

MIT librarians will vote on unionizing

*Director of MIT Libraries Bourg
says the “administration respects
your right to make this decision”*

By Kristina Chen
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Workers at MIT's libraries are campaigning to unionize with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 93. After submitting a petition to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Oct. 15, over 100 eligible library workers will vote on whether to unionize Nov. 6.

Director of MIT Libraries Chris Bourg wrote in a letter to inform library workers about the vote, “The administration respects your right to make this decision and will honor the results of the upcoming election. The decision is yours and we will respect it. I encourage all library employees who are eligible to vote to do so, to ensure that your voice will be heard.”

A website outlining unionization goals calls for “A Better MIT” and lists the library workers’ demands, including a higher salary for support and administrative staff, promotion paths, and a quicker transition for employees from temporary to long-term status.

In a phone interview with *The Tech*, Margaret Willison, access services assistant at MIT's Dewey Library, said, “The sort of overarching thing that we want is more considered, consistent, and ethical treatment for people at our tier of the library, which is librarians who don't supervise or manage any full time employees or access services staff and basically handle the material running of the library.”

Willison, who has been working in the Libraries since 2007, said that her role has evolved in the past 12 years, though the name of her position has stayed the same. Many

long-time employees like her find that “there's no system in place to meaningfully recognize and reward or progress on that.” Willison and her colleagues want this trend to change.

If a majority of library workers vote to unionize, AFSCME would become the workers’ exclusive bargaining agent for pay, hours, and other conditions of employment. MIT would no longer be able to work with the employees directly to resolve related issues, unless authorized to do so by the union.

In an email to *The Tech*, Bourg wrote, “While the petition was surprising, the decision is for each individual to make and we respect it. Regardless of the outcome of this election, I am committed to continuing to work with library employees on behalf of the health and welfare of our workforce.”

Bourg continued, “We have already been working on a number of fronts within Libraries to address the concerns we have heard, including conducting a wide-ranging compensation review and the establishment of working groups devoted to fostering an inclusive and welcoming Libraries culture.”

A hack was organized by library workers in Lobby 7 Oct. 16: a large banner printed with the words “The Future of Libraries is UNIONIZED” was hung from the balconies. The hack was taken down within two hours, which Willison described as a “pretty disappointing reaction as far as the Institute is concerned.”

Willison said she has received support from students and community members. “When people come into the library, the people that they're interacting with are us. For

Library, Page 2



BEN KETTLE—THE TECH

Teams move into position as they begin the course for the Women's Club 4+ race in the Head of the Charles Regatta this weekend.

Chair of the Faculty and Provost create committees to evaluate MIT's outside engagements, gifts

Committees to present completed reports by spring 2020

By Suleman Thaniana

Chair of the Faculty Rick Danheiser and Provost Martin Schmidt PhD '88 announced the creation of two committees Oct. 15 — the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements and the Ad Hoc Committee to Review MIT Gift Processes — to recommend new guidelines for the Institute's relationships with funding sources. According to an *MIT News* article, the two committees began their work immediately.

Tavneet Suri, associate professor at the Sloan School of Management,

is the chair of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements. The committee has a total of 18 faculty members.

The committee will provide an interim report Jan. 31, 2020, with a complete holistic report due spring 2020. The complete report will include a discussion of MIT's core values that the MIT community must use when determining whether engagements with governments, corporations and private individuals are acceptable.

The committee includes an International Engagements Subcommittee that will provide additional

guidelines specific to engagements involving countries with problematic political, civil, and human rights records.

The committee will gather input through meetings with various departments and through a number of focus groups. These focus groups will be composed of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and alumni.

To further the involvement of students, the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student

Committees, Page 2

IN SHORT

Missed the **flu shot** clinics? Make an appointment to get a flu shot by calling MIT Medical's Flu Line at 617-253-4865 any weekday until Nov. 25.

Family weekend runs Oct. 25–26.

Second quarter **physical education classes** start Oct. 28.

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

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



VICTORIA DZIECIOL—THE TECH

MIT community members search for free items to take home at the monthly Choose to Reuse event in the Stata Center Lobby Thursday.

Community garden open to visitors

UA Sustain, MIT's Office of Sustainability, and MIT Ground Services collaborated to create The Hive, a sustainability garden located on Saxon Lawn near Walker Memorial. The garden is the product of a 2017 survey conducted by UA Sustain. According to the Office of Sustainability, the survey indicated great student interest in a community garden.

The garden's design, which includes hexagonal cedar planters and an irrigation system, was approved during the summer of 2019. Construction began at the same time. Students helped install planters and tables, build chairs in the Architecture Shop,

and plant flowers and other plants.

In addition to providing a relaxing space for MIT community members, The Hive brings awareness to the important role of pollinators, such as bees, birds, and butterflies, in sustaining food security and environmental health.

Future goals of The Hive include making the garden a home to the local pollinator population as well as a community space for sustainability education.

Those interested in learning more about the garden and its goals can attend the The Hive Garden Open House Friday, Oct. 25 3 p.m.–4 p.m.

—Kristina Chen

BLACK COMEDY

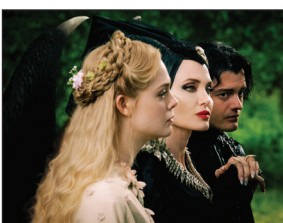
Jojo Rabbit satirizes the Nazis. **ARTS, p. 7**

CRIMES OF INATTENTION

Seth Lloyd must resign. **OPINION, p. 4**

DEMOCRATIZE MIT

All of MIT must have a say. **OPINION, p. 4**



MALEFICENT RETURNS

A feminist take on *Sleeping Beauty*. **ARTS, p. 7**

THINKING ABOUT THOUGHTS

The Saxe Lab studies social cognition. **SCIENCE, p. 8**

SECTIONS

Opinion 4
Arts 7
Science 8
Fun Pages 9
Sports 12

WEATHER

Looking ahead to winter

By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In a recent winter outlook, NOAA projected that much of the US will have a warmer-than-average winter this year. However, this doesn't mean that you should throw away your winter coats; on average, temperatures may be warmer, but expect large swings in temperature throughout the season. Warmer weather also does not mean less snow; snow often falls at temperatures hovering around freezing, and there will be plenty of below-freezing days in Boston this winter. The winter outlook also projects a wetter-than-average winter in the northern part of the country, especially in the Midwest and Northern Rock-

ies. Regardless, keep in mind that the NOAA winter outlook is based off of many uncertainties, so exact temperatures or precipitation totals are unpredictable more than a week in advance.

