

# Learn some keypad etiquette

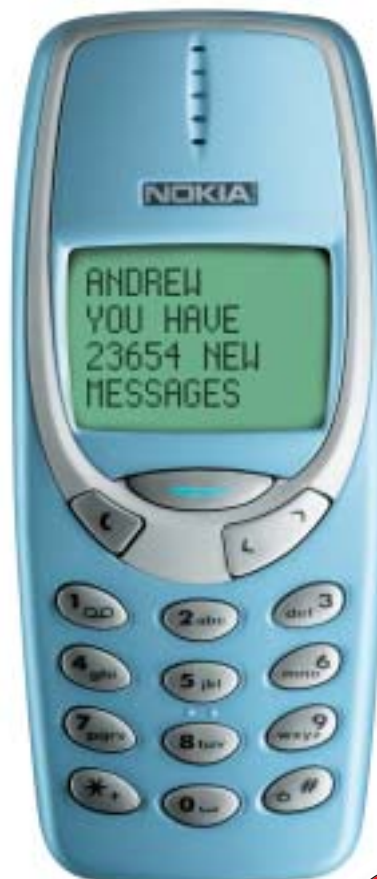
Sick of getting calls from the inside of your friends' briefcases? Or getting answerphone messages full of muffled conversations clearly not intended for you? You are not alone explains an exasperated Andrew Charlesworth

**R**anting about mobile phones is like shooting fish in a barrel. We've all heard arrogant dimwits shouting the details of their love lives or business dealings into a phone on a train or the street.

But this moan is different. This moan is personal. Last week my phone went off at 7.35am. The caller seemed to be among a group of people who had congregated in a bathroom and were discussing how early they'd had to get up in order to make their soon-to-start meeting. Well, that's nice. "Turn your phone off, Scottie!" I yelled hoarsely into my phone. But I was speaking to her briefcase.

I am tired of having conversations with the inside of friends' handbags and jacket pockets. I'm bored stiff of listening to sonorous voices from meetings, the rhythmic rattle of an empty railway carriage or the bright chatter from a winebar. I'm also fed up paying for the privilege of listening to five-minute wordless messages, punctuated by the piercing wail of a siren from the pavements of London.

Why me? Because my name unfortunately begins with A, so I'm top of many a friend's phone list. And when they lean repeatedly on the same button it's me they dial. So please, folks, learn to use the keypad lock on your phone. ■



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