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MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ Los Angeles Times

WAITING FOR A CHANCE

Job seekers line up outside the Faith Dome at Crenshaw Christian Center for a job fair that columnist Sandy Banks describes as a combination church revival and political summit. Speakers offered practical advice and hope to thousands of attendees, but desperation was in the air as well. **PAGE A2**

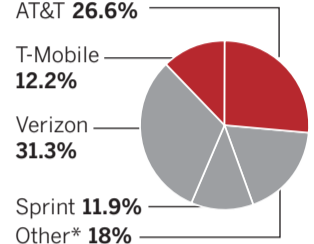
U.S. fears lost jobs if AT&T merger OKd

Antitrust concerns are not the only factor behind the federal challenge of the T-Mobile takeover.

DAVID SARNO
REPORTING FROM
LOS ANGELES
DAVID G. SAVAGE
REPORTING FROM
WASHINGTON

Mobile market

U.S. wireless market share, in January:



*Includes Cricket, MetroPCS, TracFone and U.S. Cellular
Source: ComScore

The Justice Department's lawsuit challenging AT&T Inc.'s \$39-billion takeover of T-Mobile USA Inc. was based on worries that consumers would be hit with higher prices, worse wireless service and dwindling mobile phone options.

But administration officials acknowledged that another concern colored the decision: jobs.

Combining AT&T and T-Mobile could lead to the loss of as many as 20,000 jobs as redundant positions are eliminated, putting a drag on unemployment in the wireless sector for years.

That's not exactly the kind of news President Obama wants as he rolls out a new initiative next week to boost employment, including an address to a joint session of Congress. The sour state of the economy stands as the single biggest obstacle to Obama's reelection.

"The view that this administration has is that through innovation and through competition, we create jobs," said Deputy Atty. Gen. James M. Cole at a press conference Wednesday announcing the lawsuit to block the merger. "We see this as a move that will help protect jobs in the economy, not a move that's going to in any way reduce them."

Beyond the short-term layoffs, critics say the merger could lead to a less competitive U.S. wireless industry, where the remaining companies spend less to build and improve their networks, sapping the demand for thousands of technicians and engineers.

In a presentation on the merger in March, AT&T said that it expected to save more than \$10 billion in "avoided

David Lazarus

Uncle Sam has at last awoken to the idea that bigger may not be better when it comes to phone service. **BUSINESS, B1**

purchases and investments" related to its wireless network, and that it would cut another \$10 billion out of its budget for call centers and customer billing — both major employment areas for telecom companies.

"The job losses would be felt immediately" as AT&T eliminated redundant positions after a merger, said Derek Turner of Free Press, a media advocacy organization. But as investment slowed in the construction and maintenance of cellular networks, he said, the demand for labor in the wireless industry would shrink.

[See AT&T, A15]

9/11, TEN YEARS AFTER | THE ACADEMIC FRONT

Opportunity born of tragedy

Homeland security is now a popular area of study at U.S. colleges

SCOTT GOLD
REPORTING FROM
WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.

A few weeks ago, 24-year-old Amanda Stirrat completed her master's degree in public health at Purdue University. Most of her peers struggled to find work. As for Stirrat?

"The job market seemed easy," she said with a shrug.

She credited her studies in Purdue's extensive homeland security program for quickly landing her a job to help coordinate Indiana's response to large-scale public emergencies. Purdue gave her the chance to work with retired military officers and other security specialists to write a thesis on disaster preparedness. The expertise set her apart, she said.

The 2001 terrorist attacks ushered in a major shift on American college campuses — tragedy giving way, 10 years later, to innovation and opportunity.

Today, domestic security has become, by some measures, the fastest-growing area of study, fueled largely by an explosion in federal money. Scores of programs have popped up, from



SCOTT GOLD Los Angeles Times

NEW APPLICATIONS: Student Christian Barrett strolls through a computer-generated world of avatars at Purdue. Researchers hope to use the technology to better understand people's response to attacks.

community colleges to graduate schools. Thousands of students across the country are enrolled in courses that didn't exist a few years ago — delving into the psychology of terrorists and rogue regimes, and here in Indiana, studying emergency re-

sponse by simulating mass-casualty disasters at the site of the Indianapolis 500.

