

# To buy or not to buy . . . a home computer

The last holiday buying binge was the biggest in five years. Thousands of personal computers were brought, giftwrapped and given on Dec. 25.

Most common computer given was the Texas Instrument 99/4A, followed by Commodore's VIC-20 and 64. A few lucky ones got Apples and IBM's PC.

Consider yourself lucky if you didn't get an Adam computer system by Coleco. It seems there are more problems with this new system than the manufacture cares to admit. JC Penny originally ordered 5,000, but cancelled the order after receiving only 500 because the computer failed quality performance tests.

Perhaps Coleco should stick with Cabbage Patch dolls and leave personal computers to the big boys.

THE 12 DAYS OF Christmas are past and you didn't get a personal computer? Don't feel too disappointed. Perhaps you don't need one.

With all the newspaper and magazine advertisements, commercials on television and media hype, many unsuspecting consumers feel obligated to have a personal computer. Without one, you are destined to be "culturally deprived," underdeveloped or — worse — a computer "illiterate."

Personal computers are useful. They are primarily used for entertainment and games, education, home budgeting and personal money management, small businesses, and professional and managerial applications.

To be sure, as prices drop further, more and more personal computers will find their way into shopping carts and eventually into millions of middle class homes. Not surprisingly, many personal computers are collecting more dust than Tulsa, Okla. in the 1930s.

Hastily purchased, though with good intentions, personal computers are not

## high tech Ronald R. Watcke

necessarily, the buyer soon realizes.

TO HELP you avoid a similar fate, I have devised a simple questionnaire. After completing the questionnaire you should have a better handle on your personal computer needs and buying decisions. Answer yes or no to these

questions:

1. Do you have difficulty balancing your checkbook accurately each month?
2. Do you do your own income tax returns?
3. Do you do any one else's income tax returns such as relatives or

friends?

4. Do you have children under the age of 12 at home?
5. Do you have a small business in your home?
6. Do you type numerous letters, manuscripts and documents which require editing and revisions?
7. Do you or a family member truly love to play computer/video games?
8. Do you need assistance in managing your personal money matters?
9. Do you need help in keeping track of investments such as stocks, bonds and real estate holdings?
10. Do you need to improve your record keeping, filing and retrieval systems?

tem?

IF YOU answered yes to fewer than five, then continue what you are currently doing.

If you answered yes to more than five, you probably will enjoy life a lot more with a personal computer.

If you answered yes to five and no to five, then it's a tossup between a personal computer or a Cabbage Patch kid.

How to choose a personal computer will be the topic of next week's column.

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

## La Prima Music hit for lack of prices

Attorney General Frank J. Kelley has asked Ingham Circuit Court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to stop La Prima Music Inc., an area piano and organ merchant, from selling unmarked items.

A spokesman for La Prima, headquartered in Southgate, would not comment on the charges when reached by phone. The firm operates eight stores in the suburbs, including ones in Livonia, Southfield and Troy.

"La Prima has, for more than a year, consistently ignored legal assurances it signed with my office and submitted to the Ingham County Circuit Court," said Kelley. "I hope a judge can be more persuasive than I that the time has come for La Prima to stop its wholesale viola-

tions of the law." According to Kelly, the company agreed in September of 1982 to post prices in the store or price tags on musical instruments for sale in its showrooms but "began immediately to violate the terms of the assurance of discontinuance."

Spot checks by attorney general investigators over the past year revealed continued wholesale violations of the agreement, making La Prima in violation of the Michigan Item Pricing and Deceptive Advertising Act, Kelley said.

Kelley also asked the court to assess civil penalties of \$1,000 for the first violation and \$3,000 for subsequent violations in addition to unspecified litigation and attorney costs.

## Class aids kin of disabled

Parent Awareness, a free 10-week course for families of people with developmental disabilities, is being offered by Delta College in the headquarters of the Oakland Intermediate School District, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac.

Beginning Jan. 24, the course is geared for parents, legal guardians, foster parents, family members and other caring individuals interested in learning how to work with develop-

mental disabilities.

