Three systems designed to sort news

(Continued from page 1) Gifford remarked that the communication system involves interesting social as well as technical issues. The AP releases more than 4000 articles each day, but newspapers do not have space to print them all. So there's a lot of pre-selection going on," Gifford said.

The MIT Community Information Service gives users access to all AP articles so they are not limited to "an edited view of what someone at The New York Times thought was important," Gifford said.

One possible drawback of filtering is that users narrow their interests by reading only certain types of articles. "But like any powerful tool, the system can be put to good means and bad," Gifford said.

The electronic clipping service, which will be tested by 40 Project Athena students and staff, avoids the need for users to own a personal computer, Gifford said. A user only needs access to a terminal and an electronic mail account. The program will automatically forward appropriate newspaper articles to the account. "For example, if you're interested in nuclear accidents, you just tell the clipping service, and the program will send those articles to your account," Gifford said.

Project Athena's three-month trial of the electronic clipping service will end during Independent Activities Period. "At [that] time we will evaluate it, and decide whether to expand or suspend the program," said Assistant Director of Project Athena William Hogan.

The Walter program operates like the MIT Community Information Service. But Walter also allows users to request articles that are not specified on their filters from LCS databases. "Walter gives information on demand, but it also overloads the computer at the LCS," Gifford said.

Gifford stressed that the three communication systems are strictly research projects; MIT owns the software, but the LCS does not intend to turn them into commercial ventures. The purpose of the three-month trial with Project Athena is to get feedback on the electronic clipping service. "We are not going to become Project Athena's general information service," Gifford said.

Students must stay alert in public areas

(Continued from page 1) feelings about a person or situation as the second step of the safety cycle. People can be swept away by friends to discuss a sense of discomfort, Antonio said. "I don't ask that question. I accept it," she added.

"Look for safety resources available in the situation" as the third step, she continued. The last two steps of the safety cycle involve using the safety resources and conducting a follow-up so that the dangerous situation will not recur. Gifford emphasized that the program is not only for women but that men are just as vulnerable to crime.

Cambridge Police Officer Cheryl Broner, who was also present at the programming, discussed the relevance of Antonio's advice to MIT students. She outlined preventive steps that students can take to reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime. For example, she encouraged students to read while walking in public places because they diminish awareness.

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