



# ***Exploding The Phone***

www.explodingthephone.com

Bibliographic Cover Sheet



**Title**            **Blind Student Dials Trouble**

**Publication**    *University of South Florida Oracle*

**Date**            1968-11-27

**Author(s)**     Taylor, Leslie

**V/I/P**            p. 1

**Abstract**       Describes Engressia's run-in with campus authorities over USF whistling incident.

**Keywords**     Joe Engressia; USF; University of South Florida

**Source**         University of South Florida

*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.*

SUSPENSION PENDING

# Blind Student Dials Trouble

By **LESLIE TAYLOR**  
Editorial Editor

See *Editorial, Page 4*

"The Whistler" Engressia thought he had found a way to beat the system.

Engressia, blind since he was discovered at the age of 12, discovered that he could place long distance calls by whistling into the phone. He formulated a system which enabled him to call anywhere in the United States (and some places outside it) without paying a cent.

That's what the honor system in electrical engineering was doing in Beta and Gamma Halls at the end of October — only he was doing it

for other people and charging \$1 to call anywhere.

**AND THAT'S** where beating the system broke down. Engressia's technique seemed foolproof but he had failed to reckon with human error.

He was called before Charles Wildy, dean of men, Nov. 7 and informed that the administration was aware of his actions. On Nov. 13 Engressia was suspended, but his suspension is pending an appeal before a faculty-student board.

His suspension was based on the grounds that Joe had committed theft. The phone company has declined to prosecute. The FBI was notified of

the case but has not taken any action.

**ENGRESSIA'S** ability with the telephone dates a long way back (see other story this page) but this short-lived and exuberant success as the genius of Beta Hall began sometime around the last week of October.

One day Engressia overheard someone talking about

how they had read a very technical telephone manual to him and that they couldn't believe anyone could understand something so complicated.

"I could beat the system in a hundred ways," interrupted Engressia "I can whistle like a bird and get any number you want anywhere. I'll bet you a dollar I can."

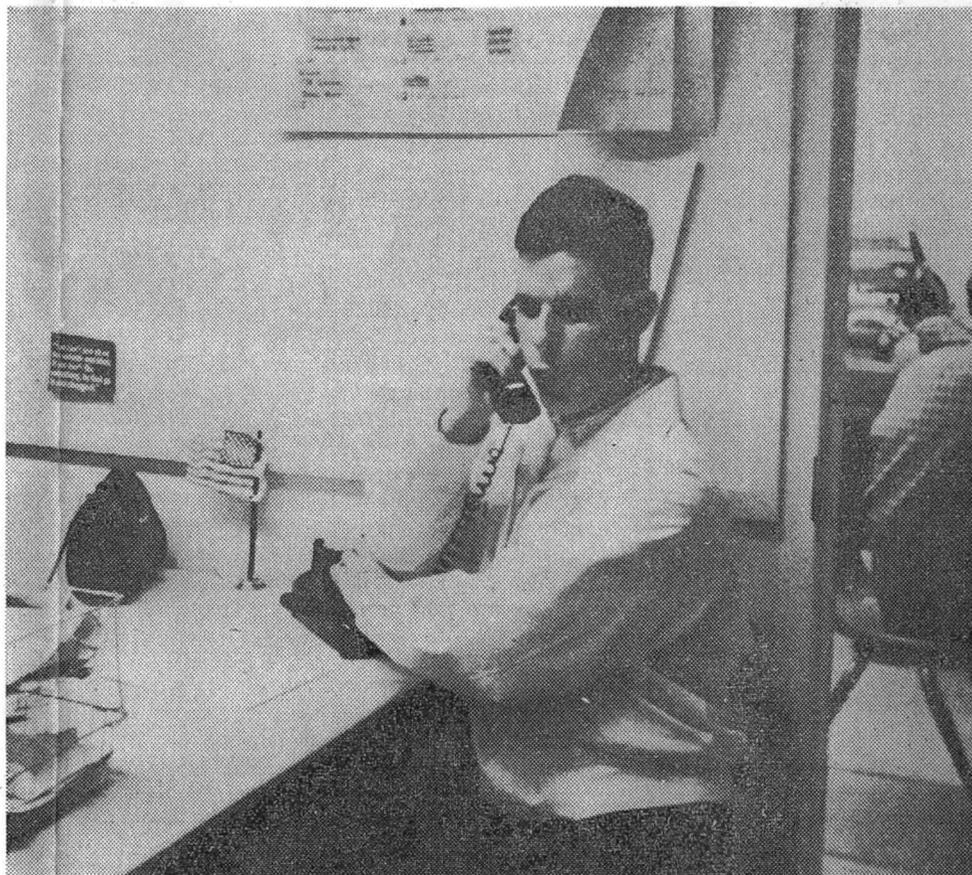
**THE BOY** pulled out his

dollar and Engressia proceeded to call California. He won his bet.

