

Podcasting ... or “Seeds Floated Down From the Sky”

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Bud-like seeds floated down from the sky—from space actually. They were not noticed at first, but soon the seeds grew into pods, plantlike oblong objects that when ripe disgorged a terrible creature, a creature that killed and eliminated humans and replaced them with

exact physical replicas that were identical in appearance but lacking in any emotion. Podpeople.

This sentence could be the plot-line to one of the four motion pictures made over the last 50 years based on Jack Finney’s 1955 book *The Body Snatchers*. The film most remember was released in 1979, starring Donald Sutherland, who was one of the last on earth to remain free of will and independent of the pod menace.

Another explanation of this sentence might be a teacher’s lament about the students in class constantly putting the tiny “buds” in their ears to listen to the tens of thousands of rap tunes on their personal iPod, hidden in a back-pack.

The iPod has become an icon in the first decade of the twenty-first century, and podcasting has become one of the most talked-about applications in distance education. Podcasting and iPods are written about in the popular press, in journals, and even in the prestigious *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The *Chronicle* recently published a long article with the unfortunate title “How to Podcast Campus Lectures.”

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