

The following issue should have been numbered “1”



Falling Down

Stony Brook's Rankings in National Magazines Decline As Students are Rated Among Least Happy in the Country

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

After a year in which University administration officials trumpeted Stony Brook's second place finish in a national ranking of public universities, behind the University of California at Berkeley, the University finished its second year in a row with another second place finish in a survey that officials are unlikely to include in next year's admissions manual. Stony Brook again found itself number two in the least happy students category in Princeton Review's annual college rankings. In addition, the University has fallen in other annual rankings, including those put out by U.S. News and World Report and Money Magazine.

Other SUNY schools fared better in the polls, with the other University Centers, at Albany, Binghamton, and Buffalo ranking within the top 50 public universities in U.S. News' survey. SUNY Albany also found itself on top of Princeton Review's list of the top ten party schools - a distinction that did not amuse officials at Albany.

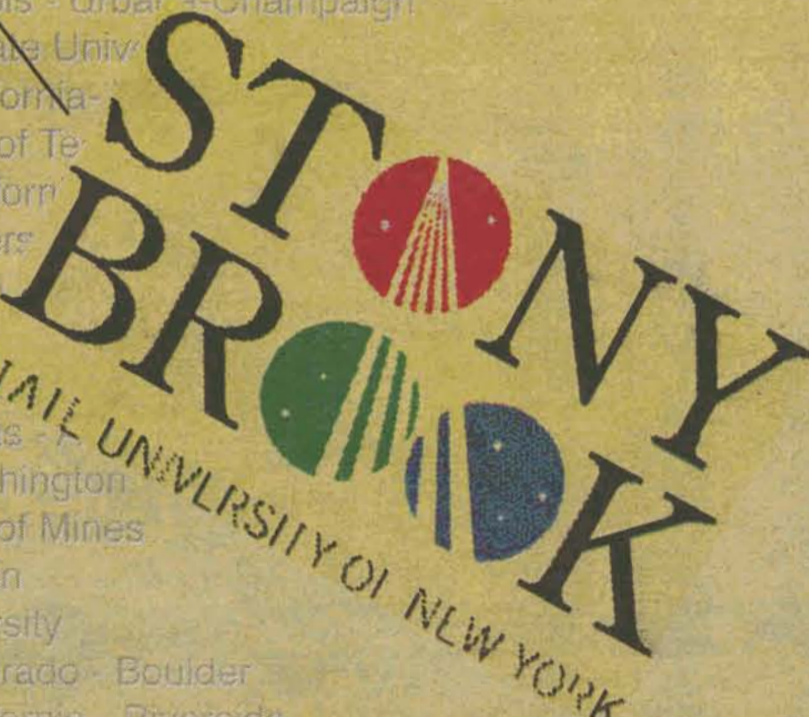
Spokesman Mary Feiss said that the school is attracting numbers of top-notch students and that "the facts we have about our students suggest a very different picture."

"We don't think we're the number-one party

Please see Party School on page two.

Top National Public Universities

1. University of California - Berkley
1. University of Virginia
3. U. of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
4. University of California - Los Angeles
4. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
6. University of California - San Diego
7. College of William and Mary (Va.)
8. University of California - Irvine
8. University of Wisconsin - Madison
10. University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
11. Pennsylvania State Univ
11. University of California
13. Georgia Institute of Te
14. University of Californ
15. Texas A&M Univers
16. Rutgers - New Br
17. University of Cal
17. University of Min
17. University of Texas
17. University of Washington
21. Colorado School of Mines
21. SUNY Binghamton
23. Ohio State University
25. University of Colorado - Boulder
26. University of California - Riverside
26. University of Delaware
26. University of Georgia
26. University of Iowa
30. Indiana University - Bloomington



Source: U.S. News and World Report

Stony Brook fell below the other State University Centers in the U.S. News' survey while students polled by Princeton Review rated themselves among the most unhappy in the nation.

Albany Top Party School

Continued from front page

school," Fiess said. was voted the number one party school. This ranking was based on polls about alcohol and drug use, study hours and the prevalence of fraternities and sororities on campus.

