

# ntid focus

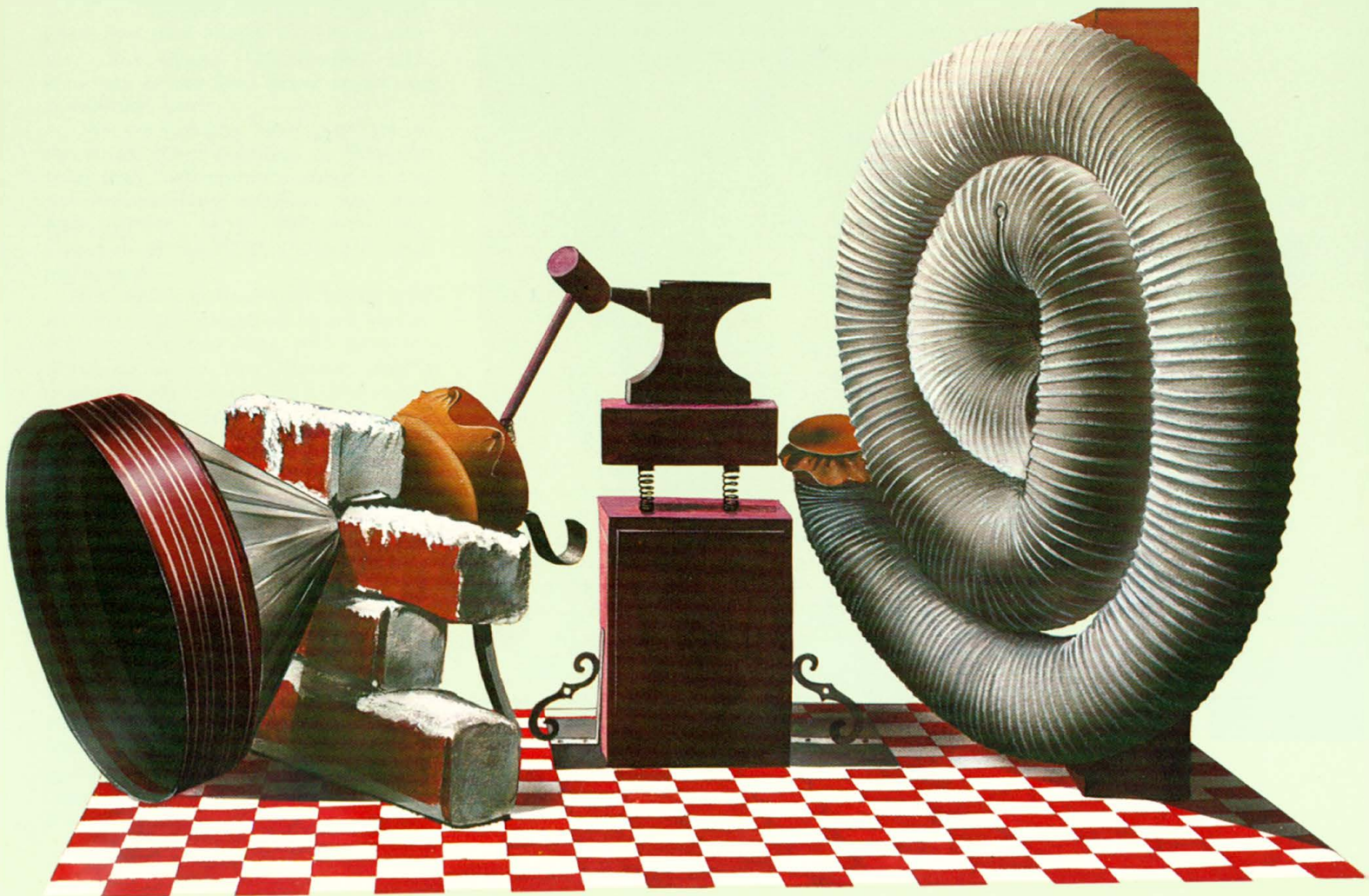
Publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
November-December 1973

INFORMATION SERVICE

DEC 6 1973

G.A.R.C.

44  
COLLECTION







**OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**—Rochester Mayor Stephen May is presented with an official "Listen to the Deaf Week" button by its planning chairperson, Sue Mozzer of Manchester, Conn.

**FOCUS COVER**—This unique model of the human ear was first constructed for the production of a film on deafness, "Listen," produced by the Total Communication Laboratory in Westminster, Md., under a grant from Media Services and Captioned Films, Bureau of Education, Department of H.E.W. The construction was used to show the various parts of ear structures which are affected by different types of hearing loss. Cover art was produced by Joe Frederic.



# 'Listen to the Deaf Week' Creates Sights, Sounds, Sensitivity

BY JOAN COOLEY

*Public Information Specialist*

The old woman bent her head nearer to the animated young girl, studying her face intently to catch every word.

The crowd laughed and clapped at the antics of the boy and girl on stage who talked of the agonies of young love without speaking a word.

A child smiled delightedly as his short stubby fingers attempted to fingerspell.

Those were the sights and sounds of "Listen to the Deaf Week" on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus — a week of activities put together by the deaf students of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in order to sensitize the community around them to the effects of deafness on life and learning.

"We want to make the hearing community of RIT and Greater Rochester aware of the problems a deaf person faces in everyday life and to let them know that deaf people are simply people," Sue Mozzer (Manchester, CT), chairman of the Deaf Week organizing committee, said.

"We want to give hearing people information about deafness so they can form their own opinions about us and not preconceived opinions they may hear," Mark Feder (Wilmette, IL), president of the NTID Student Association, said.

Deaf Week in Rochester began with an official proclamation by its Mayor, the Hon. Stephen May, who gave the proclamation to Sue Mozzer, Robert Sidansky (Brooklyn, NY), and Mark Feder, deaf students at NTID.

In it he commended the deaf community in Rochester for its "positive impact on the growth and well-being of Rochester," and urged all residents to "learn more about the talents and attributes of members of our deaf community, to support programs which enhance their dignity and independence, and to participate in the activities planned by NTID students."

"Listen to the Deaf Week" opened Saturday, October 6, at Midtown Plaza Mall in downtown Rochester. The Mall was lined with displays and exhibits representing many of the local organizations serving the deaf such as Camp Dico, a summer camp for deaf chil-

dren, the Monroe County Association for the Hearing Impaired, the Deaf Club of Rochester, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Rochester School for the Deaf.

