KCP&L chief sees coal still in mix; climate fears discussed

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A regional utility’s top executive acknowledged the dangers of global warming and promoted conservation Thursday, but he said coal-fired power plants still will be necessary to satisfy rising demands for energy.

Bill Downey, president and chief executive officer of Kansas City Power & Light Co., spoke during a conference where two Kansas scientists also outlined potential problems that climate change could cause. They include hotter summers and shorter crop-growing seasons in western Kansas, they said.

Discussions at the University of Kansas conference were timely because of a debate over proposed coal-fired power plants in Kansas and Missouri. Environmentalists worry about coal plants’ potential emissions of carbon dioxide, which most scientists see as a major contributor to global warming.

In Kansas, Sunflower Electric Power Corp. is seeking an air-quality permit from the state for its $3.6 billion plan to build two-coal fired plants in southwest Kansas. In Missouri, KCP&L is building a coal-fired plant northwest of Kansas City but promised environmentalists in March to develop wind power and energy conservation programs.

Downey said helping consumers reduce their energy use shows great promise but demand will still require higher energy production, including electricity from coal-fired plants. Technology to make coal burn cleaner and to capture and store carbon dioxide is an important part of reducing CO2 emissions, he said.

“Coal, oil and natural gas will remain indispensable,” he said. “It’s a hard truth that a rapidly growing world economy will require large increases in energy supplies over the next quarter-century.”
New sites cater to active seniors

By ROBERT COLE
The Kansas City Star

Several years ago, John Knox Village added hospice care to its services. Last year, a memory-care wing was added to its assisted-living facility.

Now, the Lee's Summit-based retirement community is reaching out to a small but growing segment of retirees who want a more active life in their senior years.

John Knox is developing Forest Lake, a $68 million project that will add more than 150 apartments and villa homes to its 450-acre campus. Like other John Knox residents, new tenants will have access to swimming pools and a nine-hole golf course.

Senior living is thriving in the United States, and more continuing-care retirement centers are in the works.

New developments that are geared more to lifestyle choices than basic care needs are becoming a familiar sight in many areas, including greater Kansas City.

Tallgrass Creek, an 88-unit community, opened last week in southern Johnson County, Executive Director John Harned said.

Santa Marta, a 242-unit project sponsored by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, will open next month in Olathe. The 50-acre project will include 16 memory-support units and 24 independent-living cottages.

Nearly 300 parties have already expressed interest in the Forest Lake project, said Marybeth Roberts, the director of sales, marketing and communications at John Knox Village. Construction should begin in 12 to 18 months, she said.

Financial underwriters are bullish on retirement living. Senior living providers, both single-site and multisite, are as healthy as they've ever been, according to a September report by Chicago-based Ziegler Capital Markets.

Long-term demand should continue to increase, according to demographics. Projections indicate that twice as many people age 80 and older will be living in 2020, compared with 1990, according to the report.

There are retirement communities for nearly every income level, but only about 20 percent of older Americans can afford the amenities of the newest developments, which may include computer centers, libraries and villas with attached garages.

New developments often cater to residents who take the equity from their homes to pay a fully refundable entry fee for their new apartment or villa, in addition to a monthly assessment. Many senior centers refund all or part of the fee when a resident relocates or dies.

Continuing-care retirement communities typically provide on-site access to different levels of health care, including assisted-living units, skilled nursing beds and Alzheimer's care.

Many seniors aren't driven by the immediate needs of health care, primarily because they are living healthier, said Jim Glynn, a principal at Overland Park-based GlynnDevins Advertising & Marketing, which handles marketing and communications for John Knox, Santa Marta and senior communities in 38 states.

Glynn said that his agency is a partner of Masterpiece Living, a research-based concept that promotes personal growth for seniors who want to gradually move away from a daily schedule of planned activities.

"They're looking for experiences," he said. "They want to bite off as much lifestyle as they can handle."

Harned said that Tallgrass Creek has an on-site medical center with a full-time physician, but residents also can take on-site college classes that are offered in partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kansas.

"We're offering programs that help keep people healthy and active and safe," Harned said. "It's something we're very proud of."

