

TECH FORECAST

Life & Style
predictions:

Must-have

Start saving! Stars are ready to snap up the cool

1 Phones that play music

Eva Longoria chats up a storm on her Motorola cell. It's time for her to trade up to something that can carry a tune!



REMOTE LISTENING

Rock out wirelessly! Store up to 500 songs on the phone and play them on Bluetooth-enabled headphones from up to 30 feet away. Motorola ROKR E2, not yet priced, motorola.com (available mid-2006)

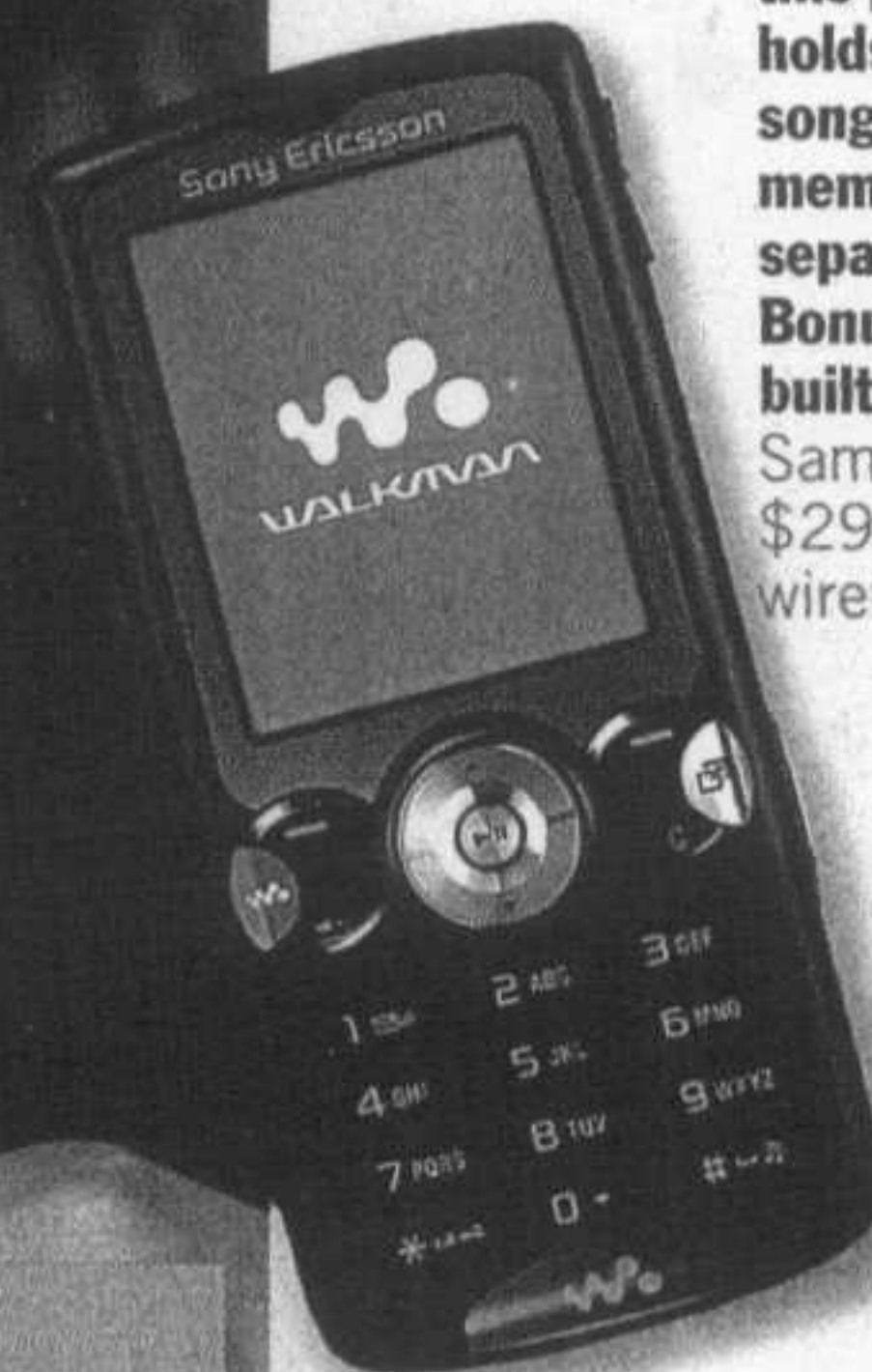
EASY TO USE

The wheel control feels like an iPod on this phone, which holds up to 500 songs (with a \$65 memory card, sold separately). Bonus: It has built-in speakers! Samsung a950, \$299, verizonwireless.com



