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Silver, white and as sleek as a cigarette case, the popular **iPod** by Apple Computer Inc. is a superior portable music player with excellent sound quality that is **now available for**

Windows users. Storage capacities are 5, 10 and 20 Gigabytes. Those running the Windows operating system, however, must have an available computer slot and purchase a FireWire card in order to connect the PC iPod's cable. Transfer is about twice as long as a Mac, as the built-in FireWire capabilities in a Mac are superior. The MusicMatch application does an excellent job of managing your music library and launches as soon as the iPod is plugged in.

Data files as well as tunes can be transferred - I plan to use mine to store 10G of information prior to replacing one of my hard drives. Following that, this bookworm plans to use it to play audiobooks from Audible Inc. What's really cool is, the player remembers the spot where the book was last turned off and returns to that point when the book starts to play again! Rugged enough to handle treadmill workouts, a 32 megabyte chip handles skip protection. There is a new remote control device that plugs into the headphone jack. The headphones are then plugged into the remote. Prices: 5G @ \$299.00, 20G @ \$499.00.

Love Messages Bring New Life to 2-Way Pagers

Gaining popularity in America is a new form of flirting -- sending wireless text messages using SMS technology, cell phones and 2-way pagers. Extensively used in Europe for some time, among the more popular messages one might receive in London, England is "Fancy a drink?"

CosmicCupid.com provides services that allow admirers to message people they don't know, and remain secret about it. Messages are limited to 160 characters, so abbreviations are common, aka "Hey, thinking about U." This is one of the few ways to message strangers by cell because you don't need their phone number to do so.

Video Camera piLL

A new \$500 pill that records and sends digital images to a small receiver / recorder about the size of a Walkman will help doctors visualize, among other things, the upper part of the small intestines -- something they could not do before. The size of a vitamin, the pill is equipped with a radio transmitter, video camera and lens system. The pill is called the **M2A Capsule Endoscope**. Available in Southern Nevada now, it will soon be available to hospitals nationwide.



Have a Spare Mouse in the House?

I found out that my "computer crash" this week was caused by a mouse

that went berserk. Lesson: Keep a spare mouse in the house. If your desktop icons start acting "funny" and your programs won't open no matter how many "reboots" you do, that could be the problem. This could save you the trouble of unplugging everything and transporting your unit to a diagnostic computer repair shop, as I did. -editor

Gaming: Have you ever played Sims? McDonald's is offering chips, burgers and fries in Sim's Online, the Internet virtual world sequel to the CD Rom version of the game. Intel is jumping on the product placement bandwagon by offering Intel-branded computers within the game. Players will use them to operate virtual businesses or communicate with other players.

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