

## Avoiding Unwanted Calls

By Sarmad Ali

**The Problem:** Getting unwanted calls for weeks or months after listing the number in a classified ad.

**The Solution:** Set up a "disposable" phone number on the Internet sites myclassadd.com, myprivateline.com or myadbox.com.

To sign up for a temporary number, you create an account by giving your name, your phone number and your credit-card number to pay for however many minutes you'd like.

The service costs 15 cents a minute. For \$5, you can use the service for about 30 minutes.

You then get a temporary 800 number. All calls made to the 800 number will automatically be routed to your private phone. When a caller responds to the 800 number in a classified ad, a message appears on the receiver's personal phone screen saying that the call is from the service.

Users can go online to add more minutes to keep the account active longer, or they can just call customer service and cancel the 800 number when it's no longer needed.