

Wiesner/Gray

Perhaps it strains the credibility of our role as watchdog of the administration, but we must enthusiastically welcome Jerome Wiesner and Paul Gray to their new posts at the top of MIT's leadership. Both men should prove well qualified to manage and direct the Institute during their next few years.

Particularly because we are a student newspaper, *The Tech* can appreciate the emphasis on education the two appointments demonstrate. As provost, Wiesner was responsible for charting much of the Institute's educational reform efforts, and Gray offered conclusive proof of his own understanding when he presented, during the January IAP, an outline for improving undergraduate engineering education. We would encourage both men to insist that the individual departments take a hard look at their own undergraduate curriculum and teaching.

Of course, the two executives' abilities extend beyond education to other important facts of university management. Wiesner, for example, has

contacts in Washington that could attract federal support during the financially trying times sure to come. Gray worked with the programs for black and other minority students since their inception, while Wiesner's liberal political record should make him attractive to a large segment of the students and faculty. Both men are experienced administrators familiar with the problems of day-to-day operational control; professors whose work on the Freshman Advisory Council extends back several years may remember that Gray was instrumental in turning it into a functioning body.

The Tech hopes that the division of responsibilities between the two appointees may leave both men more time to communicate with the campus. A low-profile presidency is inappropriate for MIT — both executives must take an active, visible role both within departmental councils and among students in their living groups as well. Much of the pair's credibility will depend on their success in reaching MIT students and faculty.

UAP election

The Tech congratulates Bob Schulte and John Krzywicki for their recent election to the posts of UAP and UAVP. Both men bring to their new office experience involving undergraduates within formal and informal student projects. Schulte long headed the Athletic Association, directing both IM and intercollegiate sports. Krzywicki's association with the General Assembly demonstrated his own ability to draw students to work within the government. The low turnout for Wednesday's vote underlines the crucial need for interesting students in their government.

We would also note the good-sized number of

'No UAP' votes registered in that same election. Since the only campaigning was *The Tech's* editorial and some flyers distributed the morning of the election, the 20% total bespeaks a widespread dissatisfaction with the present government structure. The two new officers should feel obligated to investigate such possible reforms as substituting occasional house president's meetings for the current GA.

Student government does have a legitimate role — representing student interests. We trust that Schulte and Krzywicki will prove both capable and enthusiastic in fulfilling this vital role.

McGovern campaign

For the past year our general editorial policy has been to steer clear of commenting on events not centered on the MIT campus. We felt it somehow inappropriate for us to take a stand on such external matters as the GM auto strike or President Nixon's war policy, since we could be more effectively discussing educational issues or the Institute's judicial policy.

Supporting political candidates represents a somewhat different case, since both MIT faculty and students are in some semblance of a position to effect change. With this in mind, *The Tech* urges the community to lend support, especially financial support, to Senator George McGovern's

bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. We seek a continuous public discussion of American war policy, and McGovern's candidacy offers a useful vehicle. Long an outspoken opponent of successive presidents' Viet Nam positions, he will undoubtedly insure that the arguments against the war receive a suitable national airing.

The address for campaign contributions is Citizens for McGovern, Suite 311, Roger Smith Hotel, 47th and Lexington, New York, N.Y. 10017.

A five or ten dollar check could be useful weapon in the drive to end the war promptly.

Letters to The Tech

To the Editor:

In your February 12 issue, Bruce Schwartz ("Another rally on the Common") mentions that "while it is true, at least according to the polls, that a majority of Americans now oppose the war, it is not true that they understand how Nixon's strategy will not bring peace, the necessity for unilateral withdrawal, etc." I find it regrettable that

the liberal political establishment, at universities across the nation, has neglected to keep the general public informed of correct opinions. Such lack of communication is widespread, manifesting itself even at MIT where, to the surprise of most, a few have failed complete understanding of proper political theories. I for instance cannot claim absolute certainty in the matter of the necessity for unilateral withdrawal. It is, indeed, unfor-

tunate that issues whose solutions are clear and obvious have been mistaken for vastly complex and deeply-rooted problems, lacking simple solutions. Perhaps Mr. Schwartz would be kind enough to go into more detail, so as to clear up the issues presently troubling the majority of Americans and hindering understanding of correct opinions concerning US policies with regard to Indochina.