In the shorter term, fall continues to bring cool, wet weather to Boston. As the trees turn vibrant colors, the sky remains a steady gray. After a dry Friday morning, expect a few showers on Friday night as a cold front passes through, and then more rain on Sunday as a low pressure system rolls in from the Ohio River Valley. Enjoy the dry outdoors as much as you can on Saturday (especially if your parents are visiting!) before the next storm hits; light showers may continue into the beginning of next week.

Extended Forecast

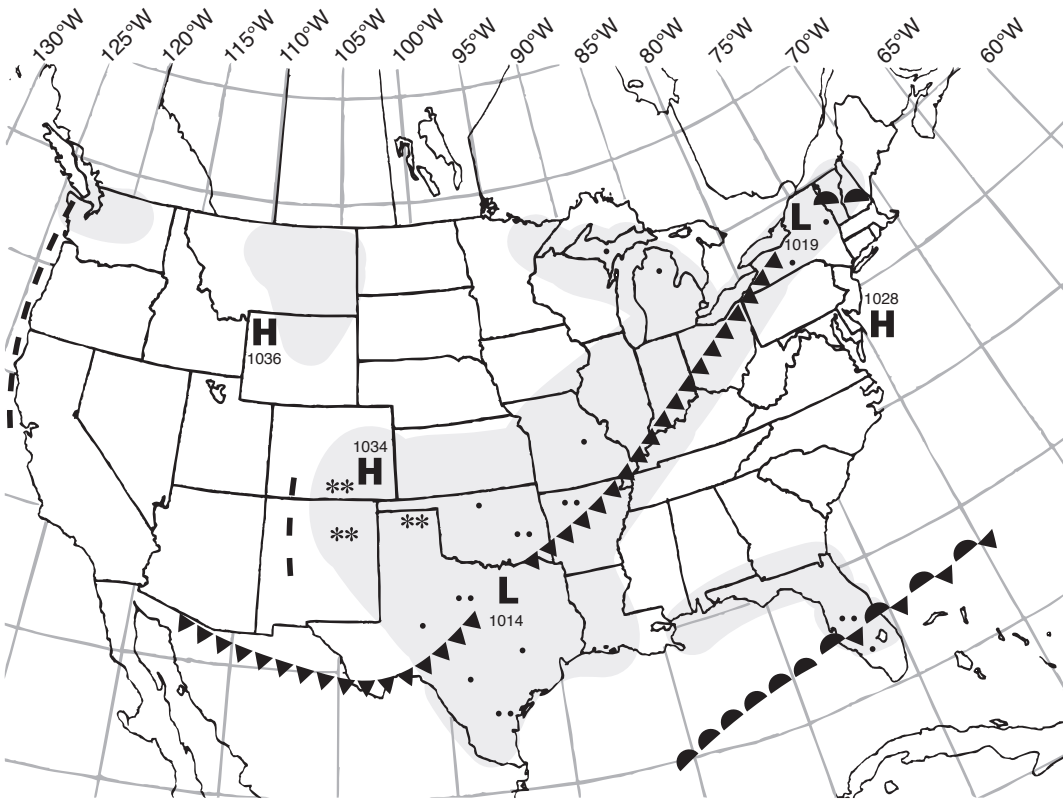
Today: Sunny. High around 66°F (19°C). Southwest winds around 10-15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low around 51°F (11°C). Southwest winds around 7-12 mph.
















Tomorrow: Partly sunny, then chance of showers. High around 62°F (17°C) and low around 48°F (9°C). Southeast, becoming northwest winds at 5-8 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High around 55°F (13°C) and low around 48°F (9°C). North winds around 7-10 mph.

Sunday: Rain likely. High around 57°F (14°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, October 24, 2019

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

Over 100 employees eligible to vote to join AFSCME Nov. 6

Library, from Page 1

the majority of students, I'm the librarian, regardless of whether that's my job title or not."

Willison expects that the workers will be able to unite successfully. "We have this really admirable

goal of figuring out what libraries are going to look like in the future." Under such circumstances, "I really think that it's necessary to have someone at the table with workers of my tier in the Libraries so that our voices are heard effectively," she concluded.

Student committee formed to advise faculty, create report

Committees, from Page 1

Council will form a Student Committee on Outside Engagements. This student committee will advise the faculty committee and will create their own report. This student-created report will be included in the appendix of the faculty committee's report.

Suri told *MIT News*, "This standard compels us to deal with the issues confronting us with the gravity they demand. ... We have the chance to create and articulate a set of values and guiding principles, consistent with our mission, that will direct all our outside engagements, grants, gifts, and collaborations."

Peter Fisher, head of the physics department, will chair the Ad Hoc Committee to Review MIT Gift Processes. In a statement to *MIT News*, Fisher said this committee will "concern itself with how and when, in the process of soliciting, processing, and accepting a gift the principles developed by Professor Suri's committee are applied."

The committee will familiarize itself with MIT's current processes for soliciting, processing and accepting gifts and study peer institutions' approaches to gifts and donations. Using various case studies of the gifts received by the Institute, including Jeffrey Epstein's donations, the committee will identify improvements that need to be made .

The committee's final report is due on June 1, 2020. It will provide an interim report Jan. 15, 2020.

Danheiser and Schmidt have asked the two committees to complete their work by spring 2020, after which their findings and recommendations will be shared with the MIT community for comment.

Schmidt is optimistic about the work of these committees. He said to *MIT News*, "I am confident that by harnessing the wisdom of many members of the MIT community, we will emerge with a robust, and much improved, framework to govern our outside engagements going forward."

Do you have a question for President Reif?

Join *The Tech's* news department!
join@tech.mit.edu

Are you a font fiend? Do you like making presentations SHINE?

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

We're looking for people to help us design infographics to highlight writers' content!

The Production Department of The Tech might be just the place for you!



Alicja Kwade’s Reconstituted Objects collection, on display now at the MIT List Visual Arts Center.

