Proposed Revisions to GIRs Are Unveiled

Kelley Riviere

At a town meeting Wednesday, the MIT community heard a status report from the faculty task force on MIT’s educational mission.

The committee proposed several tweaks to the General Institute Requirements, including eliminating the Institute Laboratory Requirement. But the basic structure of the MIT-wide undergraduate requirements won’t change much.

“Increasing freshman enthusiasm and motivation is an important goal,” said Dean Robert J. Silbey, the committee’s chairman.

“The freshman motivation and enthusiasm declines a lot from when they come in to Thanksgiving break,” he said. “They come to MIT wanting to rule the world, change the world.”

The committee’s proposed changes, which are to be finalized this fall, will most significantly affect the current science core. Only Calculus I and II, along with Physics I, would remain as strict requirements, half the six mandatory subjects in the current science core.

In addition to these three subjects, the so-called-Christened “Science-Math-Engineering core” would require one subject from five of six categories: Math, Physical Sciences, Chemistry, Life Science, Computer and Engineering, and a project-based freshman experience, with the latter two making their first appearance in core subjects. Each category would offer a few subjects from which freshmen could choose.

Additionally, the Institute laboratory currently required would be subsumed into departmental programs, as would restricted electives in science and technology.

The proposed changes to the HASS requirement quite closely to the current model. The only major departure to the eight-subject requirement would be a freshman experience class, selected from a range of about 10 to 16 classes, that would tackle a “big idea” like poverty, globalization, human nature, revolutions, or even love, Silbey said.

Three pilot freshman experience HASS classes, such as “How to Stage a Revolution,” in addition to six science and engineering project-based experiences, two of which are related to energy, are already under consideration. The task force charged with reevaluating the General Institute Requirements held a town meeting Wednesday afternoon in 32-253 to receive community input on proposed new requirements for the Class of 2010, when the admissions office will be able to admit just 13 percent of the students who were placed on the waitlist.

Jones said that about 90 percent of the waitlisted students will matriculate. Most of the students still on the waitlist “are ready to come on the spot,” she wrote in an e-mail. “It’s tough because within the past two weeks they had to tell another school they're being admitted, and some of their hearts will be torn a bit.” As a result, MIT’s waitlist will grow and some students will be told they won’t be admitted.

Jones said that she expects about 98 percent of the waitlisted students to matriculate. Most of the students still on the waitlist “are ready to come on the spot,” she wrote in an e-mail. “It’s tough because within the past two weeks they had to tell another school they’re being admitted, and some of their hearts will be torn a bit.” As a result, MIT’s waitlist will grow and some students will be told they won’t be admitted.
Senate Agrees to Extension Of Tax cuts, Mostly For Rich

By Edmund L. Andrews
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

The Senate voted 54-44 on Thursday to pass almost $70 billion in tax cuts, mostly for the nation’s wealthiest taxpayers. The action ensures that virtually all of President Bush’s tax cuts will be locked in place until after the next presidential election.

The measure, which the House passed on Wednesday, would extend Bush’s tax cuts on stock dividends and capital gains until 2010, and shield about 15 million affluent families for one year from an increase in the Alternative Minimum Tax.

The vote was a significant victory for Bush and beleaguered Republican lawmakers, who had viewed the tax cuts on stock market profits as a defining party issue and had credited them with jump-starting economic growth and reducing unemployment over the last three years.

“We’re finally here, we have a deal,” Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, declared with evident relief on the Senate floor. “More importantly, the American taxpayer has a deal. A deal that is long overdue.”

But even as Senate Republicans celebrated, they failed to reach agreement with House Democrats on scores of other potential tax breaks, including tax deductions for college tuition and a savings credit for low-income people that expired last year.

Democrats charged that the tax bill focused almost entirely on cuts for wealthy investors and that it allowed corporations and wealthy citizens to languish.

“The situation is little as in this bill to be proud of,” said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. “Working people have been left behind.”

House Republicans, meanwhile, remained in disarray over a budget plan for next year. After vowing earlier Thursday to vote on the plan, which was to have been passed on April 15, House leaders postponed the vote after failing to reach agreement with Republican moderates who wanted $3 billion more for health and education.

Even if House Republicans pass a budget plan later this month, their measure will have little practical importance because it probably will not be reconciled with a very different plan passed earlier this year by the Senate.

The tax bill, which Bush is expected to sign as early as Friday, could set the stage for budgetary hardball in the years ahead.

Virtually all of President Bush’s tax cuts — rate reductions for individuals, a bigger child tax credit, the elimination of estate taxes and the tax cuts for stock dividends — will expire simultaneously at the end of 2010. Beyond that, almost all the tax cuts that at some time would cost hundreds of billions of dollars a year, posing extracurricular budget choices for the next president as the nation’s baby boomers become eligible for billions of dollars in Medicare and Social Security benefits.

In addition, lawmakers merely postponed dealing with huge problems surrounding the Alternative Minimum Tax, a parallel tax that was originally aimed at millionaires but is not adjusted for inflation and is set to engulf millions of middle-class families.

Extending an expansion of the alternative tax in 2007 would cost more than $40 billion, and the costs increase each year after that.

BUSH DEFENDS NSA AFTER REPORT THAT IT COLLECTED PHONE RECORDS

By Eric Lichtblau and Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

Congressional Republicans and Democrats alike demanded answers from the Bush administration on Thursday about a report that the National Security Agency collected records of millions of domestic phone calls, even as President Bush assured Americans that their privacy is “fiercely protected.”