BIG SCREEN

This sleek Walkman, with its 1.9" screen for videos, pictures and games, can be upgraded to 2 gigabytes of memory — enough for 5,000 songs! Sony Ericsson W810, not yet priced, sonyericsson.com (available spring 2006)



TIPS What every new cell should have



John Biggs, news editor of gadget Web site Gizmodo.com, gives the 411 on essential features for new mobiles:

- **A DECENT CAMERA:** Get at least 1 or 2 megapixels. If the phone has a VGA camera (the lowest quality available) pass on it.
- **E-MAIL:** On the go a lot? Consider a phone with e-mail capabilities. The prices are getting more and more competitive!
- **WEB SURFING:** Phones with Internet access are the wave of the future. Each provider has a different monthly fee for this service.

HOT ACCESSORY

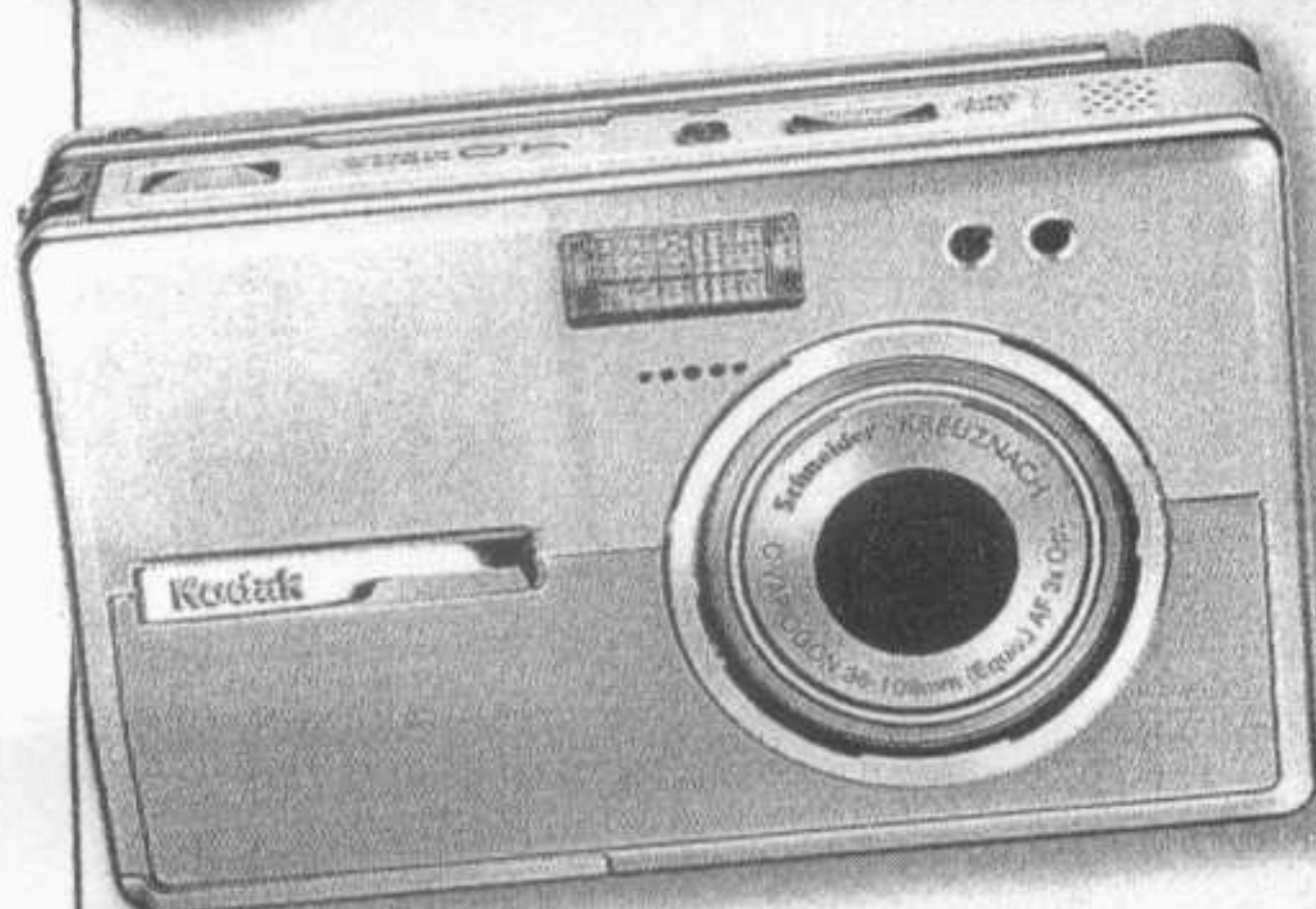
CHARGE ON THE GO
Dead batteries are so last year, thanks to this 3" portable charger, which provides juice for up to two hours of talk time. Best of all, it's reusable! Turbo Charge, \$20, turbocellcharge.com



gadgets for 2006

toys that are this year's answer to the iPod

2 Cameras that e-mail photos



▲ SNAP AND SEND

This 4-megapixel camera is the only one in the world that takes instantly e-mailable photos
Kodak EasyShare-One, \$599, kodak.com