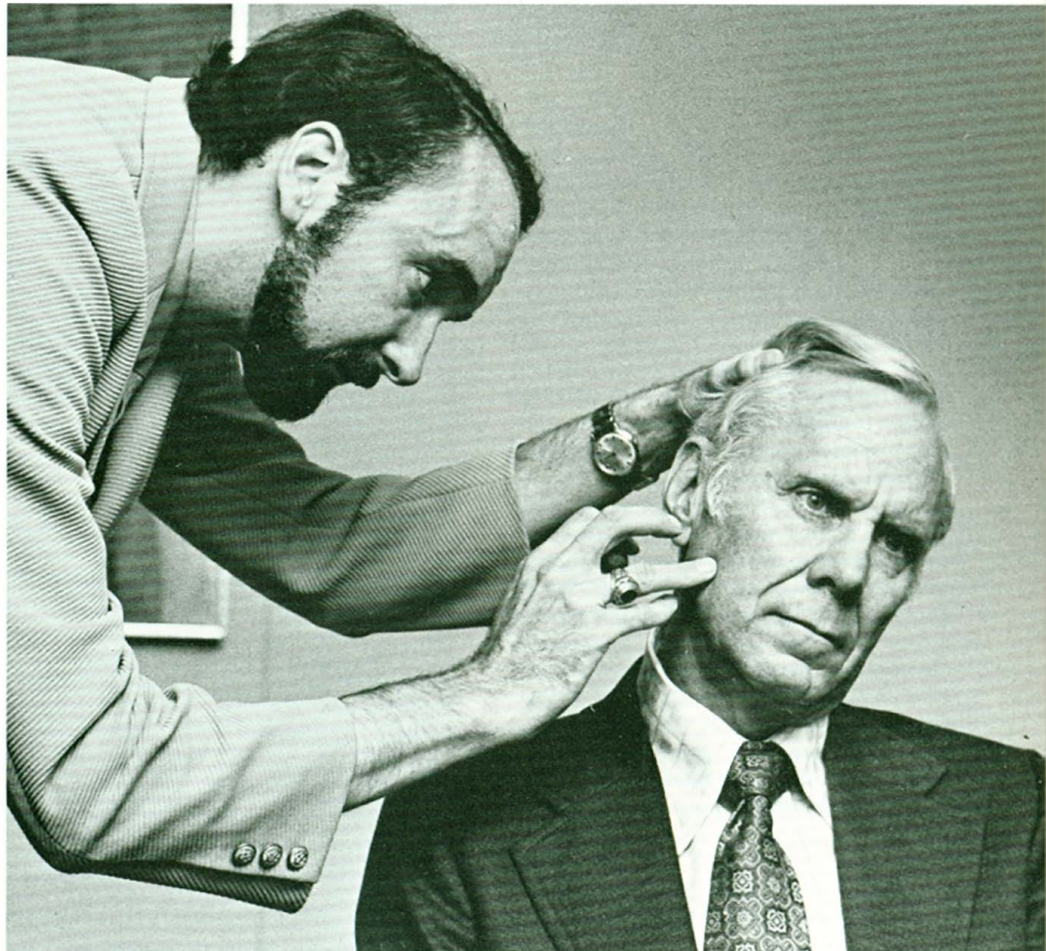
Deaf and hearing students were busy answering questions and giving mini sign language classes to the many friendly people who stopped to talk. There was a large display of books and audio visual materials used in teaching deaf children and exhibits featuring the Vistaphone (picture-telephone) and TTY. For many persons in the Rochester community it was their first contact with the deaf.

"I never thought about what deafness could mean to a child trying to do all the normal activities we associate with childhood. I'm very grateful my

children don't suffer from this handicap, and I can see why all these young people are so proud of their accomplishments," commented one passer-by at Midtown.

"The people at Midtown were tremendous. They were curious, interested, and seemed to enjoy learning about the deaf. They listened to us," NTID student Darlene Carrus (Rochester, NY), said.

On Monday and Tuesday students opened a display in RIT's College Alumni-Union. Videotapes and demonstrations of the work being done at the NTID Communication Center were a big attraction, as were the artists' renderings and floor plans of the new NTID building complex near completion on the RIT campus.



**PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES**—RIT President Paul A. Miller (right), is fitted with binaural ear molds by Dr. Donald Sims, clinical audiologist for NTID as part of the Deaf for a Day experiment.



"Hearing people were a little more hesitant about approaching the deaf at this exhibit; many people have ideas of what the deaf are like without taking time to find out for themselves. We need more of this kind of people-to-people contact if we want to know each other," NTID student Genevieve Pogorzelski (Berwyn, IL), said.

On Wednesday, the big event of Deaf Week took place.

Dr. Paul A. Miller, president of RIT, and other hearing faculty and students were fitted with binaural ear molds, enabling them to experience some of the sensations and frustrations of deafness.

Dr. Donald Johnson, director of the NTID Communication Center, Dr. Donald Sims, coordinator of audiology at the Center, and Jack Keaton, a deaf student who works at the Center maintaining acoustical hearing equipment, fitted the ear molds and conducted the audiological tests.

Most of the participants suffered a moderate hearing loss in the 40 decibel range. With this kind of a loss many people would be fitted with hearing aids.

"In order to qualify for NTID, students must have a 70 decibel hearing loss in their better ear. So you can understand a little of the problems our students must overcome," Dr. Sims told the group.



**LISTENING AND LEARNING**—Deaf Week events included Mayor Stephen May's (top) official proclamation of Deaf Week which he presented to NTID students in a ceremony at City Hall; Donna Panko (middle right), interpreter at NTID, gives a mini-sign language course to a hearing student; RIT President Miller (bottom left) talks with students during a Deaf for a Day experiment. Visitors (far right, top), stop at a display about NTID's Communication Center in RIT's College-Alumni Union; Robert Sidansky, (far right, bottom), member of the Deaf Week planning committee, gives out a Deaf Week button to a pretty hearing student.





Meyer Weiss, president of RIT's Student Association, was one of the first students to be fitted.

"I found myself doing all the things they said I would. My voice sounded so loud I kept lowering mine more. I could understand people talking directly at me, but cross-conversations were awful and conversation to my side or in back of me was completely lost to me."

After walking around campus, eating lunch with deaf students in the cafeteria, going through the paces of their regular activities, and making a special effort to communicate with other people, most of the participants had their ear molds removed and discussed their reactions.

"I felt more individual; usually I

feel I'm a part of things, but with the molds in I felt as if I stood out, was someone separate. By reason of this experience and as part of an ongoing series of experiences with deafness at RIT, I know I want to understand more and will keep on doing whatever is necessary to learn more," the RIT president said.

Stephen Walls, director of the College Alumni-Union, had trouble eating lunch and trying to communicate at the same time. Dr. Fred Smith, vice president for Student Affairs, found himself using gestures and facial expressions more. "I realized that hearing people don't look at each other when they communicate; the deaf have a much more personal method."

