

100

COPY 158

b6
b7c

THE FUTEL PARTY LINE 2

JULY 1961 -- DECEMBER 1961



PROPERTY OF FBI -- This document is loaned to you by the FBI, and it is not to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

DO NOT DESTROY

100-10092-375

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 16 1962	
FBI - OURLAY	

FOIPA# 1123533-000

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
John Edgar Hoover, Director

PARTY LINE #2: Official Organ of Futel

© Futel, 2017, 2020

This edition published by Microcosm Publishing, 2020

ISBN 9781648410277

This is Microcosm # 659

For a catalog, write or visit:

Microcosm Publishing

2752 N Williams Ave.

Portland, OR 97227

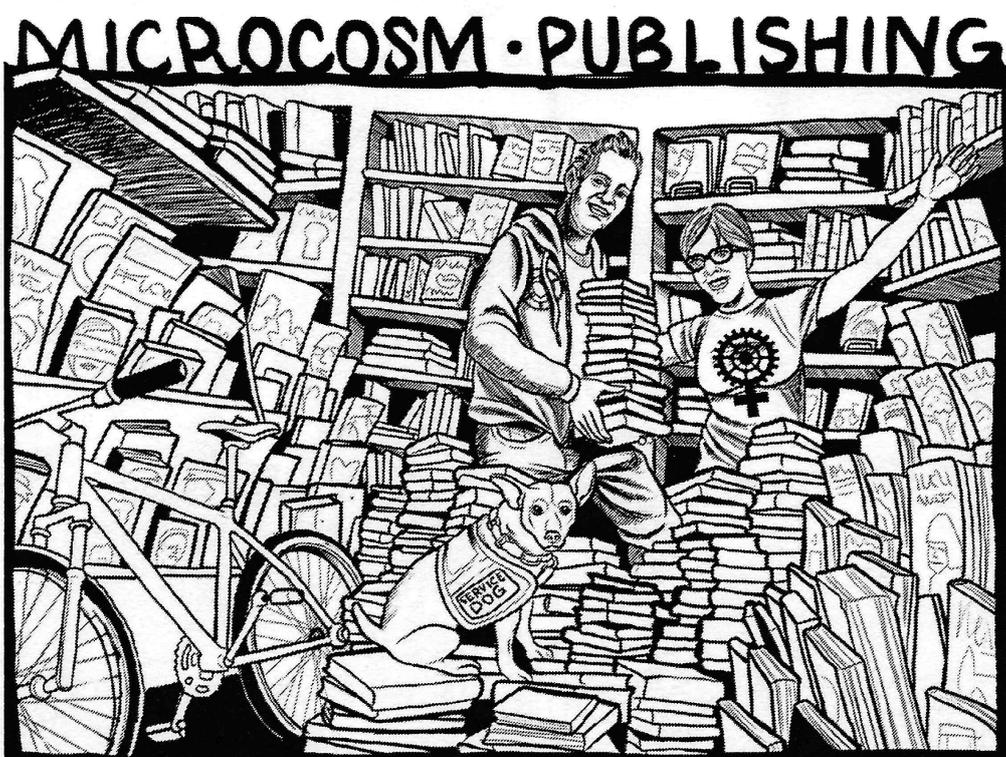
www.Microcosm.Pub



To join the ranks of high-class stores that feature Microcosm titles, talk to your rep: In the U.S. **Como** (Atlantic), **Fujii** (Midwest), **Book Travelers West** (Pacific), **Turnaround** in Europe, **Manda/UTP** in Canada, **New South** in Australia, and **GPS** in Asia, India, Africa, and South America. We are sold by **Gifts of Nature** in the gift market.

Did you know that you can buy our books directly from us at sliding scale rates? Support a small, independent publisher and pay less than Amazon's price at **www.Microcosm.Pub**