▲ FOR THE NOVICE

This 8-megapixel cam has a built-in Wi-Fi system, which allows for wireless transfer to your desktop. And say goodbye to scary pupils — it also has a built-in red-eye fixer!
Nikon Coolpix P1, \$310, nikon.com



▶ CUTS THE CORD

This 5-megapixel shooter can snap a photo in one room, then beam it to a computer or printer next door using wireless technology
Canon PowerShot SD430, \$499, canon.com

HOT ACCESSORY

INSTA-PRINTS

Talk about instant gratification! In 80 seconds, you've got a real picture. Just insert the memory card into this easy-to-use personal photo lab, press print and — voilà!
Epson PictureMate Express Edition, \$149, mypicturemate.com



BIG IDEAS FOR TVs

Camera-speak made easy

MEGAPIXEL Indicates what the photo quality will be: The more megapixels, the better the picture. Experts recommend a camera with at least 3 or 4 megapixels — any more than 5 megapixels is almost pro quality.

MEMORY This is the number of pictures that can be stored on a reusable card in the camera at one time. Look for a card with at least 64 megabytes of memory — enough to store about 350 pictures.

LCD SCREEN Allows users to preview photos as soon as they're taken. Unappealing shots can be deleted instantly.

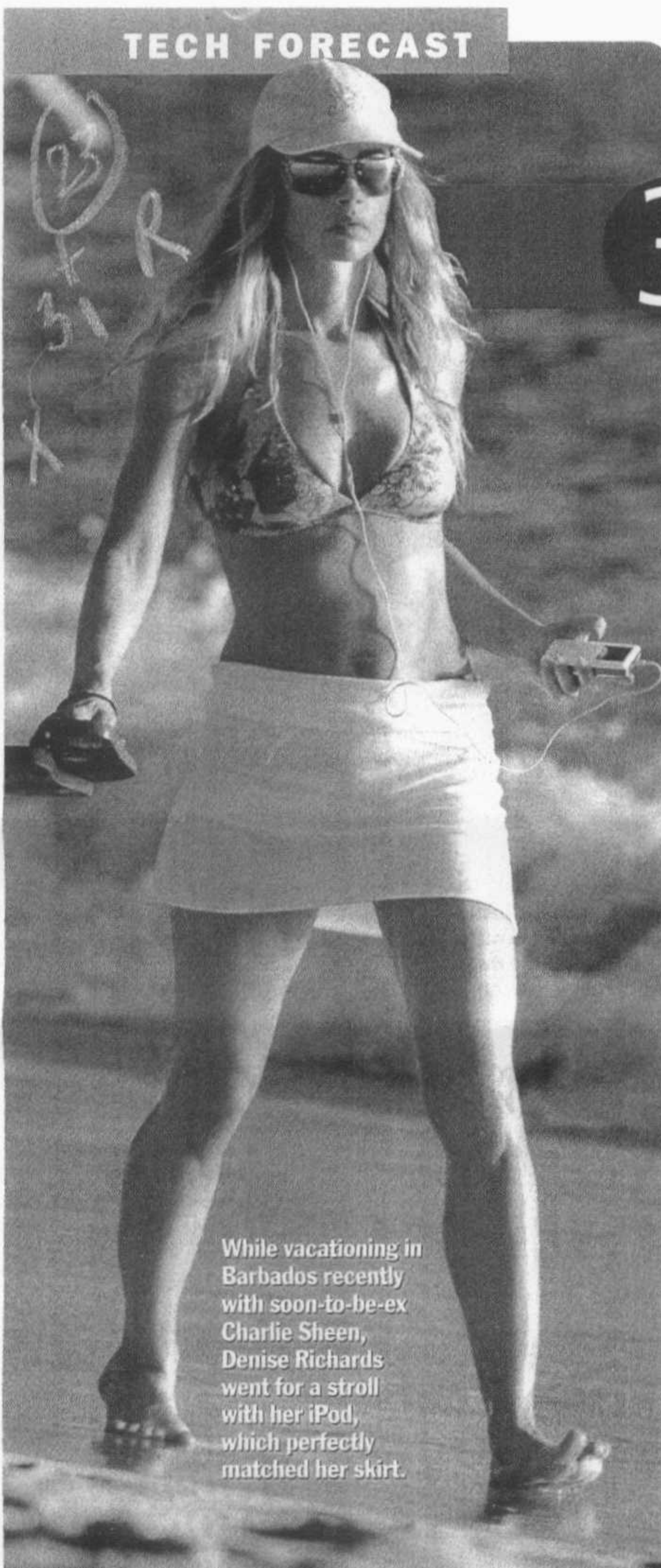
OPTICAL ZOOM Magnifies the subject to get shots that appear close-up. Avoid cameras with digital or electronic zoom, a gimmicky feature that makes a subject look closer but doesn't improve resolution, leading to fuzzy pics. If you mainly take group shots of people, you'll need less zoom (1x or 4x); if you're taking faraway shots, you'll need more (10x or 12x).



