

ODDS & ENDS by Tom Edison

Happy Birthday TAP! Five years old on May 1, 1976.

Since the last issue there has been only one new reader... "HIP TO YIP" this summer in your TAP T shirt NOW is the time to make yourself heard.

A reader informed me that he is having trouble using his RED BOX. It seems that after he beeps in the right amount of beeps the operator came on the line and said that he was using a recording and that no money had been deposited.

When you make a long distance call the operator comes on the line to tell you how much the initial deposit should be and the RETURNS YOUR DIME! This resets the coin relay in the open position and removes the relay from the circuit.

Back to our RED BOX dilemma. As a possible solution may I suggest that the next time you use a pay phone, after the operator has returned your dime, re-deposit a slug which will give the indication that coins are being deposited and then keep the balance with your RED BOX.

My reading recommendation for this month is F. P. S., a magazine of young people's liberation. F. P. S. which originally stood for Fuck Public School, has for its goals more rights for young people, a more humane restructured society, and an end to agism, racism and sexism.



MAY 1976 NO. 35

John T. Draper, better known as Captain Crunch, has been busted for the second time in San Francisco. He's accused of fraud by wire for making three calls to Bethlehem, Pa. using a Blue Box. John was placed on 5 years probation and is now free on \$5,000 bail.

The following off-hook currents were sent in since our last issue: Burtonsville, Md. 13 ma Toronto, Ont. 49 ma Queens, N. Y. 40 ma Westminster, Ca. 35 ma

For you TAP readers who are into CB radio be advised that there are some unscrupulous individuals within the rank and file! The following interesting clip is from the N. Y. Daily News of April 22, 1976:

Citizen Band Pays Off

Crawfordsville, Ind., April 21 (AP) — John Gonest, 18, of Onaka, Neb., was stranded on Interstate 74 near here yesterday after his car stalled. Police said that after he...

I hate to end my column on a sour note but a couple of TAP readers were pissed about the last few issues. They didn't like the light social criticism or the plugs for books, magazines, and underground records that were mentioned. They felt that TAP should stick to technical things and leave the social commentary alone.

And finally, to the critics who felt that Mr. Phelps came down too heavy in his article on how to write to the TAP office, I can only say that he didn't word it strong enough! If you can't write, print or type your own name and address legibly you don't deserve a subscription to TAP! We are all volunteers on the TAP staff and none of us are getting a damn dime for working.

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ASK Mr. PHELPS

Sends in your questions and he will try to answer them. If you send a deposit to his bank account in Zurich, he will make an all-out, maximum effort.

Q. Where can I get an effective bulletproof vest? A. Man, what kind of scene are you making? We can use you in the Advisable Missions Force. Drop by our office.

Recently newspapers publicized the fact that our Beloved (appointed non-elected) Leader was wearing armor. This told would-be assassins to concentrate on head shots.

Some manufacturers and distributors have restricted sale of the garments to Law Enforcement Personnel. Such efforts are foolish. Not only is a diamond "forever", so is the free market. If someone wishes to buy something, someone else will offer it for sale.

Soft body armor is reasonably priced GENUINE life insurance - unlike those worthless paper policies con artists try to sell you. Try stopping a bullet with a paper "piece of the Rock"! All it will do is make your best friend wither - or make the insurance company even wealthier than it already is, if it uses the inevitable fine print to weitch.

A VISIT FROM THE GOSTAPO?

No matter how our issue 33 featuring the article on tax related gifts to press, than the April 21/22 issue appeared, I had been inclined to appeal to people's rational self-interest as the justification for tax refusal, but after seeing this article, I'm inclined to use a different approach.

The same issue featured an interview with Governor Brown of California. The not a Libertarian, he appears to be the best, by far, of the bad lot who are pulling the strings of our society.

A couple of weeks later, on March 24, one of our volunteers came up about 4pm and reported that he'd seen a conspicuously inconspicuous dark sedan parked outside our office for a while. Two agent-types were sitting in it staring steadily up at our window.

I was talking to an Italian IRS supervisor the other day. He looked just like a Mafia enforcer and I joked about it. He admitted it was more fun and profitable to work for Big Brother, than to work for the Mafia and have Big Brother against him.

Mr. Bergman has lived all his life in Socialist Sweden and unfortunately has apparently been brainwashed. A sucker to the end, he announced he was leaving his fortune in Sweden at the disposal of the Tax Board, if he loses his suit. If he owes any further money, he intends to pay it!

According to an unconfirmed report from a usually reliable source, IRS parasites in Wyoming no longer leave the city of Cheyenne, because 4, four, count 'em, FOUR agents have disappeared, mysteriously, without a trace. I don't see why they're probably eaten by grizzly bears. It's only fair - they're parasites who live off productive people so now something's living off them.

