Gray offers open office hours, reflects on year as president

By Stephanie Pollock
To "try to be accessible to students who want to seek me out," President Paul E. Gray '54 will schedule open office hours beginning next fall.

The open hours will initially be for students only, although the practice may be expanded to include other members of the MIT community later, according to Gray.

Evaluating his first year as president, Gray expressed concern that "I have spent far too much of my time on routine tasks and far too little time on long-term, strategic planning." Gray said, "One thing I would put in the category of accomplishment is the effectiveness of "the individual and team in the Office of the Provost." He called the appointment of three academic deans in the past year a substantial accomplishment, noting that the appointments had taken a large amount of time, during the year.

Gray also evaluated his progress on some of the issues raised in his inaugural address. He said there was a need for MIT to "revitalize our own internal processes" for increasing diversity in admissions and employment. Gray said that MIT is "failing short of our goals" in the employment of women and minorities. Gray was wary of using the phrase affirmative action, calling it "a contributor to non-communication — it's one of those codes that means different things to each side."

Gray remarked that he was disappointed that there had been "less movement on the issue of race than either the [Committee of Educational Policy] or I would like to have seen." While applauding the discussion on race generated by his inaugural address, Gray said that he had dis- appointed that race is an issue at all.

The curriculum review currently being undertaken by the Committee on Educational Policy is considering two separate issues, according to Gray. One type of change being examined involves the rules regulating the curriculum, which may relate to the problem of race, Gray noted. He cited the procedures for counting units as an example of the procedural issue. Gray said that the current system "gives the impression of two significant figures accuracy" in determining how much work goes into a course. He suggested that courses be counted in half-credits, and that four or five courses per term be established as a normal load.

The second type of issue being examined in the curriculum review is substantive, such as the role of science distribution requirements, according to Gray. He said this science distributions were created to "diversify the student's encounter with science and technology," but that the classes no longer "serve a broadening purpose."

Bio company agrees to joint venture in cell production

By Kenneth Snow
Flow General, Inc. of McLean, Virginia, has entered into an exclusive agreement with MIT to continue work on a patented method for mass production of mammalian cells. The commercial process was developed at MIT by researchers in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

Under the terms of the agreement, Flow will pay a minimum royalty of $400,000 each year to MIT. Mr. E. Hall, president of Flow General, came to MIT on Friday, May 1, to deliver the first installment in the agreement, a check for $300,000, to President Paul E. Gray '54.

As part of the negotiation, MIT has agreed that after the inventor's royalties are deducted, 50 percent of the money from Flow General will be given to the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences to establish a fund to support projects in the field of cell biology and biotechnology, according to an MIT spokesman.

The cell culture method was invented by Dr. William G. Thilly 62, associate professor of genetics (genetics) and Dr. Daniel L.C. Wang 59, professor of biochemical engineering.

Two students, Dr. David W. Levine '90, then a graduate student, and Jason N. Wong '75, a technical assistant in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, also worked very heavily on this project. Thilly stressed that the work done by Levine and Wong was indispensable.

According to Thilly, Flow General stock was selling for $4.59 a share in 1976. Last week, after the announcement, the stock split after surpassing $100 a share. Thilly explained that the idea for the project came from a Dutch (please turn to page 6)