

NEWS & EVENTS

Rochester Institute of Technology

Vol. 11, No. 42—December 20, 1979



Christmas Greetings:

In place of individual cards, we decided this might be a better way to express our best wishes to you during this holiday season. Money we would use for cards will be contributed to aid the Cambodian refugee children...not gifts...food!

We have been at RIT a year... and we are excited and delighted to be here. You have shown us kindness, friendliness, and acceptance. For this we are thankful.

In 1980, may we each know the rewards of work well done, the joy that comes from living for others, and above all...may we each know the blessings of inner peace.

Rich and Clarice Rose



PROFILE

'Roundabout' Route of a Nomadic

Movement characterizes Jim Hennessey's life. Whether you describe his number of residences, his fascination with mechanisms, or his energy in pursuing his work in design, the word is nomadic. His route, which has led to four published books, an industrial clocks collection, and a full-time teaching position in the School of Art and Design in RIT's College of Fine and Applied Arts, he describes as "roundabout."

Hennessey, a Northside Chicago native, initially enrolled in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois.



Hennessey proudly shows off one of the clocks in his collection. He rebuilt this old school clock, leaving the polished mechanisms uncovered, and contemporized it with a wood and plexiglass case he designed. "I like to watch the intricacy of it," he says.

"After two years I became disenchanted with engineering—not enough hands-on experience. So I started all over again as a freshman in the Institute of Design at Illinois Institute of Technology," Hennessey recalls. Six years and several apartments later, Hennessey graduated with a bachelor's in product design.

Today Hennessey approaches his design curriculum with his own college days in mind. He prefers to assign real problems to students, not textbook problems. One recent task for a class was to design plans for the restoration of Rochester's historic Waterworks Building downtown.

Large doses of his engineering background also filter into his classes. "Micro-electronics is on a toy level now," he explains, demonstrating a computer

spelling game for children. "But it will have a great impact on our world." He admits that will also effect the way that design is taught and carried out in the future. He plans to introduce the modern element of computers into his courses to help step up the calculations (heat, lighting, acoustics) and paper-work planning that goes into all quality design.

Hennessey has always been concerned with quality design. In his third book, *How Things Don't Work*, he investigates the poor design of articles we use regularly, how we are misled into buying things that we really don't need, and what we can do about it.

This consumerism in design, and his interest in design education, has its roots in his first postgraduate year.

Marriage and a Fulbright scholarship took Hennessey to Stockholm after graduation. The Fulbright money provided travel expenses, and combined with a stipend from the American Scandinavian Foundation, it was "a year's paid honeymoon," he jokes.

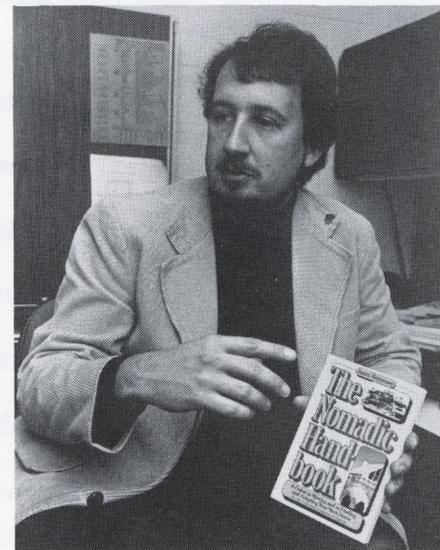
It was also a keystone in Hennessey's career. Studying the way design was taught and implemented in Sweden, and comparing the differences of buying publics, Hennessey's individualistic approach to design began to gel. He also had a fortuitous meeting with "bush designer" Victor Papanek, who soon after became his colleague and co-author.

Papanek, a designer for the Third World countries and author of controversial books on the ethics of design, was teaching at California Institute of the Arts in the late 1960s. After the Fulbright year, Hennessey received his MFA from California Institute of the Arts and stayed on as a faculty member.

"Those were politically troublesome times," Hennessey recounts. "Design students in the 60s became dissidents. They didn't want to do industrial design. Papanek and I found ourselves on the same side of the fence, defending design—defending industrial design."

The design department closed down and Hennessey came to RIT, but not before Papanek and Hennessey became a team.

By the time Hennessey had moved to Rochester, after three houses in California, and Papanek had moved to Denmark and then England, they had produced their first joint efforts, *Nomadic Furniture* and *Nomadic Furniture 2*. "We just documented the furniture we had," Hennessey laughs. "When you rent and make improvements to your rooms, the benefit goes to the landlord."



Jim Hennessey, author and environmental design professor at RIT, describes *The Nomadic Handbook*, a book that expands his earlier designs for nomadic furniture into a pattern for a transient population. "Moving is not a subject to be taken lightly," he writes.

Their consumer-oriented designs included portable room cubes (a hobo's way to set up home whatever the surroundings), portable storage space and inexpensive room dividers. There are no patents on their designs. Hennessey hopes that people will take the ideas and improve and adapt them for their own use.

Hennessey's wanderings have culminated in his latest book released this summer by Pantheon Books, *The Nomadic Handbook - A Guide to Moving and to Finding and Adapting Your Next Home*. Combining his work in design with his experience in moving, Hennessey offers solutions to moving problems, from packing to resettling.

Hennessey's own moving days seem to be at a pause. Living with his three

Hennessey...

children and weaver-photographer wife Sara in their Honeoye Falls home, he is not too interested in moving at the moment. "Buying a home is something that cuts down your nomadic tendencies," he says with a mischievous look.

His work area is still nomadic, though. "I'm a glutton for space," he confesses. His woodworking is in the basement, his computer on an upstairs desk, his electrical work on a second desk, and his designing/writing studio is in a Waldenesque setting near the Finger Lakes. A wall in the living room displays his industrial clock collection - clocks from schooners, schools, old taxicabs and old darkrooms.

