Bad Taste: Chorallaries’ Raunchy Humor for a ‘Better Community’

By Amandeep Loomba

The only thing I could remember the morning after the Chorallaries’ Nth Annual Concert in Bad Taste was the smell that lingered...
**Supreme Court Proposes New Asbestos Liability Claims**

The asbestos liability problem facing corporate America grows worse Monday, as the Supreme Court ruled that a worker’s fear of developing cancer can be the basis for winning extra damages from his employer.

The 5-4 ruling came in a railroad case, but the logic of the court’s decision will extend broadly, even beyond asbestos cases, business executives said.

“This is not a good result for us,” said Stephen Bokat, general counsel for the Railway Labor Caucus of Commerce. “The fear of cancer has come in a lot of cases involving not just asbestos but other toxic substances. We see this as opening a huge door with a potential for very large damage awards.

But a lawyer for asbestos victims downplayed the decision. “This principle (of allowing damages for fear of cancer) has become fairly well accepted in the state courts,” said Brent Rosemblat, a Dallas lawyer. Payment for the damage caused by asbestos has spawned a new industry in law firms and defense driven by 57 companies in bankruptcy, including 26 since Jan. 1, 2000.

**New Al-Qaida Plots Linked to War**

Terrorists affiliated with Osama bin Laden’s network also are raising questions with Iraq about its weapons programs.

Mr. Bush said last week that he did not need U.N. permission to go to war. Monday, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer continued a line of argument that the administration began to pursue publicly last week, equating the “coalition of the willing” with the coalition that Bush recruited to join in U.S. military action against Iraq to the United Nations itself.
The official added her “deep concern” to the UN’s “failures” to stop tribal genocide.

Asbestos manufacturers have been carried out by Thai security forces and dealers on a government’s campaign.

It’s necessary to kill them together, said an official who requested not his name be identified.

Two international bodies will take military action it would not be in conformity with the charter.

**One Thousand Reported Dead in Thailand War Against Drugs**

Another international body will likely to see U.N. refusal to sanction this war. The “coalition of the willing” is not more successful than his earlier efforts.

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Bush denied that he plans to go to war in Iraq to the United Nations itself.

The Foreign Ministry called diplomats whom he has invited to join in U.S. military action against Iraq to the United Nations itself.

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Senator Appears Ready to Pass Ban on ‘Partial Birth’ Abortions

By Helen Dewar

An eight-year struggle over legislation to ban so-called “partial birth” abortions appeared to be nearing a climax Monday as the Senate took up the bill and its advocates claimed the votes to pass it. The Senate began debate Monday, which will continue Tuesday.

“Sort of the odds are very good” that the measure will be passed by both houses of Congress and signed by President Bush, said Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee. “The president and other Republican leaders, have made the measure a top priority.

The Senate’s floor battle is part of a wider fight over the issue since 1995. It twice passed a ban, but President Clinton vetoed it. The measure appeared ready to pass the ban again in 2000 but stopped short after the Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska law that was similar in many respects to the proposed congressional ban.

The House passed a revamped ban last year, but the Senate, then in Democratic hands, did not take it up.

The bill’s supporters say they have restructured the legislation to address concerns raised by the Supreme Court, which has struck down a similar federal ban as well as a ban in Nebraska. The Senate voted to strike down the Nebraska law in April.

The Senate will vote as early as Monday on a motion to end debate and proceed to a final vote on the bill. The measure appears likely to pass. It has already cleared the House.

The bill’s proponents say it addresses concerns expressed by the Supreme Court. They say the ban is different from past measures because it was narrowly tailored to cover just those cases in which the fetus is partially born and then killed.

The Senate was expected to begin debate Monday on an amendment that would allow for an exemption in cases in which continuing the pregnancy would cause an “irreparable injury” to the woman’s health.

A Senate aide said the amendment’s sponsor, Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, was drafting a compromise version that would ensure the ban would not apply in cases in which the fetus is partially born and then killed.