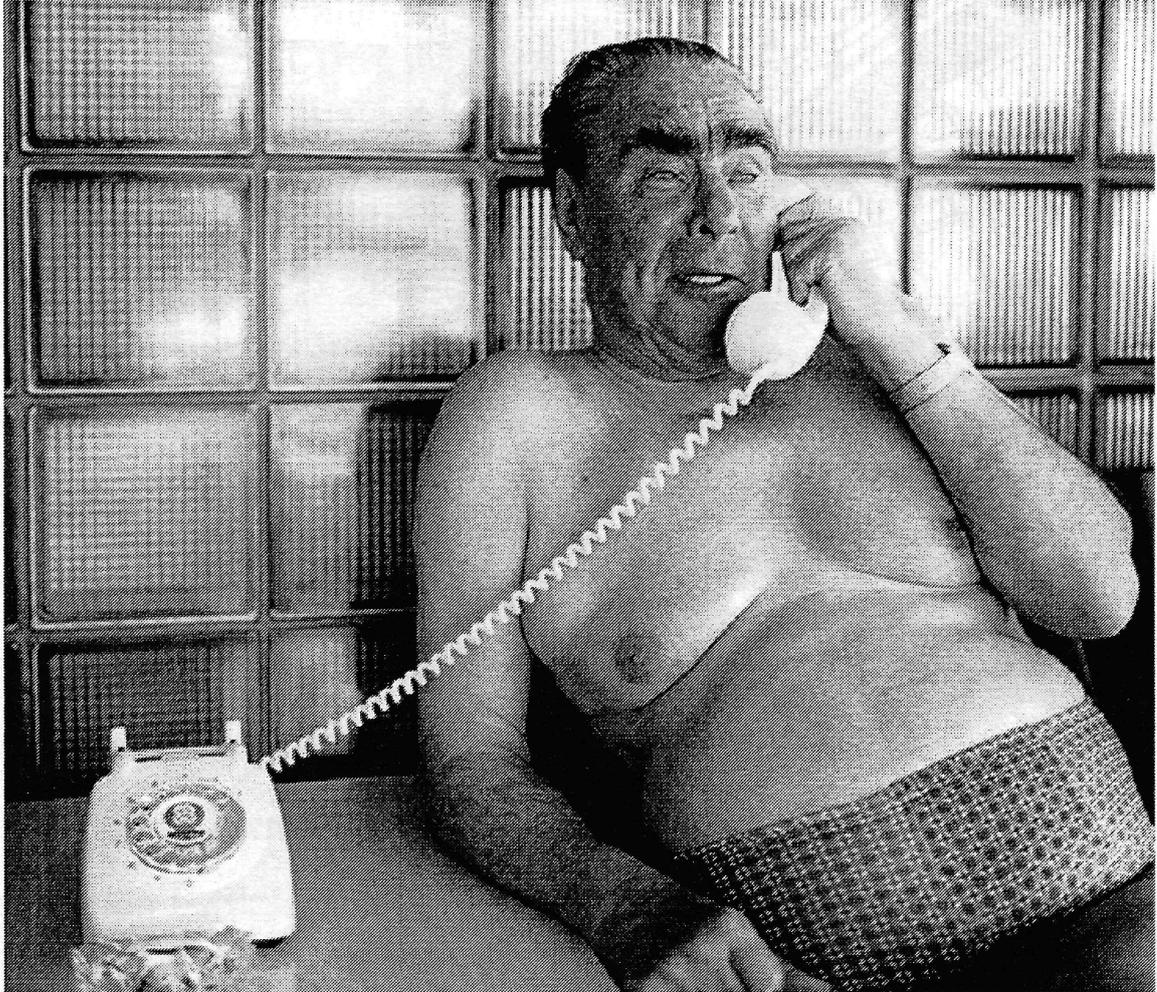
Global labor conditions are bad, and our roots in industrial Cleveland in the 70s and 80s made us appreciate the need to treat workers right. Therefore, our books are **MADE IN THE USA.**



Microcosm Publishing is Portland's most diversified publishing house and distributor with a focus on the colorful, authentic, and empowering. Our books and zines have put your power in your hands since 1996, equipping readers to make positive changes in their lives and in the world around them. Microcosm emphasizes skill-building, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity through challenging conventional publishing wisdom with books and bookettes about DIY skills, food, bicycling, gender, self-care, and social justice. What was once a distro and record label was started by Joe Biel in his bedroom and has become among the oldest independent publishing houses in Portland, OR. We are a politically moderate, centrist publisher in a world that has inched to the right for the past 80 years.

