The planned MIT cable system will have thirty-four terminals at locations on campus.

'Open access' cable planned

By Mike McNamee

The MIT cable system should open on Jan. 5, 1976, and offer programming time for teaching materials, cultural events, and news broadcasts, a committee has recommended to President Jerome W. Kornberg. The committee has also recommended that the Institute buy a large amount of equipment and offer it to students and departments at cost to hook into one of the 34 terminals on the cable system, which the group suggested should originally operate three channels for up to 16 hours a day.

The committee's report "has been received with favor and interest" by Wiesner, according to Pool, who stated that the Institute's "open access" for any MIT activity or group is urged by the committee, which stressed that the managers of the system should not serve as center for more than a pure mass medium. To make the cable useful to teachers, the report recommends building two-way capabilities for interactive remote teaching into as many terminal locations as possible.

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The report recommends extensive involvement in cable programming for departments, centers, and laboratories, suggesting that each department be required to appoint a cable coordinator. Student members of MITV, with assistance from the staff of the Center for Advanced Engineering Study, would maintain and operate the system.

To help with the finances of the cable, the committee proposed a request for an extension from the Sloan Foundation, which provided $500,000 for the original cable planning and development.

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