"I attracted a lot of attention in the next few days." Engressia claims he placed approximately 25 calls, charging \$1 to place each call.

"I had crowds of 40 people following me at some points. I

(Please See **JOE**, Page 3)



## Hooks' Suit Against USF Dismissed

Ray) Hooks has another setback in his suit to sue the University and the Board of Regents. Hooks, former USF student, had his court suit (over cancelling tickets which he

appeal of his fine without voiding his right to remain silent. The court also ruled that the rules and regulations Hooks is contesting are not of general application and apply only to that institution.

Beautiful Music

15% DISCOUNT COUPON  
MIAMI POP FESTIVAL

P.O. BOX 3900 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33101

TICKETS SAT., DEC. 28 @ \$6.00

TICKETS SUN., DEC. 29 @ \$6.00

TICKETS MON., DEC. 30 @ \$6.00

Includes all-day admission (tickets at the door available: \$7.00)

Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ in check or money order payable to "Miami Pop Festival."

Understand that the management does not guarantee delivery on orders postmarked after Dec. 9, 1968.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  
existence.  
Universit  
which stud  
sented for  
clude: cal  
education,  
tability, in  
instruction.

**IN ADDI**  
number in  
will be mo  
following c  
council, t  
golf course  
vices, spa  
student fir  
and parki  
events and  
The con  
there will  
bers conce  
dards, gra  
stitutional  
sis.

Allen sai  
sentation  
being mad  
because of  
an effort t  
dents in c  
tions in w  
significant

**STUDEN**  
chosen th  
ernment a  
bers on th  
will be ap  
versity pre

The gen  
be for the  
president  
more stud  
versity-wi  
reserved f

"The Un  
ing expans  
ence on i  
will expect  
ing the ap  
accept the

Cycle  
Kills

# Joe's 'Whistling' Dials Big Trouble With USF



## HONEY QUEEN

Cathy Hitchman, 1CBS, won the title of Florida State Honey Queen at the Florida State Beekeepers Convention held recently in Redington Beach. The girls were judged on beauty, personality, and knowledge of beekeeping. Cathy is now eligible to compete for the Miss Sunflavor crown at the Florida State Fair.

(Continued From Page 1)

had managers, promoters."

**BUT ABOUT** 1 a.m. Oct. 31 came Engressia's Waterloo. He attempted to place a call for a student to Long Island.

"I whistled wrong, though, and got Montreal instead," Engressia said. "Then I pretended to be an operator and asked for assistance in dialing the correct number from the Montreal operator. The operator was suspicious and monitored the call."

Engressia said by the time the call went through he had gone to another dorm to place another call.

"**NATURALLY**, the student I placed the call for talked extensively about the 'whiz kid' who had made his free call. The Montreal operator broke in and demanded to know who was speaking and from where. She said she would trace the call if he wouldn't tell her. He spilled the beans, but he didn't know she couldn't have traced the call."

Engressia says he stopped placing free phone calls on Nov. 2. And at 9 a.m. on Nov. 7, Ray King, director of housing, surprised him in his bed with the announcement he would accompany Engressia to Dean Wildy.

**WILDY ADVISED** him of the administration's knowledge of his actions and told him he would meet with General Telephone Co. officials that afternoon.

The General Telephone officials, Gene Mason, a security agent, and Richard C. Farmer, an equipment engineer, according to Engressia said they felt Engressia had no criminal intent in his actions and his potential to help the phone company was greater than any harm done.

At the end of the interview, there was a discussion of the possibility of Engressia working for General Telephone as a trouble shooter. General telephone officials Monday declined to affirm or deny their actions.

**ON NOV. 8** Engressia was advised by Dr. Herbert Wunderlich, vice president for stu-

Engressia's Resident Assistant, Greg Ervin, was called Nov. 14 by Dean Wildy's office to notify him to tell Joe his hearing would be Nov. 15.

**JOE ENGRESSIA** claims he wasn't told the meeting would constitute his hearing. At the meeting Wildy told Engressia he could either voluntarily withdraw or be suspended for the remainder of the quarter, returning next quarter with a signed clearance from Wildy.

"I didn't want to sacrifice all the course work I had done already this quarter," said Engressia. "So I asked Wildy if I could be suspended next quarter instead."

According to Engressia, Wildy said that other students would think the administration was condoning "this sort of thing" if they did that.

"**I FEEL THEY** are trying to use me as an example to other students," said Engressia.

Engressia claims he wasn't fully advised about due process procedures, and that due process guidelines weren't followed in his case.

"I asked Wildy if my appeal had to be in any special form and he said, 'No.' He didn't tell me I had to specifically request an open hearing either."

## SDS Views U.S. Politics

A position statement on the national elections was adopted at the National Convention of SDS in Boulder, Colorado. The paper seemed to sum up the reality of the United States' political situation.

