

Exploding The Phone

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Abstract Charges upgraded to felony against Robert Dunlap, 36, a college

switchboard operator who admitted to selling more than \$1 million

worth of long distance calls using a blue box.

Keywords New York University; New York Telephone Company (NYTCo); Robert

Dunlap (arrested); blue box; switchboard; NYU; New York University

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N.Y.U. Phone Operator Accused Of Bilking Company of \$1 Million

Felony charges were placed yesterday against a switchboard operator at New York University who allegedly cheated the New York Telephone Company of more than \$1 million by selling cut-rate overseas calls that electronically avoided the billing process.

The operator, Robert Dunlap, 36 years old, of Manhattan, was originally charged with a misdemeanor when he was arrested Oct. 29.

The District Attorney's office said a charge of burglary in the third degree was added because Mr. Dunlap was illegally on the premises at the university when the calls were placed.

The new charge carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison. The misdemeanor was punishable by a maximum of one year.

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It was alleged that Mr. Dunlap used an electronic device, known as a "blue box."