# [***Land charges cheat cell phone customers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KH-0VS0-00K4-14P0-00000-00&context=1516831)

University Wire

January 2, 2003, Thursday

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**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 418 words

**Byline:** By Audrey Munsters, The Lanthorn

**Dateline:** Allendale, Mich.

**Body**

Like many other students on campus, I have a ***cell phone***. Recently, I received a bill from my wireless phone company for almost three times as much as my usual monthly bill. Upon calling Verizon, I found that certain land phones (such as home phones or business phones) are charging me to call them!

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This is outrageous! I was charged $ 0.20 per minute plus airtime to call home and many of my friends from home. Please keep in mind, only some land phones are charging ***cell phone*** companies, which in turn are charging me. To my disgust, this is perfectly legal also. It does not cost anything to a land phone company for me to call one of their customers, but they still charge me. Sounds a little fishy to me. The only reason I can conclude as to why phone companies would go this low to make up new charges is because ***cell phones*** companies are taking over land phone companies.

Then I looked at my most recent land phone bill, and for local calling only, it's about $ 30 a month! Sounds like land phones are making a hefty enough profit to me. But wait there's more! The story doesn't end there. I e-mailed some friends to warn them about this new charge, and got some interesting replies.

People with Nextels were not charged this new fee, even when they called the same numbers that I was charged the land phone fee for. This is ridiculous. Need I say more? I am being charged to call certain land phones, through my ***cell phone*** company, Verizon, when other companies are not charging their customers. For any of you who have dealt with Verizon before, I'm sure you understand how frustrating their billing process is. I have been a Verizon customer for almost 3 years, and have had to call on almost every billing because I've found a problem or had a question.

When I called on this last bill, the customer service representative happily erased the charges for me. Once again, sounds a little fishy since Verizon was supposedly charged this outrageous amount by the land phone company of the people I called. Now, with this new land phone charge only being charged to Verizon wireless customers, I'm getting questionable about the company. The company may actually be being charged by land phones, so land phones company managers can still afford their 7 BMW's even with the ***cell phone*** business booming and the land phone business declining. This is only my opinion, but with the facts I've gathered, I feel cheated by Verizon. Please check your bills, too.

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**Load-Date:** January 2, 2003

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