



Exploding The Phone

db832

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title	Phone Operator Admits Swindle Of \$1 Million
Publication	<i>Grand Rapids Press</i>
Date	1980-04-29
Author(s)	AP
V/I/P	p. 2A
Abstract	Robert Dunlap, 37, a college switchboard operator, admitted selling more than \$1 million worth of long distance calls using a blue box.
Keywords	New York; Robert Dunlap (convicted); blue box; New York University; NYU; switchboard

The following pages may contain copyrighted material. We believe that our use of this material for non-commercial educational and research purposes constitutes "fair use" under Section 107 of U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use this material for purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner, if any. While it will make us slightly sad to do so, we will nonetheless comply with requests from copyright owners who want their material removed from our web site.

Phone Operator Admits Swindle Of \$1 Million

NEW YORK (AP) — A college switchboard operator pleaded guilty Monday to swindling the telephone company of more than \$1 million by selling cut-rate overseas calls while electronically avoiding the billing process.

Robert Dunlap, 37, admitted that over a four-year period he used a "blue box," an electronic device to keep telephone company billing computers from auditing the calls.

He charged \$5 for most overseas calls, as opposed to the New York Telephone Co.'s average of \$45 per call. Most of his customers were businessmen who placed their calls through his New York University switchboard.

Accepting Dunlap's plea in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, Justice Harold Rothwax said he planned to give him no more than a year's prison sentence, depending on the probation report. The maximum is one to four years.

At the time of his arrest last autumn, Dunlap had worked for NYU for 10 years. As switchboard operator, he made \$15,000 a year. But according to authorities, he drove a \$25,000 sports car.

Dunlap kept extensive and highly detailed records of the overseas calls he placed, and authorities said he turned them over to New York Telephone following his arrest.