

## MP3 players taking over lives and hearing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOULDER, Colo. — Ryan Cusick says he spends more time listening to his iPod than he is awake.

That's because he goes to sleep listening to music.

Within minutes of waking up, Cusick, 18, clutches his iPod, pops in his earphones and plays some fast-paced music to get his day rocking. Something with strong drumbeats—maybe Metallica, said the University of Colorado freshman.

He falls asleep listening to slower, alternative rock, and he usually wakes up in the middle of the night to pull the plug on the music. By then, songs are stuck in his head and play in his dreams.

The digital audio players are almost essential accessories for high school and college students. If a visitor from another planet were to land on CU's campus, it might wonder what the white tenta-

cle-like things are that seem to hang from young people's ears.

One professor says the iPod addiction isn't much different from the Walkman fad of the 1980s. A hearing expert says much like the Walkmans, the pulsating beats thumping into people's ears through iPods could lead to hearing loss.

For Cusick, though, silence is a distraction.

"It becomes second nature to have music playing all the time," he said. "I feel uncomfortable when it's quiet. It's like silence is deafening."

Disco music accompanies him while he jogs and in large lectures with 300-plus students, he leaves an earplug in his right ear to listen to Radiohead and uses his left ear to listen to his professor.

"You walk around campus, and it's like every third person has the white earplugs in," Cusick said. "You'll see a group of friends, and none of

them are talking. It's like they are off in space."

Adam Pasha, a CU freshman who listens to music on his iPod only a couple of hours a day, notices the same trend.

"Everyone seems to have one," he said. "It's like an iPod and a Nalgene bottle are college necessities."

Lauren De La Cerda, also a freshman, is going through iPod withdrawal. Her unit fell from her desk and broke. She had downloaded about 1,200 songs downloaded on her iPod, including classic rock and country music.

"I'm really bummed," she said. "That was like all my music."

James Brody, a CU professor who teaches a course titled Music in the Rock Era, and has been teaching at the university for about two decades said that what goes around comes around.

"There's been a cycle, in my view, of portable electronic equipment," Brody said.

## ACLU says race motivated S.C. police background checks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The leader of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says assumptions that led to South Carolina's criminal background checks of Hurricane Katrina evacuees are racially motivated.

"The assumption that when you go out to rescue a bunch of poor, black people, that they are going to be criminals, is racist," said Kevin Gray, president of the S.C. chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. "The only plan they ever seem to have for poor people is a jail plan."

"We want to uphold everyone's constitutional rights," State Law Enforcement Division Chief Robert Stewart said. "But if someone is coming into a home with a family, they would probably want to know if that person is on the sex offender registry or is a violent criminal."

SLED estimates blacks accounted for 80 percent of the evacuees screened. Stewart says his agency had no part in choosing who federal officials loaded on planes bound for South Carolina. "Our only intent was the safety of the survivors and the citizens of this state."

SLED screened 547 evacuees and found 301 with

criminal records for minor and major offenses, including burglaries, assaults and rape, SLED Inspector Richard Hunton said.

"Most of it was old and minor offenses, larceny and drug charges from the '70s and '80s," Stewart said.

Screenings turned up two men with warrants outstanding for burglaries in other states. But they were released because Oregon and Washington state didn't want to extradite them, Stewart said.

The screening involved only those evacuated by federal authorities to Columbia and Greenville. That's only a fraction of the estimated 6,000 Gulf Coast residents now staying in South Carolina.

"What we don't know about are (evacuees) who have come into the state on their own or had some church or civic group bring them in," Stewart said.

The screenings were "done for everyone's protection," Hunton said. "It was done both to allow the evacuees to know they may have someone dangerous in their midst as well as for the benefit of the community assisting them," Hunton said.

SLED used whatever identification or information the evacuees could provide.

Other states fingerprinted those without identification so criminal record checks could be run and photo IDs issued.

In West Virginia, only one of the 350 evacuees had a valid identification card. State police there found nearly half of the evacuees had a criminal record, including 77 people who had been convicted of at least one violent offense, state police Lt. Col. Stephen Tucker said.

In Massachusetts authorities found a man wanted on a rape charge among the 200 Katrina evacuees who landed at a military base on Cape Cod and took him into custody. Katie Ford, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts public safety office, said two others left the state while authorities were reviewing whether they needed to register as sex offenders.

The evacuees likely would have faced checks when they sought housing. For instance, some building owners are requesting checks as they provide housing, the Trident United Way in Charleston said. And the Charleston Housing Authority, now helping 32 families, regularly conducts criminal background checks on all prospective tenants.

## After-school Broadway Junior Tour

By David D. Dawson  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

When the Blumenthal Performing Arts Education Institute and Music Theatre International partnered to kick off the 25-week national tour for MIT's After-School Special "Broadway Junior on Tour", seeds were planted. Then dreams came alive in nearly 1,000 elementary and middle school kids, to become Broadway actors or theatrical technicians.

