



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title	Telephone Hackers Active
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Abstract	Discussion of "telephone hacking" at MIT in 1963 in MIT's student newspaper. Professor Carlton Tucker warns students against playing with the telephone system. Mentions "two or three students are expelled each year for abuses on the phone system." Says that "hackers have accomplished such things as tying up all the tie-lines between Harvard and MIT, or making long-distance calls by charging them to a local radar installation. One method involved connecting the PDP-1 computer to the phone system to search the lines until a dialtone, indicating an outside line, was found." This article has been cited on the web as the first use of the word "hacker".
Keywords	phone phreaks; phone hacking; phone hackers; MIT; Carlton Tucker (Professor, MIT)

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V. 83 No 24
Nov 20 1963

MIT appeals case

Cambridge decides to tax married student dorms

The City of Cambridge has decided to tax the married student dormitories.

According to the Cambridge legal adviser Richard Gerould, "The assessor has taken the position that the property is taxable." While student dormitories are now considered academic property and not taxable, the Board of Assessment noted Gerould feels "It is hard to distinguish (the married student's dorms) from the ordinary type (of residential dwelling)."

MIT Files Request

According to C. Brendon Noonan, one of the three Cambridge tax assessors, MIT has filed a request for abatement with the Board of Assessment. If this is not granted, MIT will have to appeal to the State Appellate Tax Board. The taxability of married student dormitories has never been decided in Massachusetts courts.

According to MIT's Treasurer, Joseph Snyder, "It is still open to careful examination by both sides." When asked about the present state of the negotiations, Snyder commented "We are trying to work out the best thing we can for the Institute and for the assessor."

Gerould assumes bill paid

Reminded that tax bills are due November 1, Noonan replied "Chances are, they (MIT) have paid it." Gerould added "I'm assuming the bill (presented to MIT) has been paid."

In the past, Cambridge policy had permitted MIT to make payments in lieu of taxes on all but investment property. MIT's payments have often made the school the largest taxpayer in the city.

According to The Crimson, Harvard has informally offered to pay the City 50% of the assessed value of married student housing. The newspaper stated that MIT has made the same offer.

Last April, Thomas Gibson, chairman of the Cambridge Board of Assessment, said he saw no reason why the city should "subsidize" the wives and children of married students. Their use of public utilities and schools supported by tax revenues, noted Gibson, does not justify their exemption from full taxation.

Both MIT and Harvard officials have noted that payment in lieu of taxes is a generous arrangement. According to the Crimson, they feel this is sufficient to cover expenses such as the cost of educating the children of the married students.

Pointing out "It will be cheaper to buy existing apartment houses and rent rooms there to married students," one Harvard officer noted that if these buildings are declared taxable Harvard would be unwilling and unable to construct more married student units.

Gerould argues decision

Saying that the decision to tax the property was made because "the apartments are a rent-charging commercial activity," Gerould pointed out, that "they do serve an educational function" and that "the question of their taxability is definitely a legitimate issue."

Harvard is greatly interested in the MIT case and will work closely with MIT when the case reaches the Tax Board or the courts.

Publications to receive tentative plans for student Center offices on Friday

Tentative floor plans for the student publications offices in the new Student Center will be released in a closed meeting Friday afternoon to the heads of the publications, according to the Preliminary Report of the Student Center Committee, issued by Arthur A. Bushkin '65, committee co-chairmen Sunday.

Representatives of The Tech, Tangent, Technique, TEN, and VooDoo, according to the report, "will be presented with blueprints showing not only the rooms they are to occupy but also the complete projected interior design of these rooms."

After study of the proposals, each publication is asked to "submit a brief written report concerning any comments they wish to make." Separate meetings with the architect and individual activities will then be arranged to discuss individual problems.

Plans Not Yet Finalized

The report stressed that "No plans will be finalized until such time as the activities have met with this committee and Prof. Eduardo Catalano, Center architect, and comments from the activities have been fully discussed."