The Princeton Review has been making guides for colleges since 1992. The Princeton Review surveyed 311 of America's best colleges and polled 56,000 students when compiling their rankings. The guides include 60 categories which range from academics, financial aid, dorms, and food to political leanings, social life and race/class interaction. This year, USB scored poorly in a number of these categories. In academics, USB was ranked fourth in the topic "professors suck all life from materials," eleventh in "professors make themselves scarce," and fifth in "teaching assistants teach too many upper level courses." The administration category was also a problem for USB. USB was eighth in long lines and red tape from administration and was 13 in the topic students dissatisfied with financial aid. In the quality of life category USB received eighth ranking for dorms like dungeons.

Students attribute the lack of social life

to the 50% of students who live off campus and commute to school. "My experience with campus life was not great. You don't go to Stony Brook for a social life. People are always doing their own thing and you don't really meet anyone," said Dina Davies, who graduated from Stony Brook last spring.

University students and faculty can find little comfort in other recently released polls. U.S. News and World Report ranked USB as 117th among the nation's top public or independent colleges which was a plunge from last year's ranking of 55. The SAT scores for incoming freshman range from 960-1180, in the median range of the lower 25% to 75%, also the lowest of all New York's state university centers.

U.S. News and World Report also formulated the debt load of graduates. The report listed the largest and smallest average debt loads of 1996 graduates and where they attended college. Stony Brook is 20th on the list. Forty-seven percent graduated with debt averaging \$18,267.

In the U.S. News and World Report survey, academic reputation accounts for 25% of the final score of all the schools. Their report also measures the number of students that leave the college prior to their expected graduation. Faculty reputation, student selectivity, financial resources, the value added (which is a measure of the college's role in the academic success of the students and how efficiently the school is playing that role) and the amount that alumni give to their schools comprise the rest of the ranking system.

When mixed together, recently released college rankings can leave mixed messages for students. For example, Money Magazine found that Stony Brook was among the best buys in college buys in the nation, a distinction not easily meshed with Stony Brook graduate's relatively high debt load. In Money Magazine's survey, Stony Brook ranked 26th, up from its 40th place finish last year.

Peter Gratton, Statesman Editor, and the Associated Press contributed to this story.

The Nation's Least Happy Students

1. New Jersey Institute of Technology
2. State University of New York at Stony Brook
3. Tuskegee Univeristy
4. State University of New York at Buffalo
5. Loyola University of Chicago
6. Stevens Institute of Technology
7. City University of New York - Queens College
8. Temple University
9. State University of New York at Albany
10. U.S. Naval Academy

Source: Princeton Review

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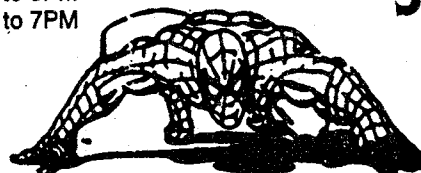
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BNL Studies Unwelcome Algae

By PAT MILTON
Associated Press

An unwelcome summer guest is lying low this season. But there's bound to be a next time, and the locals don't intend to be caught off guard.

The unsavory interloper is brown tide, an ugly algae that blooms in the bays around Long Island. It was first detected in 1985 and has cost millions of dollars since then, turning off tourists and devastating the region's once-lucrative shellfish industry.

This summer, scientists from the Brookhaven National Laboratory have placed monitoring buoys in the Peconic Bay system at the end of Long Island to study the algae and predict when it will hit next.

Detectors on the buoys will measure nitrogen, water temperature, dissolved oxygen and salt content. The data will be transmitted to a computer at the lab and relayed via the Internet to scientists worldwide, said oceanographer Creighton Wirick, who heads the project.

Researchers hope "anything learned can be applied elsewhere," said Vito Minei, chief of the Suffolk County Office of Ecology.

