

New ID cards a hassle

BY JANET FRENCH

The new DalCard, which is intended to make life simpler on Dalhousie campus, is causing frustration and confusion for both new and returning students.

Every Dalhousie student must obtain a new DalCard by September 30. The DalCard was created as a result of the implementation of the Banner system, a Year 2000 compatible registration system at Dalhousie. Under the Banner system, all students have been assigned a new number and a digitized photo of every student will be stored in a database.

DalCard production coordinator, Deborah Lusby, who is the Associate Director of Finance and Systems in the department of Housing, Conferences and Ancillary Services, says the new system has many benefits and conveniences. Lusby says when a card is lost, the digitized photos will not only allow the card to be easily reproduced, but will add extra security. Lusby also says the database of student pictures may eventually lead to pictorial class lists.

Library Information Studies Master's student Taryl Gula understands the necessity for the cards, and says they will be convenient.

"[With Banner] you can check your marks, check your schedule, add and drop classes, pay fees, even acquire transcripts from other universities."

But Gula says the university didn't do a good job informing students about the changes. She says the information is out there, you just have to know where to find it.

Although information about the new DalCard was mailed out to students in the registration package, some students are puzzled by the necessity of the new cards. Both old and new cards can be used to access Dalhousie libraries and both can

hold debit accounts with Food Services, bookstores and other amenities on campus. But only the DalCard bears the new digitized photo of the student.

Fourth year kinesiology student Anna Coolen admits she isn't sure why the new cards were necessary.

"I don't know why we had to change them all at once when there is this big rush of people. Hopefully it will make things easier."

One obstacle in DalCard production surfaced on September 7 when hundreds of students showed up at the Arts and Administration building at the same time hoping to get their cards made. Employees making the cards began to administer numbers so students could leave during the several hour long waiting period.

Lusby defends the system saying it was the sudden volume of students that caused temporary mayhem, not the DalCard production itself.

"Because of those bad couple of days, there might have been a bad impression of the ID making process," she says. "If you talk to students who have come through in the past couple of days, they would probably tell you that they had a positive experience."

Coolen waited one hour for her DalCard on the ninth of September. She says she was not impressed that there are only three cameras making DalCards for 13,000 students.

The temporary and student staff producing the DalCards have been working long hours, but Lusby insists spirits are still high.

"Most of the staff are happy to have the overtime," she says. "I have to applaud their efforts, they have been very cheerful."

Gula defends any apparent disorganization of the new system.

"The Banner system is so intricate, it is going to take two years before it works correctly."



One DalCard and no aces: students were dealt a bad hand when DalCard registration developed multi-hour waiting periods.

New bookstore opens for Health Science students

BY KATIE TINKER

Anyone still waiting to buy textbooks this fall may be relieved to know they will spend less time than in other years waiting in line.

That's because textbooks for Health Science students are now being sold in a new bookstore in the bottom of the Dentistry building. Store managers hope the move will ease pressure on the main bookstore, and give Health Science students a more convenient place to shop.

"We needed more space than the SUB had to offer," said Michelle Lassaline, Manager of Dalhousie bookstores, "and this

store is situated more appropriately for Health Science students, because it's where all their classes are."

The new store will carry textbooks for all the Allied Health Sciences, with the exceptions of Health Education, Health and Human Performance as well as Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, whose books will still be sold in the SUB.

Health Science students seem happy with the change.

"I find it a lot better," says Tanya Eastman, an Occupational Therapy student.

"All your books are right there, the line is shorter, and it's

less time and hassle all around."

Angie Meikle, also in occupational therapy, agrees, but adds that "the lineups were still too long."

Bookstore manager Lassaline says the transition has been very smooth, though she acknowledges that a lot of students still don't know about the change.

"It's hard to get the message across in the summer," said Lassaline.

"People are still coming to the old bookstore looking for Health Science books, and that's regrettable. But everything will straighten out once people get used to it."

Dal highest tuition

continued from page 1

"Sounds great," said Chris Caisley, a transfer student from British Columbia, "So why isn't anybody doing anything about it? I am still trying to figure out why

I came to Dal in order to pay more money for tuition and sit in buildings that have no air-conditioning and are literally falling apart," said Caisley. "But I must be expecting too much for my money because when I go into

these classrooms, they are packed. Some people are even sitting on the floor."

Student representatives and faculty across the country are lobbying university administrations for more financial support.

Dalhousie Gazette robbed

Other offices visited by would-be robbers

BY AMY DURANT

The Student Union Building had some unwanted visitors over the summer. Thieves tried their hands at robbing a few offices in the building and made away with some loot in the process.

On August 22, the Dalhousie Gazette's ad manager, Dallas Shannon, walked into work to discover the lock on the door broken.

Originally Shannon thought the lock had only been tampered with. Later, he realized the Gazette office had been broken into and computer equipment totalling approximately \$5000 had been stolen.

The Gazette doesn't have insurance.

But the Gazette wasn't the only office the thieves entered. Pat Martin, the SUB's

Director of Facilities, says beside the Gazette, NSPIRG in room 314 and one of the storage rooms for the bookstore were also visited by the thieves.

While the Gazette was hardest hit by the burglary, the storage room is also missing items.

"What it looks like is that they took some sweatshirts and wore them out," says Martin, "Maybe they were trying to make themselves look more collegiate."

Bill Roberts, the Gazette's artistic director, reported the burglary to Dalhousie security and the Halifax Regional Police.

"Dal security got here immediately and the police were here shortly after" says Roberts.

Brianne Johnston, the Gazette's Editor-in-chief, was disappointed with the news.

"It sets us at a disadvantage," she says, "especially at the beginning of the year when things

are so new, but we're managing."

Both Roberts and Shannon thought the theft was carried out well.

"They used a pipe wrench, a crowbar. It was all very professional," says Shannon, "They knew what they were doing".

Authorities also remain puzzled by the burglary.

"At this time, there are no leads," says Peter Brown, a Dalhousie security employee.

Gazette staff have taken precautionary measures to protect themselves from future acts of vandalism.

"We now have insurance, and better locks," says Roberts.

The Gazette is also looking into motion detectors which will be directly hooked up to Dalhousie security.

Anyone with any information is encouraged to phone Dal security at 4946400, or the Gazette at 494-2507.

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