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This undated photo provided by Asus by Dr. Dre shows the Asus PC version, portable speaker. Headphones, speakers and other audio gear are topping the holiday gift lists of many Americans.

Headphones, speakers top gift lists

By RIK ANDERSON
of Real Time

LE JUSTE — Listen up, Santa. Headphones, speakers and other audio gear are topping the holiday gift lists of many Americans.

Consumers are expected to spend $1.2 billion on consumer electronics sales between Nov. 24 and Dec. 31, according to research firm NPD Group. Headphones sales were 15 percent. DroneTime sales grew 85

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Merry Christmas

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Christmas of '67

The older I get, the more ordinary Christmas seems. Maybe that's what it means to grow up — the glitter and the newness of something that was once magical and wild slowly fades. Or maybe it's because no Christmas will ever reach the highs and lows of the one I survived the year I turned 13.

That was the Christmas my daddy upped all the money Mama had set aside for presents — again. It was the Christmas I got our first kiss. And it was the Christmas we almost burned the house down).

Of course, that last part would never have happened if my sister and I hadn't put our heads together to make the world a more welcoming place for people like our parents. We had decided to throw them a special thrill, which meant the tallest tree Joel and couldn't go to regular school, because we had to stay home and make sure Mama and Daddy saw absolutely no sign of their presents or even considered and talk.

Joel was 11 and I was 13 going on twelve. The family lived right across the by from us. The SCC Loop — all eight of us kids — was a tight group. Our parents were looking parents, kept chickens, grew a garden and handed clothes down from one kid to another without a second look.

When Felicity Ann heard our brothers and sisters and cousins and me talking about the Christmas presents we'd picked out for this like a big thing to get a chicken leg from a two-year-old. Joel actually happened to have the best Christmas present ever. He'd been saving back and clothes' sizes at a feed store for a big

Story By RACHEL COLEMAN • Leader & Times

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