To reach Robert Cole, call 816-234-4296 or send e-mail to rcole@kcstar.com.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Community name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Total units</th>
<th>Independent living units</th>
<th>Assisted living units</th>
<th>Skilled nursing beds</th>
<th>Monthly fee range</th>
<th>Top local executive</th>
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<td>1. John Knox Village</td>
<td>400 N.W. Murray Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64081</td>
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<td>Kansas City St</td>
<td>816-524-8400</td>
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<td>2. Lakeview Village</td>
<td>9100 Park St, Lenexa, KS 66215 915-888-1900</td>
<td>828</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$1,200-2,600</td>
<td>Richard Catlett, president and CEO</td>
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<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lakeview.org">www.lakeview.org</a></td>
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<td>3. Foxwood Springs</td>
<td>1500 W. Foxwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083</td>
<td>557</td>
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<td>4. The Groves</td>
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<td>491</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>$618-5,220</td>
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<td>5. Kingswood Senior Living</td>
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<td>354</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Harkins, CEO</td>
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<td>6. Grand Court of Overland</td>
<td>Park K 6101 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS 66209 913-345-9339</td>
<td>276</td>
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<td>David Thompson, executive director</td>
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<td>Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brookdaleliving.com">www.brookdaleliving.com</a></td>
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<td>7. ManorCare Health Services</td>
<td>521 W. 103rd St., Overland Park, KS 66207</td>
<td>248</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>$3,157-6,171</td>
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<td>9. The Forum at Overland Park Senior Living Community</td>
<td>3501 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66206 913-648-4500</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Kunard, executive director</td>
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<td>10. The Fountains at Greensbriar</td>
<td>2100 Swope Drive Independence, MO 64057 816-257-5100</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>Matthew Lewis, president and CEO</td>
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<td>12. The Atriums</td>
<td>7500 W. 107th St., Overland Park, KS 66212 913-381-6000</td>
<td>205</td>
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<td>$1,675-4,300</td>
<td>Lucille Tutera, owner</td>
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<td>13. Hidden Lake Care Center</td>
<td>11400 Hidden Lake Drive Raytown, MO 64133 816-737-0100</td>
<td>195</td>
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<td>14. Bishop Spencer Place</td>
<td>4301 Madison Ave, Kansas City, MO 64089 816-931-4277</td>
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<td>Jean Bacon, CEO</td>
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<td>15. Aberdeen Village</td>
<td>17500 W. 119th St, Olathe, KS 66061 913-599-6100</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Tim Allin, executive director</td>
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<td>16. Town Village Leawood</td>
<td>4400 W. 115th St, Leawood, KS 66221 913-491-3681</td>
<td>188</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>$1,700-4,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Garden Village</td>
<td>8550 N. Granby Ave, Kansas City, MO 64154 816-436-5555</td>
<td>185</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>$995-2,850</td>
<td>Ted Rychlik, administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Wexford Place Retirement Community</td>
<td>6500 N. Cosby Ave, Kansas City, MO 64151 816-587-5700</td>
<td>184</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$1,690-2,990</td>
<td>Randy May, executive director</td>
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College costs far outstrip inflation

Public institutions bear the brunt of the tuition increases. Families look to private loans.

By JONATHAN D. GLATER
The New York Times

University tuition and fees have risen this year at more than double the rate of inflation, with prices increasing faster at public institutions, the College Board said Monday.

These increases in the cost of higher education continue to drive up the amount that students and families borrow, with the fastest growth in private loans, the report found.

Tuition and other costs, not including room and board, rose on average to $6,185 at public four-year colleges this year, up 6.6 percent from last year, while tuition at private colleges hit $23,712, an increase of 6.3 percent. At public two-year institutions, average tuition and fees rose 4.2 percent to $2,361.

Last year tuition and fees at public institutions rose by 5.7 percent; at private ones, by

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TUITION: Fastest growth in private loans

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6.3 percent; and at public two-year institutions, by 3.8 percent.

“The average price of college is continuing to rise more rapidly than the Consumer Price Index, more rapidly than prices in the economy,” Sandy Baum, a co-author of the report who is a senior policy analyst for the College Board and a professor of economics at Skidmore College, told reporters at a news conference on Monday.

Tuition at area colleges largely followed the national trend.

In 2006, tuition at Kansas State University rose 8.7 percent, from $2,587 per semester for a full-time resident undergraduate taking 15 credit hours to $2,812.50 a semester this year.

University of Kansas tuition for a full-time in-state undergraduate rose from $2,756.25 a semester during the 2006-2007 school year to $2,922 a semester for the 2007-2008 school year.

In April, the University of Missouri raised tuition at the four-campus system by 3.8 percent. The increase bumped tuition for full-time Missouri undergraduates from $6,819 to $7,077 a year.

The average annual tuition at four-year public institutions is higher in Missouri than in any other Big 12 state. But a new state law this year caps tuition increases at the level of inflation.

