



KEVIN LY—THE TECH

Members of Asian Dance Team perform *Unsullied*, an original traditional Chinese dance, as part of the annual Nightmarket event Saturday night.

Barnhart holds campus forum after sexual misconduct report

Four working groups present their recommendations

By Kerri Lu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Four MIT working groups presented recommendations addressing preventing and responding to sexual misconduct in a community forum held by Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 Nov. 5. The forum was held in response to the 2018 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report on the sexual harassment of women in sciences, engineering, and medicine.

The four working groups were Training and Prevention, Leadership and Engagement, Policies and

Reporting, and Academic and Organizational Relationships.

To begin the forum, Barnhart said, "To address sexual misconduct is also to address culture and climate issues [in higher education] more generally. You have to have solutions that resonate at the community level, the department level, the student level. In addition, we are committed to strengthening our prevention with ongoing and tailored education."

The Training and Prevention working group, co-chaired by Title IX Coordinator Sarah Rankin and HR Diversity and Inclusion Special-

ist Libby Mahaffy, reviewed proposals about community-wide sexual harassment prevention training. Mahaffy said the group recommends the creation of "core competencies for goal alignment" and the inclusion of gender harassment in sexual violence prevention efforts. Potential initiatives include expanding a peer education program, coordinating unconscious bias trainings, and administering a climate survey for faculty and staff.

Rankin said the group recommends expanding ongoing in-

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Reif announces reforms in response to Epstein donations

Reforms include the formation of new committees and increased whistleblower protections

By Wenbo Wu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

President L. Rafael Reif announced in an email to the MIT community Oct. 31 new reforms based on student and staff reaction to funding from Jeffery Epstein. These involve creating two new committees to evaluate outside engagements and gift acceptances, increasing protection for whistleblowers, selecting a charity to benefit survivors of sexual abuse, and encouraging more employee involvement.

Reif wrote, "Many have also highlighted — with searing clarity — misalignments and fractures that go to the very foundation of our community and that demand our shared attention."

The first new committee, the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Gift Processes, will be chaired by Professor Peter Fisher and guide improvements to MIT's system for gift solicitation and acceptance.

The second committee, the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements, will be chaired by Associate Professor

Tavneet Suri and help define Institute-wide values and principles used to evaluate outside engagements.

Mark DiVincenzo, vice president and general counsel, "is assembling a team to strengthen MIT's existing protections for whistleblowers, which include the Institute's non-retaliation policy and its anonymous reporting hotline," according to an MIT News article Oct. 31.

Reif wrote in a letter Aug. 22 that MIT would contribute \$800,000 to benefit survivors of sexual abuse, an amount commensurate to what Reif had initially said Epstein had do-

nated to MIT. (*The New Yorker* later reported that Epstein was "credited with securing" an additional \$7.5 million in funding for the Media Lab.)

The Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response, led by Professor Leslie Kolodziejski, is advising MIT's choice of charity.

In response to the Oct. 7 staff and Oct. 11 research staff forums, Ramona Allen, vice president for human resources, will gather staff from around campus to share their ideas and perspectives.

"Speaker after speaker expressed a profound sense that as staff at MIT,

they feel invisible, dispensable, isolated and last in line," Reif wrote in his email.

According to the same MIT News article, Maria Zuber, vice president for research, will be organizing a group to address the research staff's "feelings of isolation and the lack of any unifying home at MIT."

Goodwin Procter, the law firm which has been responsible for fact-finding in Epstein's associations with MIT, is nearing the end of its investigation. It will report its findings to

Epstein Reforms, Page 3

Graduate Family Support Working Group publishes its interim report

Developments include a new mailing list and partnership with Cambridge Public Schools to provide resources to student-parents

By Cami Mejia

Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz released the Graduate Family Support Working Group's interim report, which addresses issues voiced by graduate student families, in an Oct. 29 email to the graduate student body. The report features four main recommendations: centralizing communication and outreach, collecting information about students with children, providing family-friendly spaces around campus, and identifying new ways to financially support students with children.

