

## Age of computers boon to disabled



### Against the odds

PAT WOODE

This is most definitely the era of computers. If you are disabled, have a grade twelve education or equivalent, read at a grade twelve level, can pass a programming aptitude test and are dedicated in passing an intense, high pressure course, then ACT (Alternative Computer

Training for the Disabled) is the course for you.

This twelve month course, which began in 1984, runs two programs per year and is monitored by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. It is a rigorous program with nine months of class and lab work mixed with internships, reviews and a placement period.

Four classes have graduated to date, with approximately 80 per cent of the graduates finding employment with such companies as IBM, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Bell Canada. While in training students receive minimum wage and must be capable of work-

ing an eight hour day.

ACT has an advantage in providing access to decent programming jobs for disabled who do not have a university education. The same people who set the programming standards for industry are also having their say in every area of ACT. For this reason the employers are willing to hire.

Spring is just around the corner and soon to follow our thoughts will be turning to the sports field.

Last summer Hamilton hosted the first ever all wheelchair baseball game between the Hamilton Wheelers basketball team and the Hamilton Press Club (in

wheelchairs for the occasion). The pilot project for organized to work out the kinks but more games are planned for the coming season.

A parking lot, ten members to each team (extra fielder), are the necessary requirements of the game. As the ball is lobbed rather than drilled the extra player is needed to counterbalance the advantage of the batter. There are five innings to a game with a total one hour time limit.

What was the upshot of the game? The player laughed so hard that at times they found it hard to make a play. The Wheelers, needless to say,

rolled away with the victory and the organizer was so pleased with its success that he hopes the game will spread through all of Ontario.

The self help group for persons with bulimia or anorexia nervosa are now holding regular meetings in the Georgetown community. The members are anxious to hear from others who may have the same problem. Please call 877-1436 or 877-5657.