Missouri institutions that raise tuition beyond the inflation rate could be fined or have to make a case for the increase to the state board of higher education.

Higher education institutions “need to do a better job explaining why tuition increases are necessary,” said Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Nationally, the price increases reported by the College Board reflect increases in the sticker price that colleges advertise, though, Baum said, the average student does not pay that full amount. At public universities, the average student gets about $3,600 in grants and tax benefits, lowering the actual cost to around $2,600. At private institutions, aid totals about $9,300, bringing the cost to $14,400.

But even the net price, after taking into account grants and other forms of aid, is rising more quickly than prices of other goods and than family incomes. In recent years, consumer prices have risen by less than 3 percent a year, while net tuition at public colleges has risen by 6.6 percent and at private ones, 4.6 percent.

The changes in tuition at public institutions closely track changes in financing they receive from state governments and other public sources, the report found. When state and local support for public colleges declined over the past seven years, tuition and fees rose more quickly, and as state support has grown of late, the pace of increases fell, it said.

“We hope that state governments — which really set tuition prices at most public colleges and universities — will do their part to reinvest in higher education,” David Ward, president of the American Council on Education, said in a statement released by the College Board.

Private loans, those not guaranteed by the federal government, continued to be the fastest-growing form of borrowing, totaling more than $17 billion in the 2006-07 academic year.

In the same period, students and their families borrowed $59.6 billion in federally guaranteed loans.

“College officials tell us not to worry because there’s plenty of financial aid,” said Robert Shireman, executive director of the Project on Student Debt, a nonprofit organization financed largely by the Pew Charitable Trusts. “But that aid is clearly not going where it’s needed, because student debt is up by an even greater margin than tuition — an 8 percent increase from 2005 to 2006, by our accounting.”

According to the study, the cost of room and board also has continued to rise and at many public colleges dwarfs tuition. At four-year public institutions, tuition, room and board on average now total $13,589; at private colleges, $32,307.

The Star’s Mará Rose Williams contributed to this report.
School Awards

KU to honor seniors in Butler County Monday

from Butler County high schools will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment at a program at 7 p.m. Monday at the El Dorado Civic Center, 201 E. Central, El Dorado.

The scholars are those who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes. They are selected regardless of classes taken, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions.

The scholars from Butler County, listed by high schools:


Augusta — Allison Berner, Kaitlyn Borden, Cammie Christner, Kristin Constance, Lauren Crawford, Aaron Doudna, Kelsee Farmer, C.J. Langrehr,

Casey MacNicol, Erin Meyer, Elizabeth Myers, Mitchell Pickett, Jessica Smith, Tiffany Spann, Courtney Taylor and William Wright IV.

Bluestem — Kodie McCollum, Bailie Redenbaugh, Sara Smith, Miranda Smith and Michaela Winn.

Circle — Elizabeth Boerma,

Natalie Caldarera, Tasha Dugan, Ciara Hastings, Dalian Massey, Joshua Mayfield, Jonathan Mayfield, Jeffrey Schieffer, Sabrina Scroggin, Megan Shepherd, Dean Simkins, Brooke Smith, Julie Taylor and Sari Warren.

Douglass — Rebecca Bastian, Ashley DuRocher, Kyle Holthaus,

Colton Linville, Spencer Linville, Taylor Oliver and Victor Sean Scanlon.


Flinthills — Jacob Ritter, Micah Womacks and Grant Vogt.

Remington — Caleb Carey, Camille Claassen, Caitlin Kozak, Danielle Minder, Kaci Thiessen and Jason Toes.

Rose Hill — Meredith Belnap, Christopher Berry, Melinda Burnham, Tarin Clay, Tanner Doshier, Hannah Hodges, Brittany Howard, Abigail Jacobson, Emily Jones, Jesse Powers, Joshua Pribe, Nicole Summervill and Jessica Thimesch.
Ulrich event to look at corporate branding

Corporate branding will be the topic of a panel discussion next week at the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University. “Who Are You? Branding and Identity in the 21st Century” will look at how today’s trends in corporate branding will impact branding in the future. The event is at 2 p.m. Oct. 27 and is part of the museum’s “Branded and On Display” exhibition that runs through Dec. 16.

The panel will include Connie Soteropulos, Target Corp.’s creative group manager. Other panelists are Bill Gardner, founder of Gardner Design and Logo Lounge; Dean Headley, department chair for marketing and entrepreneurship at WSU; and Gregory Thomas, department of design chair at the University of Kansas.
Rattlesnake relocation shows signs of success

Associated Press

LENEXA — Five timber rattlesnakes whose dens were slated to be blacktopped are part of an innovative snake relocation program that appears to be working.