Weiss felt himself at a loss because

he knows no sign language or finger-spelling. "but the deaf students at lunch were fantastic. They were so concerned about the way I felt. They didn't get impatient, and I wondered if hearing people are as patient in the reversed situation."

"I think it's something more people on this campus need to take part in."

A mini film festival featuring a continuous showing of films related to deafness was held on Thursday in RIT's Ingle Auditorium. The films included: "The Silent Drum," an award-winning film produced by NTID to introduce the Institute and its graduates to potential employers; "No Whistles, Bells or Bedlam," a general film on deafness narrated by Jean Shepard to interest employers nationwide in hiring the deaf; "Deafness and Communication," a film explaining what hearing loss is and its effects on learning and social development; and "The Ballad of Love," a dramatic film from Russia about a deaf actress who fluctuates between the world of the deaf and the hearing.

Friday evening the NTID Drama Club presented a selection of impromptu theater games where students and Drama Club members participated in acting out roles in mime and sign. This was followed by a dance where "The Silent Brothers" played. The "Brothers" features NTID graduate Charlie Jones (St. Louis, MO).

Students who put in many hours of hard work planning the events for Deaf Week included: Dora Millam, (Jonesburg, MO.); Charles Bradley, student interpreter; Terri Buscemi, (Rochester, N.Y.); Carmen Sciandra, (Buffalo, N.Y.); James Eddy, (Carmichaels, Pa.); Charles Baird, (Olathe, KS); Barbara Ray, (Huntington, West VA.); Richard Mozzer, (Manchester, Ct.); Darlene Carrus, (Rochester, N.Y.); Sue Mozzer, (Manchester, Ct.); Bob Sidansky, (Brooklyn, N.Y.); Tom Mather, (Oak Park, Ill.); Ginny Pogorzelski, (Berwyn, Ill.); and two College Union Board representatives to the planning committee, Rick Adams and Joe Dorner.

Deaf Week activities were supported by the RIT Student Association.

Reflecting back on the week, chairman Sue Mozzer was generally very excited about the results.

"I think we accomplished our goals to reach out to the community. We got to meet people from different areas of the city, different nationalities, different backgrounds, and they all listened to us."

Listening and learning — that's what "Listen to the Deaf Week" was all about.







**DEAF FOR A DAY**—Jack Smith (left), director of NTID Public Information, is fitted with ear plugs as part of a Deaf for a Day experiment.

## Isolation

BY JACK SMITH  
*Public Information Director*

I'm not sure I could stand the isolation of deafness . . . that awful feeling of separation.

Communication is my business. As director of Public Information for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, success in my field often depends on the ability to convey messages quickly and clearly.

I might be forced to seek other employment if ever struck by that hidden handicap — deafness. But I did become "deaf for a day" as part of the week of activities being conducted by NTID students.

As part of "Listen to the Deaf Week," I agreed to be fitted with binaural hearing molds to simulate some of the many sensations caused by deafness. Although my hearing loss was only 45 decibels, I knew enough from that to comprehend what our deaf students experience throughout their lives.

I knew from the moment the molds

were inserted that it wasn't going to be a pleasant experience. It's funny what strange things run through your mind at a moment like that. I thought of my stereo set with speakers that fill each cubicle of space in my living room. We all like to talk, but suddenly I realized how much I love to listen.

Since my participation in the project was to be somewhat secret, I said nothing as I entered a room of hearing students, all verbally exchanging information at once. I was a deaf person in a room full of people, yet alone. My head turned left and right as if I was watching a ping-pong match. There was no way I was going to follow any conversations.

I was frustrated and left the room as quickly as possible. Stopping in front of a television set in the student lounge, I watched the Hollywood Squares TV program. But I missed every clever line of Paul Lynde and Soupy Sales. What a shame!

Then I realized I did have methods for communication. The deaf students were eager to provide that person-to-person communication, and they reached out to me with understanding and compassion. I wondered how many hearing persons would do the same for the deaf.

Now I know why NTID students like to eat lunch together — it's an opportunity for meaningful communication individually and as a group. After all, I reasoned, the deaf are not going to learn to hear, but why can't more of us learn different methods of communication?

Can hearing people comprehend the great barrier deafness is to communication and education?

I eagerly yanked out the hearing molds when informed the deafness experiment was over. But I'm going to keep the molds as a reminder of how truly lucky I am.

# Summer Theater Excites Betty Bonni, NTID Students



**AWARD WINNER**—Betty Bonni, winner of two awards by the NTID Drama Club, spent part of her summer at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Ct.

When Betty Bonni stepped on stage for her first try at acting, she got "one of the best feelings of my life," — and has been hooked on acting ever since.

She and four other National Technical Institute for the Deaf students spent five weeks of their summer at the Professional School for Deaf Theater Personnel at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Conn.

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, home of the National Theater of the Deaf, offers the summer program to deal adults involved in community and college drama and to hearing adults who work in the field of creative drama for children.

Betty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bonni, of 1813 Sitka Lane, Mt. Prospect, Ill.; Nancy Jagielski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jagielski of 4445 51st St., Detroit, Mich.; Sarah Grillo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Grillo of 9400 Fredric St., St. Louis, Mo.; and Paul Johnston, son of Mr. Harold Johnston of 527 S.W. Evergreen Road, Lake Oswego, Ore., took part in the acting program.

Raymond Kenny, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Kenny, Box 214, East Greenbush, N.Y., participated in the technical stagecraft program.

"This was the first year the program was broken up into different areas and I think it worked very well," Betty said.

The students taking part in the program came from all over the country. They worked from dawn to dusk with only two hours off to eat lunch and dinner—and they loved it.

"Most of the students are either sophomores or juniors, so they can bring what they learned in the summer workshop back to their own schools," Betty added, "and we learned a lot!"

What were some of the things that most impressed her about the summer?

"The professional staff at the Institute was excellent. They were great people to learn from, and I hope we'll be able to put to use some of the techniques they used on us."

Two areas that particularly impressed her were her Experimental Theater classes and sensitivity exercises.

"In Experimental Theater we were encouraged to develop a deep sense of visual things. They made us create ideas and try to visualize events to

make us more aware of what we see. We also played these games, kind of like sensitivity training, where we had to express feelings and project them to others. It really makes you more aware of yourself and the impression you have on others."

A lot of the emphasis during the summer was the practice of impromptu shows—a concept she'd like to see the NTID Drama Club work on more.

"Those exercises were excellent because we got such great ideas from them. You're forced to think and create at the same time."

There were also classes in Hindu and Japanese dance and origami, the art of Japanese paper folding, as well as more traditional subjects related to acting.

