Mondale encourages R and D

By Bob Host

Addressing a capacity crowd in Kresge Auditorium, Vice President Walter F. Mondale outlined plans for a $600 million research development program to "revitalize American industry." Last week, Mondale met in Washington with a number of university presidents, including Paul Gray '54, "to begin designing the ways in which that initial $600 million should be used." The results of that meeting will "help us assemble a package we will send to the Congress early next year," Mondale noted. He added, "We want to lay the groundwork for a long-term national commitment to our research centers." Mondale cited three aims in which the problems of revitalization are most critical: people, tools, and help in meeting national needs. Of the first, the Vice President mentioned the need for researchers at universities, observing that "as the number of faculty openings that dissimilar, as fellowships have declined in value and even disappeared, career patterns have tilted too consistently away from the academy."

When he mentioned the second problem, tools, Mondale was startled by the audience's laughter. However, he quickly recovered and declared, "It is our job to make our equipment catch up with our minds."
The Vice President pointed out that "universities and industry must cooperate as never before so that if industry is to be modernized and revitalized. Benefits will flow in both directions," he added. "If we need an example of university research changing the economic face of a region for the better, we need not look too far from the relationship between Group and the Route 128 belt."

Although acknowledging that he "had problems in his speech, Mondale cited a few advantages. American productivity "still the highest in the world," scientific, technological, and agricultural strengths "will carry us through," and "the quality of the world's unimpaired military defenses, unparalleled natural resources, and human resources that "are the most highly trained and best paid on earth."

Mondale closed the formal portion of his address by repeating part of the commitment address delivered by American political scientist Ralph Bunche at the University of California, and then adding a pie to "ensure that our learning served the ends of the educated heart."

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Gray outlines concerns of his administration

By Steven Solnick

President Paul Gray will outline the top priorities of his administration in his inaugural address tonight in Killian Court. Gray gave a preview of what these priorities would be earlier in the week. He said his speech would stress three major areas of special importance to him and his administration. He will emphasize the following:

- the need to understand, teach and engage in science and research as activities that develop out of a social context and "the need to recognize the social consequences of science and technology."
- the pace, coherence and intellectual thrust of the undergraduate experience, which he labeled "a liberal arts education in science;" and
- the human environment of the Institute.

Gray cited a need for MIT to be "more self-conscious" about remembering the social context of science and engineering. This was a theme often stressed by former President Jerome Weiser, who retired June 30.

Weiser outlined the Program in Science, Technology and Society (STS) to address concerns about the social impact of scientific development. While Gray remained non-committal about the role STS would play in his administration, he said, "I am not thinking about just one program. There ought to be an attitude that permeates the place. In engineering, for instance, we must recognize that engineering activities, whether they're waste disposal systems or transportation systems, grow out of social needs." Gray added that "there is no discontinuity" between his thinking about this goal and that of Weiser.

On the subject of peace, Gray said he would be asking, "Do we have the speed control up too high?" While he said his address would shy away from an answer to this question, he said it was clear he felt "The whole Institute is going to be too fast a pace. We ought to rethink that and slow it down."

The question of pace in undergraduate life and throughout the Institute was considered briefly by the Committee on Educational Policy last year and may become the subject of a full scale review this year. Gray indicated that such a review would address both his concerns about pace and about curriculum reform. He said that curriculum reform would be a necessary method of incorporating his concerns about the social dimensions of science into the MIT education.

"You can only change this place by persuasion," Gray said. "It can only be changed by increments and not by Presidential edict."

Gray said he hoped to improve the human condition of the Institute. He cited a greater diversity.

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