On Jan. 9, Sarah Jessica Parker snapped away as hubby Matthew Broderick got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

More amazing must-

3 Colorful fashion-forward MP3 players



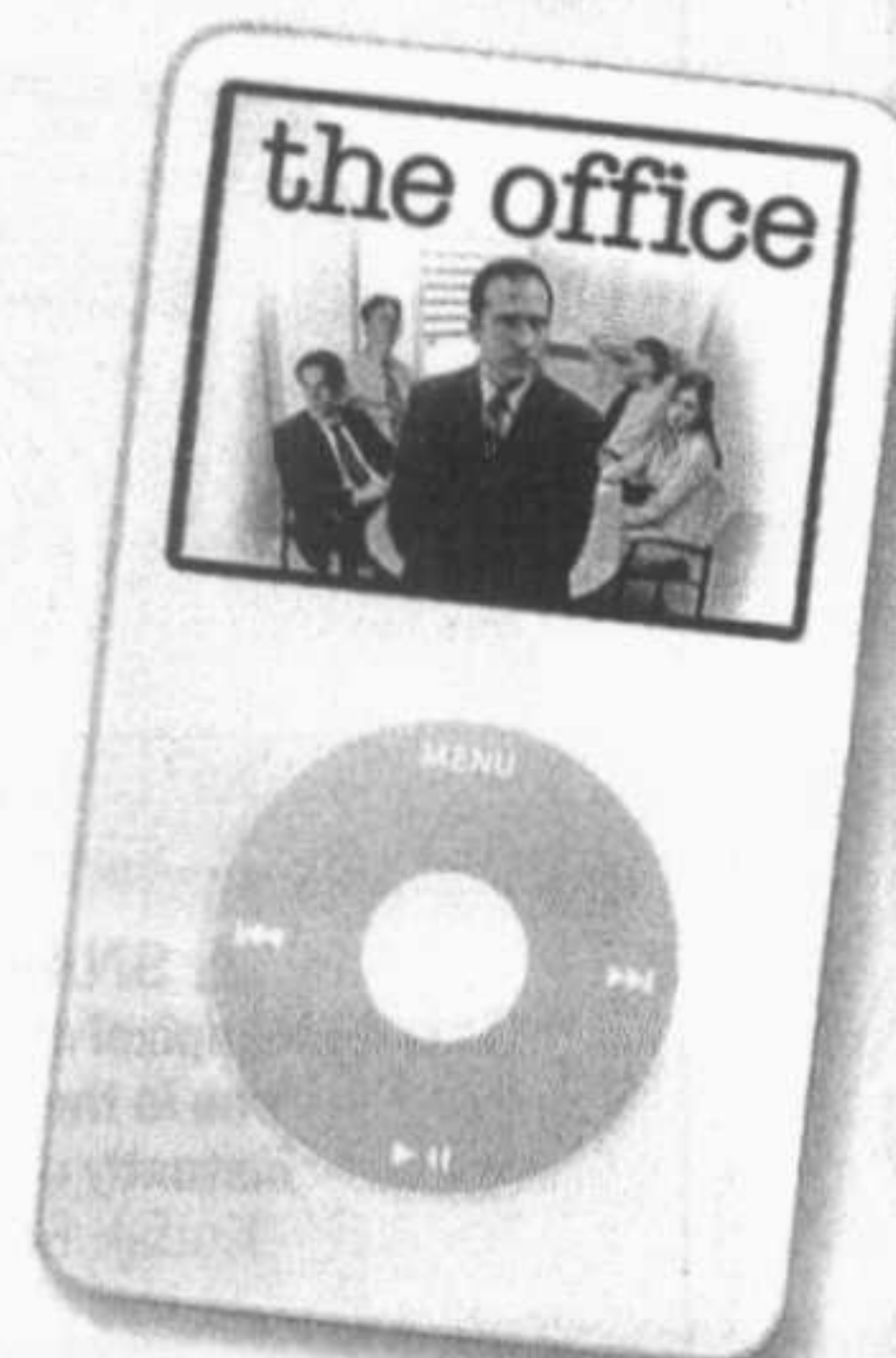
While vacationing in Barbados recently with soon-to-be-ex Charlie Sheen, Denise Richards went for a stroll with her iPod, which perfectly matched her skirt.



