thetech.com

Volume 139, Number 22

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 55°F | 53°F
Rainy and Windy.
FRI: 56°F | 53°F
Rainy and Breezy.
SAT: 58°F | 51°F
Cloudy

Thursday, October 10, 2019

North Court renamed after MIT Pres. Susan Hockfield

Student groups protest dedication ceremony due to Hockfield's close relationship with David Koch

By Shreya Karpoor

North Court was renamed Hockfield Court Oct. 4 in honor of Susan Hockfield, MIT's 16th president and lifetime member of the MIT Corporation. At the dedication ceremony, students protested against the naming, citing Hockfield's relationship with the late David Koch '62.

As the Institute's first female and first life scientist president, Hockfield oversaw the expansion of East Campus and Kendall Square, launched the MIT Energy Initiative, and helped establish the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, the Institute for Medical Engineering and Science, and the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard.

The protest began at the steps of the Stratton Student Center. Students then walked across campus to Hockfield Court to attend the dedication ceremony. The protest was organized by a coalition of student groups, including MIT Students Against War, UnKoch MIT, and Movement for Anti-Oppressive Computing Practices.

Protesters called for the cancellation of the dedication ceremony and the removal of Koch's name from all buildings on campus. Ryan Aasen G, a protest organizer, wrote in an email to the MIT community that due to "the ongoing funding investigation, the environmental violations committed by the Open Agriculture Initiative, and the Global Climate Strikes, this event is inappropriate, and it exemplifies the disconnect this administration has to the

Hockfield, Page 2



MIT students protest the renaming of North Court to Hockfield Court Friday.

IN SHORT

Undergraduate registration for 2nd quarter PE classes is now open. Graduate registration opens 8 a.m. Tuesday Oct. 15.

Half-term exam periods start Thursday Oct. 10.

Visit the Wellness Fair at the Z-Center 2–5 p.m. Friday Oct. 11.

Video nominations for the 2020 MIT Excellence Awards and Col-

lier Medal are due Thursday Oct. 15. Written nominations are due Friday Oct. 18.

There are no classes on Monday Oct. 14 and Tuesday Oct. 15 due to the Columbus Day holiday.

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.*

Green Building to be renovated

Renovations include upgraded 54-100 and new pavilion

By Kristina Chen
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Cecil and Ida Green Building (Building 54) is beginning a renovation process. The renovations will add 12,000 square feet of space intended to make the Green Building more accessible to students and

community members.

Along with the addition of a new Earth and Environment Pavilion, the renovations will include upgrades to the lecture hall in room 54-100 (which will be renamed the Shell Auditorium) and will provide students meeting places and study

The Green Building houses the earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences (EAPS) department.

"The impact it will make, we hope, is much, much more than just

the square footage," EAPS Department Head Professor Robert van der Hilst said in an interview with *The Tech.* "It's really giving a completely new entrance and physical access to our department."

After the renovations, the Green Building will contain not only the EAPS department, but also the Environmental Solutions Initiative and MIT's joint program with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, with the intention of creating "central units for all sorts of new synergies and collaborative efforts," van der Hilst said.

Currently, the EAPS department is selecting an architect for the project.

"Hopefully, this whole process of the architect selection and the design will all be done by early 2021," van der Hilst said. "We hope that it will all be done by 2023," which is also the 40th anniversary of the department.

The project will require \$60 million in funding. Half of the funding goal was reached this past April, with contributions from donors including John H. Carlson; George Elbaum '59; Fred A. Middleton Jr. '71; Neil Pappalardo '64; and oil and gas company Shell. Construction is expected to begin in 2021, with the hope that the renovations will be complete by 2023.

In response to the EAPS department accepting donations from and planning to rename 54-100 after Shell, a hack called Futility Island was placed on McDermott Court Sept. 22. Futility Island has since been taken down.

Green Building, Page 2



President L. Rafael Reif urges climate action at a symposium in Kresge Auditorium Wednesday.

Founder's Group made for New Vassar dorm

New Vassar St. dorm to open in Fall 2020

By Jocasta Manasseh-Lewis

Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson and Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 will formally charge a New Vassar Street Residence Founder's Group to help "create a new residential community." New Vassar Head of House Steven Hall and Associate Head of House Naomi Carton will work with student leaders, Division of Student Life staff, and faculty to form the group, according to the DSL.

According to a document linked in an email from Hall and Carton and forwarded to multiple residence halls, the Founders' Group currently includes administration

New Vassar, Page 2

Media Lab group head dismissed

Researcher found to have violated sexual harassment policy

By Rujul Gandhi

NEWSEDITO

V. Michael Bove Jr. '83, former head of the Object-Based Media Group at the Media Lab, was terminated from employment last week, following the determination that he violated MIT's sexual harassment policy.

Deb Roy PhD '99, executive director of the Media Lab, wrote in an email to the Media Lab community Sept. 27 that Bove "is no longer employed at MIT," with Bove's last day of employment being Sept. 26.

In an email to the Media Lab community Oct. 3, Bove wrote, "Following allegations that I acted in a harassing or otherwise unwelcome manner toward some other members of the community, I am no longer at the Media Lab. I very much regret inappropriate and indefensible actions or words by which I have

caused pain or discomfort to any of the remarkable, dedicated professionals in the lab, and offer my sincerest apologies."

According to Bove's email, he chose to break confidentiality regarding the case to prevent rumors about the "scholarly integrity" of his former students.

In an email statement to *The Tech*, Roy wrote, "Media Lab leadership takes seriously our responsibility to create a safer, fairer, more transparent, and more inclusive environment for our community."

All media lab faculty and research groups have chosen to receive training on promoting respectful and inclusive group culture, Roy wrote. Additionally, Media Lab leadership is creating working groups to suggest improvements in "five pillars — governance, funding, culture, research, and student-faculty relations."

Roy wrote that projects from the Object-Based Media Group will remain in the Media Lab, and a transition plan will be formed together with students, staff, and faculty.

Bove was formerly on the advisory board of *The Tech*. He has resigned from that position effective Oct. 8, according to an emailed statement from Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez '20, publisher of *The Tech*.

MIT's Violence Prevention & Response (VPR) is a confidential, on-campus resource for issues pertaining to sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment and domestic/dating violence. VPR can be reached at any time on their 24/7 hotline: (617) 253-2300. For information about MIT's Title IX reporting options and procedures please contact the Title IX and Bias Response Office at titleix@mit.edu or visit titleix. mit.edu.

MENTAL HEALTH AT MIT

Graduate students need increased coverage and support. **OPINION**, **p. 5**

NOT A JOKE

A character study on madness. **ARTS**, **p**. **7**

CLASSY DATES

Longfellow Bar is just a T stop away. **ARTS**, **p. 8**



ASIAN FUSION TIKI

An experimental twist. **ARTS**, **p**. **7**

MIT ELECTION LAB

Using data science to support democracy. **SCIENCE p. 9**

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Thursday, October 10, 2019

WEATHER

Time to pull out the umbrella

By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

It will be tough to stay dry over the next couple days, as a large low pressure system is projected to sit right off the southern coast of Massachusetts for most of today and tomorrow. Instead of moving up the coast as most storms do this time of year, this system looks stationary, and will bring heavy rain for a sustained amount of time throughout southern New England. Some areas of the northeast may receive up to 3-6 inches of rain. If there ever was a weekend to wear rain boots and bring an umbrella, this weekend would be the one. With the rain, coastlines are expected to be ravaged by the storm, as wind speeds may

increase to a gusty 40 mph in Boston. Winds this fast are daunting to all who have to cross through the legendary MacGregor wind tunnel to get home from class. We are not the only ones struggling through severe weather this weekend; another big storm will also drop significant rain and snow through the Great Plains states and Rocky Mountains at the same time.

Strong winds, cooler weather, and rain all remind us that Boston is steadily entering the heart of fall, and the trees on campus are starting to turn red and orange before they fall. The sun and relative warmth will come back out on Sunday, so use the long weekend to witness New England's beautiful fall colors and enjoy the dry weather!

