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Notes	Contains a great photo of a handsome Captain Crunch!
Source	Author Research

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# 6/29/77 P. 4 SF. OWON **'They Still Fear Captain Crunch'**

By Peter Gorner And Michael Smith Special to the Chronicle

#### Lompor Santa Barbara county

Maybe Ma Bell finally has gotten Captain Crunch out of her system

Maybe he has gotten her out of his. The legendary "phone phreak" insists he has reformed, or at least he did the day in January that he was released after four months in federal prison.

"The feds fear me because of what they think I can do." he declared, speaking quickly, eyes darting nervously. "Like use the little computer terminal in my living room to explore secrets of the AUTOVON military defense network and perhaps start a little war

"They think I've been messing with the worldwide ARPANET, leaving messages for computer freaks in Europe and Asia. Or that I've been checking out the FBI's national crime information center (NCIC) and tying up its millions of trunks. Phone phreaks have always enjoyed wiretapping the FBI.

"Now, I say it's possible to penetrate any computer linked to a telephone, reprogram it, and steal things. But I'm not saying I did this I'm a good guy, now. I cooperated with the feds and showed them things. I tried to teach Ma Bell, too. She's the largest, leakiest computer system in the world. I can plug the leaks. Ma Bell eavesdrops on 1.8 million calls a year trying to catch phone phreaks. I think she just likes to eavesdrop. But she refused my help. Ma Bell and the FBI are paranoid.

Meet Captain Crunch, also known as John Thomas Draper, 33, a hyperkinetic electronics wizard and bachelor from Mountain View. Although he was a radioman in the Air Force. Draper basically is selftaught, and his global prowess on the touchtone phone has made him an underground hero to thousands of commonly described phone phreaks who use illegal "blue box-es" to beep their way freely through the Bell system.

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computerized gizmo, Crunch could stack connections at will, creating creascendos and decrescendos of

chunk-cheeps," whipping his voice

"From friends I learned the

once, twice, three times across the

inward-operator codes, the ones the operator dials. Then I learned

routing codes by dialing 800 (toll-free) numbers to see how my calls

got there Patterns started developing. Whenever you have numbers, you have patterns."

Soon Crunch became a party

line freak. Phone phreaks periodi-

cally probe the country, seeking a

broken switching station. Then several hundred call it for days,

sometimes weeks, picking each oth-er's brains, learning more secrets of

Then Crunch became probably the first pioneer to blue-box a call

around the world. "I called Tokyo inward, which connected me to

Greefe, which connected me to Preforia, Scuth Africa, which con-nected me to London. The operator there connected me to New York, which sent me to a California operator who rang another phone next to my elbow. There was a 20-second deiay, but I could hear myself talk. It blew my mind."

His voice rises in ecstasy., 'So

then, I whipped my voice around the world in two directions, going east on one phone and west on the other, sending one through satel-

ine, the other through satis-the, the other through cable. They came back-cogether at the same instant and cover two phones simul-taneously. I picked them up and whipped my voice both waves

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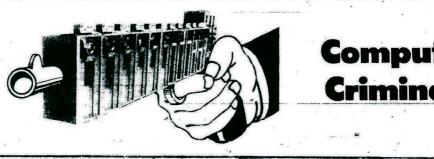
Draper has been pronounced "a genius in electronics" by federal probation authorities, and his pro-longed adolescence has made him anathema to all kinds of officials. Thus, last October he became the first phone phreak sent to prison.

Crunch got his handle from the famous toy whistle once given away as a treat in boxes of Cap'n Crunch cereal. He found the whistle emit-ted a shriek measuring 2600 cycles per second (CPS), and when you blow 2600 in Ma Bell's ear, wondrous things happen: Long-distance trunks obediently hiccup open: the "chunk-cheep" world of satellites, cables and computers awaits your fingers and you even get your dimes back.

When Crunch was an airman stationed in England, his friends would call and he'd "mute" their calls (make them free) with a blast from his magic whistle.

