

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Personal stereos may cause hearing loss

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Wearing personal stereos with earphones while jogging or commuting may be a good way to learn a language or put pep in your step, but they may also endanger your hearing.

noise you'd be exposed to in the subways of Manhattan. Beyond that, hearing protection is required. Higher exposure levels are allowed for shorter periods of time.

Madell found when she went into the street in 1980 to test personal stereo units most people were playing them at levels of 120 decibels or higher.

"I think the problem is that when they go into the street, if they turn the personal stereo up loud enough to block the noise, it's too loud," Madell said.

The problem with noise-induced hearing loss is that it's painless and insidious, so people usually don't notice it until the damage is already done, Madell said.

"It's not like turning down the sound. It's more like muffling. It's sort of like trying to read and having half the print chopped off," said Dr. Shirley Conbear, vice president of an occupational medical consulting firm in Chicago.

The hearing specialists said these are some things you should watch out for:
 —A temporary threshold shift. You may play the car radio on the way home from work in the evening, and then in morning, turn it down because it's too loud. If you leave a noisy nightclub, you may have difficulty

understanding what people are saying. If the shift is significant, the sound has probably been at a harmful level.

—Ringing or buzzing in the ears after exposure to sound or after taking medication. Although this can be a symptom of another sort of illness, it also merits medical attention.

—Difficulty in understanding conversation in a noisy environment or confusion of words. People beginning to lose their hearing may mix up words that sound alike, hearing, for example, "What time is it?" for someone says "What kind of?" said Conbear.

The audiologists said cause exposure is probably not going to harm your hearing. But combined with workplace noise, it begins to add up. They suggest taking these measures:
 —If you're at a rock concert or in a disco, wear plugs or headphones from time to time.

—Take your personal stereo and other other sound units to a speech or audiology center and have them tested to find out what volume levels are safe.

—If you're young and healthy, have your hearing tested every two years. More frequent examinations may be required if you're older or have hearing problems.

Underemployment problem

United Press International
ANAHEIM, Calif. — People forced by the nation's sagging economy into jobs for which they are overqualified may suffer even greater despair than those with no jobs at all, psycho-

logists say. The plight of the underemployed is not reflected in the highly publicized joblessness figures released regularly by the federal government, behavioral scientists said at a recent Amer-

ican Psychological Association convention.

"The unemployment rate is the tip of the iceberg," said H.G. Kaufman, director of the Research Program in Science, Technology and Human Resources at the Polytechnic Institute in New York.

"Over the next decades, underemployment is going to be a problem that could threaten the very fabric of our society. About one-fifth of all workers who have completed college are in subprofessional positions — sales, clerical or even blue collar."

Figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show 708,000 people with four or more years of college were out of work in March. While in 1971, the bureau predicted some 650,000 engineering jobs would be available by 1980, only some 534,000 actually were.

That left as many as one in five engineering graduates who had based their career choice on the optimistic predictions looking for jobs that weren't there, the psychologists said.

A group of Michigan researchers who surveyed 1,202 teaching graduates reported only half had found the job they wanted. Most had to settle for substitute teaching and other marginal positions.

"There was a prevalent feeling among the people in the study that their skills aren't being tapped," researcher Charlene Depner said.

Professionals appear most likely to experience severe stress when they lose their job, said Kaufman, who has written a book on the subject.

Career setbacks appear to have the most devastating effect on males and female heads of

households, 30 to 40 years old, highly educated, non-religious and from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The underemployed are most likely to become political activists, demanding radical social changes — both liberal and conservative, Kaufman said.

"For professional workers, becoming underemployed may serve not only to further psychological deterioration but also to create a new source of stress. This stress may lead to non-work coping behaviors involving political or union activism to satisfy needs for esteem and fulfillment."

Typically, the out-of-work professional passes through four phases in six months: shock and resentment; intense job hunting; high stress and emotional instability; and loss of motivation and resignation.

"If deterioration is to be kept at a minimum, professionals should become re-employed before the end of stage two," Kaufman said.

