Secret Service nets phony money record

Data released by the Secret Service during 1981 budget hearings shows that counterfeiting is on the rise. The statistics, which appear in the agency's 1981 appropriations report, reveal that the amount of bogus currency seized during fiscal 1979 rose by 127 per cent over the previous year.

The Secret Service report shows that $50.7 million in counterfeit currency was recovered during 1979, 91 per cent of which was seized before it entered circulation. The amount of phony money confiscated last year represents the largest quantity ever recovered.

Based on available data for the first month of fiscal 1980, counterfeiting activities show no signs of deminishing. During this period, a total of $4.1 million in bogus currency was recovered, with $3.7 million (representing 90 per cent) confiscated before entering circulation.

Despite aggressive investigation by the Secret Service, counterfeiting takes its toll. During 1979, $4.5 million in fake money was passed on the public. This represents a 13 per cent increase over the $4 million of the previous year.

According to the Secret Service, of the $4.5 million worth of counterfeit currency passed on the American public last year, 20 per cent was traceable to Colombia, South America.

* * *

Phony money from Colombia is nothing new. The first counterfeit U.S. currency of Colombian origin was detected by the Secret Service in 1963. Since then, a total of 170 different and distinct counterfeit notes have been identified and catalogued. These are grouped into five major families because they share common workmanship and printing defects.

Colombia has become a significant source of fake U.S. money because of that nation's ineffective, or nonexistant, laws governing the possession or passing of counterfeit foreign currency. The manufacture of phony money in Colombia, however, is prohibited.

With that in mind — and with the cooperation of a Colombian government sympathetic to this country's problem — the Secret Service established a task force of special agents last year. These agents, working with Colombian authorities in Bogota, were responsible for the arrest of 30 defendants and the seizure of $20 million in counterfeit U.S. currency. Also recovered in the same raid were 40 million pesos worth of counterfeit tax stamps and 100 million pesos in Colombia bonds.

* * *

Although all of the U.S. currency produced in Colombia contains noticeable flaws many of the bills which have managed to find there way into circulation often go undetected for long periods of time. According to Secret Service counterfeiting specialist James E. Brown, the reason for this is unfortunately understandable. Because U.S. currency is readily accepted all over the world, when it is accepted, no one really takes the time to examine the notes that are exchanged.

The bulk of the fake U.S. currency seized in Colombia were $20 bills which were printed by the offset process. That denomination also makes up roughly 70 per cent of the counterfeit currency produced in this country.

Counterfeiters are particular about what they will copy. Although bogus $50 and $100 bills are beginning to appear in larger quantities — a fact attributed to inflation — forgers tend to steer clear of the lower denominations. When it comes to $1, $2, and $5 notes, the risk doesn't appear to be worth the effort.

There may be one other reason why one low value isn't very popular among counterfeits. "We do see $1 bills on occasion," stated one Secret Service official recently, "but not so much the $2 bill, probably because many people have trouble now just accepting the genuine ones."

For collectors interested in finding out more about counterfeit currency, the Secret Service has prepared an informative booklet — "Know Your Money" — which is available free of charge. Requests for this item should be addressed to: "The Office of Public Affairs, United States Secret Service, 1800 "G" St., Washington, D.C. 20223.

Phone machine malfunction cited as cause of blaze

EDISON — A telephone answering machine was cited as the cause of a fire which damaged a Koster Boulevard apartment yesterday morning.

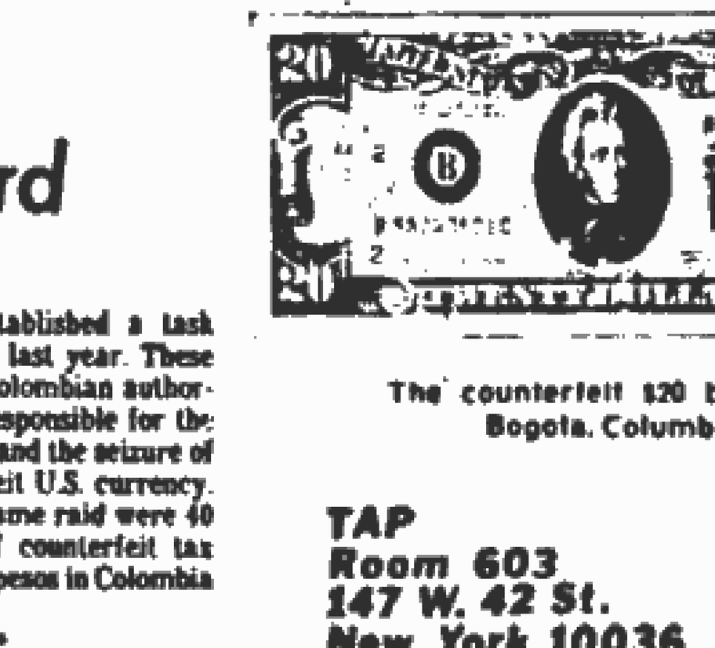
Township Fire Chief H. Ray Vliet said the blaze, which broke out shortly after 9 a.m., apparently began when an automatic telephone answering machine shorted out and ignited wires leading to the device.

