

They can't dial

Callers cause chaos searching for Cosby

By Tami Schuetze
Staff Reporter

It's obvious that one person developed the numerical system and another formed the alphabet. This conclusion seems logical because both use a common figure, "0." As a number, it means "zero" or "nothing," and as a letter, it usually represents the sound "oo" or "oh." Most of the time it is clear which way the "0" is meant to be used, but UNL student Jim Maca discovered that if people interchange the two, major problems can result.

Sunday at 6:30 a.m., while Jim Maca lay in his bed recovering from the festivities of the previous night, the phone rang.

"Hello," Maca said.

"Yes," the party of the other end said, "I would like to order four tickets on my Visa. My card number is..."

"I'm sorry, you must have the wrong number," Maca said and hung up.

Ten minutes later the same epi-

sode occurred, only this time the unidentified party wanted to use Master Charge.

Sunday, Maca received about two dozen calls, all wanting to order tickets for the Bill Cosby concert.

Then it hit. Monday the phone began ringing at 7 a.m. At first the calls were five or 10 minutes apart, but within a half hour, the rings came every two minutes.

"After 20 minutes of that, I unplugged the phone," Maca said. "Then a few minutes later I plugged the phone back in to call Telecommunications and explain my problem."

Bill Cosby will perform in concert March 24. The University Program Council is one of the show's sponsors. Chris Amberg, Major Concerts coordinator for Campus Activities and Programs explained the situation Maca had already figured out.

"We assume the audience for the Cosby performance will be mostly an older crowd. Therefore, we decided to set up a number to call in order to purchase tickets with a credit card.

Telecommunications picked the number 47C-OSBY. The only problem is people are dialing a zero instead of the actual letter, which will produce the number 6. They dial 472-0729, Jim Maca's phone number," Amberg said. The correct number is 472-6729.

Ruth Michalecki, director of Telecommunications at UNL said, "We took an hourly count of Jim's number from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and he received 161 calls. Although counts were not taken all day, I assume that the number was pretty constant. I guess they are doing what they always do, dial wrong."

"They are going to give me a new phone number for a few weeks, or until the performance is over," Maca said. "Another option was to have an answering machine, but that would be hard to get my own calls off of. Everyone has been really helpful in getting me through this," Maca said.

"I suppose one good thing came out of all this," Maca said. "I get two complimentary tickets for the inconvenience. I love Bill Cosby."

Conference tries to mimic real UN

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dents learn how to work with people, organize their time and meet other people, said MUN Secretary General Michelle Garwood.

Because students work closely during the four-day conference, Garwood said, they have the opportunity to

become good friends with people who have the same interests. Garwood said some students who met at MUN have married.

Other former MUN members have continued interests in international affairs and are now working for organizations such as the World Food Bank and the Peace Corps.

Delegates take their role seriously, Garwood said. Members need to research and keep up on current events. To achieve the full effect, some even dress in the native costume of the country they represent, Garwood said.

Because it is a learning experience, Garwood said, students often stay involved for several years.

Congress may see the light; oppose AFDC

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gling to get along on the husband's low pay. Perhaps they already had children; if not, the lure of AFDC soon taught them the wisdom of having some. Then the cruel logic of AFDC forced the final step: The father faded away, leaving his wife and children to survive on AFDC, while he spent exclusively on himself whatever he could earn.

You think a father who thus deserts his family can be compelled to contribute to its support? Only 58 percent of single mothers with children even have court orders for child support by the absent fathers. And of those that do, only half (or 29 percent of the entire group) receive the full amount due. A fourth get nothing at all.

But perhaps the worst consequence of AFDC is its effect on boys growing up without a father. From this pool of restless and undisciplined "talent" are recruited, in very large part, the criminals of tomorrow.

Ronald Reagan has been warning against the abuses rampant in our welfare system for more than 20 years. But as long as the Democrats retained control of one house of Congress, let alone both, serious reform was out of the question unless they — whose disastrous policies created the problem in the first place — could be persuaded to go along.