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Editor's Note

To our readers: On Saturday, The Tech's managing board voted to remove our news and features editors and director from the Editorial Board, the group that writes our editorials. The Tech has historically striven to keep our news and opinion departments separate: news staff reporters are not allowed to write opinion columns, and our columnists can't write for the news section. But previously, journalistic propriety on the Editorial Board itself was resolved with an imperfect case-by-case system: news editors involved in reporting particular issues recused themselves from individual editorials touching on similar topics. Our new arrangement mirrors professional newspapers by completely separating the news and opinion staffs of the newspaper. For correspondence with the opinion department, please continue to write to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The news section can be reached at news@the-tech.mit.edu.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, and an art editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinions of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about events that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.
Robert F. Eaton

Those opposed to the American liberation of Iraq validate their beliefs with poignant arguments. One cannot help but stop to reflect on the many years of neglect that have led to the looming war. Americans live at risk only to defend those they don't want. The war's opponents contend that an American invasion of Iraq will distract from and even set back the War on Terrorism, which is focused on integrating culture but maintaining a policy of "business as usual," enabling mass-murders.

The recent arrest of two Iraqi leaders, however, contravenes the notion that the U.S. cannot concurrently wage war against terrorists and liberate Iraq. It is insistent that an attack on Iraq has little to do with the war on terror, for it fails to address the root causes of terrorism, such as fear of the U.S. and the desire to threaten the U.S. by those who are indeed the goals, then a liberation of Iraq as a cover for the consequences of the creation of the first liberal, secular democracy in the Middle East and, it is the creation of a cultural group coalition. Looked at this way, the consequences for the people in the most immediate U.S. interests for "keeping the peace" here at home. So "business as usual" created logistical difficulties for "keeping the peace" here at home.

"Business as usual" is far from perfect, then this irrational push to send the message that you will not be a tool in our perception of world and even local events. The Bush administration sees the liberation of Iraq as a cover for the consequences of the creation of the first liberal, secular democracy in the Middle East and, it is the creation of a cultural group coalition. Looked at this way, the consequences for the people in the most immediate U.S. interests for "keeping the peace" here at home. So "business as usual" created logistical difficulties for "keeping the peace" here at home.

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Hay Fever

Top Things to do before leaving MIT

1. Be mean to Harvard kids.
   Yoo hoo! Want free connections?
   Did you get the phone book?
   Yeah!
   Uh... how do we get out?

2. The Rick and Chester Show
   Who is Chester Turtle?
   Well, I don't like to talk about myself, but...
   NOT IN THE FACE!
   NOT IN THE FACE!

3. Ah, it's me, the early days. It all started in the mean streets of northeastern Asians. The sixth submit of chow chow were a tough place for a cray turtle to grow up...
   Wandering from hand to hand... trying to cross the road without being run over...
   VROOM

4. They named my life around! Since then, I've been following my dreams and ambitions, hoping to someday realize my goal of being the most loved cartoon character ever!
   Boy, first I have to eliminate the competition... I wonder how many newspapers dog and money have... hey, you, hey...
   Now, I've never heard an evil laugh in person before.

5. Kimberly's Corner
   Of course, love is not like that.
   Can you tell me how it happened?
   "Come on..."
   Hey Ed! A favorite quote for you.
   "Life's too short to be little."

by Qian Wang - Jennifer Peng
PhD
PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

March 11, 2003

The Tech Page 7

Dilbert®
by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 14

ChessMate
Composed by Elina Groberman
Difficulty Level 2
White to Move - Discovered Attack

Comments? E-mail chessmate@the-tech.mit.edu
Solutions on page 14

Think you can draw better? Send in a comic to The Tech!
E-mail <join@the-tech.mit.edu>

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend

Think you can draw better? Send in a comic to The Tech!
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March 11, 2003

Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar at http://

March 11, 2003

Tuesday, March 11

12:00 a.m. - 11:59 a.m. - Photography Contact. Deadline March 15, 2003: Topic: Free First Prize: 1 (2) for 1st place. 1 long soft copies of MIT CISA Photography Calendar. For more information, contact: Chinese Students and Scholar Association. Graduate Student Council.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Call for NORMASIFT Don't procrastinate - November 1 to 15. Topic: MIT SIT Campus. 1 long soft copies of the MIT SIT Campus Calendar. For more information, contact: MIT Student and Scholar Association. Graduate Student Council.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Spring Dinner Bingo. Topic: MIT Sloan. 3 long soft copies of the MIT Sloan Calendar. For more information, contact: Sloan Student Center.

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - UI Election: Paper. Begging. Forget to vote online? Vote at your nearest polling station. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Campus Activities Board.

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. Topic: Student-Med Campus Tours. Approximately 90 minutes. For more information, contact: MIT Student-Med Campus Tours.

