

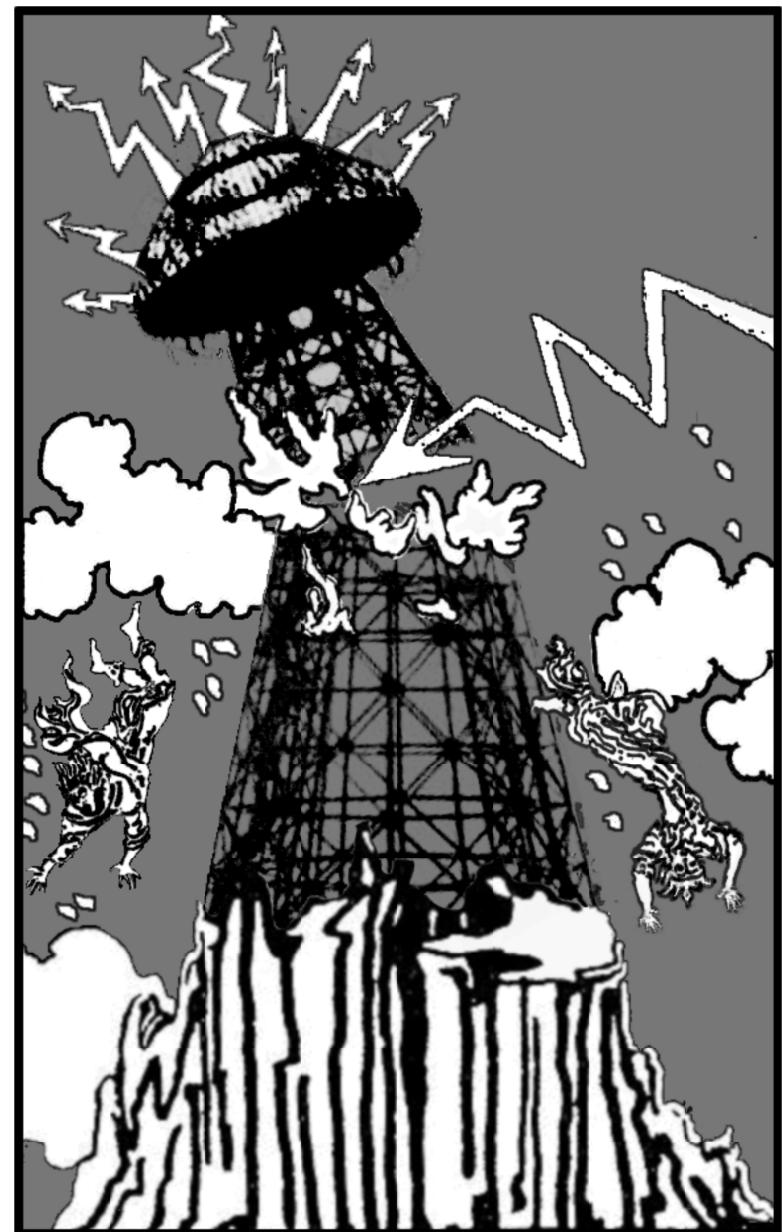
EVER DREAM THIS MAN?



Every night, all over the world, hundreds of people see this face in their dreams. If this man appears in your dreams too, or if you have any information that can help us identify him, please contact us.

(503) 468-1337

Party Line



Party Line

*As it had been in former times, so I founded, I made it;
as it had been in ancient days, so I exalted its summit.*

Issue 9, Spring 2024



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Support Futel!



Futel is made possible by volunteers and contributors, who we thank!

Support us by subscribing on Patreon, buying Party Line issues 1-8 from Microcosm Publishing, or making a PayPal donation, see our website. Futel is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Installation host? Contact us. Hacker? See repositories. Artist? We can help you implement your ideas in this exciting new format.

Email operator@futel.net, or dial 0 from any Futel phone.

New Phones!



Ghost Mountain, SE 40th and Woodstock! This location also features a free fridge and pantry. (503) 444-8615. Photos breedx.



Bottles And Cans, east side of NE Greeley south of Ainsworth.

