



ALEX LI—THE TECH

The first day of the College of Computing celebrations Feb. 26 includes interactive panels and demonstrations of MIT's recent advances in the field.

Protestors gather against invitation of Indian politician Subramanian Swamy at MIT India Conference Feb. 16

Protestors gathered outside the Media Lab while Subramanian Swamy, a member of India's parliament and the Bharatiya Janata Party, spoke through video stream at the MIT India Conference Feb. 16. They demonstrated against MIT's inviting Swamy to speak given his previous Islamophobic and homophobic comments.

The protest was organized by the Azaad Lab, Alliance for a Secular and Democratic South Asia, Indian American Muslim Council, Connecticut Tamils, and the MIT LGBTQ alliance. The over two dozen protestors held up posters with messages including "MIT Kick out Brahminical Fascists" and "MIT Welcomes Hate Speech." Some protestors were MIT students; some were Cambridge and New England residents.

Swamy called homosexuality a "genetic disorder" on the Indian news outlet ANI in July 2018.

Swamy proposed to "declare India a Hindu Rashtra [state] in which non-Hindus can vote only if they proudly acknowledge that their ancestors were Hindus" in an article in the Indian newspaper DNA in July 2011. His comments were received with criticism for being Islamophobic; as a result, Harvard dropped two courses taught by Swamy.

"Many people spoke and expressed their disappointment and anger with MIT for not rescinding the invite to Swamy," Arif Hussain, a resident of Cambridge and one of the protest organizers, wrote in an email to *The Tech*. Hussain also compared Swamy's invite to those of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and wrote that MIT was sliding towards a "more right-wing conservative position."

Hussain said in an interview

with *The Tech* that he was not generally opposed to the invitation of other politicians from Swamy's right-wing political party to the conference.

In the days leading up to the conference, posters were put up on campus to promote disinviting Swamy. A petition on change.org urging President Rafael Reif to rescind Swamy's invitation gathered over 2,000 signatures.

However, the student organizers of the MIT India conference decided not to disinvite Swamy, and the MIT administration decided to support the student organizers. Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart '88 and Provost Martin Schmidt '88 wrote in a letter to the editor to *The Tech*, "We are and must be committed to ensuring that different points of view — even those we reject — can be heard and debated in a respectful and safe way."

—Rujul Gandhi

New CUP proposal affects Class of 2023

First-Yr. Experiment Proposal keeps Class of 2022 P/NR grading policies, changes credit caps

By Billy Woltz
STAFF REPORTER

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP) presented a proposal for a "Phase Two" continuation of the First-Year Experiment at a faculty meeting last Wednesday afternoon. Phase Two would impact the Class of 2023.

The presentation was led by Professor Duane Boning, chair of the CUP.

The current "Phase One" policy for the Class of 2022 allows students to designate three additional science core GIRs to be graded as P/NR after the first semester. Phase Two retains the Phase One grading policy for fall 2019 and spring 2020 but changes the credit limits for both semesters.

Currently, in the fall semester, students can take no more than 54 units total, and there are no other Institute restrictions on students' course load. The modifications that the CUP proposes are twofold. First, the general credit limit would be reduced to 48 units. Second, there would be 9 additional "Discovery" units that students can only use to take freshman advising seminars, first-year discovery seminars, and UROPs for credit.

Then, in the spring of 2020, the credit limit would consist of a general credit limit of 54 units and an additional 9 Discovery units. In contrast, the current policy limits students to 57 units unless they have been offered Early Sophomore Standing (ESS).

In addition, the CUP proposed that ESS be replaced with an option available to all first-year students that they may, with advisor approval, take 60 general units of courses. The CUP believes that this additional course would be used as an elective or major course that would

help students decided which major to pursue.

The CUP put forth many reasons to consider alternatives to ESS. At the faculty meeting, Boning highlighted two of these reasons. Currently, students are eligible for ESS if they have completed 96 units of credit before IAP of their freshman year and a communication-intensive course. Therefore, eligibility for ESS is in no direct way based on demonstrated academic success during the students' first semester at MIT. In fact, according to Boning, the top half of students not offered ESS this spring performed better than the bottom quartile of students who were offered ESS this semester.

Furthermore, Boning argued that students from high schools with large AP programs are the ones who are more likely to be eligible for ESS, while highly capable students from other schools are unlikely to be offered ESS.

In his presentation, Boning put forth a timeline that hopes to have further discussion of the Phase Two proposal in March and to be able to explain the experimental policy to prospective students and their parents by CPW.

The faculty responded with a few concerns and suggestions. One faculty member proposed that pressure could be relieved by having students declare their major at the end of their first semester of sophomore year. However, that faculty member also acknowledged that this has many implications for department requirements and advising.

Another faculty member was concerned that the flexibility in the Phase One grading policy allows students to delay taking biology and chemistry GIRs, reducing the

Phase Two, Page 2

IN SHORT

Today is the last day of Celebrations for the **MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing**. The schedule of events and other information is available at helloworld.mit.edu.

Sophomores, makeup **ring sales** end today 4 p.m. Information is available at brassrat2021.mit.edu.

Submit your applications to become a **first-year associate advisor** and/or an **orientation leader** by Friday.

The last day to **add a full-term subject** is March 8. Make sure to plan ahead and meet or contact your advisors ahead of time!

The deadline to **submit events for CPW** is Friday.

Interested in **joining The Tech**? Stop by for dinner Sunday at 6 p.m. or email join@tech.mit.edu.

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



MAZHAR QURAISHI

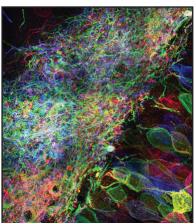
MIT students, Cambridge and New England residents, and other protestors gather outside the Media Lab in response to the MIT India Conference's invitation of politician Subramanian Swamy.