After my discharge, I bought a Velskwagen van and roamed the California mountains exploring the Bell system from pay phones. It's a beautiful system. I computerized blue boxing with my first automat-ed unit. That baby could burp out ten pulses (beeps) per second. The FBI returned it after my first bust in 1972. They didn't know what it was. But it helped me learn the system

Ah, yes, the system. Even now Crunch's eyes light up as he re-



FBI searched his apartment, they found the terminal and an NCIC user manual, but he denies break ing into the FBI's secret files. Pleabargaining reduced his sentence to four months in the Federal Detention Camp in Lompoc.

Crunch says he didn't mind prison. He slopped hogs (having neatly coded and named them), and lolled in the sun. First day, he tweaked a coil on his FM radio with a nail file to listen to the guard's radio calls ("Never knew when I'd need a guard," he says).

Now that he's released, he plans to start a countersurveillance and computer security business telling people how they can debug their homes using household items like the rabbit ears on their TV sets. He thinks it's a good idea for everyone to spy on the government to keep it honest. Some experts doubt that Crunch can do all that his legend claims. To these skeptics Captain Crunch just grins.

"I can teach people about things like laser bugs — how they shoot a laser beam to your window and it turns the whole room into a microphone. Teaching these things will make up for that godawful \$30 phone 'call 1 made against the people of the United States. Let's face it, bugging is illegal and since I'm against it, I should have the government on my side, right?

"Unless, of course, they've got semething to hide!"

Next: Honesty does not compute.

Convright 1977, Chicavo Tribune

John T. Draper, better known as Captain Crunch, used 'blueboxes' (an early model shown at left) to beep. his way through the Bell system.

to a t-ublic phone, made a \$30 blue-box call to Bethlehem, Pa., and handed me the receiver. The FBI had the public phone bugged. I was on probation. It was all they need-ed. The FBI thought I was a national menace. They wanted to send me away forever."

## **140-Car Pileup** -14 Killed Sao Paulo, Brazil A bus stopped suddenly on a highway in a fog with

zero visibility during morning rush hour yesterday; triggering a chain crash that piled up 140 vehicles over four miles of highway and killed at least 14 persons.

Highway police said the crash of cars, buses and trucks along both sides of Sao Paulo's main artery also injured at least another 110.

According to a police report, a Sao Paulo-bound commute bus slowed to a near stop on the two lane north-bound side and a car belonging to the local nuncipality of Cuhatao swerved to avoid it, starting the chain reaction that piled up 110 cars, buses and Tucks an the northbound side.

Buckled vehicles crashing musself guard rails on the center traffic island collided with southbound vehicles and caused a 30-car pileup on that side, police said

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# Computer Criminals

Crunch admits that when the Services in this town's yesterday an through the

county jail fin by Dr. Merit gist for the

Standards, w fires around "Everyor interested in sitting on th their own an that the plas that which co everywhere."

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like many phone phreaks. Crunch learned an easy way to tap any phone Operators can plug into any conversation to determine if a line is busy or broken. Crunch, who knew these inward codes, would pose as a switchman testing these lines - verification trucks, they're called - and talk an operator into

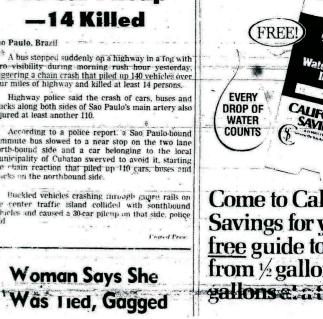
Once he grew impatient when a new gulfriend's line was busy for a long time. He decided to break into the conversation and impress hto the conversation and impress her. But he heard mer talking – "sweet talking," as he puts it ... to another man Crunch was crushed. As soon as the hung up, he called her and bellowed, "Linda, we're through," and slammed the receiv. dows.-Even today he takes er comfort in imagining her reaction. But this ended verification trunking for Crunch, or so he says.

plugging hum in

His world began to-collapse after a revealing 1971 Esquire after a revealing 1971 Esquire magazine article which outlined the alleged capabilities of phane phreaks and alarmed the federal government, not to mention the phone comprime

" I langhed and I crien." ("runch ul= "As a result of that article. recail: 25 phone phreaks got busted. Grand juries were convened in Seattle headquarters of Phease Phreaks International and many other

"The article also detail of the historic 2111 conference Loop an unused Telex test board trunk i.x the bowels of a 4A switching machine in Vancouver, British Cei



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beautiful system 1 computerized 'blue-boxing' with my first automated unit. That baby could burp out ten pulses (beens) per second. The FBI returned it after my first bust in 1972. They didn't know what it was But it helped me learn the system."