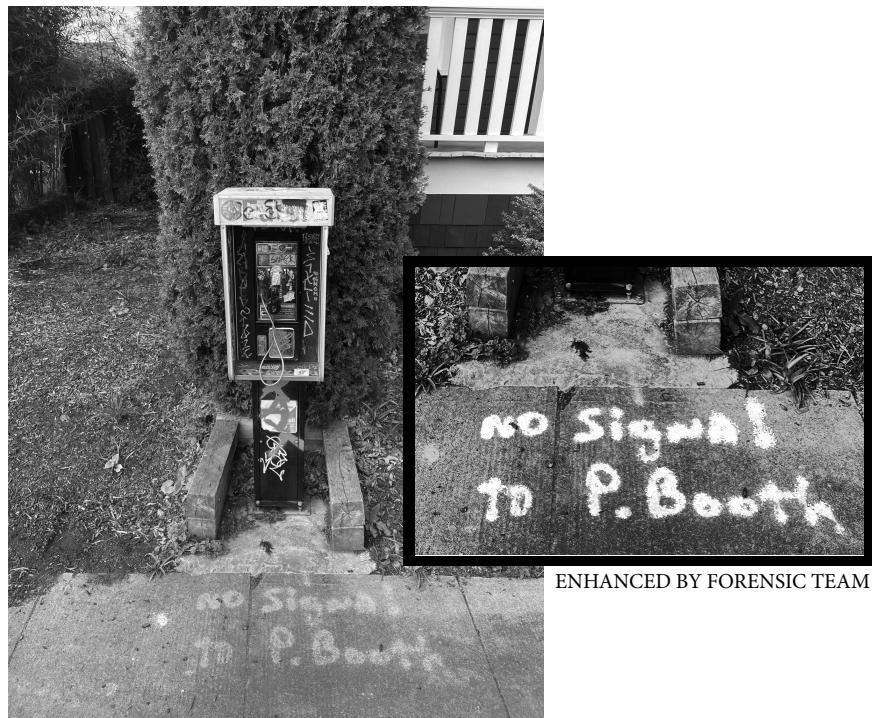


Be careful what you say over the 'phone - you may give away valuable information

BE ON YOUR GUARD!

HOSTILE TELECOM COMPANY VANDALIZES FUTEL LOCATION Hired Goons Leave Libelous Scrawl in Pathetic Attempt to Disrupt Service

Portland is home to several telecommunications companies besides Futel. While their shareholders envy our achievements, there have been no overtly antagonistic acts until April 2023, when uniformed representatives of a local telecom spray painted a threatening message on the sidewalk near our phone. The mercenary vandals then fled the scene in a company van.



This desperate attack on our infrastructure has failed. As propaganda, it is nonsensical. The signal is strong, which anyone can easily verify. As a threat, it is laughable. We have already demonstrated that our network cannot be stopped by the crowbars of thugs in the night.

Futel's users and operators are not dissuaded by this feeble attempt to compromise our service, and we remain resolute in the pursuit of our objectives.

Year in Review

We will mention the more notable events.

- One new public phone was installed, and another new phone in a beer garden.
- "Increasing Achievements with Operant Conditioning" was presented at <ftp://con>.
- "How And Why To Gain Technological Advantages By Harvesting Entropy From An Unsuspecting Public" was presented at BSidesPDX.
- "Futel: For Whom The Dial Tones" was presented at Teardown.
- An occasionally working prototype of "Give Me Central 209" was exhibited at Teardown.
- Party Line #8 was published, available from Microcosm Publishing.
- A RACC Arts3C grant provided operating and development support.

Usage for the year included:

- Tens of thousands of handset pickups.
- Over 11,600 outgoing calls from a dialtone.
- Only 858 calls to the incoming line and it was printed in 2600?
- 358 listens to the most popular Church of Robotron sermon, "The Ninth Position".
- 609 joins to the voice conference.
- 315 calls to the Payphone Demultiplexer.
- 152 attempts to bridge the Payphone Demultiplexer to the voice conference, sorry!
- 74 calls to the Druids of Sisyphus Gardens? Call the Druids!
- 66 calls to the mayor of Portland. Increased calls to the mayors of Detroit and Ypsilanti.
- 11 callers poking around the honeypot.