NTID's Drama Club traveled extensively in the Rochester community last season, putting on shows and workshops for civic groups, schools, and clubs in the area. Betty would like to see more of the same this year.

"I think the work of the Drama Club in the community is as important as our performances on campus. I think the shows we put on for the community reached more people and made a more lasting impression among hearing people. I'm looking forward to working in the Drama Club this year," she said with a smile. "It should really be exciting."

ntid focus is published at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, N.Y. 14623. Editor: Jack Smith, Public Information Director, Telephone (716) 464-2332; Joan Cooley, Eileen Biser, Public Information Specialists; Barbara Wagner, Production Assistant. Photographs by John Massey, C. Tyler Quillen, Jack Smith, John McCurley; David Barringer, Pam King, Designers. The materials herein were produced in the course of an agreement with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.







# NTD Takes Audience On Memorable Journey

OPTIMISM, a play adapted from Voltaire's "Candide" by the National Theater of the Deaf under the supervision of director Harold Stone; settings by Alfred Corrado; costumes by Fred Voelpel; lighting by Guy Bergquist; musical sculptures designed and built by Bernard and Francois Baschet. Special introduction to Act II written by John Guare. Performed by National Theater of the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Candide .....Tim Scanlon  
 Pacquette .....Linda Bove  
 A Maid .....Elaine Bromka  
 Baron Thunder-Ten-Tronk  
 .....Bernard Bragg  
 Baron's son ..... Edmund Waterstreet  
 Cunegonde .....Freda Norman  
 The Baroness .....Julianna Field  
 Dr. Pangloss .....Patrick Graybill  
 Army recruiter  
 and Carcambo .....Joseph Sarpy  
 Streetcleaner and  
 gallows .....Ric Peterson  
 Rich lady.  
 old woman .....Mary Beth Miller  
 An orator's wife .....Timothy Near  
 James, a doctor .....Richard Kendall

*(This review of the first performance by the National Theater of the Deaf this season first appeared in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. The reviewer is a D&C reporter.)*

BY LINDA CHIAVAROLI

Voltaire's boy-hero, Candide, takes a round-the-world journey fraught with catastrophes. The adaptation of the French writer's masterpiece of black humor by the National Theater of the Deaf takes the audience on a journey of another kind — into the sparsely charted territory that lies beyond verbal theater.

The 14-member theater company of deaf and hearing actors opened their 1973-74 national tour last night at Rochester Institute of Technology's Ingle Auditorium. RIT is the home of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

The troupe's production, called "Optimism," does not attempt to comment on or embellish Voltaire's crafty observations of mankind. The intrigue is seeing how they get from place to place. Candide's experiences are wild and improbable. It is difficult to imagine a conventional stage adaptation of the book. The extremes of plot lend themselves to mime.

An actor reporting a battle in the most cinematic detail could not pierce us with the horrors of war so directly as the NTD in a slow motion skirmish. The stage imagery they create with mime can be searing, pathetic, beautiful, dreadful.

Their style centers on the human

form. The sets and props are highly malleable — a circus tent, sweeping white capes that reverse to brilliant colors, "musical sculptures" that are gleaming poles hung with percussive instruments.

Their conjuring is first rate. Their permutations and combinations with what is at hand seem endless. All the performers are physically adept. Mary Beth Miller is especially eloquent; she uses her large size brilliantly. Ric Peterson, one of three speaking actors (who serve as vocal chords for several characters), does amazingly versatile things with his voice and can bounce it all over the house besides. "Optimism" is faithful to the plot of "Candide" in all but the off-the-cuff introduction to Act II written by John Guare, author of "House of Blue Leaves." This is actually an improvisation of life in "El Dorado," Candide's taste of paradise. The audience requests the company act out certain aspects of the heavenly city.

Not surprisingly, El Dorado in the Age of Reason turns out to be a great deal like Miami Beach in 1973. We already know the performers are flexible. I found the bit extraneous, although it might turn out better with a different audience.

Detour or no, "Optimism" is worth seeing.





# Materials Aid All Deaf

In order to meet its commitment of service to deaf people nationwide, particularly in education, NTID has produced several films and materials which are currently available.

This notebook was initially developed at NTID in 1968 as a notetaking procedure for deaf students in regular classrooms. The "Note Taker" features a plastic binder and pressure-sensitive paper which enables a hearing student to record facts for himself and concurrently have a duplicate for the deaf student in his class.

To date, over 5,000 copies have been purchased at cost by individuals and schools serving deaf students in regular classes.

Copies of the RIT-NTID Notebook are available at cost plus handling and mailing through the RIT Bookstore.

Please send orders to:

The RIT Bookstore  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623

Cost including handling and postage:\*

Complete Notetaker (cover and refill)

In multiples of ten \$3.25

Orders of less than ten 3.80

Refill only

In multiples of ten 2.25

Orders of less than ten 2.50

Orders should be prepaid or accompanied by purchase order.

\*If ordered in New York State add sales tax applicable to your area or tax exempt form.



"A Guide to College/Career Programs for Deaf Students" was produced jointly by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Gallaudet College, with February 1973 publication.

This 71-page booklet provides background information for deaf students to help them plan their postsecondary education. A brief description of 27 programs throughout the country serves as a reference source for the student and for counselors, teachers, and parents.

Individual copies may be obtained directly through:

The Office of Educational Extension  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623

OR

The Office of the Dean of the  
Graduate School  
Gallaudet College  
7th & Florida Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Multiple copies may be obtained directly through:

Dr. Howard M. Quigley, Director  
Educational Media Distribution Center  
5034 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

"Career Development of the Deaf Student and Worker" is a 50-page

publication which is part of the NTID InfoSeries.

This report of April 1973 is based on an NTID conference on career development. It includes: suggestions for curriculum development; projections for vocational education in residential schools in education of the deaf; perspectives on strengths and difficulties of deaf employees; suggestions for reducing problems in the work setting.

This booklet should be of particular value to educators and counselors of the deaf.

The guide is available through:  
The Office of Education Extension  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623

"NTID and Your Future"

8 minutes, 16mm, color-sound

The film is designed to highlight the broad array of career options available to deaf students in the technologies through NTID. The film, which is captioned, will be shown extensively in schools that serve deaf children. The intent is that this national program will be considered by deaf students seeking a postsecondary education in technical fields.