The chief said the fire was confined to a table upon which the machine was setting, some papers and a portion of the wall behind the table.

He said the small blaze caused some smoke damage to the living room of the apartment, but no extensive damage or injuries.

Albert Gittleman, who rents Apt 2—C at 14 Koster Blvd., was not at home at the time of the fire, according to the chief.

Members of Raritan Engine Company No. 2 and the Edison Paid Fire Department responded to the 9:06 a.m. call, which was brought under control within minutes of the firefighters' arrival.



The counterfeit $20 bill from Bogota, Columbia

TAP

TAP
Room 603
147 W. 42 St.
New York 10036

JUL – AUG 1981 NO. 68

Dear Tap,

Previously, in late 1978, I came across your publication by reading about it in the *Fifth Estate* in Detroit. I bought about half of your back issues and found it very interesting. I would like to resubscribe. Please send your current rates and info so I can buy the other half..

I am particularly interested in Black Boxes and I have several questions about them. First, how does one know when the call coming in is to be black boxed? If a tone decoder such as a 567 was placed on the receiving end and the caller was given a 555 oscillator, the caller could send a beep down the line and trigger the 567 which could turn on a light or buzzer to notify the receiver of a long distance black box call. (I only ask these questions for educational purposes).

In regards to 2600 and black box detectors, it would seem to me that this equipment would be too expensive to place on everyone's line and that only random checks are made. It would seem that Ma would have to get a warrant to bust into one's place and then find the equipment. How could they prove that the voice on the line is the suspect in question? (Even capture of the device would only add to circumstantial evidence).

I believe in issue 36 or 33 there is a reproduction of an ad for a 2600 hz & black box detector. It states that the device catches black boxes by detecting the presence of an AC signal in the absence of a certain amount of DC current. It also states that the device can be placed in series or parallel. If the detector is wired in series it states that it can detect 2600 hz bypassing and black boxing simultaneously. In parallel it can only detect 2600 hz tones. In order to detect the black box it must be placed in series. This must be necessary to measure current flow while picking up the audio. Consequently, the device may have a significant dc resistance. For instance the device may use a very small miniature relay for current detection. In any case it may have a fairly substantial dc resistance which may alter your voltage or current flow.

The ad also states that the detector is triggered by the presence of AC in the absence of a certain level of DC, why not let just enough DC current to flow; but an amount of DC insufficient to trigger the telco relay — perhaps 14-16 milliamps? If the relay doesn't trigger billing doesn't occur. By placing the current as close as possible one might be able to bypass the detector. If the ringing AC stops, you will know that the relay has triggered.

It has been my experience that the dc resistance of the line (the batteries internal resistance, relay resistance & line itself) is usually around 1500 to 2000 ohms. Consequently, if the device has a resistance of 200 ohms and let's say the phones resistance was 200 ohms and the telco dc impedence was 1500 ohms then the device would alter the voltage from 5.2 to 4.7 a change of approximately 10%. I have sampled my telephone voltages before and they seem to remain fairly constant. One method is to sample the line with the phone disconnected with a precision resistor of 200 ohms. This excludes any ac from the carbon mike. The only ac variance will come from the dial tone which should be minimal. The only other variation would be that of the line resistance which may change slightly with the weather.

Another method of testing might be to send a low power RF signal down the line. The relay being an inductor should provide considerable ac impedence. Any capacity coupling may create an ac short at very high frequencies — this would reduce impedence at high frequencies. An LC bridge will resonate at a specific frequency. If the series hook-up uses an audio transformer this will increase the inductance of the line and once again change impedence at various frequencies. Consequently, a random sampling of a spectrum of frequencies may be taken and recorded. Any variance at a future date should be suspect.

