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Title **Police Apprehend Phone-Addicted USF Whistler**

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Abstract "A blind Florida youth, in the headlines in 1968 because of his ability to whistle and get telephone computers to place free worldwide calls for him, was arrested Wednesday night." [...] Includes quote about being addicted to the phone, loneliness, and background leading up to arrest

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# Police Apprehend Phone-Addicted USF Whistler

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A blind Florida youth, in the headlines in 1968 because of his ability to whistle and get telephone computers to place free worldwide calls for him, was arrested Wednesday night.

Police, acting on warrants issued by South Central Bell Telephone Co., placed two telephone fraud charges against Josef Carl Engressia Jr., 22.

**THE YOUNG** man, blind since birth, is charged with using a system of mouth whistles and electronic tones from a tiny device of his own invention to place long-distance calls without charge and without leaving a record.

Engressia said he has been living in Memphis since March and subsisting on a \$97-a-month atate - aid - to - the - blind check and a small allowance from his parents in Miami.

Police said they found complex telephone equipment devised by Engressia in his tiny apartment. It included pushbutton gadgets that could be programmed to transfer calls to neighbor's telephones.

**THE TELEPHONE** company said it began an investigation into Engressia's activities two weeks ago after he reported trouble on his line.

A telephone security man posing as a magazine writer then visited Engressia and was freely shown how the whistle calls were placed and the equipment in the young man's possession.

A telephone company spokesman said the investigation showed that Engressia had been caught doing the same thing in Florida in 1968 and had been warned to halt the practice. The company this time decided to go beyond the warning.

**ENGRESSIA** said he holds a math degree from the University of South Florida at Tampa.

After his arrest, he told reporters, "Some folks are on dope. I was on telephones. I knew it would get me into trouble, but when I got lonely I would reach for the phone and it would be there."

He described his telephones as a link to the world for a blind man.



**ENGRESSIA**