New Grad Dorm Will Allow MIT to Boost Undergrad Class Size

By Kelley Riviere

The Institute’s recently announced plans to build a new graduate dormitory will allow MIT to increase undergraduate enrollment by about 100 students per year by moving undergraduate students into Ashdown House, currently a graduate residence.

The major factor constraining undergraduate class size is not a lack of academic resources, but a dearth of beds on campus, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. Ashdown House, which presently houses about 360 graduate students, could be used as a residence for 450 undergraduate students, allowing MIT to increase its undergraduate population to the level of 10,15 years ago, with about 1080–1100 in each class, Benedict said.

In recent years, Ashdown has had trouble filling all its beds, as many graduate “students are willing to pay a lot more for their own bedroom,” Benedict said. Housing undergraduates in the building in double rooms would increase the capacity.

Though no final number has been set for an increased class size, the jump to about 1100 students per class is something administrators are leaning toward, said Benedict, who emphasized that the Institute would first have to ensure that services like Mental Health and Student Support Services had the necessary resources before admitting more students.

“Everyone here wants to increase the class size,” said Dean for Admissions Dormitory, Page 17

Cake to Headline Spring Weekend

By Marie Y. Thibault

The main act of this year’s Spring Weekend concert will be Cake, an alternative band “in the real alternative sense,” said Spring Committee Co-chairman Szu Zhu ’08. Spring Weekend will be on April 28–30 this year, with the concert being held on Friday, April 28 in Johnson Athletic Center.

Cake was the committee’s fifth choice, with bands Death Cab for Cutie, Franz Ferdinand, and The Stokes being top choices, Zhu said. Other possible bands did not work out either because they were already on tour, or are hard to work with, since some bands are known for being “demanding, snooty, or not pleasant to work with,” she said. According to the Web site for the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Franz Ferdinand will be performing the same weekend as Spring Weekend.

Cake’s hour to hour-and-a-half show will cost $40,000, Zhu said, although no formal contract has been signed yet. Cake’s fee is on the low end of the spectrum as far as concert performers go, she wrote in an e-mail.

Co-chairman Cindy N. Yuan ’06 said that the entire weekend, funded by the Student Life department, which draws from the $100 Student Life Fee for every undergraduate, will cost around $95,000. Plans will be finalized around the beginning of April, but based on last year’s prices, performers goes, she wrote in an e-mail. The Logs sang to Steiner while waiting for their desired recipient, Anne P. Liu ’08, who was late to class.

Industry Playing a Role In MIT Energy Initiative

By Angeline Wang

As the Energy Research Council works to finish its energy report for President Susan Hockfield, industry leaders are becoming more involved with MIT and the research side of the Energy Initiative. On the educational end of the push for more work in energy research, a Web site listing classes which have significant focus on energy was recently launched.

To create recommendations for the Energy Initiative, the Council is evaluating feedback from students, faculty, and industry.

“We have not reached our final conclusions,” said Council co-chair Ernest J. Moniz, physics professor and co-director of the Laboratory for Energy and Environment. “We’re preparing to have our discussion with the president in about two weeks. Then it will be up to President Hockfield and others what specific directives to pursue.”

Most industry input was gathered at an MIT-sponsored energy work shop in December. More than 160 industry professionals and members of academia attended the two-day energy workshop, said Cynthia C. Bloomquist, an associate director in MIT’s Industrial Liaison Program, which sponsored the workshop.

The industry professionals, from automotive, fuel, and other energy-related industries, gave input during different from the actual curricu lum and purpose, and they found that another major fit them better.

Originally, laboratory space limitations were expected to constrain the class size to 20, but through efforts by the MIT administration and the BE department, additional space was found to accommodate all 33 students.

“Our target number for the first class was 20, based primarily on the laboratory space available for BE.109 (Laboratory Fundamen-
The front-runner in last week's presidential election will be declared the winner as part of an agreement by leaders of Haiti's interim government to retabulate the votes, a high-ranking official of the Organization of American States said Wednesday night.

The agreement, to be announced Thursday, is a result of negotiations by the front-runner, Rene Preval, government officials, foreign diplomats and international observers, including the Organization of American States. Details were still being worked out, and a U.N. official cautioned that the result could still be challenged.

The official from the Organization of American States, who insisted on anonymity because of the fragile nature of the agreement, said that loopholes had allowed for falsification of the vote-counting, leading to an estimated 85,000 blank ballots included in the original tally. By excluding them, Preval’s lead would increase from 46.7 percent of the votes to slightly more than 51 percent.

Under election rules, the winner needs 50 percent plus one vote to avoid a run-off.

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By Ginger Thompson

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

By Roberto Rondanelli

TUESDAY

Today:

By Warren Hoge

WASHINGTON

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By By Eric Lichtblau and Sheryl Gay Stobert

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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The House Intelligence Committee said Thursday that it had agreed to open a congressional inquiry promoted by the Bush administration’s domestic surveillance program.

But a dispute immediately broke out among committee Republicans over the scope of the inquiry. Representative Heather A. Wilson, the New Mexico Republican and committee member who called last week for the investigation, said the review “will have multiple avenues, because we want to completely understand the program and move forward.”

But an aide to Representative Peter Hoekstra, the Michigan Republican who leads the committee, said the inquiry would be much more limited in scope, focusing on whether federal surveillance laws needed to be changed and not on the eavesdropping program itself.

The agreement to conduct an inquiry comes as the Senate Intelligence Committee put an end to a vote on conducting its own investigation after the White House, reversing course, agreed to open discussions about changing federal surveillance law. Senate Democrats accused Republicans of bowing to White House pressure.

For weeks, the Bush administration has been strongly resisting calls from Democrats and some Republicans for a full review into the National Security Agency’s surveillance program, saying such inquiries are unnecessary and risked disclosing national security information that could help Al Qaeda.