Ah, yes, the system. Even now Crunch's eyes light up as he remembers the bys of discovery. To serious phone phreaks, the system is a gorgeous, vibrant, schematic canvas, a pulsating blanket of theusands of long-line trunks, tying into chumps of tandems at hundreds of toll-switching offices.

Crunch is not blind, but many phone phreaks are, and they can 'see" landems engaging and disengaging, switches moving, relays shunting, crossbars rotating, elec-

His voice rises in ecstasy .. "So then. I whipped my voice around the world in two directions, going east on one phone and west on the other, sending one through satellite the other through cable. They

we phones single taneously. I picked them up and whipped my voice both ways ground the world back to me!"

This indeed was a historic moment in phone phreaking. What did he say to himselves?

"Oh. just 'Hello, test one, two, three.' (high voice).

"Hello, test one, two, three.' (hasso profundo)

"Hello' (high), 'Hello' (low). "Heilo! Hello!"

# Rehnquist Danies POA Plea

# In Police Promotion Dispute.

#### Washington

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist denied yesterday a 79quest by a group of San Francisco police officers seeking to block the promotion to sergeant of 22 minority policement in the department.

The matter is now before the state courts and Lehnquist's denial does not mean that the officers will be promoted.

The action steries from a suit alleging employment disscrimingtion that was filed in 1973 against the Police Department and San Francisco Civil Service Commission by Officers for Justice - a group of

mostly minority policemen - and w the NAACP.

" Subsequently, a challenge was filed by the Police Officers Association, representing a majority of the personnel in the department, on grounds that the promotions would violate the rights of non-minority officers.

Reinouist's denial vesterday of the chahence by the Police Officers Association was not accompanied by any comment.

The Supreme Court justice heard the request because he oversees the indicial circuit that inciudes California.

Our Correspondent

headquarters of Phone Phreaks International - and many other cities.

"The article also detailed the historic 2111 conference. Thousands of phone phreaks discovered comparison constant the same on annual reprice board tour the powels of a fA switching machine in Vancouver, British Columbia. We'd blue-box our way to Vancouver, beep out 304 (the area code) then 2111, and be talking to nundreds of people. The Canadian government went bananas when they read this. I think this is where I got tapped by the feds.

> "Most phone phreaks were high school kids who scared easily I got busted and put on probation. They caught me calling Sydney, Australia, to find out what the hit tunes were."

> > After that. Crunch swears he

was a cout boy once in the size started learning about computers. got a job as a programmer, and went to technical school. "I built a radio monitoring station and while I'd study I'd listen to the FBI and Secret Service. It was fun during the Patty Hearst thing. I'd hearst them chasing down leads .... "

But the FBI apparently didn't like the iden that Crunch had a computer terminal in his home, a loan from his company. The FBI didn't like that at all.

"I was done in by a snitch." he says bitterty. "They grabbed a kid who used a blue-box and calldiverter to make \$50,000 in illegal calls charged to an adult he didn't like,

The kid came to me and I yleided to temptation. He took me



and the second s

United Press

### Santa Cruz

A woman has told police she was kidnaped at gunpoint from a supermarket parking lot Saturday afternoon, held bound and gagged for two days, and released in Redwood City Monday night, police said yesterday.

Puzzled authorities were unable to obtain details of the reported abduction because the victim. Lois Wycoff, 28, was said to be under severe emotional distress as a result of the experience.

"She breaks down and cries whenever she talks about it," said an investigator in the Santa Cruz county district attorney's office.

Wycoff reported receiving numerous anonymous telephone calls from a man who threatened to rape and murder her.

One of the threatening calls was traced to a pay phone on the first floor of the Santa Cruz county Governmental Center, where Wycoff works as a coordinator for the couny's water conservation program.

The district attorney's office took the threats seriously enough to issue her a walkie talkie with which she could call police.

Co-workers told police that Wycoff had worked a full day for the county Saturday, but when the left to walk home, she didn't take the radio with her. It was found later on her desk.

Police said after she turned up Monday, Wycoff phoned a friend who drove her to Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, where she was treated for unspecified minor injuries and released.

Our Correspondent