Continental Cable Brings CNN, MTV
To MIT, Despite Technical Problems

Expanded channel service was introduced to the MIT Cable system in late September by Continental Cablevision, the cable provider of nearly half of the homes in the Cambridge area. The new service included CNN, MTV, and a larger number of cable channels.

The news package includes CNN, CNN Headline News, C-SPAN 1, and C-SPAN 2. The educational package consists of the Arts & Entertainment, Line News, C-SPAN 1, and C-SPAN 2. The educational, municipal, and community access channels are also included.

Students sign up for Continental Cablevision in the Student Center.

Michael K. Chung
Boston's network affiliates (WGBH Channel 2, WGBH Channel 4, WCVB Channel 3, and WHDH Channel 7) and independent stations (WXFT Channel 2, WSBS Channel 35, WGBK Channel 44, and WQTV Channel 68) were provided in the basic package as well.

Some experience technical problems
Continental Cablevision had planned to begin service earlier, but decided to wait until all students were settled into their permanent rooms. Approximately 400 students had subscribed to the service by October. However, some students experienced difficulties such as poor reception, incorrect channel mappings, incomplete services, and completely blank pictures.

Abyo Dirs '95, a Burton House resident, claimed that he had been having problems since he subscribed at the beginning of the school year: "I haven't been getting channels that I should be getting and others that I didn't mean to." Paul Nocentelli, C cable representative for Alpha Tau Omega, said that the cable system had been "a pain," and that one day, "it went out," coming back later with bad reception.

Randal W. Winchester, facilities coordinator for MIT Telecommunications, stated that repair calls to MIT Cable were in more quickly than he anticipated. He said that people were "jumping the gun a little and [were] expecting it to work immediately."

One source of such problems dealt with the converter box needed to expand the channel selection. Some students disconnected malfunctioning converters and returned them to the store, confusing the system, which caused problems. Continental fixed some of the converter problems by sending television signals to the converter boxes.

The signals reprogrammed such boxes. Faulty boxes which were disconnected were not reprogrammed, resulting in continuing problems.

Students pleased with new service
Despite problems that some students experienced, most were pleased by the expanded line-up, claiming that the broadened selection was worthwhile and enjoyable.

"We were really excited about getting it," said John G. McCandless '94 of Theta Delta Chi. While McCandless said that the system was not that wide-sweeping, he noted that many people enjoy MTV and the movie channels.

Some people who had experienced technical problems were still hopeful for what the cable package could offer. A dorm resident projected that "it will be nice to have a variety of things to watch - there wasn't that much to watch before." In addition to the packages described, students were given options to subscribe to Home Box Office, Showtime, CNN, and several other programming packages.

Limited Hours Irk East Side Residents

Students hire as Resnet Consultants

Liao said.

Changes met with mixed response
Most west campus residents approved of this revised plan.

"Closing the McCormick dining hall doesn't bother me because I hardly ever ate there. It was a great place to meet other people and socialize, but it was a financial burden," said Ilea Kyung Chung '94, a McCormick resident.

Tariy. Stah '95 felt the same way about the MacGregor dining hall. "I never really ate there. I eat at LaVerde's or Lobdell Court. Also, I'm in MacGregor dining hall. "I never really ate there. I eat at LaVerde's or Lobdell Court. Also, I'm in MacGregor dining hall."

However, residents on the east side of campus were concerned about the closing of MacGregor and the shortened hours at Morss Hall.

"They should consider everyone's needs. I know people that want Pritchett open. People at MIT are late night people, and food on the east side at night, and even in general, is just not very accessible," said Anna M. Temansiss '95, an East Campus resident.

Elizabeth A. Stowe '96, agreed. "Over 10 percent of the student population lives here on the east side of campus. All the dining halls that ARA says are open are on the west side. And it takes us almost half an hour to go to Next to eat.""Food Service to reopen Pritchett

Responding to east side students' concerns, the Decimmary Council and the UA met with Food Services this fall.

East Campus and Senior House officers drafted a proposal to reopen Pritchett. Recognizing that Food Services is operating under constraints, the proposal calls for students to operate Pritchett, with training provided to improve efficiency and quality.

After negotiations, Food Services decided in December to reopen the Pritchett Snack Bar - probably by April 5 - after doing some renovations, said President of East Campus Tarig M. Shaikat '94.

Until Pritchett is reopened, there will be a short-term solution, possibly involving extending Morss Hall's hours.

Students sign up for Continental Cablevision in the Student Center.

The Apple Tree opens at Kresge Little Theater. The show, performed by the Musical Theater Guild, runs through April 7.

Dean of Engineering Joel. M, Omeck PhD '67 announces the formation of the Program in Bioengineering, which will coordinate research activities in biomedical engineering between MIT, Harvard, and several other Boston hospitals.

April 6

Chinese dissident says the 1950s debates about the evolving political revolution in his homeland at a Lecture Series Committee talk in 26-100.

April 7

Elie Wiesel '55, staff associate for residence and campus activities, wins the Alpha Phi Omega Big Screw Award. Wiesel said that the $500 prize raised are donated AIDS Action Organization of Massachusetts.

April 8

The UA Council criticizes a recent proposal that would increase the number of teaching days in the school year at the expense of two weeks of summer vacation.

April 9

Katherine M. Nolan, an administrative assistant in the financial aid office, is granted a temporary restraining order against James R. Tewhey, associate dean for residence and campus activities. Nolan says she feared physical harm after ending her 18-month affair with Tewhey.

April 12

The Internal Revenue Service serves a summons to MIT requesting the names, social security numbers, and financial aid information for 1,000 students who received awards in 1990.

April 2

The Apple Tree opens at Kresge Little Theater. The show, performed by the Musical Theater Guild, runs through April 7.

Dean of Engineering Joel M. Omeck PhD '67 announces the formation of the Program in Bioengineering, which will coordinate research activities in biomedical engineering between MIT, Harvard, and several other Boston hospitals.