Extended Forecast

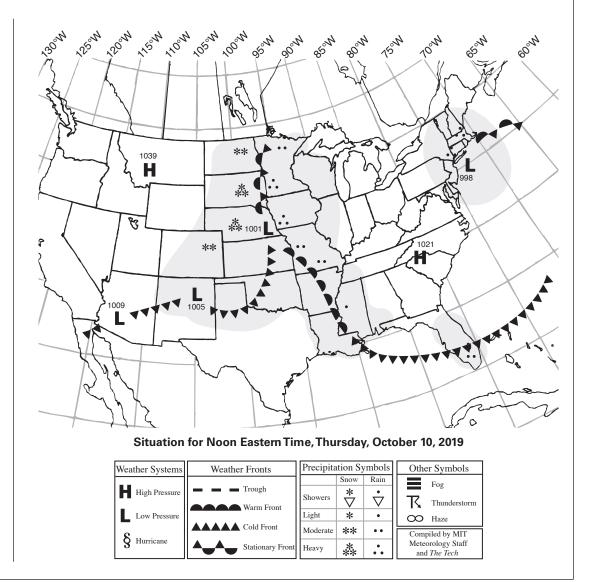
Today: Rainy and windy. High around 55 °F (13 °C). Northeast winds around 25-30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: Rainy and breezy. Low around 53 °F (12 °C). Northeast winds around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tomorrow: Rainy and breezy. High around 56°F (13°C) and low around 53 °F (12 °C). Northeast winds at 23-25 mph, with gusts up to 30 mph.

Saturday: Rain likely in the morning, then cloudy. High around 58 °F (14 °C) and low around 51 °F (11 °C). North winds around 13-17 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High around 66 °F (19 °C).



Protestor says ceremony exemplifies the administration's 'disconnect'

Hockfield, from Page 1

seriousness of the reforms needed at MIT"

Aasen wrote that much of Hockfield's success was due to Hockfield's close relationship with Koch "against the wishes of many students, staff, and faculty."

Aasen elaborated that Koch was responsible for spending "billions of dollars lobbying for the roll back environmental protections, funding climate change denial, and fighting against Americans' right to affordable healthcare."

Students at the protest carried signs reading "Oilfield Court" and called for President L. Rafael Reif to resign from the board of the oil company Schlumberger. Other signs read "Accountability not avoidance #THEYKNEW," and "No Epstein! No Koch!"

On the associated Facebook event page, MIT Students Against War wrote that the MIT Corporation "cares more about taking money from billionaires than about harms done to women, children, immigrants, poor people, and the environment," citing the acceptance of funds from "a child sex trafficker (Jeffrey Epstein), a murderous prince (Mohammad bin Salman), destroyers of the envi-

ronment (the Kochs), and dubious corporations."

Alonso Espinosa Dominguez '20, a member of MIT Students Against War, was among the students and staff who spoke in front of the Student Center. "MIT does not exist in a vacuum. ... MIT has been set up to serve those in power," he said.

Community events similar to the Oct. 4 dedication have also occurred when the "first-floor com-

mon area in the Stata Center was named the Charles M. Vest Student Street in memory of the Institute's 15th president ... [and] the residence of MIT presidents was renamed Gray House to honor MIT's 14th president, Paul Gray, and his wife, Priscilla King Gray," according to an email to *The Tech* from the President's office.

Edwin Song contributed reporting.

Green Building renovations to start in 2021

Green Building, from Page 1

Using pipes taken from nearby art installation Futurity Island, presented by the MIT Program in Art, Culture, and Technology, Futility Island depicts an oil spill in front of the Green Building.

The sign in front of the hack read, "Futility Island is presented ... to reestablish the conveniently downplayed association between the fossil fuel industry and the environment in which we live." MIT's continued collusion with the companies responsible for the desolation of

our climate places the Institute's paltry efforts to mitigate environmental disaster on the precarious edge of futility," the sign continued.

Van der Hilst said that the renovations of the Green Building have been over 20 years in the making. "We have been talking about space improvements in this building since the mid-'90s, ... and it always didn't go anywhere, mostly because there was not enough funding."

Van der Hilst said that he hoped the renovations would allow students to see the research being done in climate and planetary sciences. "Those are really very exciting fields right now, and if you now pass the Green Building, you don't see any of that," van der Hilst said.

"Students will flow through this new space, and we hope that there will be a lot of people flux," van der Hilst said. "We really hope that it will be kind of a central hub for all of MIT to come through and that they find it much more accessible to see the science we do, the research that we do, the amazing work we do."

layed association obside in the first said that he belong that it was be kind of a central hub for all of MIT to come through and that they find it much more accessible to see **Fully-funded Internships for U **Recent Alumni** **Recent Alumni**

Founders' Group includes admin., students

New Vassar, from Page 1

from DSL, Student Support and Wellbeing, Residential Education, and Housing and Residential Services. Additionally, an area director, graduate resident advisors, and four to six undergraduate students will join the group.

According to the document, the students in the group will commit to lunch meetings every other Thursday from 12–1:30 p.m. beginning tentatively Oct. 24. The students will gather input from the student community, contrib-

ute to the interim report, due Jan. 31, 2020, and contribute to the final report and recommendations, due June 1, 2020. The group will only be active until the opening of New Vassar in Fall 2020.

"In addition to living in New Vassar, founders' group members will help organize the community's government and lay the foundation for its character in partnership with the house team and supported by staff" from the DSL, according to Hall and Carton.

New Vassar will include a marketplace, community

kitchen, dining hall, and makerspace. Hall and Carton wrote, "In the end, student input shaped the dorm's interior design in significant ways, including the critical path throughout the residence hall, lounges in the residential clusters, the first-floor layout, and more flexible shared space."

The two newest residence halls, Simmons (opened in 2002) and Maseeh (opened as an undergraduate residence in 2011) also had founders' groups, according to Hall and Carton.



Cambridge Ward 5's Democratic ward committee is carrying out an MIT Student Attitude Poll to get your opinions on some neighborhood political issues! Early results are now publicly available on FB @CambridgeWard5Dems

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help

from new_skills import *

Thursday, October 10, 2019

The Tech 3

It's Dangerous to Go Alone!



Take This.

photo@tech.mit.edu

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By Opinion Writer

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GUEST COLUMN

MIT Democrats' endorsements for the upcoming Cambridge City Council election

We should elect a city council member who will represent the needs of MIT students

By Kevin Li, Ahmed Elbashir, Dahlia Dry, and Felix Li

Many MIT students call Cambridge home, and all students at the Institute are members of this vibrant community. However, although students make up around 20 percent of the population of Cambridge, we are woefully underrepresented by Cambridge's City Council, where eight of nine members are over the age of 50 and do not give student concerns the consideration we deserve. This November, as all of City Council stands for re-election, we have a chance to change that.

MIT Democrats has chosen to endorse the following four candidates based on their support for policies that match the priorities of MIT students. Students care about building more affordable housing in Cambridge; as housing prices continue to rise, those of us who live off campus or seek to remain in the city after graduating struggle to find affordable apartments, and those of us who live on campus watch as dorm prices increase to match the Cambridge market rate. Students want better public transportation; most of us are pedestrians and bikers, not car owners, and we want to see the streets of Cambridge made safer for us. Students want to protect the environment; we will have to live with the worst of climate change, and we want to do everything possible to fight global warming and avert coming disaster. Finally, students are a diverse group. We are all either international students, first-generation Americans, or friends of those who are, and we want candidates who make Cambridge a safe and welcoming place to live for everyone, regardless of where they came from.

All the candidates we have endorsed share our values. They come from diverse backgrounds, are serious about fighting climate change, are advocating for better transportation, have pledged to support the Affordable Housing Overlay, and have embraced other pro-housing policies. And thanks to Cambridge's ranked choice voting, we can support all of them this November, as can every other student who lives in Cambridge and can register to vote in this year's election.

However, one candidate in particular stands out. We endorse Burhan Azeem for your first-place vote. As a former MIT student, Burhan has firsthand experience with the struggles students face and he will

undoubtedly be a strong advocate for the interests of young people in Cambridge. More importantly, Burhan understands how the issues we care about are all related. His vision for Cambridge as a city that can be a model for the world is inspiring, and we enthusiastically support him as our first choice for the City Council.