Blacks, whose unemployment rate is usually twice that of whites, face different psychological problems, said Phillip Bowman of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Discouraged by the poor job market, many blacks have low self-esteem, "general life dissatisfaction" and a sense of helplessness, he said.

A survey of 201 19-to-28-year-old blacks showed nearly 25 percent believed it was almost impossible to find work, while 75 percent thought it was very unlikely.

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O'Connor
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of student representation."

"I didn't go to talk to Natowitz and (Dr. John) Fackler (College of Science dean) because I didn't figure it would do any good," Bailes said. "Lots of students had written letters and gone to talk to them, and had gotten the same run around."

"So many issues get tied up in bureaucracy, and they just get put off and nothing is done about them. All we wanted to do was to ask the board to look into the matter."

Natowitz said he had not spoken with Bailes, but would have been glad to discuss the issue had she approached him.

Dr. Gordon P. Eaton, provost and vice president for academic affairs, expressed concern that the student group had not contacted him.

Dr. Larry Peck, interim director of the program, said there have been few changes made in the structure of the courses, with the exception of new exam questions. He said the text book, grading system and lecture schedules are basically the same, and students may attend any professor's lecture.

Fred Billings, chairman of the Chancellor's System Student Advisory Board, said Bailes had contacted him last week and asked if he could help her get a chance to speak with the board. Billings said he advised her to talk first with the chemistry department so she could gather more information pertinent to her case.

He said the student group's action was "a sad incident on behalf

Dean
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Kunze was born in La Grange in 1922. He married in 1947 and has two children who are Texas A&M graduates.

After serving in the U.S. Air Corps, he worked on an undergraduate degree at Texas A&M, largely because he was awarded a scholarship.

"I got a tuition scholarship from the Luling Foundation Farm for \$25 per semester for four years," he said. "That's what tuition was in those days. That had a major influence."

"I knew I wanted to study in culture, having been born and raised on a farm."

Kunze received his bachelor's science in agronomy in 1949, master's degree in soil chemistry in 1950 and his doctorate in 1953 from Pennsylvania State University.

He has been a sponsor of the Graduate Student Council for years, and serves as liaison between the University and the Coordinating Board in Austin. He serves on three state advisory committees to the board: the recognized research committee, the doctorate program review committee and the course investment committee.

As representative to the board, Kunze works with the department in developing its proposal, the coordinating staff to find what the chances of approval are and to make the case as strong as possible.

Kunze said he and his wife were looking forward to having more free time upon his retirement.

"Eventually, what we'll probably do is build a home on our family farm and move there," said.

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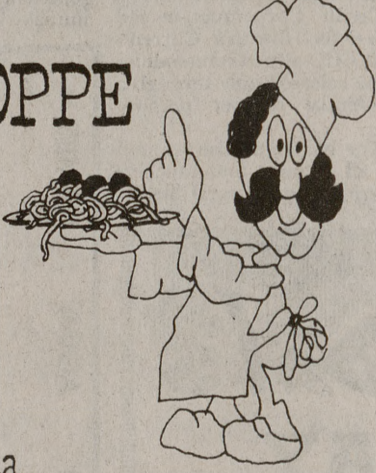
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Judge's son gets 10 years

United Press International
HOUSTON — Kevin Gregory, the 21-year-old son of Harris County probate judge Pat Gregory, was sentenced to 10-year prison sentence for drug charge.

The younger Gregory was arrested July 26th at his home. He pleaded guilty to possession of 2,996 tablets of Marijuana and was sentenced by State District Judge Patricia Monday.

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United Press International
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In arguing for was passed unanimously Governor's office, Gov. Jim Carolina said the already cost farm estimated \$430 million the net income of state in a normal...

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Texas Gov. Ma attitude of this Agriculture (John these people we others if they need that individual stations across the...

White said the department of Agriculture request for fees Texas farmers is on crops that are "There simply a Texas governor tration by the m head can provide relief to these farmers any cost."

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