Bexley Hall closing due to structural problems

Ravonations to take up to three years, residents must move out at end of the semester

By Leon Lin and Bruno B.F. Faviero

Bexley Hall, home to 46 undergraduates, will be closed for renovations for up to three years beginning this summer, Dean of Undergraduate Education Chris Columbus announced at a meeting with residents on Tuesday.

"Safety is so crucial here. If there are worrisome signs of additional deterioration, we need to act on that," Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 said.

The decision to close Bexley was prompted by structural problems with the building uncovered during inspections conducted last month by facilities and outside consultants, according to Columbus.

The inspectors and repairs to Bexley are part of a larger capital renewal program to chew down a backlog of deferred maintenance, which is in part focused on roadway, building façades and envelopes.

Responding to the news of the timing of the announcement, Grimson told The Tech that the administration had only received the engineering report on April 28.

"We did get it out as quickly as we can," Grimson answered. "Despite the incurred lead, Grimson said that there would be space in the other dorms for any Bexley students who wants to continue to live on campus. "We knew this was going to be a temporary measure," said Columbus, "and how much of a temporary measure it is needs to be a conversation within the faculty committee and to residents."

Residential Life has asked freshmen to plan ahead to work with assignment chairs to find clusters of rooms, preferably singles and doubles, for Bexley residents. Most dorms can accommodate groups of eight to ten residents, but Mas.

Sal Khan talks education styles

Khan Academy founder gives talk at his alma mater

By Kath Xu

On Wednesday, Salman A. Khan '98, founder of Khan Academy and what he's doing now. He fielded questions from MIT President Rafael Reif, who interviewed him on the stage of Kresge Auditorium.

Reif's first question asked Khan to reflect on how his years at MIT influenced his current career path.

"You come here and some of the stereotypes don't hold true. I found that this is one of the warm places ever. I really felt like I was coming to a community," according to Khan.

Khan, within a week of arriving on campus, MIT opened up his mind to the possibility of tackling problems on a large scale. He took an active role while here, making sure to explore both inside and outside the classroom. He participated in LeaderShape—a Independent Activities Period (IAP) leadership retreat—and was president of his senior class.

"I love this place to death, but it's an intense environment," admitted Khan. "Some of my most memorable and deepest learning experiences at MIT were during IAP," said Khan, adding that he has no regrets about his undergraduate experience. "I met my wife here, I met so many people, that," laughed Khan. "We're 10 years in, it's all good!"

But the heart of the talk was about Khan's vision for education. Like many educators, he doesn't think that lectures are the way students should learn.

"The most important part of the learning process is problem-solving, peer tutoring, working on things with your hands," stated Khan.

Khan, Page 15

FEATURE

Going abroad from MIT

Adventures of studying abroad far far away

By Derek Chang

When Jenny Shen '13 studied abroad in Paris, she engaged in important discussions about important issues.

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"CME was definitely my first choice—my priority was getting exposure to as many different perspectives and backgrounds," said Shen, "and our discussions were about important issues where historical thinkers hosted their debates. "I used to walk by the café where Sartre frequented," Shen recalls.

Shen studied at the Sciences Po in Paris through one of many MIT-affiliated partnerships during the 2012 spring semester. "What was so exceptional about the conversations I had was that all of the (students) came from countries around the world and had vastly different viewpoints and backgrounds," said Shen, "and our discussions were about important issues where historical thinkers hosted their debates. "I used to walk by the café where Sartre frequented," Shen recalls.

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Selecting an abroad program

MIT offers several tailored study abroad programs through partnerships with foreign universities. The year-long Cambridge-MIT Exchange Program (CME)—which 13 of MIT's departments participate in—is MIT's most established study abroad program.

Since its inception in 2006, more than 600 students have participated in CME. The close linkage of CME with individual college departments helps ensure that students receive transfer credit that does not put them behind on their academic schedule.

Meghan E. Kenny '13, a Course 10 (Chemical Engineering) student who participated in CME, said she considered the program because it was the first program she knew about. "Many of the other programs offered are geared more towards HASS classes, and CME fits better with my major requirements," she added.

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Karzai says US can keep Afghan bases after 2014

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan is ready to let the United States and its allies keep military bases here after the end of the NATO combat mission next year, President Hamid Karzai said Thursday, offering a concrete public signal that foreign forces would remain welcome in the coming years.

The United States and NATO are negotiating a security agreement that would allow U.S. forces to stay here beyond the end of 2014, and Karzai said the Obama administration has asked for nine bases spread across the country. “We agree to give them these bases,” Karzai told students during a visit to Kabul’s American University. “We consider our relations with the United States beyond 2014 to be positive for Afghanistan.”

The U.S. reaction, though, was far less positive than what one would expect. Officials cited Karzai’s comments as premature, at best, and said they appeared to reflect the Afghan government’s desire to keep a larger force than the United States is likely willing to commit.

The Obama administration has yet to decide how large a force it would like to keep in Afghanistan, but administration officials have signaled that it is unlikely to total more than 10,000 service members.


$8 million bail for Cleveland kidnapping suspect

By Trip Gabriel, Sergei P. Kousavelis and Emma G. Fitzsimmons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CLEVELAND — A man accused of kidnapping and raping three women later found alive in his home after a decade of captivity was ordered held on $8 million bail Thursday.