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - MIT Connecting Our Students and Staff (MCOSS) Forum. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Human Resources.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Congo Refugees in Johannesburg. Heineman-MIT Program. Topic: Heineken-MIT Program. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Computer Science Interdisciplinary Student Group Colloquium. Topic: Institute for Learning Disabilties. Fee: Free. Room: EC 415. Sponsor: MIT Sloan for International Students.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Antoine Kouchner. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - A Geoarchaeological Approach for Detecting Prehistoric Shipwrecks. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - HTC Film Series: Crumb. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.


The Tech Events Calendar appears in each issue of Events Calendar. The Tech makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

March 11, 2003

Wednesday, March 12

7:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Mobile, Voice and Unified CONvergence Networking Break- throughs. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: Sloan Student Center.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - MIT-Watanabe Project. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Tuesday Night Wine Flights. Every Tuesday night features a different country's wine. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - MIT Campus Center (OPC) Lunch. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - MIT Sloan Center for Real Estate. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Mathematical Physics. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar- 36 Chowringhee Lane. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar- 36 Chowringhee Lane. Topic: MIT. For more information, contact: MIT Sloan.
I thought the night couldn’t get much more exciting when I noticed that Professor Arthur P. Mattuck sitting two seats over from me in Kresge. By the end of the concert, the Vermeer Quartet proved me right. The heavily laden string quartet admitted to have the requisite good technique profession- al musicians must have, but to truly stand out, the act of creating music should always go beyond that. As in most rare times, the quartet never created a peak together, but instead worked against each other by reaching their own heights at separate times. Nevertheless, the sound that came out was still of high quality, which is a potential expla- nation of why their CD of Haydn’s “The Seven Last Words of Christ” was a Grammy nominee.

The opening was with Harbison’s “Queriem,” who clearly have potential to be a remarkable band. Despite the fame from their past concerts, the quartet never created a peak together, but instead worked against each other by reaching their own heights at separate times. When they began, each musician’s remark- able control of their tone quality and sound strokes was most noticeable. This was espe- cially observed in the performance of Mozart’s Quartet in A Major, K.464, where each note was delicately played with light tenuto instead possessed every note, giving a sound that was pleasantly full. However, at many times, the piece was treated by the musicians as more of a procedural warm-up than the gracefully poetic song that it is. The players’ intonation was showcased next in the Quartet No. 2, by Benjamin Brit- ten, a chillingly melodic piece that utilizes dissonant parallel lines to create a haunting atmosphere. I especially liked the cellist’s cadenza in the third movement, which fea- tured almost jazzy chords and improvisational feel.

Unfortunately, throughout the concert, communication among the players was almost non-existent, and the quartet was lacking. It was almost heart- wrenchingly disappointing to watch the first violinist restrain himself from jumping out of his chair from the emotional quality of the music while the other musicians kept their heads buried in their tubas. This was worst in Debussy’s Quartet in G Minor. The remarkable how stroke I raved about from the Mozart also came back to haunt me like coffee and onion indigestion in the Debussy. Where the musicians should have used a heavier bow stroke, the pervasive tenuto instead possessed every note, giving a much too languid feel to the piece.

However, of the three pieces, the Debussy quartet was still most well suited for these musicians, who seem to play best in solo situ-ations. Rollicking pizzicato introduced the second movement, the charmingly secretive melody of the upper strings supported by the viola’s insistent notes. The first violin then took over the repeating eighth notes, providing a melodic- ly pristine lace dance lyric to the song. As the piece tran- sitioned through trills into his tone of Debussy’s sim- ple but exotically pleading melodies, the first violinist again took over the show, cou- pling well-placed hints of a counterpoint with the lyric notes.

The third movement was especially notable, where the whimsy dream-like opening rippled along sensually until the viola boldly entered with a swiftly ambiguous line. The jazzy trumpet and trombone duet, with mutes playing high up on the fingerboard, the ultra-wide range of percussion. “Lux per- suus et lucet eis” sounds very transparent and bright, by use of bells, triangles, vibraphone and harp. The same way, the main section of the piece, “In paradisum,” acquires ethereal beauty and qualities, composed with the by use of celeste and vibraphone in an intimate collaboration with solo violin and harp. Harbison’s “Requiem” received a splendid performance by the BSO, under the direction of Bernard Haitink, the ensemble’s Principal Guest Conductor. The intricacies of this new piece have been addressed with care, and the balance and overall dynamics have been worked out very well, delivering a noteworthy prelude of a remarkable Requiem worthy of its predecessors. Mike Ambs’ drumming was decadent in the program, Beeethoven’s Symphony No.4, received a pleasant performance, although it was not refined as it could have been. Excellent dynamics and articulation through the fast movements were delightful, yet of the slow movement, with slight inconsistencies in the winds and brass sections, contributed to an overall good-but-not-great feeling.