MIDLIFE CRISIS?

Auntie advises a young woman to think about her own thoughts.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3

THE NEW VASAAR NOT-SWING DORM

A tale of broken promises on a would-be cook-for-yourself community.
OPINION, p. 4



'WATCH, PERTURB, MAP'

The Boyden Lab develops interdisciplinary tools to understand the brain.
SCIENCE, p. 8

WHAT ETHICAL CHANGE REALLY COSTS

One billion dollars is not the solution to the ethical problems of the College of Computing.
OPINION, p. 5

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WEATHER

A cold start to March

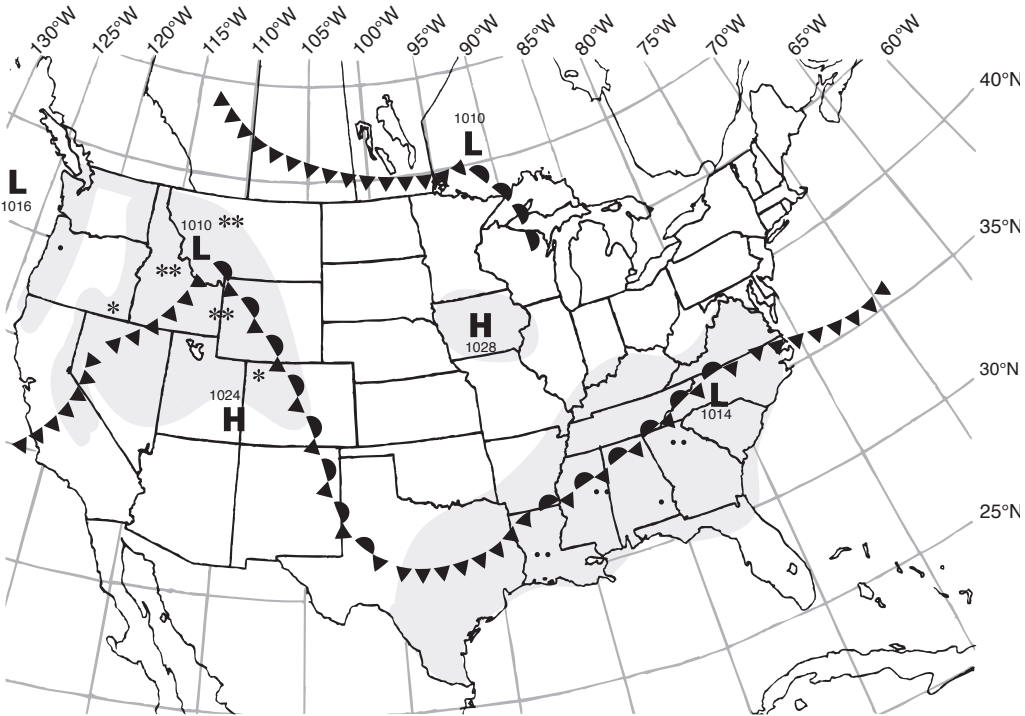
By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As we enter March and start heading towards the spring season, don't expect too much warmth. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center is predicting a colder than normal month ahead, with the cold starting this weekend. After the snow last night, another low pressure system is expected to hit the northeast this weekend, potentially bringing in more snow and rain on Saturday night. For now, keep your snow boots around in case of future storms,

as the sunny warmth of spring is not yet upon us. Across the country, there has been a good amount of precipitation this winter, especially in the west. Northern California got a large amount of rain earlier in the week, causing flooding concerns throughout the area. The Rocky Mountains have had several large snow storms this winter, bringing an exciting ski season to the western states. After such a dry and forest fire filled summer last year, hopefully this precipitation will bring enough moisture and snow-melt to reduce the fire risk for the rest of the year.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. High around 30°F (-1°C). North winds at 5-10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low around 22°F (-6°C). Northwest winds around 5 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High around 36°F (2°C) and low around 28°F (-2°C). Northwest winds around 5-8 mph.
Saturday: Chance of snow and rain. High around 38°F (3°C) and low around 29°F (-2°C).
Sunday: Sunny, then chance of precipitation. High around 41°F (5°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, February 28, 2019

Weather Systems		Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols	
H	High Pressure	- - -	Trough		Snow	☁	Fog
L	Low Pressure	⌒	Warm Front	⬇	Rain	⚡	Thunderstorm
§	Hurricane	▲▲▲	Cold Front	*	Light	∞	Haze
		⌒▲▲	Stationary Front	**	Moderate		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and <i>The Tech</i>
				***	Heavy		

Faculty member expresses concern that students delay bio., chem. GIRs

Phase Two, from Page 1

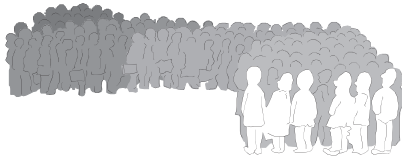
ability to explore courses such as 5, 7, 10, and 20. Another felt that the timeline seemed somewhat rushed, and by following this timeline much of the opportunity for discourse would be lost. As a whole, the First-Year Experiment is an effort spearheaded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor (OVC) and the CUP in response

to the data that they have collected that indicates that many students do not feel prepared to select a major at the end of their freshman year. In his presentation to the faculty, Boning showed that in responses to the 2018 Perception of Academic Majors survey, only 33 percent of surveyed students strongly agree that they were well-prepared to declare a major. The OVC and CUP have reason to believe that this is a result of a

lack of ability to explore other majors by taking introductory classes in courses of interest. According to Boning's presentation, the CUP Study Group on Majors for students entering in fall 2017 found that many students feel pressure to take many science core GIRs on P/NR in their first semester, leaving little to no room to explore other classes. They developed the First-Year Experiment to explore alternatives that could alleviate this issue.