“We’re not mining or trolling the phone calls,” said a former intelligence official questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday. “We are focused on looking at the metadata.”

The president sought to deflect a tempest on Capitol Hill over an article in USA Today reporting that AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth have turned over tens of millions of customer phone records to the NSA since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But Bush’s response appeared to do little to reassure likely members of Congress, as several leading lawmakers said they wanted to hear directly from administration officials and telecommunications execu-

The USA Today report could not be independently confirmed and some former intelligence officials questioned the accuracy of some details.

But neither Bush nor any other ad-

ministration figure explicitly denied the assertion, which suggested that the NSA’s surveillance and data-mining operations in the United States go far beyond what previously acknowledged and reinforced the controversy about domestic spying.

Several lawmakers predicted the new disclosures would complicate confirmation hearings next week for the Homeland Security secretary, who was once a critic of the NSA, General Michael V. Hayden, who has been named the head of the NSA as the president’s nominee to lead the Central Intelli-

gence Agency.

The New York Times first reported in December, a week after its initial disclosure that the president had autho-

rized the NSA to conduct warrantless surveillance of domestic telephone and e-mail communications. The article said that the NSA was conducting bulk inquiries into domestic communications in an effort to compile a database of “every call ever made” within the country.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy and some rain likely. High 52°F (11°C).

Tonight: Cloudy and some rain likely. Low 46°F (8°C).

Saturday: Cloudy and some rain likely. High low 50°F (11°C).

Saturday Night: Surprise! Cloudy and some rain likely. Low mid 40s °F (7°C).

Sunday: Cloudy and some rain likely. High mid 50s °F (13°C).

Sunday Night: Cloudy and some rain likely. Low mid 40s °F (7°C).

Monday: Cloudy and some rain likely. High near 60°F (15°C).

Monday Night: Sunny...just kidding. Cloudy and some rain likely. Low mid 40s °F (7°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, May 12, 2006

THE TECH

It Could Be Worse

By Scott Stranisky

Yes, we are stuck in a pattern that will add plenty of graysness and rain to our lives over the next week or so, just as we begin to study for final exams.

Yes, today’s high will be 10 degrees F (5°C) lower than the average high for this date. Yes, five years ago today it was 88°F (31°C) here. But it could be much worse.

The United States has seen a number of extreme weather events over the past few days.

There have been tornadoes in seven southern states, hail in ten southern states, wind damage in nine states, snow in Colorado, and severe flooding in Missouri. Some of the hail in Railroad Parish, Louisiana was reported to be near golf ball size (about 2 inches). Yesterday, the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for three Midwestern states, fire weather advisories in Florida, flood watches and warnings in 13 states, high wind advisories in nine states, and a winter weather advisory in the Western Plains. Yet, there were no watches or warnings issued for Massachusetts.

Still, a pattern of rain and graysness into perspective will make you feel better. Towards the end of next week, we may see the sun again!
France Gets Closer to Creating Copyright Law on Digital Music

By Thomas Clements
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Resisting pressure from business, French lawmakers have moved the country closer to creating a copyright law that would have wide-ranging effects on selling or listening to digital music.

The Senate passed the bill on Wednesday, the last of the four major upper houses of the government to do so, after the National Assembly endorsed it last month.

The bill’s supporters say it will prevent wide-scale piracy of copyrighted material, including songs from Apple’s iTunes Music Store. The bill would make it illegal for someone to download a music file from an Apple iTunes account and then sell the song on a portable music player or other device.

The French government has been under pressure to create copyright law to deal with the problem of piracy, which controls about 85 percent of the songs available on the Internet and costs the music industry about $2 billion a year in lost sales.

The bill would take the first steps toward controlling downloading of music, which is already widespread in France, where young people often download music files for personal use and, in the U.S., for commercial purposes.

The French government’s plan is a compromise between an earlier version that would have made it illegal to download a music file from an Apple iTunes account and sell the file on a portable device, and a revised version that would have made it illegal to download a music file from an Apple iTunes account and sell the file on a digital device.

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Letters To The Editor

8.022 Lecture Format No Problem

In your May 9 news article ‘‘Striking a Balance In TEAL: Whether To Learn Or In-spite” concerning student dissatisfaction with the 8.02 TEAL classes, Professor Peter Douros-mathios states that students frustrated with the Electricity & Magnetism materials tend to displace their frustrations on the TEAL fin-
ing.

The page 10 table of new Undergraduate Association officers in the Monday, May 9 issue were not students elected, as indicated, but approved by the UA Senate after being nominated by UA President-elect Andrew T. Lankman ’09. A May 5 page 14 caption about the Big Jimmy mural misidentifed Soteros “BIG’83” Ortiz as Davis’ “Nutter” Pete.

The May 9 news article “Community, Energy Priorities for Holdiﬁeld Addressing UA Senate, President Focuses on Community Within, Beyond Undergrad Living Groups” re-
ported incorrectly that the MIT Energy Forum took place on Tuesday, when in fact it was held on Wednesday, May 3.

Corrections

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION FOR YOUR NEW CFA DIRECTOR?

As a student in Professor Gabriella Sciol-
la’s 8.02 class, I would like to point out that, although I have been quite frustrated at times with the course material, I have never felt frus-
trated with the course’s lecture format.

Matthew W. Petersen ’09

Opinion Policy

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chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opin-
ion staffer.

