

# Read up on computers

"In 1978 there were about 5,000 desk-top computers in the United States. In 1982, there were 5 million. By 1990, it is estimated there will be 80 million."

So stated Michael Crichton. Yes, Michael Crichton, the best-selling novelist who wrote "The Andromeda Strain," "The Terminal Man" and "The Great Train Robbery."

Crichton recently published a layman's guide to computers. His book, "Electronic Life," subtitled "How to Think About Computers" (Alfred A Knopf), is the latest in a flood of new books on computers to hit the market.

His message is fairly simple: Don't be afraid of them. They're only machines. They're here to make your life easier and what's more, they can be a lot of fun.

The hard-cover version costs \$12.95, but it might make a nice last-minute Christmas gift for a friend itching to know what's it all about.

ANOTHER HOT-SELLING book that has been around for a year is "The Personal Computer Book" by Peter A. McWilliams (Random House, 1982). A good introduction to personal computers, this book includes a very helpful brand name buying guide. For \$9.95 it is one of the best buys in your local bookstore.

Two other paperbacks published by Random House 1 also found useful. The first is "Computer-wise" by Henry Horenstein and Elliot Tarlin, and the second is "The Random House Book of Computer Literacy" by Ellen Richman. Both were published this year, and each costs \$9.95.

Basically they describe in simple terms how to understand, buy and use personal computers. As with all the books reviewed, both have excellent glossaries to help the novice overcome the jargon.

A number of specific publications address the need to become familiar and comfortable with computer buzzwords. Barron's Educational Services Inc. publishes the "Encyclopedia of Computer Terms" by Douglas Downing. This book sells for \$8.95 and includes "400 essential terms."

Not to be outdone the editors of Consumer's Guide wrote "The Illustrated Computer Dictionary," which defines 1,000 universal terms. Published by Bantam Books in 1983, this is an excellent reference book for only \$3.95.

Random House, which has several computer-related books on the shelf, also published "The Random House Dictionary of New Information Technology." Don't let the title mislead you. It is another book of terms and definitions. This paperback was also published this year and sells for \$7.95.

TWO MORE books the novice may find useful are published by lesser-known houses.

"Computers for Everybody" by Willis and Merl Miller takes sort of a populist approach and explains the world of computers in very down-to-earth non-threatening terms. (Published by Bantam Press, 1983, \$7.95).

The second book "A Practical Guide to Small Computers" by Robert M. Rinder, was published in 1983 by Monarch Press and sells for \$11.95. Similar to the other, this book would be especially useful for beginners.

An inexpensive (\$2.95) and helpful guide is "The Personal Computer Buyer's Guide" by Murray Bowes. Published by Clarkson N. Potter Inc. (1983), this guide describes, compares and prices the 40 top personal computers.

FOR YOUNGER readers, some of the books mentioned may be appropriate.

However, Daniel and Susan Cohen have written a book specifically geared to children: "The Kids Guide to Home Computers" (Pocket Books, 1983) costs only \$1.95 and is well worth it. It is only 118 pages, so you might even be able to stuff one in a stocking on the 25th.

The last book to be reviewed is very timely. "The Hacker's Dictionary" is for the computer whiz kid or the curious spouse at home punching away on a personal computer. Subtitled "A Guide to the World of Computer Wizards," this book will not teach the

## high tech Ronald R. Watcke

user to play "War Games," nor how to change grades on a school transcript.

Guy Steele, Donald R. Woods, et al. contributed to this book in an effort to better understand and communicate with "hackers." (Hackers are hobbyists who attempt and sometimes succeed in entering on-line computer systems illegally, or without authorization.) Published by Harper & Row in 1983, this fun book costs \$5.95.

YOU WILL NOT find any of these books on the New York Times best seller list. However, all local book stores carry most, if not all of these titles.

A Troy resident, Watcke is dean of liberal arts at Wayne County Community College.

## CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS

are not available  
Save 30% to 50% OFF  
Diamonds, Rings,  
Watches, Bracelets  
Storewide Sale

Ronnie's Jewelers  
Union Lake  
363-1597  
Open nightly 11:30-2:30,  
Sunday 12-5

Send Your Love  
Around The World.  
1-800-225-3393  
Toll Free



## Black Diamond's back.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday only... only at Chudiks

Direct from New York, the spectacular Black Diamond's collection, with significant price reductions on every mink coat & jacket. 3 days only... Only at Chudiks.

**chudiks**  
OF BROADWAY  
647-1300  
294 E. BROWN ST.  
OPEN EVERY NITE TIL 9  
SUNDAY 1 TO 5 P.M.

## 'Tis the season to give Seiko Quartz.

Quartz technology at its peak, performance, rarefied to a seemingly impossible thinness. Seiko Lussale, the performing art of technology. Come see our line of Seiko and our other fine jewelry during the holiday season.

### WINE & JEWELRY

#### "SUNSET STRIP"

29536 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, Michigan 48034

#### HOLIDAY HOURS

Weekdays: 10 am - 8 pm  
Saturdays: 10 am - 6 pm  
Sundays: 10 am - 4 pm



## Company's coming... serve holiday treats from Hudson's

When it's time to pass the plate, fill it with our famous La Cookie and croissants and serve the best. From La Cookie, the richest, chocolate chunk cookies in five varieties: chocolate, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, praline or walnut. 1/4-lb. 1.35, 1/2-lb. 2.70. 1-lb. 5.40. Decorated lin with 1 1/4-lb. of cookies: 10.35. Get La Cookie at Northland, Eastland and Oakland. From the Croissant Shop: butter croissants, 65¢ each. Almond or chocolate, 75¢ each. Fruit-filled, \$1 each. Ham-and-cheese croissant, 1.50 each. At Northland and Eastland, croissants also available from the Bakery Counter at Oakland, Southland and Westland.



**hudson's**  
your christmas store

MICHIGAN'S MINIATURE WONDERLAND!  
Pre-Holiday Sale 20% off  
Hundreds of Items!  
The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop  
BERKLEY STORE ONLY  
1400 W. 14 Mile St. at Greenfield  
843-1111 Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

**PORTRAITS**  
For Christmas Giving  
Delivery right through December 22  
**IN-FOCUS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIOS  
Quality • Affordable • Fast  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
Tully Hall  
Orchard at 14 Mile  
851-2602  
STERLING HEIGHTS  
Lakeside Mall  
Hall at Schoenherr  
247-0060

The Economical Alternative...  
**RENTAL**  
We rent downhill and cross-country skis by the  
• Week  
• Weekend  
• Season  
Don Thomas  
**Sporthaus**  
400 THOMPSON AVENUE  
ALCO, MI 48007  
Daily 10-9, Sat. 9-10:30-5:30, Sun. 12-5



## He's sure to be pleased with our Scottish Shetland sweater

Christmas is certainly the time a man appreciates an addition to his collection of sweaters. We suggest this Shetland wool classic, with fully-fashioned crew neck and saddle shoulders, offered in nine handsome shades: navy, yellow, scarlet, light blue, dark green, medium grey, light grey, natural or burgundy. Even sizes 38 to 48, \$47.50

Use your Brooks Brothers card, American Express or Diners Club. Brooks Brothers' Gift Certificates will answer all your Christmas problems. Denominations of \$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100

ESTABLISHED 1818

**Brooks Brothers**  
CLOTHING

Furnishings for Men, Women, & Boys  
645 GRISWOLD, CITY NATIONAL BANK BLDG.,  
DETROIT • SOMERSET MALL, TROY