Are you dying to share your **latest discoveries?**

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Solution to Daisy
from page 9

6	2	9	8	3	1	4	7	5
5	3	7	6	9	4	1	2	8
8	4	1	5	7	2	3	9	6
7	9	5	3	4	6	2	8	1
2	1	6	7	8	9	5	4	3
4	8	3	1	2	5	7	6	9
9	5	2	4	1	8	6	3	7
3	6	8	2	5	7	9	1	4
1	7	4	9	6	3	8	5	2

Solution to Chrysanth-
from page 9

4	3	2	6	1	5
3	2	1	5	6	4
2	1	6	4	5	3
6	5	4	2	3	1
1	6	5	3	4	2
5	4	3	1	2	6

got ideas?
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through student-led initiatives



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a question
for
President
Reif?

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ADVICE

‘How do I stop myself from feeling like this?’

Auntie Matter on assertiveness and metacognition

By Auntie Matter

If you have questions for Auntie Matter, please submit them at tinyurl.com/AskAuntieMatter. Questions have been edited for length, clarity, and content.

Dear Auntie Matter,

I feel like I'm going through a midlife crisis. One of my closest friends (I thought) doesn't seem to want to talk to me anymore; she'll text me back when I text her, but she doesn't seem to care enough to actually talk to me on her own (and we live far enough away that we can't really visit). I know that how much she talks to me is her choice (and she might be busy) and she certainly doesn't owe me anything, but it sucks.

I used to be really good friends with one of my exes, but several months ago something happened — he ignored when I said I wasn't interested/didn't want to do something and ever since I've been on edge around him. He keeps trying to talk to me constantly and I feel guilty for not wanting to be around him, even though I know I have a right to.

Some of my other friends have been getting on my nerves lately and I can't tell if it's because I'm stressed, I'm letting the situation with those people bleed over into my other interactions, or if it's because I'm just a bad person. Some of the things my friends do and their senses of humor (I suppose) remind me of my ex and it's making me really uncomfortable, which is unfair to them. I know I shouldn't isolate myself and I'm not trying to, but my grades are slipping and I don't really trust or know most of the people around me to the point where I'm comfortable talking about this with them. I'm always stressed and I feel like I'm never going to accomplish anything. Sorry this is so long, but how do I stop myself from feeling like this?

— Struggling

Dear Struggling,

In the first two-thirds of your letter, you describe two different situations: the uncertainty around your long-distance friendship and the situation with your ex.

First, the only way you are going to find out what is going on with your long-distance friend is to call and ask her about your friendship. You should neither accuse her nor make excuses for her, but you should have a conversation with her.

Now, about your ex — of everything in your letter, Auntie is most troubled by the sentence, “He ignored when I said I wasn’t interested/didn’t want to do something and ever since I’ve been on edge around him.”

What did he do, dear letter-writer?

If the “something” is sexual in nature, Auntie highly recommends you go to VPR to discuss it confidentially with their compassionate staff. They can help you process your feelings about it, and you don’t have to formally report it (unless you would also like to do that, in which case you can visit Title IX, too).

You can either end the friendship definitively, blocking him in every aspect of your life, or you can express the depth of your hurt and give him the opportunity to make it better.

Regardless of what he did, it sounds like he hurt you quite a bit, and Auntie sees two paths forward: you can either end the friendship definitively, blocking him in every aspect of your life, or you can express the depth of your hurt and give him the opportunity to make it better. If you choose the second option, and he fails, you have to let him go.

In all of these situations, you fail to express your disappointment because you believe more disappointment will follow. The truth is that you don’t know whether a situation will improve until you try to improve it. This applies to your friends. You should try talking with them to see if you can either have them make small changes to make you more comfortable, or to work through your discomfort and annoyance with them. This could even bring you closer to them in the end, and if not, maybe you were not compatible as friends to begin with.

As a final practical point, you should consider talking to some other older or

more experienced person who could help you get perspective on your situation. Options include your parents; your advisor; counselors at MIT Mental Health or deans at S3; your dorm’s heads of house, GRTs, or RLAD; a chaplain; or any professor, staff member, older friend, or alum — basically, anyone you feel like you could connect with and talk to.

In addition to practical advice, Auntie has some ideas about how you think about things. Your letter reveals a lot about your character. Auntie commends you for trying to take such a measured perspective on what seem to be distressing circumstances. You seem like a strong, thoughtful person, and you should remember that the state you are currently in is temporary, and that you either have or can develop skills to better your situation.

At the same time, you are not achieving the measured perspective you are trying for. In your letter, you display cognitive distortions. Auntie is no psychologist, but even the layperson can learn to understand and identify cognitive distortions in their thinking. When you say, “I’m always stressed,” or “I don’t trust the people around me,” Auntie wonders if you are catastrophizing. When you say, “I’m a bad person,” Auntie thinks you might be labelling. This is not to say you are “crazy,” or *trying* to misrepresent things. By all appearances in your letter, you are doing your level best to see things objectively. But these distorted thoughts and cognitive frames can be insidious — that is why it is important to identify them, so you can talk back to them. You are trying so hard to be objective, and recognizing cognitive distortions can be another tool that you use in that fight.

Auntie commends you for trying to take such a measured perspective on what seem to be distressing circumstances.