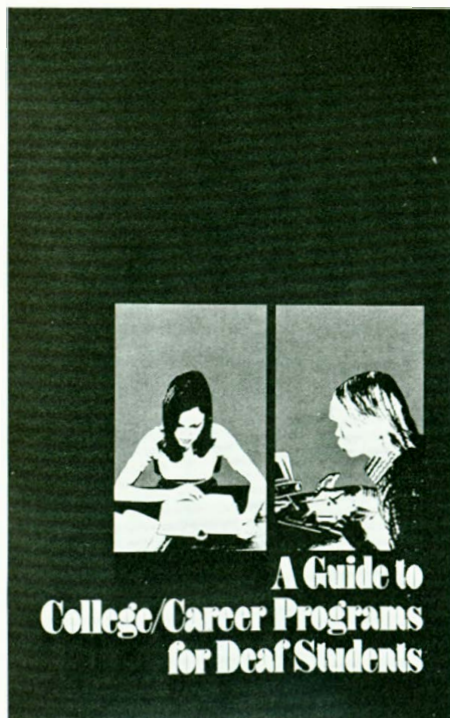
This recruitment film may be borrowed through:

Mr. Joseph Dengler  
Coordinator of Admissions  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623

"No Whistles, No Bells, No Bedlam"

20 minutes, 16mm, color-sound

The level of unemployment and underemployment among deaf people nationally is disturbingly high. This film, produced with the assistance of many vocational counselors and other placement personnel, is intended to increase the receptivity of potential employers to hiring deaf people regardless of their levels of skill. This film should be particularly useful to counselors and others involved in placement, as a means of establishing employer contacts for follow-up. The film is relatively low-key and should be suitable for showing to service organizations, personnel groups, and others who could be instrumental in the employment of more deaf people. This film is not intended for deaf audiences and is not captioned. A printed script is available with the film.

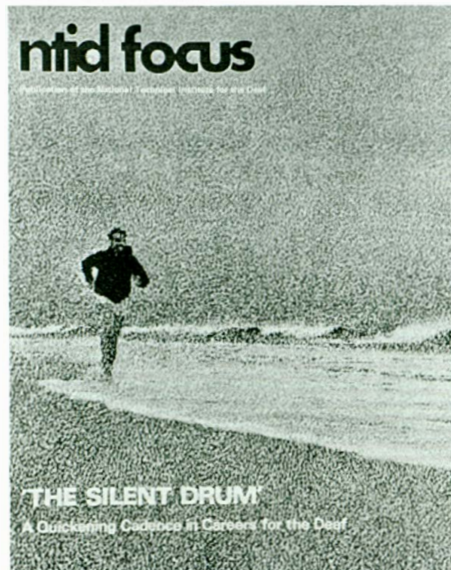




### "The Silent Drum"

22 minutes, 16mm, color-sound

The primary mission of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf is to prepare deaf students with the technical and social competence that will lead to employment. While this Congressionally established and funded postsecondary program may prepare students for employment, "someone must open the door." The film, narrated by nationally-known writer and announcer, Rod Serling, is designed for hearing audiences, particularly employers who can influence the hiring of deaf students. While the film focuses on NTID, it was designed to create a general mood with employers that would help make them receptive to hiring the general deaf population nationwide. A captioned version is also available.



### "Deafness and Communication"

11 minutes, 16mm, color-sound

This production is geared to those who have little knowledge of deafness and who would have a high likelihood of associating with the deaf. It aids the understanding of the nature and implications of hearing loss and the channels of communication open to the deaf.

"The Silent Drum," "No Whistles, No Bells, No Bedlam," and "Deafness and Communication" may be borrowed at no charge through AV Services. Inquiries, along with a preferred date for showing, should be directed to:

Audio Visual Services  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623

## NTID Students Give Gift of Communication

Ask people around the Clifton Springs Hospital, especially a certain family—the Marchitells—if deaf people are handicapped, and you'll probably get a resounding "No!" Four deaf students from NTID proved they were willing to give much more than they received.

In the hospital, Mrs. Anna Marchitell was paralyzed from the neck down. A stroke had left her free only to move her lips and maneuver her jaw. But no words came out; her vocal cords were not functioning.

So, for 11 days, the 64-year-old woman of Clyde, N. Y., persistently tried to make those around her understand her silent utterances. It seemed that she had something vital to convey, so the family finally decided they just had to find a way to communicate.

One doctor suggested that a lipreader might be a link to understanding. He suggested that Anne Marie Cimineri, the stricken woman's daughter, contact someone with such skills.

That's how four deaf students became involved in Mrs. Marchitell's life. NTID was contacted, and Barbara Allen of Warden, Wash.; Terri Buscemi, Rochester, N. Y.; Bill Mather, Oak Park, Ill.; and Bob Sidansky, Brooklyn, N. Y., traveled to Clifton Springs to see if

their lipreading experiences and skills could help the Marchitells.

The critically-ill woman was allowed visitors for ten minutes every two hours. "The set-up was quite elaborate," reports Julie Cammeron, an educational specialist from NTID who accompanied the students. "The woman would try to talk, and the students would read her lips. Then they'd confer to see if they had understood the same thing. They would relay the message to me through sign language and speech, and I conveyed the message to the family gathered outside the room."

The older woman said she ached all over and that she wanted a priest. Her most frequently mouthed request was that she see her son who lived in another state. It was a tremendous relief to her family to know what she was thinking and feeling.

Steve Hughes, another NTID faculty member who was present, relates: "The students did a beautiful job of lipreading. They handled the overall situation with such sensitivity and understanding that everyone was quite moved. All of us were touched by the intense feeling of the students."

Barb Allen, one of the four deaf

"interpreters," said that when she was first asked to go, she hesitated, afraid and unsure of what she was getting into. But she made herself do it.

"I felt so sorry for the woman when I first saw her lying there. It was really depressing. But after we were able to communicate, I felt very good, very happy that I was able to really help someone."

Another deaf student participant, Bob Sidansky, summed up his reaction: "I had a great feeling of pride after it was all over. We deaf people were able to do something for this woman that no hearing doctor or nurse could do. It showed that we can be useful and helpful. I felt good all over."

Mr. Marchitell was so moved by the effort of the four young deaf students who gave up their Friday evening, that he wanted to pay them. But they refused to accept anything and even went back to visit the following two days.

The story has a happy ending. Mrs. Marchitell regained the use of her voice after several weeks. Still in the hospital but recovering, she often tells friends and family about "those wonderful deaf students from NTID."



# 'Keep Eye to the Future' Insists Grad Sheila Moore

Sheila Moore is an enterprising National Technical Institute for the Deaf graduate with an eye directed toward the future.

As a member of the first class of NTID in 1968, Sheila entered the Office Practice and Procedures program in the Business Technologies department and graduated with a diploma in 1970.

Her office skills and lively personality impressed Russell Smith, supervisor of the engineering drafting department at Stromberg-Carlson Corp., 100 Carlson Road, Rochester, N.Y., who hired her as an engineering drawing typist.