The man, Ariel Castro, 52, appeared in court for the first time since his arrest during an arrangement hearing in municipal court in Cleveland. Castro did not speak and kept his head down and his eyes lowered during the proceedings.

The hearing came a day after Castro was charged with the rape and kidnapping of Amanda Berry, 30, and Michelle Knight, 11 years; and said other video makers would soon be able to set up their own channels. “As we roll out wider and as we roll out self-serve, you’ll see a lot of innovation,” he said, predicting that homogenized home videos with fan followings would choose to set up paid channels.

By Anne Barnard

WASHINGTON — The leader of He-zbollah, the powerful Lebanese militant group, escalated tensions with Israel on Thursday, saying over the recent Israeli airstrikes near Damas-cus, suggesting that the Syrian government would respond by providing Hezbollah fighters with more sophisticated weapons. He said his group’s alliance with Syria and Iran as one of its most potent security threats.

In a televised speech, Nasral-lah said the transfer of the weap-on would be Syria’s “strategic re-sponse” to the airstrikes that hit the outskirts of Damascus on Sunday. Israel has not publicly acknowledged responsibility for those strikes, but Israeli leaders have said they would take military action to prevent Hezbollah from obtaining long-range missiles from Iran. Those weapons are feared to be chemical arms, which Syria is believed to possess in large quantities, and sophisticated long-range missiles that could hit Israel from the dense Hezbollah-controlled areas of southern Lebanon.

Analysts close to Hezbollah said they believed Nasrallah was referring to long-range missiles, not chemical munitions. The bombing of Hezbollah weapons depots was considered a major setback for Israel in the 1967 war.

—David Carr, The New York Times

Hezbollah threatens Israel over Syria strikes

YouTube's pay channels include "Sesame Street"

By Shanae Berlin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

YouTube on Thursday detailed its plan to let producers sell paid subscriptions to their videos, creating a prominent new market in paying for content on the Internet.

The streaming video website, a unit of Google, said the first paid video channels would come online Thursday afternoon, and said other video makers would soon be able to set up their own channels. "As we roll out wider and as we roll out self-serve, you’ll see a lot of innovation," he said, predicting that homogenized home videos with fan followings would choose to set up paid channels.

By Shanae Berlin

Unsettled weather this weekend

Today should be mostly clear and warm, with a high temperature near 80°F (27°C). It will be necessary to install air conditioning! Af-ter today, the air will remain humid as the weather takes a turn for the worse. Expect rain showers and thunderstorms on Saturday, ahead of a cold front that will move in Saturday night. Sunday: CCs cooler and cloudy, with some rain possible. Such weather is not confined to New England, fore-casts predict precipitation in 47 of the continental U.S. states in the next 36 hours.

By Shanae Berlin

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and warm. High near 81°F (27°C). SW winds 10 to 20 mph. 

Tonight: Overcast with rain showers and fog. Low near 60°F (16°C). East winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow: Cloudy with a chance of rain showers and thun-derstorms. High around 79°F (26°C). Low around 58°F (14°C). Winds 10 to 15 mph. 

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of morning show-ers. High near 70°F (21°C). Low near 45°F (7°C). W winds around 10 mph. 

Minnesota House approves same-sex marriage

By Monica Davey

The Minnesota House of Representatives on Thursday voted to permit same-sex marriage, clearing the way to add Minnesota to a string of states that have recently made it legal for gay and lesbian couples to wed.

The House, which is controlled by Democrats, approved the measure 75-59, dividing mostly along party lines.

In recent months, as the debate over same-sex marriage emerged in St. Paul, a capital newly dominated by Democrats, the outcome in the House had been seen as most uncertain. State Senate leaders said that the outlook is more assured in the chamber and that they expect to approve same-sex marriage next month. Gov. Mark Dayton, a Democrat, signed an executive order to allow same-sex weddings starting Aug. 1.

If the measure is approved, Minnesota would become the 12th state in addition to the District of Columbia, to permit marriages for gay and lesbian couples and the third to decide to do so, along with Delaware and Rhode Island, this month alone.

Minnesota would also become the first state in the middle of the nation to make such a choice through legislative action. Elsewhere in the Midwest, Iowa allows same-sex marriage, but that was decided in court.

The action came a day after Republicans on the Environment and Public Works Committee, led by the ranking member, Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana, blocked a committee meeting to consider the nomination of Gina McCarthy, the president’s pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

The eight Republicans on the Environment and Public Works Committee, in an effort to approve McCarthy’s nomination without any Republicans present and to stall tactics to deny confirmation, held up a committee vote on the Senate floor.

Democrats are likely to regroup and try to approve McCarthy’s nomination along party lines, but it is unclear whether they could clear a 60-vote threshold on the Senate floor.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the majority leader, accused Republicans of using procedural roadblocks and stall tactics to deny confirmation to qualified nominees.

Bank of England leaves benchmark interest rate unchanged

LONDON — With the British economy showing feeble signs of resilience and a new central bank governor waiting in the wings, the Bank of England decided Thursday to keep its benchmark interest rate and its economic stimulus program unchanged.

The central bank left its interest rate at 0.5 percent, a record low, and also held its program of bond-buying at 775 billion pounds or about $58 billion. The stimulus program, also known as quantitative easing, frees more money for lending to businesses and individuals.