In order to test AC impedence place a high impedence ac meter across L1, L2. Most commercial multimeters have a very low AC impedence. Usually 2K or less. Be sure you check the specs for AC impedence most multimeters have different input impedences for DC voltage, resistance and AC voltage tests. Next connect the signal generator across L1, L2 making sure to use a blocking capacitor. Be sure to disconnect all telephones so the ringers don't interfere with your readings. You should also take readings at random intervals in the lower ranges 1K to 100Khz. Then try RF frequencies going as high as you can with your equipment. When changing frequencies disconnect the generator from L1, L2 and take an ac reading. Calibrate the AC voltage to a uniform value (say .5 volts) each time. Then connect the generator to the line and note how the voltage changes. The voltage will vary depending upon the AC impedence of the telco equipment at each specific frequency. Next keep a record of what you have done. Now you can retest your line from time to time and note variations.

I am in the process of experimenting with this method right now and am keeping records of each test. I am also monitoring my voltage and currents weekly with precision digital equipment. If anyone else out there is interested perhaps we can compare results and devise some new testing methods. If you have an AC current meter you might test the amount of current passing at each frequency also.If anyone has any information on the impedence of detection devices or how they are coupled please send it in and we can figure out a way to detect its presence on the line.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Dear Tap

For any Paper Trippers out there who are trying to keep a clean and solid non de plume, some advice: If you are thinking of using credit for your new namesake, beware of TRW credit. They are The Credit Bureau. Although they won't admit to it in their public printed policy, they do keep records of your present and past residencies and employment This could lead to your undoing should you ever want to submerge for a-while with your alias intact.

The above tidbit also holds true for everyday people who are trying to get credit. The point is to be sure that you give practically the same story everytime you apply for credit (they like to see 'stability'). Any variations such as different social security numbers or birthdates will be emphasized in your file, and probably will be a red flag to any credit grantors who may wonder about the discrepancies.

Probably the best idea is to request a copy of your own credit file for the last six months (which will be all they will give you). Obtaining it is merely routine and you might be rather amazed at what you could find in your file. One should take this opportunity to "Straighten' out their file. How? That's your problem. Be creative.

Hoping that we all live life with the least amount of hassles. That's true freedom.

Tom,

Tex-s Instruments has done it for us. They are making a "Blue Box". They call it a TI 99/4 Home Computer. It has music capabilities built in. It plays up to 3 tones at a time whose frequency can be specified to the nearest Hz and whose duration can be specified to the millisecond.

When I called TI to ask a few questions about its capabilities, the gentlemen I talked to readily admitted the computer's possibilities. In fact, he used the term "Blue Box" first. He said they originally planned to mention its auto dialing capabilities (touch-tone of course, and not MF) but decided not to after being contacted by, guess who, Ma Bell.

There are 2 disadvantages: 1, It costs $1100.00; 2, It is bulky. But it means you can have a legal "Blue Box sitting right in your home and Ma Bell can't do anything about it. Besides it can also play football, chess, and any number of other interesting things.

Hey! Maybe There Is Hope

A federal investigation disclosed last week that a $100 million computer at a top-secret government weapons laboratory in Albuquerque, N.M., was improperly used by the lab's employes to store such extravocational data as games, personal letters, jokes, an illegal bookie operation for local gamblers and an inventory for someone's beer-can collection.

THE GREEN BOX & THE BROWN BOX
-- BY Ted Vail & Nick Haflinger

It seems like there are so many colored boxes around today, so here is a short summary of the known types.

BLUE - Gives the user the power of a long distance operator, for free. Very powerful.
RED - Imitates the "coin deposited" tones at a pay phone, thus reducing toll charges to 5¢/3 min. Practically useless for local calls.
PURPLE - Combines functions of RED & BLUE in 1 unit.
BLACK - Causes Bell equipment to think call was never answered, while allowing conversation. See "mute" below.
BEIGE - anything that can imitate a Teletype.
WHITE - Equivalent to a Touch-Tone pad (12 keys)
GRAY - A Touch-Tone pad with 16 keys or 1633 Hz. SF
BROWN - Combines as many others as possible, at least PURPLE & GRAY.
YELLOW - A simple 2600 hz. generator. See "mute".
"MUTE" - Any receiving end device that makes conversation possible while making Bell think the called party never answered. Black box is the best-known mute, but others exist.