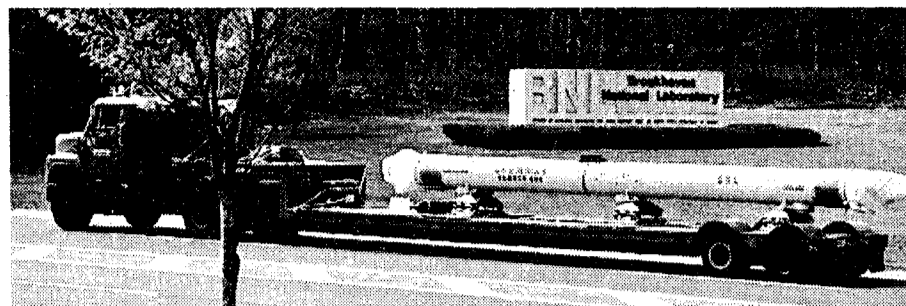
The problem has fouled coastal areas off Long Island, as well as New Jersey and Rhode Island, six times since 1985.

The mysterious tide, which turns the water the color of chocolate milk, is not poisonous to humans or finfish but is believed to be toxic to shellfish. It arrives without warning, stays anywhere from days to a year and disappears just as quickly. So far this year, only two areas have shown light signs of algae blooms and water discoloration: West Neck Bay in Shelter Island and in the Great South Bay.

"On Long Island so far it looks like a good year," said Dr. Robert Nuzzi, chief of marine resources for the Suffolk County Health Department. Since it first appeared on Long Island, brown tide has baffled marine biologists who still do not know what causes it or how to get rid of it.

Scientists believe there may be a connection between rainfall and groundwater that drains into the bay. The rain carries the inorganic nitrogen found in lawn and farm fertilizer, or from home septic tanks, into the groundwater. For a while, that makes the "good algae" grow, and there's no room for the brown tide. But the "good algae" eventually dies off, along with seaweed and rooted plants, and falls to the bottom of the bay; that makes the brown tide go wild.

Lots of rain, like this year, could bring a big brown-tide outbreak next



Courtesy of Brookhaven National Lab

BNL is using buoys to study the algae and to predict when it will hit next.

year. Researchers presume that the brown tide is always in the water, dormant, and blooms when conditions are ripe. But why it appeared in the first place remains a mystery.

Among the theories:

-Duck farms that used to surround the Peconic Bay area no longer exist. The perpetual duck waste had kept the "good algae" healthy and growing, with no chance for the brown tide to even get a foothold.

-Brown tide may not be native to this region; it could have been introduced when visiting boaters released their bilge water.

-Some think wind is a factor; it could help dilute the bays with fresh ocean water, scattering the brown tide.

Whatever the reason, it has killed the once-prosperous scallop industry. Dr. Stephen Tettelbach, an associate

professor of marine science at Southampton College, has helped coordinate the region's scallop reseeding program for 10 years. "The scallop population is not looking that wonderful again for this year," he conceded.

Scallops live for only two years, making them very susceptible to destruction if brown tide grows for two straight years. Clams are able to better withstand the blooms because they are hardier, have multiple spawning periods, and can live for as long as 50 years.

At one point, Long Island supplied about a quarter of the country with scallops, Tettelbach said. Now baymen are lucky if they can harvest enough for local markets.

"They used to fish from September to March," said Tettelbach. "Now it only lasts a few days in the fall. Brown tide has caused a real nightmare."

Professor Fights Political Correctness

By IAN ZACK
Associated Press

Forgive Henry Bauer if he sometimes gets angry. Forgive him if he sometimes mocks. Forgive him if he sometimes gossips about his peers. That's what a "hostile intellectual environment" has reduced him to, says the bearded, bespectacled college professor.

Bauer, a scientist at Virginia Tech, has waged a one-man crusade for the last five years against what he deems "McCarthyite" political correctness, unfair racial and gender preferences, and the demise of academic rigor in the state's institutions of higher education.

Polite in demeanor but scathing with a pen, Bauer has been the sole editor and driving force behind "The Virginia Scholar," an often acerbic newsletter mailed to a small number of professors, graduate students and college governing board

members.