Burhan Azeem

Burhan Azeem graduated from MIT in 2019 with a degree in materials science and engineering and is now running for Cambridge City Council on a platform centered around the issues that matter most to students: housing, transportation, and climate action. After immigrating from Pakistan to the U.S., where he came to personally understand housing instability through his family's struggles, he delved into sustainability research at MIT and spent his free time becoming involved in local activist groups like A Better Cambridge that focused on advocating for more affordable housing. Burhan's primary comprehensive plan aims to address the climate crisis with the theory that building a more sustainable Cambridge means also building a more equitable Cambridge. Through investing in green, efficient transportation and pushing for dense, cost-effective and affordable housing development, Burhan believes that we can successfully create transformative change in the direction of both a better planet and a better city for everyone. Additionally, his proposed Cambridge Students Association would engage Cambridge's student population in local politics and empower them to advocate for their interests, facilitating important dialogues and making a lasting change in terms of student representation.

We believe that Burhan's first-hand understanding of the interconnected nature of the problems that we face and his experience calling MIT home for four years make him the best candidate to be the voice that MIT students need in shaping the future of Cambridge.

Sumbul Siddiqui

Sumbul Siddiqui, an immigrant from Karachi, Pakistan and a product of Cambridge's public schools, is currently serving her first term as a city councilor. Sumbul studied public policy at Brown University and earned a law degree from Northwestern University. Her agenda is focused on reinforcing affordable housing policy, promoting economic development (especially for small businesses), and fostering

civic engagement. Sumbul's passion for civic engagement at a young-age, work at New Profit promoting social mobility, and countless efforts as a public interest attorney for low-income and working-class people make her a strong candidate. We believe that Sumbul's experience, values, and platform are a great match with the priorities of MIT students and Cambridge. **Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler**

Jivan is a Cambridge renter and activist who has become a familiar face in the city council for his tireless advocacy for tenants struggling with poor housing conditions and threats of eviction. His degree in human ecology and work at a land policy think tank complement his commitment to building true affordable housing and fighting climate change in Cambridge. Jivan's pro-housing platform includes establishing stronger tenant protections, eliminating restrictive and outdated zoning laws, and creating an Office of Housing Stability to provide direct support for Cambridge's renters. He also advocates for a Cambridge Green New Deal which includes expanding bike lanes and investing in our city's public transit as well as creating a Clean Energy Initiative to fund environmentally friendly projects. Iivan's record and platform are proof of his commitment to the values he and MIT students share, and he would be an excellent addition to the Cambridge city council.

Alanna Mallon

Alanna Mallon grew up in Brockton, has lived in Cambridge for 15 years, and began serving her first term in 2018. She supports policies to ease the rent burdens on young renters and students, including promoting development by easing some zoning regulations. Her platform also includes promoting density near transit that will reduce transportation CO2 emissions, more protected bike lanes, and promotion of funding for the arts. Her record during her first term as a pro-housing councilor shows that she is an important voice for students and young renters in Cambridge.

Kevin Li is a master's student in city planning and member of MIT Democrats.

Ahmed Elbashir is a member of the MIT Class of 2021 and president of MIT Democrats.

Dahlia Dry is a member of the MIT Class of 2023 and member of MIT Democrats.

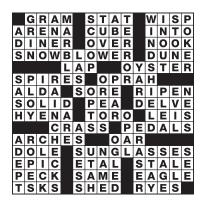
Felix Li is a member of the MIT Class of 2023 and member of MIT Democrats.

CORRECTIONS

Last week, *The Tech* published the incorrect solutions to the crossword puzzle. The correct solutions are shown to the right.

The photograph accompanying the Sam Trump and Harold Green concert review last week was incorrectly credited as courtesy of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The photo was taken by Victoria Dzieciol '23.

The photograph accompanying the article about the men's soccer game was incorrectly credited to Ben Kettle. The photo was taken by Deb Torres '22.



OPINION POLICY

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Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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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 or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

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Graduate student mental health is in crisis

We need immediate action to improve access to mental health care and address root causes

By Jeff Rosenberg, Sarah Cowles, and Nick Selby

The content and discussion in this petition will necessarily engage with suicide. While it has been drafted with support from mental health professionals, engaging with it may be emotionally challenging.

There is a growing mental health crisis among graduate students, both at MIT and around the country. Thirty-nine percent of graduate students suffer from depression and 41 percent suffer from anxiety. A study on the mental health of economics PhD students at top tier research schools, including MIT and Harvard, reported that one in ten had contemplated suicide in the past two weeks. This alarming incidence of mental health issues among graduate students nationwide is equally — if not more — prevalent in the MIT community. In March 2019, the MIT administration sent a survey to current graduate students to assess their experiences at MIT. Of the nearly 2,100 graduate students who responded, nine in ten reported feeling overwhelmed, two in three felt isolated, and one in three felt so depressed it was difficult to function.

The cloud of mental health issues hangs heavy over the entire MIT community. Far too often, we hear of a community member who has tragically died by suicide. Each suicide reminds us that depression and isolation are not unusual at MIT and have become a pervasive norm. We must support one another.

Graduate students serve an indispensable role in MIT's community. We teach and mentor undergraduates, generate new knowledge through our research, secure funding through grant writing, produce journal articles, and foster community. However, despite our passion and dedication, our work at MIT can exact a heavy toll on our physical and mental well-being. This is not how it has to be. It is within MIT's means to create a healthier academic environment for us to grow as scholars and people. In order to build a better MIT, we need to increase access to mental health care and address the systemic causes of the mental health crisis, including dysfunctional advisor-advisee relations. As members of the MIT community, as scholars who provide immense value to the Institute, and as human beings, we deserve to be treated with dignity.

All of this considered, a group of graduate students at MIT have come together to create Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT, a student advocacy group looking to improve the graduate student experience. In conversation with various student groups, we have drafted the following recommendations: to increase coverage of our existing insurance and start to address the root causes of mental health issues, particularly around advisor-advisee relations.

Improved mental health coverage and

We need an increase in the number of covered therapy sessions for outside referrals from 12 to 26 annually, a decrease in the current copay from \$25 to \$10 per session, a clear and streamlined process for obtaining an outside referral for mental health support, and improved cultural competency and sensitivity training for counselors.

The current services offered by the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan fail to meet the needs of the graduate student population. When depression, anxiety, and trauma threaten our well-being, we must be able to readily access high-quality care. When that care is not accessible, we continue to suffer needlessly and are unable to perform the great work of discovery, understanding, and innovation that compelled us to come to MIT.

When depression, anxiety, and trauma threaten our wellbeing, we must be able to readily access high-quality care.

The current coverage for regular therapy sessions is inadequate compared to what should be expected for a minimum level of treatment. Currently MIT only covers 12 sessions for outside referrals. Every additional session outside of the 12 that are covered costs \$25 for patients, adding at least \$1,000 per year in out-of-pocket costs for a person who receives weekly mental health care. This is not affordable for many graduate students and must be brought into line with our budget and rising cost of living to increase accessibility. The recent quality of life survey found that three out of four grad students report cost of living as a source of stress and half report their health as a source of stress. We believe that making treatment affordable can begin to address the pervasive mental health crisis. We can improve this by increasing the number of covered sessions from 12 to 26 annually and decreasing the copay on the remaining sessions from \$25 to \$10 per session. We must be able to afford treatment for the psychological costs of contributing to MIT.

Due to a shortage of adequate support, many graduate students seeking mental health care are lost in the current referral process and never receive the care they need. The current mental healthcare system at MIT relies heavily on outside referrals for patients. The social stigma and the difficulty of grappling with mental health issues already impose major barriers to accessing care. Students often receive a referral from the mental health office only to fall through

the cracks and never receive the care that they need. In order to ensure ready access to care, this process must be streamlined. Referrals could be better facilitated by dedicated, full-time staff, instead of delegating to currently over-worked counselors and students.

Additionally, students of color and international students often report that MIT counselors are ill-equipped to provide treatment to students from marginalized backgrounds. There is a desperate need to improve the services provided to these members of our community. MIT must expand the current cultural competency and sensitivity training program for counselors and create a transparent mechanism to implement ongoing feedback from existing student groups representing students of color and international students. A similar program must also be made available as a recommended training for all student advisors.

Accountability in advisor-advisee relations

We need structural improvements for advisor-advisee relations, including required training for all faculty on mentorship, mental health, cultural competency, and sensitivity; student-run advisor evaluations; accountability mechanisms for abusive advisors; clear protection from retaliation for students who report abuse and exploitation; and transitional funding for students switching between advisors.