And now, due to the combined efforts of Ted Vail and Nick Haflinger, we have the GREEN BOX!

As we all know, the RED box is safe, easy, and very effective. But you know, paying that 5¢ really leaves a sour taste in my mouth. If you feel the same way this new box is the answer. You can now get your 5¢ back! If both calling and called parties are equipped with RED/GREEN Boxes then the caller pays a nickel and RED Boxes the rest--then the called party uses the GREEN box to return the callers nickel. ABSOLUTELY FREE! It is assumed that clandestine calls are less than the 3 minute limit. If not you better think about it.

This box is used at the receiving end to return the callers coins. The caller must be at a pay station. It could be a lot of fun and save money around the dorm. It can also collect coins and ringback the calling party.

An early article by Nick, finally published in TAP #54, attempted to explain coin return but the MF signal alone is not enough. The difficult part is preparing the receiver for the incoming MF. According to Bell, this is done by sending an "operator released" (OR) signal to the receiver. This signal is a single on-hook wink of 2600 Hz (65-135ms), given 60ms before the MF signal which must be at least 900ms. -- wave form below--

However, since this has not been proven, we cannot rule out the possibility that we really need "operator attached" signal instead. This is simply 1 on-hook winks seperated by 100-150ms. -- wave form below--

It is also possible to send the coin return signal using only winks. That would call for 4 winks after the "operator released" signal.

Maybe winks are more important than we think. They are just short bursts of 2600 Hz that are converted to DC in the ECM unit at the C.O. They then go out to the receiving end and work their magic. Refer to TAP #54 for other uses. (for CC 70 should be 700)

Well, there are the specs, complete with waveforms. We are designing our own, similar to TAP #36. Plans will be sent in but if you get one working, please get in touch with us through TAP.

The BROWN BOX is the most powerful box known since it has the capability of generating ALL control & signaling tones. This crystal-controlled tone gener- ator is hyper-stable, with respect to both voltage and temperature changes. The frequencies are accurate to 0.5% or better. It's also easily connected to a computer (8-bit word variety). A 1.0 MHz crystal time- base clocks two RCA 40103 down counters, which divide the 1 MHz according to the 8-bit word applied to each input. The 4015 and associated circuitry take the square wave outputs of the 40103's, mixing the two and outputting a close approximation of a sine wave to the LM747-based amplifier. If all you want is a Blue Box, either build one of the others that have appeared in TAP, or connect this one to your computer. You can use lots of diodes and a keyboard and pushbuttons, but it's "overkill" if all you want is a Blue Box.

BUT, because you can re-tune this box to a new set of tones just by changing the input word(s), it turns your microcomputer into a BROWN BOX (Beige/Purple/Gray simultaneously). Also if you use a pair of PROM's instead of the diode matrix (which is necessary to keep the 40103's from interfacing with each other), and a keyboard decoder chip to interface the keyboard to the PROM, you could go from one set of tones to another (like TouchTone/WHITE Box to BLUE Box to military(USAF) local to Army long distance to ...) just by using the extra address bits of the PROM. Throwing in a XR2240 or similar counter/timer (is there a CMOS equivalent?) would give RED & GREEN Box capabilities. Ted hasn't figured out all the details of this added circuitry yet but he suggests 2758 1K X 8 EPROMS (Prog. arrays are another possibility) and the 74C922 keyboard decoder. The EPROMS are about 6.00 FRN each - that's Federal Re- serve Notes, not dollars--just paper!

See Fig. 1 for the basic tone generator circuit. For each of the 40103's, the output frequency is given by Freq = 1000000/(8*(N+1)) where N is the base 10 value of the 8-bit word applied to the 40103's input. All of the 8-bit words and the resulting freqs are listed in Table 1.

A code of 10110001 (177) yields an output frequency of 1000000/(8*178), or 702.24719 Hz, which is close enough to 700 Hz. For a given freq. the code can be found by solving for N: N=(1000000/(8*freq))-1.

