Card System Causes Inconveniences, Privacy Concerns

Lobdell's Recycling Operation Apparently A Sham

On Sunday, my family had lunch in Lobdell Court. Our two-year-old daughter was very proud when she put her empty juice box into the trash bin and she even threw the wrapper in the trash can. But Lobdell employees seem to feel differently. We saw one of them empty the trash. She took the bag out of one of the trash cans, emptied the recycling bins into the trash bag tied it shut, and tossed the bag onto her cart. It would be nice to always have cash available, the loss of the card enables the finder to go on a small spending spree. A Lobdell Court cashier is not going to look at the ID picture carefully or ask a person using a card for a signature or a password. Because the MIT Card does not offer the protection of a credit card or bank card, financial loss occurs until the card owner realizes the card is lost and reports it and MIT responds to disable the card. Due to the fact that the card readers that open the doors are prohibitively expensive, another major inconvenience is that the people are forced to carry both MIT keys and card keys. At Ashdown, some doors such as outer doors use key cards while other doors such as room doors still use metal keys. This trend would probably be extended to MIT buildings for the same reasons; outer doors and large laboratories will operate on key cards, offices will operate on metal keys. We will have to carry both the key card and metal keys — a major annoyance.

Many students are also concerned about issues of privacy and protection. The potential to track people exists, though the MIT Card people assure us that they will not utilize this feature. However, because the feature is present it increases vulnerability to loss of privacy.

In conclusion, there are such major design flaws in the MIT Card system that it makes one wonder about the MIT administrators who made the decision to adopt it. Perhaps they should really sit in on an engineering design class such as 2.70.

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