Gray shows no humility after arrests

To the Editor:

This is an angry letter. I guess it takes a big man to admit his mistakes. The men who run this institution don't seem to have reached that level of moral development yet. Virtually every person I have spoken to in the MIT community, regardless of his political stance, believes that the arrest of 8 students at the shantytown dedication last March was a foolish move at best, a draconian one at worst. Even stronger is their feeling that my own arrest was totally inexcusable, being the innocent photographer that I was.

Yet neither Gray, nor any member of his administration, has seen fit to show any sense of public regret over this action. While he did apologize to the faculty for not informing them of his plans in advance, Gray has refused to admit his poor judgment in his overall handling of the shantytown affair. To admit this obvious fact would have required a little humility and self-criticism, something I've yet to see any signs of in him. I find it especially obnoxious to read in TechTalk that Gray had asked the judge to drop the charges against me and my associates. This oft-repeated claim gives him the veneer of remorsefulness and charity in this case. The truth is quite the opposite. These TechTalk articles don't mention the fact that Gray asked Judge Shively to increase the charges "with costs." That is to say, he was asking that the judge increase the fine levied on the students the dollar amount, so it is in effect a plea bargain. In fact the entire tone of Gray's letter to the judge indicated that he still felt that all of the students were guilty (he reiterated this claim a number of times), but that it would allow MIT to save face if they were not to be prosecuted. Is it any wonder that the judge refused to cooperate? My trial is now over, and I've been vindicated. After many hours of legal preparation, lost sleep, anxiety, missed TA duties, and an incomplete course for the term, I have been vindicated. I still have not, however, heard one word of remorse or seen any indication that Gray regrets what he has done. The administration remains, as always, publicity-wise different; evermore alienated from the very community it is meant to serve.

I can only wonder what sort of satisfaction Gray obtains from seeing students prosecuted like this. I hope it is at least enough to make up for the injury he has inflicted on eight other human beings.

Larry Kolodney G