Automated transportation planned

by Geoff Russell

MIT may soon be in the newspaper business. The American Newspaper Publishers Association and MIT last week announced the establishment of a newspaper research project designed "to investigate experimentally some of the recent advances in information transfer engineering and can be applied in the newspaper publishing business."

The project is to be carried on at MIT in conjunction with Project INTEREX, a larger program of information transfer experiments under the direction of Dr. Carl F. J. Overhage, who also serves as one of three members of an ANPA Scientific Advisory Committee.

The program's initial efforts will be centered around computer-aided procedures in editing and in management. It will use the technical direction of William B. Field, newly-appointed associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, and Associate Director of the Computation Center at MIT.

The overall goal of the project at MIT, and of Project INTEREX as a whole, is to apply the newer ways of information storage and retrieval, of analysis, of characterization of reproduction and of distribution of information to the operation of newspapers in much the same way in which the MIT, and of Project WIREX MIT.

Dr. Jack P. Rutina, professor of electrical engineering at the Institute, who had been on leave since September 1964 while serving as President of the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D.C., returned to MIT July 1 as Vice President for special laboratories.

The announcement of the vice presidential appointment was issued by President Howard W. Johnson.

Dr. Rutina will be the Institute's senior officer on matters relating to the two national service laboratories administered by the Institute for the U.S. government, the Lincoln Laboratory and the Instrumentation Laboratory.

Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Mass., conducts fundamental research in communication sciences, computer sciences, and in general and applied physics, astrophysics and geophysics. The Instrumentation Laboratory in Cambridge specializes in inertial guidance, navigation and control systems and is designing, among several assignments, the guidance system for the Navy Polaris".

1 project Apollo mooncraft.

Students in the MIT systems engineering course have developed a number of plans for improving and automating urban transportation.

"Project METRAN" is an evolutionary status proposal. The program would start with small improvements now, in 10 a ding streets for buses only in downtown areas, and non-scheduled jitney buses in suburban areas.

2-year plan.

But if the proposal were carried out, urban transportation would gradually over the next thirty years become fully automated, with everyone riding automobile-like personal vehicles or buses over computer-controlled guideways built out of present highways and rapid transit lines.

3 departments involved.

The 14-week interdisciplinary course entitled "Special Studies in Systems Engineering" gave seniors and graduate students experience in working on large and complex problems that require people from many different professions. The 35 students enrolled this year included majors in computer science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, mathematics, automotive, management, political science, city planning and architecture.

Hillel Foundation announces events

The MIT Hillel Foundation announced following events:

- Thursday, Sept. 14, 5:30 p.m. A Visit to the DuPont Athletic Center. (Reserve Room, 1st floor, Hayden Library. 250 Dedham St.)
- Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 p.m. "Project METRAN" is an educational event presented by the DuPont Athletic Center. (Reserve Room, 1st floor, Hayden Library. 250 Dedham St.)
- Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 p.m. "The Swedish Wonder Car" is an educational event presented by the DuPont Athletic Center. (Reserve Room, 1st floor, Hayden Library. 250 Dedham St.)

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