

Students innovate for handicapped

A group of University of Michigan industrial design students has created a new type of worktable—one designed specifically for the handicapped.

Among other unique features, the table can be adjusted to different heights, accommodating workers who are seated or standing and the tabletop contains cutout portions, allowing workers in wheelchairs to sit close to the table and stabilize themselves with their arms. There are no jagged edges which could injure sensitive limbs. The table also contains foot rests for exceptionally short or deformed workers, but

these can be removed to make room for workers in wheelchairs. At the top of the table, suspended on aluminum tubing, are fluorescent lights.

The table has been in use this year at CAP, Inc., a private Ann Arbor facility where some 72 handicapped workers do light assembly and other work in contrast to auto industries and other large firms.

DEVELOPMENT of the table was one project undertaken by students in an industrial design class taught by Allen Samuels at the school of art last term. Other of Samuels' students also working at CAP, Inc., helped redesign the plant's entire work area and the toilet facilities. Their proposals included color-coding doors according to different uses, and the removal of doors on toilet stalls, replacing them with curtains in order to better accommodate workers in wheelchairs.

Samuels views his industrial design classes in an unusual way. He believes his role is not only to "teach industrial design, but also to increase student's sensitivities—in this case sensitivity to people different from themselves.

BASED ON HIS OWN experience designing products for such firms as Corning Glass Works, Black & Decker, Bosch & Lomb, the 34 medical and scientific instruments firm and Westinghouse Electric Corp., Samuels said that industries likewise have much to gain by placing greater emphasis on implements for the handicapped.

When a special implement is designed for the handicapped, it often turns out to be useful for non-handicapped people as well, Samuels said. "Some major innovations in product design could be brought about this way."

With an aluminum table frame, the table resembles a plywood top, faced with a scratch-resistant laminated surface. Noting its flexible design features, Samuels says there is nothing like it available commercially.

Other students in industrial design classes taught by Samuels have designed such items as a one-handed can opener and sewing kits for stroke victims. Samuels feels the table is their most successful project to date.


This coming school term, under a grant from the Owens Corning Fiberglas Corp. of Toledo, Ohio, the students will design a complete fiberglass bathroom facility for the handicapped.

Samuels is interested in other possible academic projects with practical applications. He can be reached in his office in the school of art at 333-504-097.

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Employees of CAP, Inc., a private Ann Arbor facility for handicapped workers, do assembly work and other jobs at the special table developed by University of Michigan industrial design students.

30-30 rifle ammo recalled

Federal Cartridge is recalling certain 30-30 rifle cartridges and empty 30-30 cartridge cases which have a small metal weakness making them potentially dangerous to shoot.

The recall is for 30-30 ammunition of empty 30-30 cases with 14 cases ending in 029 through 030. But codes are stamped on the back of each box. Boxes may have the brand names of Federal, Remington-Union, or Remington-Union.

Shoppers who have this ammunition should call 1-800-321-7329 or write Customer Service, Federal Cartridge, Attn: Mail, 2003 E. 1st St., Detroit, Mich. 48201. A \$1.00 per dozen refund will be made.

The recall affects a small number of the cartridges that are sold in large quantities in a particular order of purchase. From a company's view, although the serious injury has been reported, this should not be used.

Each cartridge has a fine print of the recall information cartridges of 14 cases produced are subject.

It's energy month

With the advent of November, proclaimed Energy Month by Governor William G. Milliken, state citizens should renew their efforts to save precious energy sources. Michael Dively, director of the Energy Administration, told the Hoquiam Club last week.

"The signs of a national energy shortage, with potentially more serious consequences than those caused by the Arab oil embargo... are subtle and scattered. Many people believe that because there are no lines at the gas stations, there is no energy shortage—but Energy Month should change their thinking," Dively said.

The energy expert said Michigan citizens lack an "energy consciousness" and that the state provides only four per cent of its constantly growing energy demands.


Dively said in a state with low energy sources of its own, it is even more important to learn how not to waste energy.

Dively warned of a severe crunch if both statewide and nationally if people do not become more "conscious-minded."

"We can already feel this crunch in the form of higher energy prices," he remarked.

Dively cited the 25 per cent increase in the cost of natural gas as one sign post that energy-producing fuels will never again be as cheap as they were just a few years ago.

"We must realize that energy is a scarce commodity and use it accordingly," Dively said.

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This investment is offered to the public by Lanphar, Inc., the General Partner and issuer, and a copy of the full prospectus can be obtained by calling William L. Lanphar, President of Lanphar, Inc., college, at (313) 255-4000.

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