



VANESSA TREVINO—THE TECH

Bexley Hall was closed at the end of the Spring 2013 semester.

Faculty briefed on shortage of 500–600 grad dorm beds

Graduate Student Housing Working Group, led by Phil Clay, calls for new construction and leases

By Sara Hess
STAFF REPORTER

The Graduate Student Housing Working Group continues to solicit feedback on a January draft report, which says that the unmet demand for on-campus graduate student housing totals approximately 500–600 beds. Phillip Clay PhD '75, a professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, former chancellor at MIT, and chair of the Working Group, announced these initial

findings at the Institute faculty meeting last Wednesday. Clay also shared the Working Group's initial suggestions to address the shortage and improve graduate student housing through new construction and leases from the private market. Responding to concerns that new development in the Kendall Square area will ignore a housing squeeze in Cambridge, MIT officials involved in the planned revamp of east campus have often cited the Working Group as evidence of

MIT's commitment to addressing housing needs. The Working Group determined the unmet demand by examining the waitlist for graduate housing as well as a survey of graduate students housed on and off campus. Approximately 38 percent of graduate students live on campus at present. "We believe that rents in the surrounding area will continue to go up in coming years," Clay said. "There will be a de-

Graduate housing, Page 10

Demolition of Bexley awaits Corp. approval

Decision expected by June, official says; Students allege they were misled during 2013's Bexley Advisory Group meetings

By Patricia Z. Dominguez

Four months after the Department of Facilities and the Division of Student Life recommended the demolition of the dormitory, the future of Bexley Hall and 50 Massachusetts Ave. has yet to be determined. For the demolition to occur, both the Building Committee and the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation must approve the decision. Following this, Facilities needs the approval of the City of Cambridge. The two committees will make their decisions "by the end of spring semester," said Richard Amster, director of Facilities, in an interview with *The Tech*. He also said that it is still unclear when Cambridge will give MIT the go-ahead if the proposal is indeed approved. In making the decision, the Building Committee will consider factors such as

the difficulties in repairing the building, impacts on student housing, and costs, according to Israel Ruiz SM '01, chairman of the Building Committee. Ruiz added that when the time comes, plans for future housing will be guided by MIT 2030, a framework designed to make the best use of the property available to MIT and that is responsible for the ongoing East Campus/Kendall Gateway design project. The dates of the proposed demolition of Bexley Hall and what would be built in its place remain unknown. In an email to *The Tech*, former Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 said that "[t]he current status of the Bexley situation is that we are completing the stages required to get MIT and City of Cambridge approval to bring down the building. We unfortunately can't really move forward with next steps until that is

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IN SHORT

- Petitions to run in the Undergraduate Association elections are due today** at 5 p.m. in W20-401.
- The Sloan BioInnovations Conference runs today** from 8 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Kendall Square.
- The White House and MIT are co-hosting a workshop on big data and privacy** next Monday. See <http://web.mit.edu/big-data-priv/> for details.
- Join a welcome social for newly appointed Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 and Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88** next Tuesday, March 4 at 3 p.m. in Lobby 7. Hot chocolate, sweet snacks, and

President L. Rafael Reif will be there!

Add Date is next Friday, March 7. Add Date is the last day to register for new subjects, the last day to change subjects to or from P/D/F grading, the last day to change from listener to credit enrollment, the last day to change a subject to or from sophomore exploratory, and the last day for February 2015 degree candidates to apply for a double major.

Nominate a faculty member for the Baker Teaching Award, which recognizes excellence in undergraduate teaching, by March 14 at <http://awards.mit.edu/moore>.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Fraternities, sororities, and ILGs by 2013 GPA

Rank	FSILG	GPA	
		Fall 2013	Spring 2012
1	Tau Epsilon Phi	4.73	4.42
2	Alpha Epsilon Pi	4.68	4.66
3	Chi Phi	4.60	4.48
4	Pi Beta Phi	4.56	4.39
5	Beta Theta Pi	4.54	—
5	Delta Psi/No. 6	4.54	4.47
7	Phi Kappa Theta	4.52	4.53
7	Zeta Beta Tau	4.52	4.48
9	Kappa Alpha Theta	4.49	4.53
10	Lambda Chi Alpha	4.45	4.48
10	Theta Xi	4.45	4.34
12	Alpha Chi Omega	4.44	4.38
12	Fenway House	4.44	4.11
12	Phi Sigma Kappa	4.44	4.44

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MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Kerry A. Emanuel, an MIT professor in the EAPS department, gave a talk on global warming on Wednesday, Feb. 26, in 4-237. The talk was sponsored by Fossil Free MIT, and is part of a series of lectures that will be held throughout the spring semester.