The class will meet Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in room 315, according to instructor Carol N. Kent, Ed.D. She may be contacted for registration information at 653-2054.

Practical skills will be taught to enable one to work with school, social and medical professionals. New child management and family relations skills will be presented and legal rights of the family and the developmentally disabled person will be reviewed.

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The Original! *New!*

#### AEROBIC DANCING

*Aerobic Workout Coed Classes*

- Sweat & smile to upbeat contemporary music
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- Burn Fat & Lose Inches
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- The "get-it-all-together" approach that shapes up your figure
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- It's JSAMI (Jacki Sorensen's Aerobic Workout)



CALL NOW! **644-3460**

MORNING AND EVENING CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 1984

BIRMINGHAM.....	Rodeo Lutheran Church
BLOOMFIELD HILLS.....	Bloomfield Hills Schools
CLAWSON.....	Baker Community Center
FARMINGTON.....	American Legion Hall
FARMINGTON HILLS.....	Mercy Center
ROYAL OAK.....	Salvation Army Church
SOUTHFIELD.....	Alma Day School and Village City Hall
LIVONIA.....	Wanderland Center
WESTLAND.....	Melvin Bailey Center

Register by Phone 

## Semi-Annual SALE

Beginning Thursday, January 5, 1984

### MENS WINTER CLOTHING & FURNISHINGS

SUITS - SPORTS COATS  
20% to 50% off

TOPCOATS - RAINCOATS  
20% to 40% off

JACKETS & SUBURBAN COATS  
20% to 50% off

TROUSERS  
20% to 50% off

FURNISHINGS  
20% to 50% off

### LADIES WINTER CLOTHING & FURNISHINGS

20% to 50% off

ALL SALES FINAL

SALE HOURS  
9 to 5:30 daily  
Thursday and Friday  
January 5 & 6 9 to 9 p.m.

CLASSIC STYLE  UNCOMMON SERVICE

80 Karchoval Avenue • Grease Pointe Farms  
Bloomfield Commons • Maple & Lusher • Birmingham

# GORMAN'S GOODS & GORMAN'S GOOFS

## ARE ALL ON SALE AT 15 TO 50% OFF.

For a very limited time, every piece of furniture at all four Gorman's is sale priced at 15 to 50% off. These are the "Goods." And they include setting after setting of beautiful furniture from the collections of Henredon, Preview, Thayer Coggin, Weimer and Swaim.

Loveseat.  
8 units.  
WAS \$739

NOW  
**\$399**



Actually, we'd like to describe some of these "GooFs," but our lawyers have reminded us of the numerous lawsuits pending in the wake of last year's ad.

So, for some real deals and some real bellyaching you'll just have to come on in.

And, from Drexel & Heritage you'll save 20% on collections like Tai Ming, Grand Villa and Old Continent. Plus all the distinctive occasional furniture from the Brittany, Connoisseur, Sketchbook and Dynasty Collections is 20% off!

In addition to the "Goods" is the bizzare collection of "GooFs." The furniture in this

category ranges from the mildly tasteless to revoltingly grotesque. Some could add that touch of daring and brashness to your home. And a few, frankly, are heinous crimes against humanity and should be shipped to the region "where no man has gone before."

Genuine leather and walnut.  
22 units.  
WAS \$895

NOW  
**\$399**



Except Ligne Roset and Inner Circle.

## ALL STORES OPEN MONDAY 10 A.M.-9 P.M.

# GORMAN'S

All stores open Daily 10 to 6; Monday, Thursday & Friday till 9;  
Troy and Fairlane open Sunday 12:00 to 5:30.

\*\* Bedroom furniture available but not on display in Southfield.

**SOUTHFIELD**  
Telegraph at 12 Mile  
Phone: 353-9880

**TROY**  
W. Big Beaver at Crooks  
Phone: 649-2070

**FAIRLANE**  
260 Town Center Drive  
Across from Fairlane Mall  
Dearborn, Phone: 336-0340

**GRAND RAPIDS**  
28th & Breton Rd.  
Phone: 243-5466