◀ FOR NEW USERS

This super-slim flash player weighs about 1.75 ounces and has 1 gigabyte of memory (enough to store about 125 songs). It's the perfect starter MP3 and can even be worn as a necklace — it's that stylish!

Toshiba Gigabeat, \$180, toshiba.com



▲ THE NEW CLASSIC

The latest iPod still goes with everything in your closet — and it holds 15,000 songs and comes with a 2.5" color screen, perfect for watching everything from music videos to *The Office*!

30GB Apple Video iPod, \$299, apple.com



◀ RAINBOW COLORS

This 30-gig cutie (it stores 15,000 songs) not only plays videos, it's pocket- and fashion-friendly; it also comes in blue, green, white and black. Creative Zen Vision: M, \$330, creative.com

Q: WHICH MP3 IS RIGHT FOR ME?

A: It all depends on your comfort level, says John Biggs, news editor of Gizmodo.com. Huge music buffs will want a hard drive with between 20 and 40 gigabytes of memory. For listeners looking for light use or

just an exercise companion, a flash player might be right. MP3 players are constantly improving: Don't go for the latest and greatest — it may be old almost immediately. Instead, get the best price for your needs right now.

HOT ACCESSORY

DRIVE-POD

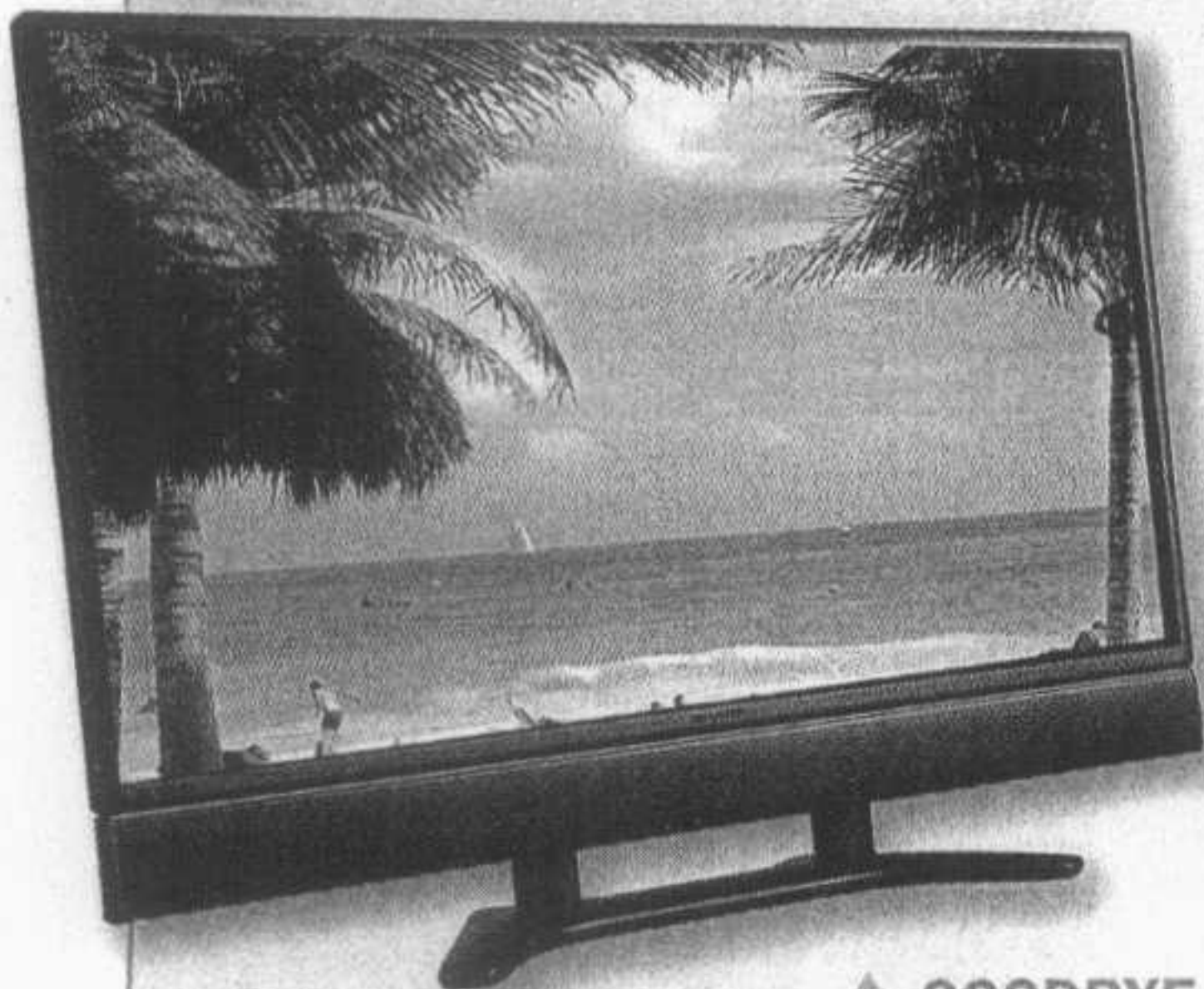
Take tunes on the road with the first iPod docking station that provides drivers with full iPod function and adapts to any car's stereo

