Editorial
A good start

Pleasant surprise.
Perhaps those two words best express the feelings of those who had been waiting for the inauguration of Paul E. Gray '54 as the fourteenth president of MIT.

Certainly several concerns were eased this weekend, from fears of rain during Friday morning's Inaugural ceremony and doubtful if the inauguration of Paul E. Gray '54 as the fourteenth president of MIT. The first half of his remarks extolled the virtues of MIT — history and tradition. He then turned to MIT's commitment to that "blending of research and education (which) defines MIT." That's no surprise, coming from the founder of UROP.
The revelations came when Gray began discussing MIT's shortcomings. Gray showed a tremendous and refreshing understanding of the problems facing MIT and the people associated with it. Gray listed three areas in which "we must move forward." The areas had one common focus: people.

Fires, said Gray, people must learn to wave science and technology into the fabric of society with concern for "the human consequences of all that we do."

Gray challenged every quarter of MIT to "shape values, encourage the arts of expression, and develop a sense of time and place."
He is clearly looking toward a broader solution than the new STS program alone would offer.
The second chance Gray put forth must be met to allow time to face the first. Gray said "we should review the character of the MIT educational experience with the students and their families."

Gray, was milling around wearing a balloon and all the gaiety. The Man of the Hour, Paul Gray, was milling around wearing a red Road Shirt where the inscription "The President" across the back. Everyone there, even certain students and supporters, took the massacre lightly. Everyone was agreeing with him. I didn't get to ride in the balloon and felt very left out.

Some old hands behind me asked very loudly whether anyone felt this was all worth $20 per person, citing the price of inaugurations in a student publication. A senior standing next to me turned defiantly and said, "Yes, it sure was all worth it." No applause which might have stultified the spontaneous applause which greeted them. It started out with just a few people clapping, in the same way an MIT audience will sometimes applaud stagehands during an intermission just to embarrax them.

But as more and more people joined in, it became a genuinely warm greeting for the school's leadership. The audience seemed to sense this shift as well and there was an almost noticeable wave of applause sweeping across the crowd as they seemed to wonder what had brought their hands together.
A staffer in the News Office (Please turn to page 5).

Letters to the Editor are written by members of the MIT community and represent the opinion of the writer. The Tech will attempt to publish all letters received, and will consider columns or essays submitted for publication, with the author's name not necessary that of the rest of the staff.

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