Dormphone finds bugs in starting fall service

By Robert Nilsson

While the vast majority of phones on campus are properly working after the major changes over to Centrex this summer, some students have experienced problems with their Dormphones. Baker House has had the most difficulty with as few as 75 Dormphones properly functioning. MacGregor and East Campus have also had scattered problems.

According to Senior Dormphone Repairman Dale Zellers, the problems at Baker are due to bad contacts and in the Baker derms. In MacGregor and East Campus, the problems were caused by tampering. Gregor the few problems were possibly due to the process of removing the old wiring attached to these dorms. In order to replace the old, damaged lines over the summer, in the A-rooms and had to be removed. In the process, the original phones and old wiring attached to these desks were severely damaged.

The Dormitory Telephone Service which installed the new system has had its Dormphone Repairman Dale Zellers, who explains that the reason the Dormphone people could not get all the bugs out of the system during the summer was because they were also busy on a number of major projects requiring considerable work. It would make it easier, Zellers says, if anyone who has trouble with his Dormphone would obtain and fill out a complaint form from the dormitory desk. The form has questions which help the Dormitory Telephone Service to determine if the trouble is inside the system or at the telephone. It should be noted that some phones are disconnected if they are left off the hook for a long period of time so they will not tie up the system.

A few dorms have had the numbers of their Dormphones changed. McCormick, formerly 9-XXX for the west tower and 0-XXX for the east, has been rewired to 8-XXX and 7-XXX for both towers. This facilitates a room number to phone number conversion. The Ashdown B-rooms were formerly partied with the A-rooms and had 9-XXX and 9-XXXX numbers. Now these rooms have 9-XXXX numbers freed by compacting the McCormick numbers closer together.

It should be noted that the local distance operator cannot be reached by dialing 9-011 as reported this summer by The Tech and Tech Talk. Students must dial 8-199 to reach an operator to make collect or credit card calls.

In most of the dorms algorithm exists for deriving the Dormphone number from the room number. For example, on the third floor of McCormick 8900 is added to the last two digits of the room number. On the fourth floor 8900 is added to the last two digits, and so on adding a different constant to each floor. In the MacGregor low rise a similar system applies, while in the high rise a more involved algorithm is the case.

In Burton whose letters for the rooms and a raised number of rooms per mile ahead, no conversion factor exists.

Professor Yee T. Li of Aero and Astronautics held his newly-developed ground-shit meter. Li is teaching a seminar on "Socio-Technological Innovations," which will try to teach people how to transform an idea into a viable product. [See story page 7]

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