VICTORIA DZIECIOL—THE TECH

Solution to Waltz

from page 9

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

Solution to Tango

from page 10

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

Solution to Needle

from page 9

P	T	A	M	A	G	I	W	A	G	E			
B	A	W	L	I	P	A	D	A	L	O	A	D	
E	V	I	L	D	O	L	E	T	A	S	T	E	
R	E	C	O	R	D	P	L	A	Y	E	R	S	
G	R	E	T	E	L	K	E	R	M	I	N	E	
F	E	D	K	A	Y	P	U	P					
P	H	Y	S	I	C	I	A	N	S	T	I	D	E
L	E	A	P	T	D	Y	E	R	A	N	G	E	
E	N	R	Y	F	U	E	L	G	A	U	G	E	S
A	N	D	M	A	P	T	E	N					
D	A	S	H	E	S	T	A	M	E	S	T		
T	A	T	T	O	O	A	R	T	I	S	T	S	
C	L	I	N	E	I	D	L	E	S	T	E	P	
D	E	C	O	R	L	I	M	A	T	E	E	S	
T	I	K	I	S	S	E	A	L	Y	E	P		

Course 6?

Join the Technology Department!

join@tech.mit.edu

Solution to Foxtrot

from page 9

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

Solution to Quickstep

from page 11

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

Are you dying to tell someone
your latest ephiphany?

Write about it!

Join Campus Life @ The Tech!


E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

MIT Federal Credit Union Seeks Candidates
for 2020 Board of Directors Election

Our members own MIT Federal Credit Union. With that in mind, our member-elected, volunteer Board of Directors formulate and support decisions with our members’ and the MIT Community’s interest at heart.

MIT Federal Credit Union’s nominating committee is currently seeking credit union members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Three 3-year terms on the board will be open for the 2020 election in the Spring.

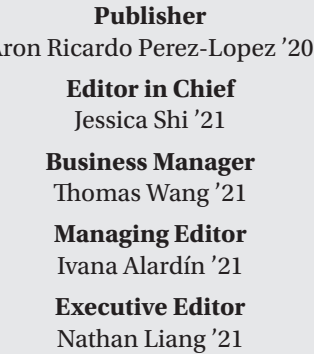
The application deadline is Friday, November 29, 2019.
If interested or for more info, visit mitfcu.org/elections



MIT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Call: 617-253-2845 | Click: mitfcu.org | Visit: Cambridge: 700 Tech. Sq. (NE48); 84 Mass. Ave. (W20-116)

Federally insured by NCUA.



News Editors: Whitney Zhang '21, Rujul Gandhi '22; **Associate News Editors:** Zoe Anderson '21, Sharon Chao '21, Edwin Song '22; **Staff:** Billy Woltz '20, Zoe Sheill '22, Kristina Chen '23, Kerri Lu '23; **Meteorologist:** Sarah Weidman '21.

Editors: Eber Nolasco-Martinez '20, Joanna Lin '22; **Associate Editors:** Kevin Pho '22, Ana P. Reyes Sánchez '22; **Staff:** Yichi Zhang G, Jaeho Kim '20, Nicole Teichner '22, Caroline Bao '23, Arthur Reiner De Belen '23, Dean Ranggohans '23, Chloe McCreery '23, Ronak Roy '23, Arun Wongprommoon '23, Wenbo Wu '23.

Editor: Fiona Chen '21; **Associate Editor:** Steven Truong '20; **Staff:** Mark Goldman G, Octavio Vega '22.

Editor: Jordan Harrod G; **Staff:** Isabel Barnet '22, Anushka Ray '22, Jocelyn Shen '22.

Staff: Ben Kettle '23, Suleman Thaniana '23.

Editor: Ivy Li '20; **Associate Editor:** Lior Hirschfeld '21; **Staff:** Rogers Epstein G, Alexandra Sourakov G, Mariam Dogar '20, Jessica Tang '20, Rona Wang '20, Erica Weng '20, Johnson Huynh '21, Max Langenkamp '21, Lani Lee '21, Nyssa Miller '21, Torri Yearwood '21, Leah Yost '21, Alana Chandler '22.

Editors: Ethàn Sit '21, Assel Ismoldayeva '22, Kevin Ly '22; **Staff:** Mahi Shafiullah G, Leon Yim '20, Ether Bezugla '22, Sophia Fang '22, Shinjini Ghosh '22, Alex Li '22, Kevin S. Chen '23.

Copy Chief: Adira Balzac '21; **Associate Copy Chiefs:** Ayomikun Ayodeji '22, Jack Dinsmore '22; **Staff:** Yaseen Alkhafaji '21, Talia Blum '21, Kendall Yu '21, Pranit Nanda '22, Clinton Reid '22, Sophia Zhi '22, Laura Schmidt-Hong '23.

Staff: Asia Hypsher '21, Tafsia Shikdar '21, Leon Yu '21, Alvin Zhu '21, Pranit Nanda '22, Daniel Zhang '22, Amber Liu '23.

Director: Tareq El Dandachi '22.

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, Barry S. Surman '84,
Deborah A. Levinson '91, Karen Kaplan '93,
Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Satwiskai
Seshasai '01, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric
Cholankeril '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Tiffany
Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa
Vogt '06, Andrew T. Lukmann '07, Zachary
Ozer '07, Austin Chu '08, Michael McGraw-
Herdeg '08, Marie Y. Thibault '08, Ricardo
Ramirez '09, Nick Semenkovich '09, Angeline
Wang '09, Quentin Smith '10, Jeff Guo '11, Joseph
Maurer '12, Ethan A. Solomon '12, Connor
Kirschbaum '13, Jessica J. Pourian '13, Aislyn
Schalck '13, Anne Cai '14, Jessica L. Wass '14,
Bruno Favierio '15, Kahl Xu '15, Leon Lin '16, Kath
Xu '16, Anthony Yu '16, Colleen Madlinger '17,
Lenny Martinez Dominguez '17, Charlie J.
Moore '17, William Navarre '17, Katherine
Nazemi '17, B. D. Colen.

Senior Editors: Nafisa Syed G, Christopher Wang G, Emma Bingham '19, Josephine Yu '20.

Editors: Eber Nolasco-Martinez '20, Joanna Lin '22; **Associate Editors:** Kevin Pho '22; **Staff:** Caroline Bao '23, Chloe McCreery '23, Ronak Roy '23, Arun Wongprommoon '23, Wenbo Wu '23; **Copy Editors:** Adira Balzac '21, Kendall Yu '21, John Adeyeye '20, Jack Dinsmore '22, Laura Schmidt-Hong '23.

GUEST COLUMN

Seth Lloyd took money from Epstein. When will he be held accountable?

