SIPB to provide computerized text services

By Beno Benpidil

Computer-produced humanities papers? Well, not exactly, not yet.

As of this Monday the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB) is offering text-preparation services on M.I.T.'s Multics computer system. This service will allow students to enter, edit, format, and print text on Multics. Typical applications are expected to be term papers, resumes, reports and the like.

To use the service a student will need an account on Multics and access to several special tools. The basic tools consist of an editor, a formatter/jennifer, and a special printout service.

The theory behind computerized text processing is that the user should only have to type the whole document once. After that only corrections should have to be entered.

This idea is implemented by the editor program. Once the text is correct, it can then be formatted. The formatter "types" the text to produce lines of even length and optionally justifies it to give even margins on the left, right, or both sides. It can also put footnotes at the bottom of the page and perform numerous other special services. Finally, the special printer service allows access to high-quality R*, by TI paper for the final product.

In addition, the standard Multics system provides programs that can check spelling, maintain lists, and various other services, as well as the usual general purpose software.

This is the first time that text processing has been available to M.I.T. students. In the past, the SIPB has specifically prohibited the use of its computer time for test-building purposes.

According to Charles Hornig '79, one of the organizers of the effort to offer the service, "in the past, only a few students have had access to text-processing tools.

SIPB was not able to offer it due to our limited budget. Since the Information Processing Center implemented a new rate structure early in the fall term, however, the idea has looked more and more feasible."

Hornig emphasized that the service is experimental, and that its continued existence depends on remaining within its budget and otherwise staying manageable. He was especially emphatic in pointing out that major projects, like term papers, are discouraged due to the short possibility that the service will be terminated before the project can be completed. If the service is terminated users will be allowed to print out whatever work they have done so that they can finish it in the usual fashion.

Any student can make use of the service by coming to the SIPB office, 39-200, and filling out an application. The application can either be for a specific project or to experiment with and learn to use the text-processing programs.

Pretty women in old Technique

Editor's note: Technique 1978, also called back to the present, is back in the present and is full of the same girls that Technique photographers could find. Each edition, monitors have been over the past. It was once a fact worse (Reprinted from July, 1942).

With full-page pictures of Lana Turner, Rita Hayworth, and Janet Blair, the 1944 Technique last night announced plans for the novel "dream girl" section to be included in the book. The section will consist of six pictures and is supposed to represent what Technology men think are the most beautiful and alluring girls of their dreams. They will probably make the 1944 Technique even better than it is promised to be.

Three of the girls have already been chosen — Lana Turner of water fame, Rita Hayworth, who will soon be seen in the picture by the millions in the girl that all magazines would like to see on their cover, and the new triple threat star Janet Blair, who can be seen in the new picture. Something to howse about. However, the editors are not decided yet as to who the other three "dream girls" shall be, and a popular contest is to find the students' preferences for the other three. The three girls who receive the most votes will be considered for the other three "dream girls" and their pictures will be printed in Technique if obtainable.

On page four of this paper there is a blank on which you can put your vote for your dream girl. Turn it in at the Technique office on the third floor of Walker Memorial or at the Technique sales desk in the Building 10 lobby by noon next Monday. Meanwhile you can look at Lana, Rita, and Janet's pictures, which are displayed on various posters and bulletin boards throughout the school. Rita Hayworth's picture, according to Carlton J. Robinson '45, editor of the 1944 Technique, is one of the most outstanding photographs he has ever seen. It was secured through permission of Life magazine.

Since all originally ordered copies of the Technique have been sold, an additional 100 have been ordered and they are now on sale in the Lobby of Building 10 and in Walker Memorial.

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