Though the series of concerts in Boston has been at a high because of the quartet’s own strengths and the stars that came along for the ride, New York to deliver another performance of the Harbison Requiem tomorrow night at Carnegie Hall.

The Vermeer Quartet performs at Kresge Auditorium on Friday night as part of the MIT Guest Artist Series.

It was during selecting times like this one that I felt even more frustrated with the Vermeer Quartet, who clearly have potential to be amazing but instead refuse to show that they actually enjoy playing the music.
leaving them homeless.

Because, you see, the Chorallaries came right out at the beginning of Bad Taste and informed the unruly lynch mob of an audience that they weren’t going to hold back for fear of hurting anyone. Jesus himself (Daniel Bersak ’03) strutted out and announced that all women, uncircumcised men, Jews, Catholics, circumcised men, Asians, and persons named Aimee Smith were going to be roundly insulted, assuming, of course, that the Chorallaries covered all their bases.

Throughout this introduction and well into the rest of the show, the audience members seemed to be producing unspeakable amounts of paper products, and they were not afraid to use them to express frustration with the Chorallaries’ actions, express agreement with their sentiments, or just marvel at the sight of a whole ream of paper tossed into the air gently floating downward to cover the room.

And the toilet paper. Don’t be surprised if you are unable to wipe your ass in the coming weeks anywhere in the Institute, unless you’re shitting somewhere in the first 10 rows of 10-250, where I’m sure you’ll find plenty of TP.

So, that was how Bad Taste began. From Jesus’s introduction, the show descended into a chaotic frenzy of skits and music, solo and group acts. Like the elusive figures that come to you (or on you) in your dreams, one act blended into the next and the intensity ramped up until you found yourself screaming “AFRICA!” repeatedly in an agitated fury without really understanding why.

Technology enabled active licking

At their best, the sketches and songs were acerbic, dead-on portraits of everything wrong with MIT and the world. The opening musical piece “The Business” (a reworked version of Cake’s “The Distance,” performed by Benjamin M. Schwartz ’05 and Jonathon R. Long ’06) blasted MIT’s uncaring, corporation-like behavior, mentioning everything from rising tuition costs to network outages.

In “Story Hour With the Administration,” Ross I. Runnion ’04 covered MIT’s seemingly oblivious perspective on the undergraduate population and its needs. In fact, a theme of this year’s bad taste was “Building a Better Community,” a brilliant riff on MIT’s perplexingly self-congratulatory attitude in all its endeavors to make students’ lives miserable.

The Chorallaries, of course, have good reason to sing the administration’s flaws to the world. Once upon a time (i.e., last year and every year before that), Bad Taste started at midnight.

Bad Taste, from Page 1

grading for fresh. Emily C. Vincent ’04, as a junior, responded perfectly to a freshman’s request for help in 8.02: “Hah, I took 8.02 pass/fail, I don’t even know that shit!” Meanwhile, unhelpful TA “Vishnu” directed freshman with questions to “go to the Web site — it’s SO easy!”

On a somewhat related topic, “Give Me an ‘A’” sung by Charlene Chuang in a duet with Vincent, saw a student wrestling with the age-old question of whether spitting or swallowing means the difference between getting a B or an A from your TA.

Throughout Bad Taste, the best comedy always came back to ways the MIT administration acted carelessly or cluelessly with regard to the undergraduate population and its needs. In fact, a theme of this year’s bad taste was “Building a Better Community,” a brilliant riff on MIT’s perplexingly self-congratulatory attitude in all its endeavors to make students’ lives miserable.

The Chorallaries, of course, have good reason to sing the administration’s flaws to the world. Once upon a time (i.e., last year and every year before that), Bad Taste started at mid-
and went as late as it damn well
did. This year, the group was
to start earlier and was very
pressed to hold the event in a dif-
ficent. In truth, I would say the
aries went easy on the Chuck
friends, all things considered.

dicate to Newton

Jointly, the Chorallaries
d to show even worse taste
administration, and to great
Masturbator," sung with
it evocation of Sade by Leah
, gave some deserved atten-
acts of chronic onanism and
ation, eliciting more than a few
laughs from the crowd.

of the evening’s highlights,
the biggest draws of tossed
and boos from the crowd, was
on Law and Order: the tale
( Archie Medal and
) trying to track down a
electric field responsible for
some fundamental laws.
found this sketch particularly
the audience for the most part
of its way to make its groans
Why would they do such a
Your Gauss is as good as mine.

