



Exploding The Phone

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Abstract Charles D. Geilker, Assoc. Prof. of Physics at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO, writes in to describe the letter he received from PT&T because he was a subscriber to Teletronics Magazine.

Keywords Teletronics Magazine; Radio-Electronics Magazine; Pacific Telephone and Telgraph Company (PT&T)

Source An anonymous phone phreak

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LETTERS

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average speed of the suspect car by a simple distance/time comparison.

If the false claim was made by the manufacturer, they would appear to be guilty of false advertising. In any event, one false claim tends to diminish the credibility of the others. Please advise your readers that neither Senturion, nor any other radar detector, will provide warning of a VASCAR device.

ROY B. SCHERER
Richmond, VA

1984?

I wrote you a letter a couple of years ago congratulating you upon your no-

pussyfooting-around publication of construction projects for direct connection to telephone lines. We are all glad to see that your position is gradually being vindicated by the highest courts in the land. I congratulate you also on your boldness in going ahead with publication of direct-connection video construction projects, and I am confident that you will be vindicated in this also by relaxing or removal of present excessively restrictive regulations.

However, I was only recently made aware of an interesting by-product of such activities. The occasion resulted from my having subscribed to the magazine *Teletronics* (which had been advertised in the classified section of *Radio-Electronics*), the purpose of which was to reveal all the mysteries of how Ma Bell operated. I really

did not have a very clear idea of what I was subscribing to, but as the issues finally did start arriving I was mildly interested and often amused at the material they carried, particularly by what I thought was their paranoid conviction that the Phone Co. was after them.

Two weeks ago I received this nasty threatening letter from the "Security Office" of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, and it appears that not only did PT&T succeed in putting *Teletronics* out of business, but that they were actually able to confiscate their mailing lists. Now it is I who am feeling paranoid—I'll bet PT&T sends copies of that subscriber list to every regional telephone company in America!

I am enclosing a copy of the PT&T missive. It would appear to me to be saying that dissemination or mere possession of information which COULD BE USED for disapproved purposes is a criminal offense—hence their urging that copies of *Teletronics* magazine be destroyed. I am committed to the position that CURIOSITY ALONE is sufficient "need to know," and that it is a fundamental freedom that criminality must be judged by what an individual DOES, not upon the knowledge which he has acquired or what he COULD do with it.

CHARLES D. GEILKER
Assoc. Prof. of Physics
William Jewell College
Liberty, MO

Dear Telephone User:

On March 25, 1976, the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, entered an injunction in favor of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and against Teletronics Company of America, and others. Your name appeared on a list (provided under Court order) of subscribers, or potential subscribers, to material previously published and distributed by Teletronics Company of America. Accordingly, for your protection and benefit, you are hereby given the following notice:

IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO USE ANY INSTRUMENT, DEVICE OR SCHEME TO OBTAIN ANY TELEPHONE SERVICE WITHOUT PAYMENT OF THE LAWFUL CHARGES THEREFOR. IT IS ALSO A CRIME TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON WHICH IS USEFUL FOR SUCH PURPOSE. IN MANY STATES, THE POSSESSION OF OR DISSEMINATION OF PLANS OR INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCH DEVICES IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

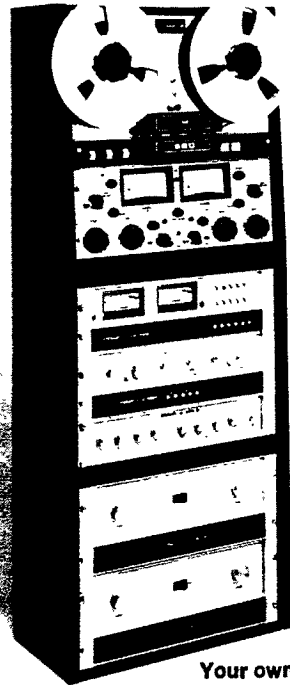
VIOLATIONS OF THESE LAWS ARE VIGOROUSLY INVESTIGATED AND PROSECUTED. ACCORDINGLY, YOU ARE URGED TO DESTROY ANY AND ALL WRITTEN MATERIAL OR DEVICE YOU MAY HAVE WHICH MAY VIOLATE ANY OF THESE LAWS.

THIS STATEMENT IS BEING SENT TO YOU BY ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company

I'm in a state of shock. For the first time in my life I don't know what to say, except to ask: Is 1984 8-years away?—Editor

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