DON'T DIVEST

A trio of writers takes on Fossil Free MIT's claim that the Institute can influence energy policy by divesting. **OPINION, p. 4**

LAZY FRIDAY?

You know what to do. Techdoku. **FUN, p. 5**
NOT REALLY EASY
That is the name of the crossword puzzle. Is it correct? **FUN, p. 5**



QED TACKLES A THAWING CAMPUS

How to optimize for dryness on your morning commute. **FUN, p. 6**

BOSTON RUNWAY

Designer Lori Kyler Christensen talks about her label, Venni Caprice. **ARTS, p. 8**

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**By Ravi Charan, John W. Halloran Jr.,
and Jackie Han**

Recently Fossil Free MIT (FFMIT), an MIT student group, has circulated a petition, now with over 2000 signatures, urging the Institute to cease the investment of its endowment in fossil fuel companies. FFMIT is one chapter of Fossil Free, a multinational organization that advocates this position to facilitate broader divestment among institutions that serve the public good. Their ultimate goal is to influence legislation that would implement measures to limit global temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius. While their aspirations are admirable, their strategy is unlikely to work, and their efforts would be better spent advocating clean energy in other ways. Worse, their misguided advocacy could have negative repercussions for MIT and others.

While Fossil Free argues that MIT's divestment would have meaningful, cascading impacts, their plan is economically limited. Even if others targeted were also to divest — a claim that warrants skepticism — investors with a conscience (e.g. public pension funds and universities) together are too small to create a substantive economic effect. To be fair, the folks at Fossil Free MIT presumably understand this. They argue that divestiture would stigmatize fossil fuel companies and create the “political breathing room” necessary to effect real change. Yet, there is no viable alternative to using oil and gas in the near future, so this campaign cannot free us from global economic dependency, even if universally embraced. FFMIT's goals, even if achieved, are largely symbolic, whereas the drawbacks are very real.

When FFMIT argues on its website that divestment “will force some of the most powerful and influential people in the country” to think about how to deal with global climate change — the Carbon Question — they ignore that such people

(including MIT faculty) are already doing so. Perhaps they are just rhetorically creating a sense of urgency. But the unavoidable point is that existing means cannot immediately solve the problems of worldwide carbon emissions. The MIT Energy Conference this past weekend, for example, presents a snapshot of just how complex the question is. Further still, it's not clear how divestment communicates urgency to legislators who don't believe in global climate change in the first place.

Instead, these students' passion would be better spent joining such efforts and promoting clean energy. MIT is a leader in developing the technologies that are more likely to solve the Carbon Question (and soften the transition to clean energy) than FFMIT's politically fraught policy agenda. In 2006, the Institute launched the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI), which has been enormously successful in organizing MIT's research talents and funds around a policy and technology goal.

For a university so intertwined with energy policy, biting our thumbs at the oil and gas companies is likely to have repercussions at MIT and interfere with existing Institute efforts to develop clean energy technology. The reason MIT is at the forefront of climate science is because we have such vast resources, many provided by fossil fuel corporations — including multi-million dollar contributions to MITEI from the likes of BP and Shell. MITEI funds 300 principal investigators from 22 departments and 22 labs and centers for energy research, analysis, and education, according to the 2012 MIT Annual Report. Billion-dollar posturing would detract from MIT's ability to perform such vital functions.

Indeed, divesting the endowment from fossil fuel-related corporations is fairly hypocritical if MIT continues to receive huge sums from these very corporations to fund energy research. And we doubt many would argue that a symbolic gesture of

MIT's supposed detachment from the industry is worth giving up the research these companies fund.