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

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sarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged
and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hand copy submis-
sions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge,
Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-2-
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 let-
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the property of The Tech, and it will be di-

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rected to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests
for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction
to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to
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Free the UA From Financial Dependence

Hans E. Anderson

Perennial dissatisfaction with the Undergrad-
uate Association centers on concern about its
legitimacy, as evident in the lack of support, un-
derstanding or appreciation for its work among
its constituents.

What are the factors undermining UA legiti-
macy?

First, low voter turnout. Although the recent
presidential election might suggest otherwise,
turnout is usually directly correlated to the
number of platforms.

Second, inaction and ineptitude among offi-
cials, who have often run unopposed to win their
positions, lending weight to the perception of
lack of legitimacy.

Third, the inability of the UA to address
what should be its highest priority: to stop the
trend among MIT administrators to act first and
seek student opinion later (if at all).

One way to counter these UA shortcomings
is to increase the UA's independence.

Low voter turnout tends to become a down-
ward spiral. Lack of legitimacy drives disillusion-
ment, which cuts the participation at the polls, which then further decreases the legitimacy of the
newly elected body. It is an unforgiveable chance
that can only be addressed by trying to improve
the appeal of the UA in other ways, for example
by improving diversity of the candidates.

The problem goes deeper; because of the per-
ception that the UA tends to draw sewer builders
rather than those committed to serving the
community, however, I must confess my
unwillingness to look down upon those who follow
developers and lack of legitimacy. The new UA will
control its own finances from an account outside of
MIT, generated from additional revenue gather-
ing measures, supplementing contributions
from the student life fee. No longer tied to the
administration to operate, the UA could better
meet them as equals. To prevent the embellish-
ment problem, the said fund account could be
run by a board such that

As it stands, the UA is a
giant lobbying organization
to the group it is lobbying.

advisors would require the consent of a major-
ity.

An argument that might be made against this
is that students often then divert the student
life fee to other purposes that are not in the best
interests of the students. This is a problem, but
to what extent? Any such inappropriate measure
would hopefully cause enough outcry among the
student population to prevent its passage. But at
time has shown, institutional memory is quite
short; students may not notice if they only indi-
rect funds closely from the UA to something else.

Additionally, administrators may argue that the
effective account replaces student life funding;
we must make it clear that on the contrary, it is
designed to augment, not replace, funds.

As things now stand, the UA is inherently
dependent on the MIT administration, and will
remain so until some efforts are made directly
from students, or finds another means to
achieve self-sufficiency.

Hans E. Anderson ’08 was the 2005-2006
Undergraduate Association Senate Repre-
sentative to the Finance Board.

A Skeptical View

Of the Macrocommunity

Ali S. Wyne

Undergraduate Association (UA) elections
having recently concluded, and now in an ap-
propriate time to outline the UA’s priorities for
the upcoming year. There are several issues that
I could reasonably discuss, but a treat-
ment of the term “macrocommunity” seems
the most appropriate.

First, what is its definition? Does the
achievement of a macrocommunity entail the
intermingling of groups from different resi-
dences? Or different religious faiths? Or dif-
f erent ethnicities? Or different majors? Or dif-
f erent extracurricular activities? Without any
consensus on what macrocommunity means, it
would be imprudent to attempt to construct one.
That being said, however, proponents of a
macrocommunity generally define it as a
union of students from different dormitories,
fraternities, sororities, and independent living
groups.

It is likely that any endeavor to achieve such a
group would either (1) compromise the
diversity of its members, or (2) perhaps even
further polarize student on campus, in that
they objected to such an artificial arrange-
ment. In addition to being undesirable,
then, constructing a macrocommunity is
unnecessary, for while there is a tendency
among students of different ethnicities, or dif-
ferent religious faiths? Of different majors? Of dif-

lishing campus divides. Their recommenda-
tions could reasonably be distilled to: (1) host more events that
appeal to particular residences or constituencies and
(2) implement policies that benefit a broad
group of students.

Rather than guess or presume to know what
various constituencies’ needs and preferred
programs are, the UA sometimes has in the
past, this year we intend to proactively learn
about them. To this end, we will host regular
meetings, as well as several “town hall”
sessions, at various living groups throughout
the year.

With this thought in mind, the UA’s cen-
tral priority for the upcoming year should be to
improve its communication with members of
the student body. This sort of statement has
become clichéd by now, and invariably arous-

mingle with those from the other. Whatever experiences I have accrued in my two years
here at MIT suggest that East and West Cam-
pus residents socialize all the time, not just
at large-scale events such as Beast Roast or
Street Root. I know many dormitory row
people in Courses 6 and 18 who routinely
visit Bexley, Random, East Campus, and
Senior House, and vice versa, to work on
projects. The Student Center, furthermore,
serves as a focal point of interaction, as it
houses most of MIT’s extracurricular orga-
nizations. These two examples (among oth-
ers) illuminate a broader point: “Don’t fix it
if it ain’t broke.” Natural interaction between
different social groups on campus is already
robust. Forcing further socialization would
accomplish nothing.

I admit, however, that when I came here
as a freshman, I readily (and naively) I should
add endorsed all proposals to “unite” the two
sides of campus. Although an East – West mis-
er might sound like a simple way to achieve
this objective, it would simply reinforce the
preceived gap between them and, accordingly,
farther their separa-
tion. As a member of
various committees, I
gave me the impression that there was quite
several “town hall”
sessions, at various living groups throughout
the year.

understand their needs and preferences, and
therefore I decided to advise various street
products that they would be the best for
mitigation of the current social situation.

