

## Nimb ring introduces line of safety gadgets

**Hawraa Alsaedi**  
Staff Reporter

A young woman passes by the police station on her walk, only to be stopped by a complete stranger.

Minutes later, he stabs her in the stomach, throat and three times in the heart area.

She is saved by her voice, as help comes when she starts screaming.

Sixteen years later, this woman, Kathy Roma, has co-founded a gadget designed to help others in times of trouble.

Enter the Nimb ring: a sleek, wearable ring with a built in panic button.

By creating a "safety circle" on the Nimb phone app, family, friends and the police are alerted with the press of the ring.

Personal information and location is given out to those in the "safety circle" after one calls for help, which protects the owner's privacy.

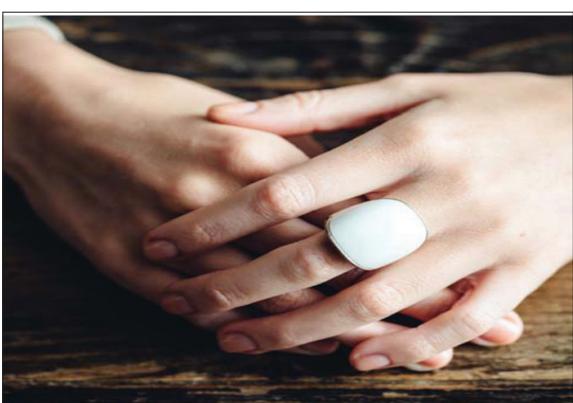


Photo courtesy of BetaList  
Nimb ring, a piece of wearable technology with a panic button, was designed to combat assault and provide support in times of danger.

The Nimb ring is designed for everybody, from young children to adults.

It can be used in times of robbery, assault, fire and more.

The app features a chat to re-

spond to emergency alerts and can be used to send alerts without the Nimb ring.

The ring is both water and dust protected.

It syncs with Android, iOS and

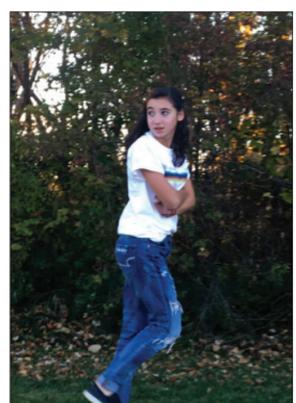


Illustration by Hawraa Alsaedi

Bluetooth, making it compatible with most cellphones.

It is made from hypoallergenic metal and has a battery life of two weeks.

The panic button is sunken and

has to be held for three seconds to send the alert, and a vibration confirms the alert has been sent.

If an alert is sent by accident, it can be cancelled by entering your password into the app.

Nicole Verboncoeur (12), president of the Feminism club, felt the Nimb ring will be an asset to women.

"I think this can help people in bad situations get out of those situations a lot easier, because reaching for your phone isn't necessarily the safest thing to do and if someone is harassing you—they could take your phone," Verboncoeur said.

From a technology perspective, Dean Buggia (Technology) mentioned a few possible setbacks.

"If your cell phone doesn't have good signal, is it going to work? The other thing, too, is what if you get into a situation where you don't have the opportunity to push the button or hold it down for three seconds?" Buggia

said. Stop Street Harassment surveys have shown that the percentage of women who have been street harassed is much higher than that of men.

Sixty-five percent of American women having reported harassment, in contrast, to the 25 percent of men who have reported.

"I guess this could equalize the safety feelings [between men and women], but I think the ring is not going to fix the way men and women are perceived by society, but it will make it safer for women and hopefully we can move more towards that equality and feeling safer," said Verboncoeur.

Pre-order prices are starting at \$119 and deliveries are to be made in March 2017.

Kickstarter, the Brooklyn-based company that raises funds for creative projects, will raise the price to \$149 afterwards, according to the product website.

## Stem cell therapy holds potential in medical field despite moral conflict



Illustration by Bernice Gajda

**Luis Borrero**  
Staff Reporter

Twenty-two-year-old quadriplegic Christopher Boesen participated in stem cell based treatment to restore certain nervous system functions, resulting in the recovery of his upper body usage.

A medical team from Keck hospital of the University of Southern California performed the surgery in April. It initiated with the injection of 10 million cells directly into the patient's cervical spinal cord. Results began to show a couple weeks later.

According to USC News, Charles

Liu, head of the Neurorestoration Center at USC, who also led the procedure, said that restoring some functions could significantly improve the daily lives of the patients.

"With this study, we are testing a procedure that may improve neurological function, which could mean the difference between being permanently paralyzed and being able to use one's arms and hands," Liu said.

Boesen can now engage in some daily tasks carried out by the upper body, such as writing his name, feeding himself and operating a cell phone.

The success of the procedure

may be a breakthrough in stem cell research.

Danielle Tandoc (Science) explained the significance of the treatment.

"[It gives] hope for people with spinal cord injuries," Tandoc said. "They used to say if you had a spinal cord injury, you're just hosed, you're never going to be able to get any of that functioning back, but what they're now finding is that if we can take those stem cells [and see] how it is that it can regenerate tissue."

Although stem cell treatment has the ability to benefit people with certain disabilities, some think part of the research is unethical.

Chrissy Schoonover (Math) is an individual who is against some aspects of stem cell research, specifically the embryonic cell research, but not the adult cell research.