Elsewhere on Thursday, a federal judge ordered the administration to begin turning over internal documents on the surveillance program, the Justice Department balked at having John Ashcroft, the former attorney general, and other former government officials testify about it before Congress, and lawyers for a Kentucky man prepared to bring a federal civil rights lawsuit on Friday against President Bush to have the surveillance declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The surveillance, authorized in secret by President Bush soon after the Sept. 11 attacks, has allowed the N.S.A. to eavesdrop on the international phone and e-mail communications of hundreds and perhaps thousands of people within the United States without warrants when the authorities suspect that they might have links to terrorists.

Mr. Hoekstra has been one of the staunchest defenders of the program. But in discussions this week with both Republican and Democratic leaders of the committee, he agreed to have the committee open the inquiry, officials said, after signs that some Republicans on the panel had growing concerns about the operation.

Mr. Wilson said the review would include closed-door briefings by intelligence officials about the operational details of the program, a review of its legality and discussion about whether changes are needed in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, which bans eavesdropping in intelligence investigations without a court order.

While the administration agreed under pressure last week to provide limited detailed reports to the House and Senate intelligence committees, Ms. Wilson said she wanted more information and remained uncertain whether the N.S.A. had changed and not on the eavesdropping program itself.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Weather for the next couple of days will be dominated by the presence of a deep low pressure over the Canadian province of Quebec. The center of the low is forecast to be at 908 mbas, with isobars very close together (extreme pressure gradients) consistent with strong sustained winds of about 30 to 35 mph for our region (about 50 to 60 knts). Expect an abrupt transition of temperature as the col front moves through Boston on the surface, in the early hours of the afternoon. The passage of the front should put an end to the warm spell after last weekend’s blizzard. The outlook for the next few days includes the possibility of a strong northerly flow associated with the anticyclonic (high pressure) circulation coming right behind the low.

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Bush ‘Satisfied’ With Cheney’s Handling of Shooting Accident

By Elisabeth Bumiller

WASHINGTON

President Bush said Thursday that Vice President Dick Cheney had handled the disclosure of an acciden
tal shooting of a hunting partner “just fine” and that the incident had been a “traumatic moment” for Cheney as well as a tragic one for the victim.

Bush’s comments were his first on the matter since Cheney wounded the victim, a 78-year-old lawyer, Harry M. Whittington, on a quail-hunting expedition in Texas last weekend.

They were also Bush’s first public reaction to an interview that Cheney gave about the incident on Wednes-
day night to Fox News, and they came on the same day that the local sheriff’s department said the investiga-
tion of the incident was closed and no charges would be filed.

Bush’s words appeared to be an

Transplanted Brazilian Auto Plant
To Help China Succeed in Industry

By Keith Bradsher

China is pursuing a strategy to
catatop its automobile manufactur-
ing industry into a global force: Buy one of the world’s most sophisticated engine plants, take it apart, piece by piece, transport it halfway around the globe and put it back together again at home.

In the latest sign of China’s man-
ufacturing ambitions, a major Chi-
nese company, hand-in-hand with the Communist Party, is bidding to buy a car-engine plant in Brazil from DaimlerChrysler and BMW.

Because the plant is so sophisti-
cated, it is far more feasible for the
Chinese automaker, the Lifan Group,
to go through such an effort to move it 8,300 miles, rather than to develop it more quickly and through a more established channel than the Web site of a local newspaper in Texas — and on Wednesday the White House sig-
naled that Bush was sympathetic to that view. The incident was not made public for more than 18 hours.

“I thought his explanation yester-
day was a powerful explanation,” Bush told reporters in the Oval Of-
fice, speaking of Cheney’s interview on Fox. “This is a man who likes the outdoors, and he likes to hunt. And he heard a bird flush and he turned and pulled the trigger and saw his friend get wounded. And it was a deeply traumatic moment for him, and obvi-
ously it was a traumatic moment for Mr.

Whittington.”

Bush’s words also appeared aimed at trying to put to rest an issue that has consumed the White House and kept Washington in an uproar for most of the week, distracting attention from Bush’s efforts to rebuild his political standing and push his agenda.

“I’m satisfied with the explana-
tion he gave,” Bush said, twice.

As Bush spoke, Cheney was headed to Wyoming, his home state, to make a speech to the Legislature on Friday. Cheney was expected to mention the hunting accident in his remarks, which were scheduled be-
fore the accident.

It was unclear when, or if, Cheney would go hunting again.

In his interview with Brit Hume of Fox, Cheney talked readily of hunt-
ing as part of his life. “It’s brought me great pleasure over the years,” he said.

Lifan is said to be the sole bidder for the factory and wants to bring it here to start producing engines in 2008. Though China’s Communist Party is actively behind the effort, the bold move is being driven by one of China’s remarkable entrepreneurs: Yin Mingshan has become one of

most famous and unusual in the auto industry. Built in southern Brazil in the late 1990s at a cost of $500 million by a 50-50 joint venture of

Chrysler and BMW, the Campo Largo factory combines the latest American and German technology to produce the 1.6-liter, 16-valve Trice engine.

Lifan says it is the sole bidder for the factory and wants to bring it here to start producing engines in 2008. Though China’s Communist Party is actively behind the effort, the bold move is being driven by one of China’s remarkable entrepreneurs: Yin Mingshan has become one of

most successful and most politically connected corporate execu-
tives, with a hardscrabble upbringing that included spending 22 years of his earlier life in Communist labor camps and prison as punishment for his political dissent.

No deal has been announced yet, but the engine plant is one of the

U.N. Report Faults Military And Rebels in Nepal

By Somini Sengupta

WASHINGTON

The U.N. envoy for human rights in Nepal, in a report released on Thursday, accused both the military and the rebels in that country of vio-

lating international humanitarian law. The report said that the rebels had carried out abductions and assaults on civilians and the Royal Nepalese

Army had been guilty of indiscriminate aerial bombings that failed to distinguish civilian from military targets.