I often find myself required to make difficult decisions about my schedule. These decisions range from whether to take a light load and focus on research to whether to drop a technical class and explore the arts, among many broader questions about my graduation and future. Until this semester, however, I have never been asked to decide whether or not I am willing to learn from a man who knowingly took donations from a convicted pedophile.

The second he used his power as a professor to confine us in that classroom ... any base that his apologies could possibly have rested on was eroded.

One student in the front row didn't raise his hand. Seth Lloyd frowned at him. "I'm sorry. Some of this material may be shocking if you aren't aware of it, but it's important for you to hear."

There was no opportunity to leave the room. Even though Seth Lloyd recognized that this was a difficult conversation, he did not provide a safe way to exit the situation; just an assumption that whatever he had to say was more important than our own mental health and safety.

Let me be perfectly clear: there was nothing that Seth Lloyd could possibly have had to say that would be more important, not least of all what he ended up saying. The second he used his power as a professor to confine us in that classroom while he monologued for half an hour about his experiences with Jeffrey Epstein, any base that his apologies could possibly have rested on was eroded. There was no information that couldn't have been sent in an optional email to the class. This was a power play, pure and simple.

Everything that Seth Lloyd said in that classroom has remained private, even though much of it is shocking and informative. Seth Lloyd asked us not to share one small section near the end of the monologue, a section that I would characterize as vaguely positive and non-incriminating. I have followed this request. The rest of the speech was fair game, though nobody has taken him up on this until now.

"How many of you have read my apology on *Medium*?" Thinking of my sleepless night, I raised my hand. Most of the room kept their hands down. Seth Lloyd looked at us, bemused. "In my freshman advising seminar, everyone looked it up beforehand."

Seth Lloyd is advising freshmen. I don't think this fact has been widely publicized: Seth Lloyd is advising freshmen. The MIT administration has professed its supposed commitment to protecting freshmen from difficult situations. When it came to letting freshmen walk into a room during orientation and receive advice — yes, advice — from a man who visited Jeffrey Epstein in prison, they did nothing. They left incoming freshmen to anxiously read Seth Lloyd's apology on Medium, every last one of them.

No more polls of the class. It was time for the apology, the monologue, the narrative, whatever you want to call it. Like so many others implicated in this scandal inside and outside MIT, Seth Lloyd first met Epstein through his agent, John Brockman. Epstein became Seth Lloyd's research donor and then his friend.

When Epstein was first convicted in 2008, Seth Lloyd reached out to the women in his life for advice on what to do. His wife advised him not to take the money. He looked for a second opinion. His mother worked with at-risk youth in the prison system. Seth Lloyd said that of the students she worked with, the ones who received support were least likely to reoffend. It was unclear to me whether Seth Lloyd actually asked his mother about Epstein's specific case here. I'm assuming not. The idea that a multimillionaire was engaging in pedophilia because he was unsupported by society is laughable.

Still, with this advice in hand, Seth Lloyd decided to visit Epstein in prison to see if he had any intentions of reforming. He noted that by the time he visited Epstein, Epstein was already on partial house arrest, having used his power and status to talk his way out of staying in the prison proper. Seth Lloyd asked the question that he came to ask, and says that Epstein said the following: "I am going to do whatever I have to do not to go back to prison."

At the time, Seth Lloyd interpreted this as a statement of reform from a man that had been scared straight. Now, judging from the meaningful looks he gave the class and the resulting gasps, Seth Lloyd saw it as a harbinger of Epstein's eventual suicide in prison, a decade later. There's a simpler interpretation too: these were the words of a man who was determined to use his power in order to get away with his crimes.

After his release from prison, Epstein slowly returned to hosting conferences and making philanthropic donations. Seth Lloyd claimed that he was happy to see Epstein reintegrate with society and saw this philanthropy as Epstein paying his debt to

society. He took Epstein's money, on two separate instances since Epstein's conviction, for two reasons. First, he was still funded by a grant from before Epstein's conviction, so he reasoned that his name was already associated with Epstein. Second, he wanted to do Epstein a favor and support his continued reform by allowing him to pursue philanthropy. He claimed that he was well-funded by existing grants and did not need the money for research, but did use it to take a sabbatical.

Let me reiterate: Seth Lloyd claims that he took money from a “reformed” pedophile as a personal favor to said pedophile. A simple internet search, as Seth Lloyd acknowledges, would have revealed that said pedophile was in fact not “reformed” at all.

Seth Lloyd admitted that he ignored all of the warning signs. He characterized his own mistakes as “crimes of inattention” and acknowledged that he had the privilege to not pay attention while many others had no choice. He said that as soon as he heard the allegations, he cut off ties with Epstein and began trying to make amends with everyone harmed by the situation. He said that he always believes sexual assault survivors, on principle. He drew from examples of students he’s worked with as an advisor. He detailed the attempts that he’s made to return Epstein’s money and support assault survivors. This part is the apology, much of it familiar from the public Medium post.

I don't think Seth Lloyd's apology was any better or worse than the dozens of apologies that we've seen in the past few months from others involved in the Epstein scandal. However, it was directly invalidated by everything else that I saw in that classroom. If Seth Lloyd had quietly directed the class to the online apology, made an anonymous form for comments, and not subjected us to this performance, I don't think I would be writing this article. By not providing a safe way for students to opt out of listening to the apology, by continuing to require mandatory attendance for this semester's class (enforced by only providing the problem sets in lecture), by constantly saying "victims" instead of "survivors" and then loudly correcting himself, Seth Lloyd continued to perform crimes of inattention throughout the entire class, albeit on a smaller scale. What does this say about his capacity to reform?

In his final remark, after the apology, Seth Lloyd returned to the subject of Epstein himself. He said that “Jeffrey Epstein was a charming friend, likeable. I was taken in by it. Nobody should have died like that. He needed to go to trial.”

Then Seth Lloyd turned to us, the students. He looked across the room, contemplating us. Few people seemed to meet his eyes.

Lloyd, Page 5

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez, Editor in Chief Jessica Shi, Managing Editor Ivana Alardin, Executive Editor Nathan Liang, and Opinion Editor Fiona Chen.

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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.

Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://thetech.com>



MOVIE REVIEW

Taika Waititi's *Jojo Rabbit* is worth a watch

Marketed as an 'anti-hate' satire, the film expertly balances the sensitive nature of Nazism with the classic Waititi comedy

By Erika Yang

On paper, *Jojo Rabbit* seems like a questionable concept for a film: Ten year old Nazi fanatic, Johannes “Jojo” Betzler (Roman Griffin Davis) is living in Nazi Germany during World War II with his imaginary friend Adolf Hitler (Taika Waititi). Jojo is discharged from his Nazi summer camp after being blown up by a grenade, relegating him to hanging up Nazi propaganda back home instead. During this period, he discovers that his mother, Rosie (Scarlett Johansson), has been harboring a Jewish girl, Elsa (Thomasin McKenzie), in his sister’s old room.

Marketed as an “anti-hate” satire, the film expertly balances the sensitive nature of the topic with Waititi’s classic comedic style. It carefully handles the Nazi topic and makes it clear that it is not trying to offend anyone (except Nazi fanatics). All the negative comments are made in such an exaggerated and comical way that the satirical aspect is evident. The satire serves as a cushion for the more unpleasant events, providing comedic relief with the light Nazi

portrayals. Throughout the course of the story, however, the tone becomes less satirical and more sincere in its narrative, diving into more serious themes. As a result, when the tonal shift occurs, it comes almost as a surprise. The shift occurs when the Betzler household is subjected to a search by some Nazi authorities. With Elsa attempting to masquerade as Jojo's older sister, Rosie absent, and Jojo trying to decide between what's wrong and right, this particular scene's tension is palpable as the audience wonders whether or not the Betzlers will be alright and where they will go from this point.

The film juxtaposes the repercussions of blind fanaticism against the hope of a better future and the preservation of childhood. Jojo's entire belief system is challenged when he befriends Elsa and learns that Jews are not in fact bloodthirsty demons who can read minds as he had been taught all throughout his life. Elsa recognizes that he is not as set in his ways as he thinks he is — after all, he is only a ten year old child who at that point hadn't had any real exposure to the war, and yet he embod-

ies everything that has led her to her current status as a refugee. To Jojo, Elsa is like a whole new species, and he thinks she really is. Everything he knows has been taught to him by prejudiced characters. Given their vastly different backgrounds, it takes some time for the two to trust each other. From threats of murder to dancing on the street, they eventually become close friends and confidants, each learning from the other.

At the same time, Rosie is attempting to help Jojo live as a normal ten year old boy while she herself is doing whatever she can to fight against the Nazi powers. It is interesting to note that despite Rosie clearly being against the Nazi regime, her son is as big of a Hitler fan as they come, indicating that perhaps Rosie saw it safer to let Jojo carry those ideas in their Nazi-populated town than to let him into her world that is fraught with graver danger. And even though each half of the mother-son duo has their stark differences, the scenes between the two provide a nice heartwarming break from the war troubles when they're not discussing politics. As the other soldier boys are riding in a caravan, returning broken and bruised from a battle, Rosie and Jojo are serenely biking alongside them, returning from an outdoor jaunt in the countryside.

The cast gave laudable performances all around; the child actors in particular were very memorable. Davis delivers an exemplary performance as a young boy watching his world crumble, while McKenzie is an excellent foil as a young girl who has already seen her world crumble due to the likes of Jojo's role models. Waititi himself played Hitler, and it was as comical as one would expect from the same person who played Korg in the Marvel Cinematic Universe — his portrayal was not at all historically accurate (apart from the mustache), nor was it intended to be, playing into the satirical nature of the film.

Aesthetically, the film is remarkable. Instead of the typical grim color palettes of

Jojo Rabbit

Directed by Taika Waititi

Screenplay by Taika Waititi

Starring Roman Griffin Davis, Thomasin McKenzie, Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell, Rebel Wilson

Rated PG-13, Playing Oct. 25

World War II movies, *Jojo Rabbit* went the opposite direction and indulged in a more pleasing pastel tone for the tailends of the movie, signifying the more light-hearted parts. Once more serious events began to unfold, however, there was a distinctive shift to the aforementioned grim colors. Gone were the pretty pastels and humorous incompetencies; in their places were duller colors and imminent threats. The sudden bleakness of the narrative parallels Jojo's realization of how flawed his previous beliefs were. In that way, the color palette throughout the movie matches Jojo's state of mind as he goes from a blissfully ignorant follower to a confused and conflicted child to finally, a boy who has lost yet is still striving to be a good person.

Waititi masterfully crafts a surprisingly heartwarming yet comedic film. While more risks could have been taken with the direction of the narrative, *Jojo Rabbit* loses none of its poignancy and is an admirable entry into this season's award contenders.



KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Roman Griffin Davis and Taika Waititi star in *Jojo Rabbit*.

MOVIE REVIEW

The sequel to *Maleficent*: not so evil after all

Maleficent and Aurora's relationship is challenged by drama surrounding Aurora's upcoming wedding

★★★★☆

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

Directed by Joachim Rønning

**Screenplay by Micah
Fitzerman-Blue, Noah
Harpster, and Linda
Woolverton**

**Starring Angelina Jolie,
Elle Fanning, Harris
Dickinson, Michelle
Pfeiffer, Sam Riley**

Rated PG, Now Playing

By Vaishnavi Phadnis

Five years after *Maleficent* first revealed the backstory of our favorite villain, Angelina Jolie and Elle Fanning return to the big screen as Maleficent and Aurora in Disney's *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*. The sequel continues to explore the peculiar relationship between Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning) and her dark fairy godmother (Angelina Jolie) as Aurora prepares to marry Prince Philip (Harris Dickinson) in spite of the cunning queen's icy hatred for Maleficent and Maleficent's deep-seated distrust in true love. As the queen's loathing for Maleficent evolves into full-fledged warfare

between the humans and the magical creatures called Moors, the movie's overall predictability is offset by a few surprises.

While the title and trailer paint Maleficent as formidable and ominous music accompanies Maleficent's entries, it's always clear that the queen (Michelle Pfeiffer) is the real villain. We sympathize with Maleficent as she reveals her vulnerabilities, covers up her horns for her daughter's sake at dinner with the future in-laws, and even occasionally sheds a tear. It's obvious that Maleficent's trust issues and protective motherly instincts underlie her violent opposition to the marriage. The film starkly delineates good versus evil, humanizing Maleficent while portraying the queen as one-dimensionally wicked and despotic.