"Most of our snakes are heading back to the place where we released them," said Mindy Walker, an assistant professor of biology at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., and the principal researcher on the project. "It looks like it's been very successful."

Timber rattlesnakes are on the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' "species in need of conservation" list. Animals on the list cannot be hunted or killed unless they are threatening to attack someone, said Ken Brunson, the state's wildlife diversity coordinator.

In February, Lenexa animal control supervisor Jennifer Dorr learned that a large den of snakes had been found in an area slated for development in the spring. Dorr had been studying rattlesnakes with specialists after the number of snake calls in Lenexa soared a few years ago.

Officials asked her if it would be better to destroy the snakes while they were still in the den during the winter or wait until they emerged in the spring and kill them one by one?

"Those seemed to be inherently wrong choices," she said.

Dorr proposed catching as many of the rattlesnakes as possible before construction began, and relocating them to a more protected environment.

Snakes are social animals. They can live for up to 30 years and tend to use the same dens and associate with the same snakes year after year, said George Pisani, an adjunct researcher at the University of Kansas.

A member of Dorr's team located a spot that met the snakes' requirements, with a landowner willing to allow the snakes on the property. Dorr won't say where the new den is, except that it's not in a municipal area.

Dorr recruited volunteers to catch the snakes. They captured 29, and fitted all of them with microchips. Seven got radio transmitters implanted, as well, allowing Walker to track them over the summer.
DISCONNECTING MUSIC PIRACY

Recording industry targets illegal downloading

BY FRED MANN AND DEB GRUVER
The Wichita Eagle

The Young family owned one of the first high-speed Internet connections in Salina, so local teenagers often used their computer to download music.

Illegally, as it turned out.

"I think thousands of songs were downloaded," said the family's attorney, Dick Blackwell, who admitted his own children may have been among those who downloaded music from the computer. "They didn't have an understanding of what the risks were."

Music companies came after the mother, Nancy, because the Internet connection was in her name, he said.

The recording industry has been targeting Kansans and thousands of others around the nation for lawsuits in recent years, claiming consumers have been pirating music through illegal file-sharing.

Recording companies filed a suit against Nancy Young in November 2004, claiming copyright infringement. She settled for $2,780 plus $220 in plaintiff's court costs in June 2005, court records show.

Blackwell said he wouldn't take another such case. He agreed to defend her only because the Youngs were family friends.

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PIRACY
From Page 1A

"The penalties are so high that they get you into a situation that just scares the clients to death," Blackwell said.

35 Kansans sued

Since 2004, the industry has filed about 35 suits against Kansas residents. Nationally, it has sued about 26,000 people since 2003.

And last month, the record companies filed suits against unidentified students at Wichita State University and the University of Kansas as part of a new wave of litigation against college students nationwide who the industry claims pirated music using university computer networks.

The Recording Industry Association of America, which represents the major record labels, filed "John Doe" suits against 22 WSU students and 14 KU students in U.S. District Court in Wichita for music copyright infringement.

The suits don't name the students because the association doesn't know who they are. It only knows the Internet protocol addresses they used to share the files, and is relying on the schools to match the addresses to the users.

It's only the latest wave of lawsuits by the association aimed at halting what it considers the rampant stealing of copyrighted music on the Internet.

So far, only one suit has resulted in a verdict. A Minnesota woman last week was required to pay $220,000 to six music companies after being found guilty at a jury trial of illegally downloading and sharing 24 copyrighted songs.

Stunned and frustrated

Most people who are sued are stunned, scared and settle out of court for a few thousand dollars to avoid attorney fees.

Many aren't aware they did anything illegal. In some cases, the people sued aren't even the ones who downloaded the music.

Joe Kohake of Centralia said his daughter, Karen, was a student at Washburn University when a case was filed against her last April. The family didn't find out until they saw the lawsuit listed in a Topeka newspaper.

His daughter lived in a dorm, and her roommate and her room-
Now you know
WHAT’S LEGAL,
WHAT’S ILLEGAL

Tips from record labels on
downloading music from the
Internet:
- It’s OK to download music
  from sites authorized by the
  owners of the copyrighted music. (For
  a list of some authorized sites, see
  below.)
- It’s not OK to download unau-
  thorized music from pirate sites or
  peer-to-peer systems. Examples of
  peer-to-peer systems where unau-
  thorized music is or has been avail-
  able for download include Kazaa,
  Grokster, WinMX, LimeWire,
  B earshare, Aimster, Morpheus and
  Gnutella.
- It’s not OK to make unau-
  thorized copies of music available to
  others (that is, uploading music) on
  peer-to-peer systems.
- It’s OK to copy music onto an
  analog cassette, but not for com-
  mercial purposes.

