

# Students 'generally a bad credit risk' despite local phone company 'leniency'

By Mary Jo Howe

If UNL students think the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company is a pain in the pocket, LT&T says "likewise."

"Students are generally a bad credit risk," said Pat Linam, service representative and UNL telephone accounts handler.

Of the 3,000 accounts she handled during last school year, about 200 bills still are unpaid.

"We are more lenient with student accounts than other accounts," Linam said. "If a student makes even a small attempt to pay their bills, I don't turn them over to the collection bureau."

Otherwise, within 30 days to six weeks, the account is turned over to an attorney and the case taken to court, she said.

The company realizes that phone bills and service charges can take a large bite out of the students' wallets.

However, all charges have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Linam said. The FCC decides what the company can charge. Otherwise, with only one telephone company in town, people really could be stuck with high prices, Linam said.

Part of the charges are determined by the Bell Telephone Co. charges, she said. For example, if the Bell Co. receives permission to raise its prices, then FCC contacts LT&T and tells it to raise its prices to the same price, Linam said.

Service charges for changing telephone numbers is a common charge on student bills.

An extra listing on the same phone is 75 cents, but changing a listing to a new phone in a new location is \$10. Changing a listing to a location where there is no phone costs \$15.

To change a phone number at the same location is \$5 and there also is a \$5 fee for all extension phones added.

"We receive many requests to have phone numbers changed at the same location due to obscene or nuisance phone calls," Linam said.

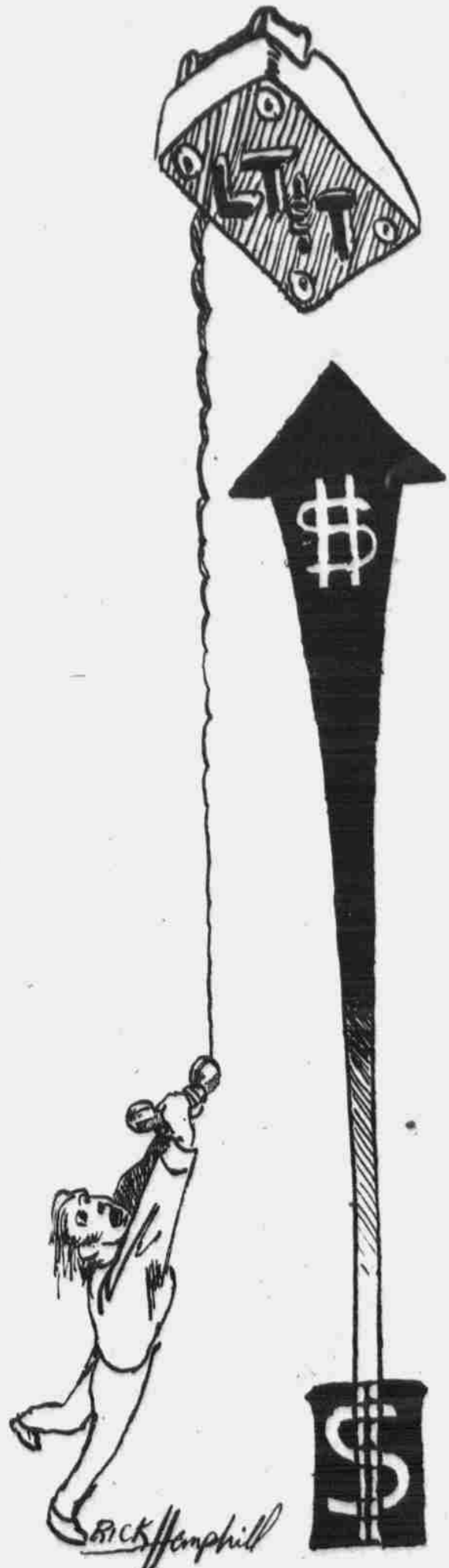
A change of phones, either from room-to-room or to a new residence also costs \$10 because rewiring must be done, Linam said.

"Of course, because students move around so much, the service charges can be a disadvantage," Linam said, but LT&T tries to compensate for this by not requiring a deposit from students who show a student I.D. card, fill out a student questionnaire and have a good credit rating with the company.

A \$40 deposit, returned at the end of the year with 6 percent interest, normally is required from other tele-

phone customers and students with poor credit ratings, she said.

Students with extremely bad credit ratings may be charged a deposit of up to \$150, Linam said. A \$40 deposit would not even make a dent in a monthly bill over \$100, she said.



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## Man held on assault charge

A 25-year-old man was charged with first degree sexual assault Friday in Lancaster County Court in connection with an alleged incident last week on the UNL campus.

Richard Campbell is being held on \$50,000 bond, a Lancaster County Court spokesman said.

Campbell was taken into custody last week after he was identified from UNL campus police files, according to Capt. Robert Edmunds of campus police.

The alleged incident involved a 34-year-old woman and occurred Tuesday night in the Wesley House basement, 640 N. 16th St.

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