Cut cable curtails communication

By Becky Mabry
Assistant Editor

Hundreds of UI faculty and staff members may never take their telephones for granted again. All phones are operating now, but on Aug. 3, a large telecommunications cable was cut during a construction project that silenced the phones for a week.

WILL-AM (580) and several fire alarms were knocked out as well but were operational by the next day.

Fifteen buildings had phones affected including Architecture, the Armory, Clark Hall, Wohlers Hall (formerly Commerce West), Huff Gymnasium, the Ice Arena, Mumford House, the Police Training Institute, the Harding Band Building, the Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations and David Kinley Hall.

It was a huge disruption and the first time telecommunications on campus had been so widely interrupted, according to Beth Scheid, an assistant director of the Computing and Communications Services Office.

Many of the offices were able to conduct business by using cell phones. Voice mail was still operating, so it could tell callers of the disruption and advise them to call the cell phone numbers or leave messages.

“We were very, very fortunate that the fiberoptic cable wasn’t cut so that people were still able to get e-mail and get to the campus network and onto the Internet,” said Glen Whitmer, assistant director of CCSO.

As inconvenient as it was, staff and faculty members were able to find solutions.

“The housing department has their main office at Clark Hall, which was affected, but they have offices at other residence halls that were not affected, so they were able to forward calls to the other offices,” said Whitmer.

“Those are the kinds of things we did — call forwarding, cell phones and the use of e-mail for communications.”

The incident occurred at the end of the work day Aug. 3 when the Miller Driller contractors were digging a trench for a project intended to increase and improve electric power availability around campus. The contractor inadvertently bored through a large section of the telecommunications cable buried 12 feet deep.

Nothing like this had ever occurred on campus before because all the cables are encased in a protective concrete system, Scheid said.

“Most contractors have equipment like backhoes that will not damage our conduits that are encased in this concrete conduit system,” Scheid said. “But this particular boring machine was made to drill through rock, so it cut through our cable like butter.”

To get an idea of how many cables were sliced, consider that one conduit had 600 pair of copper cables, another conduit had 1,200 pair, and two conduits each had 1,500 pair of copper cables.

“The miracle was that we were able to locate the spool of cable that was the length and type we needed, another conduit had 600 pair, and two conduits each had 1,500 pair of copper cables.”

“After calling all over the country we located our mate-

rills of cable that was the length and type we needed. And they did an absolutely excellent job.” Scheid said.

“The other miracle is that we had an excellent con-

tractor who had the experience and equipment to tackle such a repair,” Scheid said. “Decade Telecommu-

nications from Greenup not only came the moment our material arrived, but they started working 16 hour shifts and soon were able to bring on more crew and work 24 hour shifts. And they did an absolutely excellent job.”

All of the repairs were completed by Aug. 11, said Whitmer. Workers spent the weekend doing some testing to make sure all the phone lines were operational.

By James E. Kloppep
News Bureau Staff Writer

Imagine a small slip of paper that can sniff out odors such as sour milk, illegal drugs, environmental pollutants or deadly toxins simply by changing color.

As reported in the Aug. 17 issue of the journal Nature, chemists Kenneth Suslick and Neal Rakow at the UI have developed an artificial nose that is simple, fast and inexpensive — and works by visualizing odors.

Called “smell-seeing” by its inventors, the technique is based on color changes that occur in an array of vapor-sensitive dyes known as metalloporphyrins — doughnut-shaped molecules that bind metal atoms. Metalloporphyrins are closely related to hemoglobin (the red pigment in blood) and chloro-

phyll (the green pigment in plants).

“Our technique is similar to using litmus paper to determine if a solution is acid by seeing if the paper goes from blue to pink,” said Suslick. “We can quickly identify and quantify the chemical compounds present.”

The sensitivity of the arrays out-

shines that of their human counterparts.

“The human nose is generally sensitive to most compounds at a level of a few parts per million,” Suslick said. “The sensitivity of our artificial nose is 10 to 100 times better than that for many compounds.”

And, unlike other technologies that are being explored, smell-

seeing is not affected by changes in relative humidity.