All in all, there were very few
mised notes throughout the evening. While one or two of the sketches
might have fallen short, the Chorallar-
ies were, musically, absolutely pitch-
perfect. For songs that were all jokes
and parodies, it was clear that the
group spent its time rehearsing and
getting them right.

It is true that Bad Taste is a jarring
experience. Anyone who sees the
show for the first time will never be
the same. However, it is quite pleasing
that the show was kept alive despite
the administration’s attempts to stifle
it, since MIT just wouldn’t be the
same without Bad Taste.
Eugene Onegin Shines at Harvard

Lowell House’s Production Captures Russian Folk Scene

OPERA REVIEW

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March 11, 2003

By Piotr Tchaikovsky

Eugene Onegin

Lowell House Opera

March 9, 12, 14, 15 at 8:30 p.m.

Lowell House, Harvard University.

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Lowell House, Harvard University.
Call for Nominations!
2003 Student Art Awards

LOUIS SUDLER
PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a $1,250 award to the honoree.

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER
STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a $1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

Please send nominations by Friday, March 21, 2003 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT
E15-205 - cohen@media.mit.edu
Tuition, Other Expenses to Top $40,000 Next Year

By Nathan Collins

The estimated cost of a year at MIT will pass the $40,000 mark next year.

Tuition and fees will rise to $29,600, an increase of 4.9 percent, for the 2003–2004 academic year. Last year’s tuition was $28,230, and Student Financial Services estimated the cost of books and living expenses at about $10,830, according to their Web site.

“This year’s tuition increase enables MIT to maintain the high quality of its programs and the distinction of its faculty in a highly competitive environment,” said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine in a News Office statement.

Undergraduate Association President Josiah D. Seale ’03 said that the competitiveness of MIT’s cost was an issue in the decision. “A minor difference in price can make all the difference” for a high-school student deciding between two top schools, he said.

“They’re trying to make sure they don’t throw us out of the ballpark,” with an excessive increase, Seale said.

The statement focuses almost exclusively on financial aid. In the next academic year, “undergraduates receiving financial aid will have increased flexibility in choosing their student loan and term-time earnings amounts,” said Elizabeth Hicks, executive director of Student Financial Services.

Students without scholarships must contribute $5,500 in “self-help” from work-study, loans, and summer earnings in order to be eligible for financial aid.

Seale said that MIT “is trying to revamp the self-help program to a more reasonable setup” where freshmen, who have fewer marketable skills, would have to contribute less than juniors or seniors.

The release said that, because of the current economic downturn, students “will have expanded options for borrowing and working in the event they are unable to meet their expected summer earnings expectations.”

Financial aid payments will reach almost $70 million next year and almost eighty percent of undergraduates receive some form of aid, according to their Web site.

“Tuition and fees increases over the last ten years have typically been three and a half to six percent. This year the increase is a little more than two percent in inflation-adjusted dollars,” said Seale. Tuition and fees increases over the last ten years have typically been three and a half to six percent. This year the increase is a little more than two percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.

SOURCES: MIT NEWS OFFICE, MIT PROVOST’S OFFICE, BANC OF AMERICA CAPITAL MANAGEMENT (CPI PROJECTION)

MIT’s tuition will increase by 4.9 percent this year, or by 2.2 percent over inflation. The change is an improvement over the last decade of increases. Tuition accounts for roughly a quarter of MIT’s operating expenses.

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~ U.S. World competitors ~
~ MIT skating team ~
~ MIT Community ~

7 pm, Saturday, March 15, 2003
Johnson Ice Rink
Free Admission
THE LEBANESE CLUB @MIT

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Libanissimo

...reviving traditions

A party in fine Middle-Eastern setting

Featuring:
Lebanese food, music, and belly-dancing.
$5 ($7 @ door).
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When? Where?
Friday, March 14. Stratton Student Center - 2nd floor.
9:00pm - 1:00am.

Sponsored by:
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More info:
Libanissimo@mit.edu | web.mit.edu/lebanon/www
By Keith J. Winstein

**Treasures of Siam** Exhibits Thai Cultural Dances

An MIT graduate’s bubble tea startup company is currently the leading candidate to occupy the Coffeehouse space in the Student Center. Ping Ping Chai, a startup company founded by Gong Ke Shen ’99 with outside investors, is seeking to open its “contemporary and casual tea cafe” in the Coffeehouse space, Shen said.

