

# Reversing your PIN doesn't call cops

Rare ATM holdups usually over in minute

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What would you do if you were at a bank machine and someone stuck a gun in your back and demanded the money from your account?

Would you turn the money over and call police? Maybe try to run?

How about try to pull off a Charles Bronson-esque move reminiscent of the film *Death Wish*?

Or, would you follow the advice of a circulating e-mail that claims if you enter your bank card PIN in reverse, the authorities will be immediately dispatched and will arrest the robber?

The banks and York Regional Police strongly discourage the latter two options.

In fact, there is no truth to the reverse PIN myth at all, according to Maura Drew-Lytle, spokesperson for the Canadian Bankers Association.

The association works on behalf of more than 50 domestic chartered banks, foreign bank subsidiaries and foreign bank branches operating in Canada to



Contrary to popular belief, police do not respond if you input your PIN number at an ATM in reverse. There is no merit to this information currently being circulated in an e-mail.

advocate for efficient and effective public policies governing banks and to promote an understanding of the banking industry and its importance to Canadians and the Canadian economy, according to its website.

"The banking industry has no agreements with police in this regard," Ms Drew-Lytle said.

The association has been aware of the existence of e-mails on the subject of the reverse PIN myth for more than a year, she added.

Even if the technology did exist, there would still be problems, she said:

- If you have a PIN of 1221, the number remains the same entered backwards;

- It could be more difficult than some people realize to figure out what a PIN is backwards under duress;

- With this type of robbery, the incident would likely be over within less than a minute.

It is highly unlikely police would be able to get there in time to prevent it or make an arrest.

Robberies at ATMs are "extremely rare in Canada", Ms Drew-Lytle said.

"Banks will investigate each individual situation but, typically, if you are coerced into giving up your PIN, you will likely be reimbursed by your bank," she said.

York police do not suggest ATM customers attempt the reverse PIN idea, Const. Marina Orlovski said.

If you are the victim of a robbery, police urge you to co-operate with robbers and try to gather the best description possible but do not fight back.

## York University strike enters 9th week, no end in sight

Negotiations resumed yesterday between York University and CUPE 3903 after the union voted to ignore the latest offer from management.

CUPE 3903, which represents 950 contract faculty, 1,850 teaching assistants and 550 graduate assistants, voted almost 90 per cent to reject a proposal that would have given them a three-year deal worth about 0.7 per cent more than they were initially offered.

The union wants a five-year deal and more job security.

The part-time staff has been on strike since Nov. 6, throwing 50,000 students into disarray as the strike enters its second month.

The university has already announced reading week will be cancelled and both the fall and winter exam schedules compressed to compensate for days already lost. As the strike stretches on, the year could be extended into the summer.

Sit-ins, petitions, bargaining, Facebook letter-writing blitzes over the past nine weeks all have failed to end the dispute.

York has been pushing for binding arbitration since the strike began, but the union has refused, saying a negotiated settlement trumps one imposed by a third party.

—With files from TorStar

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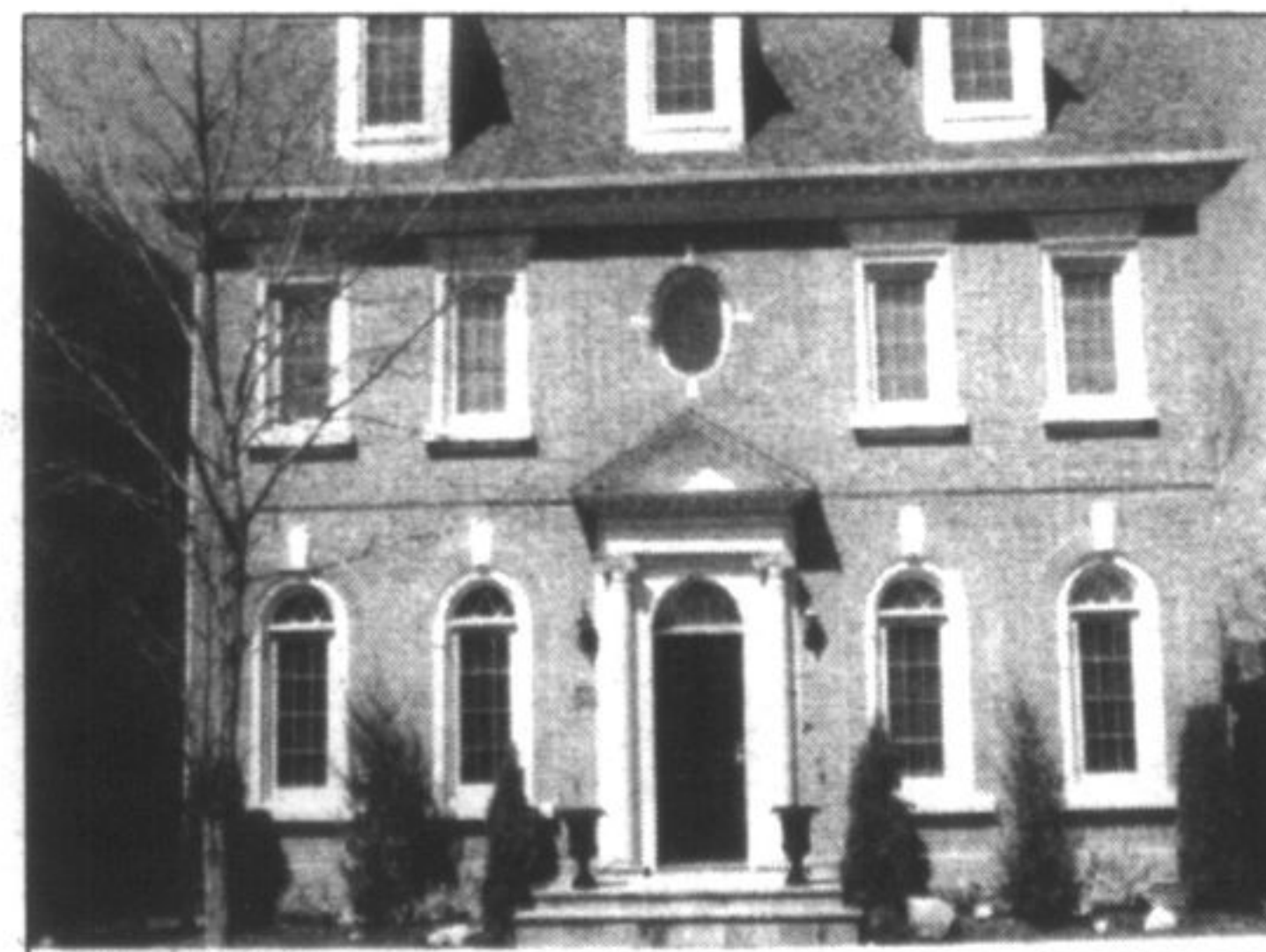
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