



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Title           **Letter - 'Socially irresponsible'**

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Abstract       A letter to the editor from a reader upset by the paper's recent articles telling how to defraud the phone company and how to get free restaurant food.

Keywords      toll fraud

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## 'Socially irresponsible'

To the Editor:

For the second time in recent weeks the *Pacific Sun* has provided articles which were virtually "do-it-yourself" primers on how to defraud other businesses, or cheat and steal to provide the necessities of life which other people work hard for. The net result of any of these methods is to deprive another individual of a portion of his livelihood, or, in the case of "How to Defraud the Telephone Company" article (*Actually, "Phreaking out the phone company," August. 17-23*) for the net losses caused by theivery or deceit to be "absorbed" as a cost to the system and to then be charged to all other paying subscribers as a "cost of service." In the end we all pay for other people's "free rides." Nothing really comes for free in this world. Someone else always seems to have to pay for the costs of other people's leeching on society or on their neighbors.

How many small local restaurants, which are the livelihood of honest individuals making a living doing what they know best, will be hurt by your circulating the details of a couple of simple methods of stealing a free meal at their expense? (*Sept. 14-20*). It seems irresponsible for you not to recognize that the food which your are telling your readers how to steal was paid for by someone else, and that the staff necessary to cook it and serve it were paid for by someone else. Somehow your article seems to imply that the restaurant food was created out of thin air and is there for the taking. The implication seems to be that there is nothing wrong with stealing it by the clever ripoff outlined in such detail in your paper.

Articles of this kind, published in the general circulation press, are socially irresponsible. Even children are taught to know the difference between right and wrong, and are taught to know when they are stealing or advocating stealing. I would have thought that grownup members of our society who feel responsible enough to believe that they should write and publish a newspaper would have as much ability to differentiate between right and wrong as a twelve year old child in school. Your most recent publications don't seem to demonstrate such an understanding, however.

I enjoy reading your newspaper, but articles of the kind published recently do you more harm than good.

Norman T. Gilroy  
Sausalito