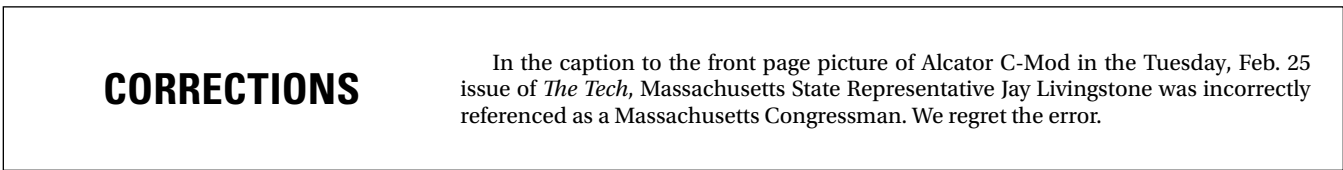
FFMIT presumably advocates MIT's complete detachment from the fossil fuel industry. But keeping top MIT scientists and engineers involved with such corporations will help reduce the environmental harm caused by fossil fuels, because cutting-edge extraction technologies often do less environmental damage than cruder versions.

And while Fossil Free aims to ostracize all fossil fuel companies, many are also extracting natural gas, the use of which has drastically reduced US carbon emissions in the last 5 years. Indeed, many consider it a medium-term answer to the Carbon Question and part of a realistic transition to a sustainable future. Some reasonably worry that support for natural gas might diminish development of even cleaner energy sources. However, this criticism can hardly be leveled at MIT, where clean energy research continues unabated and even aided by fossil fuel companies.

To be clear, we wholeheartedly accept the science behind climate change, but we believe that Fossil Free is dominated by blind anti-carbon fervor. Instead, the ultimate goal is overall human welfare; we advocate a pragmatic approach that prioritizes human well-being in the short-, medium-, and long-terms. Such an approach includes feasibility, sustainability, and prosperity as guiding principles.

Poor tactics and dramatized rhetoric will only energize the opposition, drive away moderates, and waste the efforts of scientists, engineers, and others who have toiled to solve one of our greatest global challenges. We urge you not to sign FFMIT's petition.

Ravi Charan and Jackie Han are members of the Class of 2014. John W. Halloran Jr. is a member of the Class of 2015. All three are in the Department of Political Science.



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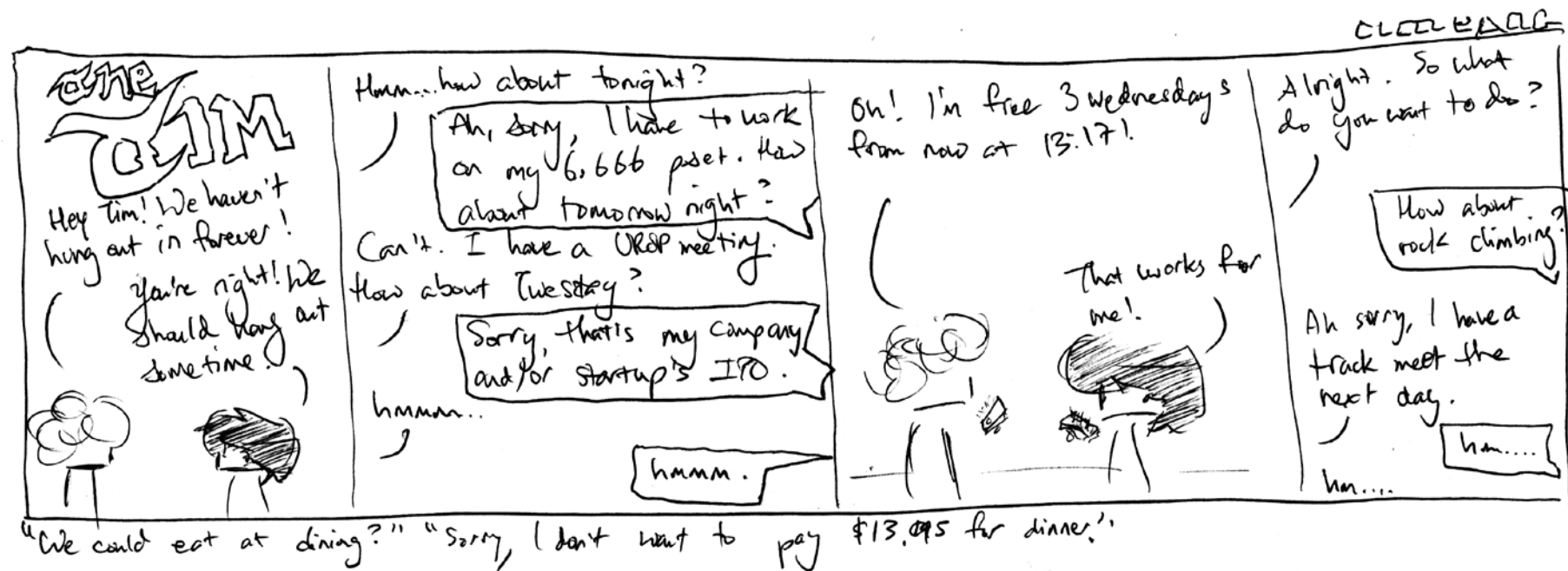
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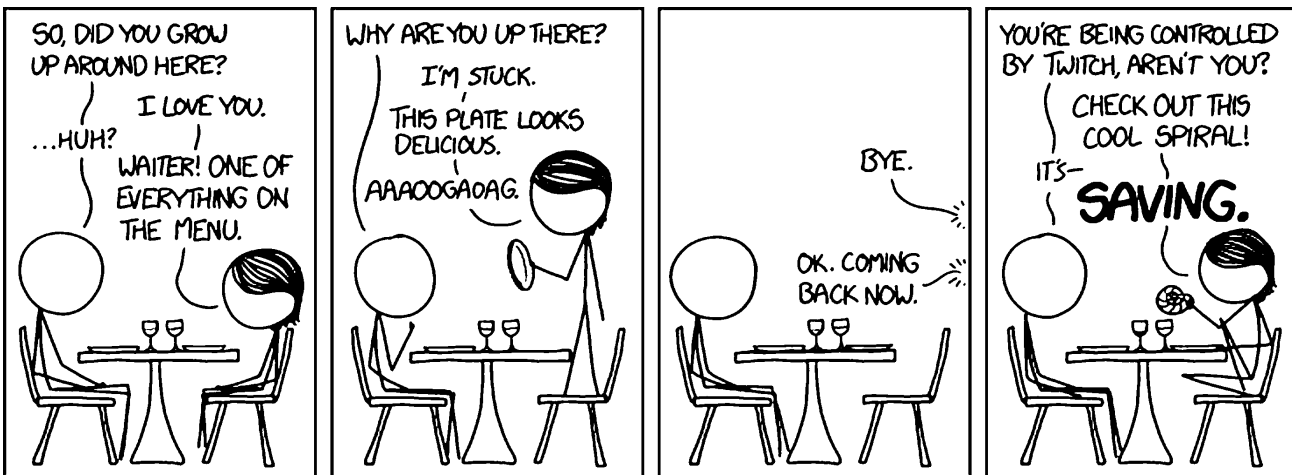
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BY ERIKA TRENT