Auntie encourages you to do an experiment. Particularly with your friend group, where you (insightfully) identify that you

might be experiencing some emotional “bleed,” you may be experiencing some cognitive distortions. Write down your feelings about your friend group at a time when your mood is poor. Then, at a different time, when you are well-rested, well-fed, and not stressed, write down your feelings again. If you find that the reasoning is different, you can probably identify some distortions in the first account you write. Furthermore, when reflecting on your friendships in a better mood, you might be able to better discern which are the most worth keeping.

Sometimes in relationships it’s best not to think in terms of rights or fairness, but in terms of what is good for, and acceptable to, both parties in the relationship.

Finally, Auntie would like to note another cognitive habit that might not be serving you. In your letter, you often seem concerned about what is “fair,” and what people’s “rights” are. While it is good that you try to be reasonable in your expectations for others, sometimes in relationships it’s best not to think in terms of rights or fairness, but in terms of what is good for, and acceptable to, both parties in the relationship. What works for you might not be fair, but it might make everyone happy. Furthermore, framing things in terms of fairness and rights makes your relationships almost litigious, instead of collaborative. If you need to defend what is good for you in a friendship on the basis of a right, instead of on the basis of it being good for you, chances are either you or your friend are not really looking to the good of the other person, in which case you may not have a real friendship.

Auntie thinks you will look back on this period in your life as one in which you learned a lot. Good luck, and feel free to write back!

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE



A history of broken promises in the New Vassar dorm design

By Lilly Chin

With many of MIT's dormitories overdue for renovation, a new dorm would need to

Although they were disappointed that the DSL reneged on the Architectural Principles, students tried to make the best of the situation. Over the summer of 2017, the New Residences Working Group held intensive design discussions on how New Vassar could be a comfortable place for non-dining students to live, despite the presence of a dining hall.

New Vassar tells a sad tale of how the DSL has repeatedly violated their own stated principles without working with students to find an acceptable compromise. By making New Vassar a dining dorm and emphatically not a swing space, MIT has ignored the voices and intentions of multiple generations of student leadership. It is furthermore inexcusable that they use this decision as justification for breaking up BC, as if their hands were tied. The administration tied their own hands, over students' repeated and loud objections.

Lilly Chin is a PhD student in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a member of the undergraduate Class of 2017. She served as the UA Committee Chair on Student-Administration Collaboration from 2015-2017.

How will the College of Computing teach ethics if its dean is on Amazon's board?

Dear editors,

MIT has announced that teaching ethics will be a focus of the College of Computing. This raises the question of what ethical principles it will teach to students.

Given that the college is named after the chairman of Blackstone, we must worry that "don't increase concentration of wealth," "don't accelerate global heating," and "don't support murderous autocrats" may be lacking among the principles to be

We can also surmise that he does not object strongly to Amazon's other business

The main question is, will the College of Computing teach students to see possible injustice in these practices, or will it legitimize them by focusing on more obscure ethical issues that don't come near "accepted" computing practice?

Richard Stallman is a visiting scientist at MIT. Stallman is also a leader of the free software movement.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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GUEST COLUMN

Ethical change requires more than a billion dollars

It needs deep reflection and Institute-wide transformation

OPINIONOPINIONOPINIONOPINIONOPIN

By Mark Goldman

In announcing the College of Computing (CoC), President Reif charged us with a bold mandate to reshape the Institute to deal with the challenges of the day, with two out of the five tasks dealing with ethical usage of technology, both in education and in research. With this bold ethical mandate, and all the similar ones to follow, I find hope in a better MIT. We might one day consider nefarious impacts of research before we start on a project. We might be willing to reject research funding that compromises our values. Our future students might leave MIT with a deep concern for the impact their work makes on the world. And I might be proud to belong to such an upstanding university.

At the same time, I remain skeptical. The announcement and direction of the college appears very top-down in its approach, and I fear that lack of buy-in from faculty, staff, and students will prevent the CoC from creating the transformative change necessary to fully embrace the ethical challenges mandated by President Reif.

Now that the CoC celebrations are wrapping up, we should recognize that convincing MIT faculty, staff, and students to value acting ethically will require much more than a few new professors and a billion dollars. We need to take a long, vulnerable look at ourselves and reassess our priorities. We likely need to set aside other core values, like faculty autonomy and maximizing endowment growth, so that MIT can better serve its

mission. This will be difficult, but it is necessary to truly reshape MIT.

During my past four years at the Institute, I have experienced pervasive ethical avoidance and failures, which highlight how multifaceted and daunting President Reif’s mandate is. A year after arriving on campus, I saw how the administration turned a student movement for MIT to reject companies that fuel climate science denial, growing MIT’s research budget at the potential expense of perpetuating falsehoods. With regards to faculty, I remember arriving to class with “Black Lives Matter” written across the top of the chalkboard and wondering whether the professor would at least acknowledge the words staring at all of us. He never did. And I remember the numerous times classmates proclaimed that they didn’t care about what they worked on, or the impact it had, as long as it was challenging. This mentality mirrors the ethos of hackathons, which often condenses complex societal issues into small tech-based problems alleviating us of the trouble of asking larger, and often ethical, questions. For example, in a 2015 Clean Earth Hackathon I attended, we were asked to develop a technology that better sorts plastic fragments out of broken glass for a recycling sorting facility, ignoring larger questions like why we purchase and discard so much plastic and glass.

We can prevent these types of mistakes in the future by thinking about how ethics applies to our work. The administration can reassess when MIT should not accept funds which would contribute to misinformation and perpetuate inequalities within society. Some of these changes may infringe upon other Institute values, which can create political roadblocks, and the administration needs to be ready and willing to address the concerns created by these shifting values. For example, creating an ethical review board which evaluates broader impacts of corporate-funded research projects might go against the longstanding value of faculty autonomy by restricting faculty members’ ability to accept research money, so the administration would need to roll this out in a way that reduces its perceived impact on faculty autonomy. Thus, the administration should evaluate how to tackle these issues before informing the entire faculty. To ensure that changes to the required curriculum address Reif’s ethics mandates, the administration will need to develop metrics that measure the necessary ethical changes and collect data before and after that curriculum change to determine if the change met the requirement.