“Our color-change technique is extremely insensitive to water va-

por,” Suslick said. “The ability to easily detect odors regardless of the humidity background is defi-

nitely a big advantage.”

The researchers have applied for a patent. Research support came from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense.

Simple and inexpensive, artificial nose senses smell by seeing colors

Potential applications of smell-seeing arrays

Food and beverage industry:

Food and beverage industry:

Perfume industry:

Food and beverage industry:

Chemical workplace:

Food and beverage industry:

Potential applications of smell-seeing arrays

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Potential applications of smell-seeing arrays

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Discounts available through Aug. 21
Campus Rec memberships on sale
Membership in the Division of Campus Recreation is available to all faculty and staff members and affiliates of the UI. Annual and fall semester memberships are now available at the Intramural Physical Education building (IMPE) during building hours. Membership benefits include use of all Campus Recreation facilities, free locker and towel service, intramural participation, free and low-cost group fitness classes, and discounts on personal training sessions. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 336-6000. Closing date: Aug. 25.

Business and Financial Services, University Office of Financial Services
Assistant director of financial systems. Bachelor’s degree in information systems, computer science, business or other related field and minimum of 3 years’ experience in database design and development. Required. Contact J. A. Belanger, 333-1704, or jbelanger@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Sept. 2.

Business and Financial Services, University Office of Financial Services
Senior management accountant. Bachelor’s degree in accounting, finance, business or other related field and minimum of 5 years’ experience preferred. Contact Linda S. Strom, 333-3923, or lstrom@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Sept. 1.


Computer and Information Technology Services, University Office of Planning and Budgeting, University Office of Planning and Budgeting
Research programmer (UNIX system administration/management). Bachelor’s degree in computer science, business or related discipline and minimum of 3 years’ experience in managing and administering UNIX computing platforms on TCP/IP or other relevant experience. Required. Contact L. A. Thompson, 333-2387, or lthompson@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Aug. 23.

Engineering, 333-6600 or mccoylin@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Aug. 31.

Business and Financial Services, University Office of Financial Services
Associate director, human resources. Bachelor’s degree in business administration or related field and minimum of 5 years’ human resources management experience. Required. Contact J. E. Kloeppel, 333-4453 or jkloeppel@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Aug. 25.

Business and Financial Services, University Office of Financial Services
Assistant, associate or full professor. Bachelor’s degree in education and 5 years’ experience teaching courses such as CP101, CP102, CP151, CP201 or CP204. Required. Contact R. T. O’Reilly, 333-0080 or o’reilly@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Sept. 1.

Business and Financial Services, University Office of Financial Services
Business director of new product development. Bachelor’s degree in business administration or related field and 2 years’ experience in the development of new services/products. Required. Contact T. P. Wu, 333-2040 or tzu@uillinois.edu. Closing date: Aug. 23.

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Inside Illinois

BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
receive a major position change or a notice of non-reappointment will receive a paper copy of their Notification of Appointment.

In addition, NESSIE enables employees to perform many other human resources transactions online including: changing direct deposit, changing demographic and address information, changing withholding, requesting civil service exams, employment verification, submitting or updating emergency contact information and reviewing and updating prior education and work history.

Employees new to the UI or NESSIE may want to review the "5 Easy Steps" on the Web at http://nessie.uihr.uiuc.edu/5steps/.

Jazz Immersion

New program explores jazz

This season, Kranert Center for the Performing Arts introduces Jazz Immersion, a series of informal activities that explore jazz. Local musicians will take participants on a tour through the history and many styles of jazz, show how musicians interact in performance and talk about the legacy left by famous jazz musicians. Most Jazz Immersion events are free; both beginners and jazz aficionados are welcome.