Plans will be released to heads of the other activities on a similar basis. The Dean's office, Prof. Catalano, and the committee felt that "small meetings with personal attention to the unique problems of each activity would be far more desirable than a single large (meeting)," according to the report.

Center Budget

Furniture and moving costs for the Student Center will probably be financed by the Institute, according to Philip A. Stoddard, Vice-president of operations and personnel.

"We consider it a part of our responsibility," he added Monday, and indicated the money would probably come from the Institute and the contingency fund in the Student Center budget.

The original capital budget for the Student Center was \$4.5 million, with about \$600,000 of this covering the commercial part of the Center. The commercial part of the center must be self-supporting financially. A 40-year, \$3 million, 3 1/2% Housing and Home Finance Agency loan will cover the bulk of the expenses in building the Center.

Bid Lower than Expected

Last August the low bid for the general contract was the Wexler Construction Company's \$3,592,700, about \$70,000 less than anticipated. The general contract includes the structure of the building, but no allowance for bowling equipment, kitchen and food serving equipment, furnishings, utility costs, professional fees, required inspections, and landscaping.

The Student Center Committee will prepare a report "to present to the administration a general proposal of the magnitude of help the activities are going to need" in financing the move to their

new offices. The committee and the administration feel that "it would be foolish to expect the activities to absorb the expense with no outside help."

Construction Progress

"The construction of the Student Center... is proceeding very satisfactorily after two months of work," according to a report released by Professor Catalano.

His report continues: "The general excavating which has shown no significant differences in the expected soil conditions, has been extremely successful — helped, in part, by the first six weeks of dry weather.

"Concrete for the thick floating mat of the building's foundation will be poured in three stages, the first of which is scheduled for today. More than 1000 cubic yards of concrete will be poured in a continuous operation during the day, which may create traffic difficulties on Massachusetts Avenue.

"We have provided observation windows through the construction fence in order to allow students to observe this operation, as well as to help us detect whether steelworkers are trapped and left unnoticed inside the dense steel cage of the reinforcement.

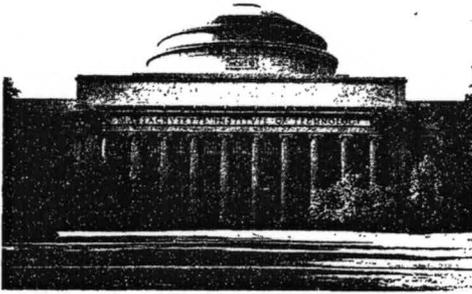
"According to the schedule of work, the foundation will be finished at the end of January; and the superstructure will be totally completed at the end of June, 1964. It will be at this time that the students will have a full awareness of the large dimensions of the building and its many spaces which, we hope, may mark the beginning of a long-lasting friendship between students and building activities and spaces.

"We hope that our so silent life inside the beehives of laboratories, classrooms, and workshops will be heard in the spaces of the new building, through a rich program of activities. Should this happen, we may be able to bring life back into those beehives and then, perhaps, see the real meaning of our daily work."

'Insoomm Open Line'

The Student Center will be the topic of discussion on the WTBS 'Insoomm Open Line' at 8 pm this evening. Listeners may call in with questions, which will be answered by Student Center Committee co-chairmen Bushkin and Frank H. Byers '65, along with Dean Robert Holden, faculty coordinator.

The Tech



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Services curtailed

Telephone hackers active

By Henry Lichstein

Many telephone services have been curtailed because of so-called hackers, according to Professor Carlton Tucker, administrator of the Institute phone system.

Stating "It means the students who are doing this are depriving the rest of you of privileges you otherwise might have," Prof. Tucker noted that two or three students are expelled each year for abuses on the phone system.

The hackers have accomplished such things as tying up all the tie-lines between Harvard and MIT, or making long-distance calls by charging them to a local radar installation. One method involved connecting the PDP-1 computer to the phone system to search the lines until a dial tone, indicating an outside line, was found.

