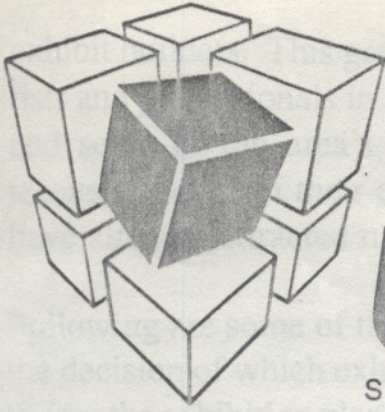


*Aurora*



# SCITECH

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTERACTIVE CENTER

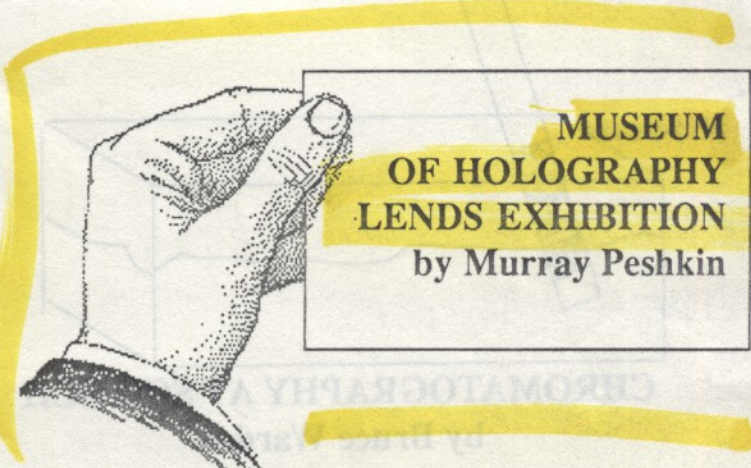
SciTech's mission? Does it demonstrate either a scientific phenomenon or technological process? Is it fun and entertaining? Is it aesthetically pleasing? How much does it cost?

"Hands-on" exhibits, a phenomenon which started in the 1970's, are becoming increasingly common in many museums. SciTech added its own interpretation of this phrase. In our world and in our daily lives we are surrounded by display screens, TVs and computers. The number of 3-dimensional experiences that a young person has growing up today is far less than 100 years ago when the majority of our population grew up on farms. Even though the "easy way" to demonstrate a given principle may be to use a computer simulation, we try to avoid this path, and instead build 3-dimensional exhibits as often as physically possible.

Delicate or dangerous exhibits are enclosed in sturdy clear plastic boxes so that parts are still visible to the visitor. We avoid "black boxes." Science is not magic!

A well built hands-on exhibit can be experienced at many different intellectual levels. Can a child enjoy the exhibit as a fascinating toy or game? Can an adolescent be sufficiently engaged to vary parameters? Could scientifically literate adults derive quantitative information through systematic experimentation

not bored by, the first generation of exhibits produced under this philosophy. Adults are often surprised by what they themselves have learned. Solid, simple and clear exhibit guidelines will help continue this tradition of fun, surprise, delight and learning in SciTech's future exhibits.



**MUSEUM OF HOLOGRAPHY LENDS EXHIBITION**  
by Murray Peshkin

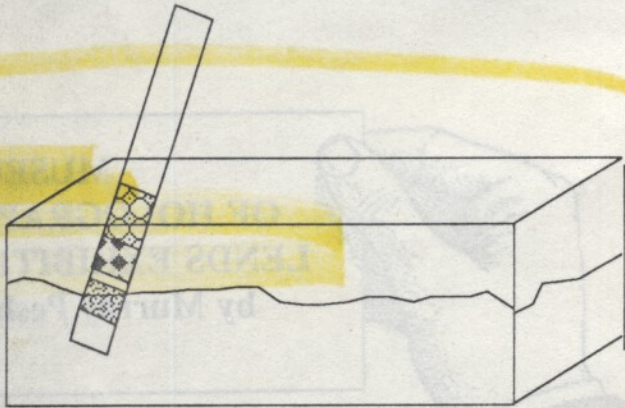
The first exhibits to greet a visitor to SciTech are a dramatic display of holograms loaned to us by the Museum of Holography in Chicago. The holograms, along with their explanatory posters and sophisticated display arrangements, were prepared by the Holography Museum people especially for SciTech's audience.

Simple holograms are by now commonplace but the ones now on display at SciTech are uncommon. Almost all visitors to SciTech, both youngsters and adults, are immediately drawn to them and react enthusiastically.

We're deeply indebted to Loren Billings, Director of the Museum of Holography, and to

holographers John Hoffman and Matthew Wiesnieski for the substantial time and energy that they generously gave to SciTech in preparing and installing these exhibits for us. We hope some day to be able to reciprocate by helping them in some way.

People who have not yet seen the Museum of Holography have a great treat in store for them. Located at 1134 West Washington Boulevard in Chicago, the museum is open 12:30-5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. They will accommodate pre-arranged field trips on Mondays and Tuesdays. The telephone number is (312) 226-1007.



**CHROMATOGRAPHY AT SCITECH**  
by Bruce Warden

“The exhibit with the fish tank”—that’s the chromatography exhibit, one of SciTech’s newest additions to its collection.

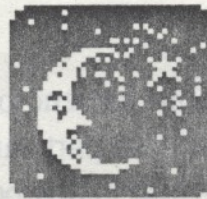
Chromatography is the science of separating the individual components of a chemical mixture using their size, polarity, solubility or molecular orientation. This process is used in blood tests and environmental testing. In the SciTech exhibit the ink in markers is separated into its various chemical components when the marked-up paper is dipped in water. Capillary action will cause the most water-soluble dyes to creep up the strip with the water. The further the water moves up the paper, the more

separated the dyes will become.

Jeff Brenner, Mike Demorotski, Frank Dias, Roy Gall, John Helfrich, Janet Japeson, Lar Lindquist, Water McCurdy, Frank Perugini, Miriam Roman, Ken Stoub and I comprised a team from Waste Management Environmental Monitoring Laboratories, Inc., in Geneva, who volunteered to build an exhibit for SciTech. We chose this project after looking over a list of several suggestions. We experimented with various types of dyes, food colors and inks, and looked at all types of paper, from special laboratory paper to coffee filters. We even got our families involved, some of us doing demonstrations at home and ending up with impromptu art projects.

That’s when we realized that the excitement came in the doing. So we designed the exhibit to supply only the tools, and let the children discover the magic for themselves.

(SciTech wishes to acknowledge generous donation of time and staff by Waste Management Environmental Monitoring Labs, Inc., to build this exhibit.)



## SCITECH AFTER DARK

If you or your company are considering a gala, festive occasion for some special event or the holidays, and are looking for a truly unique setting, consider SciTech. We are now offering our facilities, including Explainer staff, seven days a week after 5:30 p.m. (depending on availability of Explainer staff.) for meetings, parties, dinners and dinner-meetings. We have