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Title **Machine That Fools Telephone Equipment Results in 3 Arrests**

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Abstract Three Cornell University students arrested while demonstrating a blue box at a frat house. Arrested were Hoyt A. Stearns, Jr., Seth J. Stowell, and Stuart S. Pattison.

Keywords blue box; Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; Hoyt A. Stearns, Jr.; Seth J. Stowell; Stuart S. Pattison.

Source Hoyt Stearns

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Machine That Fools Telephone Equipment Results in 3 Arrests

By DON GREET

Three Cornell University engineering students were arraigned in City Court this morning on criminal charges that they defrauded the New York Telephone Co. by using an electronic device of their own manufacture to avoid paying toll charges on long distance calls.

The three were Stuart S. Patison, 22, Hoyt A. Stearns Jr., 19, and Seth J. Stowell, 19. They are members and residents of Triangle house at 1 Campus Rd. Their cases were adjourned for a week so that they may get counsel.

Ithaca Detective Sgt. Lew Cornelius led the group of police and telephone company agents which visited Triangle fraternity shortly after 9 p.m. Saturday.

As the group entered the house, Cornelius said today, "the band was playing but nobody was dancing and the bar was deserted."

They made their way upstairs to a student room where they said they found a group of about 40 persons watching a demonstration involving an ordinary telephone and a home-made electronic instrument which looks like a component of a high fidelity set.

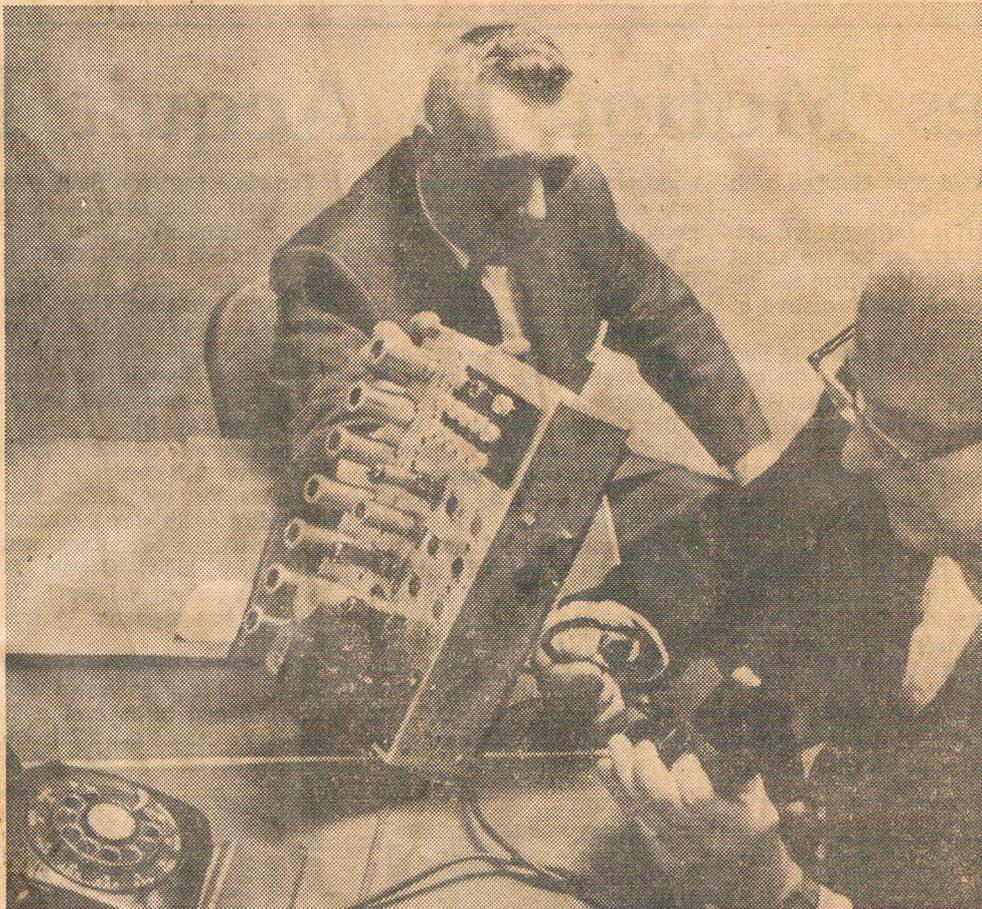
District Attorney Richard Thaler said today this was one of several weekend demonstrations which saw about 150 long distance calls go all over the U.S.

Telephone company special agents who were in town today were reluctant to give a detailed description of how the device works for fear of widespread imitation.

Chief security agent Dayton W. Garlick of Albany said the machine sends out impulses which confuse the billing equipment of the telephone company.

He said such attempts are rare and added that "it takes an uncommon talent to design the machine."

A similar case occurred re-



—Journal Photo by Sol Goldberg

HOMEMADE MACHINE which police say was used to confuse billing equipment of the New York Telephone Co. to avoid paying toll charges is examined by detective Sgt. Lew Cornelius (left) of the Ithaca police and E. J. Goldschmitt of Syracuse, a special agent for the telephone company. The three boys who police say built the instrument were arrested.

cently at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Garlick said. The defendant in that case is to go to trial Tuesday, he added.

J. N. Clune, manager of the Ithaca office of the telephone firm, said irregularities in billing became apparent in mid January when it is believed the machine was first put into operation.

Telephone experts were able to trace the trouble to the Triangle fraternity.

Thaler said the Saturday night visit to the fraternity was made on the basis of a tip. Police had search warrants signed by County Judge Norman G. Stagg.

The raiding party included Ithaca detectives university proctor Lowell George and a telephone company agent. Other police and campus patrolmen

watched the house from outside, Thaler said.

The DA said the three men arrested helped design the device and that Stearns began work on it around Christmas. Thaler said the machine went through revisions and finally was perfected about Jan. 15.

He said the three men charged have signed statements admitting their part in the affair and have promised to repay the telephone company its loss in toll charges.

Thaler said he had a list of users of the telephone who also may be subject to arrest. These persons will be interviewed soon.

The charge is a misdemeanor under the Penal Code of the state.

Officials made the point that

the students appear to have undertaken the project for reasons of impressing their friends rather than with the idea of bilking the telephone company.

Telephone agents made their formal complaint to police and the DA last Thursday. The agents today expressed appreciation for the work of local enforcement agencies in pursuing the complaint.

Both the DA and the agents further stressed that their interest is to discourage further efforts of this nature. They said it is not possible to fool the telephone equipment.

Thaler said the three engineering students arrested had drawn plans for making the machine and had distributed some of these to other students. The DA is rounding up these plans.

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