Tie lines connect MIT's phone

Next The Tech will appear Tuesday

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, next week's issue of The Tech will be published Tuesday instead of Wednesday.

Deadline for entertainment and features copy will be noon Saturday. News and sports copy must be submitted by noon Sunday.

system to many areas without a prorata charge. Among the tie-lines discovered have been ones to the Millstone Radar Facility, the Sudbury defense installation, IBM in Kingston, New York, and the MITRE Corporation.

Tucker warns hackers

Commenting on these incidents, Prof. Tucker said "If any of these people are caught (by the telephone company) they are liable to be put in jail. I try to warn them and protect them."

While Tucker felt "we don't have too much trouble with the boys; we appreciate their curiosity," he also said that repeated involvement, for instance, caused the expulsion from the Institute of one member of the Class of '63 one week before his graduation.

Because of the "hacking", the majority of the MIT phones are "trapped". They are set up so tie-line calls may not be made. Originally, these tie-lines were open to general use.

Lines Found by Force

While the hackers have resorted to some esoteric methods, many tie-lines have been found by "brute force techniques" — mass dialing until something "interesting" is found. Another, more urbane method, has been the judicious perusal of telephone directories. To quote one accomplished hacker, "The field is always open to experimentation."

While stating "We attempt to stop (hacking) because it impairs our relations with the phone company, and hurts the service for the rest of the students," Tucker observed that the MIT phone system, serving a community of about 14,000 persons, is as large as that for a small town.

Including Lincoln Laboratories, which accounts for over 50% of costs, the Institute's phone bill exceeds \$1,000,000 each year. This is the third largest bill in New England.

The General Electric Company has the largest phone bill. Raytheon Corporation has the second largest bill in the New England area.

March on Burton House

EC men protest letter to Time

175 East Campus residents marched on Burton House at 1 a.m. last Wednesday in protest against a letter which appeared in last week's issue of Time. The marchers were turned away with out incident by the Campus Patrol.

The letter to the editor of Time had been written by Leonard Levin '66. It bawled that MIT hours are more liberal than Harvard's, and stated that attempts to restrict open-house privileges would be "a flagrant violation of student freedom."

Participants in the march gave two reasons for their presence: Some wished to "demonstrate peacefully" before Levin's door.

Other marchers stated that Levin "needed a shower."

It was the consensus of the participants that the letter had been detrimental to MIT's image nationally. Also, they feared that it might necessitate a change in the existing parietal hours.

Levin later wrote a two-page letter to Dean of Residence Frederick G. Fassett Jr., in which he apologized for his "rashness" in writing to Time.

Levin was not in his room during the incident, having been forewarned.

Dean Fassett, who had also been alerted shortly before, attended the affair in an overcoat and pajamas.

Soviets attend classes, visit rooms

A group of young Russian professional men and women visited MIT Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The Institute is the first stop on a month-long tour of the United States as part of an expedition in international relations. While at MIT they attended several lectures, including a 14.51 lecture and a Russian class.

Today and Thursday, the Russians will visit Harvard. They will be free to visit areas of personal interest for the remainder of the week.

Within the following month, the Russians will go to Yellow Springs, Dayton, Philadelphia, Washington and New York.

They were pleased with the libraries, and with Kresge Auditorium and the other buildings.

Dewey Library, other academic facilities to move to proposed 4-story structure near Sloan Bldg.

Plans for a four-story building to house the Dewey Library and other academic facilities are expected to be made public today by Professor Howard Johnson, Dean of the School of Industrial Management. Discussion of the building will take place at a meeting in the Schell Room, 52-461, at 12:10 pm.

The structure, to be situated behind Building 52, will provide classrooms and other facilities for

the School of Industrial Management, Department of Economics and Social Science, and Center for International Studies. The expanded Dewey Library will occupy the first two floors of the building. According to Dean Johnson, MIT will request bids from contractors within a week.

At the meeting, Dean Johnson will deliver a progress report and will answer all questions.