Magnetic ID Card Will Serve As All Purpose Key, Meal and Library Card

A. Arif Husain

Magnetic card readers were installed in the perimeter entrances of several dormitories this fall. The new cards will eventually replace key cards for arrival and departure, as well as provide access to other Institute buildings and services.

While Associate Director of Housing and Food Services Kenneth R. Wisentiner said the new system was put in place to protect the students' privacy, the installation has raise concerns concerning privacy issues, security, and convenience.

Students received a Student Services Card in September. Over the course of last semester, the card readers were made operational in all of the west campus dormitories.

This February, the Housing Office plans to distribute the card readers, which will be installed in the Student Services Card with a picture ID and the library card, according to Lawrence E. Maguire, director of housing and food services.

Concern over recording, tracking
Because the card-keys hold identification information, some students have expressed concern over possible infringement of privacy if card use is recorded. Although the system has the capability to record entrances into dormitories, the Housing Office is not planning to track students, Wisentiner said.

However, itemized records of meal card transactions will be kept in case of account disputes. The Housing Office has not officially stated how long these records will be kept, but Wisentiner estimates the data will be maintained for one academic year.

In addition, parking lot usage will be recorded and will be available for two years, according to the Office of Residence and Campus Administration's thinking.

Professor David E. Housman, associate dean for residence and campus administration's thinking.

Resnet Links Dorms, ILGs to Athena

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Resnet is available to ILGs through the use of digital, telephone, and network connections. Links were provided to each ILG, however installation to individual student computers was left to the discretion of the student.

The majority of Resnet users have the ability to use basic network applications from personal computers in their dormitory rooms. ILG's can provide software for Macintosh and Windows users in a variety of areas including computer science, engineering, and biology. These programs will be made available to student computers through Resnet. Other programs will be made available to students through the Internet through Telnet, FTP, and Usenet.

Alcohol Policy Emphasizes Education

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A second two-year discussion between students and administrators, the Dormitory Council's alcohol policy was approved by the Office of Residence and Campus Activities in Spring 1993. The initiative was sponsored by the Student Assembly for student input in the alcohol policy and focused on education.

This supplement to the Institute's alcohol policy came after confusion in 1992 when two separate alcohol policy councils were established that did not communicate.

In the past, one document that made student input was to cut the alcohol policy on student computers and the other to cut the alcohol policy on student computers.

In this final proposal, both student and Dormitory Councils' alcohol policy and the Institute's Statement on the use of alcohol — were considered by the Office of the Dean for Students Affairs.

The dorm council proposal submitted in 1991 focused on the use of alcohol on campus and for sobering purposes. As a result of these two documents, the Institute's alcohol policy in October 1992. Aside from these modifications, the alcohol policy has remained substantially unchanged from its predecessor.

The first modification required independent living groups to register parties. The second