In the report, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the army to ensure that soldiers guilty of rights violations are not permitted to take part in lucrative U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The report said the U.N. office had received accusations that people in army camps and prison as punishment for political dissent.

The report also accused Maoist rebels, who have carried out a decade-

long insurgency against the state, of extortion, abduction and the recruit-

ment of child soldiers. Violence fell sharply during the Maoists’ unilateral four-month-long cease-fire, which ended earlier this year.

It is a tragedy for the people of Nepal that full-scale conflict has now resumed,” said Ian Martin, the representative of the U.N. High Commis-
sioner for Human Rights in Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu.

Bipartisan Support Emerges
For Federal Whistle-Blowers

By Scott Shane

WASHINGTON

As even the Bush administration presses an aggressive campaign against leaks, the congressional Liberals and Republicans are joining Democrats in supporting government employees who say they have been punished for revealing sensitive information about alleged abuses.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., is leading the defense of whis-

tleblowers who have spoken out about abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu

Ghraib, illicit waterboarding and other matters. He believes that an existing law designed to protect intelligence whistle-blowers is ineffective.

“Even if the 9/11 Commission and the 9/11 Commission and others say that the legal system and the justice system are not being held accountable, I think it’s absolutely essential that we have a system that allows people to speak out about abuses, especially in the national security realm,” Shays said in an interview.

He said his conviction that current protections are inadequate was strengthened by testimony Tuesday at a hearing of his House subcom-
mittee on national security by five self-described whistle-blowers who described retaliation for their revelations.

Shays’ concerns are shared by numerous Democrats and some other Republicans, including Rep. Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania, who has de-

nounced what he calls the mistrustment of a military intelligence offi-
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A pivotal moment in student life at MIT is upon us. Last year, the Division of Student Life laid out three possible plans for revolutionary changes in both graduate and undergraduate housing. The mandate for change is clear. Every year, the need to renovate the East Campus and Burton-Conner dormitories grows more dire. The tremendous growth in the graduate student population over the past twenty years has caused the demand for housing in Cambridge to skyrocket, yet supply has not grown to match. Random Hall, despite its longevity, is not a physical building MIT expects to keep for the next 50 years. Solving these problems requires major construction that will displace students from up to five dormitories over ten years. However, drastic changes in housing are dangerous in that they threaten to disrupt the cultures of dormitories, which contribute much of the vibrancy of student life. These communities have evolved over decades through the efforts of many students. If administrators seize control of this process, they threaten to destroy the very system they wish to improve. Therefore, the only way this redesign of student housing can succeed is if it is driven primarily by the energy and passion of students. When the first major housing decision since freshmen living on campus endangers a community 68 years old, we are right to voice concern that we are starting a race with a lame horse, destined to limp along with only administrators driving it.

Corrections

A headline for a Feb. 10 article about MIT Medical Plans did not accurately reflect the information presented. The headline on page 171, “Using Wage-Related Premiums. New Work Plans to Offset Costs,” is too strong a statement, as the possibility of using wage-related premiums in the healthcare plan is only under speculation, and has not implemented.

The Feb. 14, page 17 credits for photography by David Templeton and Christina Kang were swapped.

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, a senior editor, and an opinion staff. Letters to the editor are the opinions of signed members of the editorial staff. Letters are the opinions of signed members of the editorial staff. Letters are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. 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.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and are subject to editoral review. Letters without italics are written by Tech Staff.

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Big Housing Plans Deserve Scrutiny

A pivotal moment in student life at MIT is upon us. Last year, the Division of Student Life laid out three possible plans for revolutionary changes in both graduate and undergraduate housing. At the time, the proposed strategies were largely dependent on whether administrators chose to build a new graduate or undergraduate dormitory. Now that they have decided to close Ashdown and build a new home for 400-500 graduate students, it is time for key administrators to put their long-term plans on the table and open the floor to discussion.

The mandate for change is clear. Every year, the need to renovate the East Campus and Burton-Conner dormitories grows more dire. The tremendous growth in the graduate student population over the past twenty years has caused the demand for housing in Cambridge to skyrocket, yet supply has not grown to match. Random Hall, despite its longevity, is not a physical building MIT expects to keep for the next 50 years. Solving these problems requires major construction that will displace students from up to five dormitories over ten years.

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Building a New Ashdown

Barun Singh

The recent news of MIT’s plans to relocate the Ashdown community to a new residence hall comes as little surprise to many of us. The Institute has tried to convert Ashdown into an undergraduate residence no less than half a dozen times, but previous attempts have been met with fierce resistance from the graduate population. This time around is different, partially because the Institute is providing a new residence hall in exchange. When planning for this new residence hall, it is important to note that the Ashdown community is being relocated, not replaced. The transition creates challenges that must be addressed in terms of how to preserve as much of Ashdown’s culture as possible, and also presents opportunities to learn from history.

It is pointless to argue at this stage that MIT shouldn’t relocate Ashdown. It solves many long-standing problems and makes financial sense (though there are likely other fiscally responsible alternatives). As this relocation occurs, however, it may be tempting to model the building after other residences in the area, such as Sidney-Porter. Doing so would be a very serious mistake.

When considering the relocation of Ashdown, most students may have difficulty under- standing exactly what type of impact it may have on the community. Even the Graduate Student Council seems unable to see beyond the number of beds and the rent, saying it would be “somewhat bizarre for graduate students to be displaced” about the relocation. The impact of Ashdown, however, goes far beyond monetary issues, and making this transition a success requires an appreciation for those things that make Ashdown so unique.

By the time it is converted in 2008, Ashdown will have had a 70-year history as a graduate residence. Its first housemaster, “Doc” Avery Allen Ashdown, served as head of the dormitory’s inception until he reached the age of mandatory retirement 24 years later. He truly considered the residence (at that time known as “Graduate House”) to be his home, and cared for so much for it that his ashes were buried at his request in the Ashdown courtyard.