The report found that of all Ivy+ schools — the group comprised of all Ivy League schools, MIT, Stanford, and UChicago — MIT is the only one without a centralized resource for graduate students with children. A new website, the MIT Guide for Students with Children, now acts as this resource.

Additionally, as a result of the working group's discoveries, a new

mailing list (graduate-families@mit.edu) has been launched, a summer orientation webinar has been developed, an Atlas for New Grads family tile is being developed, and a WhatsApp group specially made for graduate families has been created.

According to the report, MIT has now opened Westgate events to both on and off-campus families in response to off-campus student-parents finding difficulty in participating in campus events. Furthermore, Associate Dean Naomi Carton will now be working with a family liaison for Cambridge Public Schools to provide more resources and information for student-parents.

The working group, formed in November 2018, consists of graduate students, faculty, and staff who have been working throughout the year to catalog, benchmark, and collect input on the status of graduate student families at MIT.

Peter Su G, GSC president and a member of the working group, said

in an interview with *The Tech* that his next hope is to "administratively gather data on families," as MIT does not have a list of graduate students with families. Once that list exists, Su said, "You can start doing targeted programming, give directly to the graduate families."

According to the report, 27 percent of graduate students with children who responded to a 2019 survey reported it was "very difficult" to locate appropriate childcare. The report also singled out MIT as the only Ivy+ school without some form of a family grant, though it acknowledged MIT does have a "significant and generous subsidy" for family medical insurance compared to its Ivy+ peers.

Su described the financial issue as a two-fold. One is that graduate students "just don't receive as much money as others because of how their program works." The other is that a student's expenses may overwhelm their income. Even if

Working Group, Page 3

IN SHORT

Voting for **2023 class council** closes 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

There will be no class next Monday, Nov. 11 due to **Veterans Day**.

Students have until 11:59 p.m. Nov. 20 to submit approved changes for **drop date**.

Nominations for the annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award** are open until Nov. 29.

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.

Preliminary unofficial results of the City Council election released

The preliminary unofficial results of the Cambridge City Council election Nov. 5 have been released.

Incumbents Dennis J. Carlone, Alanna M. Mallon, Marc C. McGovern, E. Denise Simmons, Sumbul Siddiqui, Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., and Quinton Y. Zondervan SM '95 were re-elected.

Patricia M. Nolan and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler were newly elected.

A total of 22 candidates ran, including recent MIT alumnus Burhan Azeem '19, who lost on the 13th count.

Between 2017 and 2019, MIT's precincts 2-2 and 2-3 saw an in-

crease from 449 to 490 ballots. In almost all other Cambridge precincts, the number of votes cast decreased. Total votes dropped from 22,596 to 20,433.

The School Committee election's preliminary unofficial results were also released. Manikka L. Bowman, Emily Dexter, Alfred B. Fantini, Ayesha Wilson, Rachel B. Weinstein, and José Luis Rojas Villarreal were elected.

The results of the City Council and School Committee elections are not final. Official results will not be declared until Nov. 15, after absentee and provisional ballots are counted.

—Kristina Chen

WHY WERE YOU ADMITTED?