THE ART OF PUDDLE-JUMPING



[1333] First Date



I sympathize with the TPP protagonist because I, too, have progressed through a surprising number of stages of life despite spending entire days stuck against simple obstacles.

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INTERVIEW

Boston Fashion

Designer Lori Kyler Christensen talks about designing clothes and fashion trends

By Chennah Heroor
ARTS EDITOR

While it still seems like winter outside, spring is just around the corner. Luckily, Lori Kyler Christensen began showing pieces from her label Venni Caprice's Spring/Summer 2014 collection last week (<http://www.vennicaprice.com>). Christensen's line is filled with fun dresses and bohemian prints. While the adventurous designs are not for everyone, Christensen also had some interesting insights into the clothing design process. *The Tech* had the opportunity to view Christensen's collection for Venni Caprice and ask her about her designing process.

The Tech: What inspired your collection?

Lori Kyler Christensen: I started from the fabrics. I had probably three fabrics prior to the collection that I was holding on to. I already had a few pieces worked

around the fabrics, and everything else came together harmoniously. I was very happy with my designs. My line has pieces that are very casual for day wear, but you can add a heel or belt to wear them at night.

Christensen says that her line has casual pieces for day wear, but many can be dressed up with a belt or heel.

TT: What is your design process like? Do you sketch your pieces?

LKC: I don't really sketch! I just make things. I view my sample pieces as my sketch. I've found that I just need to keep my idea in my head. I try to apply the styles

I've used in the past, and build from my fabrics. This line was the first time that I've created clothes using a whole roll of fabric, and I've liked how my pieces came out.

TT: How long have you been making clothes?

LKC: I've been making clothes since high school. I've been selling, my clothes intermittently for the last 6 to 7 years, and I've officially launched my line [Venni Caprice] this year.

TT: What sort of trends do you see in clothing?

