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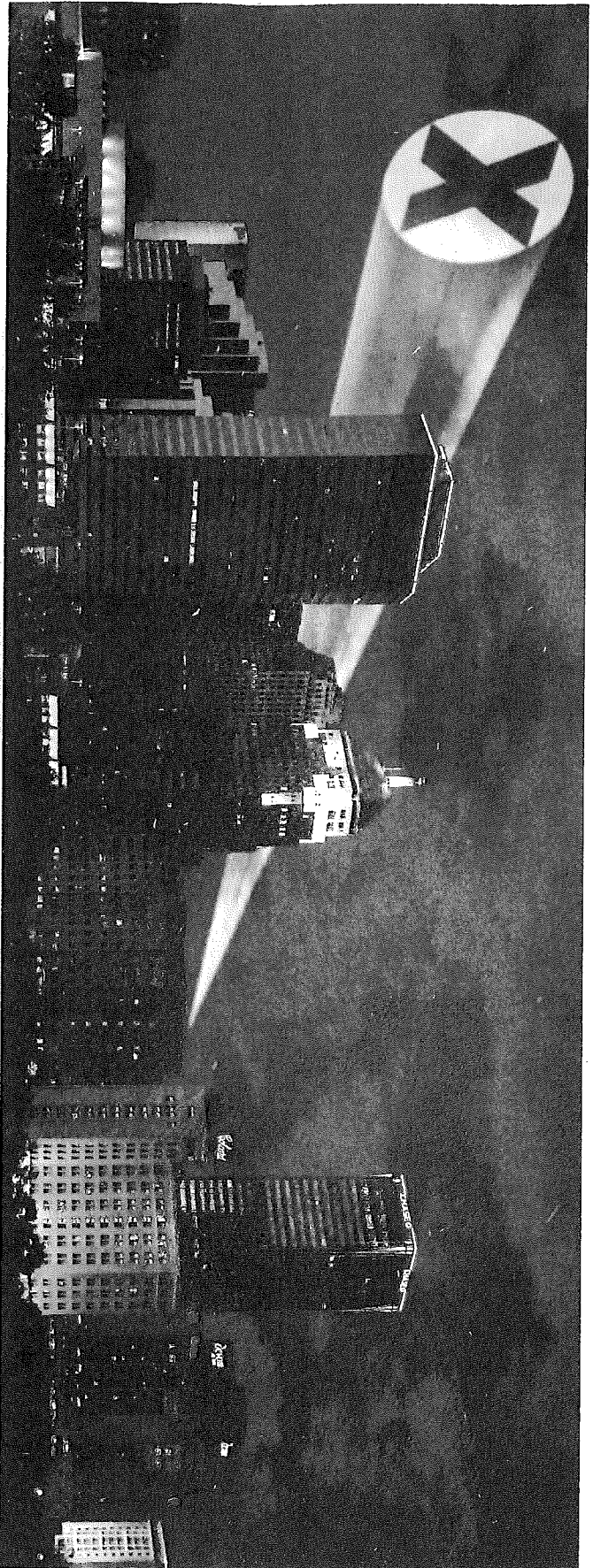
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SHANNON CORNMAN

THEY WERE THE FIRST GENERATION of latchkey kids. Many grew up in single-parent households or with both parents away at work all day, resulting in independence learned early. They also witnessed the arrival of MTV, Atari and the Internet — where the pace is fast and the results

X-Gen

City leaders call on Gen-Xers to return home, prepare to assume leadership roles

BY LEA TERRY

but small enough that you can rise pretty quickly if you're determined to do so and have a work ethic and an interest in making our city a better place," Holt said. Furthermore, says City Manager Jim Couch, it's an easier city to break into than some of the more high-

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PRICING



Disaster call

Companies offer services for disaster recovery

BY DEAN ANDERSON

EVEN WHEN THE POWER WAS OFF IN December for hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans, a number of metro businesses were still up and running.

And some of them were tucked safely inside FullTel's Downtown Oklahoma City offices.

Jason Ayers is the vice president of operations at FullTel. He said when the power went off in Oklahoma, FullTel's business recovery systems went online.

Ayers said with Oklahoma's unpredictable weather, it just makes sense for businesses to employ some kind of contingency plan for everything from critical data all the way down to making sure the phone gets answered.

"Especially here in the Midwest in Tornado Alley," Ayers said. "And when there's no tornadoes, there's ice storms. What we have is a place you can bring some of your employees and get back up and operational."

Included in FullTel's voice and data services is offsite data backup.

The combination of phone service and data backup allows customers to show up to FullTel's office at 201 Robert S Kerr and use some of the 20 dedicated customer workstations.

December's ice storm taught Ayers that some clients didn't necessarily need an offsite location, they simply needed their phones forwarded to employees who did have power at home.

For those customers, it was just a matter of pushing a button.

Several companies in the metro help make sure downtime doesn't turn into dollars lost.

NuVox Communications offers three main disaster services to

Clockwise from upper left, John Secondi, customer service manager, Jason Ayers, president of operations, and Art Rutledge, director of sales, in a FullTel customer work station. PHOTO/MARK HANCOCK


customers including server hosting at Tulsa and Oklahoma City locations for redundant connectivity, offsite data backup for critical information and call forwarding featuring Web portal access.

"As a communications provider focused primarily on local businesses, we understand the importance of redundant data backup, server protection and the ability to receive business-critical calls during any disaster," said Chris Benyo, NuVox Vice president of sales and marketing.

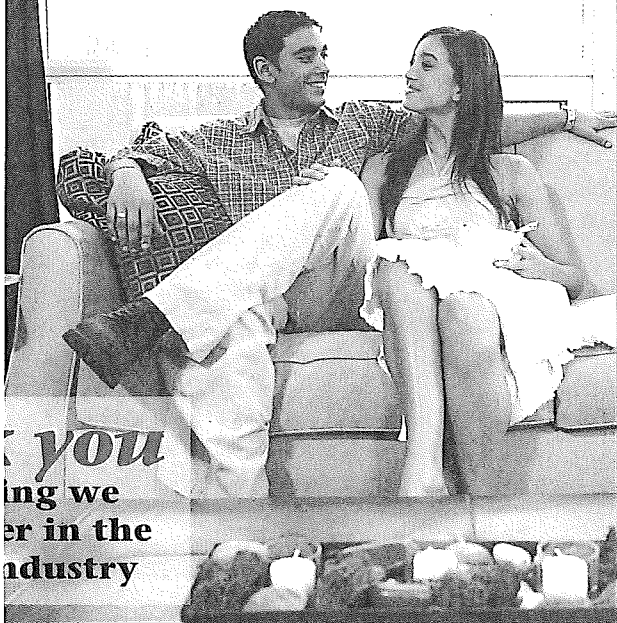
Cox Communications keeps their business clients running through redundant T1 lines that can automatically reroute up to 24 simultaneous calls when lines are busy or down.

Customers can also manually redirect calls to up to two backup locations whenever they choose through a simple touch-tone phone call.

"Our customers depend on us to keep their customers happy 24 hours a day and 365 a year," said Christine Martin, director of communications for Cox Oklahoma.

AT&T also offers its business clients a suite of services including mobile facilities across different markets and alternative workspace, as well as a number of different data security and backup packages. 

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