The company is so far the only contender to have made a formal proposal for the space, said Undergraduate Association Speaker Benjamin J. Zeskind ’03, stressing that the selection process was still in its preliminary stages.

“We’re really still at this stage of exploring different options and trying to figure out what students want and what’s in the best interest of the majority of students,” he said, referring to the Campus Activities Complex advisory board of student representatives that will make a recommendation for use of the space.

“I think they’d like to have something in place by when classes start in September,” he said.

Tea cafe plans modern ambiance

Bubble tea is a sweet flavored tea originating in Taiwan in the early 1980s and commonly mixed with balls of tapioca, giving rise to the alternate name, “pearl tea.”

“We hope to have a variety of offerings,” Shen said in an interview. “Not just teas, but pastries, maybe some snacks, steamed buns or pork buns or something.”

Pricing would be “reasonable,” she said. “If we do go into the Coffeehouse, the advisory committee will probably be involved in the pricing,” she said. For bubble tea in Boston, “the normal price is about three dollars.”

“Instead of just serving tea,” Shen said, “we also hope to have more technology focus. Not just because we’re working at MIT, but because I think it would work pretty well with our modern casual theme.”

“Something we’re working on right now is a virtual jukebox connected to a touch screen,” she said.

After working for Akamas, “I wanted to start my own company, but because tech is down right now, it’s harder to get funding for tech,” she said.

“I did some market research and found that Boston is pretty much a void for bubble tea,” she said, adding that her company, at which she is so far the only full-time employee, is “getting funding from angel investors,” private investors who function less publicly than venture capitalists.

“Our plan is probably to hire non-students during most of our day hours,” she said. “In the evening hours, we hope to be open fairly late, so we will definitely look into students.”

“I think it would be good, you know, adding more variety to the drinks at the Student Center,” said Torsak Luapanasornrom ’04, who has tasted Ping Ping Chai’s tea. “I like it.”

**UA votes against flag pin proposal**

In separate developments last night, the UA Senate narrowly defeated a proposal by Zeskind and Matthew W. Bilotti ’03 of MacGregor House to allocate $375 to purchase 500 American flag lapel pins to distribute to students.

“This was conceived out of a notion of patriotism, pride in one’s country,” Bilotti said at the meeting. But many senators questioned what message the UA would give by distributing flag pins in the upcoming weeks.

“It’s very likely we’re going to be dropping bombs in like a week or a week and a half,” said Jacob W. Faber ’04, who is running for UA vice president.

Harel M. Williams ’04, another VP candidate, suggested allocating money to buy “an equal amount of anti-war pins.”

Bilotti said the comparison was inappropriate: “I don’t consider the American flag a pro-war sentiment,” he said.

The Senate voted against the proposal 8-12. Zeskind said several councilors had approached him and Bilotti after the meeting to discuss funding the flag pin purchases with private donations.

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By Muyinatu A. Lediju

Five principles — community, intensity, variety, flexibility, and ubiquity — underlie MIT’s changing approach to architecture and learning, said Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning William J. Mitchell.

Mitchell described the approach in an address last Friday as part of MacVicar Day, an annual day focused on educational issues.

These five principles went into the renovation of six undergraduate classrooms, including the Technology Enabled Active Learning room that is home to 8.02, a class most MIT students must now take.

Expanding on his five principles for education, Mitchell said that there is a need for a sense of community at MIT. Although students are here to learn, students also need a social life to facilitate the learning process.

A university should also provide spaces that foster interaction, Mitchell said.

He said classrooms should be designed to support the variety of learning styles found at MIT. Part of the goal is to integrate such tools as audio-visual materials, video projectors, whiteboards, and laptops. Architecture, he said, should be flexible so that it does not get in the way of learning. “If you build into the architecture the rigid presumption of how things should be done, it won’t always work out,” Mitchell said.

Learning takes place everywhere, he said, so a university’s overall design should support teaching and learning 24 hours a day.

Helen Samuels, MacVicar Day coordinator, said that the changes were not made just to make classrooms look pretty. Instead, the changes reflect faculty members’ belief that no single model for teaching is best, she said.

Samuels said that the renovations are still in an experimental phase, and that student reaction will help determine which spaces succeed.

TEAL designed for learning

Mitchell cited TEAL, the MIT/Wellesley Teacher Education Program, and the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center as examples of these educational goals.