Succession of the Telecom Ecosystem

The payphone is just one type of fruiting body in the telecommunications ecosystem. Most of the organism is underground, splayed out beneath the cities, and then the land and the sea. When one trunk dies the others shunt around it, but

it takes such a long time to decay. It can take you places, but it gets kind of weird, so watch where you jack in. They call it the “dark fiber”



photo Jared Boone

A lot of the aboveground features converted with the networks, anything that handles money or tokens, ATMs, card readers, fare counters. When an interface doesn't need to be maintained anymore - when the people who need it can be ignored - the devices are often left in place until they get destroyed. This fire emergency call box in San Francisco was a PSTN phone. The phone was yanked out, but the wires are still there underground.



STATUS REPORT

We have written often about the end and its nighness. How then can we celebrate our successes? Who can rest, and so many objectives still unsatisfied?

We gnash our teeth just as the mills of an uncaring world grind us into an ever finer pulp. But we aren't trying to rack up achievements before the deadline. The end of the world isn't in the future. It is happening all around us. We are living it. Nobody is getting through it. It is imminent around and within us. It's done! Whatever we are doing now might as well be what we will always be doing.

We are hurrying, we are desperate, but not because we need to get it all done before we are stopped. Maybe we know that as soon as we take a breather and gaze upon our works, they will be swept away like filthy rags. Or has that already happened? There isn't some singularity that is always just out of our reach. The moments are turning inside out. Every instant is longer and also shorter.

These are our trials. There is only one way to understand them, and that is by experiencing continuous community time, by interacting in real time with other people, unbroken by asynchronous communication. Letters can be read out of order, algorithms can recombine posts to tell any story. Experiences becomes indistinguishable from dreams, lives never actually lived but instead put together instantly and grafted onto us. Each time the chain is broken, the arrows of our lives can be pointed in a different direction, and it isn't a metric space, there is no such thing as distance. Traveling in a circle will not bring us back to anything familiar.

Is time being disassembled and reassembled? We are not creatures for which this question has any meaning. It is we who are being disassembled and reassembled. Is this bad? Not by itself. Read and write letters and books! Check your voicemail! Roll back the hands of time! But pay attention. Who is putting you back together? Is it even you who is being reconstituted? These are interesting things to wonder, but eventually, there is only one important question.

That is why we celebrate what we are doing and how we are doing it, and defeat anything opposing us. To believe otherwise would have us spending our days pondering whether the work is sensible or beautiful. In the meantime, call your mother if you can.

Damage Report

The Eternal Battle to Maintain Our Little Corners of Homeostasis Continues.

I was kneeling on the sidewalk one afternoon repairing the Cesar Chavez Blvd. phone. A guy in a work truck stopped and reversed to the curb next to me.

Guy: Are you homeless?

Me: What?

Guy: Are you homeless?

Me: What does that have to do with anything?

Guy: Are you fixing the phone?

Me: I am fixing the phone. See my toolbox.

Guy: OK, I was worried, the phone has been broken a lot lately.

Me: Thank you for keeping the phone safe.



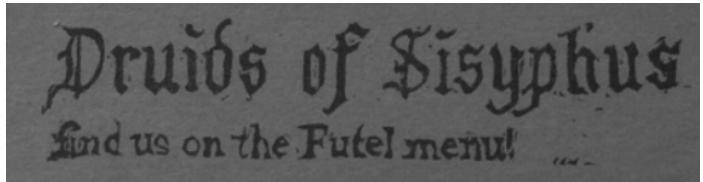
Death of the Payphone



photo Nelson



photo Bart Mole 17



8/6

Caller said that they were a Druid-in-training and were looking for Druidic duties.

8/10

Caller was curious about the Druid. Talked about art and Portland.

8/26

Caller was looking for advice on too many unfinished projects. Caller was told to do the projects that they like.

8/27

Caller was walking home with a friend very late night. Caller was also a Druid and happy to meet other Druids.