We had some more excitement in April. The building at 1241 Broadway was totally gutted by fire. The cloud had a silver lining, however. An office of IT&W was among those destroyed. Someone speculated that an arsonist might have gotten the address wrong. Hmmm! We're at twelve-oh-one. And, by the way, our building is sprinklered.

We've been looking for a logo for some time. Recently a fellow walked in and showed us a couple he'd been working on. Opinion was unanimous and we hope everyone likes it, because you'll be seeing it for a while. If anyone needs the services of a good artist, we highly recommend [redacted] and his Social Security Number is [redacted].

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

We will start by playing a word association game. The word is "Duncan". Perhaps you thought of "Mastermind". Or the Duncan yo-yo? If you're one of us, you thought of those ubiquitous sidewalk piggycans which harass motorists.

Let us follow a purely hypothetical miscreant on his purely hypothetical mission. Do you know that Gypsy recipe that begins "First you steal one chicken..."? Well, first he steals a meter. A 2" Rigid pipe cutter is necessary. It can be bought for \$30 with no questions asked and no ID is required.

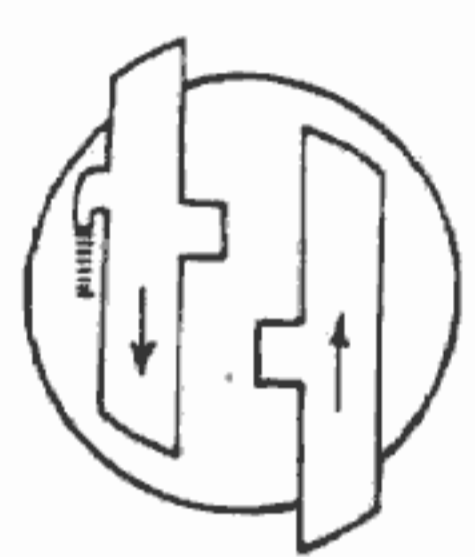
Meters should be selected with care. Just as some crops are best when harvested under certain moon signs, meters are ripest when harvested a day or two before the collector visits. One perpetrator chose a meter hidden behind a temporary construction shanty and all it contained was one #14 brass washer. As meters get stolen, replacements are fitted with an outer pipe to prevent use of a pipe cutter.

The door of the meter is 3/8" thick and the sides are 5/16" thick. Opening it is easy when one knows how. Drilling in 1/8" locations will expose 4 socket head screws. The bit may snap as it breaks thru. Anyone with access to a milling machine will find it easier to sink a 1/2" end mill in these locations. Remove the four screws and the door will come off.

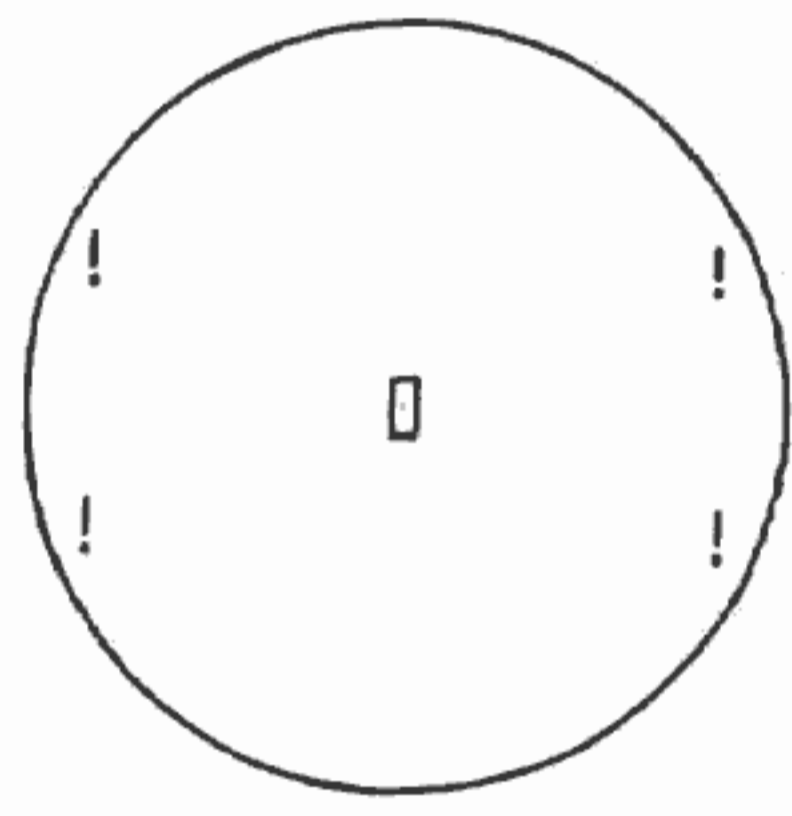
Remove the screws in the door, remove the lock, and study it. It is an unusual design and making keys is rather difficult. Few locksmiths have the machine, and besides, each lock is stamped "RESTRICTED". Making keys requires an Igo Bell key machine or a small pantograph. The lock on the inner cap has three pins per side and rather loose tolerances. It appears that ONE KEY will open all the inner caps in the city!