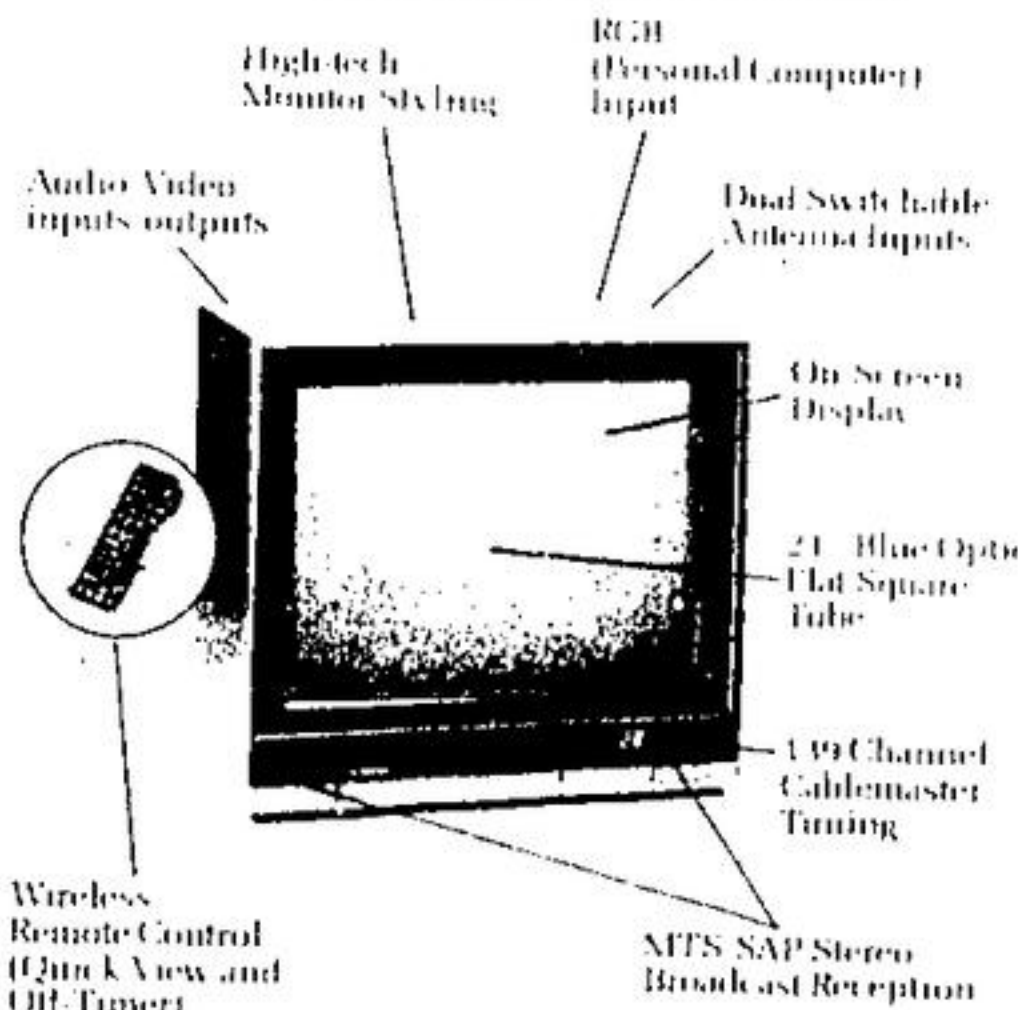
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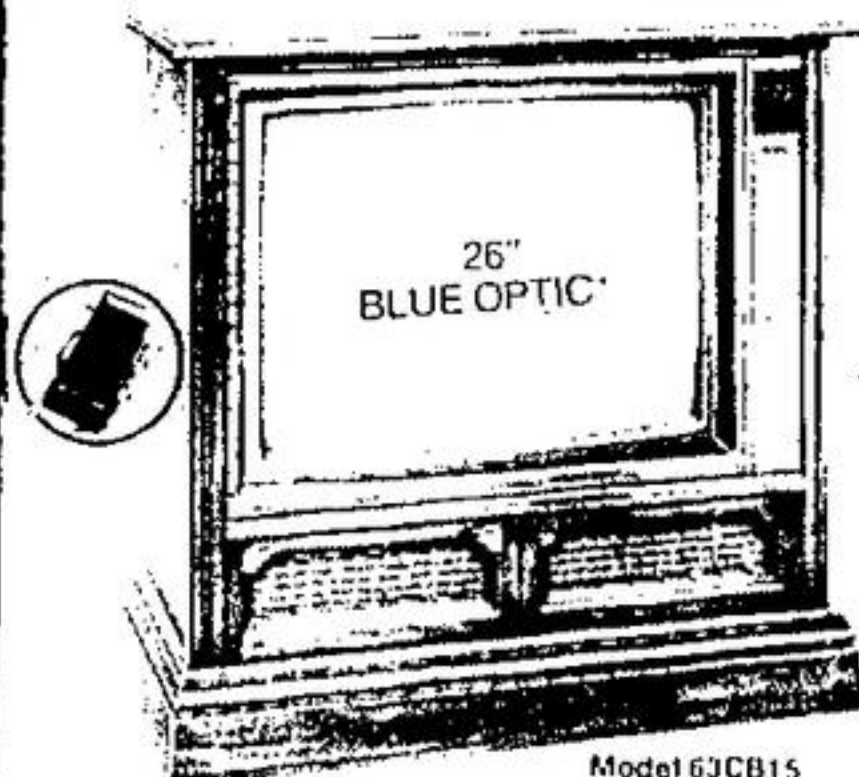
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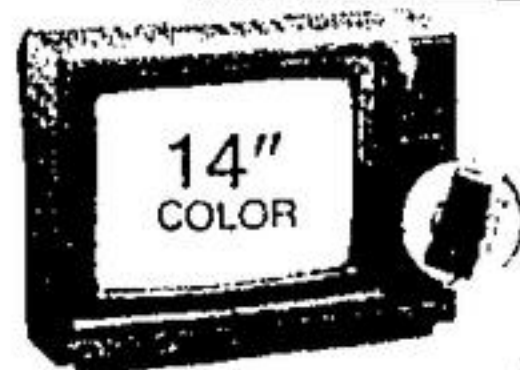
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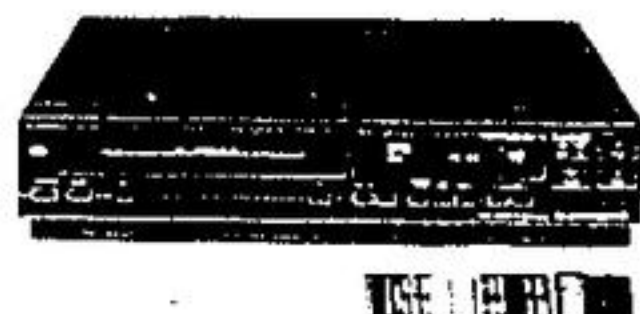


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