Most of the current residents of Ashdown weren’t even born during most of Doc Ashdown’s time as housemaster. Yet the story of his commitment, like the dozens of other stories about Ashdown, deeply connects residents with the history and culture of the place (see http://web.mit.edu/ashdown/history/ for more). A resident of Ashdown feels like part of a tradition. When residents of Ashdown move into the new building (Doc Ashdown was the housemaster of Graduate House, and his memory is associated with the Ashdown community, not the physical space), how do we make sure that the traditions and sense of history move to the new building along with the residents?

One part of Ashdown’s history that could provide lessons for future planning is the successful dining program. Ashdown used to have an exceptional dining hall that was closed down in the mid-70s when Lohle was created. The dining hall provided quality, affordability, and conveniences. Thirty years later, MIT has been unable to replicate the success of this program. Instead, we seem to have given up and instead of finding a way to make residential dining work for graduate students, the new “solution” is to put small kitchenettes in every apartment. Both options provide conveniences for students, but while the old Ashdown dining program promoted discussions and interaction, a kitchen in every room promotes isolation. This is one example of a larger issue. Instead of trying to provide sustainable, high quality programming (such as a good residential dining program), the Institute has often opted to spend even more money in investments that are sub-optimal in terms of long-term planning. Can’t we do better this time around?

A key part of Ashdown’s culture is the role of its housemaster. Yehuda Ashdown became the housemaster of Ashdown in 1991. During his time as housemaster, it is reported that he made all residents feel comfortable and willing to participate in a way that has yet to be replicated in any other graduate residence. No other member of AHEC is, or ever has been, more valuable in any way than any other resident of Ashdown. Issues in Ashdown are discussed in open forums, AHEC holds no secret meetings, and, unlike other student associations — these are all critical components of Ashdown’s unique culture that must be preserved.

Finally, in planning the new residence, one must understand how the physical characteristics of MIT’s underdorms define the space and community for the residents. Common spaces, like the open-air patio at Lobele, or the artsy Ear Pub, have been a critical element in this and the new residence must be able to accommodate this desired atmosphere. So far, Ashdown isn’t just sterile drywall and cheap carpeting in boxes that feel alike. When you enter into the building, it feels much more comfortable and inviting than an apartment building of MIT’s novel residence. To preserve the cultural traditions of Ashdown, it is important to consider the architectural heritage as well.

The decision to relocate Ashdown is final, but the plans for the new building are not. Students have successfully influenced Institute planning in the past and hold the opportunity to do so here; it just takes some passion and a willinger. This relocation can result in the destruction of the one of the oldest graduate communities in the country, just as there was a real threat to Harvard’s long and rich history. Which will it be?

Barun Singh is a graduate student and former housemaster of Ashdown. He welcomes comments and responses to this article at his Web site (http://barunsingh.com/).

Being Constructive With Cartoons

Wajahat F. Khan, Imran A. Hendley, Ali K. Alhassani, Nadeem A. Mazen

The “Cartoon Controversy” has garnered quite a bit of media attention over the last few weeks. The focus has been on the Muslim reactions to the cartoons, which included the Jewish boycott of Danish products, and violent riots in countries like Lebanon, Pakistan, and Indonesia. The Muslim Student Association Executive Committee has condemned the violent responses perpetrated by a minority of Muslims seeking to make an immediate response rather than an intelligent one. Islam teaches that one is not accountable for the actions of another: there is no Islamic basis for collective punishment.

There are many more reasons, but understanding exactly what type of impact it may have on the community. Even the Graduate Student Council seems unable to see beyond the number of beds and the rent, saying it would be “somewhat bizarre for graduate students to be displaced” about the relocation. The impact of Ashdown, however, goes far beyond monetary issues, and making this transition a success requires an appreciation for those things that make Ashdown so unique.

The impact of Ashdown, however, goes far beyond monetary issues, and making this transition a success requires an appreciation for those things that make Ashdown so unique.

In Tuesday’s edition of The Tech, Brian M. Loux G states that the media’s responsibility is to convey the truth and to facilitate dialogue, and if it chooses not to publish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, it is effectively putting censorship. The media simply does not see anything constructive in which everyone is entitled to his or her freedom of speech is an essential component of America’s long and rich history. Which will it be?

Many Muslim students at MIT were deeply hurt by the cartoons and were asking themselves: “what is the benefit of offending us, if no constructive dialogue is formed?” If the media genuinely wants to promote dialogue about the limits of tolerance in Islam, then it has found a way to make all residents feel comfortable and willing to participate in a way that has yet to be replicated in any other graduate residence. No other member of AHEC is, or ever has been, more valuable in any way than any other resident of Ashdown. Issues in Ashdown are discussed in open forums, AHEC holds no secret meetings, and, unlike other student associations — these are all critical components of Ashdown’s unique culture that must be preserved.

Finally, in planning the new residence, one must understand how the physical characteristics of MIT’s underdorms define the space and community for the residents. Common spaces, like the open-air patio at Lobele, or the artsy Ear Pub, have been a critical element in this and the new residence must be able to accommodate this desired atmosphere. So far, Ashdown isn’t just sterile drywall and cheap carpeting in boxes that feel alike. When you enter into the building, it feels much more comfortable and inviting than an apartment building of MIT’s novel residence. To preserve the cultural traditions of Ashdown, it is important to consider the architectural heritage as well.

The decision to relocate Ashdown is final, but the plans for the new building are not. Students have successfully influenced Institute planning in the past and hold the opportunity to do so here; it just takes some passion and a willinger. This relocation can result in the destruction of the one of the oldest graduate communities in the country, just as there was a real threat to Harvard’s long and rich history. Which will it be?