Party Line

Official Organ of Futel



Issue 2, Spring 2017
2016 Review Edition

Copyright © 2017 Futel Operators

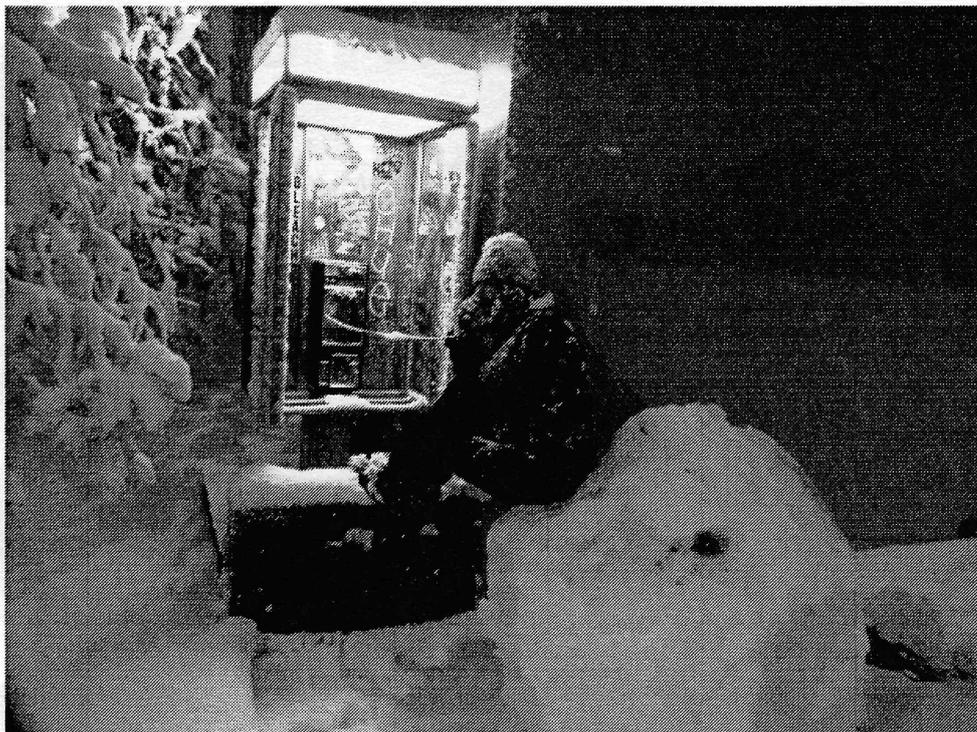
Futel

503-468-1337

<http://futel.net>

operator@futel.net

PO Box 2422, Portland, Oregon 97208



What will Futel's role be in the coming end times? As an organization whose core strategy is to glean discarded equipment on its way to the smelter and the toxic waste dump and turn it into installations which provide tools, information, and entropy to anyone who walks up to them, we are familiar with operating in the margins. Our users, also, tend to occupy several fringes of humanity, and we have seen them get erased from the city with each season.

Our position is a reminder that while local conditions may change radically, this day is not significantly more apocalyptic than any other we have experienced in our lifetimes. The devices we use and the specifics of how we encourage our users to use them will necessarily adapt, as will our message and attitude, but our mandate will not. We will establish a new era of communication, one in which reaching out is not only desirable, but mandatory.

Are we expending all of this effort only to see our payphones gleam in the rubble of the depopulated cities? Perhaps, but this was always a possible outcome. Are we jaded due to growing up in a decade when the imminent end of the world was promised to us weekly? Probably, but this outlook has allowed us to survive and do our work. Are our motives good and our results positive? Close enough.

2016 In Review

2016 has been an excellent year for Futel.

We installed three new phones, two of which are still standing on NE Ainsworth St and SE Taylor St, and continued service to our existing phones on SE Clinton St and at Right To Dream Too. By the end of the year, over 750 free outgoing calls were initiated per month.

Two new operators joined Futel. Over 50 complete operator calls were logged throughout the year.

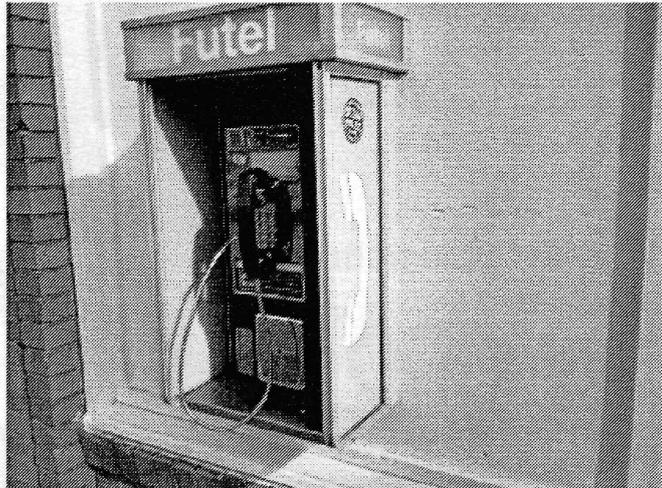
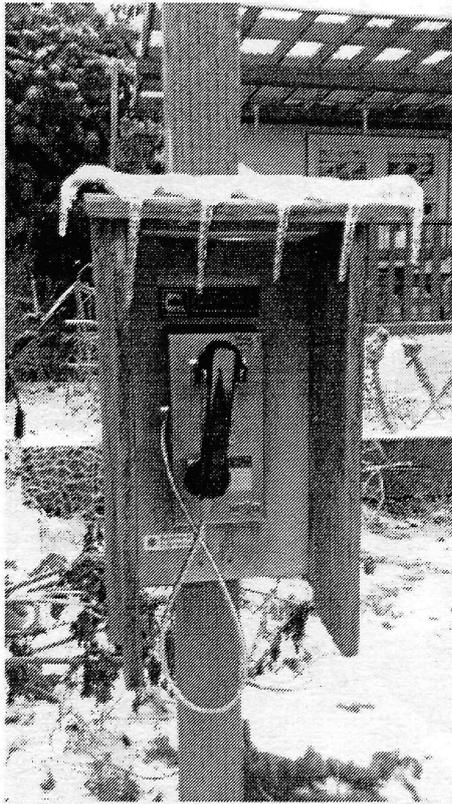
An incoming line now extends the usefulness of several features of our street-facing phones. Our new interactive feature, the "Wildcard Line", has collected contributions from Futel users, with which we have produced a number of amusing and instructive episodes. And as usual, there are random new experiences to experience, including a voice conference occasionally inhabited by helpful entities.