9/8

Caller talked about rattlesnakes, conspiracy theories, hot springs, back-to-the-land, capitalism, and their old friend who moved to Denver, or maybe Texas. Caller doesn't like the term "Hello" and only greets with "Heaven-o".

11/16

For some inexplicable reason, Druid answered the phone with a jaunty "Allo!". Caller replied with what sounded like a real British accent asking what the Druid does. The Druid promptly dropped their awful British accent and talked about Detroit, the weather, and good times.

11/19

Caller asked what a Druid is. Caller was told they were talking to one. Caller asked for further information on Druids, which was provided. When asked if they needed anything else, Caller hung up.

Someone tried to drill through this vault door. Like all attempts to break into our phones, this is a stupid thing to do even with the right tools. The consumable parts are going to be worth more than the haul. If the best tool available is a drill, the vault will last longer than the bit. These people breached the outer door but didn't get access to anything that could move. They did deform the metal enough to prevent the latch from turning, which was annoying. The phone was repaired for about two years, until it needed to be replaced, and then the vault door had to be removed.



A hole saw is the correct tool for making a hole in the vault door. A hole doesn't help to open the vault, however. The two notches exposed in the center turn the latches, but they were already accessible. They are normally turned with the t-bar, which is not a specialty tool, but they can't be turned until the latch is unlocked, after which they can be.

The bolt box for the lock is inside the vault door. When the lock bolt is withdrawn from the box, the latch can be turned, disengaging the latch bolts. To remove the vault door without unlocking the latch, these bolts and the rotating part with the bolt box must be detached and retracted.



At least these people had a drill, which is better than the crowbar used in the last attempt. It's still a depressing apocalyptic situation, desperate people with time in the middle of the

Fairy on the phone

night to slowly attack the phone from an exposed position with inadequate tools. Meth makes wild risky schemes seem like a good idea. If you witness someone assaulting a Futel phone, leave the scene and call the phone from a safe location. Maybe they will answer and you can redirect them somewhere else.



But! They also stuffed the coin return. This is the correct way to skim money from payphones, if it's still 1997. Less income, but clearly comes out better in the cost benefit analysis.



Why do we have to do these damage reports? They make us look bad and this one was totally not our fault. There were two weeks of heavy rain. And the mole people want to use the phone too. For a few days it was "the phone that is used lying down", but that isn't accessible. Anyway, it's back up, nothing to see.

5/21

Caller told us the Dream Survey was no longer an option and had no way to divulge their dreams. They didn't tell the Druid their dreams.

5/22

This Caller asked our top "Frequently Asked Question" What do the Druids do? The best way to find out is to call a Druid! Caller rode bikes with friends across Detroit to use the phone.



5/23

Baby caller talked about their new friends in kindergarten.

5/24

Non-stop talking about Portland, weather, thieves, and other topics.

5/26

Caller asked who was this, and then said a bunch of expletives.

PUBLIC TELEPHONE ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND

5/30

Caller wanted to ask a Druid about what to have for breakfast. Druid suggested a salad with all the fixings.

7/7

Religious Caller asking about the Druid's Druidic religion. Caller was told it's mostly a joke.

7/8

Caller was surprised that there was a real Druid answering the line.

August

Received a voicemail from someone trying to apply for a job for Multnomah Arts. They talked about a lovely chicken they were watching and said that their cell phone sometimes works.

Druids of Sisyphus Gardens Log

2023! The Druids find themselves in a time bubble in the woods, still taking calls on their landline, from Callers still wondering what the Druids do. It never gets old.

3/3

Caller wanted to know if the Druids work in an office. (No.) Caller asked if the Druids take turns fielding calls. (Yes.) Caller asked if we know a lot about Futel. (Yes!) Caller asked when Futel started. (Uhh... I forgot.)

3/4

Known entity to us left a message. Caller spoke of liking trees and joked how we should have never let Futel put us on the menu. (This entity is a longtime caller, calling every time they rode by a node before we kept a logbook. Somehow we are never around. This time we missed them by minutes.)



3/25

Voice-mail bestowing blessings on thee.

4/4

Caller asked if they could tell the Druid a secret. Since there were people around, they asked to call back later.