May 12, 2006

Page 5

OPINION

THE TECH
Proof of False
by Andrew Spann

Trio
by Emezie Okorafor

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams
Piled Higher and Deeper

Cecilia, you can't just ignore your birthday.

No? I've decided that my years in grad school do not count towards my total age.

Have I grown as a person in grad school?

Have I really matured?

My life has been on pause ever since. I got here, it's only fair I don't get older either.

Oh, you've taken it to a whole new level. You're pro-gra-stinating time itself!

If only that worked for the weight gained in grad school, too.

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2006 Year Book
**Theater Review**

**MTG’s ‘Chicago’ Seductive and Sensational**

Talented Cast Brings Tale of Murder and Intrigue to Life

By Robert Morrison

**Chicago**

Julie Kang G and Cristina A. Thomas G, producers

Danbee Kim ’09, director

April 28-30, May 4-6, 2006

Kresge Little Theatre

There is a dark, bare stage with four lighted doorways in front of a full house. A cell phone/flash photography announcement appears, and then we are transported back to the roaring 1920s and the era of nightclubs. The show begins with a stylish Emcee introduction (Estevan M. Martinez ’08), followed by “All that Jazz.” This ensemble piece is led by Velma Kelly (Eleanor M. Pritchard ’06) to the subdued (at least for now) rhythms of Isaac Brody and his orchestra behind the stage. So begins a fine evening at MTG’s “Chicago.”

Across the stage, the acting fits the bill. Eloisa M. de Castro ’07 is excellent as Roxie Hart, the spotlight-hogging bombshell whose trip through the penal system is the main storyline. She sparkles in her solos, plays coy to get her way, and flashes anger when she doesn’t get what she wants. Matthew A. Ciborowski ’08 is veritably the smooth operator, Billy Flynn, who’s always in control. Pritchard embodies the ever-changing persona of Velma Kelly. She is harsh to Roxie in their first encounter, later attempts reconciliation (but is rebutted), and finally garners sympathy when supplanted from the murderess’ row spotlight.

The audience sympathizes with Gregory J. Lohman G’s Amos Hart, Roxie’s painfully honest and boring husband. Thom Dancy, who plays Mary Sunshine, accentuates the idealistic sweetness of her job as a reporter (and is a well-set-up surprise in the trial). Momma, the prison warden, is cheerfully played by Patricia M. Fogerson ’07, but then again, she’s taking in her money assisting these popular murderesses. The host of murderesses and ensemble all fill their roles seamlessly and with spunk.

The stage direction (courtesy of Danbee Kim ’09 as mentored by Stephen L. Peters G) is fluid, moving from act to act, revealing the plot smoothly as it jumps between nightclub acts. Of special note is the trial opening tour de force, “Razzle Dazzle.” Strangely enough, as good as the song is, the jury steals the scene.

The choreography (by Diana T. Luk ’08 and captained by Amelia H. Thomas) has pizzazz and flare, befitting both the setting and the action. In particular, the “Cell Block Tango” makes excellent use of the tableau, and is effectively punctuated by lighting (Sean Glass) to keep everything sharp and vivid. The lighting also does its job in the rest of the show. The costumes (by Neri Pritchard ’06 assisted by Steven L. Flowers ’06) are outstanding, from seductive negligees, to pink dancing outfits for a fan dance, and of course, the sharp clothes Billy Flynn changes into and out of on stage. They make the night club numbers stand out as real spectacles.

The costume and set changes all went smoothly the night I saw the show. The courtroom came together fluidly in the midst of a lot of action onstage. Roxie disappeared after one number, and was back on stage in a different dress for the next. The actors wore microphones so everything could be heard, but the quality was natural and blended well with the music.

---

Roxie Hart (Eloisa M. de Castro ’07), with the assistance of Billy Flynn (Matthew A. Ciborowski ’08, obscured), reenacts her crime as reporters (from left to right, Dawn M. Erickson ’07, Nicolina A. Akraboff ’07, Edmund Golaski ’99, and Sally E. Peach ’09) look on.
Counterclockwise from above:
Roxie Hart (Eloisa M. de Castro ’07) tries to make a deal with lawyer Billy Flynn (Matthew A. Ciborowski ’08).
Roxie Hart (Eloisa M. De Castro ’07) sings about “Me and My Baby” while surrounded by doctors and nurses (from left to right, J. Michael Spencer, Matt Miranda, Carlos Cardenas ’09, Edmund Golaski ’99).
Velma Kelly (Eleanor M. Pritchard ’06) schemes to win the jurors’ hearts when she takes the witness stand.
Billy Flynn (Matthew A. Ciborowski ’08) and his chorus in “All I Care About is Love.”
Photography by Wan Yusof Wan Morshidi
Cake frontman John McCrea gestures towards trumpet player Vince DiFIOre.

“[The strength of the lyrics contrasts with the high and pure voice in the singing so that the song does not become overwhelming.”

Spring Weekend Caters to ‘Alternative’ Tastes

Strong Performances Marred by Rude Concertgoers

By Jillian Berry

When I first listened to the CD, the songs ordered per- cussions blending to form eleven moving songs. Her distinctive voice can be at once pure and poetry while the band is there to simply match the beat of her words. As a result, every line

The Sound of You and Me... Starr explored the past with all its hardships, but now that she has sung of her pain, she can finally move on and go to sleep.

I’LL BE REMISS AT THIS POINT IF I DIDN’T MENTION THAT CAKE’S TRUMPET PLAYER IS, FOR LACK OF A BETTER DESCRIPTION, TOTALLY AWESOME.