Futel operators have given talks, hosted outreach events, and produced installations at AFRU gallery and ToorCamp. Hours of ads have been dragged around town by surly bike couriers.

Our 2016 expenses were paid for with a grant by the Regional Arts and Culture Council, a grant from an anonymous individual, and many small donations. Equally important, many volunteer hours of effort and skill have kept us operating.

Our community influence and positive public impact have grown exponentially, and there can be no doubt that both will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

New Phones

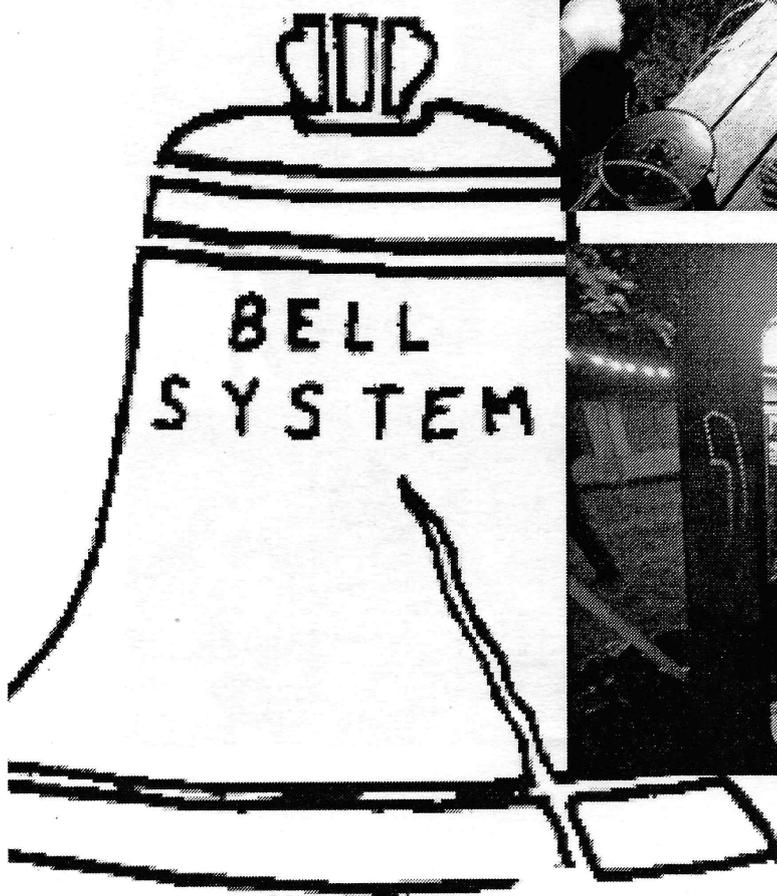


We installed two new phones this year in Wood-lawn and Buckman. A third phone at Ctrlh on Interstate saw excellent use while it was installed.



ToorCamp 2016

We had some phones at ToorCamp again this year. Our connection to ShadyTel was intermittent, their lineworkers were kept busy in our neighborhood, but we did have a line out, somewhat dependent on internet weather, which people eventually found.



2016 Operator Log Excerpts

Futel operators fielded over 50 operator calls in 2016. These ran the gamut from boring to exciting and amusing to annoying. Here is a sample of logged calls, with some sensitive and many less interesting examples removed.

2016-01-06 Caller asked for the address of Transition Projects, including zip code, which I provided.

2016-01-16 Answered call only to hear someone pounding keys repeatedly.

2016-01-16 Caller needed help making an outbound call.

2016-01-16 Another key pounder.

2016-01-17 Caller asked for the incoming number of the Clinton Street phone, which I provided. Advised caller that the ringer was out of order.