Bauer's opinions, and he has many, have put him at odds with his bosses at Tech, and probably wouldn't set well with many of his fellow professors. But like most good rabble-rousers, he absorbs criticisms like raindrops.

"Too much money is spent on things that don't matter," said Bauer, 66, in an accent that mixes the dialects of his Austrian birthplace and Australian schooling. "Just about everything that's wrong (with academia) can be taken care of if people make learning and scholarship top priorities."

When Tech hires a new faculty member or a dean, or creates a new program, Bauer gets wind of it either directly or from people he calls his "moles." If he thinks an unqualified person has gotten a job to fill a racial or gender quota, or a program was started for reasons other than to improve academics, he is rarely silent.

A few years ago, he decried the creation at Tech of a Sensitive Crime Unit of the campus police force, saying it gave a false impression that sexual assault was a common occurrence at the university. His broadsides sparked a story in the Washington Times and an editorial in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. The unit still exists, and an official in Tech's Women's Center defended it as an important resource in dealing with the roughly 20 rapes and sexual assaults reported to Tech police and other officials each year.

More recently, Bauer has complained about Tech President Paul Torgersen's creation of a vice presidency for multicultural affairs which Bauer says is an unnecessary post. The new position will cost taxpayers \$250,000 per year in salary, travel and expenses at a time when "my own department is forced to conserve paper" because of tight resources, he said. Torgersen created the new job after a series of racially tinged incidents, including a student's dissemination of an e-mail message that ridiculed blacks.

The "Virginia Scholar," which comes out three or four times a year or whenever Bauer can find the time, is the official voice of the Virginia Association of Scholars, the state affiliate of a nationwide academic group that opposes affirmative action and criticizes university academic standards as lax. Although Bauer says the magazine's circulation has doubled

to about 600 since he began publishing it in 1993, it still is far from mainstream reading. It combines articles on scholarly topics and book reviews with a gossipy forum in which Bauer snipes at, and occasionally applauds, the actions of presidents, hiring teams and the like.

In a typical dispatch, from April 1996, titled "More Political Correctness," he ridiculed a "mealy mouthed" Tech policy allowing students to miss class to participate in "religious and ethnic celebrations."

"So what conceivable purpose could such a policy statement have?" Bauer snipped. "Only to tell students that going to class is a lower priority than other things."

In a recent issue, Bauer laid bare his anguish by adapting the seminal, tortured 1956 Allen Ginsberg poem "Howl" as a jeremiad against all the things he finds wrong with universities.

There are "faculties aye-saying standard-less mindless spin-doctored crap" and "education professors professing empty nothings," along with "feminoid sexists calling men sexist" and "racist black fanatics calling others racist." Squeaky wheels are rare enough in the genteel halls of academe. What makes Bauer's attacks even more extraordinary is that for eight years he was dean of Tech's largest undergraduate school, the College of Arts and Sciences, before becoming professor of chemistry and science studies.

"He knows where all the bodies are buried," said Marshall Fishwick, a Tech communications professor and member of the Virginia Association of Scholars. "I think he's a real asset to the university, a lot of people don't agree." Bauer saves his sharpest daggers for his former administration colleagues, whom he dubs "unaccountable-lawless, gutless wonders" and "self-serving, spineless, conviction-less lackeys" in his remake of "Howl."

Kerry Redican, Tech's Faculty Senate president, said Bauer and the association make some good points but take their criticisms too far.

"They take one example about political correctness, and I'm not saying it never happens, and blow it out of proportion," Ms. Redican said. "I think it's exaggerated."



Courtesy of Virginia Tech Website

Virginia Tech Professor Henry Bauer is leading a crusade against all racial and gender preferences in institutions of higher education.

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Perspectives

A Loss to the Community

By Nancy Franklin
 Special to the Statesman

My sister, Cyndee, died in a car accident when she was 22. I was 8. I thought at the time that 22 was grown up and that I could take comfort in the idea that she'd gotten to live her life. At the risk of offending most of the people who are reading this, I don't think that anymore. Twenty-two is still part of that period of life when people should be protected from the universe's chaos. No one should have to suffer at 22; certainly no one should have to die.

