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Title	<b>Teen 'Inventor' charged in phone fraud</b>
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Abstract	Peter Mokover arrested and charged with blue box fraud. Eight students in Potsdam, NY are also arrested and linked to Mokover.
Keywords	Mineola, NY; New York Telephone Co. (NYTCo); Peter Mokover (arrested); Potsdam, NY; Clarkson College of Technology (CCT); State University of New York, Potsdam (SUNYPo)

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## Teen 'inventor' charged in phone fraud

MINEOLA, L.I. (UPI) — Peter Mokover is a 19-year-old Great Neck college student majoring in communications arts.

Nassau County District Attorney William Cahn charged yesterday that Mokover was hoarding his budding skills at the expense of the New York Telephone Company.

Armed with a search warrant, Cahn's detectives raided Mokover's home late Tuesday night at 26 Henhawk Rd.

Their interest was attracted by a small homemade wood veneer box set next to the

telephone in the youth's bedroom.

They charged that Mokover was using the box, which contained electronic equipment, a maze of wires and a small dry cell battery, to make toll-free telephone calls all over the country.

On top of the five by six by three-and-one-half inch box were a series of 14 buttons, a small switch and a jack hole.

Cahn said when Mokover wanted to make a call to Los Angeles, he would use the regular phone to directly dial

the information operator there.

Then, by flipping the switch, he could disconnect the operator but keep the circuit open. By punching the buttons on the box, he could "dial" his party.

But there was one thing the youth overlooked, Cahn said.

The telephone company maintains computerized records of the information calls for internal bookkeeping purposes.

The company's suspicions were aroused when they discovered that some of Mokover's information calls took

from 20 to 100 minutes.

Cahn said at the time of Mokover's arrest, police in Potsdam, N.Y., made simultaneous arrests of eight other students there.

He said the operation in Potsdam was linked to Mokover but he did not further explain the connection.

Six of the students studied in Potsdam at Clarkson College of Technology. The other two are students at the State University there, Cahn said.

A spokesman for Cahn said the telephone company has been "plagued" by a proliferation of the electronic boxes. The company disputed this, stating that such theft of service is rare.