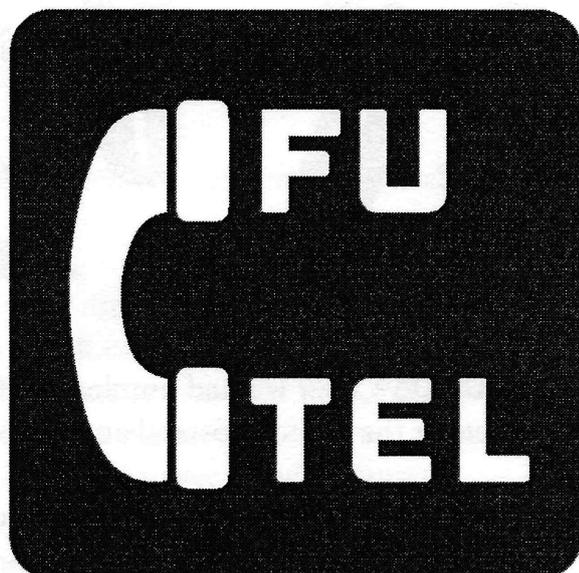
2016-02-24 Caller wanted to know what would happen. I told them that they now did.

2016-02-28 Caller was trying to make a call. I encouraged them to keep trying.

2016-03-15 Answered call and heard some random yelling. As soon as I said "Hello, Operator" they hung up.

2016-04-03 Person wanted to know how to call 911, I told them to dial 1 then 911, they thanked me then hung up.

2016-04-04 Caller asked what phone does. Advised that can be used for making free domestic calls. Caller asked how to pay for call, multiple times. Eventually realized was actually free and advised to try making call from main menu again. Caller replied "That is awesome."



Thank you.”

2016-04-19 Answered call and got Ipanema. After a few seconds a person flashed onto the line and said “Hello?”, I responded “Futel, can I help you?” and they hung up.

2016-04-21 Caller needed 911. Was unable to make call. I took down info and called emergency in for them.



2016-04-21 Caller needed the number for DHS on Lombard. Commented that they appreciate Futel more than we can know.

2016-05-03 Caller asked if this was a real phone, I confirmed and asked if caller needed an operator. Caller said they thought it was an art installation. I asked if I could help caller, they replied no, I hung up.

2016-05-05 Answered call only to hear Ipanema. After about 30 seconds the line went silent and I hung up.

2016-05-10 Caller needed number for Oregon EBT balance check.

2016-06-02 Caller needed number for Transition Projects.

2016-06-05 Caller wanted number for OHSU emergency room, I gave them the number for the OHSU hospital and OHSU emergency care.

2016-06-16 Caller wanted me to make a phone call, I told them how to do so.

2016-06-22 Caller wanted the number for pretrial release at the justice center. Gave them the number for Multnomah County Pretrial.

2016-07-01 Static and a distorted voice.

2016-07-13 Caller wanted number for Multnomah County Public Defender. Provided.

2016-07-29 Amused neighborhood children who were playing with the phone.

2016-08-04 Caller requested to be transferred to Providence Medical. I explained that I could look up the number but not transfer. Caller was distressed because they did not have a pen but was elated to find one in the phone booth and wrote down the number.

2016-08-08 Caller wanted number for a cab company, I provided the Radio Cab number.

2016-08-18 Caller sought to make a phone call. I explained that I could not make a phone call, but that they could hang up and dial the number. Caller repeated their question, I repeated my answer, and they hung up.

2016-09-15 Caller wanted a number for a lawyer in Baltimore. Looked it up and gave it to them.

2016-10-29 Caller encouraged a child to talk into the telephone. Child laughed and said nothing and pressed buttons.

2016-11-14 Caller wanted the number to the North Portland child welfare office. Give it to them.

2016-11-29 Caller wondered if we provided directory assistance, I replied that we did. Caller added that they didn't know if it cost money, I replied that it did not. After a short silence and some smalltalk, caller said that they were looking for a Portland number, and began spelling out a name, but could not agree with another person on how it was spelled. Caller said never mind, I hung up.

2016-12-13 "Operator." "Can you connect me to one... eight... eight... eight..."



503.468.1337



.....” “No, but you can call that number yourself after hanging up and selecting ‘one’ for a dial tone.” “Well, but I have to dial a one and then an eight eight eight, is that going to work?” “I don’t know. I can’t predict the future.” “...” “Why not try it and call back if...” “Wait, wait, okay, okay. Okay. I know you don’t have a crystal ball, I mean, who does?” “Who does.” “Have a good one.” “Good luck.”

2016-12-22 Caller wanted the number for Corbett Farms, which I supplied.