I used to fantasize as a kid that someday I'd meet one of Cyndee's professors from the University of Washington, years later, and we'd discover that we'd had her in common. He would remember her well and think fondly of her. I loved thinking that she was someone who even her busy professors would care about and never forget.

I'm writing this letter because one of my students, Meghan Handler, died over the weekend, and the news has

completely broken my heart. She'd barely made it past 22. The fact that I can't have one more conversation with her, to let her know how much I admired her and will always think fondly of her, will not stop haunting me,

A Faculty Member Reflects on One Student's Life Which Ended Too Soon

and I have to tell someone.

We live in a big place. Resources can be slim, people's time can be short, and all of us have to deal with the frustration of bureaucracy. I mostly don't get to know my students, but I sometimes do have that honor, and it's by far the greatest perk of being a professor. People can be impressive test-takers (including Meghan, who was the highest ranking student in my class last Spring). They can be sharp research assistants (she was due to begin working with me next

week). These qualities, of course, are important to a professor, but I can tell you that I am not crying over a lost research assistant. Meghan had a genuinely big heart. She wore her humanity right there on her sleeve. She was courageous, gentle, and thoroughly generous. She reminded me that my role as a professor can be not just academic trainer, but also cheerleader, admirer, and friend. (Also student - she was giving me music lessons over the summer.) I love watching people like her blossom before my very eyes, and although I'm not presumptuous enough to think I have much to do with the successes of people who were extraordinary long before I met them, I really love providing what I can, sort of like a proud older sister.

I wonder whether Meghan had any idea how important she was to me and to several of my colleagues, many of whom have been devastated as I am. Ask any of us years from now, we won't have forgotten her.

Nancy Franklin is an associate professor in the Psychology Department.

Misery Index

Compiled By Peter Gratton, Statesman Editor

Each year, high school seniors and college students looking to transfer pore through a deluge of lists put out by a number of national magazines to gauge the univerities they are likely to attend. These lists purport to enumerate the best colleges across the country. Our own University President Shirley Strum Kenny celebrated our rise in these polls - a rise that ended this year. In any case, we were more interested in what you the students had to say about our campus. Princeton Review pinned us last year as the second least happiest students in the nation, behind the University of Missouri-Columbia. We tried to use this index to gauge our progress - to unseat UM-Columbia - and become no less that number one. We were inspired by the news that, yes, UM-Columbia, after a record year of cow tipping, was unseated this year as our country's most miserable campus. But, alas, the prize was not to be ours. A little known technical college in New Jersey took home the title, leaving us to finish second once again. Well, there's always next year.

The Marketing Geniuses in Admissions: Princeton Review listed this campus as having among the most lifeless professors (4th in the nation), having too many TA's teaching upper division classes (5th), long lines and red tape (8th) and , of course, dorms like dungeons (11th). But the admissions office, on their web-site, tries to sell our campus by celebrating Stony Brook as the birthplace of the barcode found on most merchandise. Talk about pulling a silver lining from a dark cloud. Sure we treat students like just another number - but look at the the technology it has produced!

Logic, administration-style: One admin. official told Newsday that the reason we posted a second place finish in the unhappiest student category is because Princeton Review pollsters "phrase their questions in a way that I believe solicits negative responses." So does this mean that Stony Brook students are more suseptable to so-called "negative" questions than the students at other schools that answered the same questions and said that they were happy? Here's a hint to all administration officials: maybe we're not happy because you keep making it out that we're dumb, falling for the pollster's whily ways while other college students didn't. We're not unhappy, according to the administration, we're just dumb. Thanks.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: University cops are singing Aretha Franklin these days, happy over the new found respect they will receive on campus this January when they become official police officers. Here's an idea for them to gain respect: stop the couple of officers walking around campus wearing tacky neon wrap-a-round sunglasses.