LKC: One of the trends I've been pushing is mixing prints. I didn't do it as much at first, because I have to design my pieces 6 months in advance, and I wasn't sure if I'd still be able to find my fabrics again. But I've been dabbling in mixing fabrics for my collection. One fabric makes a pretty piece, but two fabrics really stand out.

TT: For a college student, perhaps on a

Venni Caprice

Designed by Lori Kyler Christensen

smaller budget, what are some affordable looks?

LKC: Most of my pieces range from \$120 to \$170. But I have pieces online and at my shows that are about \$40, and these smaller runs are totally affordable for a smaller budget.

TT: Do you think Boston will have a Fashion week in the future, like New York City or Paris?

LKC: We had a show last week at the Emerald Hotel. It was cool, but we'd need something more structured in the future. But I definitely think that Boston could take off and be a hub for fashion.

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NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Graduate Student Housing Working Group now recommends 500–600 new beds of grad housing

Survey data revealed most graduate students are satisfied with on-campus housing

Graduate housing, from Page 1

crease in the availability of affordable housing units, leading to an increase in demand for graduate student housing.”

The Graduate Student Housing Working Group was convened by MIT to evaluate the current usage of graduate student housing, as well as student satisfaction with housing. The Group’s primary objectives were to look at the ways current graduate housing does or does not meet the Institute’s needs and to determine opportunities for improvement going forward.

Survey data revealed a “high level” of graduate student satisfaction with on-campus housing, with some exceptions.

International students and students with families felt “less well

served and more constrained in their options,” according to Clay’s presentation. “International students can’t come before moving here to look for housing,” Clay elaborated. These families also struggle according to Clay because

“in some cases the spouse may not have a legal right to work in the U.S., and a married student can’t just take in roommates to help alleviate costs.”

Graduate students housed in Tang, Edgerton, and Westgate also reported greater dissatisfaction. Clay pointed out that Tang and

Westgate are targeted for renovations in the near future.

The housing survey was also sent to applicants who were admitted to an MIT graduate program but decided not to attend. A higher percentage of these individuals than current MIT graduate students said that housing was an important factor in deciding where to attend.

Clay said the Working Group explored options for expanding graduate housing besides the obvious option to build more units. The Group recommended adding

500–600 beds in graduate housing, either by constructing new apartments (non-traditional dorms) with units ranging from micro-units to 1–2 bedroom units, or by leasing from the private market. In the Q-and-A session following the presentation, Clay affirmed that MIT had leased housing units in the past and that it would be an option in the future. The group ruled out other options, such as providing graduate students with cash subsidies to lease from the private market.

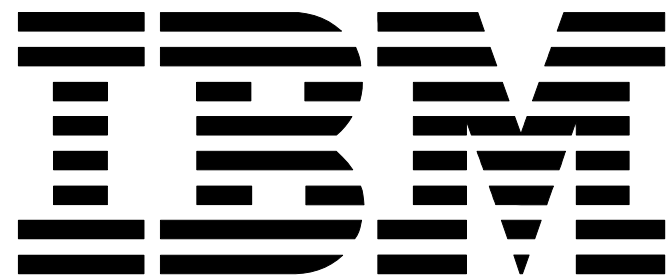
Clay also saw a need to explore mixed-use housing options. “Special places around the world are often mixed-use,” Clay said, emphasizing the Group’s view that graduate student housing could contribute to the goal of turning east campus — MIT’s corner of

Kendall Square — into a “strong ‘place’ with an MIT identity.”

In addition to the 500–600 beds of graduate student housing required, the Working Group said that the Institute will need 400 beds of “swing space” to accommodate students, while several residence halls, including Tang and Westgate, are being renovated. The Working Group predicted that even when renovations finished, the 400 beds of swing space could still be used before the end of the decade to meet growing demand for graduate student housing as the market in Cambridge continues to become more constrained.

Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 said in an email to faculty that the Working Group’s final report would be issued “in the mid-spring.”

Clay said the Working Group explored options for expanding graduate housing besides the option to build more units.