TEAL embodies variety in education, Mitchell said, by incorporating lecture, recitation, and hands-on experiments in one presentation.

Students taking 8.02 (Physics) use animated simulations designed to help them visualize concepts in electromagnetism and carry out experiments in groups during class. Each group has a laptop computer to view lecture slides and collect data from experiments.

So far, student reaction to the new format for 8.02 has been mixed, and the Student Committee on Educational Policy will consider the matter at its regular meeting this Thursday.

The Park Room for Innovative Education, Room 3-370, is similarly designed to make learning easier for students taking classes in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Tables in the room are designed to easily accommodate note-taking during lectures and table-top experiments.

Room 10-337, where the Teacher Education Program holds its classes, is designed to integrate work on and off computers. Kris R. Grompre ’03, currently taking one of the Teacher Education Program courses, said that the room was beneficial to group discussions, a key aspect of his class.

Mitchell said the Zesiger Center helps make learning ubiquitous by bringing the entire MIT community together, noting that it is important to remember that teaching and learning also occur outside the classroom.

Further examples include the Aeronautics and Astronautics Learning Laboratory in Building 33. The space was renovated to teach with a methodology called CDIO, or “conceive, design, implement, operate.”

The Undergraduate Architecture Studio in room 7-432 replaced drafting tables with computers and equipped the studios with network drops, CAD workstations, and ISDN lines for videoconferencing.

The Shakespeare Electronic Archive in room 4-231 uses digital copies of original documents to aid in research.

Past MacVicar Day topics have included international education programs such as the Cambridge-MIT Institute, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, founded by Margaret MacVicar ’65, the day’s namesake and a past dean for undergraduate education.

Eloranta Summer Research Fellowships

Several $6,000 summer research fellowships, intended to encourage challenging intellectual activity during the summer months, are available to MIT undergraduates. Areas of study or research may be in any field: science, engineering, the humanities, arts, or the social sciences. Originally it is important. The planned activity must be student organized or student directed.

All MIT undergraduates are eligible, including those whose planned research begins the summer immediately following graduation.

How to Apply: A well-written proposal presenting a concise research plan should be submitted by the deadline to the UROP Office, 7-104. At least one letter of recommendation or support for the proposed research is needed, from an MIT faculty member. This letter may accompany the proposal or be mailed separately. A budget should be included with the proposal. Award Winners are chosen by the Eloranta Fellowship Committee at the end of April.


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Freshmen See Fewer Warning Flags in '02

Sophomore Standing, from Page 1

of them have to learn the hard way" what a reasonable MIT course load is, she said. "The high number of students declaring sophomore status and getting rid of the credit limit seems to be a problem," said Professor Charles Stewart III, chair of the subcommittee that recommended that freshmen be put on grades second semester. "I worry that many of the students taking sophomore status are biting off more than they can chew," he said.

There are no credit limits for freshmen who declared sophomore standing, but “I hope their advisors reigned them in” and “are keeping their loads reasonable,” Norman said. "I think it’s okay to declare sophomore standing as long as the person feels confident that they can take more classes," Venkatraman said. "There are several opportunities for students to drop classes and lower their credit total if they need to.”

Academic status main difference

"Sophomore standing is an academic classification," Norman said. In a December e-mail that she sent out to all eligible freshmen, Norman wrote, "If you elect sophomore status, you are not eligible to move off campus." In addition to grading changes, this is also the first year in which MIT required first-year students—and not just academic freshmen—to live on campus.

Sophomore standing does give students some choices, however. Undergraduate Association Election Commissioner Seth E. Dorfman ’05 said that those who declared sophomore standing were expected to vote for Class of 2005 officers by default, but were given the option of petitioning to vote for Class of 2006 officers.

"This class did exceptionally well this fall as a group, academi- cally. We saw fewer students on warnings or getting a letter from me. I think part of it was the moti- vation of knowing that they were going to be on grades this spring. Rather than just trying to get by, they tried harder," Norman said.

"Students need to have complet- ed 25 percent of their undergraduate degree, a majority of the General Institute Requirements, and at least one [Communication Intensive class] by the end of first term" to qualify for sophomore standing, Norman said. Credits earned during Independent Activities Period do not count towards this total.

"Traditionally students who declare sophomore standing don’t graduate any sooner. They may pick up a minor or second major. It lets them pick up some other classes they’re interested in rather than just graduating early," Norman said.

