



Exploding The Phone

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Title **Party's Over, Firm Tells 'Phone Phreaks'**

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Abstract AT&T announces international investigation covering 14 states and Great Britain, in an effort to stop phone phreaks from using blue boxes.

Keywords William S. Cashel (president, Bell Tel. PA); Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania; Carl Teets (HQ security mgr., Bell Tel. of PA); blue box

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BELL TOLLS ON FREE CALLS

Party's Over, Firm Tells 'Phone Phreaks'

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) —American Telephone & Telegraph Co. announced an international investigation Tuesday into the use of sophisticated electronic devices by so-called "phone phreaks" to place illegal, toll-free long distance telephone calls.

William S. Cashel, president of Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania, said an investigation there was expanded into 14 states and Great Britain after the arrests of four persons in Chester County, Pa., and two others in Memphis.

Carl Teets, headquarters security manager for Bell of Pennsylvania, said the electronic devices, known as "blue boxes," were developed about 10 years ago by "quite intelligent" inventors with electronic

or engineering backgrounds.

He said the "blue boxes," assembled for between \$20 and \$25, consisted of a multiple frequency tone generator that allowed users to bypass long distance operators and to use toll lines without paying for the calls. Teets would

not elaborate.

Teets said telephone companies became concerned about a year ago when investigators discovered that 50 to 60 persons were using the devices. He said the group dubbed itself the "phone phreaks."