

Bank thief with fake ID still on the loose

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Staff Writer

Police are hoping the very thing that helped a man rip off two banks will lead to his arrest.

York Regional Police believe a suspect who went by the alias of Louis Martinez used fake identification to defraud a pair of Markham financial institutions of more than \$6,000.

But an alert teller foiled the would-be thief from stealing thousands more from a third bank, where he left the phony ID card behind.

Police say the male suspect walked into the Scotia Bank near Kennedy Road and Steeles Avenue around 12:30 p.m. Nov. 10 and tried to take out a cash advance from a CIBC Visa card by using the false identification.

"The teller was a little suspicious of that and told a manager," Const. Steven Horner said. "She was aware of prior incidents in which the same ID was presented. That tipped her off."

The suspect became nervous and asked for his Canadian citizenship card, temporary Ontario driver's licence and social insurance card back. The employees tried to stall him and he eventually left the bank. Horner said positive identification of the suspect should help them crack the case quickly.

"That's the thing. Posters have been circulated through the police. There just hasn't been any sort of break," he said.

Police say the suspect stands about five-feet, six-inches, has an average build and a "medium" complexion.



'LOUIS MARTINEZ': Photo of suspect in two instances of bank fraud and a third attempt in Markham.

They ask anyone with information to call them at 881-1221 or 764-1300.

Mall security guard charged with sexual assault

A security guard from a Markham shopping centre has been charged with sexual assault.

York Regional Police reported that a female employee at one of the stores in the mall on Steeles Avenue told police she was assaulted after making two attempts to get into her car while it was parked in the mall parking lot on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old victim told police that minutes before the attack, the security guard helped her carry garbage to the garbage room.

When the woman finished work, she left the mall, walked towards her vehicle and she was grabbed from behind.

The victim pulled her self free of the man's hold, only to be grabbed again. On her third attempt to flee, she managed to get inside her car and drive to a York Regional Police station where she reported the incident.

A 25-year-old Markham man was scheduled for a bail hearing yesterday.

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