TV-to-Go Dept.
John C. Dvorak

If you've been reading this column for the past few years, you know that I've been discussing mobile TV initiatives, many involving phone companies that will send you a special signal so you can watch TV on your handset. This will cost extra, of course, since all the phone companies want to do is nickel-and-dime you to death.

Now, the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) says it can shave off a small slice of the HDTV spectrum as a way of delivering a simultaneous and backward-compatible digital signal specifically for use on mobile devices. When finalized, this mobile TV spec will be called ATSC-H/M, and I'm assuming that the ability to receive these signals will be outside the purview of the phone companies, who must be scowling and grumbling about it. "Drat! Foiled again!"