4/6

Same caller told me their secret. (I believe they believe their secret and wish them the best.)

4/21

Druids were invited to a housewarming party.

EARTH MOANS LIKE AN ANIMAL AND IS HEARD ON PHONE

Operator Log

1,340 operator calls resulted in 19 log entries by three operators in 2023. Some boring ones are not included.

2023-02-10

Caller said they were wondering what the next step was. I told them they could do whatever they wanted.

2023-02-23

Caller asked where the concentration camp option went. I told them it was in the directory. Caller confirmed that the chair was still there, they were sitting in it. Caller told me a long story about hot cops rolling up on their child who was in the car while they were on the phone, and then asking what it was about.

2023-03-1

Caller asked if I knew who they could call to find out the likelihood of a meteor. I told them I wasn't sure - they said ok thank you and hung up in seemingly good spirits.

2023-04-08

Caller told me that the phone said to press 0 for the operator, was I an operator? Yes. Caller asked what could I do, did I have resources? Yes. Caller told me they were homeless and aimless after their wife overdosed. I said that I was sorry that I couldn't provide therapy. Caller said that's good because they didn't want that, ha ha. Caller had me look up their wife's mother's number in Utah. I told them a possible match.

2023-05-13

Caller wanted to know the weather report. I gave a recitation from weather.gov.

2023-05-17

Silence, and just the tiniest faint sound of breathing? I said only "hello?" instead of "hello futel operator?" For a good two minutes I was convinced someone was there, listening to every-

thing I said. I didn't say much. I talked about the weather a little. Whenever I was sure there was nothing at all on the line here would be one more little tiny glimpse, or fragment of what sounded like a human voice. Maybe it was just a voice compression algorithm artifact. But I was just imagining a kind of an older guy may be in bed somewhere maybe needing help? Probably I am just projecting. Eventually i said to dial the operator again if they still need assistance, and i hung up.

2023-05-20

Caller asked how to make a call, I told them to dial 1.

2023-05-23

Caller was just making sure the phone works.

