How to use the Institute's Dormitory Telephone System

By Lyall Morrill

Automatic dial equipment was installed during the summer to serve the telephones in East Campus and Senior House. Using the Dormitory Telephone System, any dormitory resident may now place a call to any other resident without the assistance of an operator.

The System serves every room in Burton House, Baker House, McCormick Hall, Graduate House, East Campus, and Senior House. Also served are several student activities, the Electrical Engineering Department, and the offices of a few Institute officials.

For the convenience of our readers, The Tech presents this comprehensive guide to the use of the Dormitory Telephone System. We extend our thanks to John E. McNamara, of the System staff, for his extensive help in the compilation of this directory.

Three exchanges

Every telephone in the Dormitory Telephone System requires its own pair of wires connecting to the dial equipment. Therefore, a central exchange serving the entire system would be prohibitively expensive. Also, such an exchange is unnecessary, since many calls are made between rooms within a single dormitory.

Therefore, the Dormitory System includes three exchanges, located in Baker House, Graduate House, and Walker Memorial.

The Baker exchange serves all telephones in Baker House, and the offices of a few Institute officials.

The Graduate exchange serves Graduate House, Burton House, and McCormick Hall, the new women's dormitory. It also serves phones in the Electrical Engineering Department and in the offices of Dean Frederick G. Fassett, Dean Donald R. Washleff, and William H. Carlin, manager of student personnel.

The Walker exchange serves East Campus, Senior House, and the offices of a number of student activities.

The three exchanges are interconnected by trunk lines, so calls can be dialed from any exchange to any other.

Telephone numbers

Every telephone number in the Dormitory System consists of four digits. The first digit is the exchange code. The last three digits are the local number.

For calls within a single exchange, it is usually necessary to dial only the local number. However, when the first digit of the local number is itself an exchange code, all four digits must be dialed.

The exchange codes are 8 for the Baker exchange, 9 for the Graduate exchange, and 0 for the Walker exchange.

Thus, a Burton House resident calling a resident of Graduate House would not need to dial the exchange code -- 9 -- since both have been on the Baker exchange. However, an East campus resident dialing the number 9403 in Senior House must dial the exchange code, 0, if he begins by dialing 8, he will be switched into the Baker House exchange, since 8 is the Baker exchange code.

To place a call in the Dormitory System, you must

1. Find the exchange code.
2. Dial the exchange code if necessary.
3. Find the local number.
4. Dial the local number.

The following directory is designed as a convenient reference for determining the local number of the person you wish to call.

Baker House

Exchange code: 8

Local numbers:

Desk 820
Faculty resident 450
Senior tutor 550
Linen room 277
Lounge 394

First floor: Add 150 to the room number to obtain the local number.

Second, third, fourth: The room number is the local number.

Fifth, sixth, seventh: Subtract 150 from the room number to obtain the local number.

Burton House

Exchange code: 9

Local numbers:

Desk 901
Superintendent 905
Housemaster 932
Dining hall 159
Electric shop 125
Hobby shop 135
Library 138
Linen room 107
Casino Lounge 124
Photography shop 133
Snack bar 153

Each floor local number depends on the second digit of the room number and on the letter at the end of the room number, according to this table:

Second digit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Letter A Add 5 Add 20
Letter B Add 0 Add 0
Letter C Add 67 Add 34
Letter D Add 42 Add 31
No letter Add 0 Add 0

For example, the local number for Room 352C is found by adding 34 to 352 to obtain 386, the local number.

Mc McCormick Hall

Exchange code: 9

Local numbers:

Desk 101
Manager 135
Housemaster 282

Rooms 201-206 Local number is room number
201-205
206-209

Room 201-206 Add 82 to room number

East Campus

Exchange code: 0

Local numbers:

Desk 711
Superintendent 710
Houseman 30
Wood 33
Walcott 45
Balls 49
Goodale Add 75

Each number depends on the house in which the room is located according to this table:

House Add 1
Munroe 0
Bemnis 0
Goodale 150
Walker 100

For example, the local number of Walcott 104 is 149.

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