Harman Kardon Drive + Play, \$199, driveandplay.com

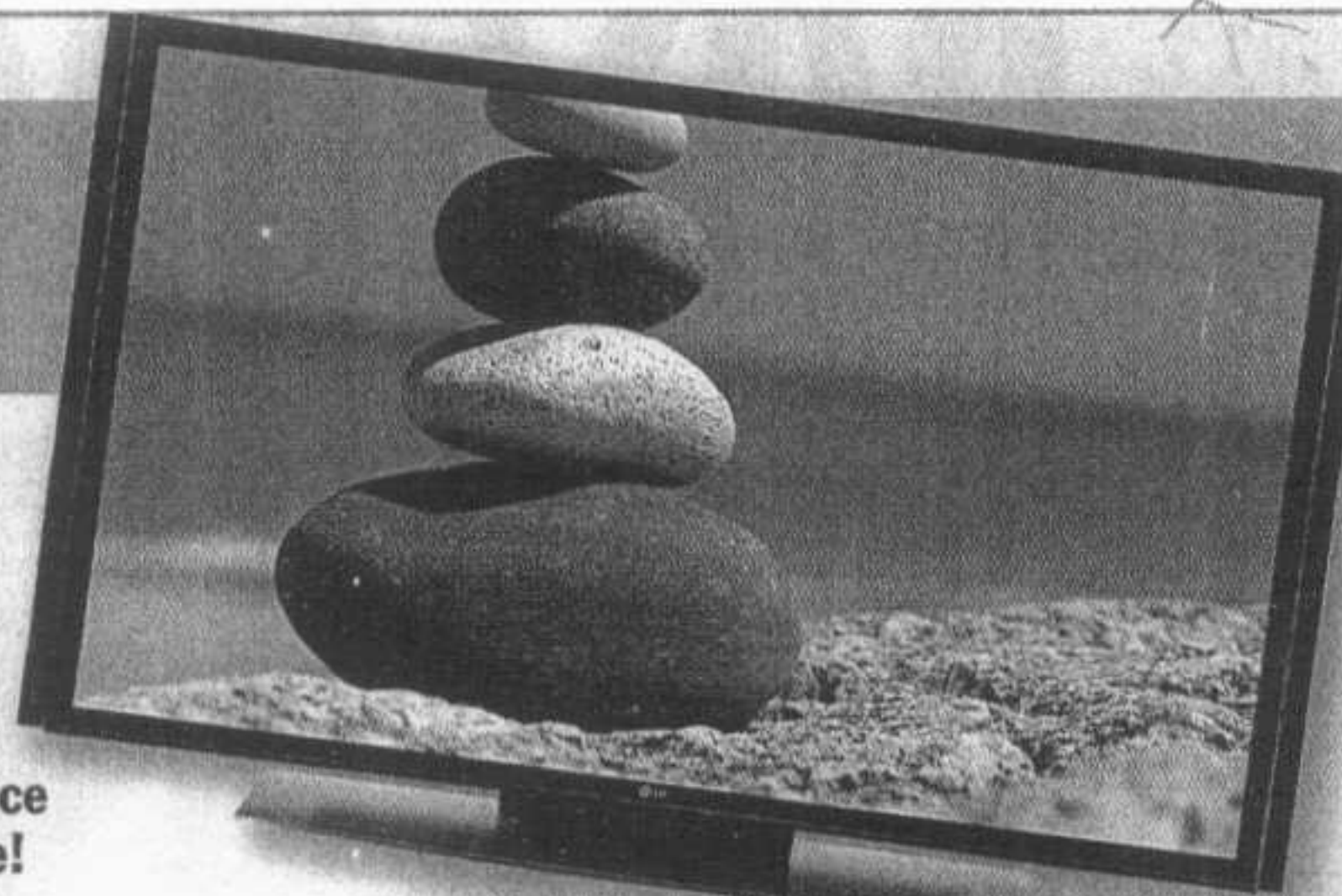


have gadgets of 2006

4 Megascreen, high-definition TVs



BIGGEST AROUND ▶
Have the necessary wall space and wallet size? Then take home the world's widest plasma TV — it's a whopping 71" across. The high price buys the highest resolution available! LG 71PY10, \$70,000, lgusa.com

