Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

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Title	**(No title) AT&T thought it had an unbeatable system ...**
Publication	*Fortune*
Date	1966-07-01
V/I/P	p. 34
Abstract	Photo and a brief story on the Harvard five: "AT&T thought it had an unbeatable system for billing its long-distance phone customers -- until a group of college students turned up who cracked it: Charles Pyne, 22, a Harvard engineering senior, Tony Lauck, 22, a '65 Harvard graduate who now programs computers for the SMithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory, and Paul Heckel, 25, MIT '63 and now a systems analyst for G.E. with two other friends, they painstakingly worked out ways calling free to any phone in the US -- and some in Europe -- first by tracking down the codes they reached internal phone company operators, and later with a home built "blue box" that rang numbers electronically. They were interested in displaying their analytical probably asks, not in bilking the phone company. "Anything that man can devise can be undevised," is the way Heckel explains the principle that guided them. "The undevising is a challenge."
Keywords	Harvard Five; MIT; Charles Pyne; Paul Heckel; Tony Lauck
Notes	captions in the photo are incorrect; see e-mail from Charlie Pyne.

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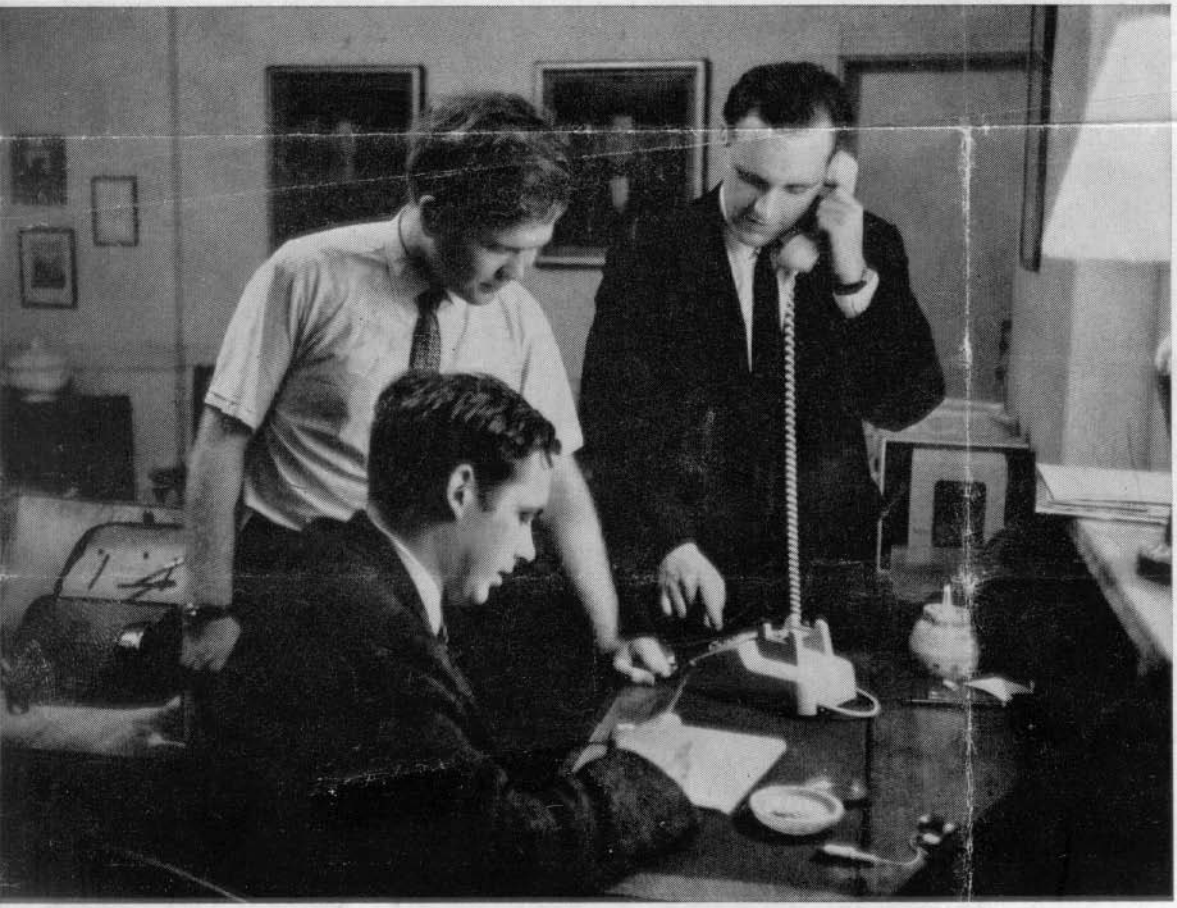

LAUCK (SEATED), PYNE, AND HECKEL

A.T. & T. thought it had an unbeatable system for billing its long-distance phone customers—until a group of college students turned up who cracked it: **CHARLES PYNE**, 22, a Harvard engineering senior, **TONY LAUCK**, 22, a '65 Harvard graduate who now programs computers for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and **PAUL HECKEL**, 25, M.I.T. '63, and now a systems analyst for G.E. With two other friends, they painstakingly worked out ways of calling free to any phone in the U.S.—and some in Europe—first by tracking down the codes that reached internal phone-company operators, and later with a home-built "blue box" that rang numbers electronically. They were interested in displaying their analytical prowess, not in bilking the phone company. "Anything that man can devise can be undevised," is the way Heckel explains the principle that guided them. "The undevising is a challenge."