

Reflections And Observations: Education And Technology

Andries van Dam. Graphics and Visualization Center

Thomas J. Watson Jr. Brown University.

The past five years have seen exceptionally strong demand for integration of computers into K-12 curricula, driven both by the media hype surrounding computer technology and networks and the increasing pressure on educational institutions to improve scope and quality of education in a publicly demonstrable fashion. These forces have combined to produce a time of great potential for education but also one of great danger. Educators and administrators must consider how can this technology be used to promote rigorous and useful learning rather merely adding glitz to traditional types of assignments. Educators and administrators must also be aware that although computers can bring education to a more diverse and expanding audience, the same technology can serve to divide societies into groups of haves and have nots. van Dam will analyze several means of approaching these and other issues, drawing on current research findings and using real life examples from his experience as a researcher, educator, and Director of the Graphics and Visualization Center.