**Information Session:
Monday, March 3,
5:30pm–7pm in 1-135.**

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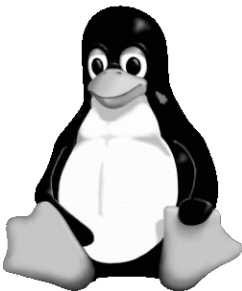


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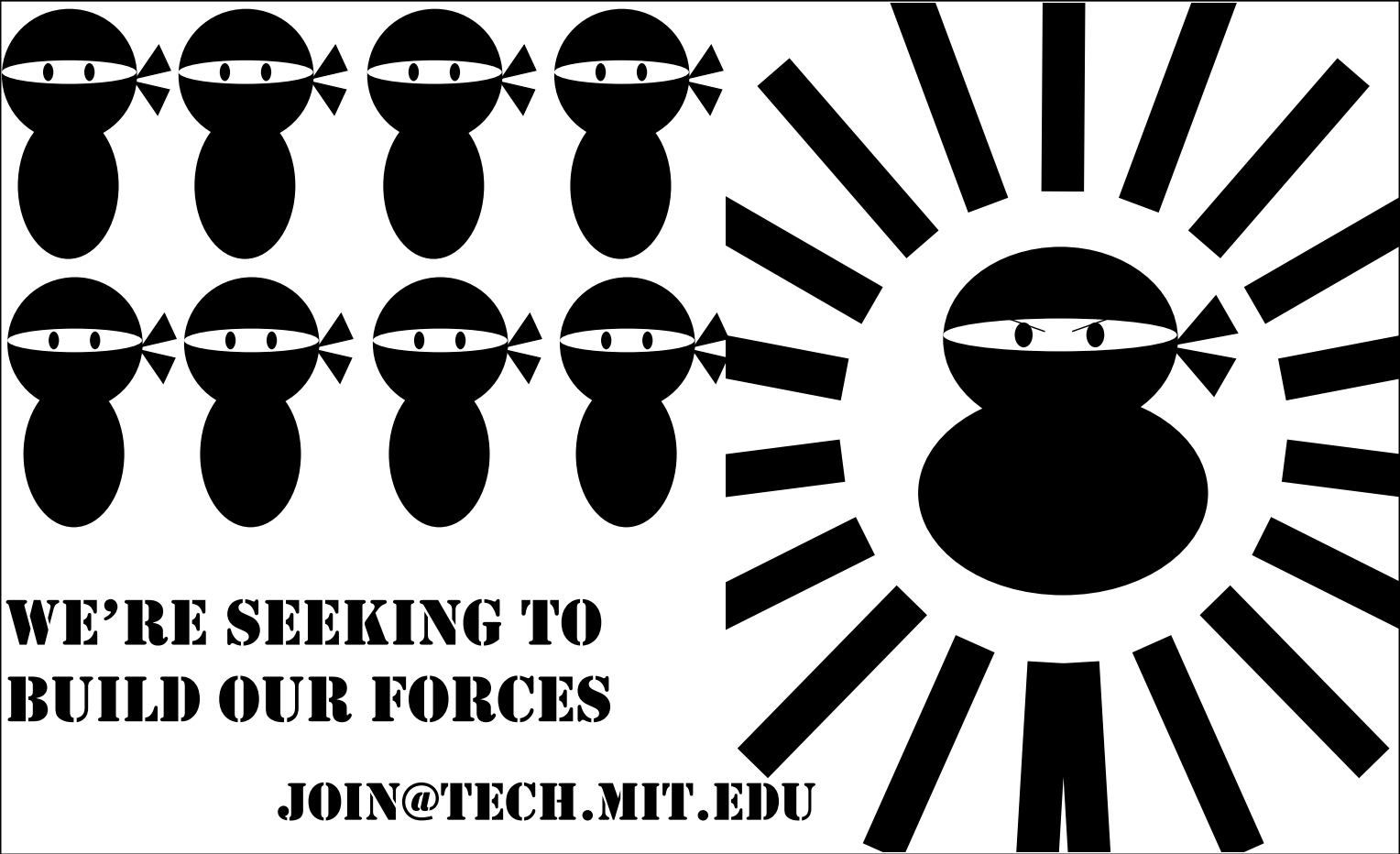


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Bexley demolition approvals needed

Members of first advisory group felt that their impact was limited

Bexley, from Page 1

completed.”

He also mentioned that a committee, comprised of students and others, would be established to examine all options to restore lost housing. Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD ’88 will assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of the group. The outlined duties of this new group are similar to those of the Bexley Advisory Group organized last summer by Facilities, Grimson, and Constantino Colombo, the dean for student life.

The Bexley Advisory Group was assembled to provide counsel on what would be done given the structural problems in Bexley Hall. Its main charge was to provide feedback to the Institute about the advantages and disadvantages of various options for restoring the beds lost as a result of Bexley’s closing.

