**Famous, But Sometimes Wrong**

**We don't like their sound and guitar music is on the way out. *(Decca Recording Company rejecting The Beatles, 1962)***

**Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons. *(Popular Mechanics, 1949)***

**The man credited with inventing the motion picture system never made a dime. Thomas Edison didn't bother to patent his projection systems because he thought they had no future. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 22)**

**That renowned Greek philosopher Epicurus calculated the sun was approximately two feet in diameter. (Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 78)**

**The experts can be wrong. They agreed unanimously that Paderewski couldn't play the piano. They spat on Van Gogh's paintings. Verdi was rejected by the Milan Conservatory because he had no talent. Schubert was never considered good enough to work for imperial Austrian musical authorities. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia , p. 218)**

**Experts always sound so sure. Neville Chamberlain, the British prime minister, was positive, just before the start of World War II, that there would be “peace for our time.” Producer Irving Thalberg did not hesitate to advise Louis B. Mayer against buying the rights to Gone With the Wind because “no Civil War picture ever made a nickel.” Even Abraham Lincoln surely believed it when he said in his Gettysburg Address: “The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here. . . .” (Jo Coudert, in Reader’s Digest)**

**The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a "C," the idea must be feasible. (A Yale University professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing a reliable overnight delivery service. Smith went on to found Federal Express Corporation)**

**Benjamin Franklin approved of killing animals in furtherance of laboratory experiments. In his work with Leyden jars in 1773, he electrocuted a turkey, a lamb and numerous chickens. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Everything that can be invented has been invented. (Charles H. Duell, commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899)**

**President Andrew Jackson was never convinced that the earth was round and not flat. (E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts , p. 1)**

**Thomas Jefferson said it would take 40 generations to conquer the American wilderness. Certainly missed on that one, didn't he! Four generations later the frontier was just about gone. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 1899, the Commissioner of the United States Patent Office said, “Everything that can be invented has been invented.” (Beverly A. Betaire)**

**Dr. Norman Vincent Peale threw out the manuscript of "The Power of Positive Thinking," feeling it was no good. His wife rescued it. (Speak Up! N.S.A.)**

**Describing the telephone, the President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, said, “That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?” (Beverly A. Betaire)**

**Singers who didn't believe in future hits:  
1. Elvis Presley--rejected Roy Orbison's Only the Lonely 2. Barry Manilow--thought Mandy was average  
3. Bobby Darin--disliked Mack the Knife 4. Freddy Cannon--rejected The Twist 5. Bill Medley--rejected Elvis' In the Ghetto 6. Danny and the Juniors--rejected The Twist.(World Features Syndicate)**

**The telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us. *(Western Union internal memo, 1876)***

**When he was filming The Sound of Music, star Christopher Plummer thought the musical was going to be awful, so he scornfully called it The Sound of Mucus. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 198)*  
  
Great writers don't always make the best critics. For example, Leo Tolstoy, the War and Peace man, decreed that Shakespeare's works were crude, immoral, vulgar and senseless. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Mark Twain may have been a smart fellow, but he jumped into some 100 doubtful investments and there from lost more than $200,000. But he turned down an inexpensive chance to own part interest in the early telephone. (L. M. Boyd)**

**In 1946, a prominent man said, “Video won't hold any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.” That man was Darryl F. Zanuck, then head of 20th Century Fox movie studios. (Beverly A. Betaire)**

**Wall Street has predicted nine of the last three recessions. (Creative Life Church of Divine Science newsletter, Hot Springs, AR)  
  
Western Union Telegraph Company had the opportunity -- for $100,000 -- to buy the rights to the invention of the telephone, but declined. By 1881, five years after he had invented the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell had sold off almost all of the shares of stock he held in the company he had formed, never realizing how profitable they would be. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 61)**

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