

# PC Users' Club members demonstrate for UWC

By JANET DUVAL

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If you don't have a home computer yet, it's time you found how friendly and how powerful the machines really are.

"The information you can extract is mind boggling" says Mike Payne, one of three members of the Halton Hills PC Users' Club who demonstrated the latest in software to members of the Canadian Federation of University Women - Georgetown during their February meeting at George Kennedy Public School.

Projecting images from his computer monitor to a large movie screen, club president Moe Lamothe showed how quickly he can redesign any writing project with Microsoft's Word 6, its newest version of the popular word processor.

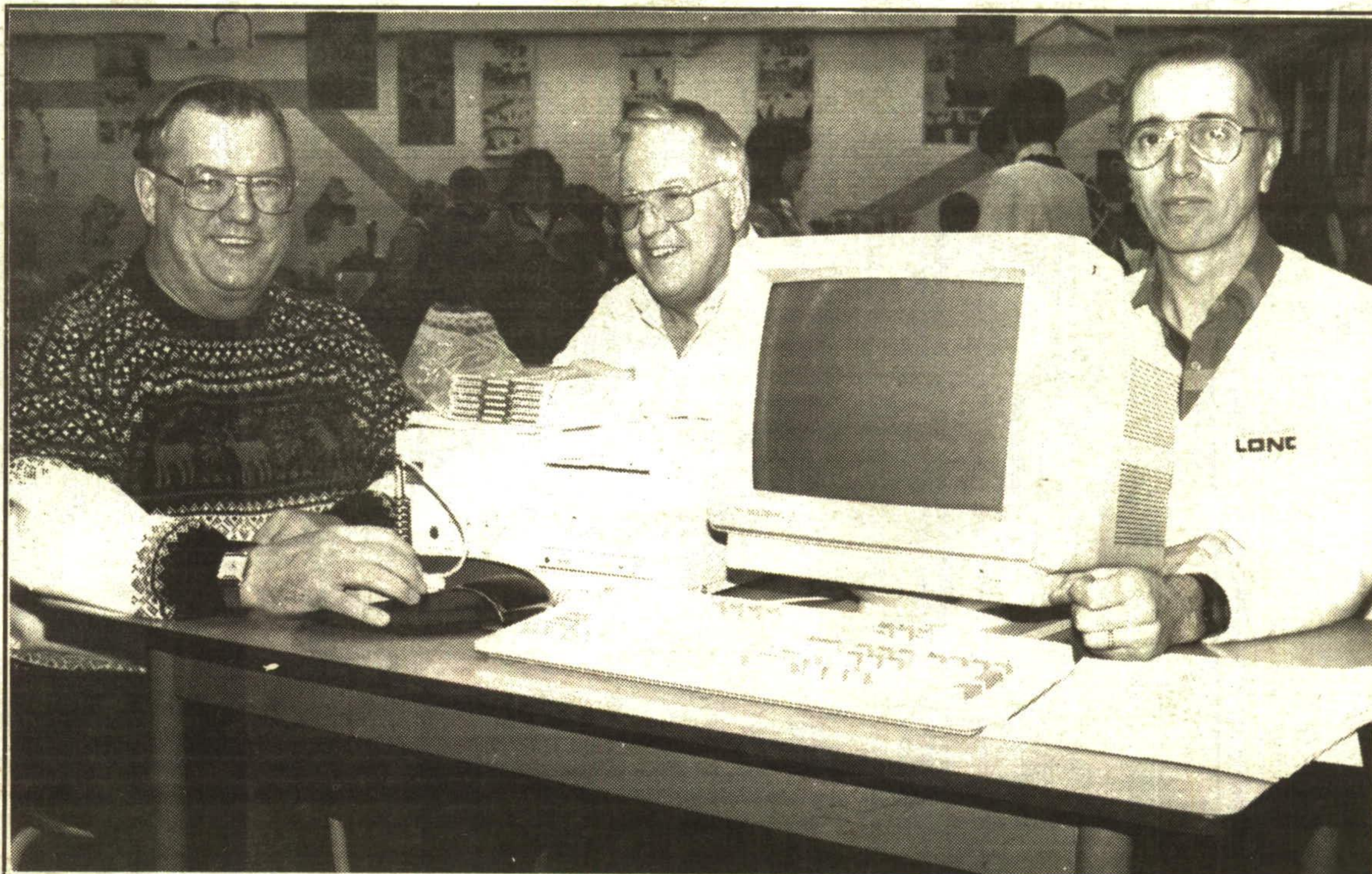
"Microsoft spent \$1 million

researching ease of use. This version has few new features, but it's much easier to use."

On screen pictures and questions coddle you through each step in preparing a report or an illustrated Award Certificate, for example: Do you want italics? Columns? What font (lettering style)? If you're addressing an envelope, which way do you want to feed it through your printer? On screen, you see exactly how it will look.

There's a new drag-and-drop feature for text you've blocked, and the computer will detect and correct any words you commonly misspell, if you tell it once in advance to watch for them. The Undo feature instantly takes you back a step if you don't like something you've just done.

Norm Bergeron was enthusiastic about entertainment and educational programs available on compact disks.



Halton Hills PC Users' Club members demonstrated the latest software for members of the Canadian Federation of University Women at their monthly meeting at George

Kennedy Public School. Members of the PC Users' Club on hand for the event included Mike Payne, Norm Bergeron and president Moe Lamothe.

"They're monstrous. One can hold 680 megabytes - much more than your entire hard drive."

