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Scandal: Stereo Up Jackson's Nose -- “Lecherous” Tour Canceled

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Mexico City

Pop star Michael Jackson's reputation and career took a nose dive, quite literally, yesterday, when it came to light that the international super star has a stereo up his nose—leading to allegations that he has been nose-synching the vocals on his current “Lecherous” World Tour. In response to the revelations, Jackson immediately announced the cancellation of his tour.

Jackson's plastic surgeon, Dr. Kutt Uoppen, has admitted to installing a stereo in the singer's nose during an operation five years ago. “I urged him to consider a modest bookshelf system or a boom box, but he insisted on a full-blown 500-watt, 6-track concert-grade Sony stereo system, complete with CD player and Digital Audio Tape Recorder. His nasal cavity was barely large enough to accommodate it. I warned him about complications, but he wouldn't listen,” Uoppen commented.

The scandal broke during a stadium concert in Mexico City. Midway through Jackson's performance, the music suddenly stopped, and he was seen shoving his finger in and out of his nose vigorously, presumably trying to repair the faulty stereo system. It is not known yet whether just the vocals were being played from the nasal stereo or whether the entire band, and all their instruments, were being piped in from Jackson's nose during the singer's concert. Dr. Uoppen speculated that Jackson damaged the stereo during a sneezing attack prior to the show. “I won't know for sure until I can take Jackson's nose into the shop for repairs,” he added.

The stereo system is valued at over 3 million dollars. Should it need to be replaced, it is unclear whether Jackson's health insurance would cover the cost. “I don't think nasal stereos are covered under his policy,” explained a Blue Shield Spokesman. “Fortunately, I bought an extended warranty on the unit, so he should be covered either way,” Dr. Uoppen said, when asked about the issue.

Meanwhile, Norelco, a major sponsor of the “Lecherous” tour, announced it is ending its one-year relationship with the singer, who appeared in TV-commercials promoting the company's new state-of-the-art Electric Nostril-Hair Trimmer.



A man with a digital audio tape recorder up his nose.

Nasal stereos are not very well known in America and have not caught on with consumers since JVC introduced the product to the mass market in 1988. However, the high-priced units have gained tremendous popularity in Greenland, where they have been installed in nearly 50% of the population. In Iceland, Sony has successfully marketed its version of the nasal stereo system, “The Noseman,” to trendy teens and twenty-somethings.

The revelation of a stereo up Jackson's nose sheds new light on his trip to Africa two years ago. During that trip, Jackson was frequently seen rubbing his nose, which local villagers took as an insult—causing a minor stir. It is now believed that Jackson was touching his nose in order to rewind the digital audio tape recorder and not as a reaction to foul odors, as was widely believed at the time.

Already under fire from allegations of sexual molestation by a 13-year-old boy in Los Angeles, this latest scandal is seen as a major set back for the 35-year-old singer. Jackson has fled to Europe in the company of Elizabeth Taylor, who is rumored to have a university marching band in her cleavage.