

Right overhaul

and other stores to sell copy-protected music for the iPod. Jobs said that approach would only complicate enforcement of digital rights management, as myriad companies would have to coordinate software and hardware updates.

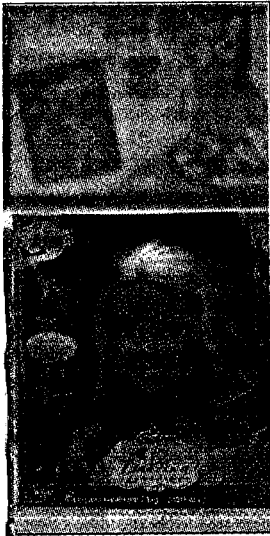
Instead, he proposed that labels could shed digital rights management altogether. Jobs pointed out that only 10 percent of all music sold last year was through an online store, and that music is already easily loaded onto digital players from CDs, with no anti-piracy features. At-

taching digital rights management to music bought online has only limited the number of online music stores, he wrote.

"This is clearly the best alternative for consumers, and Apple would embrace it as a heartbeat," he wrote.

Jobs' move comes as the music industry appears to be facing a crisis.

Sales of its mainstay product — the album — continue to sink, and sales of digital music, including individual songs, have not increased fast enough to offset the decline.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monrovia, Calif.

0000

Study says identity theft rate is declining

By John Leland
New York Times News Service

The number of Americans who are victims of identity fraud has declined steadily since 2003, according to a new survey sponsored by credit-card and financial services companies. Last year, 3.7 percent of people surveyed said someone had stolen their identity in the previous 12 months, down from 4.7 percent in 2003, according to the report.

The study found that the total losses from the crime fell last year to \$49 billion from the

BRIEFLY

PHC headquarters making a move

Precision Hydraulic Cylinders Inc. announced it is relocating its headquarters to Wilmington from Duplin County and has named Jon Martin as director of operations-North America.

PHC is a privately held company that manufactures hydraulic cylinders primarily used in mobile equipment applications, and customers are typically makers of industrial trucks and earth-moving vehicles.

The company's North America-based senior executive staff will move to the Charleston Place office complex in the Porters Neck area and the facility will also accommodate the design engineering management team and a support staff, according to Chris Barclay, PHC president and CEO.

The company will maintain its two manufacturing plants in Duplin County, employing about 150 in Beulaville and Wallace, Barclay said.

PHC has wholly owned manufacturing operations in Cramlington, England, and a production facility under construction in Chennai, India, which is scheduled for completion in May. The European operations employ 52 people.

The India operations will initially employ about 30 people, the company said.

Tobacco payment to be \$317M-plus

RALEIGH — Tobacco quota owners, producers and other contract holders in North Carolina will receive more than \$317 million