Some economists expect the Bank of England to expand its stimulus program later this year to help the recovery, while others said recent economic data were encouraging and that further stimulus might not be necessary.

“There are broad improvements in business sentiment and with equity markers heading to new highs, we are not expecting anything” until Mark Carney takes over as governor of the Bank of England in July, said James Knightley, an economist at ING Bank in London.


Family-planning officials investigate Chinese film director

BEIJING — China’s most celebrated film director, Zhang Yimou, is being investigated for a potential violation of family-planning laws, according to state news media reports that were confirmed by an official Thursday.

Family-planning officials are examining discussions on the Internet that say Zhang has fathered up to seven children with four women. If he is found to have violated the laws, he could be fined nearly $27 million because the fines are based on the offender’s income, according to a report on the Web version of People’s Daily, whose print edition is the official mouthpiece of the Communist Party.

An official in a propaganda office attached to the family-planning committee of Jiangsu province, near Shanghai on the east coast, confirmed the substance of the People’s Daily online report, which was published Wednesday. The official said further details could be provided by the family-planning committee of Wuxi, the city where Chen Ting, Zhang’s second wife, is officially registered as a resident.

Although the family-planning laws generally restrict urban families to one child, many rural families and ethnic minorities are allowed to have more than one without penalty. Xinhua, the state news agency, said Thursday that the local family-planning committee might release the results of their investigation into Zhang “soon.”

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions should be addressed to the Tech's Web site and/or printed or published TO REACH US letters@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions should be addressed to the Tech's Web site and/or printed or published TO REACH US letters@tech.mit.edu.

A thank you to the MIT community

Since about the sixth grade, when I first attended ESP Splash (Sorry about that bit of deception, it was smaller and less strict then), I have been spending time intermittently with MIT students. I look just about everywhere I go and there is a problem: I have to offer. Splash and Spark and Junction and Delve and HSSP I liked MIT, and I spent more time there and I have the most high school LSC showing of Transformers. I got a fresher and when I moved to the United Model United Nations you were kind enough to host four- so perhaps I spent a spent time with your- but I am not even a few- I have a few deadlines and hanging out and events and hanging out for MIT over for six years now.

Thus all people have been free, caring, and fantastically busy. I have learned that if I ask an MIT student a question about anything almost, I will almost always be shown the roof, and the lovely view of the city at night, because they have a place I want to know wanted to cheer me up. I read the copy. I own wanted to know if I could attend them. I was going to read Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. I am a thought, that there is space in my heart for the people who have helped in so many small ways.

So, please do not be opening to the public, and letting high school students to meet you, and thank you for being brilliant and warm. Thank you.

Tham, Jolly, Scheller

On seeding from DormCon

To the statements in The Tech regarding the decision that the Marshall Hall Execu- tive Council (MEEC) made to seed from DormCon. While it is true that MEEC made a quick vote during our previous meet- ing, it was a decision that was months into our discussions. Our informing of the dorm and the Tech was unfortunately delayed, and we hope to clear up the reasoning why we decided to leave DormCon.

1. Budget Concerns: As we have over 400 residents (with even more next year), at $5 per person, the cost to participate, we were push- ing a larger negative compared to other dorms even before any benefits.

2. We have not been allowed to partici- pate in fines, and therefore received very little benefit from DormCon during the period.

3. While DormCon has a fund (approx-imately $40,000) from which they can give grants for events, there is no formal way of applying for these, and there was no ap- proval at the beginning of the current year (Taken from the previous three years of DormCon budgets). $5,000 for Steer Room, $2,000 for Piano, and D400 for and D400).

Bexley, we love you!

Devastated... absolutely devastated. I am writing this letter to the people at Bexley and the community that I fit with until I landed increasingly unhappy at MIT and I had no other option but to leave. I am writing this here, so that anyone can see the same way of the roommates and students at Bexley feel.

It just must not be... I have a partner who has found this place to be an amazing community that has embraced her and made her days better, too.

My parents are excited about the birth of a child, and we were so excited to have Bexley as part of our family. The students and us are looking forward to hav- ing a new member of Bexley. Believe it or not, we were looking forward to our child taking its first steps down the grassy hallway, walking in the rumbling music, and looking at those things. Thank you for being brilliant and warm. Thank you.

Bexley, we love you!

Unfair and unimportant

To the esteemed housing office members, Dean Hastings, Dean Co- tomor, and Chancellor Gillmann. MIT has suffered a recent MIT senior living in Boston. I’m writing to express concern over the recent announcement of Bexley house being handled.

It is inappropriate of the nature of the announcement, to at least present a decision of this magnitude to the Bexley house residents and the lack of warning it had. You have forced hardworking, dedicated students into position of making a year long decision on housing in a matter of hours. Further, this decision that must now be, is presented at the worst of possible times. The crunch weeks leading up to finals are among the most stressful and stretched for time of any in the year, and making that with their health- ness is shameful in the least.

The first words on the housing web- site are as follows: “At the core of the MIT housing experience is a powerful sense of community.”

