

## cutting edge



KRT

### Selfless sodas

Ready for your annual gross-out? Invite your friends over and dare them to try Jones Soda's Holiday Pack.

This year's pack includes Turkey & Gravy, Wild Herb Stuffing, Brussels Sprout, Cranberry and Pumpkin Pie sodas. Proceeds from the national pack, available only at Target (\$10.95), go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Also, be on the lookout for a regional pack (\$12.95), which contains a bottle of Turkey & Gravy and four different "sides," the oddest of which has to be Smoked Salmon soda. (Mmm ... liquefied salmon flavor. Our favorite!) The regional pack (find a store on Jones-Soda.com) benefits Toys for Tots.

We actually taste-tested every flavor in the national pack. But we'll let you decide for yourself which tastes the worst ... er, best. Just remember: It's for a good cause!



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### Stocking stuffers

Habbo Hotel has a cool new way you can buy virtual money, in the form of a prepaid gift card. Each \$10 card, available at CVS drugstores, is worth 50 Habbo Coins.

Habbo Hotel ([www.habbohotel.com](http://www.habbohotel.com)), for the uninitiated, is a virtual hangout for teens 13 and up. Teens can create their own customized characters, chat with friends and celebrities, play games, go to parties and even decorate their own rooms. While access to the Web site is free, virtual money can be used to buy stuff to help you in your Habbo world.

Now, buying add-ons to games is nothing new for this generation, but your parents may not understand the point of spending real money to buy virtual money. But, put simply, it's entertainment. And \$10 probably will bring you more hours of entertainment than heading to a movie on a Saturday night. More bang for your buck — that's what we like.

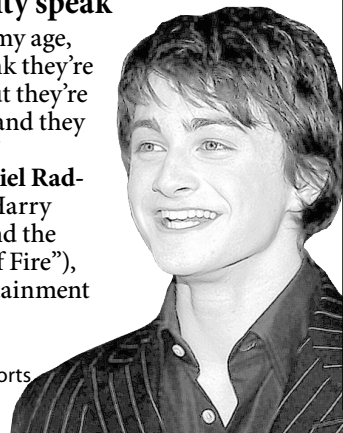
Spend wisely, Habbos!

### Celebrity speak

"Guys my age, they think they're suave, but they're rubbish and they know it."

— **Daniel Radcliffe** ("Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"), in Entertainment Weekly

— Wire reports



P L U G G E D

What's that you're listening to? Is it the coolest new song or an audio version of your science book?

Whatever's being pumped through teens' headphones, it's likely being done via an iPod. These tiny music players, which allow listeners to cram the contents of hundreds of CDs into a gadget scarcely bigger than a credit card, are revolutionizing the way the world hears music.

Teens are just one part of the massive iPod user community, but having grown up with a parade of mind-boggling technology — Apple already had launched its first home computers by the time today's teens were born — they're helping drive the race for newer, better portable music options.

Teenagers listen to a lot of music. Some listen to relieve the stress of school, some while exercising and others while driving. A CD player in the car allows teens to listen to their favorite tunes wherever they go. But after a while, carrying 50 CDs is a pain. MP3 players eliminate the bulk.

"I can take it (my iPod) anywhere and it doesn't skip," said Caroline Anaskievich, 17, a senior at Hanahan High School.

Her 4-gigabyte green iPod Mini, which holds about 1,000 songs, is full. Plus, she has more songs downloaded to the accompanying iTunes program on her computer that don't fit on her tiny iPod.

For some, that might pose a dilemma: Is it time to upgrade? If so, users barely

have enough time to click through their playlists before Apple comes out with its latest iPod. Most recently, the company launched one that allows users to watch video — there's a slew of music videos available for download, plus episodes of hit TV shows such as "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives" — as well as store 15,000 songs and 25,000 photos.

You'd think all that might at least hold over today's high schoolers until they hit college, but with the pace at which the technology's speeding along, that's unlikely.

Tommy Kelechi, 14, a freshman at Bishop England High School, is on his second iPod Mini. His first one had a bad battery, so he sent it back to Apple and got a new one. It's full to the brim with songs, and except when he's in class, Tommy's attached to his iPod most of the day.

"I listen to it when I sleep and when I'm on the bus," Tommy said. He also listens to it while he sits in the family hot tub.

Although on-the-go music was the initial draw for iPod users, many teens are becoming iPod superusers, pushing the little player to the very limits of its capability by using it to store other media and keep them organized.

Sarah Hightower and Charles Spire, both seniors at Hanahan High, use their iPods to store projects and data files. For some, the diehard iPod reliance is a family affair: Charles'

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### Teens push their iPods to the edge

BY ZACH LAMB  
INK Contributor

## Music file sharing could be costly even for teens

BY JUSTIN DEROSA  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Despite the threat of lawsuits and hefty penalties, many teens continue to download music onto their PCs illegally through peer-to-peer networks. Some seem not to realize that what they're doing is illegal, while others rationalize that file sharing should be legal.