Faculty need to tackle their own discomfort with ethical issues and bring their newfound ethical framework into the classrooms and research labs. When motivating students with a real world example, they should resist painting the story as entirely good and without any ethical questions. They should integrate ethical questions into assignments

when using realistic problem statements and projects. When accepting corporate research grants, faculty should make sure their research does not become public relations material for companies, especially if the research could be misused to prevent certain benefits to society, like fixing the healthcare system or tackling climate change.

As students, we must grapple with the knowledge that our work has the potential to harm society, and that we are responsible for the impacts of technology that we help bring into this world. In our CI-Ms, at conferences, or in publications, we should mention any potential ethical concerns alongside any societal benefits, and when attending others’ talks, we can ask questions if they forget to mention ethical concerns about their new technology.

None of this is easy or natural, and the parties over the last few days have likely done little to help us question our moral shortcomings, but this is precisely what we must do. If, as MIT’s administrators, students, and faculty, we are not serious enough about ethics to consider it in line with our other priorities, the CoC could perpetuate, or even exacerbate, the use of technology and AI in unethical ways to manipulate politics, increase economic inequality, and amplify extremist views. If this is the case, then the ethical promises MIT has made with the CoC will become the fake news that our technology is so successful at spreading.

Mark Goldman is a graduate student in the MIT Department of Chemical Engineering.



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How to Train Your Dragon 3 sets out for a dazzling, dragon-filled voyage

★★★★☆

How to Train Your Dragon 3: The Hidden World

Directed by Dean DeBlois

Screenplay by Dean DeBlois

Starring Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, Cate Blanchett, Gerard Butler

Rated PG, Now Playing

In *The Hidden World*, Hiccup and Toothless, the lovable duo, return for the final installment of the *How to Train your Dragon* trilogy, which began a full nine years ago. It looks like time hasn't stopped for the citizens of Berk, and the story picks up one year after *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, as our two protagonists enter early adulthood. Love

Several of these moments are remarkably poignant, and both younger and older dragon fans will appreciate the film's emo-



tional core. A wide array of human and dragon emotions permeate the story, elevating the film from genre-typical action to bigger thoughts. The relationship between Hiccup and his father, in particular, will resonate with parents and children alike. Auditory and visual callbacks to earlier films will be sure to trigger deep-buried nostalgia, and

While some might find the story wrapped up too neatly, it stands to be said that at least Dreamworks found a good place to end the *How To Train Your Dragon* series. *The Hidden World* had laughs, tears, gasps, and *awws*, and is a must-see for long-time fans.

The squashed cabbage leaf prevails

A woman in a white kimono with orange floral patterns and a red sash, wearing a black hat with a floral decoration, holds a white plate and looks surprised. A man in a brown suit and red tie sits in a wooden chair, looking at her. The background is dark with a piano and some objects on a table.

Vaishnavi Sharma and Eric Tucker play as **Eliza Doolittle** and **Henry Higgins**, respectively, in Bedlam's *Pygmalion* at Central Square Theater.

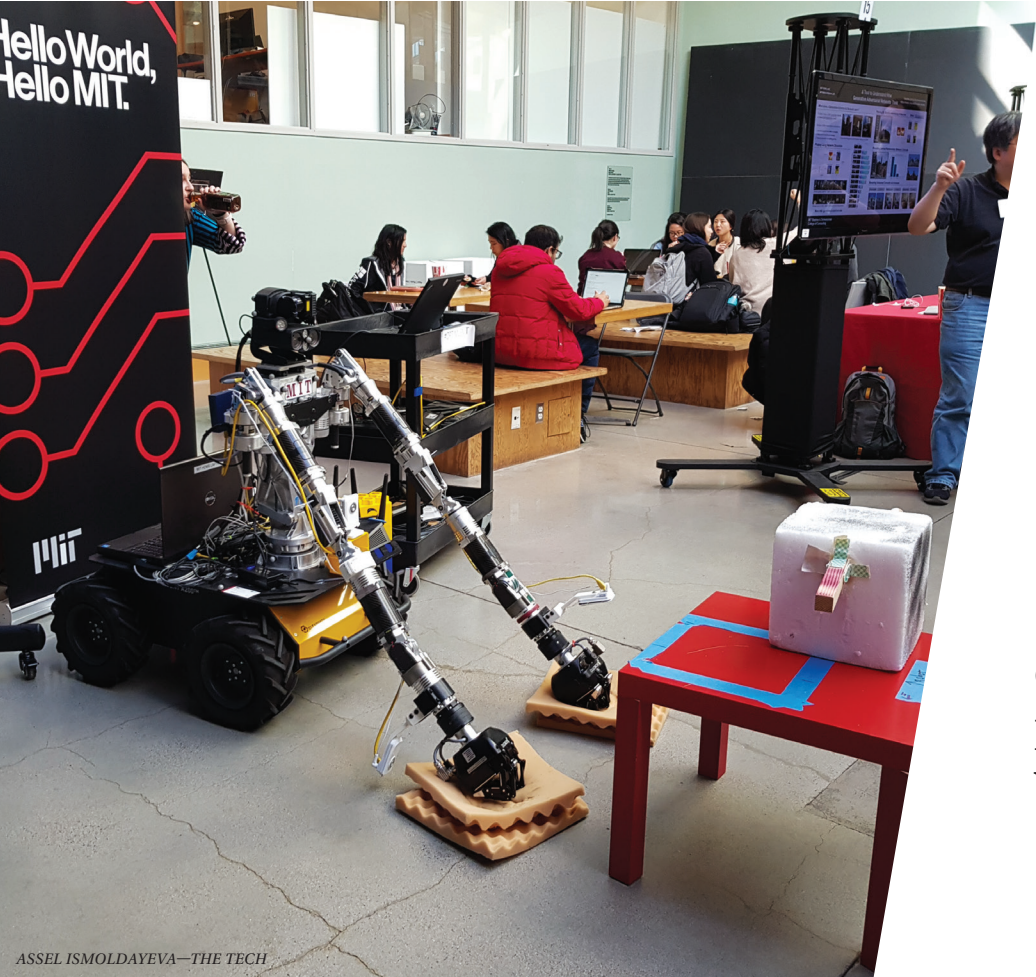
We first encounter our Galatea on the steps of Tottenham Court Road where she is