The change from one set of tones to another is simple. Let's say your keyboard decoder converts the keyboard input into a binary output, such that it's output is 0110 when Key 6 is depressed. The 0110 fed to the address input of the PROM's tell them to look in location #6, and to output whatever 8-bit word is there. In Blue Box mode, PROM A (low freq group) outputs 01110001 to the 40103 designated "A" while PROM B outputs 01011111 to 40103 "B". The result is a MF output of 1100Hz + 1300Hz. But let's say that PROM A contains 10100001 in location 22 (16+6) and PROM B has 01010100 in location 22--this is 770Hz and 1477Hz.

All address lines are low unless specified otherwise. The keyboard encoder controls the 1,2,4, and 8 address lines, and hand-thrown switches control the others. Now you, the phreak, raise the 16 address line high. Upon pushing the 6 button on the keyboard, you will get the TouchTone 6, as the proms output the words found in location 22. You've added 16 to the address generated by the keyboard, and as long as the 16 address line is high, you'll have a whole new set of addresses, which, if you do your programming right, will contain the words for the TouchTone freqs. If the keyboard encoder assigns 1010 (ten) to the * button on your keypad, you might want to put 00000000 (code for 125000 Hz, which is essentially null as the rest of the circuit won't pass it) into one of the proms and 01001100 into the other, at address 26 (16+10), so you'll get a pure 1633 SF out. So, with the 16 line high you have a GRAY box. Of course, with a prom that's 1K long, you'll have address lines (in addition to the 1,2,4, and 8 lines controlled by the keyboard encoder) for 16, 32,64,128,256, and 512, allowing 64 different SETS of tones. If that is not enough they make 4Kx8 roms.

Now that you have hyper-MF Brown Box capability you might as well find something to do with it. We understand that the military Autovon system shares long distance trunks with Bell Long Lines. We were discussing this (Nick's article on this has not been published yet) at WATS-80 and speculated about the method Bell uses to discern Autovon from the regular traffic. We think the Army TA-341/PT tones (TAP #60) are used inside military bases. There is a great need for input in this area-- please contact the authors if you have information.

You might try getting a copy of the Autovon Phone book. It's available from the Government Printing office bookstore. Also Army Technical manuals TM 11-5805-480-15-x and -481-15-x and -482-15-x supposedly deal with Autovon, as may GAO report 09783. Autodin is covered by PAM750-14 and AR105-26 which may be obtained from Adjutant General Center/ HQDA(DAAG-PAD-I)/Washington, DC 20314. Send a note first to make sure they will send it before sending your money (or FRN).

US Patent 4,001,513 describes a Blue Box detector. Doesn't look too easily defeatable, but it won't stop a Green Box. Always use a coin phone though!

Seems they'll always have the called #, so keep 2 things in mind: tell your friends that a computer printout of numbers is not evidence,as they could program the computer to print out anything, and if you want someone to be harassed, call him with a Box anonymously and let the detector go to work.

For proper Red Boxing, you need a relay simulator like the one shown in Fig 2. I don't know for sure whether this works or not, but I suspect that it does. When the "deposit" switch (S1) is pressed, the SCR conducts and lets the CO "see" 10K across the line. The real trick is to automatically remove the 10K when a collect or return signal comes in. I (Ted) think the line voltage goes to zero briefly just before the high voltage collect/return signal comes down the line. If so, the current flow through the SCR will stop, turning the SCR off. If the SCR won't turn off, try putting a 48 volt zener across the bridge, so when the high voltage of the pulse comes, the zener will conduct, shorting out the SCR thus turning it off. The problem with any coin relay is that it has to be hard-wired to the line, as you can't acoustically couple DC. As long as you're hard- wiring, of course, you might as well connect the MF output of the Box. Daring TAPpers may want to wire up a jack to their nearby coin phone line, so they can have easy access. The problem with this is that one now has a "favorite" target phone, but one can either tap the line at a remote location between the phone and the CO, or wire up jacks to lots of phones before beginning one's Boxing spree.

Best place for a tap is one that you can observe most of the time, so you can tell when they're out looking for it. Observation could be done similar to burglar alarms, and much safer!

Two things must be kept in mind: dont stay on too long, and also Bell WILL have the receiving party's number, so when they detect the shortage (after at most 2 months) they may have some questions. You might want to use the box only to set up collect calls to coin phones,whose last 4 digits should not be 00xx,9xxx,or 8xxx. It seems there are only 3 effective, airtight ways to make free calls: credit cards, slugs/foreign coins, and scams like third party billing and collect calls to coin phones.