Barun Singh is a graduate student and former housemaster of Ashdown. He welcomes comments and responses to this article at his Web site (http://barunsingh.com/).
The fruits of this collaboration are now on display in the List Visual Arts Center. Caldwell does a glorious evocation of Big Thompson reservoirs, and his water spilling over the dam and down the hill is dramatic and beautiful. Yes, you’re in Urtown, a peri-apocalyptic pasquinade where the stars are piss, desperation, and poverty with a capital pee. How does a drought affect you? Does the water get to the people? Does it affect the way they live their lives? Does it change the way they think about the world and their place in it? The water crisis is a serious issue that affects millions of people around the world, and it is important to understand how it impacts the lives of the people who are affected. This piece asks important questions about the relationship between humans and nature, and it encourages us to think about our role in preserving the environment for future generations. It is a powerful reminder of the urgent need for action on climate change and the importance of protecting our natural resources.
CLASSICAL REVIEW

Beethoven Is King at Symphony Hall

BSO Steps Up to Challenging Program

By Jacqueline O'Connor

Though it started without much energy, the BSO's performance of Symphony No. 2 still showed the essence of early Beethoven and the classical influence. The Adagio molto that opens the piece was played with disinterest and strict rhythm, instead of a graceful melodic feel that one would expect. However, with the Allegro con brio, the second theme of the piece, the orchestra seemed to wake up, and despite some coordination issues between some of the string sections during the fast passages, the piece became much more enjoyable to listen to. The second movement followed in the vein of the opening of the first — introversion issues and a lack of misterioso and expression made this otherwise gorgeous movement sound quite sterile. Despite the faulty start, though, the last two movements were excellent. The pronounced dynamic contrasts and fun conversation between string sections highlighted the Scherzo movement. The piece ended with a fantastic Allegro molto where for the first time in the concert, the orchestra appeared to be enjoying the music it was playing.

Overall, the concert was shaping up to be very good. Though the winds could have played out more in the more melodic parts and the strings could have put more intrigue into the continuo parts, the BSO found a remarkable classical sound. As a result, the very enthusiastic audience responded well after the first piece.

Beethoven's concertos, for any instrument, are truly exceptional in the way they were written for the orchestra — until the soloists begin to play, the music is so rich and bold that one could mistake it for a symphony. This is certainly true in the opening of Beethoven's Triple Concerto, the second piece on Saturday evening's program. The soloists were a delightful bunch, the pianist was actually the son of the violinist, and the three of them certainly seemed to enjoy the performance. Who could blame them? This piece captures the best of both worlds — the excitement and virtuosity of the concerto and the intimacy and harmony of chamber music. There were many times, especially in the second and third movements, where the feel of a duet or a trio was so pronounced it was easy to forget that the orchestra was there at all.

For the most part, the soloists were excellent, especially in the final and most difficult movement. Rondo alla scherza. This movement featured a lively tempo and intricate textures where all three soloists seemed surprisingly comfortable and expressive. The cellist, Ralph Kirshbaum, stole the show, as was probably Beethoven's intention. All the movements feature gorgeous cello solos in a different register and instrument. Despite this, Kirshbaum was able to make the instrument project and sing quite beautifully. The pianist, Jonathan Biss, played quite expressively and especially well in the final movement. Unfortunately, violinist Miriam Fried was disappointed in comparison to the other two soloists. She had many intonation issues in the first two movements and despite the beautiful melodies in her part, she could not seem to produce a pleasing tone in the first and second movements. This changed, however, in the third when a brighter tone was called for. One could mistake it for a symphony. This is certainly true in the opening of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Op. 92. Levine chose the pieces for this program not only to highlight the brilliance of Beethoven, but also to show the progression of his work throughout the middle composing period of his life. In his program notes, Levine states that “planning all-Beethoven programs in the context of our Schoenberg/Schoenberg cycle afforded a special kind of opportunity — to choose not just any great Beethoven masterpieces that might work well in a single concert, but to program several of the composer's masterpieces that relate specifically to how he developed or adjusted his musical style and language at different times in his career.” Levine's goal was certainly realized throughout the night, as it was very clear from the programming, as well as the artistic interpretation of the works, that a metamorphosis was happening in the work of this legendary composer.
By Alice Macdonald

Eight Below

Directed by Frank Marshall
Screenplay by David Dignan
Starring Paul Walker, Jason Biggs, Moon Bloodgood
With Disney Pictures
Rated PG
Now Playing

K. I admit it. I did not decide to re- view Disney's latest inspiring Antarc- tica adventure film out of my love for the genre with their requisite “Disney” elements — including a gag-inducing scene featuring a shooting star, which made me fear one of the characters would spontaneously break out into a rendition of “When You Wish Upon a Star.” I am happy to say that even Disney can't com- pletely ruin a good thing; if you need an escape from the banalities of everyday life, then this film is sure to bring a smile to your face.

Above all, “Eight Below” is a nature mov- ie set in the antarctic, a landscape that I am not well-versed in. However, after reading the reviews, I decided to watch it. It was a good decision. The film opened with a view of the antarctic, a place that I had never seen before. The camera then panned over the landscape, showing the beauty of the place.

The plot begins with a UCLA scientist ar- rivaling to look for a meteorite from Mercury — an incentive I found to be a lot. Although it is late in the season, Gerry decides to take the scientist to a mountain for his research, despite the dangerous weather conditions. The dogs lead them to the peak, where the scientist finds his dumb rock and there is some obvious fore- shadowing about scary leopard seal moments to come. Several exciting Antarctic minutes later, Gerry, the scientist, the rock, and the dogs barely make it back to the main camp. They are all forced to evacuate sans pooches because of an impending storm!

From here on, the movie gets better. The hu- mans take a backseat and the viewers are treated to some terrific canine acting. Each dog has a developed personality and I felt more compas- sion for a dog than any relative. It's an important and inexplicable omission, especially given that Kenya's parents are fostered prominently.