The Bexley community was by far one of the closest and family like communi- ties in our entire university. This information should have been pre- sented months if not a year in advance in order to give our students a chance at preserving what, to them, really is their family. Instead they have been taken completely off guard, with no chance at all, achieving what could be described as the “decency” housing situation. They are forced to choose between moving into a smaller dorm, not being able to know, or being able to find independent housing far in the game. This is not how we should treat our students. This isn’t even how we should treat our friends. If you as an officer would like to claim a community, then you should follow through and do things right for those students. Any response is appreciated, and thank you for your time.

Patrick's '13

Letters to the editor

4. DormCon spent an excessive amount of money on their personalized buses ($4000), none of which benefited Maseeh as a whole.

5. We believe the oversized executive council does a poor job of representing their constituents, often giving more merit to the louder opinions rather than the most sound.

Even though we are no longer a voting member of DormCon, we still remain a member dorm and will continue to be in- vested and committed to the improvement of the dorms and housing for everyone.

We believe in helping out our commu- nity and providing opportunities for other dorms and groups throw events, but we believed that the forced redistribution of wealth from DormCon to our benefit did not meet the needs of our residents; and that’s why our decision was made.

MEEC Clay Goggia ‘15(President), Konala Dhillon ‘15 (Vice President), Bruno Reuss ‘13 (Parliamentarian), Joseph Abad ‘13 (Treasurer), Lauren Mozer ‘15 (Secretary), Maggie O’Grady ‘16 (Freshman Rep), Austin Fathman ‘15 (Voting Member At Large)

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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 letters, condense shorter letters, shorten longer letters that will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and The Tech reserves the right to return letters. Letters may be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or that may be developed in the future by The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to post all the letters received.

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To reach us

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Dear Non-Bexlians and Non-Bexlietes

Although Bexley has its fair share of problems, the community is my family.

By Nicole Power

You are lucky to have been spared from the time living in Bexley.

There are many things I dislike about Bexley. For one, the radiators are always completely off when it’s snowing and cold, and full-blast when it’s warm out, so the temperature of my room is rarely comfortable. It’s unfortunate that the knobs on the radiators are merely for show. It’s also unfortunate that each year when the radiators go on, they spew noxious fumes that are “not toxic, just water.” Another dear set of faulty appliances is our washing machines which regularly end their cycle with my clothes sitting in a large pool of gray water. I would perhaps opt to hand-wash my clothing, but my bathtub is somehow incapable of trapping in water, so washing machine it is. This sopping pile of clothes of course takes about nine dry cycles in our dryers, but the machines will only let you run up to seven cycles at a time. While waiting for my clothes to dry, the housewife in me may desire to bake cookies, but I’ve yet to find a cookie sheet for sale that fits in my Fischer-Price oven.

Don’t get me wrong — some of Bexley’s faults are very convenient. I sometimes feel awkward walking past three to four people every morning while I walk-of-shame through their suites in yesterday’s clothes. BUT there’s usually a burnt-out light in at least one of the hallways, so I have the pleasure of being partially obscured in darkness. To be honest though, most of Bexley knows how I look right out of bed regardless because La Verde’s only sets off our fire alarms between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m., most often just after I’ve fallen asleep. I could probably go on for a while — the basement floor is more often sticky than not; no matter how much I clean the floor of my room, it will always look dirty. You get the idea.

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So, you are lucky to not live in Bexley. You are lucky to be spared the grief of being ripped away from the people who make you happiest at MIT.

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Therefore, you are lucky to not live in Bexley. You are lucky to be spared the grief of being ripped away from the people who make you happiest at MIT.

Nicole M. Power is a member of the Class of 2014 and a resident of Bexley.
UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku
Solution, page 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9</th>
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<th>7</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Techdoku
Solution, page 17

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
**For Mama’s Day** by Billie Truit

Solution, page 17

**ACROSS**

1  Resell illegally
6  A/C measures
10  Questionable
14  Angler’s boot
15  Sway gently
16  “Later, dudel!”
17  More than
18  Confederate
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60  Nefarious
62  The Music Man setting
63  Sentry’s watch
64  A lot of nerve
65  Shot in the dark
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**DOWN**

1  Hindu teacher
2  Scheming group
3  Idolize
4  Tax collected
5  Of superior quality
6  Talks big
7  Was a snitch
8  F9 West Coast sch.
9  Illuminated naturally
10  Hockey infraction
11  Office safety device
12  Air safety org.
13  Vay over there
14  Regions
15  Sway gently
16  “Later, dudel!”
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**SKETCHY**

by Sibya Lee

**SMBC**

by Zach Weiners

[2970]

**IN COMPETITION BETWEEN ANIMALS, WINNERS TYPICALLY EXPERIENCE A TESTOSTERONE BOOST, WHILE LOSERS GET THE OPPOSITE.**

**THIS HAS WIDE RANGING CONSEQUENCES FOR ANALYSIS OF HIERARCHIES.**

**AND TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SPOUSES OF BIOLOGISTS.**

According to this blood sample, I won the latest relationship discussion.

The one over whether you can harvest blood samples from me? Don’t make me win again.

**TODAY’S PROVERB: DREAMS COME TRUE**
Being in a foreign country also gives you a unique opportunity to improve your Chinese skills. "You learn to be resourceful, to think for yourself and learn not to panic," she said. "You're in a college where there are no limits to your potential, so you can add insight into your studies." 