In a live stage show, teachers and student were introduced to elements of three musicals from the MTI Education Collection. Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man* Junior, Zina Goldrich and Marcy Heisler's, *"Dear Edwina Junior"* and the Stephen Sondheim-James Lapin musical, *"Into the Woods Junior."* The tour is designed to educate, empower and entertain parents, teachers and students about the process of putting on a musical. The tour started this week in Charlotte and will visit more than 100 U.S. cities.

"In this audience you may see the next big actor, big producer, the next big director, the next big writer, the next big composer, set designer and lighting designer," says Tim McDonald, MIT's director of education. "They are getting to see all the magic

and how it works a little bit. That's going to spark someone's interest."

Children learned the importance of teamwork and self-esteem as the musical showed that everyone's contribution to the show whether on or off stage makes the show a hit. To grab the children's interest, the writers and producers spiced the show up with contemporary terminology and situations.

"I think if you start with something contemporary, they can enjoy something classical. So by speaking the language of vocabulary,

whether it's dance or rhyme I think you get them hooked," said McDonald.

"We decided to write a story that went over the whole thing. It was through the story of the kids arguing over whom was going to play the lead, the actor thinking that the tech support was not important. We set up these conflicts to demonstrate that not one person can do all these things. It takes everybody working together," said producer Steve Gabriel.

Morenga Hunt, Blumenthal's vice president of

Please see AFTER /4B



PHOTO/BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Charlotte hosted to Broadway Jr.'s kick off Tuesday, marking the first time a national tour launched here.

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The Charlotte Post

## Center City Streetcar

PUBLIC MEETING

Please make plans to attend as CATS Center City Streetcar team unveils the recommended system plan for your corridor! We need you to take this opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan!

September 27, 2005

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center  
600 East Fourth Street

Room CH-18  
6:30 pm

Please consult the CATS Trip Planner at [www.ridetranst.org](http://www.ridetranst.org) for bus routes nearest the meeting locations.

ALL ABOARD!

- Beatties Ford Road Corridor
- Center City Corridor
- Central Avenue Corridor
- Elizabeth Avenue Corridor



For more information, call (704) 336-RIDE or visit [www.ridetranst.org](http://www.ridetranst.org).

## Healthy Lifestyles

Presbyterian HEALTHCARE

SEPTEMBER 2005

The Presbyterian Health Pavilion at Charlotte Shout's Culinary Experience will feature a full schedule of healthy talks and demonstrations. Topics include women and heart disease, the Mediterranean-American diet, cholesterol and cancer-proofing your diet. Test your nutrition knowledge and your health with the Wheel of Nutrition, blood pressure screenings and BMI checks. Enjoy massages, learn about Presbyterian's Eat Your Heart Out cookbook and get exercise tips. 9/23-9/24, Gateway Village.

**CHARLOTTE SHOUT CULINARY EXPERIENCE**

Call 704-384-CARE to register for all classes unless otherwise indicated.

### Help for Knee & Hip Pain

Advanced treatments, nutrition, medications, exercise. Free.  
Thurs., 9/8, 10-11 a.m., PHM

### Weight Loss Surgery

Learn about surgical weight loss options.  
Surgical Solutions, Wed., 9/7, 6-8 p.m., PH  
Lap Band, Wed., 9/21, 6-8 p.m., PH  
Gastric Bypass, Tues., 9/27, 6-8 p.m., PH

### Update on Prostate Cancer Treatments

Panel discussion with physicians and pharmacist. Registration required.  
Mon., 9/12, 6-9 p.m., BKCH

### Take Off a Ton in 10 Weeks

Presbyterian's proven weight loss program. \$100/person fee includes materials, body analysis and more. Meets Tuesdays.  
9/13-11/15, 7:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., PCPC

### Your Health as You Age

Mark Heitbrink, M.D., Mint Hill Family Practice, will discuss the effects of aging, preventive screenings, the aging body. \$7/person, includes lunch. Pre-registration and pre-payment required.  
Wed., 9/21, 12-1 p.m., PHM

### Plan for Future Medical Care Decisions

An advance care planner will discuss the living will and health care power of attorney, who needs them and why.  
Thurs., 9/22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., PH  
Wed., 9/28, 12-1 p.m., PHM (bring your lunch or buy it in the hospital cafe)

### Programs For Women & Families

Here are just a few of the many classes offered by Presbyterian for women and families. To register or to find out more about our complete schedule of programs, call 704-384-4949.

### Super Sitter Babysitting Class

For ages 11-13. \$30/person. Advance registration and payment required.  
Sat., 9/17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., PHM  
Sat., 9/24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Park Rd. YWCA  
Sat., 10/1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., PHM

### Infant Car Seat Class & Check

Free. Tues., 9/20, 7-9 p.m., PHM

### Pre-Hysterectomy Class

What to expect during and after surgery. \$10/person.  
Tues., 9/20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., PH

### Infant Massage

Three-class series. \$40 fee includes oil and handouts.  
Sept. 26, 28, 30, 10-11 a.m., PH

PHM Presbyterian Hospital Matthews PHH Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville  
PH Presbyterian Hospital PCPC Presbyterian Center for Preventive Cardiology  
POH Presbyterian Orthopaedic Hospital BKCH Presbyterian Center for Preventive Cardiology

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