"I think a lot can be learned from the embryonic stem cell research, but I'm opposed to [using embryos] because it has to do with aborted babies, and I'm pretty strong against abortion from my Christian beliefs... I just want to make sure, from my belief and views, that it's not from a baby that wasn't born," Schoonover said.

Despite the fact some people are aware stem cells are not only obtained through embryos, others think all stem cell research is wrong.

Tandoc defended stem cell research by saying some people are "absolute morons" assuming the cells only come from embryos.

"Unfortunately, you have individuals who don't have any science knowledge whatsoever touting all of that information saying 'all stem cells come from embryos; There's such a broad range of places that you can get stem cells from and they're everywhere, they're finding other [places] in everybody's body all the time, that's how all this repair stuff ends up happening,'" Tandoc said.

Trevor Perry (Okemos High School Graduate) received stem cell treatment which resulted in the redevelopment of his finger. Perry's fin-

ger was injured after getting caught in between football equipment and a parking sign.

"[Stem cell research] is very important to me because it regrew my finger... Reasons like that and what happened to me are why stem cell research is important and should be looked into more," Perry said.

Although stem cell research may stir up conflict, it has assisted in Boesen's situation.

According to USC News all he wanted from the beginning was a fighting chance.

"If there's a chance for me to walk again, then heck yeah! I want to do anything possible to do that," Boesen said.

## Identity theft proves to be major concern in digital age

**Holden Santi**  
Web Editor

Once upon a time, in an age before the Internet, people were safer. Millions of people walked around without getting their identities stolen. In this digital age, as one of the most reported crime in America, identity theft is far too common.

According to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, identity theft affects over 15 million people a year.

Rob Kardashian leaked Kylie Jenner's phone number to millions of his fans online on Sept. 26, , tweeting Jenner's number, 16 laughing emojis and the quip: "I ain't hacked either this is rob dog lol."

While the problem was eventually solved as Verizon said they would take the phone number out of rotation for a full year, this issue opened a doorway to the threat of identity theft and hacking in today's day and age.

Even high profile celebrities such

as Oprah Winfrey, Will Smith and Kim Kardashian have fallen victim to identity theft. According to the Identity Theft Resource Center it takes over 330 hours to repair all of the damages it causes.

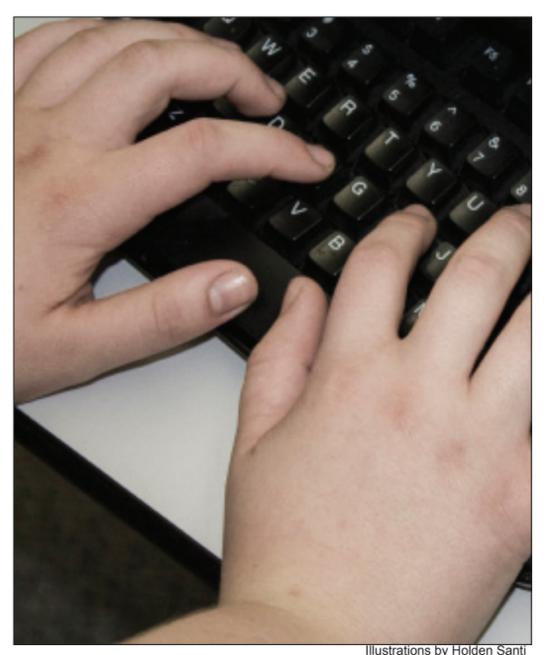
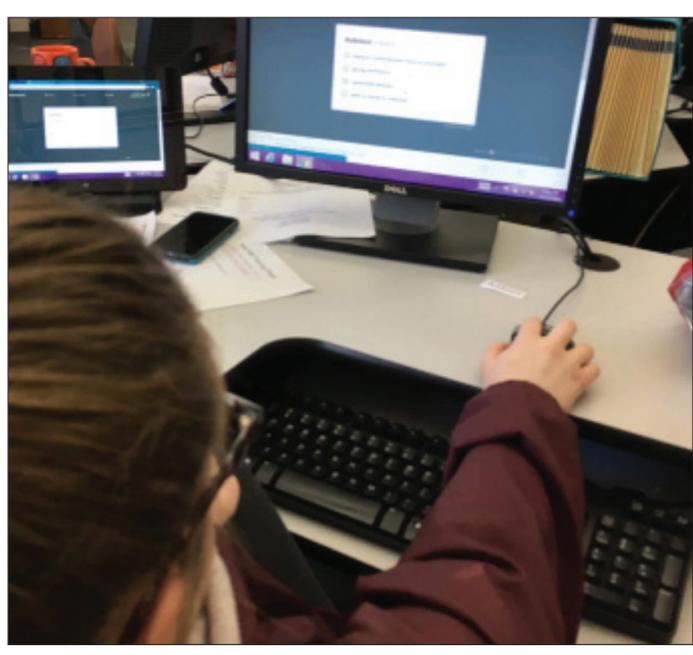
While identity theft can happen to anyone, there are many things that can be done to prevent it.

"If you have good passwords and don't reuse them, it's not that much of an issue. Just don't use shady sites," Jainil Shah (9) said.

"Don't share personal information as much," Tommy Tracy (12) said,

In today's digital age where personal information is easily accessible, the threat of identity theft can be worrying. Especially now that new technology is becoming readily available to the public, people are more susceptible to hacking and identity theft.

Tracy said that identity theft is not a constant threat in his life, and is not worried about it.



Illustrations by Holden Santi