The strength of the lyrics contrasts with the high and pure voice in the singing so that the song does not become overwhelming.

The Something about you jar / let the tears roll down from your eyes” and think about all the past loves. Moreover, her voice is capable of carrying a note long enough that she does not need to restrict her lyrics to short couplets, but instead can express her feelings with more complex and descriptive lyrics.

Another aspect of the CD’s appeal is its edit- of a lullaby. It’s fitting as the clos- ing piece. Starr sings “before we were stanned / we were just boys... and girls.” Starr ex- plores the past with all its hardships, but now that she has sung of her pain, she can finally move on and go to sleep.

Other notable songs are “Pretending” and “Big Enough.” Both dis- play the intensity of her vocals, and the power of her lyrics. In fact, “Big Enough” would be nearly per- fect except that she switches from an emotional piece to a rock solo — the rock part isn’t bad, but it doesn’t fit with the song. In addition, “Beautiful in Los Angeles” and “No Man’s Land” prove that she can also cre- ate songs with faster, pop tempos.

While all of these songs have emotive lyrics, this is not a record full of sappy ballads. Instead, Starr appears to be commenting on her past so that she can move forward unhin- dered. Just as you will feel better for having cried with the song, she has freed herself from the past hurt. Moreover, her voice is capable of carrying a note long enough that she does not need to restrict her lyrics to short couplets, but instead can express her feelings with more complex and descriptive lyrics.

Another aspect of the CD’s appeal is its edit- ing and sound mix- ing. Not only are the songs ordered per- fectly to tell Starr’s story, they also have a raw quality not of- ten heard in records today. Some notes may not be perfect, but they convey an intensi- ty that would severely reduce the quality of the CD if removed. In addition, you get the feeling that nothing has been synthesized, and that if you saw her live, she would sing at the same level as she does on the record. This CD is a great one that will withstand the test of time. I had never heard of Starr be- fore writing this review, but I am so glad I found her. This is a CD that I will certainly listen to many times over.

The strength of the lyrics contrasts with the high and pure voice in the singing so that the song does not become overwhelming.

I’LL BE REMISS AT THIS POINT IF I DIDN’T MENTION THAT CAKE’S TRUMPET PLAYER IS, FOR LACK OF A BETTER DESCRIPTION, TOTALLY AWESOME.

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Theater Review

**Felix for President!**

*F eltropia’s* Food for Thought, Brings Farming to the People

By Robert Morrison

Felix for President! The Coalition Against Racist Propaganda and Other Crimes Perpetrated by the White Man Directed by Scott Marshall Written by Mark Zakarin Directed by Scott Marshall Rated PG-13 Opens Today

**★ ★ ★**

By Yong-Yi Zhu

**star wars**

Keeping with the Sears Directed by Scott Marshall Written by Mark Zakarin Directed by Scott Marshall Rated PG-13 Opens Today

★★★

M andalorian lore would not be an appropriate way to “Keep Up With the Steins,” so you would say, had the Steins not been appropriate. This is a comedy with only a few funny jokes and many unnatural, forced laughs. Nevertheless, some points are hard to be funny or outrageous, and only manages to be corny or dumb. Sure, it had a few redeeming qualities, but the fact that none of them come to mind right now reveals exactly how unconvincing the movie really is.

The film is about a boy, Benjamin Fiedler (Daryl Sabara), who is completely prepared to become a man, yet is trying desperately to get ready for his bar mitzvah. What’s worse is that his parents are trying to throw him the biggest bar mitzvah party in the history of bar mitzvah parties; they want to top the one that their friends, the Steins, threw on their Zachary’s (Carter Jenkins) bat mitzvah.

Ben’s dad, Adam Fiedler (Jeremy Piven), used to work with Zach’s dad, Arnie Stein (Larry Miller), until Arnie stole Adam’s clients and opened his own. Adam wants revenge of sorts by upstaging his old colleague and throwing his own son a better bar mitzvah party so he can sound easy to do until you realize that Zach’s bar mitzvah was held aboard a cruise ship with a Titanic theme, almost as though Zach were a movie star himself.

Now the Fiedlers are scrambling their brains to think of a way to beat the Steins. But while Adam and his wife, Joanne (Jami Gertz), tackle the guest list, the venue location and the seating chart, Ben is simply trying to understand what it means to go through a bar mitzvah.

He does not feel as though he is ready to be a man. Instead of delving deeper into his Hebrew studies or better understanding his life, Ben’s plan is to invite his paternal grandfather Irv (Gary Marshall) who left Ben’s grandmother (Doris Roberts) more than twenty years ago. He changes the date on the invite so that his granddad will arrive two weeks early and divert his parents’ attention. This plan works, and Adam ends up taking Zach and his father on a cruise to the Bahamas.

Adam hates his father for abandoning the family, and after twenty years, he is still as resentful as ever. It does not help that Irv brings both his trailer home and his young girlfriend to Adam’s fancy Brentwood home. From this difficult experience, everyone in the family manages to learn a little more about themselves and how they should behave.

Perhaps some of the worst moments in the film are the ones with Roberts and Marshall. They are supposed to be ex-husband and wife, but they still have the tenderness of a loving couple that is happily married. Roberts is extremely awkward in the film, her performance is almost artificial. Marshall, on the other hand, is simply over the top. He lives in a trailer home by himself, he swims naked in Adam’s jacuzzi, and he carries a case with a sword sheathed within. Piven and Gertz might be the two positives to take away from the film, but only because they play normal characters. They are the warring parents, obsessed with making their kid look better than another family’s kid. Piven is almost childlike in his role as the father, but he has to be — his character’s own father is in town. Even Gertz, however, appears unrealistic at times; at first, she is an overbearing mother blustering about the bar mitzvah, but then turns into a comforting mother who consoles Benjamin about his problems.

