

Phones Continued from Page 1

experienced so far are normal construction problems." Ybarra said.

"Luckily the crews on campus have been really good." he said.

Once the system is in place. Ybarra said the University will become its own phone company providing service to campus facilities, including the dorms.

Dorm residents who have private phones will be billed by the University for basic service instead of by US West Communications, which is the local phone company. Long distance service will continue to be provided by outside companies.

Unlike US West, however, the University's "phone company" will not be regulated by any state agency because service is only being provided to the campus community, Ybarra said.

In addition to laying the new phone cables, crews are installing a fiber optic line that will provide future service in video communication, said Rod Bowman, construction coordinator.

Although the fiber optic line will not be used immediately. Bowman said it is less expensive in the long run to install the fiber along with the new phone lines.

The University has hired a telecommunications manager to run the system, and Ybarra said an additional 10 to 12 people will be needed to staff the Telecommunications Services office. The office has an estimated annual budget of \$1.8 million.

Ybarra said the system will net the University an estimated

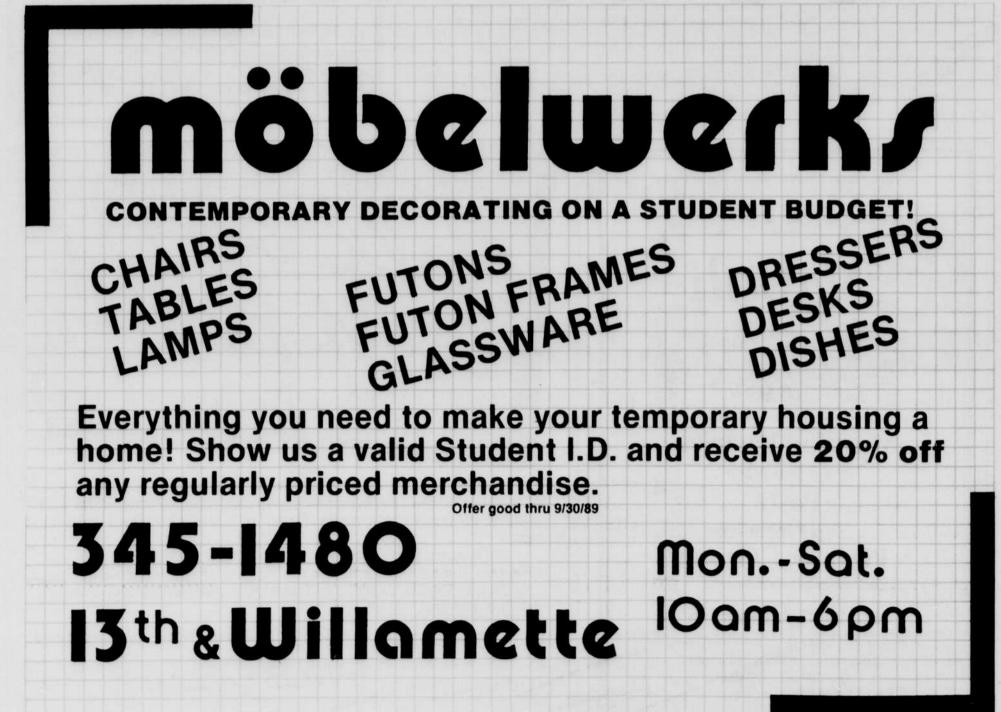


Crews working on installing the University's new phone system are reported to be on track for the system's expected February debut.

\$2.9 million in revenues, mostly through students, within 12 years.

Moreover, rates for basic services are expected to be competitive with other phone companies, he said.

The remainder of the project consists of installing the 10 miles of cable that will connect campus facilities to the system headquarters in Oregon Hall.



Page 24

Thursday, September 28, 1989