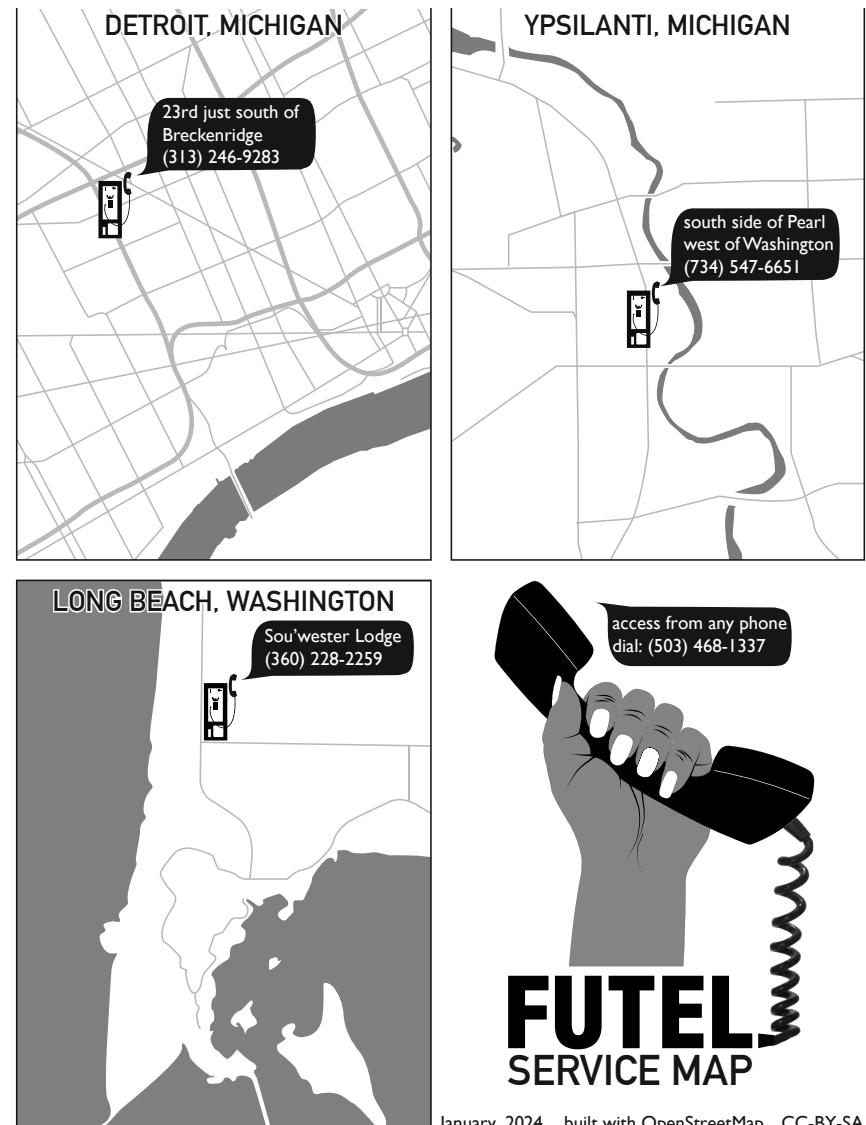


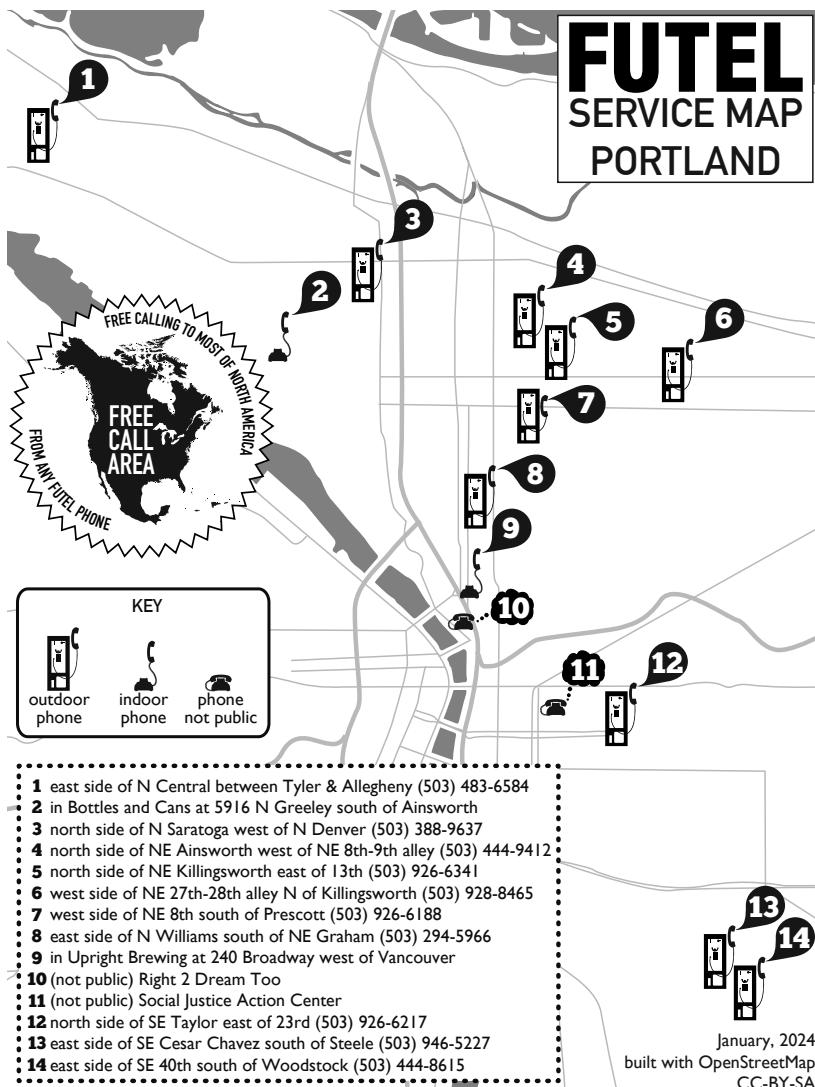
2023-05-24

Caller needed the number for the StoneCrest Center. However, caller really struggled to correctly differentiate between the numbers 1 and 4. Eventually they got a pencil, but even writing it down did not help as much as you'd think. But we got it eventually.

