I take issue with the cartoon shown at the bottom of page four of your Tuesday issue, by Beattie, showing two Arab men arguing over why Arabs should support Saddam Hussein.

The cartoon falsifies the facts about the different points of view held by Arabs with respect to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. It is an example of a journalistic misstep, especially for a publication that claims to "report the facts," "present the facts" and "factual reporting." It is a misrepresentation of both Arabs and Chaldeans, two different peoples. It is an example of an opinion piece that at times seems to border on the editorial.

The cartoon shows two, stereotypical figures, Arab men arguing over why Chaldeans should support Saddam Hussein. It fails to recognize the different points of view among the diverse group of people who are Arabs. The cartoon is a depiction of what the cartoonist perceives to be a prevalent view in the Arab world, and it shows how Arabs are treated differently than other nationalities. It implies that Arabs are all supporters of Saddam Hussein, and that the only difference among them is in their reasons for supporting him.

The outcome: ARA's response was that they would "look into it." Perhaps MIT should "look into it" another food service option during its evaluation process this year.

The cartoon falsely depicts the facts about the different points of view held by Arabs with respect to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. It shows an array of temptations that may help MIT students make up for dwindling revenues. The plot thickens: Sunday morning, the exact same dainty poppy-seed cake were put up for sale in Lobdell. The crime: MIT students were charged $2.22 per ounce for the same items. Therefore, ARA made a double profit on this reused food. Surely there's a health or bill-of-sale law which prevents this?

Any objective observer of the events of the last month would know better than this. What is worse, the cartoon implies that Arabs are willing to kill one another over this difference of opinion (notice the raised swords), an implication which can only stem from ignorance and from the widely accepted image, in this country, of the "violent Arab." Certainly, such stereotypical depictions of most other nationalities or ethnic groups would not be so easily accepted; why is it that Arabs are treated differently?

Samer Madanat G

Lobdell, dessert, and ARA: the perfect crime

ARA seems to be taking its reusable dinnerware program a step too far. The food service is now reusing even food in an attempt to make up for dwindling revenues. The script reads like a bad rip-off make up for dwindling revenues.

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The victims: service.

The suspect: ARA, MIT's food service option during its evaluation process this year.

The scene: La Sala de Puerto Rico on the first floor of the student center, where a wonderful reusing even food in an attempt to reusable dinnerware program a step too far. The food service is now reusing even food in an attempt to make up for dwindling revenues. The script reads like a bad rip-off make up for dwindling revenues.

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Arabs wrongly portrayed in Tech editorial cartoon

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