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National Engineers Week Chooses its Theme

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DAYTON, Ohio, February 12, 1969 --- National Engineers Week, February 16-22, a time when the nation pays tribute to one of its largest professions, has chosen as its theme "Engineering...Partner in Rebuilding Urban America."

All over America millions of engineers and associated people will be calling attention, not only to the people involved in this important career, but also to the benefits which the entire nation and world have received from engineering achievements.

The week of George Washington's birthday is traditionally celebrated as Engineers Week because our first President was himself a trained surveyor and builder. He designed canals, roads, bridges and fortifications long before the Revolutionary War.

Engineers' Week has always brought with it a challenge to the University of Dayton Student Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers (N.S.P.E.). This year the UD Engineering students will mark the week with "Project Live Launch". This program, under the chairmanship of UD senior Ronald V. Mausser, is directed at rocketing a live white mouse to an altitude of one thousand feet. During the actual flight, students will be measuring the shock effects on the mouse and transmitting the information back to the ground recording station. They will attempt to recover the entire launch vehicle and its payload by parachute completely undamaged. The launch vehicle, titled "The Little Rascal", is a solid propellant model rocket that stands approximately three feet tall.

The entire launch program is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, February 22. At this time a 15-minute countdown will begin with all the ingredients of a Cape Kennedy launching. At ignition the rocket engine will burn for one second before lifting off its pad. At approximately 5 seconds into the flight the engine will burn out, and the rocket will begin to arc in flight. At approximately 10 seconds into the flight a 30 inch parachute will be jettisoned from the rocket and will carry both the rocket and its payload safely back to earth. The launching will be held on the University of Dayton ROTC drill field (Weather permitting). An alternate is parking lot E in the rear of the main campus.

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"Project Live Launch" is a joint effort of the 31 members of the University of Dayton Student Chapter of the SPE. Each person is individually involved in some phase of the launching, including the recovery crew, flight control, launch command, range safety, public address and payload coordination crew.

Immediately following the recovery of the rocket, the Mechanical Engineering Building will be open to the public for the viewing of the displays of the various engineering organizations. These projects, undertaken by groups of from one to five persons, generate solutions to problems consistent with the theme of Engineers' Week.

There will be displays of simulated laser beam modulation, clean air through fuel-cell-powered automobiles, maximum utilization of existing communication systems through Dial-a-appliance, low-cost urban housing through styrofoam-aluminum-wood, water pollution control through mass transfer and computerized air traffic control.

At 1:00 p.m. Mr. Stephen Nelson, assistant director of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, will speak in Wohlleben Auditorium on "Slums, Suburbs, The Horseless Carriage and other Ills of the City". Following this talk four groups will be selected to present their projects orally before judges and the audience. Tau Beta Pi will present a first place award of $50 for the outstanding project. This is the first annual Competition in Creative Engineering.

The winner of this competition will be taken to the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers Convention in Toledo, March 28. The Ohio Bell Company will present the OSPE Education Exhibit awards of $100, $75, $50 and two $25.

During Engineers' Week the main show-case in the lobby of the JFK Union will display projects constructed by the Joint Council of Engineers and the Dayton Society of Professional Engineers, whose themes are centered on the rebuilding of urban America.

Chairman of Engineers' Week at UD is senior Robert L. Krause. Mr. John Dowalo '67, now attending graduate school at UD and a former president of the Dayton Student Chapter of the SPE and the Joint Council of Engineers, has worked as a consultant with the students.