive

Officer of UMG.

The new pricing will apply to artists such as Ashanti, Mary J. Blige, blink-182, Bon Jovi, Mariah Carey, Eminem, Puddle of Mudd, Reba McEntire and many more.

UMG owns record operations and licenses in 71 countries and is the world's leading music company.

"I think it's a good step for the music industry if they want people to stop downloading music

and start buying it again. It will be a lot easier to go back and spend \$10-\$12 on a CD than it would to go spend \$20," said junior Nicole Leffer.

For more information on UMG and the price cuts visit www.umusic.com.



Dan Hacker/the Seahawk

BMG owns record operations and licenses in 71 countries.

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