Now for the bad news: the OUTER locks are ALL different! It is believed that they were changed after the last major ripoff. Enterprising individuals acquired official-looking uniforms and caps and went into business for themselves. There is no such thing as a "master key" and the locks are so designed and so deeply buried in the door that they (probably) can't be picked.

Your mission: Observe the collectors in YOUR city. Perhaps they use the same key for all of the meters. It may even be an easily made tubular Ace-type key. Report your findings to us. Do not send meters or locks to us!



Cutaway end view of lock wafers may be spring or gravity operated



THANKS

to everyone who sent in info about CB-phone interfacing. We will be having an article about it shortly.

WE WOULD LIKE INFO

about Federal Agencies' radio frequencies - DEA, etc.

A friend of mine who was quite impressed with James Bond's Aston Martin with its revolving license plate has been suggesting that I rig something similar on my "Great Escape Machine". If anyone has designed anything like this, let us know the details.

Letters From Readers

11.3.76

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Dear Tom, Enclosed is a 4 dollar check, could you please send me courses A, B, C and D. Also the 3 following fact sheets; Displayed Red Box, 2600 whistle perfecter, and the Duattone oscillator. I am a subscriber so I have the corrections for the Red Box

Name withheld to protect the guilty

Dear TAP, Switches: I've been building blue ones for quite some time now and always on the lookout for good cheap dpdt or dpst switches. The Grayhill 35-1 is okay but has risen in price to about \$1.75. There are also a number of cheap switches I've read about which are not small and don't fit well into a small compartment.

Editor's note: Good idea for dual 555's. However, you can't use a 556 for the 555 Red Boxes, as several readers have suggested. Only two separate 555's will work because the V+ pins of the two timers are connected to different points in the circuit, and in a 556 the V+ pins of both timers are internally tied together. And no, the circuit can't be modified to let the 556 work.

- Back Issues - Listed by feature articles 50¢ each, 40¢ each if complete set is ordered 1 - Extensions, Conference Switches 2 - Blue Box Story and Abbie on Ripoffs 3 - Telecommand Story 4 - Pay Phone Issue 5 - Blue Box part 1 6 - Blue Box part 2 7 - Tuning your organ, 3-slot ripoffs 8 - Credit card calls, 1972 code 9, 10, and 11 - Blackbox parts 1, 2, & 3 12 - Blue Box plans 13 - Int'l calls & codes, Bluebox plans 14 - More codes, AT&T Papers, CA test #s 15 - 1973 Credit Card Code, T network 16 - Red Box plans 17 - Red Box, Line Relay, "Don't Get Busted" 18 - Outgoing long distance call stopper 19 - Snoop light, Taping Fortress tones 20 - Cheesebox (Conference line, or looparound) 21 - Automatic phone tap, Convention report 22 - Answeroo, "How we catch Red Boxers" 23 - Free electricity 24 - Fraud Detectors - Index, 1974 CC Code 25 - New Red Box, Free Gas 26 - New Bluebox, Con Ed key (also 23, 29) 27 - Free electricity, Bluebox correction 28 - Reading computer bills, loop suffixes 29 - Improved Bluebox & Snoopline, Int'l codes 30 - Party lines, Fortress extension & locks 31 - Black box, RAO Credit Card Codes 32 - '78 CC Code, Improved Red Box 33 - Supermarket codes and ripoffs, tax refusal 34 - SS #, Inside the Fortress, Fone Fucker

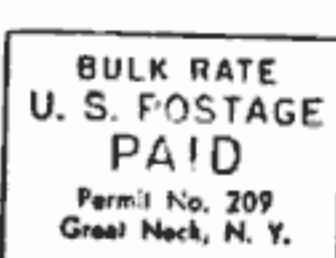
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Address all mail and checks to

TAP, ROOM 504, 152 W.42 ST., NY10036



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Supermarket Cheating

The nationally prominent magazine, The Atlantic Monthly, recently published an article entitled, "Rip-Off at the Supermarket." March, 1976. The article was offensive enough to the industry that at least one food chain, including the sale of the magazine on its premises. The article dealt heavily on supermarket practices that cheat or mislead customers, including false labeling of the weight of meat, prominent display of higher-profit foods, and other questionable merchandising practices.

The International Teamster