Since then Sheila has "produced work of high quality and shown such a good attitude about her job," according to her immediate supervisor, Mrs. Sharon Kirchgessner, that she has received good raises and now holds the title of Senior Engineering Drawing Typist.

She also has developed such an interest in the work being done in her area, that she intends to go back to evening college at Rochester Institute of Technology to study drafting.

"I always wanted to study drafting when I was at NTID, but somehow there never was enough time. Now when I go back to school I'll have a good idea of what a draftsman does," Sheila said.

Mr. Smith had previous experience with deaf employees at Stromberg-Carlson when he was approached by NTID to consider hiring its graduates.

"I was very receptive to hiring the deaf because of the good experience we had with Morris DeMento, a deaf draftsman. Sheila has good lipreading skills, and I found that even after 25 years I still remembered the finger-spelling I had learned as a Boy Scout. Communication hasn't been a problem," he said.

The lively, dark-haired 27-year-old hasn't had many problems communicating with her fellow workers.

"Sheila has the kind of personality that makes it easy to communicate," Mrs. Kirchgessner said. "She makes people warm up to her, and as far as her work goes, no job is too much for her. She'll try anything."

Some of the draftsmen and other typists have learned a little sign language from Sheila, but they rely mainly on oral communication.

"If verbal communication fails, we write things down," Smith said. "When



I hire new personnel I tell them we have a deaf person on our staff so they're aware of the situation."

Sheila had good typing skills when she came to Stromberg-Carlson and was able to pick up the special skills needed to type on engineering drafts with little difficulty.

"The typists here do special typing

that uses a kind of drafting sign language," Smith said. "The characters don't make sense except to an engineering draftsman. Also the keyboard, which I designed, is different from the conventional one."

Sheila tackled the new keyboard with the same enthusiasm she accomplishes other tasks at work.

"I'd have to say she's one of the best gals out there. All of her schooling must have been exceptional because she doesn't let anything stop her from getting the job done," Mrs. Kirchgessner said.

Sheila, who graduated from St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo before entering NTID, likes her job because, "the people here are very nice to work for, and they encourage me to learn as much as I can."

She spends her off-work hours going to movies, watching TV with her roommate, and bowling, and is especially proud of the car she bought soon after taking the job.

Sheila, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moore, 825 Main St., Greensburg, Pa., hopes her example of hard work and desire to improve will encourage other deaf persons to keep their eye on the future.



**DRAFTING TALK**—(Top photo) Sheila Moore and a draftsman at Stromberg-Carlson Inc. of Rochester, N.Y., discuss some of the work she produced for him on engineering drawings. (Bottom photo) As a senior engineering drawing typist, Sheila had to learn to type on typewriter with an unconventional keyboard.



## Graduate Joins Advisory Group

Kevin J. Nolan is a teacher who feels he has something special to bring to his students.

He teaches consumer education to high school seniors and drama to 11-year-old students at the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, Md.

Kevin Nolan, who is deaf, was one of the first students to enroll at NTID, and graduated with a bachelor's degree from RIT's College of Business.

Kevin recently achieved another "first"—the first NTID graduate to become a member of its National Advisory Group (NAG).

"I was flabbergasted when I found out. I always knew I wanted to get involved with NTID again, but this is more than I expected," Nolan said during the October meeting of the NAG. The NAG advises the director of NTID

in all matters of growth and development.

Since this was his first NAG meeting, he felt he should "look and listen" to everything that was happening. He has already come up with some ideas he'd like to explore.

"As I learn more about the workings of the NAG, I believe I can bring an insight into some of the situations students face because I've been through it myself," Nolan said.

Nolan said he chose NTID because of the "excellent support services they offer to students and the cooperative work-study experience."

He also said his experiences with hearing and deaf students at RIT, "really changed me. I became more responsible. I think we in the first class felt we had to become more ac-

tive and set an example for all the deaf students who would follow us."

He feels that as a teacher he is effective because "the students are more comfortable talking with a person who's already been there. I know what it means to be deaf, and the students seem to relate to me."

He is strongly in favor of developing an NTID alumni association.

"NTID means more to me now. All my experiences here helped me become a more mature person. I believe other graduates also would like to do something meaningful to show how much NTID has meant to them."

Nolan is presently studying for a master's degree in education of the deaf at Western Maryland College and serves as an advisor to the Junior National Association for the Deaf.



**NEW NAG MEMBER**—Kevin Nolan (left), first NTID graduate to serve on the National Advisory Group, talks with two students about his experiences at NTID.



# Cammeron Gains Special Insight As Only Live-in Faculty Member

What's it like to be the only live-in faculty member at NTID?

"Very, very hectic," says Julie Cammeron, assistant educational specialist in the College of General Studies and NTID's first live-in faculty member.

"The whole experiment has kind of mushroomed," she said. "The last few weeks alone I put in more than 100 hours tutoring students, making hospital visits, telephone calls, interpreting TV shows, planning the deaf hockey tournament, crisis intervention, attending parties, meetings, sports events and just plain talking with students."

Ms. Cammeron, who graduated with a master's degree in education of the

deaf from Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., before joining the staff of NTID last September, felt she needed closer contact with deaf people to apply what she had learned about deaf education.

"I think it's very difficult to understand some individuals unless you understand their social environment as well."

Julie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cammeron of 121 58th St. So., Great Falls, Mont., graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of Great Falls, Mont. She was the director of guidance counseling and activities at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls before attending Gallaudet College.

She began her live-in project last September sponsored in part by NTID's department of Social and Cultural Development. Her apartment in Kate Gleason Hall is attractive and roomy, with an area set aside especially for tutoring.

She wanted no formal announcement made that she would be the first faculty member living in the dorm and relied on the students themselves to spread the word.

"At first most of them came over to be tutored, but then as we got to know each other, the students would drop in to watch TV, or use the kitchen and just sit around and talk."

Julie is quick to point out that while her apartment sometimes "resembles Grand Central station," the students are considerate about calling ahead to make an appointment.

What has she learned living in the dorm?

"I found out that there's a tremendous social life for the deaf students on campus. NTID students are very action-oriented; they're going and doing all the time. They are very interested in sports and overall have a strong group identity, which is why there is so much activity at NTID."

Julie gained the confidence of the students by simply being around all the time, she says. She makes a point to attend all their social functions, meetings and sports events, and also visits the Cellar, the College-Alumni Union and other places where the students gather.

"I think you develop a sense of credibility with students by being seen a lot. You show them you're interested. I went to all the hockey games last year, and when they needed an advisor for the committee organizing the deaf hockey tournament, they came to me because they thought I'd be interested."

Keeping the proper balance between being a faculty member and someone to talk to hasn't been difficult, according to Julie.