The good news is that the Democrats seem, finally, to have seen the light. Well aware that Reagan intends to submit his own plan for welfare reform (a pledge he renewed in his State of the Union address), Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York recently announced a plan for the radical overhaul of AFDC.

Sen. Robert Dole, speaking for the Republicans, said there would be disagreements over particular reform proposals, but that "it is an area that should be addressed."

Indeed it should.

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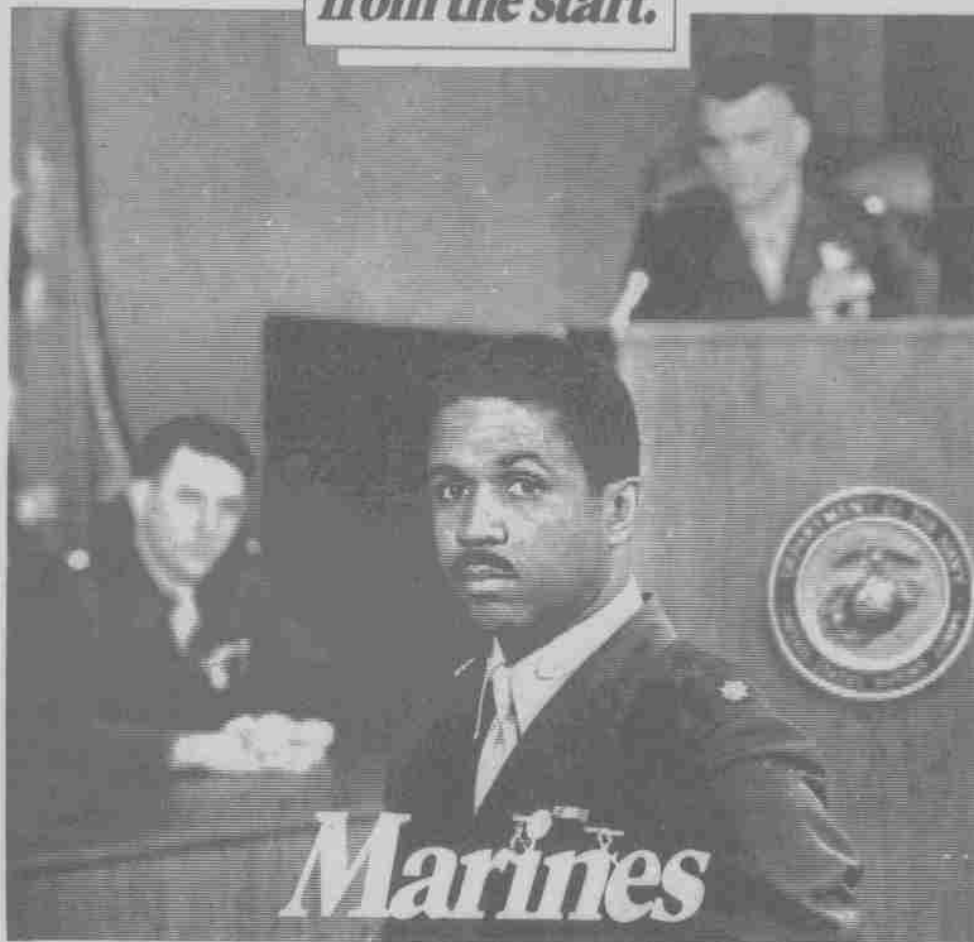
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A101 Freshman Orientation

Nothing could have prepared me for the first few moments with my roommate. "Anique"—nothing more, just "Anique"—was her name. Change the "A" to a "U" and you've got a description.

When they asked what type of roommate I wanted, I didn't know that I needed to be more specific than non-smoker. I could swear I saw a picture of Anique on a postcard I got from London. Within five minutes, I found out that she was an Art History student, into the Psychedelic Furs, and totally, totally against the domestication of animals.

I was just about ready to put in for a room transfer when she reached into her leather backpack, pulled out a can of Suisse Mocha and offered me a cup. Okay, I decided I'd keep an open mind.

As we sipped our cups, I found out that Anique and I share the same fondness for Cary Grant movies, the same disdain for wine coolers, and the same ex-boyfriend. That gave us plenty to talk about.



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