2016-12-30 Caller inquired about my location, I replied that I was an operator. Caller asked if they should return to their job next week, I replied no and hung up.



Why Phones?

What made people into phone phreaks? What was their motivation for hacking the phone system, even when some of them faced harsh consequences?

One reason was simply to explore. The phone system was the only computer network accessible to most people in the 60s and 70s, and their hacker nature compelled its exploration. It was accessed using audio signals, so they could make their own equipment. It was shoddily protected, and when exploits were found, the providers often tried to guard it with legal threats, making it almost mandatory to look for further compromises.

Another reason was to steal service for whatever reason, of course, including getting free calls and creating community spaces for them to interact.

A further well-publicized reason was the justification of fighting The Man. There are always reasons to hate the phone company, of course, including civil liberty violations which continue today. The



monopolistic nature of the providers in the 60s and 70s made it easy to regard the phone company as another tentacle of the government, and phreaking was



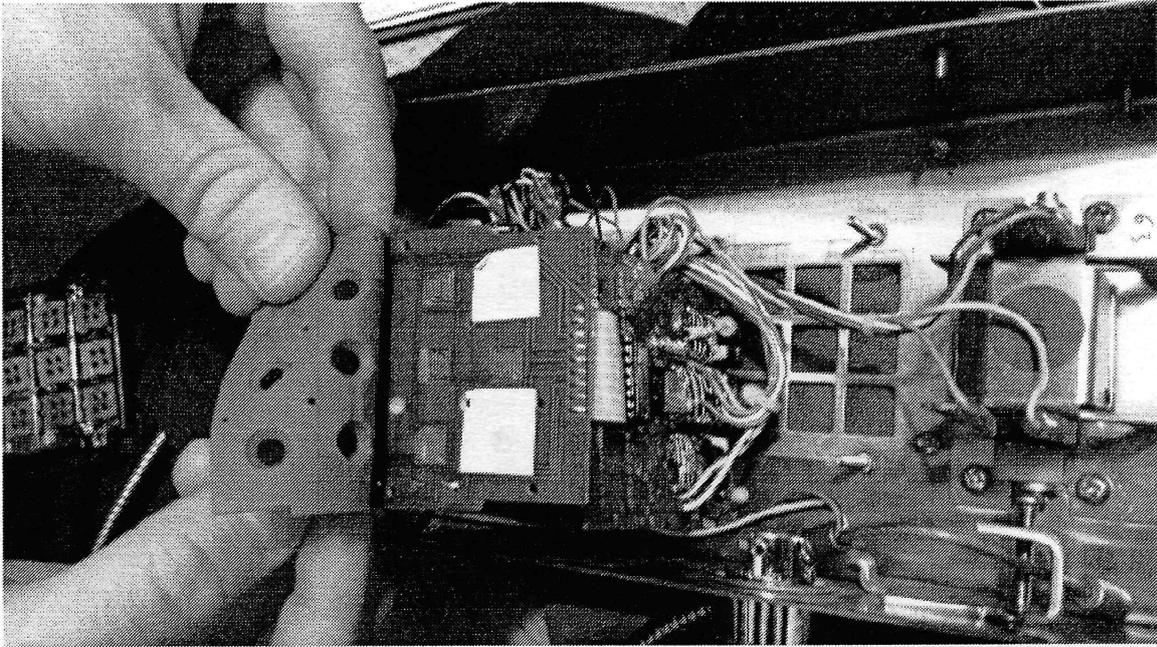
considered part of the fight against the gears of the war machine, with phreaker groups organized as offshoots of the Yippies.

I have always considered phreaking to be similar to fare evasion on public transportation. When I was hopping turnstiles in Chicago as a youth, there was a push to make the CTA free as a social service, with claims that 90 percent of fare money collect-