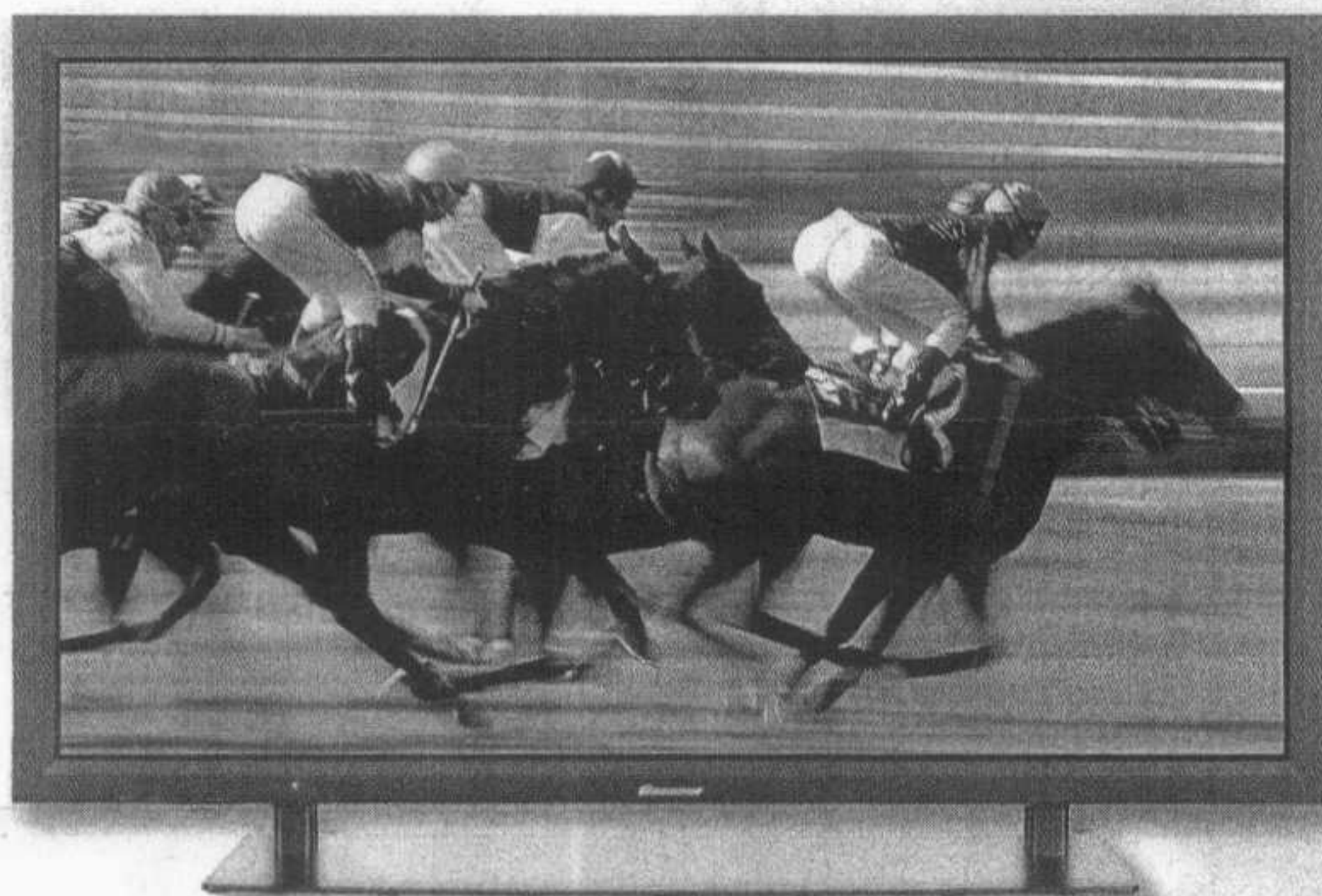
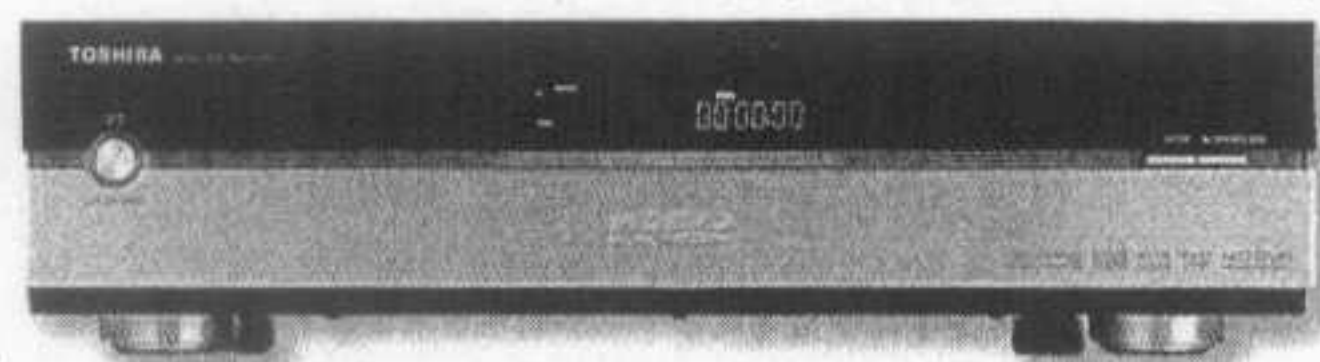