Despite a largely predictable storyline, Henry Braham's immersive cinematography makes this live-action film breathtaking. From the beginning, dizzying camera work and frequently zoomed-in shots of the miniature Moors draw viewers into their world. Many extreme close-ups of Maleficent and the queen set up dramatic confrontations. Montages of distinct color palettes and lighting highlight the contrast between various settings: the sunlit bedrooms of the castle, the nauseatingly rainbow-colored Moor kingdom, the faded, black-and-white cave refuge of the fairies, and the fiery dungeons of the queen's covert operations. The film certainly captivates the eyes.

Thematically, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* somewhat reverses the meek portrayal of women in the original *Sleeping Beauty*: here, all the prominent characters are women with strong personalities, masterfully played by high-profile actors Angelina Jolie and Michelle Pfeiffer. Aurora, on the

other hand, while more traditionally feminine in her blush pink floral dresses and less aggressive mannerisms, still counteracts stereotypes. Her strong-headedness manifests as she explores the queen's secret dungeons and leaps through windows to rescue her Moor subjects from the queen's attack. This, in turn, enriches the feminist message of the film: femininity and will power are not mutually exclusive. Men are side characters — the king is asleep for most of the film, and the prince hardly does anything significant. In fact, men's roles in the film are so diminished that the character of the prince remains raw and undevel-

oped. Although the movie revolves around a wedding on its surface, it is really about the unconditional love between mother and daughter.

As an engrossing and entertaining film that challenges gender stereotypes, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* contributes to discourse on the modern fairytale spinoff genre. For its target audience of impressionable children, it attempts to combat harmful fairytale patterns of women being helpless and weak. So, while it may not be a rollercoaster of emotions or unexpected events, it is a well-intentioned family film that is nevertheless interesting to watch.



JAAP BUITENDIJK

Elle Fanning, Angelina Jolie, and Sam Riley play Aurora, Maleficent, and Diaval in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*.

The Saxe Lab studies the mechanisms of social cognition and their development in the human brain

Consider the following thought experiment: Person A and Person B, on a tour of a chemical factory, stop to take a coffee break. Person A finds a pot containing white powder — a powder which is actually sugar, but is labeled “deadly poison.” Person A put some of this powder into Person B’s coffee; Person B drinks it and remains perfectly healthy.

Questions like these and more drive professor Rebecca Saxe's research in the McGovern Institute for Brain Research. Saxe, also the associate head of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department, posed this "deadly poison" hypothetical to the audience of her 2009 TED talk, "How we read each other's minds." Her lab focuses on understanding social cognition and the development of the human brain. As Saxe explained in her TED talk, the job of a cognitive neuroscience researcher is "to understand how you can put together simple units — simple messages over space and time — in a network and get this amazing human capacity to think about minds."

This question served as the inspiration for much of the other work produced by the Saxe Lab and, in particular, for Kosakowski's efforts. "I think trying to understand what is

In order to uncover the neural mechanisms underpinning infant cognition, Kosakowski is expanding on a project originally conducted by Saxe and her former graduate student Ben Deen. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), Saxe and Deen measured babies' responses to different visual categories, such as faces and scenes. Although Saxe and Deen discovered similarities between the locations and levels of neural responses in infants and adults, their study only included data from nine babies.

Now, Kosakowski is working to replicate Saxe and Deen's study, expanding it to include data from up to 26 infants and in response to bodies and objects as stimuli. Her ultimate aim is "to figure out: what is the starting state of the infant brain? Can we tease apart some of the developmental theories about the origin of knowledge and competing theories in cognitive development?"

The day-to-day logistics of such infant studies, however, are anything but straightforward. "Something people find surprising about baby research is how much work actually goes into getting a baby through the door," Kosakowski explained. "There's a lot of work that goes into recruiting and scheduling visits with babies." The extensive data analysis that follows is compounded by other complications — babies' movement in the fMRI scanner or falling asleep, for example. "Getting a baby in is a challenge, getting data from a baby is a challenge, and analyzing data is a challenge," Kosakowski said.

Still, the Saxe Lab remains a trailblazer in the field of infant brain research because — unlike most fMRI studies, which analyze data from sleeping babies — Saxe has “really pioneered research with awake babies,” Kosakowski said. Her lab and others are starting to “ask interesting questions about what’s going on across the infant brain when infants are awake.”



COURTESY OF THE SAXE LAB

Yet the Saxe Lab is notable for more than just its research. The culture and values of any lab are important factors that shape the direction of its work; according to Kosakowski, “[Saxe] is really unique as a scientist, as a mentor, and as a person,” she explained, “in that she works really hard to build a diverse lab group.” Many academic scientists follow a “very traditional trajectory” through their careers, ultimately resulting in an increasingly homogenous culture with “brilliant people — but brilliant people who all really think very similarly,” said Kosakowski.

"[Saxe] recognizes that quality science requires a diverse type of thinking and does what she can to make that happen," finding individuals for her lab who do not adhere to this typical academic trajectory, Kosakowski added. "She tries to push back at norms and question their validity in attempts to increase inclusiveness and also to increase the quality of her science." Particularly in a field which examines the ways people think

