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ONLINE OPINION

Online Opinion is your chance to tell Keloland what you think.

Remember - our on-air polls are scientific. Online Opinion is not. It's simply an easy way to speak your mind.

As of today, 563 questions have been posted and **1,049,044** votes have been cast. Click Here to view the Online Opinion archives.

VIDEO

04/04/2006

Bumping P.O. Boxes

VIDEO

CLICK TO VIEW

You expect your mail to be secure in the post office of all places, but a local expert says that may not be the case.

It's a shocking discovery and it raises serious questions about the security of locks on millions of p.o. boxes across the country.

Our mail is considered some of the most private information we own. We receive checks in the mail, credit cards and billing information and the list goes on.

But now all that private and valuable information could fall in the wrong hands in a matter of seconds.

This security consultant is about to demonstrate how easy it is to pop open a P.O. Box with nothing more than a tapping device and a blank key. Watch what happens.

Marc Tobias rented his own P.O. Box at a Mailbox Etc in order to video tape his easy access and to draw attention to what he calls a huge security problem.

It's a method called "bumping" and he says anyone can do it. He wouldn't let us video tape him bumping a lock at U-S Post Office Box, but said he achieved the same success.

"This is a lock used by Mailbox Etc, this cost \$1 to manufacture in China and Tiawan."

Tobias says these locks and five million others the United States Post Office uses are not secure. And to make matters worse, Tobias says bumping keys are sold commercially and on the internet.

"In the Netherlands, they did a large study that showed 80 different locks could be opened by laymen in seconds and this is a problem in the United States that needs to be addressed. Some of them may take five seconds, some may take 10 seconds, but at the end of the day they all open."

We put a call into the United States Postal Inspector. He never returned our calls. But Tobias says he's made the Post Office and Mailboxes Etc. aware of the problem and was told they're addressing it.

Tobias says the post office will probably have to replace the locks with high security locks, which will cost millions of dollars.

Plus he says, the laws need to change, too, to make it illegal to send bumping keys through the mail.

Don Jorgensen

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KELOLAND TV 501 S. Phillips Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605.336.1100



Women In Business 2006 ✓

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LAWRENCE & SCHILLER (S) DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING