



Party Patrol

SETTING SAFE LIMITS ON CELEBRATING

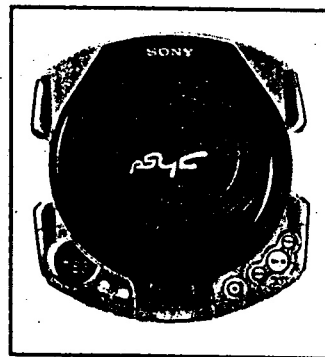
YOU'VE SUCCUMBED TO THE PLEAS, gritted your teeth, and given permission for your son and a few friends to host a party at your house. Is there anything you can do to avert potential mishaps before they happen? Discuss your concerns with your teenager and his friends well before the party, advises Tom McMahon, author of *Teen Tips: A Practical Survival Guide for Parents with Kids 11 to 19* (Pocket Books). "Be sure he understands the type of activities you consider unacceptable and that you'll step in if these occur."

Your teen may pressure you to provide or allow beer or other alcoholic beverages for the party because "everyone else does," but under no circumstances should you submit, warns McMahon. Be alert to signs of alcohol and drug use—guests who try to bring in either should be asked to leave immediately and be barred from returning. This will also deter kids who hope to drink or use drugs elsewhere and then return to the party. If a guest arrives under the influence, call his or her parents to ensure that the youngster gets home safely. —*Andrea Barnett*

{GreatGadget}

Stylin' Tune Spinner

Just the ticket for image-conscious teens, the **Psyc Discman** sports a tough yet trendy vortex case and an innovative carry strap for hands-free portability. Techno and rap fans can boost the bass on their favorite CDs by switching into Groove Sound mode. **Sony, \$140, 1-800-222-SONY; sony.com.**



FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHY, PAMELA ZAREMBA; GROOMING, WEI HUANG, DAVID HANSLY.

WORKING MOTHER FACTS

The wage gap starts here. Girls ages 16 to 19 earn 88.5 cents for every dollar paid to boys. Girls are more apt to choose lower-paying jobs, but even when boys work in offices they are often paid more for comparable labor.

SOURCE: WALL STREET JOURNAL.