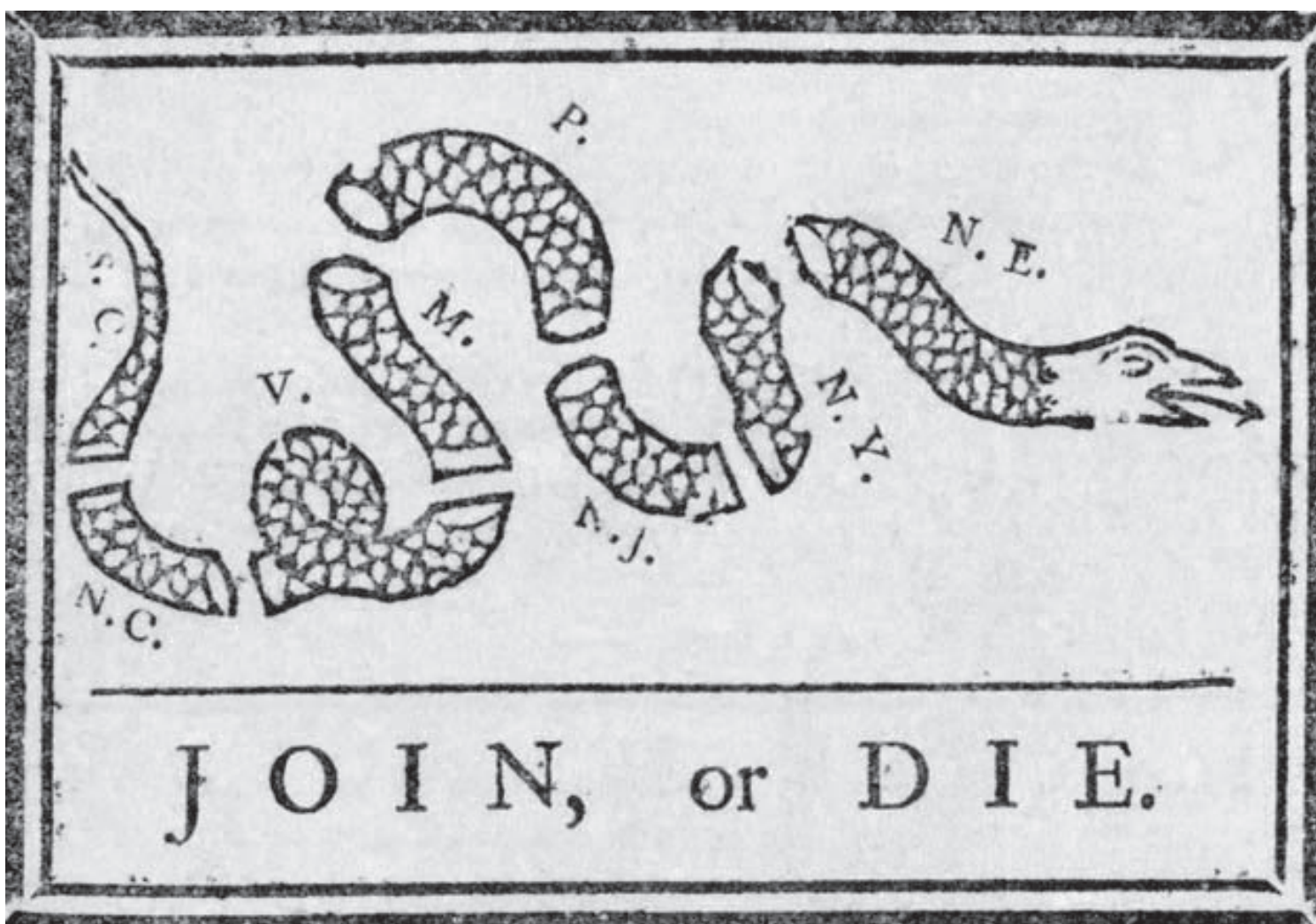
Down the road, the Saxe Lab plans to continue asking and seeking answers to the questions that have always motivated their research: how does the human brain construct thoughts? What is the starting state of the brain? How does experience shape brain responses? According to Kosakowski, studies on the neural basis of navigation, social reward learning, and language learning in infants — as well as Kosakowski's fMRI study on infants' visual preferences — are ongoing in the lab. Ultimately, "there's so much room there to explore more," she said.

As Saxe put it in her TED talk, “The whole project of understanding how brains do the uniquely human things — learn languages and abstract concepts, and thinking about other people’s thoughts — that’s brand new. And we don’t know yet what the implications will be of understanding it”

Want to draw graphics that engage, provoke, and speak to the MIT community?

The Tech is looking for editorial cartoonists.

join@tech.mit.edu



Waltz

Solution, page 3

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

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.

Foxtrot

Solution, page 3

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

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.

Needle Needers by Carolyn Stewart

Solution, page 3

ACROSS

- 1 Elementary school support org.
- 4 Nativity trio
- 8 Carried on, as a war
- 13 Cry loudly
- 14 Apple's tablet
- 15 "Get __ of that!" ("Look!")
- 16 Diabolical
- 17 Give (out) sparingly
- 18 Have a sip of
- 19 Phonographs
- 22 Hansel's sister
- 23 White weasel
- 26 Provided dinner for
- 28 Nickname for Katherine
- 29 Baby beagle
- 30 AMA members
- 35 Ocean's rise and fall
- 36 Jumped
- 37 Liquid coloring
- 38 Appliance with an oven
- 39 Mr. 'Iggins of My Fair Lady
- 40 Gasoline indicators
- 42 "__ that's that!"

- 43 Navigation guide
- 44 Midmorning hour
- 45 Brief track races
- 47 Most docile
- 52 Makers of arm drawings
- 56 Country singer Patsy
- 58 Not doing anything
- 59 Dance movement
- 60 Interior design
- 61 Capital of Peru
- 62 Golf bag supplies
- 63 Hawaiian carvings
- 64 Close tightly
- 65 Slangy "Sure!"

DOWN

- 1 Highway asphalt worker
- 2 A couple of times
- 3 Parcel out
- 4 Piano student's key note
- 5 Each, informally
- 6 Audacity
- 7 Creative thought
- 8 Overly diluted
- 9 Clock-radio signal

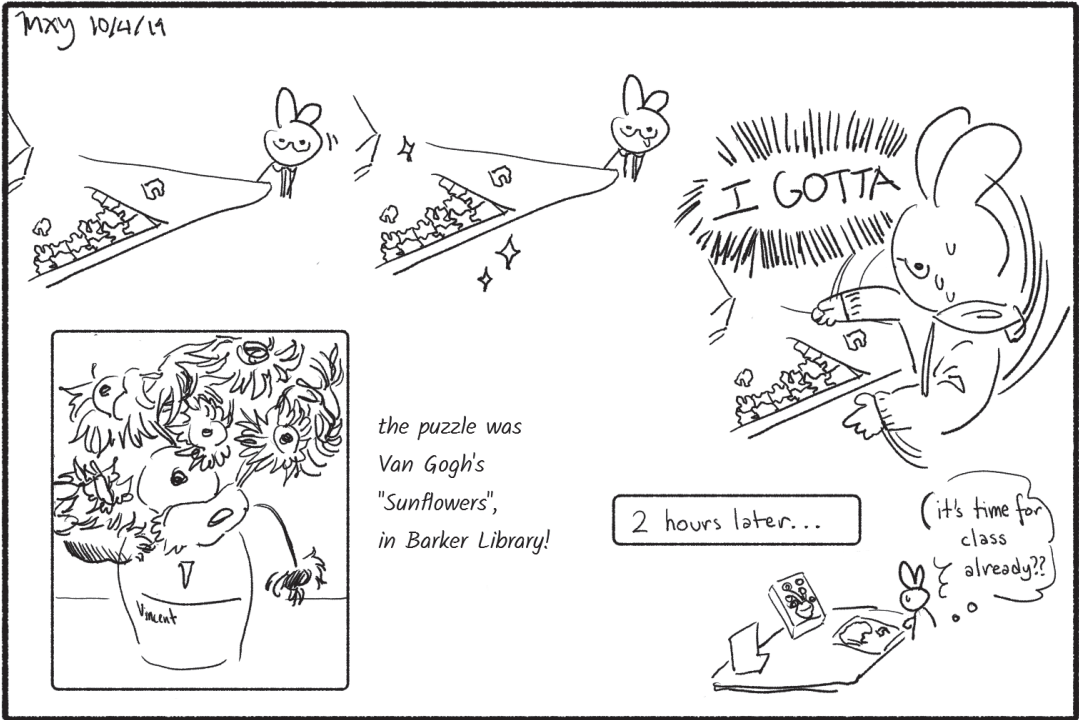
- 10 Exchanging rumors
- 11 Partake of a meal
- 12 President before JFK
- 13 Floating mass of ice
- 20 Modernize, as a factory
- 21 Affirmative votes
- 24 Gentle push
- 25 Olympic swords
- 27 Adorned
- 28 Posed to propose
- 30 Answer a court charge
- 31 Reddish hair coloring
- 32 Tailor's measuring device
- 33 Secret agent
- 34 Sailor's assent
- 35 Fraternity "T"
- 38 Charged toward
- 40 Quick
- 41 "Quit your dreaming!"
- 43 Measures for Olympic
- 45 Across
- 46 Capital of Vietnam
- 48 Teary-eyed
- 49 Lauder of cosmetics
- 50 High-priced