While working on other programs, he orders up tunes from his favorite Roy Orbison CD, with the click of a mouse.

One computer CD puts a whole encyclopedia at his fingertips. Others offer an almanac, or a year of Time magazine that includes, for example, live film of President Kennedy's inauguration speech, his unforgettable voice perfectly captured through the computer's speakers.

There's a world atlas that raises the flag and plays the national anthem for any country you pick, while offering endless details on the country itself, all of it printable. If you're going on a trip, you can

print out a map of the best route, complete with recommended restaurants.

With the Microsoft Mozart CD, users can ask for musical samples or whole sonatas, research the instruments used, and learn about the musician's life and times, all with colorful, photographic quality screen images, and informative voice-overs.

There are children's games like Reader Rabbit that teach parts of speech, or Animals, a teaching trip of the San Diego Zoo.

Anyone with a computer modem can connect with other computers through telephone lines, explained Mike Payne. Locally, you can scan the public library's catalogue and reserve a book from the comfort of home. Within a year or so, he

expects library bulletin board users to be able to obtain information and "chat" with anyone in the world through Internet, a worldwide system.

His son, for example, dug into NASA files for a school project on space, and researched another project at the UCLA library, all through the Internet system. "Access is practically free. There's just a minimal set-up charge." When Internet comes on-line at the library, it will be a local call, with no long distance charges.

The Halton Hills PC Users' Club is glad to share its expertise with local people. At the annual Classics for Cancer car show, for example, they set up a whole database for registration and scoring of the hundreds of entrants.



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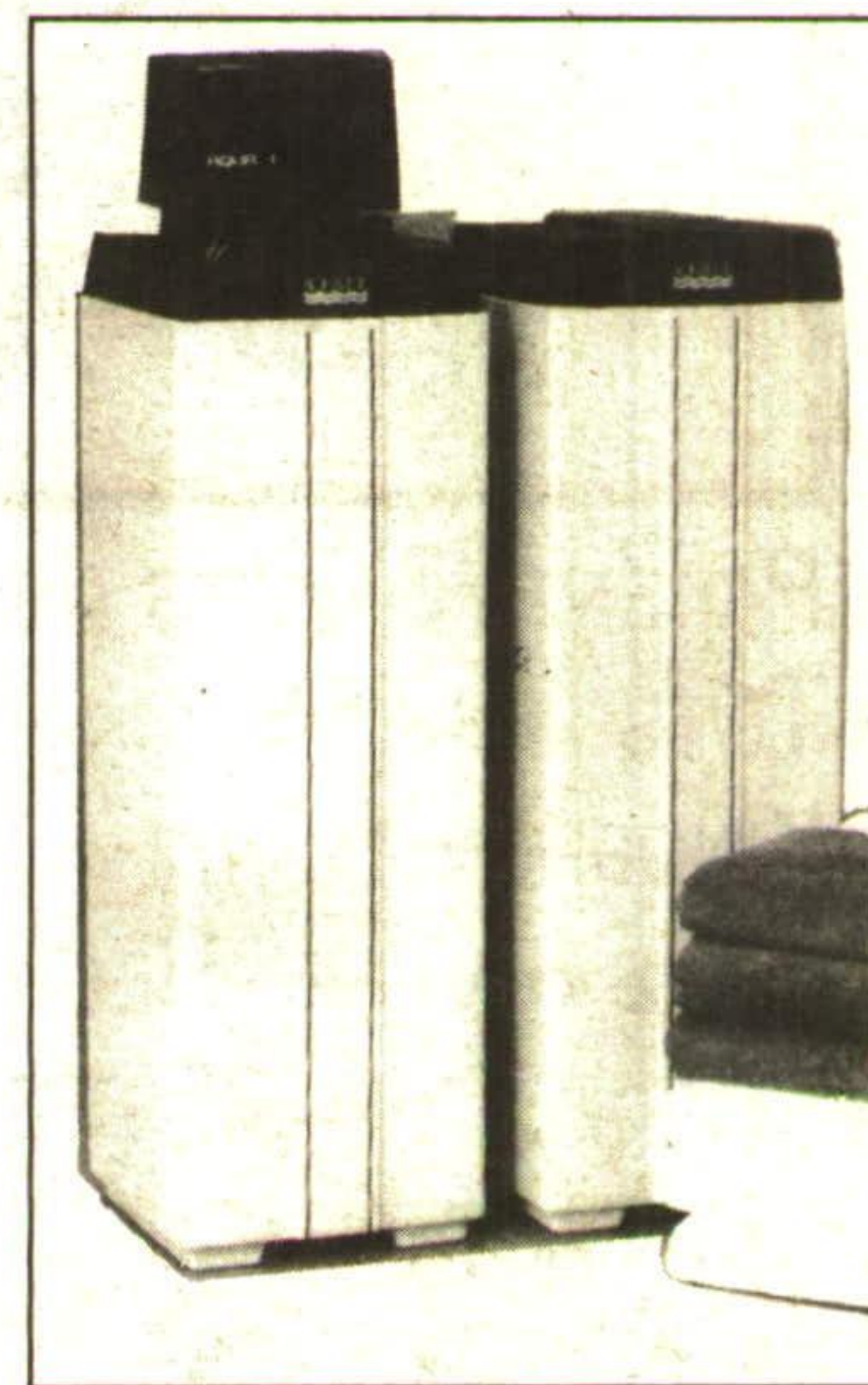
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