2023-05-24

Caller asked how to use the voicemail, I told them to dial 2 and create a voicemail box. Caller asked how someone would leave a voicemail, I told them they should choose voicemail from any Futel phone or the incoming line. Caller was confused about the incoming line and asked if that was the main Futel phone, I told them that they could call it from any phone. Caller asked if we listened to calls, I told





them no. Caller asked if there was a policy about that or any way to verify it, why should they trust me? I told them that they should take whatever precautions they thought necessary, and also reminded them that we don't listen to their calls, but somebody else could be. Caller thanked me for providing the service.

2023-06-22

Caller asked why their call didn't work, they told me the number but I couldn't tell why it didn't work, I told them to try again, maybe it was congestion.

2025-07-03

Caller asked who I was, I told them that they called the operator and to call back if they needed one.

2023-07-30

Caller gave name of Wickum, said its a blessed beautiful day, wanted 1) to know what "this" is (i asked them to hold the item up to the telephone), 2) to find a beautiful white woman who wants some big black cock (i told them futel operators were probably not interested, but i wished them luck overall & promised to log their request).

2023-08-06

You're going to need to hang up and dial your number again, my friend.

2023-08-15

Six minute conversation with a person who may have been high or may have been experiencing time in a different direction, I suggest that because there were also some strange rhythmic sounds and spectral noises.

2023-11-11

Caller asked for the phone number of the phone they were using, which I provided.

2023-11-12

Callers asked my what my favorite band was, I replied with the Butthole Surfers and hung up.

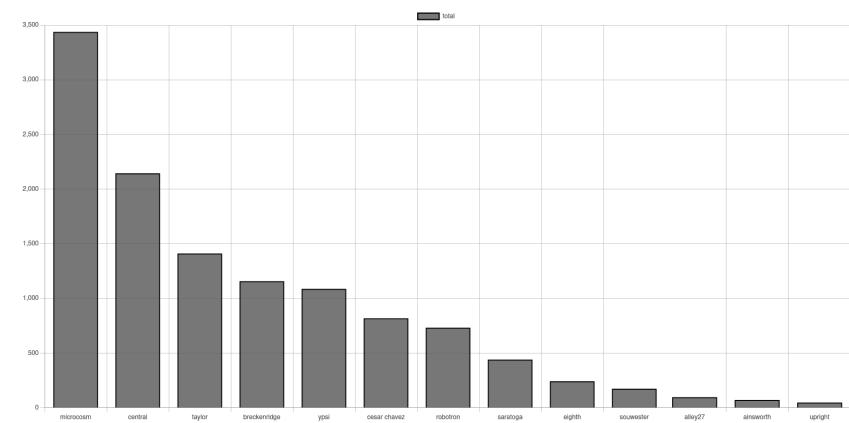
2023-11-14

Caller wasn't able to make a call, I asked them if they tried at the dial tone. What's a dial tone? Does it go beep beep beep or is it long? I told them to listen for it after pressing one.

2023-11-14

Caller having trouble dialing a Virginia number. I got a detailed description & i'm not sure they did anything wrong at all. I just suggested they try again & call back if not going through.

Usage



Outgoing phone calls manually entered at the dialtone per phone for 2023. Another crappy graph. We really just need to know when phones go down, everything else is kluged together. In order of popularity, Microcosm with almost 3,500, Central St., Taylor St., Breckenridge St., Pearl St., and the rest.

Microcosm's phone saw heavy use from the time it was installed. Central St. gets foot traffic, and Taylor St. has regular users. 23rd St. and Breckenridge St. in Detroit tends to rise and fall, but always gets a surprising rate of use, considering that it's out of the way and in a depopulated zone. Cesar Chavez Blvd. also gets used a lot, it's on a busy street that is not pedestrian-oriented but it is next to a bus stop.

*“Please believe me,
I’m not crazy.”*

**The beginning of many anonymous
e-mails or phone calls**