"I don't play an authoritarian role and never try to be their spokesman. I act as a sounding board for their concerns, and if there's a real problem I try to get them to see their counselor. They know they must respect my privacy, and they've also learned to accept me with my hair up in rollers, or cleaning and cooking. They get to see me as a person too," Julie pointed out.

Having a personal life with students who sometimes ask for tutoring till the early hours of the morning is a bit difficult, she admits, but feels she couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"At this point in my life I have few responsibilities. I felt it was the right time to try something like this. I think that a lot of learning occurs outside the classroom. It's nice to be able to have some input into that learning process, but I'd never attempt this kind of arrangement if I had a family at home."

Julie hopes to continue her live-in project for another year and feels the knowledge she gained in graduate school has finally become meaningful.

"In grad school you tend to generalize and stereotype people. If I've learned anything about NTID students, it's that they are all individuals. I've found many 'sleepers' on this campus, students who with a little encouragement and self-confidence can become strong student leaders."

Another aspect of the students she'll never forget is their willingness to give of themselves.

"Some of them are so busy I don't know how they get their schoolwork done, but I've noticed they're never too busy to help someone else or do a thousand nice things for you. I think they're great," she said with a smile.

And 'great' is what NTID students think of Julie Cammeron too.



**LESSON PLANS**—As one of the NTID's assistant educational specialists, Julie spends a lot of her time tutoring deaf students from the College of General Studies.





**FRIENDLY VISITS**—Students often drop in on Julie for a friendly gab session and let her in on the many social happenings on campus.



**MAKING PLANS**—“There’s tremendous social life for the deaf students on campus,” Julie found out during her first year living in the dorm with the students, and she usually has much student activity in her apartment.



# NTID Student Gifford Helps Deaf, Hearing Communicate

Deaf and hearing students on campus communicate a little better, thanks to NTID student Alan Gifford.

Gifford, who is studying for his bachelor's degree in the School of Applied Science, has been appointed to the cabinet of the Student Association (SA), RIT's governing student body, as Secretary for NTID Affairs.

Sponsored by Student Association is the NTID Student Congress, an organization that provides increased activities and potential for leadership for deaf students.

In order to improve communication between the NTID Student Congress and its parent organization, SA, president Meyer Weiss named a deaf student to his cabinet to serve as a liaison.

"We couldn't have made a better choice," Weiss said. He understands the scope of all campus affairs. I'd rate him among the top members in enthusiasm and effort."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Courtney T. Gifford of Fairhaven, Mass., is equally excited about his opportunity. "We are trying to build a stronger relationship between hearing and non-hearing students. I keep SA up-to-date on Student Congress activities and bring concerns before both groups."

Weiss agrees with Gifford that the efforts have greatly improved communications.

And for Gifford, a graduate of Austine School for the Deaf, the opportunity for involvement has "broadened me personally and socially."



**CABINET MEMBER**—Alan Gifford, newly appointed secretary for NTID Affairs in RIT's Student Association Cabinet, sits in on a recent cabinet meeting.

## It's a Sign of Love

Bonnie Meath and Harry Lang wrote their own wedding ceremony, just as many couples are doing today.

But, when the two young teachers exchanged vows in St. Anne's Church, in their words, they "signed them." That is, they were given in sign language with an interpreter giving a repetition for the wedding guests.

Bonnie, daughter of Eddie Meath of WHEC-TV, and Mrs. Meath, of Rochester, has no hearing problem, but she worked with students with hearing problems while getting her master's degree at Western Illinois University. It gave her life's work a special direction. She then joined the teaching staff of NTID.

"In Illinois, I knew fingerspelling," Bonnie says. "I didn't learn sign language until I came here a year ago July. It didn't take long, because the new staff was taught in an intensive summer program before the school year began."

Harry Lang, who has his bachelor's degree in physics from Bethany Col-

lege, West Virginia, and did graduate work at Columbia University, came to Rochester to study for his master's degree in electrical engineering at RIT. In addition to the present work of writing his thesis, he's also teaching physics fulltime at NTID and hopes to continue after getting his master's.

Harry had normal hearing until he was stricken with spinal meningitis in 1953. For him the result was deafness, but he remembers the school classmate who also was stricken, and died.

Bonnie tells that when she and Harry met last year at RIT, they started dating "almost immediately."

She says, "I think we have a special relationship because we're aware of how much communication means — even rather minor things such as facial expressions are important."

Before going to the university in Illinois, Bonnie received her bachelor's degree at Nazareth College in Rochester.

Harry is originally from Pennsylvania, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lang of Irwin, a Pittsburgh suburb,



**WEDDING TALK**—Prior to their wedding, Bonnie Meath Lang, technical English instructor, and Harry Lang (right), technical science instructor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, discuss wedding plans with her father, Eddie Meath.



# Advisory Group Adds Three

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) has named three new members to its National Advisory Group (NAG).

The NAG serves in an advisory capacity to the director of NTID. The only national postsecondary technical facility for the deaf, NTID is located on the hearing college campus of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). NTID, established and funded by Congress, is administered through the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Selected to serve on the advisory group were: Helen V. Gustafson, Kevin J. Nolan, and John R. Opel.

Mrs. Gustafson is the owner of System Sciences Group, an independent consulting firm dealing mainly in instrument design and development.

Her experience prior to founding System Sciences Group included two years as a research physicist at the University of California; five years as electronic systems engineer at Beckman; five years as senior systems engineer with Nuclear Research Instruments; and four years as project engineer for Quantic Industries, Inc.

She has presented papers for a number of engineering societies, has taught Electro-Optics, and has lectured at the National Defense Laboratory in Stockholm, Sweden.

As a result of her interest in technical education for the deaf, she is assisting at St. Benedict Center for the Deaf in San Francisco, Calif. Her background and experience in her specialized technical field of Electro-Optics, and a developing interest in employment opportunities for the deaf are particularly important in the objectives of NTID.

Kevin J. Nolan, an alumnus of NTID, is a teacher of consumer education drama at the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, Md.

He attended Clarke School for the Deaf, Attleboro High School, Dean Junior College, and in 1971 he received a bachelor of science degree from the College of Business at RIT. He is presently a candidate for the master's degree in education of the deaf at Western Maryland College.

While at NTID, he worked at Xerox Corporation as a co-op student and attended the Summer Theater Institute sponsored by the National Theater of the Deaf.

He presently serves as an advisor to the Junior National Association for the Deaf. His deafness, broad educational background and knowledge of the NTID program will make him a valuable member of the NAG, according to Dr. Robert Frisina, director of NTID.

John R. Opel is IBM senior vice president and group executive, Data Processing Product Group, and a director of IBM, who joined IBM in 1949 as a sales representative.

