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| C:\Users\alingenfelter\Desktop\628x471.jpg | **Vocabulary** |
| **Perjury-** the deliberate, willful giving of false, misleading, or incomplete testimony under oath, especially in court |
| **Defraud-** to take something from by fraud or dishonesty; to swindle |
| **At-risk-** a term used to refer to children who are at risk of failure or delinquency; usually those from poor backgrounds or born with disabilities |
| **Amnesia-** loss of memory |
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# This Troubled Teen is 31 Years Old!

##### *Woman charged with posing as youth in need in Vancouver*

VANCOUVER, Washington, U.S.A. -- She earned a "D" in drama, but her acting was great.

Police say a 31-year-old woman posed as a student at Vancouver's [Evergreen High School](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Evergreen+High+School%22), where she was a member of the Class of 2000, played on the tennis team and attended the senior prom.

Students knew her as [Brianna Stewart](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Brianna+Stewart%22). Now, she's known as [Treva Throneberry](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Treva+Throneberry%22) and is in the Clark County Jail awaiting a May 23 trial on charges of first-degree theft, second-degree theft and **perjury**.

Throneberry is accused of **defrauding** the state [Department of Social and Health Sciences](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Department+of+Social+and+Health+Sciences%22) of $3,620.27 that was paid for her foster care. She also is accused of defrauding [Clark College](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Clark+College%22), when $1,050 in tuition was waived after she claimed to be a homeless teen. The perjury charge alleges she illegally obtained a state identity card under the name Brianna Stewart.

The Columbian newspaper in Vancouver reported that more legal trouble may be on the way. A Camas man was convicted of having sex with a minor after a 1997 encounter with "Stewart." Police say she was actually 28 at the time.

"We're hoping the situation gets resolved," said [Vancouver police Sgt. Lou Brafladt](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Vancouver+police+Sgt.+Lou+Braafladt%22). "Until we get a few more details done, we don't know for sure."

Throneberry's story has stunned her former classmates and the Vancouver families who thought they were helping a troubled street teen who had been abused.

"I remember the first time I met her, thinking she was a teacher," recalled classmate [Ken Dunn](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Ken+Dunn%22). "Then she said she was a student, and nothing after that ever made me think she was that old."

Throneberry recently appeared in Clark County Superior Court, and continued to identify herself as Stewart.

Fingerprints and witnesses show she also had been known as [Stephanie Danielle Lewis](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Stephanie+Danielle+Lewis%22) in Pennsylvania, and as [Emily Kara Williams](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Emily+Kara+Williams%22) in Texas.

"There is a whole history of confusion with her identity," said defense attorney [Kathleen McCann](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Kathleen+McCann%22), who plans to seek a mental evaluation for her client.

Police say Throneberry was born May 18, 1969, in Wichita Falls, Texas. She lived in Electra, Texas, until after 10th grade in 1985. Police say she became a sophomore in high school again 12 years later at Evergreen.

Throneberry told school officials she didn't have a transcript because she had been home-schooled.

As Stewart, Throneberry completed three years at Evergreen, earning a 2.83 grade-point average. She graduated 256th in a class of 616.

The state spent about $11,500 on her education.

Throneberry lasted only five months with [Randy Fisher](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Randy+Fisher%22)'s family before being asked to leave.

"I really didn't think she was a kid," Fisher said. "When she had to explain something, she'd say, 'Oh, I'm just a teenager.'"

One of her tennis teammates, Tsering Kheyap, said some of the girls thought Stewart looked older. Barb McKay, the mother of one of Stewart's closest friends, said she thought the woman was hiding something.

But she still thought Stewart was an **at-risk** teen because of attention from social service agencies and attorneys who were frequently checking on her.

McKay even obtained a state license to provide foster care for the woman, but Stewart chose not to move in after all.

Throneberry campaigned for a [Social Security](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Social+Security%22) card in her false name, even appealing to Gov. [Gary Locke](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Gary+Locke%22). In an effort to obtain a birth certificate, the first step toward receiving a Social Security card, she had to provide fingerprints.

The prints came back to haunt her.

Earlier this year, Vancouver police Detective [Scott Smith](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Scott+Smith%22) examined her record and found the fingerprints connected her to other cases of homeless teens with stories of abuse.

Smith said the woman's patterns were the same at every stop.

He said Throneberry denied the connections when he questioned her about her identity.

Eventually, he sent a photo of the woman to Throneberry's parents, who identified "Brianna Stewart" as their daughter.

"She's just going cross-country and using different names and receiving welfare," her father, Carl Throneberry, told the Columbian from his home in Comanche, Okla. "She talks a pretty good line, they tell me."

If convicted, Throneberry faces sentences of up to 90 days for first-degree theft, 60 days for second-degree theft, and six months to 12 months for perjury.

Daphne, Ala., police Detective [James Matthews](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=local&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22James+Matthews%22) said Throneberry traveled by bus to Daphne last year and told police she was an 18-year-old amnesia sufferer named Brianna Stewart in search of clues to her past.

Matthews, who said no charges would be filed against Throneberry in his jurisdiction, said the woman told him she had **amnesia** and that a traumatic event had caused her to hitchhike across the country four or five years earlier.

**Text-Related Questions:**

***Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, please answer in complete sentences and give references/examples from the text to support your answers.***

1) What is the importance of the identity of person?

2) How is our identity built?

3) What are the dangers of not having an identity?

4) What does identity fraud say about our modern world?