TABLE 1

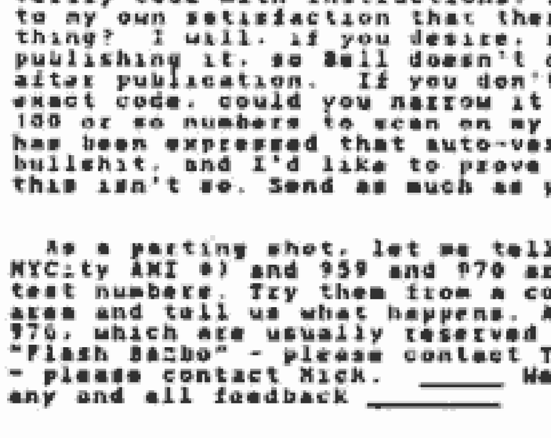
#	WORD	FREQ	#	WORD	FREQ
1	00000001	62500.0000	160	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	00000010	41666.6666	161	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	00000011	31250.0000	162	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	00000100	25000.0000	163	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	00000101	20833.3333	164	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	00000110	17857.1428	165	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	00000111	15625.0000	166	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	00001000	13888.8888	167	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	00001001	12500.0000	168	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	00001010	11363.6363	169	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	00001011	10416.6666	170	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	00001100	9615.3846	171	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	00001101	8928.5714	172	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	00001110	8333.3333	173	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	00001111	7812.5000	174	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	00010000	7352.9411	175	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	00010001	6944.4444	176	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	00010010	6578.9473	177	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	00010011	6250.0000	178	[illegible]	[illegible]
20	00010100	5952.3809	179	[illegible]	[illegible]

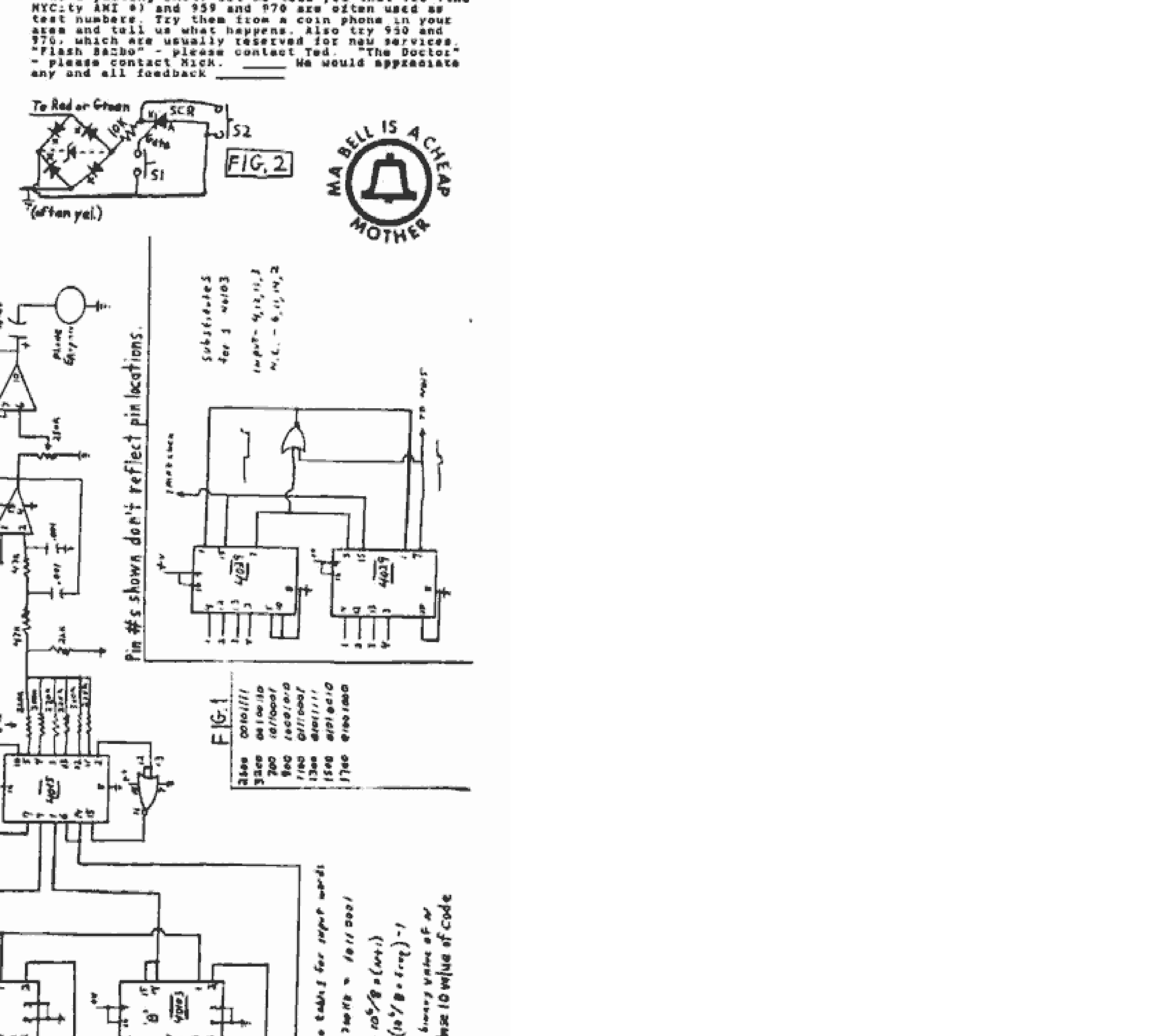
STICKY SITUATION. Thieves taking advantage of modern technology are literally "sticking up" their victims by using the new super glues to stick their hands to walls or furniture while they rob them. It is usually impossible for the stick-up stick-up victims to come unglued without the aid of a doctor. In England, the British Safety Council has been trying to pass a law banning the sale of super glues.