Although many factors contribute to the growing graduate mental health crisis, one major root cause stands out. Unsupportive and dysfunctional advisor-advisee relationships are cited as one of the strongest predictors for poor mental health outcomes. These relationships are at the heart of graduate education and, when healthy, can be fruitful for everyone involved. However, instead of elevating students' scholarship, the recent quality of life survey found that for two out of five graduate students, their relationship with their advisor is an obstacle to their academic success.

Despite the importance of advisor-advisee relationships in the academic community, MIT does not require mentorship training for advisors. For example, advisors are given no guidance on how to identify and address issues within their group or how to best support the mental health of their students. Similarly, academic advisors often lack sufficient training to address systemic issues in their lab and department that affect students of color and international students. The resulting barriers and toxic environment lead to significantly worse mental health outcomes for students of color and international students. Poor advising is cited as the most commonreason for a student to drop out of grad school. When a student leaves MIT without a degree, no one benefits. Both MIT and the student waste substantial financial and time resources. Continuing to allow students to fall through the cracks is financially and ethically irresponsible.

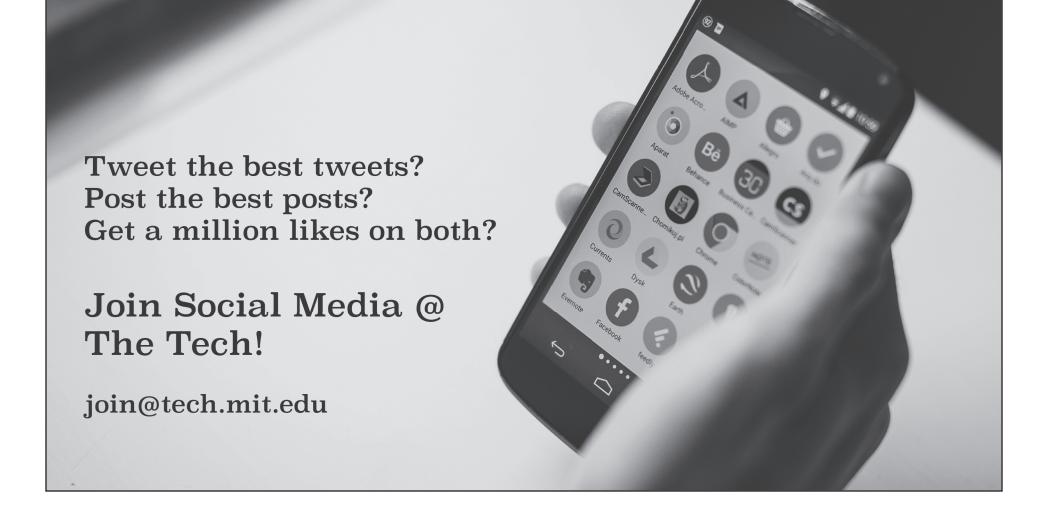
Unsupportive and dysfunctional advisoradvisee relationships are cited as one of the strongest predictors for poor mental health outcomes.

The vast imbalance of power in advisoradvisee relationships allows for abusive and toxic situations. Graduate students often don't report advisors' unreasonable expectations and inappropriate behavior for fear of retaliation. Far too often, we are overworked, sexually harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise disrespected and mistreated by our advisors without recourse. We must be able to report toxic situations safely to neutral third-party review committees that include faculty and student representation. Our departments must stop providing cover for abusive advisors. We can start to identify problematic advisors through a student-run, Right to Information-style database of advisor reviews, exit interviews for all students, objective metrics on graduation rate and time to graduation, and demographic breakdowns that could indicate bias against women or people of color. There must be consequences for abusive advisors, including restrictions on taking new students and getting raises. Finally, to allow for grad students to exit from toxic situations, we must provide guaranteed transitional funding between advisors so that leaving an abusive advising relationship doesn't have to mean leaving grad school.

We deserve to be respected by our mentors.

This letter is cosponsored by Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT, Black Graduate Student Association, LBGT Grad, Active Minds, Chemistry REFS, Physics REFS, BCS REFS, Chemistry Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion, BioLGBTQ+, Women in Chemical Engineering, DUSP Student Council, DUSP Healthy Masculinities, DUSP Students of Color Committee, DUSP LatinX, DUSP Queers in the Built Environment, design@DUSP, DUSP Climate, Biology Diversity Council, and the Edgerton House Association.

Jeff Rosenberg is a PhD student in the chemistry department. Sarah Cowles is a PhD student in the chemical engineering department. Nick Selby is a PhD student in the EECS department. They are all members of Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT, a mental health advocacy group.



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TELEVISION REVIEW

An interview with Ben Platt and Julia Schlaepfer on The Politician is the latest candidate in Ryan Murphy's repertoire of hit shows, including Glee and American Horror Story, and marks his first foray into the realm of Netflix features. Stars Ben Platt and Julia Schlaepfer recently sat down for a college roundtable to provide additional insight into the show. The Politician is the latest candidate in Ryan Murphy's repertoire of hit shows, including Glee and American Horror Story, and marks his first foray into the realm of Netflix features. Stars Ben Platt and Julia Schlaepfer recently sat down for a college roundtable to provide additional insight into the show. The Politician is the latest candidate in Ryan Murphy's repertoire of hit shows, including Glee and American Horror Story, and marks his first foray into the realm of Netflix features. Stars Ben Platt and Julia Schlaepfer recently sat down for a college roundtable to provide additional insight into the show. The Politician is the latest candidate in Ryan Murphy's repertoire of hit seating for the flames of that," said Platt. The series' protagonist, Pay-ton Hobart (Ben Platt), is a senior at Saint Sebastian High School whose endgame is to become the president of the United States. He already has a steadfastly loyal campaign team comprised of the tenacious McAfee Westbrook (Laura Drepfuss) and tactical James Sullivan (Theo Germaine) as well as his future first lady, Alice (Julia and Platt and Julia schlaepfer recently sat down for a college roundtable to provide additional insight into the show.

The Politician is the latest candidate in Ryan Murphy's repertoire of hit shows

into the show.

The show follows the current political atmosphere that it's "trendy to be politically



Ben Platt and Julia Schlaepfer join a college roundtable interview for the new Net-

as well as his future first lady, Alice (Julia Schlaepfer). But first, they must emerge victorious with Payton as Saint Sebastian's student body president and cancer-ridden Infinity Jackson (Zoey Deutch) as his running mate so that Payton can get into Harvard. Opposing them are the charming but troubled River Barkley (David Corenswet) and his conspiring girlfriend, Astrid Sloan (Lucy Boynston), who has a longstanding feud with Payton.

It is a show marked by Wes Anderson aesthetics, wildly exaggerated characters, and bountiful twists and turns. The characters approach the campaign process with such fervor and dedication that one often forgets that this is a campaign for student body president and not a position of higher stakes. It is very easy to draw parallels between the fictional setting of Saint Sebastian and today's society, with the show's incorporation of prominent issues such as gun control and mental health. At its core, however, The Politician goes beyond gen-

"[The Politician asks] enough big questions where it can be free from the actual headlines and is more about authenticity versus feigning authenticity," said Platt. "We all have to be politicians in our lives and in our relationships. [The show] uses hot button issues as a way to make it feel

real, especially with social media."

The moments that highlight the characters' vulnerability ground them in a world of satire and are the moments that the actors themselves enjoy and connect with the most. In particular, the heart-to-heart talks between River and Payton help to remind the audience of Payton's humanity throughout the cutthroat campaign process. "Studying those cracks in our characters when those façades break away was really fascinating because I do it, too," Sch-

Murphy's Glee roots come through as he capitalizes on Platt's theater background, incorporating several musical numbers and the aptly chosen Assassins musical production that the school's theater department puts on. Though they may not have been necessary nor extremely relevant, these moments grant a gentle reprieve from the typical whirlwind of plot twists that fill the show.

The show continues the Hollywood trope of casting actors in their late twenties as high schoolers, but the cast's stellar performances more than make up for it. Payton is a vast departure from Platt's Dear Evan Hansen days, but Platt proves himself more than capable of rising to the occasion of playing the overly ambitious teen, drawing in large part on his own ambitions to succeed as a performer when he was younger.

