

# An extravaganza of consumer technology

Safety and security devices are expected to be hot at the Consumer Electronics Show, although wireless products and personal entertainment technology still offer sizzle

By Alex L. Goldfayn

Special to the Tribune

A three-ring circus is coming to Las Vegas next week.

Ring No. 1, sprawled across 3 million square feet of convention space, features the 2004 Consumer Electronics Show—the industry's largest, loudest and most-hyped event of the year.

Ring No. 2, on the other end of the Vegas Strip, will feature this year's Adult Entertainment Expo—in progress, not coincidentally, concurrently with CES, Thursday through Sunday. (It's very Las Vegas when a half-dressed porn actress wanders through CES.)

And in the final ring, encircling the first two, about 4,000 members of the media will be trying to make sense of the consumer technology wares offered by 2,300 companies to 110,000 CES attendees.

"We get more press coverage than any event except maybe the Super Bowl," said Gary Shapiro, the Consumer Electronics Association's president.

This year, the emphasis continues to be on high-definition display technology, wireless products and personal entertainment technology.

But a new product category is emerging into the consumer technology mainstream: personal safety and security devices. Here are three of them that will stand out:

## Arrowvision Shepard 210 Fingerprint Door Lock

[www.arrowvision.us](http://www.arrowvision.us), about \$400



Belkin's TuneCast II FM Transmitter sends music from a portable MP3 player to a vehicle's stereo system.



This flashlight clips onto a backpack and has a SOS signal.

This lock is one of the first devices to bring biometrics security to your front door at a reasonable price.

Designed to fit most existing deadbolt cavities, the Shepard 210 is programmable for up to 50 users.

Once installed and programmed, you simply slide open the cover that hides the fingerprint window, touch

your fingertip to the window, and the door will unlock if you pass the test.

The entire unit runs on two AA batteries, which Hayward, Calif.-based Arrowvision says will operate the lock for an entire year.

Changing the batteries regularly will prevent a new, tech-induced situation: getting locked out of your house because the batteries have died.

## KidSmart Vocal Smoke Detector

[www.kidsmartcorp.com](http://www.kidsmartcorp.com), about \$70

With more than 40,000 children injured by fire each year, Atlanta-based KidSmart Corp. has come up with a startlingly simple safety tool.

Most fires occur while children sleep, and the unfamiliar



This electronic device opens a door if it recognizes certain approved fingerprints.

shrill of smoke alarms often does not wake up children in time to save their lives.

Enter the Vocal Smoke Detector, which lets parents record familiar wake-up instructions in their own voices, along with directions on how to leave the house.

These recordings are played, loudly, in the event of a fire.

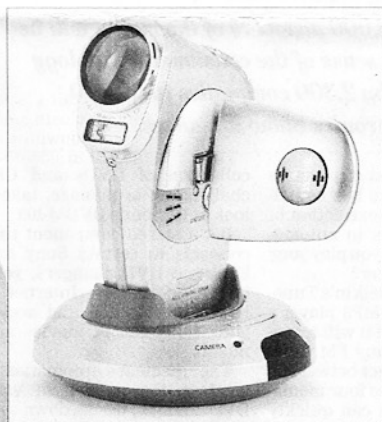
KidSmart claims that the familiar sound of a loved one's voice was 100 percent effective in waking sleeping children during testing.

## ASP Elite Wearable Light

[www.asplights.com](http://www.asplights.com), about \$17

What's so special about a key-chain light, you might ask? And why would a key-

PLEASE SEE **CONSUMER**, PAGE 4



Fisher claims that its Pocket CamCorder is the world's smallest and lightest high-resolution MPEG-4 camcorder and digital camera.

