Lab to study transportation

By Barb Moore

The Center for Transportation Studies, an interdepartmental effort to analyze problems and advancements in modern transportation, has been established at MIT.

Members of the center anticipate opportune notice as being the most inclusive and meaningful center to undertake the transportation situation. Elected as Director of the center is Paul Roberts, Professor of Civil Engineering.

The interest in transportation studies extends throughout the recruiting, department, and includes members of the economics, urban studies, political science, government, law, and management departments as well as students of MIT faculty from these areas and additional faculty from other areas of the Boston vicinity.

The center hopes that through its studies, interdisciplinarity research will be stimulated, and that educational programs concerning transportation systems will be improved, it presently existing at all. The studies will concentrate on the issues of such systems by society, and technological advancements improve these services.

Analysis of issues of public welfare and governmental legislation will also be considered.

The center has set as its objective, to create a realistic approach to the necessary environment for continuing transportation research. Rather than the previously exclusive engineering approach, the Center for Transportation Studies plans to operate as a combination of the many viewpoints encompassed. As Roberts stated, "We hope that the center will be the largest and most comprehensive research facility of its kind in the country."

SACC, stated that the Friendship Week will serve several purposes. First, it will focus on the meaning of the ceasefire in Southeast Asia today. Second, it will begin the process of reflection upon the lessons which the US has learned from the Vietnam war. Third, it will raise money for medical aid and re-construction in Southeast Asia. Hopefully, the discussions and teach-ins will present a clear view of the situation which now exists involving the US and Vietnam.

The tentative schedule of events at MIT has been arranged. The week will start off on Monday, April 23, with a teach-in featuring Chomsky, Ngo Van Long, President of the Vietnamese Student Union, and Lilian Shirley, coordinator for Medical Aid for Indochina. A press conference will also be held Tuesday, the documentary film "Who Invited Us?" concerning American involvement in Southeast Asia will be shown. Wednesday, President Jerome Wiesner, John Kerry, former head of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Zinn, and William Bundy, former presidential advisor to Lyndon Johnson are scheduled to speak. A play on Vietnam involvement will be presented on Thursday by the Proposals improvisational theatre company. Further possibilities such as films, readings, art shows and poetry are being considered.

Saturday, April 29, has been designated Medical Aid to Indochina Day. Various fund-raising projects will take place during the week to help rebuild hospitals and provide health care in North Vietnam.

The Vietnam-America Friendship Committee, made up of the participating MIT organizations, have set as the overall goal of the project the presentation of a wide range of viewpoints. They hope sufficient student interest will be generated to make the program a success.

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Members of the steering committee for the center are: Professors Ernart Franklin of Ocean Engineering, Ralph Gakensheimer of Urban Studies and Planning; Herbert Richard- son of Mechanical Engineering; Robert Simpson of Aeronautics and Astronautics; William Wharton of Economics, and Zenon Zannetos of the School of Management.

The center is located in building 9 on the MIT campus.

Vietnam War upcoming week

By Barb Moore and Ken Davis

The week of April 23-29 has been designated Vietnam America Friendship Week, featuring discussions and teach-ins concerning the current situation in Southeast Asia. A referendum on deciding whether or not the UA will endorse the war was to have been held Wednesday along with the elections, if all but was removed from the agenda at the last minute.

Several MIT organizations, such as the Peace Coalition, the Science Action Coordinating Committee, and the Graduate Student Council are helping to plan the even, and the program will encompass Cambridge, Wrenchester, Arlington and several other surrounding communities. Noam Chomsky, MIT professor of linguistics, David and Philip Berrigan, Tom Hayden, George Wald, former Congressional candidate John Kerry, and BU Professor Howard Zinn are among the scheduled participants.

Jeff Mermelstein of MIT

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