Instead of the thick Cockney accent that the character of Eliza Doolittle would normally sport, this Eliza's utterances reveal an Indian provenance (Higgins later specifies Delhi). My first reaction to this tailoring was ambivalent, but there are two reasons which make this an inspired directorial choice. The first reason is that it creates an immediate tie between Eliza Doolittle and Colonel Pickering, who has spent a large amount of time in India. The second, and more significant, is that for an American audience, a Cockney accent does not have

Edmund Lewis steals the show as both Higgins's mother and Freddy Eyns-

Jan. 31–March 3

Bernard Shaw wrote a play in support of women's independence, but at every turn. actors, directors, and producers are trying to slap on a romantic, sentimental ending. Thankfully, Bedlam does not take this liberty. At the end of the play, Eliza is able to "retain her pride and triumph to the end," as Shaw once wrote in a letter. This production of *Pygmalion* will make you laugh and will make you think — I recommend it wholeheartedly. I look forward to seeing what Bedlam conjures up next when they return to Central Square Theater later this year with a production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.



MIT Computing Expo

The first day of the College of Computing celebrations Feb. 26 included interactive panels and demonstrations of recent advances in the field.

ASSEL ISMOLDAYEVA—THE TECH



KEVIN LY—THE TECH



SHINJINI GHOSH—THE TECH



ALEX LI—THE TECH



ASSEL ISMOLDAYEVA—THE TECH

'Watch, perturb, and map'

By Isabel Barnet

For Ed Boyden '99, leader of the Synthetic Neurobiology Group, the ultimate puzzle can be summed up in one succinct phrase, he said in his interview with *The Tech*: "addressing the problems of the human condition through science." It is only fitting that the lab's work involves the creation and dissemination of the tools to study the fundamental mechanisms of brain function and applying these findings to treating disorders.

Boyden described his arrival to neuroscience as “great timing,” as his previous experiences in other fields equipped him with the unique ability to approach problems technologically. The evolution of his career is directly reflected in the lab’s work and makeups, which Boyden deemed “omnidisciplinary.” The Synthetic Neurobiology Group consists of 50 fulltime contributors, including a professional neurosurgeon, a former professional photographer with a background in art, biologists, chemists, physicists, electrical engineers, computer scientists, and more; this leads Boyden to conjecture that it may be one of the largest neuroscience groups in academia.

order to obtain the most comprehensive picture of the brain, the vast team of scientists is focusing on integrating three technologies: fluorescent voltage indicators to watch the brain, optogenetics to perturb the brain, and expansion microscopy to map the brain. Fluorescent voltage indicators, which the lab developed and announced last year, are molecules that glow when put into active brain cells. They are primarily used to image neural activity, or, in other words, watch the brain, by measuring membrane potentials.

Finally, the brain is mapped through expansion microscopy. In 2015, the lab patented this technique, which allows for tissues to be imaged with nanoscale precision. Instead of relying on optical magnification, by which cost, imaging speed, and hardware complexity limitations arise, expansion microscopy involves physically and evenly magnifying specimen. This process is driven by the infusion of the tissue with what Boyden coined a “baby-diaper-like” chemical, which swells upon exposure to water and evenly expands the sample. The resulting tissue is essentially transparent, as it is primarily composed



of water, and the expansion is so precise that, within the brain, for example, even the most minute of connections can be visualized. Since the magnification is physical, a variety of cheap, scalable, or high-throughput optical tools (such as lattice sheet microscopy or the aforementioned imaging techniques) can be paired with expansion microscopy, which, according to Boyden, has allowed the lab to image brain circuits “a thousand times faster than the competition, with this number growing soon.”

can amplify these small, early changes into those that are visible. Since pathologists disagree roughly half of the time about the diagnosis of breast cancer biopsies, Boyden and his team devised a machine learning algorithm to classify expansion microscopy enlarged biopsies with a high degree of accuracy.

Though Ed Boyden's work centers on the brain, the technologies his group pioneers are multidisciplinary at their core. Whether the lab is pursuing new diagnostic possibilities by applying their methods in a translational context, investigating the augmentation of brain function in the face of disability, or gaining a better understanding of our emotion, cognition, and motion as humans, it is clear that the trajectory of the work is forward, moving across boundaries and borders, imbued with an interminable zest to grasp the human condition and its infinite complexities.

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Daisy

Solution, page 2

6		9		3				
			6		4	1		8
8		1		7				6
		5					8	1
			7		9			
4	8					7		
9				1		6		7
3		8	2		7			
				6		8		2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Chrysanthemum

Solution, page 2

48x			180x		5
3		1			1-
12x		480x			
	5		6+		
5x	2-	1-		2-	
		3		12x	

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.