	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				

- 51 Sugar amts.
- 53 Portraitist's paints
- 54 Garfield's friend
- 55 __ mater (school song)
- 56 Chicago summer hrs.
- 57 Floral necklace



miscellany #3: the puzzle pit



by Jaeho Kim '20 ■

a comic about life at the 'tvte

a comic about life at the 'tvte

Here you go.
The GodFather.

wait. can I
get it extra
spicy?

yea,
sure!

Happy B-day Abide!

Solution, page 3

13+		216x		17+			2-	8x
6x	6		7		30+			
	45x	28+					14x	
42x			2x			20x		
	16x			19+		32+		3
8x		18x	15x					4
	28x			126x			216x	6
36x		40x			12x			45x
	12x			2		7		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Quickstep

Solution, page 3

25+			360×		42×		4
	14×	3		36×	3÷		4−
		8÷				8+	5
72×			24×				28+
9		23+		450×			
6×					28+		9×
22+		5		48×			12×
		27+			3		10×
120×					9×		3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

[746] Birth



All those GTA marathons during the pregnancy were a bad idea.

Men's Heavyweight Collegiate 8+ came first while Women's Lightweight 4 came second overall

Various teams from MIT crew took part at the 55th Head of the Charles Regatta, the largest two-day rowing competition in the world. This year the competition consisted of about 11,000 rowers from various colleges, schools, ages, and levels. Amongst all these spheres were the MIT varsity crew teams.

a time of 14:25.901, a comfortable 3.219 seconds ahead of the runner-up. The team consisted of Ben Koenig '21, Max von Franque '22, James Greer '22, Cooper Jones '22, Orrie Page '22, Rob Cancio '23, Peter Scott '23, Deniz Sert '23, and cox Alex Meredith '21. The other team with a medal was the Women's Lightweight 4, which finished second overall with a time of 18:06.346, just 8.425 seconds behind British Columbia. The team consisted of Brigid Bane '20, Haley Higginbotham '21, Jaime Cook '22, Kathleen Love '23, and cox Jennifer Nwenyi '20.

Other MIT participants included the Men's Heavyweight Club 4+ Crew, which ranked 18th in their race out of 55 crews; Men's Lightweight 4+ and 8+ Crews, which ranked 14th and 15th place respectively; Women's Openweight Crews, which ranked in the top 10 for both club eights and club singles; and the Women's Lightweight 8s which finished eighth in their race.

This regatta was the 2019-20 debut for most crews who will continue their season at various other regattas, including the Head of the Fish on Oct. 26 in New York.



The Men's Heavyweight Club 8+ departs the start line in the Head of the Charles Regatta Saturday.

Ballroom Dance Team shines at UConn Husky Classic 2019

Couples take first in Bronze American Swing, third in Silver International Samba and Jive

MITBDT had four dancers attend the 2019 UConn Husky Challenge this past Saturday, Oct. 19. The event took place at the Coventry High School in Coventry, Connecticut.

The day began with Smooth and Standard in the morning. Ryan Salazar and Joanna Lin '22 competed together at the Bronze level. They placed sixth in the American Foxtrot and made fi-

nals in all three Standard events, taking home second in Quickstep and fourth in Waltz and Tango. Jerry Bai and Maddie Leone '22 represented MIT at the Silver level. In Smooth, they finished in all three events, claiming third in the Viennese Waltz and fifth in the Waltz/Tango two-dance. In Standard, Bai and Leone earned sixth in Foxtrot, seventh in the Waltz/Tango two-dance, and eighth in the syllabus Viennese Waltz against Gold level couples.

The day continued with Rhythm and Latin in the afternoon. In the Bronze Rhythm, Salazar and Lin had a strong performance, winning first place in Swing and earning second in Chacha and Rumba. For Latin, Salazar switched partners and competed in Silver with Leone. They placed third in Samba and Jive and fourth in the Chacha/Rumba two-dance. Bai danced with Lin in Latin as well, and they made semifinals in all Silver events.

Rifle
vs. John Jay and Wentworth
9:00 a.m.

Coed Sailing
at the NEISA Coed
Championship
10:00 a.m.

Women's Volleyball
vs. Westfield State
11:00 a.m.

Women's Soccer
vs. Springfield
1:00 p.m.

Field Hockey
vs. Clark
1:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
vs. Simmons
3:00 p.m.

Coed Sailing
at the NEISA Coed
Championship
10:00 a.m.

Women's Soccer
at WPI
4:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
at Emerson
7:00 p.m.

Biz pays the bills

Join the Business Department of
The Tech and earn \$12/hr!

Email *join@tech.mit.edu*

WANTED

sports·writ·er(s)

/ˈspɔːrts ˌrɪdəs/

noun

noun: sports writers

journalists who write about sports.

No prior experience needed! Just an interest in sports. And probably writing.

For more information, please contact sports@the-tech.mit.edu

