Tom Curtis

Gray must assault student alienation

When he enters office as President next summer, Paul Gray will have to face what he himself terms "insurmountable opportunities." One of these opportunities is almost endemic to the past, to remedy the alienation many students feel towards the administration.

Students feel administration doesn’t care

Fairly or unfairly, many students feel the administration and faculty don’t really care about the student situation. Some students feel the administration is genuinely out to screw them. They can cite the recent events at the faculty to move the draft date and to institute grade deflation.

There is also a feeling that the administration too often reacts with high-handed tactics toward students. Many students felt the administration acted in an unfairly preemptive manner during the Grego and Thursby incidents, or that Grey as President Jerome Wiesner had front-page letters printed in Tech Talk.

Some students just ask, "What has the administration done for students lately?" On the surface, it seems, the administration hasn’t done that much to improve the situation of students here.

The situation is exacerbated because many administrators aren’t visible to the student body. It seems they see them once at the Freshman Picnic and then you don’t see them again until you graduate.

Gray at least recognizes problem

Gray must work hard to make headway on this problem. He will have to work especially hard since he is a member of the current administration and is therefore identified in many students’ eyes as part of the problem.

To his credit, Gray at least has shown he recognizes the problem and wants to help solve it. A move to the President’s House, which he and his wife are contemplating, would be a welcome gesture that would indicate he wants to be a president close to the student body. He has shown also that he wants to bring in more mechanisms for getting student input and therefore presumably, be better able to respond to student opinions.

Gray must definitely make a significant gesture to students early in his administration. Students are becoming restless again and are more and more willing to take their concerns into their own hands. If the Gray administration establishes itself as an autocratic Sixties-type administration, getting student input and therefore presumably, be better able to respond to student opinions.

As a result of the above, Gray will have to work hard to make the student body feel they are a part of the administration. To do this, they must act to establish an atmosphere of open communication between the administration and students. This need not mean a change in policy but simply a change in attitude.

Gray can get up to an early student-administration dialogue, both students and the administration will be better off than they are today.

Stuart Atlow

Farced commons meals

As most of the MIT community is now aware, a plan is in the works to institute forced commons for the entire undergraduate population of MIT, beginning with the class of 1984. Despite the inherent irony or perhaps a genuine lack of freedom of choice at the beginning of academic year 1984, much remains to be said in favor of forced commons.

Through various devious means and degrading tactics, Gray has forced the student body to eat as a unit at the Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, which has been rarely seized in the past, is to serve a meal similar to a typical forced commons meal:

Hilton Style Lunch

Waldorf Salad

Vichyssoise

Choice of Pies or Under Glass

Filet Mignon

Coc au Vin

Voul Croissant Bleu

Beef Stroganoff

Chicken Kievan

Baked Poussin

Soup Soups by request

Pass in Wine Sauce

Choice of Wines

AND selections from our renowned Viennese Table

The Hilton Style Commons plan will be available to MIT students for 75¢ every ounce of gold at its current price. So much for institutional cooking at the Institute.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, is the Bargain Basement Breakfast. (Which after tuition, rent, and the price of textbooks, is expected to be the most popular food plan.) Those breaking at the Bargain Basement would be served just that: 1. bread and a choice of toast (mold available on request). 2. A fluid ounce of tap water. 3. A piece of plain cake, served once per week, on the principal that wo/man cannot live by bread alone.

Cost 7¢. 7cents never did buy a buck of a lot.

An attractive alternative for many is the New York City Deli plan. Although a menu was not available (the cow got in the way in that picture), promotional plans for this item were obtained for the plan:

ODE TO A SALAMI

Dr. Brown’s no.43

How do I slice thee? Let me count the ways.

I slice thee to the depth and breadth and height

This plan will cost $3.99 a meal, with sour pickles, mustard and sauerkraut available on request. Despite the many options available to MIT students, groups such as the Committee Rebellling Against Puslshing (Please turn to page 5)