Since the Free Speech Movement in 1964, concerned and progressive students have been struggling to gain the power to govern their own lives.

As students begin to control the universities, the paper goes on to say, they reflect a culture different from the status quo and will direct the institution toward the goal of fulfilling the material needs of people.

Every four years the na-

**THE LETTERS** notifying Engressia of the various administrative steps taken in his case were given to him the afternoon of Nov. 15, after Dean Wildy notified Joe of his suspension.

The letters were pre-dated to coincide with the actions taken. Dean Wildy said Monday that it was not unusual to pre-date letters. "This also was an unusual case because of Engressia's handicap. We couldn't see the point of sending him the letters through campus mail because it takes so long."

**ENGRESSIA** said he felt written notification of his hearing was due him the same as other students. "I have readers who could have read the letters to me," he said.

Dr. Wunderlich said administrative action was taken for "protection of other people" and as a "contribution to his (Joe's) growth and education."

Paul Wallace, another student involved with the administration over a recent disciplinary action, is working with Engressia to help him prepare his appeal.

The appeal date has not yet been set, Dr. Wunderlich said Monday.

Use Our  
Payment  
Plan



6 diamonds, \$299

DIAMOND  
**GO**

IN TAN  
TERRACE PL

3924 BRITTON PL  
SHOPPING CENTER

OTHER STORES IN  
BRADENTON,



YO  
P

...sisterly about the wild and who had made his free call. The Montreal operator broke in and demanded to know who was speaking and from where. She said she would trace the call if he wouldn't tell her. He spilled the beans, but he didn't know she couldn't have traced the call."

Engressia says he stopped placing free phone calls on Nov. 2. And at 9 a.m. on Nov. 7, Ray King, director of housing, surprised him in his bed with the announcement he would accompany Engressia to Dean Wildy.

**WILDY ADVISED** him of the administration's knowledge of his actions and told him he would meet with General Telephone Co. officials that afternoon.

The General Telephone officials, Gene Mason, a security agent, and Richard C. Farmer, an equipment engineer, according to Engressia said they felt Engressia had no criminal intent in his actions and his potential to help the phone company was greater than any harm done.

At the end of the interview, there was a discussion of the possibility of Engressia working for General Telephone as a trouble shooter. General telephone officials Monday declined to affirm or deny their actions.

**ON NOV. 8** Engressia was advised by Dr. Herbert Wunderlich, vice-president for student affairs, that he could choose to appear before the faculty - student disciplinary appeals board or before an administrative board.

Engressia telephoned Wunderlich's office Nov. 11 to tell him he chose the administrative board.

"I thought they would be easier on me, especially considering the phone company was not going to prosecute," he said.

tion was condoning "this sort of thing" if they did that.

**"I FEEL THEY** are trying to use me as an example to other students," said Engressia.

Engressia claims he wasn't fully advised about due process procedures, and that due process guidelines weren't followed in his case.

"I asked Wildy if my appeal had to be in any special form and he said, 'No.' He didn't tell me I had to specifically request an open hearing either."

## SDS Views U.S. Politics

A position statement on the national elections was adopted at the National Convention of SDS in Boulder, Colorado. The paper seemed to sum up the reality of the United States' political situation.

Since the Free Speech Movement in 1964, concerned and progressive students have been struggling to gain the power to govern their own lives.

As students begin to control the universities, the paper goes on to say, they reflect a culture different from the status quo and will direct the institution toward the goal of fulfilling the material needs of people.

Every four years the nation's population is allowed to voice its opinion. But who does one vote for? Obviously the personalities are of secondary importance. The system defines its own actions. Individuals, the SDS's paper says, are of little importance no matter whether they are in the White House or the polling booth.

Reprinted by permission of The Forty Niner of October 30, 1968

read the letters to me," he said.

Dr. Wunderlich said administrative action was taken for "protection of other people" and as a "contribution to his (Joe's) growth and education."

Paul Wallace, another student involved with the administration over a recent disciplinary action, is working with Engressia to help him prepare his appeal.

The appeal date has not yet been set, Dr. Wunderlich said Monday.

DIAMOND  
**GO**  
IN TA  
TERRACE PI  
3924 BRITTON PI  
SHOPPING CENTE  
OTHER STORES IN  
BRADENTON



**JOE HOBBS**

**FIDELITY  
UNION  
LIFE**

Successful Men for  
Successful College  
Phone 988-1100



## VOLKSWAGEN SERVICE

**Special Bus for USF  
SERVICE CUSTOMERS  
LEAVES for USF  
Administration Bldg. at  
8:15 A.M.**

**Return Trip 4:30 P.M.**



...ners of the Green  
... Phi Delta Theta,  
... all game — DATE

**UT!**

**ON**  
... ON ANY OF  
... RRY'S GREAT  
... PIZZAS

... only one  
... on per Pizza

Delivery  
Service 50c  
**FREE ON ORDER**  
OVER \$7.00