

# Don't rush when buying home computer

About to rush out and purchase a home computer this holiday season?

"Home computers can be a useful educational gift," said Keith Geiger, president of the Michigan Education Association. "They are more than a toy, and parents should do some research before buying. Computers shouldn't be an impulse purchase."

So MEA recommends that parents consider the following when shopping:

• Do some research before buying. Why do you want a computer? Read articles in publications that evaluate home computers. Ask people who own a home computer for the strengths and weaknesses of the computer they own. Ask a teacher of computer sciences at your high school or college for advice. Don't base your buying decision solely on advertisements.

• Pay close attention to the size of the memory. Expressed in terms of "K," home computers with less than 16K memory are probably not a bargain. Many computer users suggest a memory of at least 48K. Is the computer part of a system that can be expanded?

At what cost? Purchasing the smallest computers may look like a bargain, but costs will often skyrocket when you try to expand them.

• Look into the kinds of software (programs) already available to run the computers you compare. How good is the software? The major complaints about home computers frequently focus on the lack of good software and the cost to get good programming.

# SEMTA hiking fare to \$1 Jan. 1

The board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) has approved a series of fare increases to take effect Jan. 1.

The increases will affect all transit services operated by SEMTA.

Large-bus base fare will be \$1. Zone charges will be 25 cents.

The board did not make a decision on service cutbacks, also scheduled to take effect Jan. 1. The board decided to wait until its next meeting, Dec. 21, because of the possibility that the state Legislature may pass the Transportation Comprehensive Survival Package, and because the State Court of Appeals could make a decision soon on the release of escrowed regional taxes.

# Ex-Cell-O adds Illinois firm as division

Ex-Cell-O Corp., headquartered in Troy, announced that it has acquired the operating assets of Badger Marine Hardware Co. of Harvard, Ill.

The company is a manufacturer of components for the commercial and military aviation gas-turbine industry. It and employs approximately 165 persons. It will operate as a unit of Ex-Cell-O's Aerospace Division.

E. Paul Casey, president of Ex-Cell-O, said, "This acquisition represents a further step by our Aerospace Division in expanding its position of leadership and advanced capability in fuel metering and combustion technology applications."

Ex-Cell-O did not disclose either the acquisition price or the sales volume of Badger Marine Hardware.

Ex-Cell-O Corp. is a diversified manufacturer of automotive components, machine tools, packaging equipment, aerospace components, ordnance equipment and other precision industrial products. It has more than 25 manufacturing plants throughout the United States and Canada.

# Crashes through windshield

# Bowling ball owner sought in car death

Police are attempting to locate the owner of the bowling ball which crashed through a car's windshield early last Saturday morning killing Thomas E. Hart, 30, of Westland.

Westland Detective Lt. Dewey Combs said police are contacting area stores which sell bowling balls in an effort to locate the owner. They also are checking with businesses that drill bowling balls.

Police urge that anyone with information call the Westland department at 722-9600.

"THERE'S A possibility the ball may have been stolen, but we are checking to see if we can locate the owner," Combs said.

The lieutenant said it isn't believed the ball was thrown intentionally.

"At this time we don't know if the ball was thrown from a car or where it came from, but it is doubtful it was meant to injure anyone," he said.

Hart and his wife, Linda, were on their way home from visiting friends when the incident occurred. Mrs. Hart was driving north on Newburgh Road near Marquette when the 14-pound red bowling ball slammed into the hood of the car, bounced up and crashed through the windshield and out the back window.

Hart, who was in the right-hand seat, was struck in the head and collapsed.

Police said Mrs. Hart had no idea where the ball came from, although there were other cars on the road.

The family has agreed to donate Hart's vital organs to Wayne County General Hospital, which is making arrangements for recipients.

A surgical team removed Hart's kidneys, liver, corneas and some skin for burn victims, a relative said.

A LONGTIME friend of the family, Sandy Firth, said some 15-20 relatives and friends stood vigil at Hart's bedside at Wayne County Hospital.

"It was a terrible thing," Firth said.

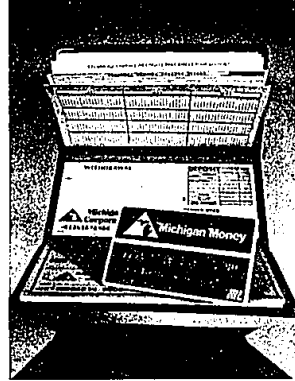
"And isn't it ironic? Bowling was one of his favorite sports."

Hart was a avid bowler who played every week at Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights.

He was manager of a Wuv's fast-food store.

In addition to his wife, Hart is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hart; grandmother, Olive C. Hart; sister, Christy Groves; and in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Walkowski. Funeral services were held Wednesday morning from the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home in Dearborn. Burial was in Grandlawn Cemetery.

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