Jazz pianist and vocalist Barrington Coleman, UI professor of music, is tour guide for the first jazz Immersion activities. He will be joined by the Barrington Coleman Trio (bassist William Koehler and drummer Robert McEntyre) and other local jazz musicians, including Nathaniel Banks, assistant dean of students for the Office of Minority Student Affairs; Ron Bridgewater, professor of music; Ray Sasaki, professor of music; and Giraldo Rosales, director of La Casa Cultural Latina. Scheduled Jazz Immersion activities:

What is jazz? 6:30 p.m., Aug. 22

Foellinger Great Hall Stage, free admission

An in-depth discussion and introduction to the jazz idiom, and the artists and influences giving rise to this classic American art form. Participants include the Barrington Coleman Trio.

Jazz Language for the Jazz Listener, 6:30 p.m., Aug. 28

The Highdive (51 E. Main St., Champaign), free admission

An exploration of the role of the solo artist and the rhythm section; the process of improvisation; and the tools of melody, harmony and rhythm. Participants include the Barrington Coleman Trio, trumpeter Nathaniel Banks and saxophonist Ron Bridgewater.

Jazz – By the People and for the People

6:30 p.m. Sept. 8 p.m., Tryon Festival Theater Stage, free admission

A dialogue between local jazz performers who will introduce jazz standards, a variety of styles and concepts, and the work of jazz trailblazers and future trendsetters.

Wayne Shorter Quartet

8 p.m., Sept. 13, Tryon Festival Theater, tickets required

For more information, contact Crystal Womble, Kranert Center outreach director, at cwomble@uiuc.edu 244-0549 or visit www.KranertCenter.com.

University Library and Campus Vending

New copy service promotes efficiency

This fall, the cost of photocopying will increase, particularly when paying by cash rather than using the Value Card System. The new rates, which are posted on all copy machines, are:

8.5” x 11” paper = 8.5 cents per copy (cash = 15 cents)

8.5” x 14” paper = 9.2 cents per copy (cash = 15 cents)

This increase totals 1/2 cent per copy for Value Card purchases and 5 cent per copy for cash purchases. The new rates are primarily the result of a new reduction feature that allows users to copy an increased number of pages at once, making more efficient use of their time and money and reducing the amount of paper used.

The following example compares the cost of copying four standard-size pages using the old and new service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages copied</th>
<th>Old Service</th>
<th>New Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 pages</td>
<td>32 cents</td>
<td>30 cents</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 pages</td>
<td>64 cents</td>
<td>60 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact Crystal Womble, Krannert Center outreach director, at cwomble@uiuc.edu or visit http://nessie.uihr.uiuc.edu/5steps/.

Questions concerning the new copy service or Value Card System can be directed to: New Lawson, manager of Campus Vending, at slawson@uiuc.edu or 333-7100.
calendar of events

Aug 17 to Sept 10

Peak teak
Gabe Davis, of Davis Floor Sanding and Refinishing, sands the teak parquet of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts during the first refinishing of the 28,000-square-foot floor since it was laid in 1969. He and other workers have put in long shifts to complete the project in three weeks. The project also required replacing 2,000 square feet of the teak tiles, according to Jean Huddleston, Krannert Center business manager.

Deaths

Samuel Kenneth Brownfield, 78, died Aug. 4 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Brownfield worked for the UI’s Housing Division for 37 years, retiring as a housing administrator III in 1994. Memorial: American Cancer Society.

Thomas Ray Guiltner, 68, died July 20 at Vail Medical Center, Vail. Colo. Guiltner worked as a properties technician at the UI’s Police Training Institute, retiring in 1996 with seven years of service.

Mary Adeline Hussey, 93, died Aug. 5 at the Care Centre of Urbana. Hussey became a teaching assistant in the English department in the fall of 1943. In 1947, she assisted in establishing and also was acting director of English for Foreign Students, later the Division of English as an International Language. After retiring in 1975 from the UI, she tutored graduate students and visiting professors and researchers from abroad. Memorial: Champaign County Humane Society.

Velma Mitchell Wilson, 97, died July 28 in Sarasota, Fla. In 1928, Wilson began teaching music at the UI and at University High School, where she was the director of the Women’s Chorus. In 1941, she became a full-time faculty member at the UI School of Music and later was named chairman of the Music Education Division Memorials. Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 7950 Tamarind Trail South, Sarasota, FL 34231 or to the Kitchell Memorial Library.

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