"I saw study abroad as the perfect opportunity to improve my Chinese skills and travel to places. Being in China gave me a much better sense of the 'real' China than just taking classes, and I value this authenticity," Saul K. Wilson '13. The Middle Eastern Studies major said that China was his first exposure to a country that he believed to be "real," and that he had been trained to think about China as "realistic," but the reality of life in China was very different. "I can only imagine how much more I would have been able to learn if I had spent more time there," he said. 

"I think studying abroad gives you an appreciation for other cultures and the ability to adapt to new situations," he said. "You're in a college where there are no limits to your potential, so you can add insight into your studies." 

The following are some of the students who shared their experiences studying abroad.

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Home of the soon-to-be ‘Bexiles’

1. Bexley students congregated in their basement on Wednesday night to discuss the future of their MIT community.

2. The Space Center lounge in the Bexment, Bexley’s basement, is a common space where students come together. Some of the murals date back to the 1970s and 80s. Many MIT alumni have fond memories of the Bexment and come back to see how recent residents have added to the mural.

3. Bexlians relaxing in the main lounge.

4. A resident of Bexley checks her email at Jonathan, the athena computer, while reading a sentimental letter sent out by another resident. The letter expressed the influence Bexley Hall had on the writer and how it would continue to influence him during the next three years. Bexley Hall is a close-knit family at MIT.

5. The mailroom at Bexley Hall with a composition of the 2006 residents and other quotes.

6. A lounge on the second floor of Bexley overlooking the courtyard. The dorm has many creative pockets where residents congregate.

7. Many artists are attracted to Bexley and adorn the resident hall with their works. Bexley is one of the few dorms on campus that allows students to paint the walls.

8. A walkway has been created behind Bexley Hall due to construction machinery and scaffolding in place.

Picture courtesy of MIT Facilities.
MOVIE REVIEW

Parties, cars, and careless people
Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby dances with Carey Mulligan as Daisy Buchanan.

By Jaimie Chung

Let’s start with the pros. When I first saw trailers last year, I was offended by the choice of music. Yet, to my surprise, the soundsmiths' unorthodox score under the direction of Baz Luhrmann’s fantastical take on Fitzgerald’s classic "The Great Gatsby". The soundtrack strategically pulls together different musical genres, from classic jazz to modern electronic, to create a unique and immersive sound that enhances the film’s atmosphere.

In the end, Luhrmann upgrades, or should we say tampers with? Fitzgerald’s classic. However, the ostentatiousness of the film proved to be too much for me, and while I appreciated Luhrmann’s imagination, this is not how I wanted the story to be told.

The best parts of the soundtrack, however, are the mash-ups of old and new. Motifs from Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” are used a few times in the film, and once it is blended with Jay-Z’s “Empire State of Mind.” The soundtrack strategically pulls together different musical genres, from classic jazz to modern electronic, to create a unique and immersive sound that enhances the film’s atmosphere.

The album openly draws influences from other artists. “Bear” sounds like an incarnation of Kylie Minogue, “Satellite” is reminiscent of Kate Horrocks-inspired electro fairytale, and the rest of the tracks share the common flavor of Goldfrapp, Róisín Murphy and a bit of Sophie Ellis-Bextor. Even with all these influences and previously-invented dance tunes, Little Boots still sounds as tonic and refreshing as ever. A few tracks, such as “Crescendo”, “Strangeways” and “Shake,” use the actors as an instrument, and the rest are new. The album is not as old-school as Back to Black, nor does it possess the timelessness of Amy Winehouse’s Back to Black, but it has enough quality to prove her superiority over overhyped Brit contemporaries, such as Ellie Goulding. Just observe carefully — the sentences from “I hope she’ll be a fool” — were delivered effortlessly and did the novel justice. Sadly, the ostentatiousness of the film proved to be too much for me, and while I appreciated Luhrmann’s imagination, this is not how I wanted the story to be told.

Luhrmann proved that he can put on a big show, but he can’t take credit for the story, or for the work done on the graphics. He can only take credit for the actors’ performances, which were disastrous overall. The music was a valiant effort at making the film revolutionary, but it only succeeded as a standalone soundtrack. It is understandable that he wanted to make a version of the story that is so unexpected that it would perhaps be beyond reproach. But such a great American novel should not be tampered with.
**MOVIE REVIEW**

A snazzy exosuit, a power couple, and a lot of battles

Brimming with laughs and action, *Iron Man 3* doesn’t disappoint

By Steven Sullivan  
Staff Writer

Some people have questioned whether their favorite Avengers is in *Iron Man* or *Robert Downey Jr.* *Iron Man 3* seeks to unite the disparate personalities that are the cocky billionaire Tony Stark and the soft-spoken hero Iron Man. It explores this theme through two hours of over-the-top action scenes and genuinely funny humor. As great as the special effects and jokes are, they leave little room for a cohesive or engaging narrative. Still, I was having so much fun I hardly noticed.

In *Iron Man 3*, Iron Man has a new suit, which is able to separate into many individual components that can each fly through the air and attach to Tony Stark. This new trick is used to great effect in the movie in a variety of interesting ways. What if Iron Man only has a couple pieces of armor? What if he wants the armor to latch onto someone else? In fact, variety is the best word to describe the movie’s many action sequences. Iron Man has to use hand-to-hand combat to fight off a cybernetic assassin, infiltrate an enemy compound sans weaponry off of a car battery. Nerd rage at its finest.

