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FOR YOUR EYES ONLY Four out of five crooks agree, it's easier to drain your accounts if you're cavalier with your PIN.

Students urged to protect PINs

SKIMMING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After contacting her bank, Methuen was able to get the money put back into her account within a few days.

Andy Lubinsky, director of marketing for Wendy's Restaurants of Canada, he explained that the company was working with the police, and that no Wendy's employees had been implicated in the skimming. He also said that Wendy's had instituted a number of security measures to prevent debit skimming in the future.

"We obviously take this matter very seriously," Lubinsky said. "A number of steps have been taken across the country to prevent this type of thing from happening again."

He declined to go into what the specific measures were, not wishing to reduce their effectiveness.

But despite the high number of incidents lately and the technology

available to potential skimmers, using your debit card is a safe way to do business, said Mike Dickinson, a spokesman for Servus Credit Union.

"Debit card skimming is a very common occurrence. It is unfortunate that when money is involved, people are going to try and get a hold of it," Dickinson said. "However, [using debit] is still very safe."

Dickinson said that the best way to prevent getting your information stolen is to protect your PIN when paying with debit. He says that despite the increase in technology, the vast majority of stolen codes are done by simply "shoulder-surfing," where the thief just stands behind someone and peeks to see what the PIN number is.

"They can skim your card, they can duplicate it. But in the end, if they don't have your PIN, they don't have access," he said.

While Dickinson said that most banks have set up software that checks for out-of-the-ordinary purchases or odd locations on customer accounts to nab skimmers, he said that vigilance is required. Both Gauthier and Dickinson suggest keeping a close eye on financial statements to make sure that there aren't any suspicious purchases.

"Go through your bill every month and figure out which [transactions are yours] and which ones are not," Gauthier said. "Even small [withdrawals and charges] could mean that someone is testing to see if they can [access your account]."

And while she did get the lost money put back into her account, Methuen said that the incident has changed the way that she uses her card.

"It really makes you think twice," she said. "I'm being a lot more careful with how I use [the debit card] now."

ASA's rocky past ends in dissolution

ASA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students' Union VP (Academic) Amanda Henry explained that on 6 February Nina Jaffer, director of student group services, received a letter from Schneider requesting that the ASA no longer be recognized by the SU as either a faculty association or a student group, effective 9 February.

Henry said that though she had known the dissolution of the ASA was likely, she was surprised to only receive an official notice days before the deadline.

"The [Arts] dean's office told me that they were not aware of the ASA dissolution, officially, and so they weren't willing to meet with me at that point, which kind of surprised me because I thought that Tim had been in contact with [them]," Henry said.

Malcolm noted that in the wake of last year's issues, the ASA executive had a hard time taking over and regaining credibility when they weren't given a proper executive transition.

"We never really got access to the books, we just really had what was in the safe. I didn't really understand

how an organization could carry on like that," Malcom said.

"[Schneider] never gave me signing authority for the back accounts so I could never do a complete financial report on the books," Dolgoy said.

"We never really got access to the books, we just really had what was in the safe. I didn't really understand how an organization could carry on like that."

**CANDICE MALCOM,
FORMER ASA VP (PROGRAMS)**

However, Schneider said that by the time he had been able to contact former VP (operations and finance), Blythe Morrow, who had been in Europe, to transfer signing authority, Dolgoy had resigned from the ASA. He added that the ASA's main problems

boiled down to the inherent set up of the organization.

"The structure of the ASA puts a lot of pressure on the Executive, and we tried to change that by adding things like [an] associate vice-president. But what was really needed was just a complete refresh of the organization and that's basically what the Students' Union is helping us do right now," Schneider said.

Shortly after the dissolution of the ASA, Henry went on hiatus to run in the SU election's presidential race, leaving SU President Samantha Power and University affairs officer Chris Henderson in charge of SU's role of procuring the ASA's assets. During that time, former ASA president Ariana Barer was hired as a transitions coordinator that would report to the SU while carrying out ASA tasks such as Arts grad photos.

"[There'll] continue to be the transitions coordinator until we can figure out a viable ... student [faculty] group structure," Henry said, adding that they are trying to have something provisional set up by the end of April.