▲ GOODBYE, GLARE
This 50" plasma gives a lot of bang for its buck: FilterBright technology makes pictures super sharp and reflection-free Samsung HP-S5053, \$3,999, samsung.com

HOT ACCESSORY

HOME THEATER

Feel like you're at the movies with a DVD disc player that's fully compatible with any existing HDTV system Toshiba HD-A1 HD DVD Player, \$499, bestbuy.com



SLIM IS IN ▲
This 61" giant is only 5" deep — perfect for wall mounting or tabletop Pioneer PureVision HD-Ready Plasma Monitor, \$9,500, pioneerelectronics.com

Not everyone loves HDTV!

Images are so precise, the slightest imperfections (say, bad or aging skin) show up. TV expert Phillip Swann lists Teri Hatcher, Donald Trump and Cameron Diaz among his "HDTV Horribles." Who looks best? Eva Longoria, Jessica Alba and Nicole Kidman.

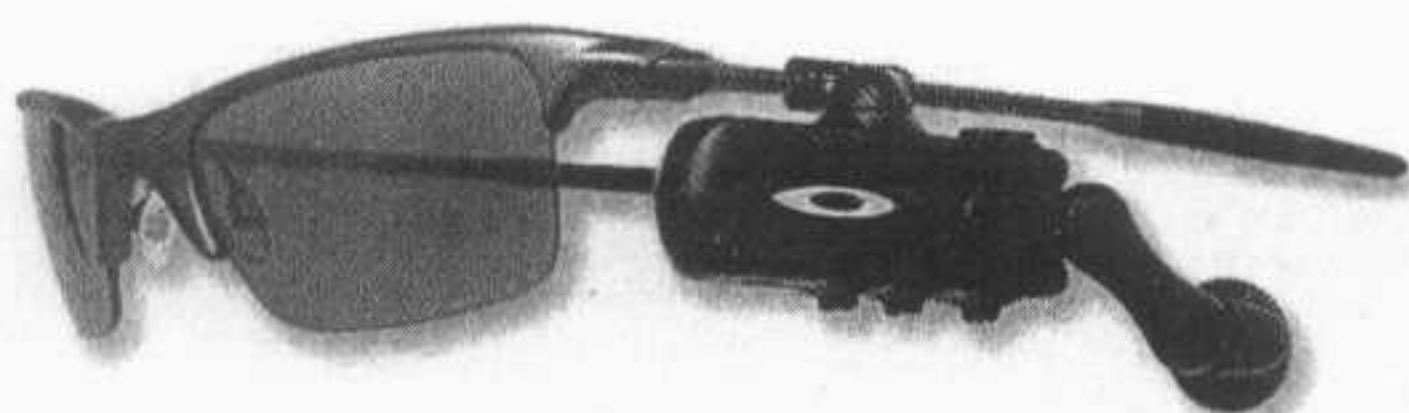
Looking hot on HDTV!



Not so much!



Cool high-tech toys



BLUETOOTH SHADES
Place and answer phone calls while battling harmful UV rays with these designer shades! Oakley Razr wire, \$295, hellomoto.com



HELMET-CAM
Record every moment of a ride with this hands-free digital camera ATC-1000, \$120, atc1000.com



ELECTROMAID
Wash, scrub and dry floors with one finger that touches a button! iRobot Scooba Floor Washing Robot, \$400, irobot.com