To be fair, for a brief moment Brian lets his utopian guard down and shows that he is a believ- able character, with sensitivities and prejudices. This is the best scene in the film. Too bad it's only about two minutes out of 99. Those in the movie who are racist or prejudiced, such as the fat old white guy who blatantly refuses to trust Kenya with his finances, are mere caricatures. Notably, there's his polar opposite: Kenya's boss, who is, if possible, even more pure than Brian, and staunchly stands by Kenya's every decision. These characters are about as convincing as a politician's pledge during an election year.

Technically, the movie is unspectacular, sometimes downright bad. During one scene the camera dizzyingly circles the characters for 3 full minutes, and the damn thing can never seem to focus on Brian's face. Editing, music, composition — all mediocre.

“Something New” is a movie designed for the Consensus Narrative system. The problem is, film is no longer the consensus medium. In fact, it hasn't been since television started tak- ing over in the fifties. The film doesn't need to trivialize its discussion. Look at “Crash,” a film that deals with race in a much more seri- ous and systematic way. Don't get me wrong — I don't think “Crash” is a truly great movie. But it sure is better than this crap.

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**FILM REVIEW**

**Monkey Business for Adults**

*Curious George* Entertains All Ages

By Yongyi Zhu

*Curious George*

Directed by Matthew O'Callaghan

Written by Robert Baird and Dan Gerson

Based on the book "Curious George" by H.A. and Margret Rey

Rated PG

Now Playing

W

calling Curious George from our childhood, the little monkey whose allergy for the unknown constantly got him into trouble. He entertained us with his adventures and his daring outlook on whatsoever he wanted to do. Sadly, when the book had as much courage as that little monkey. However, now comes George to us on the big screen.

The question is whether we, now adults, can sit through an hour and a half of watching a non-talking, talking monkey. The answer is No.

The movie is based on the book by H.A. and Margret Rey, who owned the wardrobe, I can't wait to go back to the big city with Ted. George then gets the museum guide into all sorts of trouble, as he causes the man to be evicted from his apartment and destroys a dinosaur display at the museum. The question is, however, whether Ted will be able to save the museum and put his career and life back on track.

The movie would have lost much of its appeal had the voice-overs not been effective. Will Ferrell was decent, as he somehow managed to convince the audience to take him seriously. The funniest character by far is voiced by Eugene Levy, whose portrayal of the scientist Chovis adds to George's playful antics to make for some of the funniest scenes in the movie.

Drew Barrymore, however, did a horrible job as the schoolteacher. Maggie. Instead of portraying a legitimate teacher, Barrymore showcases her somewhat ditsy personality in her voice, where 'Feve Pave' means 'Never Been Kissed'. Thank goodness her character was only a small part of the movie.

The most delightful aspect of the movie, by far, is the music. Jack Johnson did a terrific job of not only capturing the childlikeness of the film, but also the emotions that went along with it: despair, joy, and nostalgia. Before long, you may find yourself going out to buy the soundtrack to a movie that is quite funny and enjoyable, even to those over the age of five.

**Weak Script Hinders Film About Immorality**

Unconquering Conflicts and Acting in 'A Good Woman'

By Parama Pal

*A Good Woman*

Directed by Mike Barker

Written by Howard Himelstein

Starring Helen Hunt, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Wilkinson, Stephen Campbell Moore, Mark Umbers

Rated R

Now playing

S

et in the 1960s, Mike Barker's "A Good Woman" addresses the issue of what defines a good woman relative to rules of societal morality. Based on Oscar Wilde's play "Lady Windermere's Fan," the story begins with a trio of ladies gossiping about the notorious Mrs. Erlynne (Helen Hunt) and how she makes fortune through countless affairs with various men to support her. Meanwhile, another man (Tom Wilkinson) courts Erlynne, in hopes that she will accept his hand in marriage.

As the story continues, family secrets come to light and the ways in which the characters deal with them make up the true meat of the movie. Scenes change without any transitions, and as a result, the story is stilted and obvious. Despite the title "A Good Woman," the first two-thirds of the film focus on portraying Erlynne as immoral and materialistic, unfortunately this time could have been much better spent developing the scenes and interactions between the characters.

Hunt was only given a few obvious attempts to develop her character through the second half of the film, and her script was somewhat cumberrous. Her artificial lines rob her of a certain sincerity that is essential to addressing the movie's main question: what defines a good woman?

Johansson delivers an average performance, seeming excessively innocent and naive, a poor appointment considering her reputation. Other actors do better, most notably Wilkinson, whose performance is without a doubt the best in the film.

Unfortunately, the film ends too neatly, falling into the classic Hollywood trap of building up conflict and then giving every character an easy way out. "A Good Woman" is too predictable and corny, an interesting premise, but one that could have been far better presented.

Scarlett Johansson's dress sparkles more than her acting in this production of "A Good Woman."

**FILM REVIEW**

**The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**

By Yongyi Zhu

Rated G

Now Playing

**Georges**'s curiosity helps him make a new friend in this film version about the classic children's books character.

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**

Written by C.S. Lewis

Directed by Andrew Adamson

Produced by Andrew Adamson and Andrew McDonald

Based on the book "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis

Rated PG

Now Playing

The most delightful aspect of the movie, by far, is the music. Jack Johnson did a terrific job of not only capturing the childlikeness of the film, but also the emotions that went along with it: despair, joy, and nostalgia. Before long, you may find yourself going out to buy the soundtrack to a movie that is quite funny and enjoyable, even to those over the age of five.

**ARTS**

February 17, 2006
Trio by Emezie Okorafor

Oh, hi, B-Chan! It looks like your allergies have worn off!
Yup! Just in time for Valentine's Day weekend! Look what I got for you!

A trip to a ski resort in Maine!
Oh, B-Chan, how ROMANTIC I can picture it now! A quiet, beautiful cabin up in the mountains... just you, me, and a warm fire...

Hey, wait a second... there's only one ticket in here. This must be some sort of mistake!
Oh... yeah, I guess I did make a mistake...

...I originally planned not to be in the room when you opened that. Whoops.

