

## Dial-A-Lesson, Ding-Dong

University Park, Pa. Sept. --- "If you spent less time on the phone and more time with your studies, you'd be a better student" is a frequent parental lament.

But students at The Pennsylvania State University are spending more time on the phone and more time with their schoolwork too --- and at the same time.

As easily as one can "dial a prayer" or "dial for dollars", Penn State students can "dial a lesson" at special "phone booths" located throughout campus.

An audio system devised by Listening-Learning Services allows students to "dial up" taped lectures, musical presentations, and medical advice at one of the 150 listening stations.

Since the program was begun in July, 1969, approximately 725,000 calls have been made by students, according to Willard M. Martin, director of Listening-Learning Services. Martin emphasizes that nearly half of the calls were made within the past year.

The concept is simple. When a student dials the number assigned to the program he wants to hear, a computer at the control center sends the call to the appropriate program terminal. Within seconds, the student can hear the

presentation on high fidelity headsets.

For some popular courses, time clocks are used to start the lesson tapes at preannounced times, some starting as often as ten times daily.

The program offerings range from "instant replays" of lectures for students missing regular class sessions to professional counseling concerning certain personal problems.

Listening stations are located in selected residence halls, fraternity houses, libraries, and classroom buildings. Stations are also now available at the Ritenour Health Center for students absent from classes due to illness.

Martin points out that although the potential for such a system is great, there is a danger in overemphasizing technology.

"To be sure, reliable equipment designed to serve a wide range of academic needs is essential, but the successful use of any dial access system depends ultimately on the quality and relevance of software used on the system," he says.

"Unless the tape recordings are carefully integrated with the program of instruction and testing, dial access will likely prove to be of limited educational value."

## We All Have To Go Sometime

University Park, Pa.; Sept. --- Who said modern containers don't decay?

A timetable for the natural recycling of some widely used and frequently littered items were drawn up by scientists at The Pennsylvania State University:

A common soft drink can dropped in the woods today, and not touched except by the air, rain, snow, natural mulch and sunlight will likely be completely degraded by October of '73- 2473, that is, A.D.

Its aluminum components, says Dr. Edwin L. Owen, a metallurgist who specializes in the study of corrosion, might by that time be broken up into dust-like bits. The steel or tin components will probably have made it to dust somewhat earlier, by 2073 A.D.

A conventional plastic wrapper similarly exposed, says Dr. R. F. Kammereck, a polymer scientist, will probably be gone

back to nature by the Fall of 2200 or thereabouts.

A glass bottle left on the forest floor this weekend, says Evelyn C. Marboe, a glass chemist, might find its ultimate rest by the year 1,001,972. Or it might not.

"Glass," says Professor Marboe, "is one of the most durable materials known. We have glass beads from Egypt that are 4,000 years old and, of course, there are many examples of glass-like rock -- such as obsidian -- that may be as old as the earth.

There was a consensus among the scientists interviewed that these figures are all highly speculative, since decay rates vary widely with local conditions.

Thus, it is ecologically sounder to strew your trash around in a tropical rain forest; there, the action of moisture and heat speeds up the recycling process. You can take roughly a

## FDA Sanctions Poison

(CPS) -- The next time you have a red candy bar, a can of cherry soda or a strawberry popsicle, you may be eating poison.

According to Food and Drug Administration scientists, a dye called Red 2, found in virtually every artificially red-colored food, may cause cancer and birth defects.

Soviet scientists reported in 1970 that the dye caused birth defects and cancer in animals. FDA scientists obtained similar results from a reproduction test last summer, but FDA officials have delayed any action at all for almost a year.

The FDA has since introduced some minor restrictions on the use of Red 2, but has denied that there is any evidence of hazard to humans.

Although the color additives amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires scientific proof of safety for all color additives in food supply, there is no such objective scientific evidence that Red 2 is safe for human consumption.

According to Sidney M. Wolfe MD, the safe dosage level would be 15 mg/kg of body weight daily. This level of the dye in food would allow a 110 lb woman to drink about 2/3rds of a can of soda daily. A child would exceed the safe limit if he drank more than half a can of dyed soda.

## New Yorkers Fast Against War

(CPS) -- An open-ended fast against the Vietnam war, which began August 6, Hiroshima Day, has resulted in a two-day series of actions in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

September 13, participants in the fast marched from Lafayette Park to the national office of the Committee to Re-Elect the President in Washington, D.C., holding empty rice bowls as a symbol of the hungry and war-torn Vietnamese people, and held a vigil in front of the headquarters.

September 15, the fasters held a "service of war resistance" on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, having been denied use of the church by Cardinal Cooke. The service consisted of songs read from the Bible, litanies and speeches about war resistance.

The fast is in protest against "any continuation of the war by any method or for any reason." The fasters are demanding an end to United States bombing and shelling in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia; a firm date for complete withdrawal of all American military personnel from Indochina; and an end to all military and financial aid to the Thieu government.

They are fasting in an appeal to the American people to respond to the crisis in Indochina and to participate in any actions that would reflect their protest. They claim that their fast is not a "gesture of despair" but an act of "hope and faith in the basic decency of the American people."

According to Ted Glick, one of the fasters and a defendant in the Harrisburg 8 trial, it is very important that American students renew and continue

their activities against the war. "Now more than ever students have a responsibility in this critical time of war to do all they can, to use their vote, to conduct demonstrations and sit-ins at Nixon headquarters, and to educate other people so that they know the reality of war in Indochina."

The fast was begun by 14 people in New York City, including David Dellinger; Fathers Tom Lumpkin and Paul Mayer, two Roman Catholic priests; Anne Walsh, a campus minister; two women under indictment for the destruction of draft files in Camden, New Jersey; and several draft and war resisters.

Seven of the fasters have broken the water only fast and are only taking liquids, and the remaining seven plan to continue fasting or to go on liquid diets at least until the November elections.

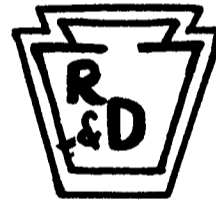
Eleven inmates from the Danbury, Connecticut federal prison also started a fast in conjunction with the 14 New Yorkers, and were then transferred to a medical prison in Springfield, Missouri. They ended the fast after 30 days, and are now awaiting further transferral.

## Classified Ads

Students seriously desiring an out of classroom experience among mentally disabled or retarded persons may contact the Aurora Club, Inc., 1838 N. Second St., Harrisburg, 17102, or phone 232-6675 for an appointment. Ask for Mrs. Ben Silberman, Director.

Bob Thompson, a senior, needs a place to live near campus. Contact XGI office.

Wanted: Part-time photographer. Contact Betty Duke, Public Information Office, W-139.



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