Rheanna Piazza, a sophomore at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara, Calif., stores her favorite songs — 700 of them — on her hard drive. About half of those tunes came from CDs she purchased. The rest came from Kazaa, an online service that allows users to share music for free.

But music lovers like Piazza risk not a mere slap on the wrist, but up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 penalty. Additionally, the copyright holder may sue for up to \$150,000 for each pirated work. File-sharers may be targeted regardless of whether they sold or gave

away any tunes.

Like many teens, Piazza said she is aware that most file sharing is illegal, although she did not know the penalties if caught. When informed about them, she called the possible consequences "ridiculous. The penalty shouldn't be that severe," she said. "If you downloaded one whole CD, it wouldn't be worth \$250,000. You would have to send this CD to 16,666 people, keeping in mind that the average CD is \$15."

Many teens find the temptation of file sharing too convenient to pass up. Downloading is easy, instant and, some teens say, addictive. And many believe the penalties are unfair.

Savonna Stender, a junior at Liberty Baptist High School in San Jose, Calif., said it would be a waste of tax dollars to jail illegal downloaders. She says she believes that copyright law should be used to prevent intellectual property theft among musicians, not to penalize people for sharing the music. As for

the artists, she said, "It's not like they don't have millions of dollars in the first place." Instead of pursuing those who file-share, she said they should "go help Katrina victims and do something useful."

Still other teens, such as Justin Neff, use P2P networks to sample single tracks of albums. "If I download a song or borrowed a CD from my friend and I genuinely like it, I would buy the CD," said Neff, a junior at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, Calif.

But even though many teens may believe that sampling is not really stealing, the law says otherwise. It is just as illegal to download a single track as it is to download a whole CD.

Many teens use AOL Instant Messenger to send and receive music files from friends, possibly an illegal practice. Some believe that online stores such as iTunes make it too difficult for teens to

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Teens can download songs legally on iTunes for 99 cents each.



Paul Bowers

## The iPod continually evolves

Size matters to my generation. The next great sport-utility vehicle likely will be large enough to trap a Mazda Miata in its gravitational field, and the latest music player is almost tiny enough to pose a choking hazard. It's so small, they couldn't even capitalize its name.

The millionaire wizards at Apple have done it again: They've taken the market-dominating iPod and reinvented it. The iPod nano is a pencil-thin technological improbability, holding 500 to 1,000 songs on a flash drive roughly the size of a business card. Critics laud its high-quality output, intuitive interface and uncluttered controls — all features of the original iPod, but now on a smaller scale.

Just weeks after launching the nano, Apple unleashed yet another music gizmo, this time an iPod that plays videos on its tiny but crystal-clear screen. Now that it's possible to watch "Lost" on your iPod, the nano already seems less cool by comparison. And the now-discontinued iPod Mini, with its array of gleaming colors, is a veritable antique.

The iPod no doubt is an icon of the modern American teenager. Ask a random 16-year-old to identify a picture of Condoleezza Rice, and he may have some trouble. But show him a snapshot of the iPod's minimalist faceplate, and his eyes likely will pop out of his head as he recognizes the glossy white finish, slick-looking scroll wheel and vivid color display.

He may even drool a little bit. The appeal of Apple's music machines is simple: They're sleek, slender, sexy little noisemakers. Load them up with tunes — and now, videos and photos — that define you, and click away.

Now that they're cuter and tinier, even more listeners are bound to join the iPod cult, just as people have lined up for super-thin laptops and Chicklet-size cell phones.

Needless to say, the nano is the next big thing (so to speak). But then again, so was the recently released iPod Shuffle ... and the now-extinct iPod Mini ... and the original iPod, launched only four years ago.

As the company releases one MP3 marvel after another, Apple CEO Steve Jobs's master plan is becoming increasingly evident. Before one gadget has a chance to become obsolete, he pays his engineers to design a better mousetrap, replete with cutting-edge bells and whistles, and releases it to the eager masses.

The evolution of the iPod follows a trend that's been going on for years. As soon as the public declares a technology "cool" (cell phones, SUVs and big-screen TVs, to name just a few), a company will create something far more appealing (video camera phones, Hummers and wall-mounted plasma screens).

If a modern consumer truly wants to keep up with the technology curve, he'd better keep all his receipts. Maybe then, he can trade in his toys a month later when they're already outdated.

The nano may reap a new harvest of iPod addicts, but some diehards will never give up on the trusty old compact disc.

It's not that they fear the new technology; it's just that they're content with what they have. Their peers may call them old-fashioned or Amish, but is that really such a bad thing?

Let's put things in perspective for a second: In Third World nations, families live in cardboard shacks with no electricity or running water. Now, would they prefer a nano or a Shuffle? Black or white finish?

Entertainment technology is evolving at a brisk pace, and it isn't likely to slow down anytime soon.

Chances are, you'll never be able to keep up. So rather than running to Best Buy and maxing out a credit card or two, it might be a good idea just to learn to be content.

In fact, it might be time to switch back to vinyl.

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