HEY! THIS IS A ONE WAY TICKET!

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by Juan Pablo Mendieta

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Pulse
Waves from the MotherLand

February 18, 2006
Kresge Auditorium-MIT
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Show starts @ 7:30pm
Tracking programs for possible future minority faculty candidates need to be developed, several professors recommended at Wednesday’s meeting of the faculty. The faculty’s recommendations were a part of a larger discussion that emerged from Provost Rafael Reif’s January cre-
tation of two committees charged with analyzing and improving minority faculty at MIT.

The suggestion to escalate the identification and tracking of future potential faculty candidates among undergraduate and graduate minority students as early as possible was oft-repeated in the faculty's discuss-
ion with the chairs of the two com-
mittees.

The faculty resolved in 2004 to double the candidate of minority fac-
ulty, and the new committee chairs are aiming to accomplish this goal. “A factor of two is a strong indication of success,” said Professor Wesley L. Harris, chair of the Committee on the Retention of Minority Faculty.

Paula T. Hammond, chair of the Minority Faculty Recruitment Com-
mittee, agreed. “There are 25 or 30 minority faculty now — fifty would be great,” she said.

Coordinating the minority faculty hiring efforts of all of the Institute’s departments is another focus of the committees. Harris, Course 16 (Aero-

nautics and Astronautics) department head, said he would like to see all of MIT what he sees now in his own department — “a full-court press” on

To recruit more minority faculty, MIT may have to take “odd and uncomfortable” measures, said Chancellor Clay.

junior faculty members they wanted to retain. Reif also said his com-
mittee will interview current minorities on the faculty and develop systems for tracking their progress.

Both committees have been charged to report on the minority faculty hiring environment at MIT by May 1, and to propose an action plan for 2007 implementation by October.

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75 said that it might be necessary to do something “odd and uncomfort-
able” to foster minority faculty at MIT. He described his experience as part of Boston area law firms: “total embrace committee” in a past minor-
ity recruitment drive, when he winced and dined candidate senior partners for the law firms, and was well aware of his “just a face” at the re-
cruiting events.

Clay suggested that one imped-
iment to recruiting minorities may not be obstacles internal to MIT, but the lack of suitable lifestyle and collegial opportunities in Boston.

After the minority faculty hiring discussion, President Susan Hock-
field recounted to the faculty her ex-
periences from a January trip to China, and reported increased opportunities for MIT to engage itself internation-
ally, especially in China. She also said that William B. Bonvillian, new director of MIT's Washington, D.C. office, planned to expand the MIT/ Washington DC Summer Intern Pro-
gram.

The faculty also unanimously approved Professor Douglas A. Lauffenburger’s motion that the Bio-
logical Engineering Division assume Course number 20.
Companies Plan Heavy Recruiting for Programmers

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7:30 pm in 4-163

*Dinner will be served*

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CEO, Mavens & Moguls

Tabetha McCrarney
Vice President, Commercial Real Estate, Brookline Bank

Shannon Music
Harvard Business School

Kathrina Pugh
Intel® Solution Services Worldwide Knowledge & Project Management Practice Team

NSUW establishes a network of Sloan women undergraduates, faculty, alumnae, and professionals to empower career development. We will support members in their personal and professional pursuits during and after their years at MIT.
Since the age of 8, Carl C. Dietrich ‘99 has wanted to be an aerospace engineer. “The dream that did not come true, but it was always in the back of my mind,” he says. This year, he has fulfilled that dream.

The recent MIT graduate has been named “the most outstanding graduate student in MIT’s Aeronautics-Astronautics Program” by a panel of scientists and technologists who chose Dietrich for his “portfolio of novel inventions,” including not just the flying car but also a desktop-size fusion reactor and a low-cost rocket engine.

Dietrich, 29, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s youngest Nobel laureate, is the second MIT student to win the prestigious $30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize. The 2005 winner was Paul S. Dietrich, a computer science graduate student, to join the team a pair of students from MIT’s Sloan School of Management, Alex B. Ma G and Arun Prakash G.

The prize is given to the winner of the Transition, which is best for the conversion of an automobile into a flying machine. Dietrich and his partners have added to the team a pair of students from MIT’s Sloan School of Management, Alex B. Ma G and Arun Prakash G. The team concludes that the time is right for a flying car. Study after study finds that America’s roads are increasingly clogged with traffic. To get on or off or leisure trips of a few hundred miles, many travelers squander half a day traveling by plane, train, or car. Moreover, a flying car, the team concludes, can help reduce the carbon footprint and be environmentally friendly.

While the MIT researchers are finalizing the design of their flying car, they have tested their vehicle on the road. They have two vehicles: one a small car with a small engine and the other a larger car with a larger engine. The team has completed bench testing and is now testing the vehicles on the road.

The team has also been working on the development of a new material that can be used to make the car’s body, which is made of a combination of aluminum and carbon fiber. The material is lightweight and strong, and it can be molded into any shape.

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On Wednesday, MIT students and Cambridge community members questioned Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., mainly focusing on Middle Eastern politics and the world oil industry.

Thursday's Q&A session followed Turki's lecture in a packed Bartos theater, hosted by Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61, who introduced Prince Turki, was Director of Central Intelligence from 1995 to 1996, and worked directly with Turki, who from 1977 to 2001 was head of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Directorate.

In his introduction, Deutch said he "dramatically learned to respect the opinions and wisdom of Prince Turki." Perhaps the most widely anticipated subject the ambassador took up was oil. "We are at a time of economic expansion, and what enables this growth is oil," he said. "Saudi Arabia will supply as much oil as the world demands," he emphasized. However, he also recognized that "oil is a finite resource" and said that the kingdom's "infinite resource was our people." To that end, Prince Turki said, Saudi Arabia had recently embarked on a number of educational initiatives. Now under construction is Faisal University, Saudi Arabia's first truly private non-profit university. He also mentioned that recently the Saudi government began a large scholarship program to fund the college education of Saudi citizens in the U.S., noting that over 5,000 Saudis have applied for student visas in the U.S. in the past year. Of those, 192 will be coming to the Massachusetts area.