After all the criticism, this movie may be good for one thing: reminding the studios that they are capable of creating a completely awful film. Let’s just hope that summer blockbusters — sequels and remakes though they may be — will have higher standards and be slightly more entertaining.
Dance Troupe Debuts ‘Guilty Pleasures’

MIT Dance Troupe's “Guilty Pleasures” opened in Little Kresge on yesterday and will run until Sunday.

Clockwise from left:
Jorge L. Alvarado '06 tangos with Karima Robert Nigmatulina G to “Roxanne,” inspired by the movie Moulin Rouge.
Ray "Raytomic Bomb" Y. Cheng '09 breakdances in “Getting Krump is My Anti-Drug,” choreographed by Stephen A. Steger '08.
Hubert “Afrodezeak” L. Roberts '06 pumps it in “Getting Krump is My Anti-Drug.”
“Comedic Dreams,” choreographed by Augusta K. Dibbell '07.
Photography by Christina Kang.
Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge or MIT Police between April 26 and May 4. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

April 23: Student Center (84 Mass Ave.), 6:45 p.m., Miguel Morales, 24, homeless, arrested on a warrant and resisting arrest.
April 24: Bldg. E39 (264 Main St.), 4:40 p.m., theft of cash, 4:35 p.m., suspicious activity, 5:45 p.m., attempted breaking into room.
April 26: PLP (450 Beacon St.), 3:30 a.m., complaint about noise on rooftop, Bldg. 36 (50 Vassar St., Fl. 3), 7:45 a.m., Ms. Kelly Jones, homeless, arrested on an outstanding warrant. Stata Center (32 Vassar St.), 4:00 p.m., call about protesters disturbing a speech.
April 27: Bldg. 42 (59 Vassar St.), 8:30 a.m., sighting of smoke, fire on room caused by welder’s spark.
April 28: NW16 (167 Albany St.), 12:30 p.m., breaking and entering, building material stolen.
March 4: E53 (30 Wadsworth St.), 8:30 a.m., bicycle stolen.
May 5: Senior House (70 Amherst St.), 11:50 p.m., Daniel Jacobs, 14 Hawthorn St., after being observed entering and exiting the building was arrested for trespassing (second offense) and possession of class “C” controlled substance. According to http://www.mau.gov/legp/lawseng/94c-31.htm, Class C controlled substances include hallucinogens, CNS depressants, and low-strength prescription narcotics such as codeine.

Compiled by Marjan Rafat with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

Commonly Unbearable.
Dangerously Believable.
Subsequently Fatal.

Want to Meet With Real Traders?
Sloan Trading Room Simulation
Presented by ThinkBIG and Optiver

Free Pizza and Prizes will be provided!
1st Place: iPod Nano
2nd Place: Poker Set
3rd Place: Mystery Prize

Sunday, 5/14
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Basement of E52
Seating is limited so get there early!
Presented By

Interested in ThinkBIG? Interested in investing?
http://www.thinkbig-securites.com

Want to win some cool prizes? Like Free Pizza?

Contact thinkbig-securites.com with questions

MIT $100K ENTERPRISEURSHIP COMPETITION

Thursday, May 18, 2006
7:00 pm
MIT Kresge Auditorium
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

17th Annual Final Awards Ceremony

Keynote Speaker:
Dean Kamen
Inventor and Entrepreneur

Hear the finalists in the venture track and the development track pitch ideas that could change your world!

Creating tomorrow's leading firms

http://www.mit100k.org
Combat tested.

join@the-tech.mit.edu
W20-483, x3-1541
The new core goes into effect in the fall of 1991. 
1949: A direct result of the 1949 Lewis Commission report, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is created. 
1974: The humanities core is scraped by the faculty in favor of a distribution/concentration model that fully goes into effect for the Class of 1978. 
1986: A committee evaluating the HASS requirement proposes a four-subject distribution requirement, with one subject in each of four categories. Its proposal was not adopted. 
1991: 1991: A committee approves a biology Institute requirement. With that addition, the science distribution requirement is cut from three subjects to two, which are renamed Restricted Electives in Science and Technology. 
1996: A committee reports an overhaul of undergraduate education, with more emphasis on humanities, as well as on fundamental principles of science. 
1998: The Humanities Core remains unchanged. 

Notes:
• Calculus I (18.01) 
• Calculus II (18.02) 
• Physics I (8.01) 
• Calculus I (18.01) 
• Calculus II (18.02) 
• Physics I (8.01) 

If no more REST or Institute Lab, lab requirements must be chosen from departmental requirements

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Requirement

- Advanced Subjects (5 classes) 
- HASS Concentration 
- HASS Electives

Proposed changes to the requirements
*Shreyes Seshasai is The Tech's Technology Director.