★★★☆

The Politician

Screenplay by lan Brennan, Brad Falchuk, and Ryan Murphy

Starring Ben Platt, Zoey Deutch, Julia Schlaepfer, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jessica Langetails

Available on Netflix

"If I pushed all of my other emotions and facets of my personality out of the way and was driven purely by [my ambition], what kind of person would I be?" Platt

Schlaepfer drew upon young Hilary Clinton for her portrayal of Alice, motivated by "[Clinton's] drive to love and support [Bill during his scandal]." Paltrow and Lange deliver compelling performances as the compassionate trophy wife and overbearing grandmother, respectively. The show does an excellent job in weaving together the different storylines, and although some of the plot decisions seemed a tad unbelievable, even by the show's ostentatious standards, all the elements ultimately end up working

The Politician earns itself a high approval rating and proves itself to be a worthy contender in Netflix's ever-growing collec-

RESTAURANT REVIEW

flix comedy-drama series, The Politician.

Sailors' den in south Boston

Shore Leave flavors up the tiki bar experience with a native Boston twist

By Mahi Shafiullah and Shreyan Jain

You may not notice the entrance to Shore Leave as you walk right past it on the street. Nestled between an apartment complex and an office building in Boston's bustling South End, the restaurant exists in its own tucked-away corner two floors below the ground with only one plain hanging sign announcing its presence to the outside world. But that's surely part of the charm of this establishment, which aims to impress with its decor and ambience just as much as with its delightfully innovative menu. Once you stumble into Shore Leave, you'll find yourself transported into a tropical oasis nothing like the chilly city aboveground.

Upon making our way inside, our immediate reaction was surprise. Shore Leave makes the most of its space, managing to feel rather spacious and breezy while also evoking a more upscale aura than your conventional underground tiki bar. Although the decor, particularly the bamboo paneling and lush rainforest paintings on the walls, fits the theme of tropical getaway, the dim lighting coupled with a comprehensive menu of small plates suggests a greater focus on fine dining and intimate conversation. With most of the tables oc-

★★★☆ Shore Leave Asian Fusion, \$\$ 11 William E. Mullins Way Boston, MA 02118 **Hours:**

Monday-Sunday dinner 5 p.m.-11 p.m., bar until

cupied by older professionals enjoying private meals and few visitors at the bar itself, you might almost forget that Shore Leave advertises itself as a "subterranean tiki party." We would suggest closing your eyes and experiencing the music for a second - the lively blend of Afro-Caribbean and Asian beats will surely help set the mood. If you're still unconvinced, perhaps the drinks menu might help.

Although almost every cocktail served at Shore Leave is rum-based, unique ingredients like red bean, cinnamon, yuzu, and ginger give each drink a completely distinct flavor palette. There's something for everyone here, from those who prefer the stronger and more bitter tones of a Negroni to those more inclined towards sweeter, fruitier drinks. We would especially recommend the "Take Me With You," their take on a frozen daiquiri that had just the perfect hint of vanilla in every sip. The strongest selling point, however, is definitely presentation; the bar's namesake drink "Shore Leave," made with white rum sourced locally from Ipswich, arrives in a cup shaped like a coconut topped off by a crunchy candy made with angostura bitters. Of course, at their price point, you shouldn't expect

When it came time to eat, we found ourselves having to choose from a long list of vaguely beach-themed snacks and small plates hailing from all around the world. The menu certainly had a fusion bent to it, with titles such as "Hokkaido Popcorn," "General Gau Brussels," and "Tikka Pork Rinds," suggesting a common theme of inventive riffs on contemporary Asian classics. After taking some suggestions about fan favorites from our waitress, we ended up choosing three different items seemingly adapted from Vietnamese, Chinese, and Mediterranean cuisines.

We began our meal with a crispy rice salad that incorporates a different fruit every season. Ours consisted of a hearty amount of grapefruit, and although we found the dish to have just a bit too much



Customers dine at Shore Leave.

citrus for our tastes, the texture was an incredible balance between soft and crunchy. We then moved to their scallion pancakes, which came with a side of King Crab Dip that our waitress called the highlight of the menu. The dish certainly did not disappoint; while scallion pancakes may be one of the most ubiquitous Chinese appetizers, the pancakes at Shore Leave were among the freshest and crispiest we've had in Boston, complete with an accompaniment of chilli oil that was the perfect counterbalance to the citrus of our salad and drinks. And although the dip suffered from an overabundance of mayo, the crab itself was seasoned quite well, giving a unique and quintessentially American spin on an Asian classic.

Unfortunately, the concluding dish of our meal, the cumin lamb skewers, fell quite short of our expectations. Though the skewers came with a refreshing side salad that included a generous serving of wolfberry, the lamb itself was rather chewy and

took significant work to get through. And while we enjoyed the subtle but appetizing cumin flavoring, the skewers appeared thematically out of place with the rest of the offerings as the only dish without a clear inspiration from a global cuisine. We had expected something closer to the cumin lamb of Sichuan cuisine, but it appears that the title is an unfortunate misnomer.

Innovation is hard, and occasionally Shore Leavemay fall victim to the scale of its own aspirations. Perhaps by trying its hand at so many different global cuisines, it fails to specialize in one, leading to the occasional dish that misses the mark. But, on the whole, a visit to Shore Leave is unlike any other dining experience we've had in the city. By pairing scallion pancakes and lamb skewers with beachy cocktails, the restaurant provides a mixing pot of flavors that ends up feeling inherently American. Whether for a casual drink with friends or for a meal with colleagues, Shore Leave is certainly well worth the trip.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Joker is a tragedy without a punchline

Todd Phillips's carefully crafted character study compromises on its own message

By Shreyan Jain

All it takes is one bad day for a man to teeter off the edge into full-blown lunacy. At least, that's how the story used to go after Alan Moore immortalized the DC Universe's most iconic supervillain in his much-acclaimed masterpiece The Killing Joke. But director Todd Phillips isn't interested in paying homage to Moore, or to any comic book writer, for that matter. There are no acid vats or caped crusaders in his reimagining of the loker's origin story, and his central subject is more Travis Bickle than criminal mastermind. Phillips' film exists in its own universe, one in which insanity is the natural byproduct of a systemically broken society.

In Joker, we see the world through the eyes of Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix), an aspiring standup comedian in the sordid underbelly of Gotham whose life is a long series of cruel jokes and clichés. He's thirtysomething years old but still lives at home with his overbearing mother. He works as a party clown for hire, but his attempts to play peek-a-boo with a toddler on the bus feel more terrifying than amusing. When he tries to talk about how alienated and alone he feels, his own therapist can't bear to listen to him. In perhaps the cruelest twist of them all, a childhood brain injury compels Arthur to break out into hysterical laughter during moments of intense anxiety or grief. Like his disability, Arthur's whole existence can be read as one decidedly unhumorous non sequitur: something that doesn't quite follow or fit in with the world around him.

Phoenix turns in a brilliant performance as Arthur, immersing himself fully into a character who is at once sympathetic and deeply disturbing. Much has been made of how Phoenix lost more than 50 pounds for the role. His emaciated body, together with

★★★☆☆ Joker **Directed by Todd Phillips** Screenplay by Todd **Phillips and Scott Silver** Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie **Beetz, Frances Conroy**

Rated R, Now Playing

the way his facial expressions and movements seem painstakingly choreographed and yet also restrained, paint a portrait of a man who exists as much inside his own head as in the outside world. That's crucial for a film where everything we experience is mediated by the increasingly unhinged perspective of Arthur, who copes with the disappointments of reality by conjuring elaborate fantasies.

Unfortunately, Joker is too interested in being a one-dimensional character study to give Phoenix's performance any real legs to stand on. For a film purportedly about the origins of the Joker character, Arthur's descent into violent madness is astonishingly swift. The script refuses to probe Arthur's emotional state after each crime he commits, giving little narrative explanation for why he continues to escalate the stakes. Instead, all we get are repeated reminders that "it's crazy out there," as if the socioeconomic tensions brewing in Gotham are enough to justify how suddenly Arthur (and the 99 percent alongside him) embrace the total chaos

"You were the only person who was ever nice to me," Arthur says to a midget co-worker in a rare moment of mercy. The scene, professing to add a layer of depth and humanity to the Joker during his maniacal descent, rings hollow, perhaps because the midget has appeared in the film for a grand total of ten seconds until this moment. By grossly underdeveloping the supporting characters, the film keeps the audience at bay, preventing us from genuinely identifying with Arthur.

