

A better Life

education & science

universities require laptops

could become the first state to require public college students to own a laptop. The state's Board of Higher Education approved Tuesday as part of a \$123 million plan to provide \$54 million for laptop computers for low-income students and \$69 million for faculty training, facilities, and academic programs. The proposal still needs approval, which may prove difficult because of crumbling buildings and other problems that must be attended to first. Several schools already require computer ownership, including the University of Massachusetts and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But Massachusetts is the first state to make laptop ownership a requirement.



By Toby Talbot, AP

reportedly scare Americans most, fear of being buried alive.

in fear factors

What scares you the most? Flying? Public speaking? According to a poll of 1,000 adults conducted by the Discovery Health Channel, snakes topped the list as the most feared, followed by a fear of being buried alive (17%), being bound or tied up (15%), and a fear of heights (14%). Although men and women find the things creepy, they rank them differently. Being buried alive scares men more, and being bound or tied up scares women more. Discovery Health Channel explains as well as techniques being used to overcome the six-part special *Things That Go Bump in the Night* on Sunday at 8 p.m. ET/PT.

Hamper Parkinson's treatment

The tremors of Parkinson's disease can be hampered by the body's use of a key brain chemical called dopamine. In a two-year trial, all side effects that included hallucinations in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In the trial, 151 early-stage patients were given the drug pramipexole. Significant reduction in spasmodic hand movements, known as dyskinesias, a side effect that can be disabling. But pramipexole, like levodopa, the common treatment, can cause hallucinations, such as rigidity, speech and swallowing difficulties. Pramipexole also produced hallucinations, in abnormal buildup of fluid in body cavities. The study was financed by pramipexole's maker, Pharmacia.

ix beauty with wellness

Products that not only make users look better but also promote wholesome ingredients, sun protection, and other beneficial features are winners in the annual Healthiest Beauty Products review. A team of clinical dermatologists reviewed 500 products for everything from anti-aging benefits to packaging to come up with the winning list, which includes Bobbi Brown Essentials SPF 15 LipShine, Maybelline Full 'N Soft Mascara, Nu Skin 180 Face Wash, Calvin Klein Sheer Coverage Foundation SPF 20 and Earth Therapeutics Nail & Cuticle Care. *Healthiest Beauty* issue will be out Tuesday.

ature of relationships

Thirds (64%) of adults have told a

A world bursting with information

How much information is there in the world, how much more is generated each year, and in what forms?

A study out today from the University of California, Berkeley, attempts to quantify the amount of original information created annually in various forms, from plain text to photographs to videos, using one common yardstick: the space that it would take to store that information as computerized data, using common methods of

storage and data compression.

The findings: We are drowning in data. And significantly, most of that is now created by individuals. The bulk of information used to be published for public consumption, but now there are home videos, office documents, e-mail and more. With e-mail alone, we are creating 500 times as much information each year as the total of all Web pages. (Story, 1D.)

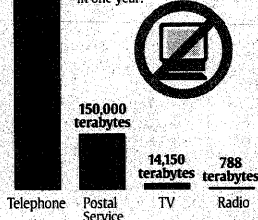
How much information is really out there?

The total volume of information generated worldwide annually equals about 1.5 exabytes of data — a stack of 1 trillion floppy disks that could reach to the moon and back four times. In comparison, five exabytes would equal all the words spoken by humans in the history of the world. More on the terminology:

1 byte	A single character
1 kilobyte	A very short story
1 megabyte	A small novel or floppy disk
1 gigabyte	A pickup truck filled with paper
1 terabyte	All the X-ray films in a large hospital

It's not just computers

How non-digital information, such as radio, TV broadcasts and mail, stacks up in the USA in one year:



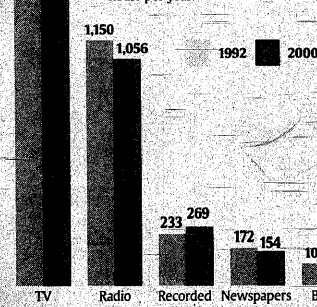
Individuals create the bulk of data

Individuals, rather than publishers, generate most of the world's original material. It is estimated that 2,700 photographs are taken every second around the world. A few examples of the yearly production of individual information:



Video's up, reading's down

Media use by U.S. households in hours per year:





E-mail tops the charts

E-mail has become one of the most common ways of communicating. Estimates vary, but between 610 billion and 1.1 trillion messages will be sent this year alone. A white-collar worker receives 40 e-mail messages at the office every day, although only one in 17 messages is stored for any period of time. Compared with 2.1 billion static pages on the Web — and with the amount of information in the Library of Congress:

E-mail	11,285 terabytes
Web pages	21 terabytes
Library of Congress	10 terabytes

We create more info at the office

The amount of text generated by office workers exceeds all other forms of printed matter. Original documents created by office workers are 80% of all original paper documents.



Terabytes	
Office documents	195
Newspapers	25
DVD/video	22
Cinema	16
Magazines	10
Books	8
Music CDs	6
Data CDs	3
Journals	2
Newsletters	0.2

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Source: University of California, Berkeley, department of information sciences

By Sam Ward and Julie Snider, USA TODAY

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