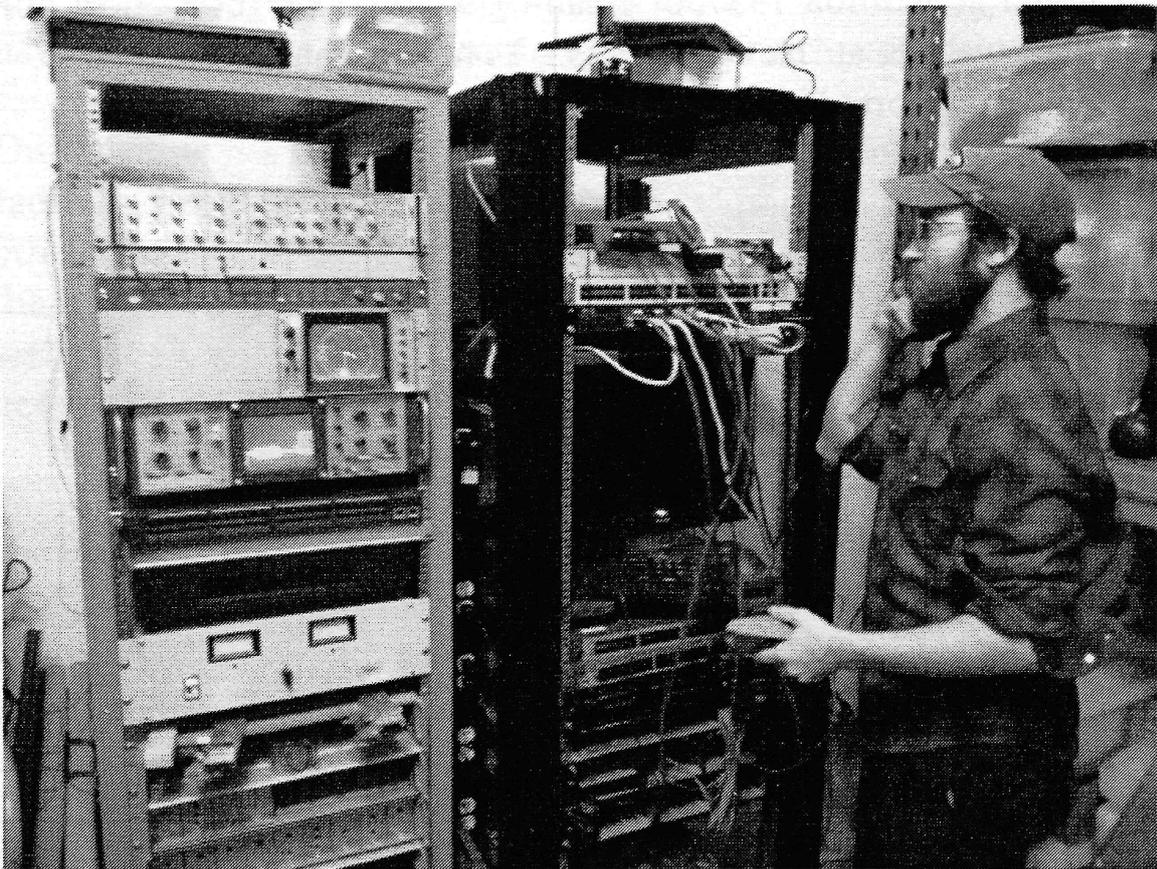
ed being spent to handle the money itself. Planka, a modern-day group in Sweden and Norway, has a similar agenda. Members pay dues and commit to sneak on to public transportation whenever they can, and in return get legal assistance if they are caught. If the government doesn't want to socialize a service, fine - the people can do it for them. The feeling of stealing service with one's wiles is a rush, especially if it can be justified with logic, however tortured, and now that I have fully repented of my sordid criminal past, I will miss the secret passages I ferreted out on the El and the payment card hacks I learned on the Bart.

Futel is quite different from phone phreaks and other urban hackers in its most basic operation, of course. For one, we buy our service and give it away. But we are inspired by them and share similar motivation, in exploring ways to use the machine we all live in by repurposing its parts.

For an excellent history of the phone phreak movement, read **Exploding the Phone** by Phil Lapsley.



Above: We got some nice Ceeco vandal-resistant phones, supposedly from a school, but xnor and Tishbite were getting failing # and * keys in testing. They took them apart expecting to have to repair the keyboards, and found that the keys had been disabled with post-it notes. This is funny because we all carried tone dialers when we were in school. Photo by xnor. Below: Ctrlh.



Support Futel!



Futel is made possible by volunteers and contributors, who we thank! Futel is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and contributions are tax deductible. We also seek contributors skilled or creative in several areas. Dial 0 from any Futel phone, or speak to the operator at 503-468-1337, or email operator@futel.net, or see our website at <http://futel.net>. Thanks to everyone who has supported Futel!



Acknowledgements

Operators

KRA, Tishbite, operators. B. Casey, physical plant. D. Wager, HR. B. Richardson, media. J. Plumb, content. J. Mejia, soundboard. Thanks to xnor and G Upshaw for siting public telephones.

Contributors

Futel's 2017 operations are funded in part by a 2016 Precipice Fund grant, funded by Precipice Fund, Calligram Foundation, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Futel's 2017 operations are funded in part by a donation from Nelson.

Thanks to RACC, Awesome Portland, and ToorCamp for their support.

Thanks to Ctrlh for their support.

Edited and printed cheaply at the Independent Publishing Resource Center.

Thanks to Drew at MOHDI and B. Davis for donating labor and materials. Thanks to B-Line Urban Delivery, Hobotech and Snap-tortoise for donating services. Thanks to everyone who has donated time, money, expertise, and materials.