James F. Hoburg

Board of Directors	
Chairman	Bruce Weinberg '72
Editor-in-Chief	Alex Makowski '72
Managing Editor	Bill Roberts '72
Business Manager	Robert Elkin '73
News Editors	Harvey Baker '72, Joe Kashi '72 Lee Giguere '73, Bruce Peetz '73
Night Editor	Tim Kiorpes '72
Entertainment Editor	Rob Hunter '73
Sports Editor	Randy Young '74
Photography Editors	Sheldon Lowenthal '74, Dave Vogel '74
Advertising Manager	John Kavazanjian '72
Production Manager	Stephen Rovinsky '72
Accounts Receivable	Leonard Tower '73
Accounts Payable	Larry Eisenberg '74
Production Staff	Bill Kupsky '74, Sue Spencer '74
News Staff	Dave deBronkart '72, John Gunther '72 Bruce Schwartz '72, Curt Reeves '73 Dave Searls '73, Pete Materna '74 Walter Middlebrook '74, Kyle Richardson '74
Sports Staff	Ed Kavazanjian '73, Larry Krussel '73 Drew Jaglom '74, Jarvis Middleton '74
Entertainment Staff	Jeff Gale '70, Jay Pollack '72 Manny Goldman G
Staff Candidates	Ken Knyf'd '72, Matt Lieff '72 Bob Lefkowitz '74, Buddy Miller '74

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. *The Tech* is published twice a week during the college year, except during college vacations, and once during the first week in August, by *The Tech* Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: Area Code 617 864-6900 extension 2731 or 1541. United States Mail Subscriptions: \$4.50 for one year, \$8.00 for two years.

Printed by STI Publishing

Teaching slighted in tenure decisions

By Joe Kashi

Every year has its tenure "cause celebre" and this year is no exception. The problem is now amplified by the declining funding for education and the continual rise in tuition.

The inevitable clash between good teaching and concern for the education received by undergraduates on one hand, and the need to devote large amounts of time to research on the other, usually means that the undergraduates lose out in the end. A professor often incorporates graduate students into a research project. Unfortunately, this usually isn't done with undergraduates.

Tuition will shortly approach \$2700-\$2800. Much of this money is used to bring the best men in a field to MIT and to retain them. In general, MIT measures the man primarily by his research record, without much consideration for the concern he has shown for undergraduates and for excellent teaching. Too often, an "MIT education" means that a student unwilling to do so fully, or are coerced into slighting undergraduates by restrictive departmental tenure and research policies.

Sometimes, though, you're exposed to an inspiring teacher. Such teachers usually don't last too long. One high official within the Physics Department re-

portedly said about the controversy over the retention of Professor Robert Kolenkow '55: "If you're a good researcher, you don't have time for students. And conversely so."

Next year, we'll be expected to support this sort of tenure policy with a \$2650 tuition. It's a pretty poor deal right now, given the paucity of communication between professors and undergraduates both within classes and informally. I personally think that informal contact is very important to education because a student gains a feel for the dimensions and structure of an academic discipline and because a student is often more motivated by outside contacts than by a class.

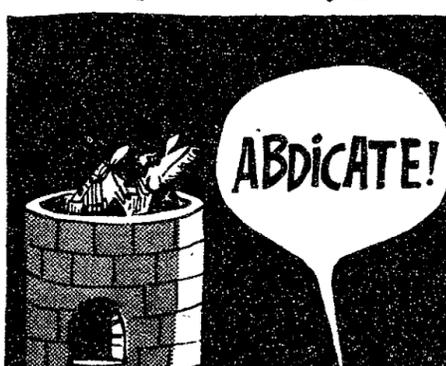
MIT's policy on excellent teaching and tenure, in short, is misguided. The tenured professors here who are also good teachers are fortunate accidents rather than deliberate additions to the faculty.

If MIT doesn't plan to give a more balanced and inspiring educational opportunity to undergraduates, they might as well abolish undergraduate education here altogether.

This year, Kolenkow, a Baker Award winner for outstanding physics teaching is being fired. Kolenkow has a particular devotion to excellent teaching and working with undergraduates in research. He has also met extensively with undergraduate and graduate students through the organization of informal physics discussion groups. Additionally, he and several of his undergraduate students have designed and are now testing an atomic beam machine that may allow research into previously closed fields of atomic physics.

MIT should immediately attempt to get a better balance between decent undergraduate education and cloistered research. An excellent way of beginning might be to grant tenure to Professor Robert Kolenkow.

THE WIZARD OF ID



by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart