New reading machine made for blind

A new type of reading aid technique for the blind, based on a stenotype machine which works backwards, has been developed by an Air Force engineer working here.

The student, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Chandlee, has built experimental equipment and tested the technique in the project at the Air Force's Electro-Engineering Laboratory. The work has been done as part of the program of the Sensory Aids Research Group of the Office of Research and Engineering.

The stenotypist transcribes speech by depressing keys which print phonetic codes on a roll of paper tape. Colonel Chandlee's idea is to reverse the process: Punched tape containing words is fed through a special mechanism which depresses the corresponding keys of the stenotype machine—effect is like that of a player piano.

The operator can read the information with his fingers as he feels the keys move up and down. By merely looking the stenotype machine, a blind person would be able to read information transmitted to him through such a machine.

According to Colonel Chandlee, the big advantage of the system is speed. Only the well used reading aid for the blind is Braille, which is read only with one eye and normally at approximately 70-90 words per minute. A skillful stenotypist, on the other hand, uses ten fingers and can type between 300 and 400 words per minute.

This advantage could overcome serious psychological barrier encountered by people who become blind later in life. Colonel Chandlee believes Braille objectively slow.

Burton to use upperclass tutors

Burton House will use selected upperclassmen as tutors for freshmen, starting next term, according to J. L. Maslinsky, chairman of the Burton House tutoring program.

The program, which is conducted concurrently with the Burton House freshman counselor system, will involve about 30 upperclassmen.

These tutors, who will supplement the resident faculty tutors in the house, will attend a series of lectures given by the heads of freshman courses. These lectures are designed to familiarize and orient the freshmen in course curricula.

Burton House freshmen will be assigned a tutor who will be a member of the upperclassmen team.

The system, according to Maslinsky, will provide a tutor for every six to eight freshmen in the house.

The program is also closely related to one proposed by the Student Committee on Educational Policy, said Maslinsky, but the two programs will be independent, and SCEO will not select tutors from Burton.

The idea was first conceived when Maslinsky board members Professor David C. White, Professor John Reisman, and Professor Samuel S. Stalbock, was considering such a program. It was developed by Maslinsky and a group of associates, and then presented to SCEO several weeks ago.

30 sophomores elected to Beaver Key

Thirty sophomores were recently elected to Beaver Key, a junior honorary and service organization.

The new officers are: Frank Yip, vice president; John Wolf, vice president; Mark Hale, secretary; Bill Burcher, treasurer; and Ralph Cleoon, member-at-large.

Other members are: Dean Arnold, John Berry, Owen Elia, Bill Rolti, Art Hassman, Frank How, John Saltzberg, John Howard, Steve Finneran, and Howie Ellis, Marshall Fisher.

Erich Heller appointed Carnegie Professor for 1963 fall term

Professor Erich Heller has been appointed Carnegie Visiting Professor for the 1963 fall term. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1911 and a naturalized British citizen, Mr. Heller studied law, philosophy, and German literature at Cambridge University and the University of Prague. He obtained his doctorate at Cambridge University.

He has been a lecturer at the London School of Economics, director of modern languages at Peterhouse, Cambridge University, and a visiting lecturer at universities of Groningen, Heidelberg, and Bonn.

Professor Heller's publications in German and English include "The Disenfranchised Mind: Essays in Modern German Literature and Thought," "The Hazards of Modern Poetry," and "The Incongruity of Thomas Mann." Professor Heller will conduct seminars on "The Morality of Knowledge," "The Financing of Western Art," and "Neoclassicism" each week.

He will give a course on the world of Thomas Mann. He will give a series of tutorials on the importance of Nietzsche.

Like reversed stenotype

A new reading aid for the blind operates like a stenotype machine in reverse. A stenotypist can read punched tape and transmit by a mechanism which pulls down the stenotypewriter keys.

Leyvi, Kolbin win Boit Prizes

Frank Leyvi '83 and Cynthia Lee Kolb '83 have been awarded first prizes in the Boit Prize for Imaginative Writing and the Boit Essay Prize, respectively.

The two-part Boit Prize writing contest, sponsored by the Humanities Department, carries awards of $50, $50, $50, and $150 for first, second, and third place in each category.

The other winners were Daniel F. Smith '83 and John Bryan Eisnhen 94, co-recipients of the second prize in the imaginative writing contest, and Robert John, third-place winner in both categories. 

The Ellen Ring Prize, a studio award open only to freshmen, was not presented this year.

Tharp wins Campus Library Award

Jeffery R. Tharp '66 has won a $25 gift certificate from the Harvard Cooperative Society in Campus Library Award competition.

The best senior entry, that of Daniel M. Courtoy, is MIT's official candidate for the $1000 Army Love- man National Award.

Both contests required that entrants submit a list of at least 25 books, indexed and annotated. In addition, applicants had to write compositions concerning their home libraries.

Judges for the local contest were Kaye Bynez, general and his- manties librarian; Prof. Norma Holland, Humanities Department; and Justine Hall, librarian at the Men's Book Club.

The national contest will be judged by a panel selected by 'society.' The winner, the Men's Book Club, and the Late Amy Love- man active in all three groups.

Tharp's selection was announced late yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. Belle, chairmen of the MIT Award Committee. The judges selected 300 books in all.

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