It also had the specific task of, among other things, recommending criteria for the design and programming of a possible replacement and advising the Institute on appropriate next steps if renovating Bexley would not be feasible.

But according to student members of the group, neither of these topics was discussed at the meetings, nor were they consulted on the recommendation made by Facilities to demolish the dorm.

“The group had no role in deciding the recommendation that Bexley should be demolished,” wrote Kristjan E. Kaseniit ’14 in an email to *The Tech*. “In fact, this decision was made outside the group, roughly a month before that last meeting, between Dean Colombo, Facilities, Chancellor Grimson, and possibly others. This was evident from a draft of a press release prematurely (accidentally) shared with the rest of the Advisory Group. At the final meeting of the Advisory Group we were presented with the press release, which turned out to contain gross mistakes, most prominently that we, the whole group, were presented with cost analyses of various options for Bexley. We asked whether we could be

given these analyses or if the statement could be removed, but neither request was granted.”

Although the press release was amended accordingly sometime after being published, a previous version had claimed that “[t]he group was presented with information on the steps taken by Facilities to investigate temporary housing, and the projected costs and complexities of renovating Bexley or replacing it in its current location.” Kaseniit had said these specific costs were not discussed with the group.

Three other members of the Advisory Group, Noga Feinberg ’15, Christopher J. Sarabalis ’14, and Nicolas M. Brown ’14, agreed that the meetings consisted of presentations on the structural problems of Bexley, rather than discussions concerning how the administration and the MIT community would face the challenge of restoring or replacing the dorm.

Additionally, the student members said that the presentations only vaguely concluded that it would cost roughly the same to renovate Bexley as it would to build another dorm of similar size, although the costs estimated were uncertain since more structural problems might be revealed if Bexley were to be restored.

Colombo, who chaired the Bexley Advisory Group, wrote in an email that “[t]he recommendation to demolish the building was made to the Institute’s senior leadership based on information from Facilities’ extensive investigations of the building.” However, he assured that the student members were very helpful in finalizing some issues related to Bexley.

Many of Bexley’s former residents hope that their dorm’s culture will continue to thrive, whether it will do so in a renovated Bexley or in a replacement dorm. In an email to *The Tech*, Sarabalis said, “If I had to add anything it would be this: It upsets me when I meet freshmen who will never know how well they would have fit in and been both challenged and supported by the Bexley community.”



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Program Summary: MIT undergraduate students conduct scientific and engineering research at Army Science and Technology Centers under the direction of Army Scientists, from June to August. The Army host and the student determine the exact starting and finishing dates. Most areas of science and engineering are of interest. The Army Lab host determines the project content and subject matter. Projects can be basic or applied research, or both and do not need to be related to the ISN mission or to nanotechnology

Professional Benefits

- Gain valuable research experience
- Build new professional relationships
- Access world-class research facilities
- Contribute to a team that is providing new, life-saving technologies

If you would like to learn more about this program, please consider registering at the website:

<https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php>

If you have questions about this program or experience difficulty using the website, please contact Marlisha McDaniels, via email: mmcd@mit.edu or at the ISN Headquarters, NE47-4thFl. 617.324.4700.

The ISN The mission of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is to help the Army dramatically enhance Soldier protection and survivability through basic research on nanotechnology and in collaboration with Army and industry partners to transition promising results of that basic research into practical capabilities.

***The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.**

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By Mindy Brauer
DAPER STAFF

The early stages of the third set were closely played, featuring two lead changes.

The Cardinal jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the second stanza. Fueled by strong serving from Ferriter, which included two aces, the Hawks rattled off four straight points and eventually went ahead, 10-7. MIT slowly mounted an 11-5 run as a block

In the final set, MIT raced out to an 8-3 advantage as kill by Siebert resulted in the changeover. After switching ends, New Paltz registered six of the next eight points with a strike from sophomore Christian Smith closing the gap to 10-9. After a timeout by the Engineers, both sides traded points until a Hawks' hitting

After a timeout by MIT, both sides traded points until a New Paltz hitting error.

Next up for MIT will be a home match against non-conference foe Elms College on Thursday, Feb. 27. New Paltz returns to action on Saturday, March 1 when it will face No. 2 Juniata College and Thiel College at Vassar College before hosting Vassar and Dominican University the next day.

1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Email join@tech.mit.edu for more info.



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