Dusty Devices

by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 Numbers posted at racetracks
- 5 Swiss mountains
- 9 Without air, as a tire
- 13 Winfrey of TV
- 14 Have a good cry
- 15 Tardy
- 16 “Coming soon” ad, for short
- 17 Prefix meaning “against”
- 18 Woodwind instrument
- 19 Once-popular keyboard device
- 21 State west of NJ
- 22 Encountered
- 23 Cider fruits
- 25 Sculpted or molded
- 29 Bronze or brass
- 31 Desire granted by a genie
- 32 Mediocre
- 34 Narrowly defeated
- 38 Spanish goodbye
- 40 Country n. of Mexico
- 41 Woman’s small crown
- 42 Intended
- 43 Fifth of a nickel

- 45 __ down (lose weight)
- 46 Courtroom pledges
- 48 Maintenance cost
- 50 Perform a lullaby for
- 53 Hour after noon
- 54 Aroma
- 55 Once-popular enclosure for making calls
- 62 Grandma
- 63 Shared by you and me
- 64 Thorny shrub
- 65 Breakfast restaurant chain
- 66 Run away from
- 67 Bowling pathways
- 68 Have a snack
- 69 Rapid
- 70 Large antlered animals

DOWN

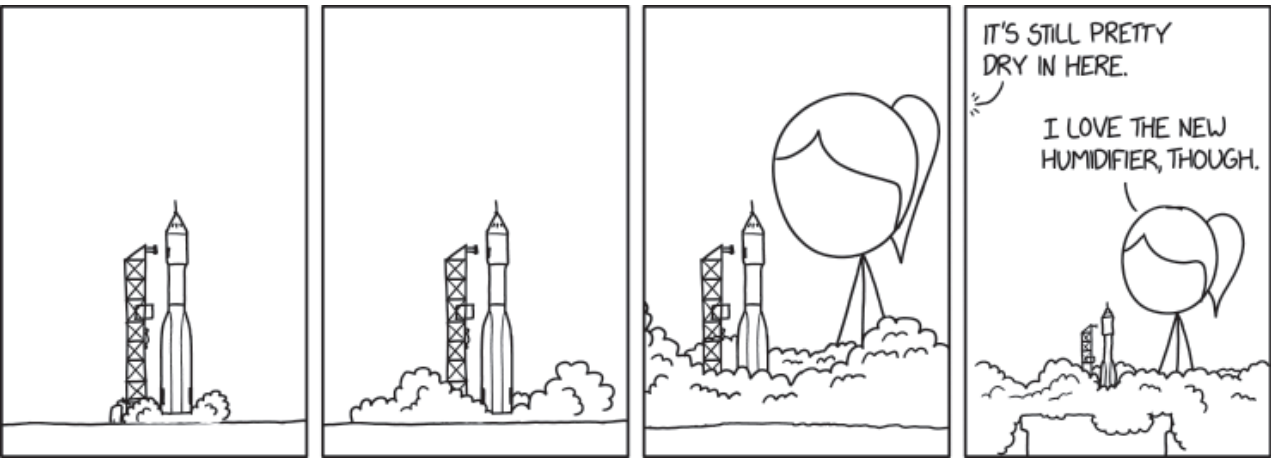
- 1 Grand Ole __ (country-music venue)
- 2 Tiny bit of rain
- 3 Notre __ University
- 4 “I want to see that”
- 5 Be patient for
- 6 Period before Easter

- 7 Sampras of tennis
- 8 Twisting staircase shape
- 9 Once-popular data storage device
- 10 Tag inside a shirt
- 11 Make amends
- 12 Adolescents
- 13 Choose, with “for”
- 20 Crimson and scarlet
- 24 Person creating verses
- 25 Did laps in a pool
- 26 Conceal
- 27 Japan’s continent
- 28 Once-popular record player
- 29 Donkeys
- 30 Cash advance
- 33 “That hurts!”
- 35 Heavy wind
- 36 One of the Great Lakes
- 37 A bit wet
- 39 Numerical datum
- 44 Adjust, as a piano
- 47 Fill fully, as a gas tank
- 49 Little stone

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
19						20					21			
				22					23	24				
25	26	27	28				29	30						
31						32	33			34		35	36	37
38				39		40				41				
42						43			44		45			
				46		47			48	49				
50	51	52						53						
54						55	56	57			58	59	60	61
62						63				64				
65						66				67				
68						69				70				

- 50 __-law (daughter’s husband)
- 51 State known for potatoes
- 52 Forbidden things
- 53 Early stage
- 56 Luau dance
- 57 Metallic rocks
- 58 Word-of-mouth
- 59 Swine’s sound
- 60 Golf pegs
- 61 Day fractions: Abbr.

[2114] Launch Conditions



Though I do think the tiny vent on one of the boosters labeled “O-RING” is in poor taste.

Violet

Solution, page 12

5		4			9			
				8	1			7
8				3			2	
2		3					7	
	5	6	1		2	3	9	
	9					6		2
	7			9				5
9			8	1				
			2			1		9

8x		3÷	12+		
24x				5x	
	6x	14+		24x	2
90x			20x		5-
		4			
	5x		48x		

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.