School, but is aimed at finding
out who the John Does are, Ayres
said.

“We will attempt to comply
with this order of the court as best we
can,” Ayres said. “We’re just not
going to be able to provide any
names. However, we will again
make a good-faith, full-fledged
effort to see what can be done.”

Ayres said the university will
notify any student it identifies as
a violator about the association’s
action, and those students are on
their own to deal with it.

“We’re not in that fight’

The University of Kansas takes
a different approach. Spokesman
Todd Cohen said the university
doesn’t forward the association’s
letters to its users, nor will it iden-
tify the users to the association.
But it will let any violators know
they can lose their computer privi-
leges in the residence halls.

KU this summer adopted a zero-
tolerance policy aimed at curbing
illegal sharing of music, movies
and games, he said. Students
cought sharing files illegally will
be kicked off of the residence hall
network, although they would
still be able to use campus com-
puter labs.

Students agree to those terms
when they enter university hous-
ing, Cohen said.

KU formerly had a “three
strikes” policy that included warn-
ings, Cohen said, but that didn’t
reduce the incidences of misuse.

Ayres said universities are
cought between the recording
industry’s need to protect its
artists and students who believe
that anything they can find on the
Internet belongs to them.

“On the one hand we want to
be a good citizen, certainly.
Secondly, we don’t want to inap-
propriately infringe or limit peo-
ple’s access to the Internet. I feel
we’ve got a delicate line to walk,”
he said.

The dispute is between those
copyright holders and their indus-
try representatives, and alleged
violators.

“We’re not in that fight,” Ayres
said.

WSU policies specifically pro-
vide that its equipment not be
used inappropriately or illegally,
his said.

The university can shut off
access to a port if it finds illegal
activity, and it would be able to
identify somebody who tries to
connect to it.

If that student illegally shares a
file, that person would be on his
or her own to deal with the
recording industry, he said.

- It’s OK to copy music onto
  special Audio CD-R’s, mini-discs,
  and digital tapes because royalties
  have been paid on them — but not
  for commercial purposes.
- There is no legal “right” to
copy the copyrighted music on a
CD onto a CD-R. However, burn-
ing a copy of a CD onto a CD-R,
or transferring a copy onto your
computer hard drive or your
portable music player, won’t usually
raise concerns as long as the copy
is made from an authorized original
CD that you legitimately own, or
the copy is for your personal use.
It’s illegal to give away the copy or
lend it to others for copying.
- It’s not OK to sell or make
  commercial use of a copy that you
  make.
- Exceptions to the rules: A
  “garage” or unsigned band might
  want you to download its music.
  Bands that own their own music
  are free to make it available legally
  by licensing it.

Source: Recording Industry
Association of America

“I think that’s consistenct with
the way other cases are being
handled around the country,”
Ayres said.

Targeting students

The Recording Industry
Association of America has said it
is targeting students because they
are responsible for a dispropor-
tionate number of music thefts compared to the general population. More than half of college students download music illegally, the organization has said. A market research firm shows that college students accounted for more than 1.3 billion illegal music downloads in 2006, it said.

It claimed that global theft of sound recordings cost the U.S. economy $12.5 billion in lost revenue and more than 71,000 jobs and $2 billion in wages to U.S. workers.

Its suits don't always succeed.

This summer the industry was ordered to pay about $70,000 in legal bills to an Oklahoma woman after a judge dismissed its claims against her.

Opponents accuse the association of intimidation and bullying tactics, and claim the lawsuits haven't helped solve the problem of pirated music.

The lawsuits actually have encouraged music fans to use other readily accessible technologies that the association can't easily monitor, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit organization of lawyers, policy analysts, activists and technologists that has opposed the association's legal tactics.

People can copy music through iTunes over the campus LAN, swap hard drives and USB flash drives, burn recordable DVDs and form ad-hoc wireless networks, the foundation said.

That's the sort of technological jargon that outweighs some of those who've run into trouble with the recording industry on their computers.

The wife of a Great Bend man recently sued by the Recording Industry Association said their teenagers use the computers and download music all the time.

But her husband, who is named in the suit, has never done that, and neither has she.

"We don't even know how to turn a damn computer on," she said.

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