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Abstract       Donald Spencer arrested in Oakridge, OR for blue box fraud. Accused of making two calls to Marina Del Ray, CA. Article notes that this was the first prosecution of a blue box case since 1973.

Keywords      Donald Spencer (suspect); blue box

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# Man admits 'blue box' phone calls

By STEVE CARTER  
of The Oregonian staff

An Oakridge man who said he was trying to find out if the device really worked pleaded guilty Monday to making two telephone calls to Southern California using a so-called "blue box" which gave him free access to long distance telephone lines.

Donald Spencer, 28, told U.S. District Judge Otto Skopil Jr. it was curiosity that led him to his current predicament. He said he had no idea that the potential penalties — up to five years in prison — were so severe for using the devices.

Blue boxes, or multifrequency signal generating devices, emit high-pitched beeps that simulate the tones which activate telephone switching systems.

Spencer, who works on geologic studies for the government, was accused of five counts of wire fraud — using a blue box to gain access to long distance lines. He was accused of making two calls to Marina del Rey, Calif., two more to Los Angeles and one call to Warren, R.I., on April 11, 12 and 13 from Oakridge.

His attorney, Ronald Somers, said the two calls to Marina del Rey had to do with operation or maintenance of Spencer's sailboat.

Spencer told the judge he first heard of the frequency generators several years ago when a fellow employe at an electronics firm in California brought one to work and asked if he could fix it.

"It was experimentation, really," he said. He said he was curious how the boxes worked and if they could indeed be used to make long distance calls.

Spencer said he constructed four of the boxes and used one of them to make the calls. But, he added, he concluded that the frequency control on them was poor and they were unreliable.

Somers, however, said the telephone company was impressed with their technical quality.

Somers said Spencer has already reimbursed Bell for the calls. A company spokesman said Bell policy precluded disclosing how much of a bill Spencer ran up.

Somers said it was "ironic" that Spencer made all the calls from a telephone line on which he could have called at government expense anyway.

Collins said it was the first government prosecution of a blue box case in Oregon since 1973.

Spencer pleaded guilty to two counts on condition the government dismiss the other three. Skopil scheduled sentencing for June 27.

## WORDPLAY

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THANK TO KEN CADDICK, FARMINGTON, CONN.

## Holdup nets prison term

A 19-year-old woman was given a prison sentence of up to five years Monday for the knife-point robbery of a man in Northeast Portland whom she had allegedly solicited for prostitution.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Robert E. Jones said Lisa Gay Harper, 3828 N. Commercial Ave., had shown a "continual pattern of misbehavior as a juvenile," including a record of assault.

Baron Sheldahl, deputy district attorney, said the evidence showed that Miss Harper, with a companion, had flagged down the victim in his car near the corner of NE Union Avenue and Webster Street Feb. 12. When they offered him sex, Sheldahl said, the victim refused and Miss Harper pulled a knife, taking his wallet and a camera.

In an unrelated case, Circuit Judge Richard Burke sentenced Ralph Allen Stevenson, 27, to up to 12 years in prison for the armed robbery of the Pagoda Restaurant, 3839 NE Broadway, March 8. Stevenson, 4848 NE 12th Ave., allegedly got away with \$168. Stevenson was on probation for another crime at the time.

## Exhibit scheduled

Plans and models of transportation projects in the Portland metropolitan area will be displayed between noon and 5 p.m., Thursday, May 19, in Oregon Department of Transportation offices at 5821 NE Glisan St.

The exhibit is part of an observance of National Transportation Week.

Included will be exhibits of projects such as the Banfield transitway, Interstate 205 freeway, Powell Boulevard improvements and the Interstate 505 freeway. Staff members will be on hand to answer questions.

A display of heavy equipment, including two giant snowplows, also is planned.

# Groups support M

Two school advisory groups Monday night voted to merge Monroe High School with Washington High School despite proposals that Benson High School be involved in any juggling of students.

Citizen advisory committees for Area 2 and Area 3 met jointly at Benson High but voted separately on which of five routes to take to bolster sagging enrollment at Washington High School.

The Area 2 group, taking note of substantial testimony Monday night from an audience of 230 urging that Monroe's vocational programs be kept intact, voted for operation of Monroe High School within the physical confines of Washington High School. Monroe is at 2508 NE Everett St.

The Area 3 group voted in favor of moving the Monroe student body to

Washington, with the two schools retaining some academic programs. Under both proposals, the schools would retain separate extracurricular activities and programs.

The votes came after hours of discussion of a plan to merge Washington's declining enrollment with Monroe's inadequate building.

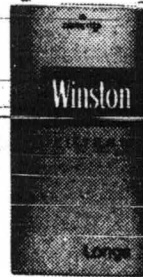
## Businessmen

A May campaign pledges of 4,400 job slots in the Portland metropolitan area for disadvantaged residents. Chuck Reed, manager of the National Businessmen's campaign for the National Businessmen's

Approximately 6,6

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# 100 Why smoke this



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1.2 MG. NIC.



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