Phillips' solution to these plot holes is to inveterately point the camera in Arthur's direction and let Phoenix's acting do all the work. His liberal use of claustrophobically extended closeups to visualize Arthur's inner demons feels heavy-handed to the point of being self-indulgent. It's clear that Phillips, best known for his profane comedies ranging from Old School and Borat to The Hangover trilogy, is uncomfortably out of place in the drama genre. The few moments where Phillips lets himself enter unadulterated dark comedy — for instance, when Arthur misplaces a prop while performing at a children's hospital, or when a door lock is just out of reach of the aforementioned midget's grasp — are easily among the film's best. But such scenes are too few and far between to redeem a story that consistently prioritizes tone and mood over a well-developed, interesting narrative.

That's not to say that there isn't any value to the film's aesthetics. On the whole, the shot composition feels incredibly beautiful, especially in the establishing scenes of



Joaquin Phoenix stars in Joker.

Gotham in all of its trash-filled, rat-infested splendor. The camerawork is downright gorgeous at times; consider the way the camera suddenly tilts each time Arthur trudges up the long staircase of stone steps that lead to his neighborhood, producing an illusion that suggests the only place for the Joker to go is straight down. Or how, when Arthur finally gets his shot to perform a standup routine at the comedy club he frequents, even the camera cringes at his jokes, spinning away from Arthur and drowning out his voice with non-diegetic music that heeds no internal filmic logic. And the film's use of color — in the form of the bright reds and vellows of Arthur's costume — to distinguish the figure of the Joker from the bleached gray palette of his surrounding environs is brilliant, subtly revealing how Arthur feels trapped in the body of a clown even when he's not hiding behind a mask or red nose.

But all this begs the question: should a film about ideas as unsettling and troubling as mental illness and the trauma of childhood abuse really be so beautiful? And therein lies the biggest failing of Joker, a film that unabashedly elevates its own aesthetics over any attempts at thematic coherence. Phillips spends so much of the first half attempting to paint Arthur with painstaking strokes of sympathy and humanity that when he does finally unleash his campaign of bloodthirsty vengeance, we no longer have any idea what to feel. Should we sympathize with this outcast of society who can no longer bear to be discarded or trodden on like just another fleck of refuse? Should we applaud Arthur's efforts to lash out at a world that stripped him of any individual agency? Or should we, knowing full well all the ramifications of Arthur's transformation into the Joker, be frightened for a city that is about to find itself under siege? The self-professed beauty of Joker and the horror of its content are irrevocably at odds by the end, culminating in a bizarre final scene that makes it hard to not read the entire thing as a call to anarchy. In short, the politics of the film are at best muddled, and at worst

The question that audiences will have to answer for themselves is whether the Joker really needs an origin story. Part of what made Heath Ledger's performance in The Dark Knight — still, in my mind, the definitive portrayal of the larger-than-life villain - so compelling is that he came from no place and had no human face beneath the clown makeup. His charisma and appeal as the ultimate foe to the Batman was not conditioned by any sympathetic backstory; each time he gave a different explanation for the scars on his face, it functioned to add to his aura of mystery rather than detract from the logic of his existence. He was less a person and more the pure signifier of chaos itself. Fans who left The Dark Knight hoping to learn more about the twists and turns that lead a sane man to become a psychotic clown should certainly take a trip to watch Joker in theaters. Just don't expect to find any method to the film's madness.

ANIME REVIEW

Hunting demons to turn them back human

Kimetsu no Yaiba: Demon Slayer is a historical fantasy anime with captivating animation

and character design

By Lani Lee STAFF WRITER

As one of the most popular anime of this past season, Kimetsu no Yaiba: Demon Slayer just finished its run, excelling in a compelling storyline with uniquely beautiful animation, catchy music, and a well-defined cast of characters. The season aired with 26 episodes, and the series announced a sequel movie with the same staff and cast. Even as an adaptation of the shounen manga, each episode of the series fit in with the overall story — there were no unnecessary or "filler" episodes. The anime stood out from other series this season because of the mix of comedy, fantasy, and tragedy in a historical time period, and the impressive amount of detail in character design. Inevitable spoilers for the first episode ahead.

Kimetsu no Yaiba tells the story of Tanjiro Kamado, a kindhearted, smart, and responsible boy who takes care of his family by selling charcoal in the village. After coming back from a delivery, he discovers that his entire family was massacred by demons (oni) except for Nezuko, one of his sisters. Nezuko transforms into a demon but is somehow able to keep her reasoning and human emotions. The plot follows the adventure of Tanjiro who wants to find a way to turn Nezuko back into a human and protect others from the tragedy he has experienced. He and Nezuko meet many different Demon Slayers, demons, and other humans on this journey, and the series successfully mixes the heavy themes of death and humanity with the lighthearted conversations between some of

The worldbuilding in Kimetsu no Yaiba is detailed and interesting. Set in the Taisho era of Japan, the supernatural blends in seamlessly with the historical era as the primary weapon of choice for the characters is the katana, a traditional Japanese sword. The Demon Slavers all have some element they specialize in, called forms of "breathing," and these are portrayed with an element, such as water, animated as flowing from their katana in a stylized trail. The graphics of this animation for each character are quirky from the colorful, bold lines and dynamic movement. The different characters portray the

"breathing" unique to themselves, and the personalities of the characters suit the different elements.

The soundtrack of this anime is superb as well. The tense scenes have background music that supports the scene without distracting from the main story. Often times the soundtrack includes traditional Japanese instruments or chanting mixed in with the orchestral or rock feel to the music. In addition, the opening theme, "Gurenge" (紅 蓮華), is a catchy song starting with hopeful vocals with a piano that moves to and back from a fast-paced rock theme. Sung by LiSA, a Japanese singer known for themes in other famous anime series such Fate/Zero. Sword Art Online, and My Hero Academia, the opening is representative of her music style and powerful vocals. Overall, the music in the series was impressive and definitely a strong aspect of the series.

Kimetsu no Yaiba: Demon Slayer is a must-watch anime this season because of its unique animation and compelling world. The coherent storytelling of a historical fantasy combined with the details in the plot, characters, and music provides for a



full experience of the story, especially since the series opted to go in-depth on some parts and leave the rest of the plot for a sequel movie. I would recommend watching the first three episodes first before judging whether to watch the rest since the main adventure begins after an introduction to this fascinating world, but I am fairly certain you will finish watching.

CONCERT REVIEW

Yuja Wang takes center-stage at BSO

BSO and pianist Yuja Wang take on Shostakovich, Lee, and Smetana

By Erica Weng STAFF WRITER

BSO's performance this week is graced by the flightful fingers of acclaimed pianist Yuja Wang. Wang makes her third performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra this week, the first two being in 2007 and 2014. Her 2007 performance with BSO, when she was just a 20-year-old music conservatory student stepping in for world-acclaimed Martha Argerich after she cancelled last minute, brought her onto the international

This week's program is a varied palette: a modern piece by James Lee III, an exuberant Shostakovich piano concerto and three pieces from a Smetana collection. Lee's piece makes a majestic entrance with a fanfare of trumpets, as if marking the opening to a grandiose space adventure. The grandeur dissolves into an array of sparkling voices brought out by the mischievous harp and xylophone. The sum of the parts evoke distinct obstacles colliding, intermingling, intersecting each other at different angles; the whole collects itself into a cosmic array of space debris and suspense. Finally, the violins join into a climax of brass fanfare to close off the piece.

Orchestral music always elicits some sort of setting in my head. Occasionally an aggre-

gate image appears, as in Lee's piece; other times individual characters step out of the different voices in the phrase, as in Shostakovich's piece. His Piano Concerto No. 1 begins with the sweetest violin whispers intermingling with Yuja Wang's mellow piano melodies: a nimble cat dancing on light feet. Then the trumpet, played by Thomas Rolfe, rolls on scene, marking the entrance of the other key player: an enthusiastic hound, teasing the cat. The piano and trumpet blend their respective melodies surprisingly well, with the echoing notes of the lower keys of the piano cueing in soft smudges of sound by the trumpet: a playful tug between cat and dog.