Blue boxes and scanning can still be used to explore the system, even in detector-infested areas, as the detector depends upon hassling the recipient of the call.

I've been told that scanning, auto-verify, etc. may be pie-in-the-sky in some areas. It seems that someone scanned all of the Chicago inward codes from 000 to 120 or so and found nothing of any significance. Will you please send me an auto-verify code with instructions, so that I may prove to my own satisfaction that there really is such a thing? I will, if you desire, refrain from publishing it, so Bell doesn't change it the week after publication. If you don't want to give the exact code, could you narrow it down to a block of 100 or so numbers to scan on my own? The opinion has been expressed that auto-verify is simply bullshit, and I'd like to prove to myself that this isn't so. Send as much as you can. Thanks.

As a parting shot, let me tell you that 958 (the NYC:ty ANI #) and 959 and 970 are often used as test numbers. Try them from a coin phone in your area and tell us what happens. Also try 930 and 970, which are usually reserved for new services. "Flash Barbo" - please contact Ted. "The Doctor" - please contact Nick. ____ We would appreciate any and all feedback ____





AT THE FRONT LINES - Nick Haflinger

This column will attempt to bring out interesting developments in the world of high technology. There are lots of areas that TAP has not explored and I intend to open up a few. Maybe there is someone out there who can use this information. Remember, it is important to break into these areas BEFORE they realize that we can do it.

J.C. Welman,Jr.,who is the head of the AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION gasoline-rationing task force, was recently quoted as saying that the "task of consolidating a natural vehicle registration data base, issuing gas allocation checks for some 150 million vehicle owners and processing the millions of coupons that would be the currency of rationing could overwelm the D.P. capabilities of gas-rationing agencies". What this means is that any gas-rationing plan used will have huge loopholes for clever people. Read THE BLACK BAG OWNERS HANDBOOK- FALSE FACE for some good ideas on making bogus ration books.

What is known about the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS)?. It's located in Phoenix and is currently replacing its Data General Nova 840 with PDP 11/70's. I know that this will be used with NCIC, perhaps to free them from the public phone network.

Bell (AT&T and Western Electric) seems to be getting ready for a push in the word-processing market. By using their new ESS systems, with store-and-forward message switching, Bell will have a large advantage. All you good Tappers need to help figure out how we can use this service for FREE. The rumors are that Bell can now store a three minute conversation in memory, if so then this could be used for automatic recording of calls that had Blue/Black Box detected.

ITT has a new service for fax machine users. Faxpax will allow any two fax machines to communicate, regardless of speed. The article said you can find out who has fax machines by calling the local Faxpax operator. This opens up a whole new dimension in obscene phone calls. There is a free 90 day trial if you contact ITT DTS, 2 Broadway, NY,NY 10004. 212-558-4200. Of course, the Tap staff could just walk down the street and find out.