Higher Education Still Not Equal in South

By DAVID PACE
Associated Press

Despite more than two decades of efforts to equalize opportunity, blacks still lag far behind whites in virtually every measure of public higher education in the South, according to a new study released Tuesday.

The Southern Education Foundation, an Atlanta-based charity created in 1937 to promote education equity in the South, examined black progress in higher education since the 1970s, when the 19 states with dual college systems, including 16 in the South, began attacking higher education disparities with race-based remedies.

The study found that black students' access to higher education has remained virtually unchanged over the past two decades. Blacks comprised 15 percent of freshmen undergraduates at four-year institutions in 1976, and 17 percent in 1996.

Only 12.1 percent of blacks entering public institutions of higher education in the 19 states in 1996 went to traditionally white schools, the study found. As a result, blacks accounted for only 8.6 percent of the freshmen attending flagship state universities across the South.

The study also said that blacks are more likely than whites to leave college without degrees. And it found that the percentage of blacks among students earning doctoral degrees has barely changed in two decades, from 3.8 percent in 1976-77 to 4.3 percent in 1994-95.

Robert Kronley, author of the study, attributed the slow progress to the remnants of segregation, a popular belief that the problem has been solved, and the lack of a public will and vision to make changes. "It's not a popular issue in the South, not because people are walking around as pointy-headed racists anymore, but because they'd rather ignore it and hope it will go away," he said.

Kronley also said that since the 1992 Supreme Court ruling that states must desegregate their public college systems, conflicting court decisions over the use of race in college admissions and the current political battle over affirmative action have given some states reason to slow or eliminate race-based remedies.

In Alabama, for example, the state has appealed a lower court ruling that would have required it to spend \$100 million over the next 15 years to upgrade the quality of programs offered at historically black colleges.

Kronley said that appeal is an example of the

New Study Reveals That Blacks are Still Lagging Behind in Public Higher Education

failure of Alabama's political leadership to come to grips with the problem of increasing higher education opportunities for blacks.

But Bob Gambacorta, a spokesman for Alabama Gov. Fob James, said James pushed through the Legislature in 1995 a comprehensive reform program for the state's elementary and secondary schools that eventually will pay dividends for blacks in higher education.

"The first thing you've got to do before you can improve the number of blacks getting college degrees in Alabama is to increase the number of blacks coming out of high school capable of doing college level work," he said.

Kronley said every state examined in the study has taken some steps to improve opportunities for blacks in higher education. But what's needed, he said, is a comprehensive approach that involves not just higher education but elementary and secondary schools, the business community, and each state's political leadership.

A good example of that is evolving in Georgia, Kronley said. The university system is raising admission standards while implementing a plan to better prepare students by building links between local schools, community colleges and four-year institutions. But implementation of that plan has been clouded by a lawsuit filed last year that accuses the state of using tokenism and racial quotas to perpetuate segregation in its university system. The suit seeks the merger of some traditionally white institutions with historically black colleges and an end to race-based admissions criteria.

Lee Parks, the Atlanta attorney who filed the suit, said the university system's plan to better prepare students for college will help improve opportunities for blacks in the long run, but the problem requires more immediate attention. He said blacks are being shortchanged now because the historically black colleges don't have anywhere near the same undergraduate or graduate programs that the state's flagship universities offer. And most black students can't meet the admission requirements of the major schools.

"What we're saying is you either have to acknowledge an obligation to widen the doors at the major institutions to be accessible to minority students, or you have to ensure that the programming opportunities at the schools that already have a substantial base of minority students are equally diverse," he said.



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A Future Without Floppies

New iMac Computer Abolishes the Floppy Disk

By DAVID E. KALISH
Associated Press

When the computer industry talks about killing the 3.5-inch floppy disk, personal computer users like George Velez get upset.

"I'd be handicapped," says the ticket-office manager at Circle Line Cruises, who uses disks for storing memos and letters and even takes them home to work from the comfort of his Manhattan apartment.

Computer makers' hopes to phase out the time-worn diskette are running head-on into folks like Velez.

Never mind the 1.44-megabyte medium is too puny to store many new computer games and bulky data files. It isn't even that floppy. And external storage devices such as Iomega's Zip drive sport many times the capacity.