**2006 – 2007 UA Officers**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Speaker</td>
<td>Steven M. Kelch ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Vice-chair</td>
<td>Ali S. Wyne ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary-General</td>
<td>Jiaqin Wei Zhu ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lauren E. Cluda ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Vice President for Public Relations</td>
<td>Justin H. Tan ’09</td>
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<td>Chairman, Committee on Athletics</td>
<td>Richard Li</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman, Committee on Dining</td>
<td>Sia Zhu ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairmen, Student Committee on Educational Policy</td>
<td>Toyya A. Pujol-Mitchell ’07, Shreyes Seshasai ’08</td>
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<td>Chairman, Committee on Housing</td>
<td>Arnelado E. Preusa-Diaz ’09</td>
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<td>Chairman, Committee on Orientation</td>
<td>Andrew P. Spann ’07</td>
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<td>Chairman, Committee On Space Planning</td>
<td>David Lee</td>
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<td>Chairman, Committee On Sustainability</td>
<td>Anna S. Jaffee ’08</td>
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<td>Chairman, Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Shaelina Hussain ’07</td>
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<td>Vice-chair, Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Sam J. Cole ’07</td>
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<td>Chairman, Financial Board</td>
<td>Hans E. Anderson ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-chair, Financial Board</td>
<td>Evelyn T. Chen ’07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Representative to Financial Board</td>
<td>Benjamin Navot ’07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Representative to Executive Committee</td>
<td>Sarah C. Hopp ’08</td>
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Officers for the 2006-2007 Undergraduate Association were selected at Monday night’s meeting of the UA Senate. The UA Senate Chair, Vice-Chair, and Senate Representatives to Financial Board and Executive Committee were elected by the Senate. All the other officers were nominated by UA President-elect Andrew Lutkus and approved by the Senate.

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**Funding For Science Research Priority for DOE, Says Bodman**

**Bodman, from Page 1**

as waste.

These advanced reactors produce more electricity and less nuclear waste than current technology. The GNP arrangement “car- ries the potential to allow poorer nations to leapfrog over some of the dirtiest fossil fuel-based technolo- gies,” he said.

GNEP is set to begin in fiscal year 2007, Bodman said, pending Congress’s approval of an initial $250 million of funding.

By 2025, cellulosic ethanol could account for as much as a quarter of America’s transportation fuels usage. While most ethanol is currently formed from corn, cellula- risic ethanol is derived from feed- stocks such as wood chips, prairie switchgrass, or the leftover leaves and stalks of corn plants, all of which are more abundant than corn grain.

Today, ethanol comprises less than 5 percent of U.S. fuel use, par- ticularly because this year’s national ethanol production — at 5.6 billion gallons — comes from corn. Last year, about 14 percent of the nation’s corn crop went into ethanol, Bodman said, but reliance on corn could lead to economic disturbance of food markets.

Nuclear energy and cellulosic ethanol highlight the short-term focus that Bodman is bringing to the Department of Energy. In re- sponse to a question on the long- term potential of nuclear fusion, for example, as an energy source, Bodman said that he was trying to foster a “let’s get some things done” attitude at the department, which contrasted with the abundance of research projects that “seemed to have no end” in the department when he took office in 2005.

Basic research a priority

Bodman also spoke passionately about the need for basic science and research, and the DOE’s commit- ment to funding basic research, particularly in the physical sciences. “While recent advances in biology, genetics, and medicine have been nothing short of outstanding ... it is a risky business in my view to fund one area of study at the possible ex- pense of others.”

Bodman cited the ongoing con- struction of a coherent x-ray light source at the Stanford Linear Acceler- ator Center, an increased invest- ment in microbial research, and the creation of five nanoscale science research centers at DOE labs around the country as examples of the department’s commitment to basic science. Also touted by the Secretary of Energy were several new initiatives on energy from the Bush administra- tion. One, the American Competiti- tiveness Initiative—a “watershed for American science and engineering” — would fund not only breakthroughs in research, but also the education of future scientists and engineers at the elementary and high school levels, he said.

Increased funding is crucial

Bodman also repeatedly and candidly acknowledged the politi- cal realities he faces in Washington. Several times he mentioned that his department’s overall budget has been flat and openly stated that certain en- ergy policies that are widely favored by analysts, such as raising national fuel taxes, are simply politically un- tenable.

The President has committed to doubling the budget of the DOE’s Office of Science over the next 10 years, Bodman said, as part of Bush’s Advanced Energy Initiative. For fis- cal year 2007, this office’s budget would expand 14 percent, from $3.6 billion to $4.1 billion, he said. These expanded funds could support 2,600 new energy researchers in 2007.

Bodman paralleled the national security, public health, and competi- tiveness challenges of today to the times of his youth. “I was a product of the Sputnik generation,” which was a “time of fear,” that led to not only the space race but a massive in- crease National Science Foundation funding, he said. Sputnik and fear of Russian dominance led America to recognize that its economic pre- eminence required substantial and sustained investment in science and technology.

That investment must continue today, said Bodman, saying that “this government is committed to holding up our end of the bargain” to scien- tists and engineers.

Bodman singled out MIT at several points in his lecture. He con- gratulated the Institute on its recent selection to participate in the DOE’s Solar Decathlon, which involves the design and construction of solar-powered, energy-efficient houses on the Mall in Washington, DC.

He also reflected fondly on his time in Cambridge and MIT, saying that his experiences taught him not only chemical engineering or prob- lemsolving, but also “how to be in the public sector, international consultancy, regulation, the world?” Perhaps it was these larger les- sons that inspired the best punchline of the secretary’s talk: after strongly defending President Bush’s deci- sion not to sign the Kyoto protocol, he smiled and added, “By the way, I don’t agree with the President on everything, but if it’s don’t, you won’t hear about it from me.”
As many MIT sophomores prepare to study next year in Cambridge, England, they might be interested in what Malgorzata Radziszewska-Hedderick, MIT’s first assistant dean for the study abroad program, has to say. Both Senior Associate Dean Margaret S. Enders and Radziszewska-Hedderick agree that there needs to be more publicizing of the various study abroad options that are available to students. Radziszewska-Hedderick said that she plans to inform students about studying abroad earlier, during their freshman year. Holly C. Greenberg ’08, a Course II student who is going to Cambridge through the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program, said that two drawbacks of the program are its lack of credit and research opportunities. “It will not get me abroad neither will it leave me behind,” she said, describing the academic curriculum.