Tony Stark was able to charge his technological gear using a toy car battery. Nerd rage at its finest.

In spite of her breadth and depth, and an integral part of the conception, design, production and marketing. She credited her entrepreneurial spirit to her MIT “upbringing” and was enthusiastic in her praise of the Music Department for its invaluable peer treatment, and the support and accessibility of her professors.

Ogrydziak’s words are usually inspired and enabled by science and technology. She has a long-standing working relationship with CAPACITOR, a multidisciplinary, science-inspired collective, and is particularly interested in film as a medium. She just launched a streamlined video sharing iOS app, Moreove, and some of her artwork has paired classical music with club VJ (video jockey) technology. Ogrydziak constantly seeks ways to present her work in ways that will attract a diverse audience, and she has had the opportunity to work in spaces not originally conceived for performance— for example, her multi-media piece DARK BLUE SKY DREAM was performed at the Chabot Planetarium.

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**CAST’S Spring Sound Series brought us alumna Julia C. Ogrydziak ’96, a multi-everything artist. Ogrydziak explored all the good- natured MIT had to offer her, and in return, she has made the most out of what MIT gave her. While pursuing a double degree in Physics and Music, she UROPed for a couple of years in the then-called Hyperinstruments Group at the Media Lab, which focused on multi-media and performance. After that, she pursued her interest in design by getting a degree at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design.**

Now based in San Francisco, Ogrydziak seems to be one of those people for whom days are 50 hours long and weeks have 71 days in them. She does not stop creating. Her talk provided a cohesive and well-narrated glimpse into her past and current doings, spanning from intimate personal photography projects to grand multi-media performances. For these, she was not only a violinist, but also a performer, a composer, and an integral part of the conception, design, production and marketing. She credited her entrepreneurial spirit to her MIT “upbringing” and was enthusiastic in her praise of the Music Department for its invaluable peer treatment, and the support and accessibility of her professors.

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Omne trium perfectum

Boston Ballet brings us another trio of performances for our evening entertainment

By Angelique Nehmzow

ARTS EDITOR

Every time I go to the Boston Opera House I am blown away. Last week, which saw the premiere of Chroma, was no different. The audience was treated to three very different but complementary ballet performances: Sevrenalde, Chroma, and Symphony in C.

The first dance, Sevrenalde, was set to Rachmaninoff’s “Serenade for Strings in C.” It was the first ballet choreographed in America by George Balanchine, the immensely prolific and esteemed Russian choreographer who helped found the New York City Ballet. The curtain rose to reveal a stage filled with women, identically dressed in pale blue tights, leotards, and long, translucent skirts. Like puff of smoke uncurling, these nebulious souses of chiffon served to emphasize the celestial nature of the dancers.

The focus was on the female dancers, and remained so throughout the piece, as they danced in sync or in various formations, sometimes drawing our focus to an individual, and sometimes making us appreciate the collaboration between dancers. For example, in one strangely hypnotic scene, a single row of girls stood alone on stage, with their backs to the audience. On pointe, they slowly and gracefully twisted the outer dancers into and through the center of the line several times, and then twisted them back out again.

In another scene, midway through Sevrenalde, as the girls danced off-stage we saw one fall to the ground, her hair in disarray. After the slick, classical moves of the beginning, this was a jarring experience, as though something had gone terribly wrong. Thereafter, one of the male dancers, wearing a midnight blue leotard with low scoop neckline, came on stage and arched his body over the fallen dancer. Close behind him stood another woman, with her arms crossed above her, as if she were embodying his wings. Throughout the next part of the dance, there was so much tension and emotion in the dancing, it seemed the dancers were involved in a dramatic love story, but it was up to the imagination of individual audience members to decide what this story might be.

The final scene was striking and unforgettable. One female dancer, standing with her hands stretched above her head, was lifted by her ankles and held high by four male dancers. Like a banner or a trophy, she was carried down an imaginary “aisle,” which cut diagonally from the front right to the back left of the stage. On either side of this were female dancers hovering over pointe, with their arms similarly stretched above their heads and facing the same direction as the dancer borne aloft. The curtains lowered on the men walking forward, the women lifting their eyes skyward and bending backwards, as though transcending the earth.

The second piece, Chroma, after which the triplet of pieces is named, was choreographed by Wayne McGregor. It was set to a score by Joby Talbot and featured music by Jack White of American rock duo The White Stripes. These required more musicians than almost any other Boston Ballet performance, so musicians played from the boxes at either side of the stage, which are usually reserved for seating. As such, the music in Chroma was physically and psychologically a part of the foreground. Musicians far outnumbered dancers, and the music was so loud and powerful it rolled over us like waves, keeping us engaged and excited.

Fittingly, the set was entirely white, with a large cut-out “window” in the back wall, showing a somewhat more distant white wall. The effect was of an otherworldly, sterile environment, like the inside of a spaceship. The dancers — six male and four female — were dressed alike in square-cut, thin-strapped chemises in subdued colors of blue, olive, pink, or nude. With their feminine attire and gyrating moves, I sometimes mistook a male dancer for a female one, and vice versa. The dancers were highly energetic, keeping time with the music, and faintly alien-like, with indescribable expressions that struck a balance between deadpan and severe. It was impossible to see everything at once — they danced solo, or one or two males would dance with a female dancer, but each individual, pair, or trio would tend to occupy a different part of the stage and dance simultaneously with any other. I found myself simply focusing on a body part here or there, marveling at the perfectly toned muscle, and the incredible rapidity and flawless control of its movement.