In the latest insult, the medium gets the boot this weekend when Apple starts selling its bold vision of computing's future - the iMac, a new Macintosh that lacks a floppy drive.

Despite a growing push to phase out the computer staple, most users still swear by the inexpensive, convenient method for storing and exchanging files with friends and

co-workers. Emerging alternatives, such as recordable CD-ROMs, are currently too expensive for most consumers.

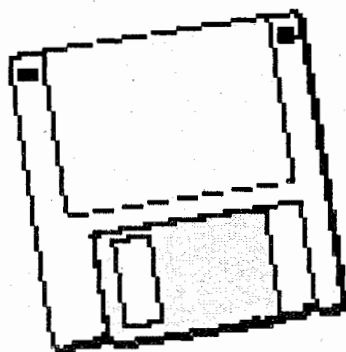
A staggering 2.3 billion diskettes were sold worldwide last year, according to Magnetic Media Information Services, a Tokyo-based research firm. While that number has been steadily dropping to well under 2 billion this year partly due to the growing use of CD-ROMs to distribute software, experts say it's a slow fade.

Such persistent loyalty is freezing the computer world in a time warp. Even as new machines sport drives for running high-capacity digital video disks, sort of souped-up CD-ROMs that hold the equivalent of several full-length movies, PCs continue to include built-in floppy drives. Floppies are still handy for backing up files against computer crashes, which can wipe out information stored on the hard-drive.

The more gradual approach clashes with Apple's radical shift in the Macintosh it starts selling on Saturday. And some critics say the futuristic iMac, sporting a built-in monitor, and an eye-catching translucent design, may be a bit

ahead of its time, at least in this regard.

Apple, arguing that the 3.5-inch floppy is a dying medium, says most iMac buyers will add external drives or transfer files via e-mail.



But others say the snub to floppies may make it tough for Steve Jobs, Apple's interim chief executive, to reach beyond its main customers, graphics and publishing professionals, to those who mainly do simple word processing. An add-on drive could add \$90 to the cost of the \$1,300 machine.

"We can say Mr. Jobs is not up to speed on users' convenience when it comes to storage," said James Porter, president of Disk/Trend Inc., a market research firm based in Mountain View, Calif., specializing in the disk-drive

industry.

It won't be the first time Jobs has shown a daring attitude toward storage. The original Macintosh computer he introduced didn't include a hard disk drive. It later was added. After he was ousted by Apple, Jobs developed the Next computer with an unusual optical-storage drive. The computer fizzled.

Still, Apple could be pointing to a future without floppies.

Iomega Corp., Imation Corp. and Sony Corp. all are vying to replace the 3.5-inch floppy disk, offering high-capacity alternatives.

"I'm very bullish on the long-term market for removable data storage," said Jeff Ash, vice president of marketing at Fuji Photo Film USA Inc., which created 200-megabyte disks for a new Sony external drive. "I would concur that the life-span of the 1.44-megabyte drive probably doesn't meet the needs of lot of the users out there today."

And Dutch giant Philips Electronics NV and others are pushing recordable compact discs as a floppy replacement. Recordable CDs, with a massive 650 megabytes of data storage, cost less than \$1 each, and though the drives cost a pricey \$350, they are expected to steadily cheapen.

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Statesman

Campus Lifestyles
Entertainment & Alternatives

Features

Don't Judge a Book By Its Critic

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

In 1865, a young critic for The Nation informed readers of a "melancholy task" he had just completed, the reading of a new volume of Civil War poems.

The critic faulted the poet's

"anomalous style" and "prosaic mind." He conceded the work might contain something original but concluded it was a "flashy imitation of ideas" and branded it "an offense against art."

The poet was Walt Whitman.

The critic? Henry James.

For a millennium and more, even the best minds have made some strange

predictions for the arts. Misplaced criticism is a grand tradition, from ancient Greece, when Aristophanes derided Euripides as "a cliché anthologist," to the 20th century, when Kingsley Amis insisted Dylan Thomas gave Welsh poetry a bad name.

