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## Will SmartCards Make Us Smarter?

ELYSA WAN

This fall, the new SmartCard system will greet both juniors and seniors for the first time. After its installation, students will be issued cards and the system will swing into full effect in early September, changing our school forever.

The SmartCard system is a key system that will replace the keypads outside residential halls, providing access into a student's specific hall. It will also act as a library card and photo identification.

The Information Technology Services Department (ITS) will be responsible for the maintenance of the entire network, while the Security department will be responsible for the card database and the physical logistics of the system.

Since the cards provide admittance into some of the external doors, these doors - with the exception of Bryan Lobby - will stay locked at all times. After the on-hall cur-

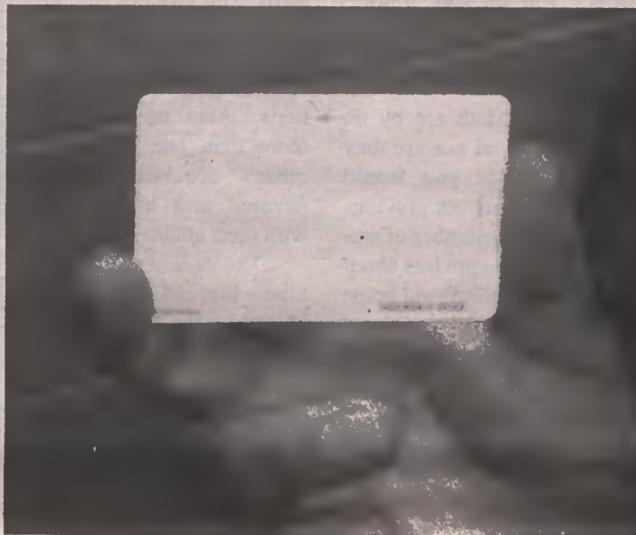
fews, the SmartCard system for external doors will be completely locked, rendering the cards useless until the next morning.

The remaining external doors will not have a SmartCard reader, but "Contact Detectors" which will record which doors are opened and closed at what times. Although these will not identify the person using the door, it will alert the Security Department.

In addition, the SmartCard system produces a database which records when and where a SmartCard is used. Information about people logging in and out during the in-room curfew will be given to Student Life Instructors.

Disciplinary procedures regarding SmartCard usage have not yet been finalized.

Director of Student Life Dr. Joan Barber has expressed her intention of soliciting student input before creating a definite protocol. SLIs will be trained on these guidelines



Elysa Wan

Security Officer Rick Hess models an exciting, although blank, SmartCard.

during their annual retreat in late August.

The SmartCard system began in 1999 when the Repair and Renewal Funds were granted. It is a non-continuing fund that was requested specifically to modernize the security system.

With the system in place, NCSSM will now be a more

secure, totally closed campus.

School officials are also confident of the economic merits of this investment. The annual expense of replacing locks and keys after alleged break-ins with a "Master Key," a key that can be used on open locks in one or several buildings, and of recoding hall keypads after off-hall stu-

dents become aware of the code is immense.

In comparison, the cost of developing and maintaining this infrastructure is diminutive. Lost keys can easily be deactivated and another one reissued. The encryption of the network can likewise be changed with relative ease.

At a school like ours there will inevitably be techno-savvy students who will attempt to recreate a "Master Key" for this new system. While Dr. Richard Alston, the network administrator and technology guru, admits that any database is susceptible, he warns that this system is "considerably" more sophisticated than the previous key system.

As this is the SmartCard's inaugural year, there are already prospective future enhancements. It is possible that additional services such as laundry, vending machine, and assembly attendance will be integrated into these cards in the future. Dr. Alston describes this as a potential "Uni-card (pun intended)."

## Being Fashionably *Unique* at NCSSM

KATE MILAN

Fashion. It's a word rarely heard at NCSSM, but one careful look around campus will reveal some very distinct Uni-trends.

The unicorn, proud and noble symbol of this fine institution, is proudly displayed by many Science & Math students. Uni gear is hot; from shirts, hoodies, and jackets to Uni shorts, you see spirit everywhere!

A word on that though: becoming overly Uni-fied (haha) on a day-to-day basis should not be done. That is, doubling up on NCSSM clothes does not show that you're a doubly good Uni, it just shows that you haven't yet washed your laundry and have nothing else to wear.

Speaking of which, we all have those days when making the trip down to the laundry room seems impossible, and wearing the same clothes you wore to bed last night seems inevitable.

But beware gentle readers; the powers that be have declared that pajamas during class hours is a no-go.

So if you're having one of those days where jeans just don't seem worth the effort of zipping up, pull on some sweatpants -- pajama pants' dressier cousins. Four out of five Science & Math administrators approve of sweats, so you don't have to worry about breaking the dress code when you wear them.

And why not? They're comfy, warm, don't necessarily scream "boudoir," and let's face it, plaid sweats are always

in style.

Now you've got the classic school outfit, Uni shirt, and cozy sweat pants, but you're not ready to step off hall until you dress up those toes of yours.

Shoes are essential at school; not only are they required, but with the amount of walking an average student does every day, you need some sole support.

A fashionable and versatile answer to the footgear question are Birkenstocks. Basic sandals for summer or closed toed for winter, many Unis can be seen sporting these timeless classics, or a similar no-name knockoff.

Other foot fancies lean towards flip-flops, and with many stylish colors and patterns, the insides of a shower stall are the last thing these

shoes will be seeing. Invest in a pair of black ones and you've got shoes you can wear with anything anywhere around campus.

So look around seasoned NCSSM veterans and junior newbies, and I'm sure you'll be able to make some Uni trends of your own.



Grand Senior Zinaida Mahmutefendic enthusiastically sports her uni-gear.