Prince Turki also emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to following the conclusions of 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference — a 56-nation diplomatic assembly of Islamic nations which confers on common issues facing its members — specifically, to fight terrorism, implement political and economic reforms, and to take back Islam from the "extremist element" which has "subverted our religion.

Prince Turki entertained questions from the audience for nearly 20 minutes. Most came from MIT students interested in democratization in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Lebanon. Saudi Arabia had been directly involved in both Syria and Iraq's nascent democratization.

In presenting Saudi Arabia's own recent efforts towards democratization, Turki noted that in the kingdom's next elections, women will enjoy suffrage for the first time. He used Alfred North Whitehead's quote, that "the art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, speaks to a packed audience at the Bartos Theater in E15 yesterday afternoon.

DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to the United States, speaks to a packed audience at the Bartos Theater in E15 yesterday afternoon.


david@the-tech.mit.edu

The Production Department’s Word of the Day

fulminous, adj.: Of or pertaining to thunder and lightning; fulminating.

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**Dorm Would Improve Graduate Community**

Energy, from Page 1

breakout sessions on what issues they wanted to see the Energy Initiative target. “There was considerable interest from industry and a desire to collaborate,” with MIT, said Monza, who added that industry professionals seemed to feel MIT would have a particularly strong influence as a broker between groups.

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W20-483
Frank Moss Named New Director of MIT Media Lab

MIT has tapped entrepreneur and technology executive Frank Moss as the new director of the MIT Media Laboratory. Moss, 56, has run software, computer, and life sciences companies during a 25-year business career. He has also contributed to projects that can be quickly commercialized. At the media lab, companies that want to see research accelerated and having the work sponsored by different types of sponsors. "You have to strike a balance between the lab's stalling campaigns to expand in other countries. Under Negroponte, who remains a professor at the lab, media lab officials have declined from 1990s levels, though commercialized. media lab officials have spent more on fields that will have a broad impact on society in the coming decade. Moss said he also hoped to increase the number and type of sponsors, complete fund-raising to build a new media lab building, forge stronger relations with other MIT labs, and accelerate efforts to push media lab research into the marketplace.

"In many ways, it's a business," Moss said, suggesting the media lab may conduct more research into projects of interest to its corporate sponsors. "You have to strike a balance between academic freedom and doing different types of research, and having the work sponsored by companies that want to see research commercialized. At the media lab, we may have to go a step further and try to do more of the past and build prototypes with sponsors."

The media lab, which opened in 1985, has pioneered cutting-edge research in electronic ink, wearable computing, digital and holographic video, electronic field sensing, and wireless networks. During the 1990s, hundreds of companies that the world funded media lab research and sent representatives to Kendall Square in Cambridge to seek out research on fields like aging, health care, and education.

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Olympic Skaters Overcome Fall, Restart Program and Win Silver

By Yong-yi Zhu

The most amazing display of tri- umph over adversity happened Mon- day night in Torino, Italy. When Chi- nese figure skating pair Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao completed their free skate, they had not only won the hearts of the audience, but also should have won the hearts of everyone who has ever faced any significant challenge.

Allow me to explain.

Monday night in America has al- ways symbolized toughness and grit- tiness in the form of football. Large men use all their strength to together achieve a common goal. Every Mon- day night, we watch the games be- cause they define toughness, and the athletes serve as role models.

That's what I thought of Mon- day nights up until this time, when Olympic pairs figure skating com- pletely put football in the backseat and rocked my world. True, not many of us pay that much attention to the pairs competition. What could they do that would compete with the heights on the jump? Yet the two continued to train for Torino. They didn't want to dump everything they had worked for, and although Zhao couldn't even skate until about three months ago, they were there, with seven kills and six aces. Yu was unable to walk on the ice, suffering a concussion. But the French judge intentionally docked points from Canadian team Jamie Salé and David Pelletier. What could they have done to top the story of last Olym- pic's pairs figure skating, when the French judge intentionally docked points from Canadian team Jamie Salé and David Pelletier? The Skategate scandal ran so deep that the entire points system for figure skat- ing was altered.

Well, we can look at all three medalists teams to show why this event is truly inspirational.

Take the Russian gold medal- ists Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin. During Skate America over- ning was altered. Their program nos- sibly figure skating pair Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao. They didn't have any major mishaps come- ing into Monday night, but boy did they bring the drama. At the opening of their program, Zhang and Zhang attempted a throw quadruple Sal- chow, something never accomplished in Olympic history. The height on the jump looked good, until Zhang Dan came down, missed the landing and banged her knee hard on the ice. She crashed into the wall and the entire program just stopped. I held my breath, and I'm sure many of the audience mem- bers did the same as they wondered what would happen. Surely, their medal prospects were over. However, even in tears, Zhang Dan told her coach and her partner that she would continue. After the program restarted, the pair continued from the crash landing and performed a double-triple jump combina- tion, combining amaz- ing twists in the air and beau- tiful lifts. You could tell that Zhang Dan was in pain at the end of the program, because she came out of some of her elements a little early, but her heart and her courage were still there. Now they have an Olymp- ic silver medal to show.

I have never witnessed something so dramatic as this. To watch her fall that hard and rise again all in the span of about ten minutes was amazing. And to pairs figure skat- ing, I say congratulations for pro- viding us with such heroes and for reboiling from something so ter- rible as Skategate to captivate us all once again.

The Chinese bronze medalists Zhao Hongbo and Shen Xue also had to overcome hardships. About six months ago, they were one of the favorite teams for Olympic gold, along with Tatiana and Maxim. But during practice, Zhao ruptured his Achilles heel, and just like that, Olympics dreams immedi- ately turned to dust.

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