Why industrial clocks? Elegance, he points out, can come about from the simple beauty of pure technical design. "They're a good example of industrial products. They're so well-suited for their purpose. There's a life to them, when you set them up and they start ticking," he says with enthusiasm, indicating a set of gears next to him.

At 34, movement is still a well-suited design for Jim Hennessey's lifestyle. There's always the possibility of opening his chain of nomadic furniture stores, or getting another research grant, or publishing the rest of those books he's been working on, with titles like *Architecture Off the Shelf* or *Solar Homes on a Shoestring*.

New Library Equipment

Wallace Memorial Library has just installed equipment enabling those on campus with visual impairment to use the microfiche catalog of library holdings.

The machine can reverse the negative image to positive if desired, magnifies print up to 18 times, has split/screen capabilities so that notes can be taken and magnified to the same size, and can be used for reading and magnifying any print materials, including books and magazines.

Anyone needing to use this equipment can ask at the Reference Desk for assistance.



SAIS IN SESSION

Robert Holmes and Samuel Barrone, senior technical associates, School for Applied Industrial Studies (SAIS), point out some highlights of the RIT Metro Center to SAIS students. The new RIT school opened Dec. 3 with a class of 31 students.



Lila Bluestone of the Physical Education Dept. and hotel management student Paul Manginelli discuss economic theory with Institute Forum guest Hazel Henderson.

'Sunshine at Christmas'

Sunshine & Company's performance of "Sunshine at Christmas," a one-half hour program of 14 favorite Christmas Carols will be aired from 12:30 to 1 p.m., Christmas Day on WHEC-TV (Channel 10).

The selections include: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," "What Child Is This," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," and a story book rendition of the "Sugar Plum Tree." All songs will be

performed in both sign language and voice.

Sunshine and Company is a group of hearing and deaf persons who blend music, mime, choreography and sign language in a visually exciting art form that both deaf and hearing audiences can enjoy. The 10-member company is made up of NTID faculty, staff and students. Stephen Talley, senior producer/director for Instructional Television, NTID and Jerry Cushman, director for the NTID Theatre, co-directed the Christmas special.



One Lomb Memorial Drive
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FIRST CLASS

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Dr. Frederick Gardner, director of Evening College and Summer Session at CCE, was the keynote speaker at the first annual "Recognition Day for Advisors and Teachers," sponsored by Xerox Corporation. His speech was entitled "The Prevalence of Ambivalence."

Dr. Russ Gardner, RIT biology professor, and senior biology student **Shawn O'Neil**, co-authored a paper presented in October to the Rochester Academy of Science in Canandaigua. The paper was a result of their study of how the heart functions outside the body, and how it responds to hormones. Technically, their report was on the "Effects of Acetylcholine on Histamine Induced Responsis in Isolated Guinea Pig Atria."

Charles Hetzel, HEOP director, has been elected to serve on the HEOP professional organization's governing board and is a member of the Higher Education Opportunity Program's state-wide Political Action Committee.

Dr. John Hickman, CCE chairman of Management Studies, spoke before a symposium entitled, "Preserving The Earth Through Education," recently at Pittsford Central School.

Dorothy Paynter, acting director of External Program Development, CCE, has been nominated vice chairman of Region II, National University Extension Association. She is currently serving as secretary of Region II.

John Whitely, registrar, and **Gary Bonvillian**, assistant registrar, presented a session on Clerical Staff Training and Development at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Offices of Admissions held at Port Chester, N.Y.

Dr. Harold J. Raphael, director of the Department of Packaging Science, has been named a Distinguished Member of the College of Fellows by the Packaging Institute USA.

Jack Smith, director of Communications and Alumni Affairs, was voted Greek Council advisor at a Greek Council Senate meeting Dec. 11.

Ms. Ellen Wolf, MNP, administrative director of Student Health Services, has accepted appointment to the Advisory Committee to the Health Information Series of the American College Health Association.



DATEBOOK

thru Dec. 21—"Alumni Invitational" The work of thirteen regional artist alumni, Bevier Gallery, daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; Sunday 2-5 p.m. Open to the public.

thru Dec. 22—Photography Show in the M.F.A. Gallery (Photo. Bldg. 3rd floor) Hanspeter Marti: Two Pieces, The Chair, The Portrait. Opening Dec. 13, 8 p.m. Gallery Hours—Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.

thru Jan. 24—Edges: Watercolors by Mary Margaret Lum, The Original Gallery, Wallace Memorial Library. Library Hours—Mon.-Thur. 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m.

thru Jan. 25—Woodcuts and Monoprints by Mary Gabriel, Gallery Two, Wallace Memorial Library. Library Hours—Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m.

thru Jan. 14—Gene Saterno: Photographs, Gallery 1½, Wallace Memorial Library. Library Hours—Mon.-Thur. 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m.

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This will be the last issue of *News & Events* until after the holidays. The next edition will be published Jan. 10, 1980; deadline for that issue is Jan. 4.

Use CB for Help

Help is now available from Protective Services on your Citizens Band Radio. Whether you see something suspicious, feel in danger, or have car problems, you can call the Office of Protective Services on your CB Radio, Channel 3.

Protective Services is all you need ask for on the radio, and they will gladly send an officer(s) should you need help. While the officers are not mechanics, they will call any service of your choice and send them to you for such things as, "My car won't start," "The battery is dead," or whatever you need service for. Please feel free to use this CB Channel for assistance.

Runners on TV

Channel 13 (WOKR-TV) will do a half hour show on the RIT 150th Anniversary Run from LA to Rochester. The documentary will air Friday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Coach Peter J. Todd and his 11 runners will be interviewed and scenes from their 3,409 mile trip will be shown.