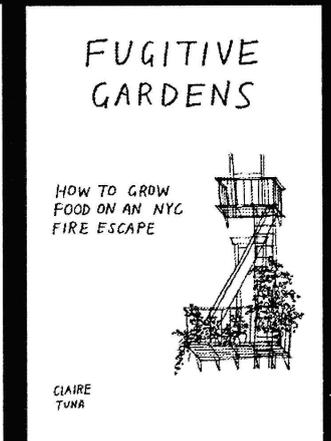
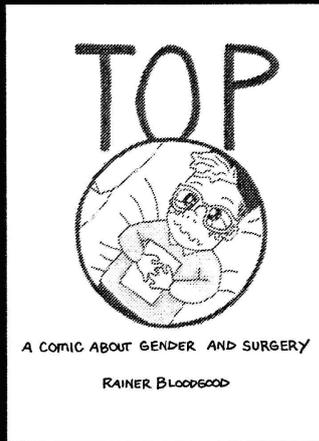
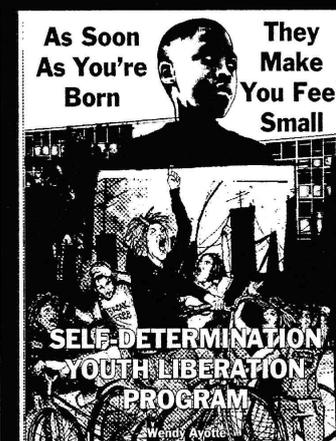
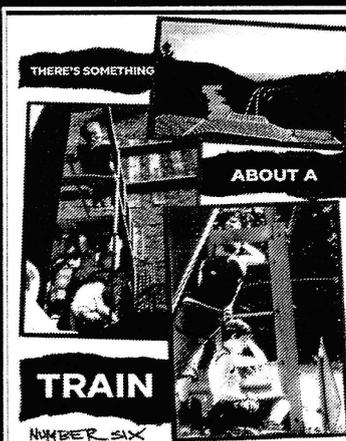
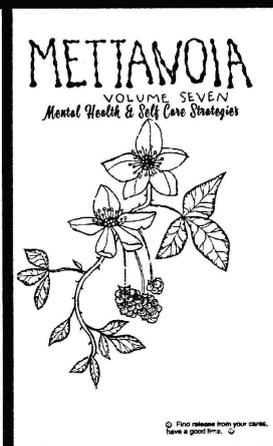
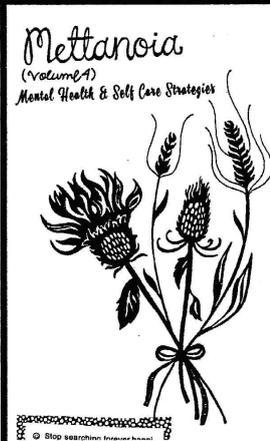
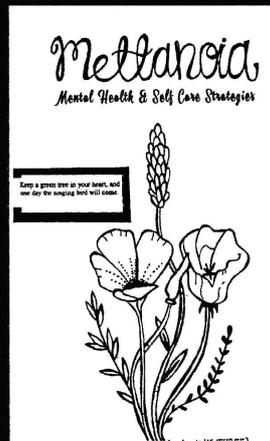
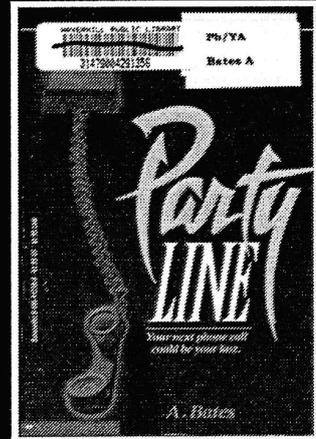
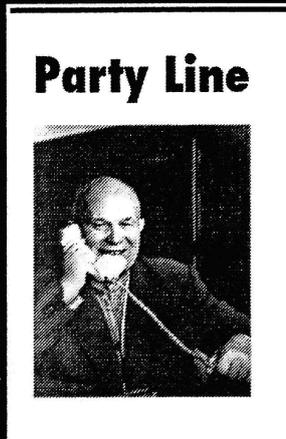


SUBSCRIBE!

For as little as \$15/month, you can support
a small, independent publisher and get
every book that we publish—delivered to
your doorstep!

www.Microcosm.Pub/BFF

More from www.Microcosm.Pub



CIFU ITEL



\$3.00 U.S. / \$3.99 CANADA

ISBN 978-1-64841-027-7 US\$3.00

5 0 3 0 0 >

9 781648 410277