

TECHNOLOGY IN OUR LIVES

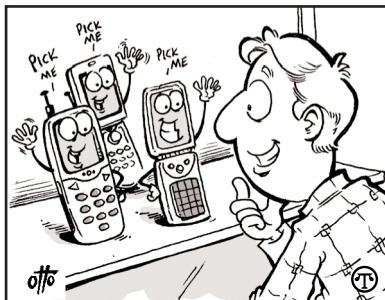
Choosing The Right Cell Phone Provider

(NAPSA)—Whether you want a high-tech cell phone with all the cool features or a more standard model for everyday use, it can be easy to make the right call when choosing a plan. Try these tips:

- **Network Coverage**—Good network coverage helps ensure that calls will go through and not be dropped. When choosing a carrier, experts say to look at network coverage maps provided on each company's Web site or in their retail stores. Use the Internet to find out what various consumer groups are reporting when it comes to network reliability. Talk to friends and family in the area about which wireless service they use. Find out if they are happy with the service and if they have reliable coverage.

- **Local, Nationwide or International**—Ask yourself how often you plan to call people in the local area, across the country or internationally. The answer will dictate the type of plan you need and can help you decide the number of minutes you're likely to use each month.

- **Additional Plan Benefits**—Most carriers offer various additional call plan options, such as free calls to other customers using the same carrier and family calling plans. For example, Verizon Wireless' America's Choice nationwide calling plan includes free calling to Verizon Wireless cus-



Doing a little homework can help you get the cell phone that best fits your needs.

tomers with IN Calling. The company's Family SharePlan lets families share monthly airtime allowance minutes with up to five phones on one plan.

- **Additional Services**—Wireless phones today are packed with so many great features, it's smart to plan ahead. Text Messaging, taking and sending pictures, accessing the Internet, and downloading games and applications are increasingly popular. Think about what services you may want in the future. That can help you choose from the wide selection of wireless products now available.

- **Additional Features**—Many wireless phones offer free additional features that can help give you peace of mind in an emergency. For example, Text Messaging capabilities let you quickly send and receive TXT Messages at all times.