"All great truths begin as blasphemies," George Bernard Shaw once observed, and misjudgments often come in reaction to originality. T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" was widely attacked as unreadable, and one prominent art critic thought Picasso's Cubist paintings "lecherous symbolism" and "fundamentally insane."

Virginia Woolf condemned James Joyce's "Ulysses" as a "disaster." Shaw himself had some unusual opinions, especially of Shakespeare. He described "Othello" as "pure melodrama" and found nothing spoken in "Julius Caesar" to be "worthy of an average Tammany boss." Then again, the Bard's non-fans are a pretty special group, including Voltaire who thought "Hamlet" the work of a "drunken savage," and Samuel Pepys who called "Romeo and Juliet" the "worst that I have ever heard in my life."

Criticism can be a matter of political or social taste. The white Irving Howe chastised Ralph Ellison for lacking the "clenched militancy" necessary for black writers. Norman Mailer once confessed he just couldn't think of any woman writer he admired. Mary McCarthy's label for "A Streetcar Named Desire" was "A Streetcar Named Success," her primary objection that the play was too popular.

Contemporary music has inspired some interesting, if regrettable, opinions. Frank Sinatra thought rock 'n' roll the work of "cretinous goons," and Dean Martin, on TV's "Hollywood Palace,"



Walt Whitman was deemed "an offense against art" by early critics.

If Present Commentators Can't Be Trusted,
What will stand the Test of Time?

What artistic traditions deserve to survive the millennium? The Associated Press sought the views of artists and critics. Their answers ranged from beauty to bookstores to...well, everything.

The only thing that has ever lasted is truth. Truth of your time, truth of your generation, truth of the human condition. That's what makes a classic painting and speaks to people in music, not device but truth." - Diana Rigg, actress.

Opera without mikes on the stage... My worry is that, as we move continually forward in the world of technology, we're going to think of it, instead of talent." - Beverly Sills, opera singer and chairwoman of Lincoln Center Inc.

I just hope that as much as possible will survive so that future generations can decide for themselves what is meaningful... One of the nice things about being an artist is that you can go to your grave a failure and always have the idea your work will be appreciated later." - Chuck Close, painter.

"The art of swing should last. With the world coming closer together and the increase in communication, we will be more than ever in need of the ability to adjust for changes with style. That's what swing is all about." - Wynton Marsalis, jazz composer and trumpeter.

"Musical comedy, an art form that has brought us brilliant performances, wonderful scripts, great dancing and best of all, brilliant songs... Those songs are the backbone of cabaret. Museums that show us the best of the new and old. A movie theater where they show the great classics." - Margaret Whiting, singer.

"It is so unpredictable. That's precisely what makes it so exciting... I have a tendency to think the most challenging and often the most difficult art is that which endures the most. My

sense of what should last is the art that is the most challenging and probably the most difficult to

comprehend today... There are without any question artists who are creating powerful work that will endure. And they're working in many different media from video to sculpture, painting and beyond." - Glenn D. Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art.

"Independent book stores. I hope they don't go away. The compact disc, now that I've finally gotten around to getting a CD player. Street singers. I like the fact people sing on the streets. I really do... I hope my music lasts." - Carly Simon, singer-songwriter.

"The Greek art has got at least as good a shot as Beethoven at making it into the next millennium. They both belong there." - Twyla Tharp, choreographer.

"Beauty... It seems like the human spirit is always sustained by the beautiful music of the past. Nobody has been able to silence it, which is a great and grand thing. By that fact alone, I hope forms of art will emerge and last that have more finesse and beauty." - Ben Long, painter.

"Quality and talent." - Isaac Stern, violinist.

"There aren't any guarantees. I think we have to stay in the moment." Richard Serra, sculptor.

Compiled by Mary Campbell, AP Newsfeatures Writer

Famous Artists Offer
Their Predictions

**The following issue, printed as Vol. 41, issue # 50,
should have been identified as Vol. 42, issue # 2.**