Symphony in C was the final performance, set to the eponymous symphony in four movements by Bizet, which he composed when he was 17 years old, and choreographed by the aforementioned George Balanchine in a period of just two weeks. The piece was epic in scale, with fifty-two dancers. The female dancers wore traditional ballet garb, with stiff white tutus that crowned their long slender legs, and a few were sparkling tiaras. As in Sevrenalde, the male dancers wore dark blue outfits, this time with slightly flared velvet sleeves, and the stage was bare with a blue backdrop. The dancing was classical in style, and continued with the high energy of the previous performance. One scene that impressed itself into my memory was when the female dancers fringed the stage, and the male dancers gathered in the center of the stage. Dancing with great vigor, and in exquisite synchronicity, there was a snapshot moment when they leapt high into the air.

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It was a wonderful ending to an eventful evening. Chroma, all three parts of it, holds the attention captive and keeps the audience intrigued about what is in store for them next. It is well worth going to see.
Sal Khan talks about his educational philosophy

Sal Khan visits the institute to talk about the future of online education and teaching

Khan, from Page 1

Khan came across as an engaging, humble speaker. He was initially hesitant to pinpoint a “secret of success” for Khan Academy. When pressed by Reif, he offered that the casual atmosphere of his online tutoring videos is what most likely drew students to his site. Khan, who made his first video to tutor a family member, explained that his videos would probably have been very different if he knew that Bill Gates would be watching his videos instead of his seventh-grade cousin.

In addition, Khan drew several parallels between Khan Academy and MIT and Harvard’s joint edX venture. “I think they’re doing a lot of good,” said Khan, praising edX and the other MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) for their mission to provide a high-quality education to anyone who wants one. Khan expects that other universities will follow suit if they see MIT and Harvard start to change their educational models. He made the analogy that “everyone wants to wear the jeans that Jennifer Lopez wears,” another comment that drew laughter from the audience.

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Now, the site is run on donations by large supporters such as Google and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. After the interview, StartLabs hosted a private reception with Khan at the R&D Pub in Stata, in which a panel of Khan Academy employees answered questions from the audience. The Khan Academy staff, like Khan himself, all struck me as surprisingly young and motivated. Each of them seemed excited about their work, and weren’t afraid to drop hints every now and then about recruiting. “You get to work with, in my mind, the best team in industry,” said Khan, namedropping Craig Silverstein — the first employee at Google and one of the original builders of the search engine itself — as one of the nonprofit’s employees. “It really is a superstar team where you’ll get better mentorship than frankly anywhere else.”

There was a never a shortage of questions at the reception as people crowded into the pub. Some of the students at the reception were clearly huge fans of Khan Academy. “Be scrappy, bottoms-up, and get something going,” encouraged Khan in response to a student on how to bring Khan Academy to his old high school.

In the future, said Khan, he hopes to continue to reach out to the underprivileged community, and eventually be able to educate children from all over the world.
Bexley closing due to significant structural damage
MIT to cover summer storage and transportation costs for displaced residents of Bexley

Bexley, from Page 1

...could be able to accommodate the group of 40 Bexley residents who said they wanted to live together. According to Colombo, housemasters were told to have these lists of available rooms ready by 4 p.m. today. He added that they’re still trying to “find a mechanism of how to distribute these rooms in a fair manner to all Bexley students.” Some doubles in Maseeh Hall are being turned into quads, but MIT has “planned to do that all along,” Colombo said, explaining that those rooms were designed for three or four beds. “There’s no difference in our capacity for Maseeh.” (Triples are generally avoided, Grimson said, because of the possibility of unwanted “two-on-one” situations.) However, in a late-night meeting with the Maseeh legislature yesterday, Maseeh RLAD Rebecca Kjaerbye told residents that Maseeh would be increasing its capacity by another 15 students, making its total capacity 505, whether or not Bexley students move in. Maseeh residents on each floor voted last night on whether or not residents wanted to give the entire ground floor to Bexley residents, which would mean that many fewer freshmen for Maseeh. According to Kjaerbye, “a lot of buildings will be expanded” as other dorms accommodate groups of Bexley residents.

The extent of the repairs to Bexley will be determined in a “programming, planning, and designing” phase, which will take “no less than a year,” said Dick Amster, Director of Facilities, Campus Planning, Engineering, and Construction. Until that phase is over — which will take “probably a year and a half” Amster said — the renovated building will have to include a new elevator for accessibility to meet today’s ADA guidelines, Amster said. “The building suffers from “water damage inside the building’s exterior walls,” according to an MIT announcement. As of press time, Amster has not responded to a request for the engineering report, though he did speak with The Tech. Before spring break, workers also discovered loose bricks on Random Hall’s façade during inspections planned as part of the capital renewal efforts. Though work was done over spring break, Random will be closed during the summer for further interior and exterior work.

The buildings next door to Random on the 300 Mass. Ave. block are being demolished to make way for a new pharmaceutical building, a project of Forest City developers. The demolitions are scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer. Construction is scheduled to be completed by 2015.