Entire disciplines that had lost relevance have been resurrected. Some microbiology programs were folding [See Colleges, A12]



MARK MAGNIER Los Angeles Times

IN NEW DELHI: A repairman at Chawla Typewriters reconditions a Godrej and Boyce manual machine.

COLUMN ONE

Typing unplugged in modern India

Outdated forms and electricity limitations ensure the tapping and dinging go on.

MARK MAGNIER
REPORTING FROM NEW DELHI

It's a stultifying afternoon outside the Delhi District Court as Arun Yadav slides a sheet of paper into his decades-old Remington and revs up his daily 30-word-a-minute tap dance.

Nearby, hundreds of other workers clatter away on manual typewriters amid a sea of broken chairs and wobbly tables as the occasional wildlife thumps on

the leaky tin roof above. "Sometimes the monkeys steal the affidavits," Yadav said. "That can be a real nuisance."

The factories that make the machines may be going silent, but India's typewriter culture remains defiantly alive, fighting on bravely against that omnipresent upstart, the computer. (In fact, if India had its own version of "Mad Men," with its perfumed typing pools and swaggering execs, it might not be set in the 1960s but the early 1990s, India's peak typewriter years, when 150,000 machines were sold annually.)

Credit for its lingering presence goes to India's infamous bureaucracy, as enamored as ever of out-

[See India, A4]

Emails hid a sinister secret

Christopher Smith was on an African adventure, friends and relatives thought. Then the fear came.

RICHARD WINTON

Last summer, Christopher Ryan Smith emailed family and friends with exciting news: He was embarking on an African adventure.

Over the next few months, his emails recounted the highlights. One

day he was paragliding near Johannesburg. On another, he was sand boarding in "huge mines" in South Africa where the "sand was softer than snow powder."

In December, the 32-year-old Internet executive from Laguna Beach announced that he was going to Congo and Rwanda. Then, abruptly, all communication stopped.

His worried family in Oregon called U.S. authorities and launched an international hunt, fearing he might have run into trouble in the war-torn region.

But Orange County au-

thorities now say Smith was never in Africa; in fact, he was already dead. They say he was killed inside his office in San Juan Capistrano by his business partner, Edward Younghoon Shin, who used Smith's email account to send the messages.

Shin was arrested earlier this week and charged with Smith's killing. The charges capped an investigation that began several months ago.

The family is still reeling, trying to understand what happened.

"Those emails were a [See Smith, A8]

Michele Bachmann is swarmed by media and adoring fans as she blazes the campaign trail in Iowa seeking the Republican presidential nomination. But there is still a place where the three-term Minnesota congresswoman looks lonely — Capitol Hill.

The telegenic politician has reached a national audience largely without the aid of the party apparatus, and that strategy has not endeared her to many of her colleagues. Her attempt to break into leadership failed. She works closely with a small group of like-minded conservatives, but rarely forms alliances outside of that network. Her legislative record is limited, highlighted by passage of non-controversial resolutions (honoring Minnesota's 150th anniversary) and early introduction of hot-button conservative proposals that seize the spotlight.

President Obama, who ran for the White House during his first term as a U.S. senator from Illinois, was also accused of having a scant legislative record. With its firm hierarchy, Congress is a difficult place to rack up accomplishments quickly — or to launch a presidential bid. But what sets Bachmann apart is how her legislative colleagues view her.

It is difficult to find Republicans willing to discuss her on the record. House leaders have kept their distance and rarely rewarded her with legislative responsibilities. Bachmann was recently criticized by other Republicans in a private meeting where members blamed [See Bachmann, A9]



GARY FRIEDMAN L.A. Times

An empty feeling in Chavez Ravine

Wednesday's anemic crowd reflects a Dodgers franchise that has finally hit rock bottom, writes Bill Plaschke. **SPORTS, C1**

Amazon.com offers a tax compromise

The Internet giant would bring jobs to California if the state puts its law on hold pending uniform federal legislation. **BUSINESS, B1**

For NASA, movie is the wrong stuff

The agency, which often consults on film projects, steered clear of the fact-challenged "Apollo 18." **CALENDAR, D1**



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