

Man faces charges of identity theft

By Todd Ruger

A West African man stole at least \$18,215 from Davenport financial institutions since August by using fraudulent checks and identity theft, police said.

Abouourabiou Afoodjebiti, 24, of 4800 Grand Ave., Apt. I-101 in Davenport, faces nine criminal charges in Scott County after complaints from three Davenport banks prompted an investigation, police said.

Detectives searched his apartment and arrested him Friday, police said, even though numerous people reported he had fled the country.

Davenport police plan to share information with federal authorities since one victim of identity theft lived in New York and the banks are federally insured entities, and more charges may come after they sift through items seized during the search.

Afoodjebiti remained in custody at the Scott County Jail on \$67,250 bond Monday night for one first-degree theft, two second-degree theft, three forgery and three identity theft charges.

He stole \$12,142 from DuTrac Credit Union, 2330 E. 53rd St., by depositing stolen, forged, counterfeit or closed-account checks and then withdrawing the money before the credit union verified the checks, police said.

He also faked a \$5,800 check from the New York man but put his own address as the check holder, depositing it at IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union, 2102 Kimberly Road, then transferred \$3,500 to his girlfriend's account, police said. The bank ended up losing \$4,928 in the transaction, police said.

The New York man's identity was first discovered stolen during an investigation into three Nigerians about three years ago in Fairfax, Va., police said.

Afoodjebiti also stole \$1,145 by writing personal checks from his BlackHawk State Bank account to his account with River City Credit Union, 902 W. Kimberly Road, in August and September, police said.

He knew the account was no longer good, police said.

The identity theft charges allege Afoodjebiti received money by depositing these checks even though he did not have authorization from the check holder.