Despite the impending demolition next door and the need for exterior repairs, Senior Associate Dean for Residential Life and Dining Henry Humphreys confirmed that Random Hall will be open next Fall. “You will be able to move back in after the summer. You have my word on that,” Humphreys told Random residents at a meeting Wednesday night.

Humphreys said that MIT has started thinking about contingency plans in case Random students are not able to immediately move in at the start of the Fall, but that there are no such plans yet.

MIT will cover summer storage costs for both Bexley and Random students, who are being asked to move all of their belongings. MIT will also cover moving costs for Bexley residents who choose to join an independent living group or live off campus.

Grimson said he was happy to see the Division of Student Life, housemasters, and student leadership “all coming together to fix this” as a community. “That’s what we do when we have a crisis.”

Michelle Szucs contributed reporting.

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Do you want to be like Sherlock Holmes? The Tech is looking for investigative reporters.

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My title is one of the slogans proposed to increase awareness of Impostor Syndrome by a group of faculty, staff, postdocs, and graduate students who participated in a facilitated conversation about this subject in my department. Impostor Syndrome is the feeling of not deserving to be in the position you are, and of being afraid that advisors, instructors, or peers will come to realize that you are not as capable as you may seem. The effect can be harmful when it selectively reinforces negative messages and causes people to try less hard because they are convinced they are incompetent when they are not. Conversely, the ability to identify and counter these feelings with positive reinforcement and determination can be very helpful in increasing ability through effort and practice.

I experienced Impostor Syndrome vividly when I started teaching as a faculty member at the very university that rejected me for undergraduate admission. How could I ever hope to teach such brilliant students? Although no one had told me about the syndrome, I knew instinctively that I just had to persevere through my fears. Experience and hard work came to my aid. The lesson? Persistence matters.

When postdoc Kathy Cooksey proposed leading a discussion of Impostor Syndrome in my department, I was delighted that others would learn and share from our collective experience. We also benefited from an informal survey of graduate students conducted by Stanford Professor Margot Gerritsen. (See her presentation at a career development workshop for graduate students and postdocs in the geosciences.) The survey was not officially endorsed by Stanford nor were the survey questions vetted by experts. Nevertheless, its results ring true and point out a concern for gender equity: women appear to experience Impostor Syndrome more than men. 43% of males surveyed and 62% of females surveyed “often or always” think “I’m afraid to be found out” while 30% of males and 15% of females never or rarely felt that. Responses to these feelings also show gender differences: 52% of males who admitted such feelings felt that their performance was negatively affected compared with 87% of females; 27% of males with such feelings reacted positively (“work harder”) while only 7% of females did. Even though the statistical significance of these differences cannot be established, the results are concerning.

It’s important for educators to be aware of Impostor Syndrome as well as preventative and palliative measures. It’s endemic at my university and maybe at yours. We should educate students that they’re not alone in having these feelings and that there are helpful responses. As Kathy suggests, having a malleable rather than a fixed mindset is helpful. Successful people everywhere learn that failure is the first step towards mastery.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” We must not allow ourselves to retain feelings of inferiority. Had I succumbed to that response 30 years ago, I would not be writing here today.
IM IN UR ROOM, READIN UR Tech
2.007 Design and Manufacturing competition

Students in 2.007 built and designed robots to compete in this year’s ‘Operation 2.007’

Competitors wait their turn at the 2.007 Design and Manufacturing competition held Wednesday and Thursday evening in Johnson. Students in the 2.007 course had one semester to build and design a radio-controlled robot to compete in this year’s challenge, “Operation 2.007.” Robots could earn points during two-minute matches by completing various tasks based on medical procedures, such as removing an instrument from the leg of Tim the Beaver or measuring the magnetic field in his brain to imitate an MRI scan.

Camille E. Richman ’14 maneuvers her robot to stretch a rubber band between two pegs at the competition.

2.007 professor Daniel D. Frey explains the rules of the 2.007 competition.

Aarti N. Anturkar ’14 tries to control her robot to pick up a wrench.

Kyle D. Bowman ’14 tries to measure the magnetic field in the brain of Tim the Beaver.
Cycling caps off season with DII national and ECC titles

Ralston wins individual omnium at nationals

By Sarah Weir
SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Cycling team capped off a great season last weekend in Ogden, UT, where they won the Divi-
sion II National Championships team omnium. This comes after a stellar performance the weekend before at Penn State where MIT secured the second place in the team omnium. The team omnium competition combines points from all men’s and women’s races, so usually requires a team to have depth in both fields.

Eastern Championships

Two weekends ago, the team made the long drive to Penn State to compete in the ECC Championships. The race weekend included the exciting/ scary road race up “Black Mo” which is basically a large mountain inside Black Moshannon State Park in Philipsburg, PA. The race on Saturday was the team time trial (TTT), a quick 9.5-mile race in the large mountain inside Black Moshannon State Park in Philipsburg, PA. The first race on Saturday was the team time trial (TTT), a quick 9.5-mile race in the state park. The MIT men’s team edged out home team Penn State by eight seconds to start the weekend.

After warming up in the cars and eating some pancakes, the team prepared for the infamous road end on top. By Sarah Weir
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