But as Shostakovich's piano concerto picks up pace, it's definitely Yuja Wang's cat that captures the stage. As the play-fight between cat and hound escalates into a brawl, the cat calls forth an aide with a powerful flick of her tail: a majestic lion embodied by resonant strings. Soon Yuja Wang's dexterous fingers were flying across the keys in a frenzy, and even during speedy octave scales her fingers, splayed wide open, were hammering out melodies of indeterminable intricacy. She threw her entire body into the keys — even slamming her entire forearm into the keys at a climax in the first movement. As grand a Steinway as was that which she played upon, I felt that piano was not a worthy vessel for her musicianship. It lacked the volume necessary to accommodate her powerful aura; her music bursts out of the seams of the piano. Yuja Wang wields the concerto with her entire presence.

After Shostakovich and the flight of Yuja Wang's fingers, I barely have the mental capacity to absorb Smetana's patriotic threesong subset selected from Má Vlast. The pieces are "Vltava" ("The Moldau"), "From Bohemia's Woods and Fields," and "Blaník." Week 3: Lee, Shostakovich, and Smetana

James Lee III's Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula

Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Op. 35

Selections from Smetana's "Má Vlast" ("My Country")

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Andris Nelsons

Yuja Wang on Piano, **Thomas Rolfs on Trumpet**

Boston Symphony Hall

"Vltava" sticks in my mind the longest; for the first time in the program, I feel all members of the orchestra - strings, woodwind, and brass — coming together in a unified voice. They sing a grand scene with people at play upon the banks of the Vltava river which runs through Prague. Rolling arpeggios sing of lazy waves and sunlight shimmering upon the surface of the water, a soft ending to a stellar performance by the BSO and Yuja Wang.



Pianist Yuja Wang, Andris Nelsons, and BSO Principal Trumpeter Thomas Rolfs stand for curtain call for the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Fusion, flavor, finger food... and fun!

The Longfellow Bar at Alden & Harlow brings fusion, flavor, and finger food to Harvard Square

By Erica Weng and Rona Wang

STAFF WRITERS

If you're in the mood for delightful fusion dishes with a sophisticated flair, Longfellow Bar is the place to go. Last week, we made a trip to the restaurant in Harvard Square. Stepping foot into Brattle Hall, our server Emma greeted us with the utmost hospitality, immediately making us feel right at home in the classy but cozy bar environment.

★★★★☆

The Longfellow Bar at Alden & Harlow

American Fusion, \$\$

40 Brattle Street #3

Cambridge, MA 02138

Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 11:30 a.m.–1 a.m.

Thursday–Friday 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday 4 p.m.-

The restaurant specializes in a variety of fusion dishes, taking inspiration from Japan, Hawaii, Ethiopia... and of course traditional, hearty American bar food. The unique part is that all dishes are to be eaten without utensils. So, naturally, my curiosity was ignited by the listing of a "Caesar-ish Salad" on the menu. I mean, who eats salad with bare hands? Sure enough, our salad came in the form of petite romaine hearts still on the stalk, dressed with crouton crumbs, pecorino, and a delightful anchovy — finger food. It was a refreshing way to enjoy the salad; to be able to taste the juicy romaine heart in parallel with garlicky croutons and anchovy, the variegated flavors contrasting but not homogenizing until the fourth or fifth chew.

Soon after, Emma provided us a side freekah bread a warm combination of crunchy crust and fluffy center, with honey butter spiced with koji to spread upon it. The "Short Rib Kitfo" came next: a fruity shortrib spread atop a slice of injera, a thin, circular sourdough flatbread with a spongy texture originating from Ethiopia. The spread was seasoned with mitmita, a strong Ethiopian seasoning mix with a tinge of spiciness that was subtle at first but was brought out in a stronger form by a sip of wine. Next came the "Rellenong Hipon:" shrimp surrounded by a thin layer of dough reminiscent of the shell of an egg roll, with a sweet honey dip-

The "Greenwood Fried Chicken Sandwich" was an exotic combination of flavors. One slice of bread was spread with crunchy peanut butter, and the other with sriracha mayo; in between lay a tender chicken pat-



Patrons eat and drink at the Longfellow Bar at A&H.

ty among thin pickle slices. The bread was slightly sweet and spongy, with a golden tinge that supplemented the exuberant flavors with popping color. The only imperfection was that the edges of the bread could have been toasted a bit more crisply.

Lastly, dessert: a giant oatmeal whoopie pie. I'll have to be honest: whoopie pies are not my favorite, but this one got me; the cake layers were more reminiscent of a thick and hearty oatmeal cookie than typical whoopie pie cakes, and the frosting filling was soft in texture, with the perfect sweetness. If the cookie were warm, my taste buds might have been tantalized beyond repair. For this dessert, our servers provided the first utensils of the meal. I had been wondering whether we could get through the entire meal without using utensils, but alas, it seemed not.

At the end of the meal, we opted to walk thirty minutes back to campus instead of taking public transportation, as we felt so stuffed and heavy. Longfellow Bar is great for a night out — its finger food portions make their plates perfect for sharing with friends — although it is on the pricey side.

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (hint: yours!). Email your pieces to cl@tech.mit.edu!

Unraveling the intricacies of American elections

The MIT Election Data and Science Lab aims to improve the efficiency and security of democratic processes

By Shreyaa Raghavan

On Nov. 7, 2000, the votes in Florida were, by the slightest margin, in favor of President George W. Bush. This narrow margin called for a recount of all the votes cast in Florida for the 2000 presidential election. Over the next few weeks, a number of oddities were discovered in the process — an unusual number of votes were cast for third-party candidates, which occurred as a result of a confusing ballot layout, and some African American citizens had been misidentified as felons, making them ineligible to vote.

These issues of voter registration and the lack of security in the election process caught the attention of MIT Professor Charles Stewart, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the Founding Director of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab (MEDSL). "The thing that I learned, as well as everybody else in America at the time," said Stewart, "was that it was possible for you to be active and to vote, and for that vote not to count."

Voter insecurity issues can take many forms, from cyber interference to a paper not being properly delivered, and Stewart commented that "in states that reject a lot of registrations, people should consider whatever form of registering as not being particularly secure compared to another state

where they accept a very high fraction." In fact, Stewart spoke of a related occurrence that happened at MIT almost one year ago. On National Voter Registration Day, a student group conducting a voter registration drive collected registration papers filled out by MIT students. However, a librarian later shredded these registrations accidentally. These MIT students were under the impression that they had been successfully registered to vote in the 2018 midterm elections, when in reality, that was not the case.

In order to combat this national concern, Stewart and his lab are working with the Pew Charitable Trust to develop the Election Performance Index, or the EPI. The EPI was developed to encourage states to improve their voting practices by providing metrics on their performance using data on absentee ballots, voter turnout, and registration rejection rates. Despite all the negative media coverage of the voter experience and the efficacy of elections, the EPI has made a considerable impact on the way elections are run. "States certainly pay attention to the index whenever it's revealed, and we can actually point to certain policy changes that have been made in the states as they've tried to get the ranking up," Steward reassured. "The evidence by and large shows that elections have actually gotten better and more professional so that in most states, if you're a voter, you can be assured that the vote being cast is being counted and it'll be convenient to you."

Another goal of the MEDSL is to bring hard data, numbers, and science to the study of elections. As Stewart put it, he wants "to help people understand how elections are managed from a scientific, objective standpoint, and try to put their attitudes, partisanships, prejudices out the door when they think about election administration." To this end, the MEDSL tries to regularly publish election returns of all precincts in the United States, which can be quite an undertaking due to the lack of uniformity in election reports. By utilizing data science techniques such as web data extraction and optical character recognition (OCR) on handwritten documents, Stewart and his team have been able to acquire datasets, publish them, and create publicly-available redistricting software based on the datasets, making it easier for citizens to be informed and get involved in the democratic process, specifically in the upcoming redistricting round during the 2020 census. In fact, Stewart added that "there are a number of states that mandate the participation of citizens whenever they draw districts. Part of it is to guard against gerrymandering... Citizens can also go into state legislative hearings or citizen commissions and say, 'I've drawn a district that meets certain desirable criteria, and I want to offer it as evidence that [citizens] can draw good-looking districts." In the case where state officials try to develop plans hidden from the public eye, citizens can use this software to question, or potentially litigate, the administration if they believe anything is unjust or corrupt.

Ultimately, people across the globe look to MIT as a distinguished institution and center of knowledge, and the MEDSL strives to uphold this reputation. "Anything that's a controversy, I want to be in the middle of, and provide the data, provide some insights, so that other academics can work in this area, and so that the press and public officials have access to the best research and researchers in these fields," said Stewart. "It's a role that MIT frequently plays in scientific questions." Looking forward to the 2020 presidential election, with all the hyper-vigilance surrounding cybersecurity, the press and election officials are strengthening defenses to fend off potential cyber attacks. Stewart hypothesizes that "something will go wrong, but we don't know what it is yet" — but when it does come, he is ready to tackle it head-on and keep the public well-informed with data.

