

## Phoney phone tap paranoia

by Lawrence Molczyk

If you are afraid that your telephone line is tapped, perhaps you are just a victim of paranoia and Ma Bell's failure to make connections in her old age.

According to Duane Dorman, a Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph spokesman "strange" clicks on your line can be caused by a number of things, all unrelated to wire tapping. The telephone company does not sanction any "bugging," and anyone attempting to do so might have a great deal of difficulty getting it done.

Devices known as concentrators located in the area of your telephone may cause interference and clicking. These devices amplify the telephone signal.

Other sorts of interference might be caused by frayed wires causing "shorts," especially in older residential districts. Telephone cables, which carry 500 or more wires may have flaws causing disturbances.

"It would be very difficult for anyone to trace a single call once the signal has reached the transmitter cable," Dorman

said. "Even our own men have trouble working on these complicated lines without sophisticated information available."

"A line tap, if it exists, would necessarily have to be made at some point between the telephone and the pole, before the main line is reached," he explained.

A line tapped in this way could easily be detected by checking the line between your house and the pole for unusual "extra" wires. "These types of physical bugging devices are generally quite unsophisticated," Dorman said.

Another cause of clicking may be a party trying to call while the line is busy. Telephone relay switches will cause interference if your line is being used at the time another party calls.

If you are concerned about your line being tapped, you may wish to check your own connections, but "the likelihood of your telephone being tapped is a very remote possibility," Dorman said.

## cinema

Cinema 1: "Nicholas and Alexandra" 1, 4:30, 8:15 p.m.

Cinema 2: "Butterflies Are Free" 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20 p.m.

Cooper/Lincoln: "Ryan's Daughter" 8 p.m.

Embassy: "Executive Wives" 11 a.m., 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30, 11 p.m.

State: "The Dirtiest Girl I Ever Knew" 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m.

Stuart: "Cabaret" 1, 3:10, 5:20, 9:40 p.m. "Slaughterhouse Five" 7:30 p.m.

Varsity: "Blacula" 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m.

## Correction . . .

The telephone number for the UNL ombudsman is 472-3633. The number was incorrectly listed in Thursday's Daily Nebraskan.

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