Enders confirmed the former — the major issue with the current study abroad programs is transferring credits, she said. Currently there are various abroad programs that fit with the curriculum requirements of different MIT departments, but not all programs offer classes that are accepted for credit by every department. For example, Courses XIII, XIV, and XVIII accept classes taken as part of the CMI program, and most students receive credit for classes taken in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Course X accepts classes taken by students in a program in Madrid which was started this year.

Radziszewska-Hedderick’s primary goal is to help students who want to go abroad by preparing them early and strategizing with them on what classes they should take. She said that she has also had conversations with different departments this term, and is encouraging them to promote and support the possibility of studying abroad. She said she will be holding monthly information sessions for students about educational opportunities overseas and plans to redesign the study abroad office’s Web site by making it more dynamic and informative.

The search for the new assistant dean took the entire fall semester, Enders said. Radziszewska-Hedderick was hired at the beginning of the spring semester from a pool of 130 applicants. She was previously involved in the MIT-Japan Program and commented, “I find [MIT] a very welcoming environment and especially supportive from everyone.” Along with the hiring of Radziszewska-Hedderick in January, the study abroad office received its own office and is not student-friendly and will hopefully only be temporary, Enders said.
Pho•to•jour•nal•ism (n):

1. journalism in which written copy is subordinate to pictorial presentation of news stories
2. publishing photos in *The Tech* while enjoying high-end photographic equipment, exclusive developing facilities, free dinners, and good company

photo@the-tech.mit.edu
Spring Flowers

Top left: A daffodil brightens up the corner of Hampshire and Clark Street in Cambridge.
Above: Yellow tulips blossom at the Hatch Shell.
Left: A purple hyacinth stands out in a flower bed in Cambridge.
Below: Runners pass by magnolia blossoms lining the Esplanade along the Charles River.
Photography by Xanat Flores
For the first time in years, I’m really excited about the NBA playoffs. I know the players take three steps down the lane, don’t play defense, and only care about their paychecks. But I’m hooked this year, and I think I know why: for the first time since the Celtics and Lakers of the 80’s, there is a dominant team in each conference, the San Antonio Spurs and the Detroit Pistons. Both teams are number one seeds and can make the finals winning only at home, where they have the best two records in the league and looked dominant in their opening round series.

What about the Dallas Mavericks, you say? I think San Antonio is still the favorite thanks to their playoff experience and depth, but an upset is certainly possible. Already you can see one reason dominant teams are a good thing: it means you can have upsets. If San Antonio weren’t the favorite, Dallas’ great first round victories and game two win over the Spurs would just be an example of the blue uniformed team from Texas looking better than the black uniformed one. But now it’s an upset in the making, and college basketball’s March Madness has proven how fun upsets can be.

The rivalry between the Spurs and Pistons also gives otherwise uninteresting playoff games a context that makes them more enjoyable. Watching the Spurs beat Sacramento by 34 in the first game of their first round series was still interesting because it was a message to the Pistons. The current quarterfinal series between the Heat and the Nets, the least entertaining series of the second round, is still fun to watch in the hope that someone will emerge to challenge Detroit.

While rooting for underdogs like Dallas and the Cleveland Cavaliers, I still hope they lose in the end so we can have another Pistons-Spurs final series. Last year the Finals between them went to game seven, the first such game in the Finals since 1994. Watching the Lakers beat up on the Nets or Sixers in previous Finals was fun, but only if you live in Los Angeles. The rest of us want every game to be close, and we have a good chance of that in 2006 if it’s the Spurs and Pistons.

Anyone who complains about how selfish NBA players are should be spewing praise for San Antonio and Detroit. Both teams succeed by distributing the ball and playing as a team. They each have four starters averaging 10 or more points a game, and the only player on either team to average more than 20 is Richard Hamilton of the Pistons at 20.1. Detroit has gotten a lot more fun to watch under new coach Flip Saunders. Their offense has become much more aggressive, resulting in a 3.5 points per game increase in scoring and a noticeable change in their style. So far in the playoffs, they are second in scoring with 106.6 points per game.

For their part, San Antonio has added Michael Finley to an already potent lineup. Along with Brent Barry, he gives stars Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, and Tim Duncan two great shooters to kick to. They aren’t that far behind the Pistons in playoff scoring, sitting at third with 102.4 points per game.

The league as a whole is getting more watchable every year thanks to teams like the Phoenix Suns and Dallas. Phoenix is by far the most entertaining team in the league with their strategy of fast breaking, shooting in 7 seconds, and going for 130 points. Matched in the first round against a surging Lakers team with a contrasting style and clutch Kobe Bryant, their games were the best I’ve seen in the NBA.

Dallas fast breaks too, but I swear their owner Mark Cuban is the real reason they are so fun to watch. He suffers more after a loss and glows more after a win than anyone on the team, and has invested a lot in making the American Airlines Center a great place to watch a game in person or on TV.

So what’s my prediction for the rest of the playoffs? San Antonio squeaks past Dallas and easily beats Phoenix, but loses in 7 to Detroit, which obliterates the Eastern Conference and uses the extra rest and home court to reclaim the title.