* SCIENCE

SCIEN



Santa Maria

Solution, page 12

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

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.

Pinta

Solution, page 12

36×	:		60×		
	! ! ! !				
2×			6	120×	
480×				2×	
	360×				1
30×		4×		18×	2
6×			1		5

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.

Murderer

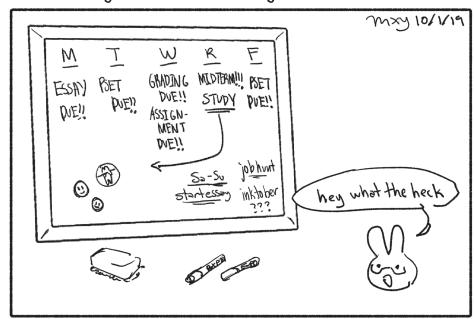
Solution, page 12

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1	-	24×		48×			-	7

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 THE TECH 11



miscellany #1: horror story



Betting Trio by Mark McClain

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 Well-mannered woman
- 5 Any sports contest
- 9 Tunnel sound
- 13 Ram in the zodiac 15 Cupid alias
- 16 Raindrop sound
- 17 Defeated one's comment
- 20 Remind too often
- 21 High-tech light
- 22 I, O or U
- 23 Urban districts
- 24 IHOP rival 25 Make recommendations to
- 28 Dec. follower
- 29 __ in the neck (pest)
- 30 South Korea's capital
- 32 Doze (off)
- 35 Bring very near
- 39 The S of RSVP
- 40 Invalidate
- 41 Clickable picture
- 42 Get dressed, with "up"
- 43 Autumn flowers
- 45 Nut that sounds like a

- sneeze
- 49 Narrow cuts
- 51 In combat
- 52 Dutch cheese
- 53 Some laptops, for short
- 56 "There's the door!"
- 59 Eccentric one
- 60 Worry (about)
- 61 Phi Beta __
- 62 Federally issued IDs
- 63 Intense anger
- 64 Home in a tree

DOWN

- 1 Mowed area
- 2 Opera performance
- 3 Minor fender damage
- 4 "For sure!" 5 Large water birds
- 6 Van Gogh hangout
- 7 Tie up, as a boat
- 8 Double-curve shape
- 9 HP rival in printers 10 Class comedian
- 11 Comfy and cozy

- 12 German autos
- 14 Flies alone
- 18 Mare's flowing hair

- 26 Spanish surrealist
- 27 Perfume bottle
- 28 Billy who sings "Piano Man"
- 30 Deliver a 2 Down
- 31 End of UCLA's URL
- 32 Congenial
- 34 Bears' homes
- 37 Blizzard, essentially
- 43 Office helper
- 44 Corn supporter
- 46 One of the Musketeers
- 48 Eagles' cousins

- 19 In equal shares
- 23 __ oxide (ointment ingredient)
- 24 Smear on
- 25 Tablet downloads

- 33 Unwanted scent
- 36 Diner or café
- 38 Tends tots
- 45 Big barrels
- 47 Theatrical faint

13 16 17 20 25 | 26 | 27 29 32 | 33 | 34 35 36 | 37 42 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 53 |54 |55 56

60

63

- 49 More angry 50 Strong and healthy
- 52 Wise advisor 53 Vatican leader

59

62

- 54 Coffee containers
- 55 GNP or RBIs
- 57 Slightly awry
- 58 Rooter

by Jaeho Kim '20

a comic about life at the 'tyte

The Four Horsemen of Hell Week







The author has another hell week this week so could not finish this comic. Here's a Stick Figure instead

VOLLEYBALL

MIT Women's Volleyball cruise past Mount Holyoke College and Husson University

MIT Women's Volleyball beat Mount Holyoke College and Husson University in a tri match on Saturday Oct. 5 at the Rockwell Cage

By Suleman Thaniana

The first match the Engineers played was against Mount Holyoke College whom they beat 3 sets to 0 (25-9, 25-10, 25-11). Credit for this victory goes to Hannah Collins '22, Alyssa Unell '23, Andie Maloney '21, and Madison Lee '20, who played exceptionally.

The game started off with a 4-1 lead for Mount Holyoke courtesy of Brayden Walden who served a couple of aces. But the Engineers quickly caught back, eventually reaching 7-6, after which they caught momentum and went on an 11-nothing streak, starting off with a kill from Alexis Groark '20. The start of the second set was also quite competitive as the teams got into a deadlock at 6-6. MIT caught momentum once again, and thanks to a 19-4 run, won the set. The women won the last set quite easily, 25–11, registering

the first win of the day. Hannah Collins led the team in kills, registering 11 of them. Andie Maloney tallied 29 assists and three aces, while Madison Lee led the team in digs with a match high 7. Alyssa Unell showed an excellent display of skill and strength with six kills and four aces.

Later in the day, the team also played Husson University whom they also beat 3 sets to 0 (25-12, 25–16, 25–13). During this match, Emily Condon '21, Sofie Kupiec '23, and Francesca Macchiavello '21 performed exceptionally.

MIT, blooming with confidence from the previous game, won the first set of this match 25-12 comfortably. Husson University bounced back in the midst of the next set, developing a 4 point streak with the help of two aces and bringing the score to 14-14. The fight continued till the score 17-16, after which MIT had an eight point streak which led the Engineers to win the second set. The third set started off with a Husson University ace by Cat Torres, but MIT answered with four straight points right after. The teams went back and forth till a score of 6-4, after which MIT went on to a 15-2 run which later led to a 25-13 3rd set victory. Sofie Kupiec performed exceptionally well with 34 assists while Emily Condon registered a match-high 11 kills. Francesca Macchiavello also played well with five digs and five aces.

One of the best moments of the day was when a missed dig from Mount Holyoke College went through the basketball hoop behind their court. This incident cheered up the crowd and players, many of whom said they had never seen this before.

These two excellent victories led MIT to reach a NEWMAC conference tally of six wins and no losses. We hope the team can continue this performance in future matches.



MIT Women's Volleyball's Alexis Groark '20 spikes the ball against Mount Holyoke College on Saturday.

Thursday 10

Women's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College 6:00 p.m

Friday 11

Women's Tennis NEWITT Tournament TBA • Mount Holyoke College

Saturday 12

Sailing Captain Hurst Bowl 10:00 a.m.

Sailing

Women's Showcase Finals 10:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis NEWITT Tournament

Football

vs. Maine Maritime 12:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer

vs. Springfield College 1:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer

vs. Mount Holyoke College 5:00 p.m.

Men's Water Polo at Mount Holyoke College 5:00 p.m

Sunday 13

Captain Hurst Bowl

10:00 a.m.

Sailing Women's Showcase Finals 10:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis NEWITT Tournament

12:00 p.m.

Men's Water Polo at Harvard University

Monday 14

Tuesday 15

Women's Soccer at Wellesley 3:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball at Clark University

Wednesday 16

Sailing Midweek Firefly

6:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer vs. Gordon College 7:00 p.m.



MIT community members observe Durga Puja, a Hindi festival, at the MIT Chapel Saturday.



MIT gave a record number of flu shots in Walker Memorial Hall Thursday.

Solution to Betting Trio

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Α	D	V	T	S	Е			J	Α	N				
Р	Α	Τ	Ν			S	E	0	U	L		N	0	D
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S	T	L		Α	Ν	N	U	L			T	С	0	Ν
				Т	0	G			Α	S	Т	Е	R	S
C	Α	S	Н	Е	W		S	L	I	Т	S			
Α	Т	W	Α	R		G	0	U	D	Α		Р	С	S
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K	0	0	K		F	R	Ε	Т		K	Α	Р	Ρ	Α
S	S	N	S		F	U	R	Υ			N	Е	S	Т

Solution to Santa Maria

Solution to Pinta

Solution to Murderer

1867342 2 9 78453 8 5 6 9 7 6 2 8 5 5 3 4 6 3 4 2 9 1 6 8 4 5 3 1 2 7 8 6 1 5 6 4 2 3 8 9 7