There will be a new 900 exchange in the near future. It will be used in place of 800 numbers for TV merchandising, etc. Details are few but It seems that the number only exists in the ESS system. A merchandiser makes arrangements with Bell to set up the number at a certain time and keep it up for a specified length of time. It probably saves Bell thousands of dollars by keeping normal long lines free but the assholes want to charge the CALLER 50¢ per call.

Prof. John M. Carroll of the Univ. of Western Ontario is writing about automated crime. He tells of "..a counter-culture group in L.A. that maintains a computer-based hit list of execs of American firms doing business in Latin America and of hit lists of jewelry and valuables and the computerized rigging of odds on horse racing.

About that source code we heard the Russians tried to buy--seems it was the source code for a data base management system (DBMS) sold by ADABAS. ADABAS used the incident for a full-page ad in COMPUTERWORLD.

It seems like the Immigration Service (INS) is a little loose. Senator Richardson Preyer says, ".. we found that security personnel at INS had never run test raids on its paper and computer records". "They had also failed to test means of spotting forged or altered entries on the files". These failures are distressing because of the "large black market in forged documents" Need some papers?

If you want to cut your phone bills, cut out this chart.

Back Issues are $.50 each. Issue # 50 is $1.
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Send CASH, check, or money order to:

TAP, Room 603, 147 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

BY THE MAGICIAN.......

The Bell book "Notes On Distance Dialing" is extremely useful to the "Telecommunications Hobbiest" it contains reams of information on a wide variety of topics ranging from international telephone routing techniques to WATS to CCIS etc. The last edition was priced at $12.50, but I Believe a new edition is now out, and most likely costs more (Doesn't everything ?). For more information on obtaing a copy, send a SASE to TAP.

A note of caution to those of you hacking on SPC SPRINT and MCI. It is believed that Bell has set up all MCI and SPRINT local dialups as "Trap Numbers". This means that whenever you call the dialups, a trouble card is dropped (IE. a record is printed containing the CALLING number and time) at the Bell central office. These "cards" are usually ignored unless MCI or SPRINT detects a fraud (IE. Unauthorized use of a customers access code) then they can call Bell and almost immediatly find out the calling phone number and nail the person. Thus dialing MCI or SPRINT from a PAY PHONE would seem to be the only safe way. (By the way, The above mentioned "trap numbers" is also how Bell goes after harrasing phone callers, to private residences.)

Also remember MCI and SPRINT always have a record of the CALLED number. Thus if a customer complains that he is being billed for calls that he did not make, MCI and SPRINT will contact the number called and try to find out who called them at the time in question. So only institutional switchboards, Business's with no record of your call and people with very "short memorys" are "safe"to call through MCI and SPRINT.

PLEASE NOTE: We DO NOT encourage you to rip off MCI or SPRINT as they are in business attempting to provide an alternative lower cost long distance telephone service and are most certainly a step in the right direction!

Mad at IRAN ? Well call up the militants at The United States embassy and tell them what you think.
After 9:00 AM Iran time call:

Country Code: 098
City Code: 21 (Tehran)
US Embassy: 825001

Any comments, questions etc. send to:
The Magician C/O TAP

"I don't make jokes, I just watch the government and report the facts and I have never found it necessary to exaggerate." — Will Rogers.

"A newspaper is not just for reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it." — Mark Twain.

Dear TAP,

This is just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed WATS-80. I would like THE DOCTOR to get in touch with me through the TAP office. The info on SPRINT has been useful, will it be published? I've done a lot of scanning recently and want to add to SOLOs article that xxx-0000 indicates a band 1 prefix. Also if the jane recording greets you at xxx-0050, try xxx-0060 to verify the band 6 prefix you found. Is anyone out there interested in swapping scanned numbers?

TASERS are getting big here. Rumour has it that TAP will be publishing plans soon, well??

Upcoming projects from the think tank include a new box that allows the caller to put money in the phone and get it back. It is possible to use this from the called end with some changes. Look for plans in the winter TAP.

Sept,80 Popular Electronics turned me on to the ICL7660 voltage polarity converter chip. It should simplify pipers box by eliminating one of the bulky batteries. It also crossed my mind that a 4046 cmos pll could be used to detect 2000 hz, which is used by the man to trace calls. It Could be set up for automatic shutoff, even on black box calls.

Nick Haflinger