Solution, page 12

- 1 Tip of a comet
- 5 Fashion rival of Gucci
- 10 Burger meat
- 14 Suffix for kitchen
- 15 Entices
- 16 Auto's wheel bar
- 17 Cape Canaveral org.
- 18 Assumed name
- 19 Green citrus fruit
- 20 Up-high circus performer
- 23 Warm embrace
- 24 Small cylindrical batteries
- 25 Ranted and __
- 28 Nose, informally
- 30 Hockey disk
- 33 "Now __ seen everything!"
- 34 True-to-life art style
- 37 India's continent
- 38 "Shot out" circus performer
- 42 Whitish gemstone
- 43 Immense
- 44 Took first place
- 45 Round Table titles
- 46 Congressional session
broadcaster

52 "My lips __ sealed!"
54 Fuss
55 One-wheeled circus performer
60 Strauss of jeans
62 Moses' brother
63 Neither good nor bad
64 Matures
65 Foundation's donation
66 Sedan or coupe
67 Cause to yawn
68 Borders
69 Originate (from)

DOWN

1 Odometer's small increments
2 Galloping
3 "The project is on!"
4 Jump
5 City square
6 Regulations
7 Operatic solo
8 Hang on for __ life
9 Aide: Abbr.

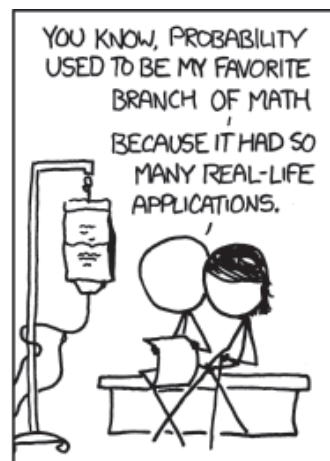
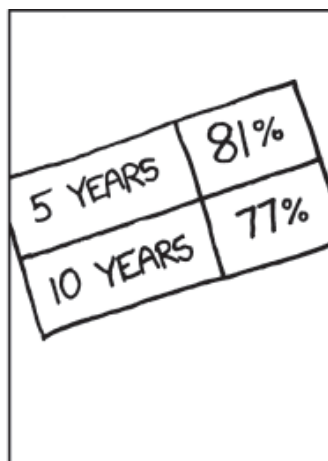
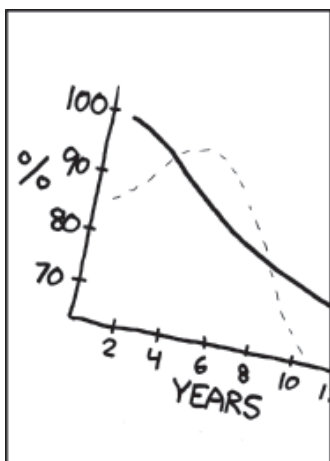
11 Permit to leave a country
12 Shade tree
13 Service charge
21 Gobbled up
22 Rub the wrong way
26 Wicked
27 Distribute the cards
29 By mouth, as a vaccine
30 Quart fractions
31 Annapolis sch.
32 "Let's go!"
35 First part of a play
36 Wild animal's home
37 Basics
38 "___ it going?"
39 Fairy tale's second word
40 Strategic tactic
41 More pleasant
45 Glide down snow
47 Make more lengthy than necessary
48 "___ Fideles" (Christmas song)
49 "Sorry, we're full"
51 Licorice-flavored herb

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
23					24						25			
26					27						28			
29					30						31			
32					33						34			
35					36						37			
38					39						40			
41					42						43			
44					45						46			
47					48						49			
50					51						52			
53					54						55			
56					57						58			
59					60						61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

58 Rugged rock
59 "A miss __ good . . ."
60 Scientist's testing room
61 Swelled head



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coffee with a TA

Instructions

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2. Register your coffee on the Google Form.
3. Get coffee! Make sure that you (not your TA) pay for it.
4. Submit receipts to baker-foundation@mit.edu with a selfie!

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write for us

e-mail join@tech.mit.edu



Solution to Rose

from page 10

5	6	4	7	2	9	8	1	3
3	2	9	6	8	1	4	5	7
8	1	7	5	3	4	9	2	6
2	4	3	9	6	8	5	7	1
7	5	6	1	4	2	3	9	8
1	9	8	3	5	7	6	4	2
6	7	1	4	9	3	2	8	5
9	3	2	8	1	5	7	6	4
4	8	5	2	7	6	1	3	9

Solution to Violet

from page 10

2	4	6	1	5	3
4	6	2	3	1	5
1	3	5	6	4	2
5	1	3	4	2	6
6	2	4	5	3	1
3	5	1	2	6	4

Solution to Sunflower

from page 11

8	3	5	4	6	7	9	1	2
7	2	4	3	5	6	8	9	1
1	5	7	6	8	9	2	3	4
2	6	8	7	9	1	3	4	5
5	9	2	1	3	4	6	7	8
4	8	1	9	2	3	5	6	7
6	1	3	2	4	5	7	8	9
3	7	9	8	1	2	4	5	6
9	4	6	5	7	8	1	2	3

Solution to Devices


from page 9

ODDS	ALPS	FLAT
OPRAH	WEEP	LATE
PROMO	ANTI	OBOE
TYPEWRITER	PENN	
MET	APPLES	
SHAPED	ALLOY	
WISH	SOSO	EDGED
ADIOS	USA	TIARA
MEANT	CENT	SLIM
OATHS	UPKEEP	
SINGTO	ONE	
ODOR	PHONEBOOTH	
NANA	OURS	BRIER
IHOP	FLEE	LANES
NOSH	FAST	ELKS

Solution to Circus

from page 10

TAIL	PRADA	BEEF
ETTE	LURES	AXLE
NASA	ALIAS	LIME
TRAPEZEARTIST		
HUG	AAS	RAVED
SNOOT	PUCK	IVE
REALISM	ASIA	
HUMANCANNONBALL		
OPAL	TITANIC	
WON	SIRS	CSPAN
SNEAK	ARE	ADO
UNICYCLERIDER		
LEVI	AARON	SOSO
AGES	GRANT	AUTO
BORE	EDGES	STEM




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