Morbidity, Teaching Concerns Leave Some Profs Conflicted

Faculty, from Page 1

believe that the decision to wage war at this time is morally inaccept- able, and urge our government not to make it," said Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Duncan S. Kinvaid will participate in the walkout. "It won’t be an issue for me," said Kinvaid, since he does not have classes that conflict with the walk-out.

"I haven’t thought about it," said Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Daniel Fox. "I hope that my students participate. … If the students decide to walk out, I will consider changing the classes, of course.

Kanwisher, the brain and cogni- tive sciences professor, travelled to New York City to participate in the large Feb. 15 protests there.

"There are many [faculty] who are involved in anti-war activities of all kinds," Kanwisher said. "There were eight others on the bus to New York City with me.”

Last September, over fifty facul- ty signed a petition, titled “An Open Letter From The Academic Community Opposing A U.S. Inva- sion of Iraq.” Kanwisher was involved with putting the petition on the Internet.

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IN OUTLINE
Useful Phone Numbers

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Sports

Athlete of the Month
Lindsay M. Howie '05

By Diana Cheng

Lindsay A. Howie '05 travelled to Huntsville, Alabama last weekend to compete with the Haydenettes senior-level synchronized skating team, and the team placed first at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Nationals. This is the thirteenth time the Haydenettes have captured the national title, and it is the first year Howie has skated with the team.

Howie is majoring in general math (Course XVIII) and said she likes the flexibility in the program. She needs this flexibility because the Haydenettes practice approximately 20 hours a week and travel to competitions. Head coach Lynne Benson was concerned about the stress level of the two college students on the team, Howie and a student at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, but Howie says she likes synchro practice because while she is on the ice, she doesn’t have to think about school.

Skating at school

Howie says her professors and her adviser are usually understanding about her having to miss class for synchro competitions. The Haydenettes travelled to Charleston, S.C. to win the senior division of the 2003 Eastern Sectional Championships during IAP. At the beginning of spring semester, Howie flew to France with the Haydenettes to win the French Cup over Finland’s Team Unique and Russia’s Paradise, a Paradise senior-level synchronized skating teams. With the victories of the U.S. teams in the senior division with the Haydenettes, the junior division with the Chicago Jazz team, and the novice division with Ice Mates, the United States won the Nationals Cup for the best placements in all three divisions.

During their practices in Lexington, MA, the Haydenettes lift weights, attend an edge class during the off-season, and practice on-ice. They also see a sports psychologist for team building and relaxation techniques once a week. Because of the commute, Howie lives on campus for five days of the week and stays at home the remaining two days.

Growing up skating

In high school and before, Howie skated on the Colonial synchronized skating team for 6 years, representing Colonial Figure Skating Club in Acton, Mass. After her freshman year at MIT, she decided to take skating more seriously, taking a year off to focus on skating. She watched the Haydenettes compete last year and realized she missed synchronized skating, and then tried out for the team. Team members are usually between 15 and 26 years old.

Howie says that skating with the Haydenettes is sometimes frustrating because new skaters often have to skate as a double during practices. But she is enjoying it and the performing opportunities skating on a nationally-ranked synchronized skating team brings. In October, the team performed its ballet-school themed short program at the Evening of Champions skating show at Harvard University. In two weeks, the team will perform at the World Figure Skating Championships held in Washington, D.C. during MIT's spring break.

Hayden Recreation Center’s Novice synchronized skating team, Ice Mates, placed first in its division at the 2003 Nationals and will be performing next Saturday 7 p.m. at the MIT Fight Skating Club’s exhibition at Johnson Ice Rink. Jessica Heston ’06 and Juha Valkama ’06, the Finnish ice dance champions and World Champs competitors, are also performing in the skating club’s show. Admission is free.

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Saturday, April 12, 3:00 p.m.
Symphony Hall

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The Wang Theater
270 Tremont Street, Boston

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Einstein’s Unfinished Symphony

Listening to the Sounds of Spacetime

Thursday, March 13th, 5:30 pm

14S-200, MIT Humanities Library, 160 Memorial Dr.

Please join us as Marcia Bartusiak, former MIT Knight Fellow and winner of the prestigious American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award, presents her newest work to the MIT community. Einstein’s Unfinished Symphony: In a handful of observatories around the world, scientists are waiting, and listening. Their quest: to be the first to detect gravitational waves, the rumble of the Big Bang itself...and perhaps one day the remnant of a black hole going supernova, black holes colliding, and perhaps one day the remnant of the Big Bang itself.


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March 11, 2003