

Apple merger wouldn't affect PSU

By JESSICA KREGER
Collegian Staff Writer

Recent rumors that Sun Microsystems, Inc. will buy out Apple Computer, Inc. have fallen on the ears of many interested computer users at the University. But according to a University official, such a buyout will probably not affect computer technology at Penn State.

"I don't think it would change things," said Gary Augustson, executive director of computer and information systems. "I think Apple's technology would persist for at least the next several years. I don't think whoever bought it would throw out their technology tonight."

But Carrie Koza (junior-anthropology), a Macintosh aficionado, said a merger concerns her only because with any sale, the integrity of Apple and Macintosh could be lost.

Koza said there are advantages and disadvantages with both IBMs and Macs.

If a buyout should occur, she said she hopes the computer labs would keep Macs because of the benefits they offer to some students.

Augustson said if a buyout occurs, the computer labs at the University would not get rid of the Macintosh computers they currently have

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available and no IBMs would replace the Macintoshes.

This year, Gov. Tom Ridge did not recommend the University receive the \$4.5 million it requested for technology, which may increase the \$35 computer fee to between \$50 and \$70 next year.

While Koza does not think a sale would have any effect on the \$35 student computer fee that is already included in a student's tuition, Steven Matiasic (senior-accounting) is skeptical.

"Everything affects us costwise. It seems that way, anyway," he said.

Augustson said a merger or a buyout would not affect the computer fee, but he added that

he is not sure if the sale would influence the price of computer equipment that students buy for their individual use.

Koza said she is concerned with that prospect as well.

"It might affect whether students buy an IBM or a Mac for personal use," she said.

"Technically, I prefer an Apple over an IBM any day," Koza said. "For someone just starting out, they are much easier to use than an IBM."

She added that she thinks Macs are more user-friendly than IBMs because they do not require as much knowledge of an operating system as IBMs have in the past.

"To me they are a lot better for running the World Wide Web and different games," she said.

But Matiasic, an IBM fan, hopes that the sale will occur.

"IBM is making a big step forward," he said. "A couple of years ago it seems like everybody was on the Macs and now everybody is moving to IBMs."

David Shawley (junior-computer science) is also concerned about the rumors, but he said that "if Apple is going to be bought, I would like Sun to do it — it's probably the best choice."

Former presidential candidate may have given unnecessary raises

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Pete Wilson provided state jobs for more than two dozen aides to his failed presidential bid, staff additions that will cost taxpayers \$1.3 million, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

Almost half of the appointees were former state workers who got promotions and salary boosts averaging 32 percent when they

returned to government jobs, the paper said.

"We make no apologies whatsoever for the fact that good staff people have gone from government service onto this presidential campaign and then have come back," said Sean Walsh, Wilson's press secretary.

Walsh left state government for five months to serve on the campaign and resumed his old position with a \$10,000-a-year raise, to \$84,996.

Wilson, who quit the presidential campaign in

September, declined to be interviewed about his appointments.

Officials in the governor's office told the Times that workers were not promised jobs as rewards for campaigning and that all the raises and promotions were based on merit.

The campaign, the officials said, gave Wilson an opportunity to observe closely the skills and talents of individuals he wanted to bring into or keep in state government.



Collegian Photo/Ilan Sherman

Tanning tunnel

Preparing for spring break in Clearwater, Fla., Chris Colitas (junior-landscape architecture) tans at Nittany Hot Springs, 511 E. Calder Way, on Feb. 29. Students returned from the week-long respite over the weekend.

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