



The staff from Kentner's Catering congratulated Jean Smith on winning a trip to the Dominican Republic in a contest held by Kentner's over the last five months. Left to right are Lori Kentner, Jean Smith, Gerry Kentner, Suzanne Day of Golliger's Travel and Dave Kentner. (Herald photo)

## Top TVs provide high-quality pictures

By the Editors  
of Consumer Reports

To judge by trends in television sales, people miss the expanse of the big movie screen and the realism of movie-theater sound.

Screens are getting bigger. Sets with a 26-inch or 27-inch screen are now selling faster than the 19- and 20-inchers. And sound, low-fidelity for so long, is finally nearing true high-fidelity, even though most sets still need the assist of a hi-fi system, or at least decent speakers.

Recently, the electronics engineers at Consumer Reports tested 16 mostly top-of-the-line 26- and 27-inch models. (That extra inch means little; it generally comes from making the screen's corners squarer, which is the style trend on all sizes of TVs these days.) All were tabletop models with built-in stereo sound and a remote control. List prices ranged from \$629

to \$900.

Picture quality was the main criterion the testers used to rate the sets. Its most important constituents are clarity, contrast and color fidelity. All the sets produced a very good picture.

By a small margin, the Hitachi CT7880K, \$870 list, topped the ratings. Other good choices are: the Panasonic CTK2770S (\$799 list); the Magnavox RJ555OAK (\$799 list); its twin, the Sylvania RPJ710WA (\$799 list); the J.C. Penney Cat. No. 3539 (\$800 list plus shipping); the Mitsubishi CS2657R (\$799 list); and the RCA F27100AK (\$769 list).

As one expects with high-end TVs these days, all the sets tested had built-in MTS (multi-channel television sound), with the necessary stereo decoder and at least two speakers.

Side-firing speakers, which point outward from the side of the set, give a better stereo effect — sense of space — than speakers that face straight out into the room. But if the set is to be enclosed in a cabinet or an alcove, side-firing speakers could lose their advantage.

None of the sets' speakers can render sound at the quality level associated with a decent hi-fi system. The speakers are simply too small and too close together for that.

Most of the sets tested give you the choice of listening through the TV's speakers, external speakers or both. Most people interested in good sound will want to listen through both sets of speakers. That way the TV speakers fill in the center of the stereo sound image — a rather pleasing effect.

## Quebec heads into 21st century

By VIC PARSONS  
Thomson News Service

Long seen as somewhat of a business backwater in North America, Quebec to day is a leader in the charge toward the 21st-century economy.

Inside and outside the historic walls of the core of this unique city, there is a transformation that is lower key than emotional language and constitutional issues, but nonetheless powerful.

The changes are happening all over the province, but are particularly apparent in the Quebec City area.

It's perhaps why a demonstration last week against the controversial language Bill 178 drew a crowd of only a few hundred — mostly teenagers — compared with the estimated 60,000 at a similar Montreal event. Montreal has a jobless rate of about 10 per cent, Quebec City's is merely 4.5 per cent. In short, the residents of the provincial capital were too busy at their jobs.

There's a climate of business confidence here. The Liberal government of Premier Robert Bourassa is a leader in Canada in privatization and deregulation. Businessmen wax enthusiastic about the products they are selling across Canada and abroad. They are cocky and self-assured.

The economy of the province is humming along nicely. Indeed, with an election expected sometime this year, the Parti Quebecois opposition is hard-

pressed to find a chink in the Liberal's economic armor. Interest rates are mentioned, but that, after all, is a federal responsibility.

If there is a stain on the Bourassa government's economic record, it is likely Hydro-Quebec. Three times in less than a year, massive power blackouts have hit Quebec. And while the one last week has been blamed on sunspots, that doesn't ease the problem. Industry Minister Pierre MacDonald says the failures show a need to pay attention to the power grid.

### ECONOMY CHANGED

But hydro aside, what has been happening to transform the provincial economy?

Pierre Fortier, Quebec's privatization minister, says French-Canadians are more interested in business and finance. The Quiet Revolution of the 1960s focused on education and culture, Fortier says. Now, after 200 years of ceding economic matters to "les anglais," entrepreneurship is rapidly advancing in Quebec.

Survival as a minority in North America requires that Quebecers succeed on the economic front, he says.

Since the last election in 1985, Bourassa's government has sold off more than a score of Crown-owned companies with an asset value of about \$1 billion.

This privatization is not of the doctrinaire, Margaret Thatcher

type. It's not a move to dismantle the record of governments past, but practical economics, says Fortier.

Meanwhile, Fortier's ministry is developing legislation for next fall that will allow Quebec-chartered insurance companies to diversify into industrial and commercial holding companies. Fortier says businesses realize Quebec is a leader in the deregulation of financial institutions.

It's no coincidence that Fortier is a professional engineer. Astoundingly, three of the world's 10 largest consulting engineering firms are from Quebec.

### SECURE FINANCIALLY

Pierre MacDonald says Quebecers have a level of financial security they have not enjoyed before and he believes controversies over language will hurt the province.

The industry minister says he's not aware of any major investment situation, other than the much-publicized Ingersoll-Rand affair, in which language has had a negative impact. There are reports of some Asian investors steering clear of Quebec, but MacDonald argues a major attraction for those people are family ties in Vancouver and Toronto.

Quebecers know, whether they like it or not, that English is the language of business, MacDonald says. But they also affirm their cultural identity.

## ASK KATHY

Dear Kathy

I read the other day that doctors recommend drinking at least eight glasses of water daily. I worry about retaining water. Isn't eight glasses too much?

Reply:

Water is the elixir of life. Every bodily function depends on water, which is probably why a large percentage of the body consists of water. In answer to your question, drinking eight glasses of water is not excessive, nor will it make you retain fluids. Drinking water actually rids the body of excess sodium and reduces fluid retention.

At Diet Center, we recommend drinking eight glasses of water daily. This will ensure that the body has sufficient fluids to function opti-



KATHY HAJAS  
Diet Center Counselor

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