

Bank Options for ONE Card Set Students Still Await Housing

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

After four years of planning, software glitches and piles of design prototypes, the University finally revealed the product of its partnership with Wachovia this summer.

The new UNC ONE Card serves the same functions as the previous card but has the option of becoming a Wachovia ATM card if students have a Wachovia account. The card will also be available with a Visa Check Card option on June 1, 2001.

"Students came to us and said, 'We want the card,'" said Card Services Director Mike Freeman. "They want to spend Mom and Dad's money uptown." Freeman said he pitched the idea to all local banks four years ago, but none expressed interest. Wachovia later started contacting UNC with a proposal.

After a bidding process, UNC signed a contract with Wachovia in spring

1999. Freeman said they wanted the cards ready by Oct. 1999, but problems formatting software delayed the project.

The new card also went through several redesigns, with the Wachovia logo in various locations and sizes.

"We want to make sure it's a campus card first," Freeman said. "Wachovia would have liked the logo on front."

All new students are now issued a default card that has a strip on the back with Wachovia's logo, regardless of whether they use the ATM feature or not.

Freeman said students also have the option of requesting a generic card without the logo. On the Visa Check Card, however, Freeman said international law dictates that the emblem be placed on the front of the card.

Once students are issued the new cards, they can go to the UNC ONE Card Office and ask to have their card linked to their Wachovia accounts.

Students who have the previous card can get a new card from the ONE Card

office at no charge.

"A really important part of the overall package is having a service center," Freeman said. He said Wachovia's UNC Sales Center, which opened Aug. 1 next to Student Stores, can provide students with accessible customer service.

The center's manager, Alissa Canty, said many students have already expressed interest in the card.

She said Wachovia began linking the cards to accounts last week, and no problems have arisen yet. "I haven't seen anything negative about it."

Freshman Melissa Wells said she was impressed with the card's options during C-TOPS presentations but said the Wachovia features aren't practical for her.

"It's a good idea, but the reason I didn't do it here is because I don't have a Wachovia at home," she said. "It just didn't work for me."

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Students have been placed in South Campus lounges and units in Odum Village until rooms are available.

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

As many new students spent their move-in day arranging furniture, filling closets and hanging posters, Ming-Wai Farrell couldn't quite get settled in her room.

Housing officials temporarily placed Farrell, a junior transfer student from California, in the third-floor lounge of Ehringhaus Residence Hall with four other women.

"I feel like we're stuck at camp and can't go home," she said.

Farrell is one of 48 students who must live in South Campus lounges and bedroom units in Odum Village until housing officials can find permanent room assignments for them.

"The demand is just greater than the supply," said Director of University Housing Christopher Payne.

"This is a smaller group than in some years, but other years we have not had anyone in transitional housing."



UTH/KATE MELLNIK

The third-floor lounge of Craige Residence Hall serves as temporary housing for exchange students like Katja Weissbach from Germany.

Payne said the students will be placed in permanent housing as soon as the housing officials find out which rooms will open up.

"It will be more a matter of days, not weeks," he said.

"Usually 50 to 75 people don't show up or cancel later."

Farrell moved into the lounge on Wednesday and said the room, which is set up with four bunk beds, couches, cable television and air conditioning, is not uncomfortable but does have its problems.

She said the lounge door has tricky locks, the adjoining bathroom has no

locks, the shower has no curtain, and she and her roommates found ants in their beds.

"But it's not too bad," Farrell said.

Florent Manzoni, a junior international student from France, said he does not mind staying in the fifth-floor lounge of Craige Residence Hall with two roommates, although it is inconvenient.

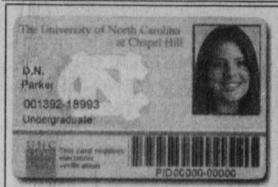
"When I arrived, they told me there was no room left," he said.

"I can't unpack my luggage. I'm just waiting."

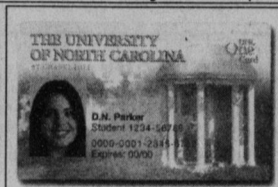
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A Changing Identity

After four years of planning and delays, the new UNC ONE Card debuted this summer. It features a new design and has the option of also being a Wachovia ATM card.



Students can trade in the old UNC ONE Card for a new one at no charge.



The new ONE Card can also serve as a Wachovia ATM card.



The ONE Card with the Visa Check Card option will not be ready until June 1, 2001.

Union Construction Won't Deter Services

By MARK THOMAS
Assistant University Editor

Students returning to UNC might have noticed that the area surrounding the Student Union is not the same as when they left last May.

Those making their way from South Campus to class have to find a new route, as the stairs adjoining the Union are blocked for construction.

Crews started working in late June on the Union, which is home to numerous student groups and organizations and provides a meeting place for hundreds of students on a daily basis.

The renovations and additions to the Union, which opened its doors in 1969, are budgeted for \$13 million and are scheduled to take 23 months.

There are three phases to the renovation, with the first phase, which includes the installment of a computer lab/copy center and Internet laptop connections,

scheduled to be completed in spring 2001.

Phase Two will be the renovation of the top and bottom floors of the Union, while Phase Three consists of renovation of the Union's main level.

"We want to provide space for student interaction, because we certainly believe that all learning doesn't take place in the classroom," Union Director Don Luse said in an interview in June.

UNC has had a building for student groups and organizations to meet since Graham Memorial Student Union opened in 1932.

And Luse said that will not change throughout the construction.

"Services won't be stopped or interrupted, and we won't ever shut the doors," he said.

Union construction was slated to begin on June 1, but due to a legal technicality, that date was pushed back a few weeks.

Although construction is expected to be completed in spring of 2001, Luse said

that plan might not hold.

"I think we are struggling to keep on schedule," he said.

Construction Project Manager Bob

Beke was unavailable for comment.

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