In January 1964 he became director of product programs for the Data Processing Division and was promoted to vice president, marketing, Data Processing Division in June 1964. He was named assistant group executive, plans and controls, Data Processing Group Staff in November 1965.

Mr. Opel was elected IBM vice president in May 1966; in October 1967 he was appointed to the Management Committee; in March 1968 he was promoted to vice president, corporate

finance and planning; and in April 1969 he was elected senior vice president. In January 1972 he was named group executive of the Data Processing Product Group, consisting of the General Products, General Systems, System Development and System Products divisions. In September 1972 he was elected to the IBM board of directors.

Mr. Opel is a graduate of Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., and the University of Chicago, where he received a Master's degree in business administration.

He is on the board of trustees of Westminster College, the Northern Westchester Hospital and is a director of The Bank of New York and Pfizer, Inc.

His extensive background in all phases of the IBM corporation during its rapid development during the past quarter century will be invaluable to the continued development of NTID. Dr. Frisina added.



**NEW FACES**—Dr. Robert Frisina (left), director of NTID, greets the new members of the National Advisory Group; Helen V. Gustafson, Kevin J. Nolan and John R. Opel.



# Nina Ravitsky— A Woman in Transition

Nina Ravitsky is a woman in transition.

Miss Ravitsky is employed as a clerk typist in the Procurement Division of the Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) in Philadelphia, Pa. DISC buys, manages, and distributes industrial items such as bearings, block and tackle, and electrical wire and cable for the Nation's Armed Forces throughout the world. The Center, located at 700 Robbins Ave. in Northeast Philadelphia, employs more than 2,000 people.

The 1971 graduate of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf is facing major changes in her life. She faces a challenge of mastering a sophisticated new computer operation known as SAMMS, Standard Automated Material Management System.

In her personal life, Nina was recently engaged and plans to marry George Rosen, a color stripper in printing, in July. Both are former Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD) graduates.

Nina has been associated with the Defense Industrial Supply Center since 1968 when she was still at PSD.

First as a working aid, then as a student employee, she also worked during the summer of 1969 while a student at NTID.

Following graduation in 1971, Nina was given fulltime employment as a clerk typist. She obtained a GS-2 rating but rapidly rose to a GS-4 over two and a half years.

Nina was blessed with a supervisor who became proficient in sign language and taught it to fellow employees during lunch. The supervisor was Nina's "guardian angel" and recommended her for steady advancement. Matters were complicated when her supervisor left the Center. The new supervisor, Mrs. Elaine Albert, while having a genuine interest in Nina, made a number of changes as chief of the Administrative Section.

"Nina has adjusted to the challenges very well. She learns quickly, and there's no reason why she shouldn't pick up the new system. Where her deafness is concerned, I really don't treat her any differently. I have a daughter her age, and I try to put my-

self in Nina's place. Whenever possible, I try to draw her into the group."

Nina might be considered a loner; she usually eats lunch at her desk and reads or knits.

"She is always neat and pleasant—she gets along particularly well with the younger girls in the office," Mrs. Albert added.

To aid Nina in learning the new computer-type operation, an interpreter will be obtained, according to Major Thomas Prickett, USA, Chief, Commodity Purchasing Branch.

Since Nina holds a GS-4 rating, there is a certain amount of pressure for her to learn the system to justify the rating.

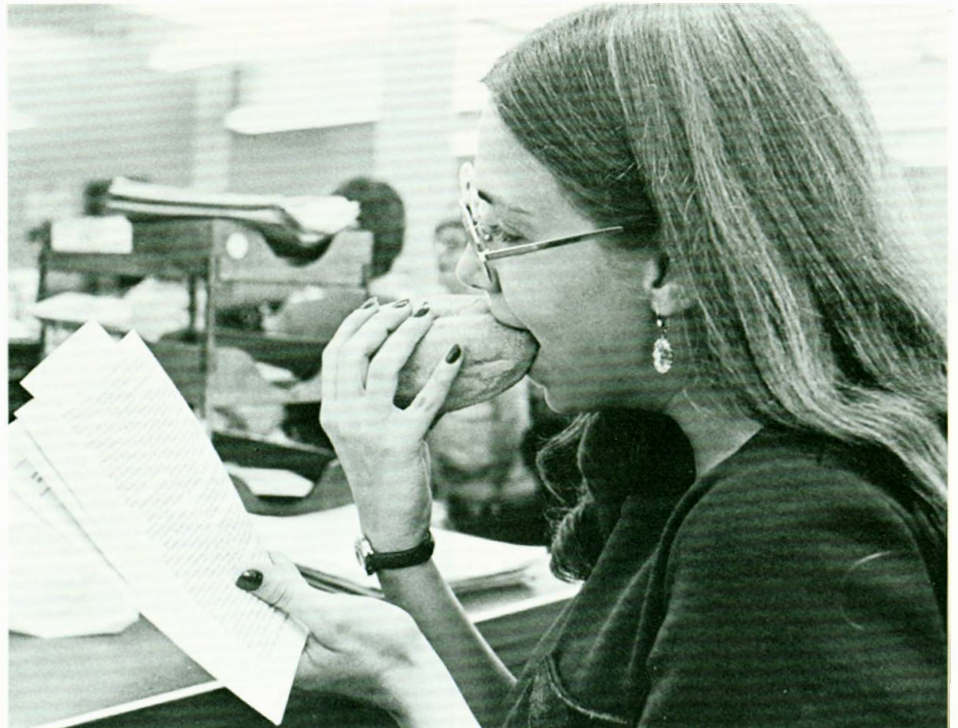
"I'm really not concerned about the difficulty of learning the system," said Nina, who resides at 2104 Tyson Ave.

in Northeast Philadelphia. "My job was becoming very repetitive, and I was hoping for a change."

Nina also has expressed an interest in transferring to the accounting department, a move that has been endorsed by Mrs. Albert. Nina communicates well enough that a change to another department would not present any problems.

Everyone agrees, however, that Nina's value to the Center could be enhanced by her learning the new computer process.

A future marriage—the prospect of learning a new system—the possibility of a job change—nothing seems to seriously upset the 24-year-old. Nina Ravitsky feels she can handle the pressures of being a woman in transition.



LUNCHTIME LEISURE—Nina Ravitsky relaxes during lunch at her job in the Procurement Division of the Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) in Philadelphia, Pa.





**TEACHES GENERAL**—Brig. General E. P. Braugher (top photo), Commander of DISC, takes time out to learn some sign language from NTID graduate Nina Ravitsky. In bottom photo, Nina checks an assignment with her supervisor, Mrs. Elaine Albert.





For further information contact:  
Public Information Office  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623