Admissions dramatizes privilege. **ARTS, p. 7**

PEDESTRIANIZING BOSTON

The city wants and needs it. **OPINION, p. 4**

MURDER MYSTERY

Bring out the knives. **ARTS, p. 7**



POTENTIAL DATE NIGHT

We tried Ruckus, a pan-Asian noodle house. **ARTS, p. 6**

MIT DINING

Dining director and DSL ask for ideas. **OPINION, p. 4**

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WEATHER

First frost and signs of winter

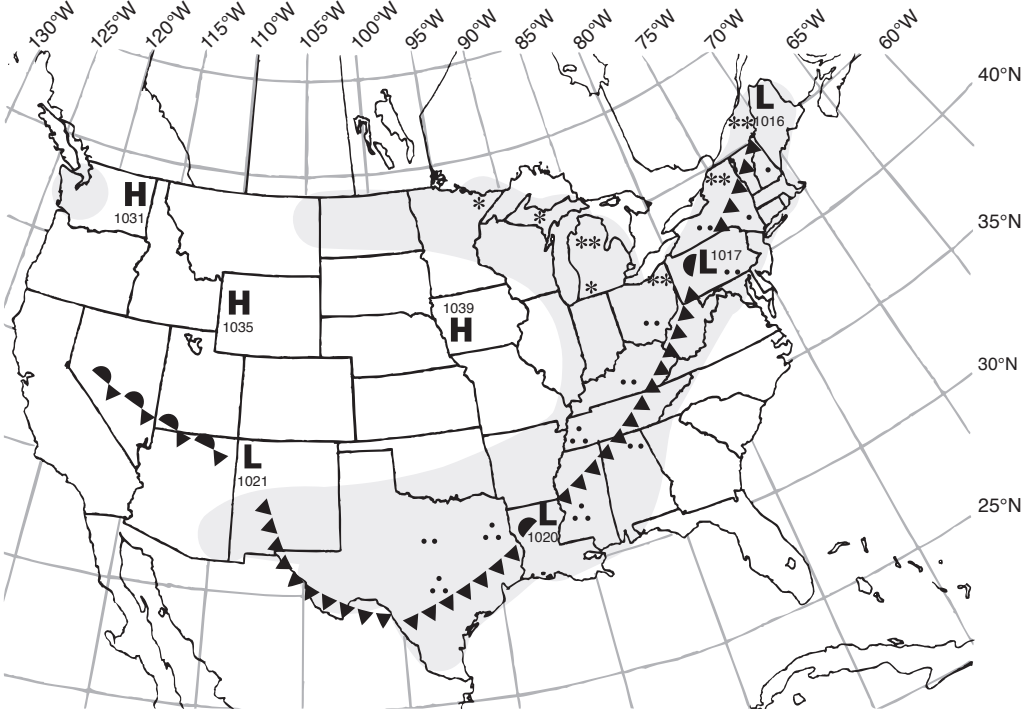
By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

This weekend brings several signs of winter as we enter the heart of November. Expect the first frost of the season this weekend, either on Thursday or Friday night, as a cold front brings frigid air from the northwest and Canada. This front will also result in heavy precipitation on Thursday night; Boston and most of Massachusetts will likely see only rain, but northern parts of the state and New Hampshire are expected to receive snow. If you're plan-

ning on going north over the long weekend, be careful on the roads! Cooler temperatures will make way for some more warmth and sun on Sunday, but the cold will return early next week. It's too far out to say for sure, but Boston may see some early snow next week, depending on how the storm moves up the coast. Other areas of the US will also experience a cold period next week, as several regions in the Midwest and Northeast could hit record low temperatures for the day next Tuesday. It's finally time to pull out your heavy coats and scarves for another Boston winter.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy, then showers. High around 55°F (13°C). Southwest winds around 7-10 mph.
Tonight: Rain. Low around 32°F (0°C). West, becoming northwest winds around 9-15 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High around 40°F (4°C) and low around 27°F (-3°C). Northwest winds around 15-20 mph, with gusts up to 38 mph.
Saturday: Sunny. High around 40°F (4°C) and low around 34°F (1°C). West winds around 8-10 mph.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High around 55°F (11°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 7, 2019

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Students and faculty raise concerns about MIT's handling of allegations

Forum, from Page 1

person sexual assault prevention training in intact communities such as athletic teams, academic departments, and living groups. This includes the broadening of initiatives such as PLEASURE education and lab-based workshops.

The Leadership and Engagement group is co-chaired by Alyce Johnson, special advisor to the Office of the Provost, and Maryanne Kirkbride, executive administrator of MindHandHeart. The group investigated institutional leadership and community engagement on gender equity and inclusivity.

Johnson said the group has identified "opportunities for MIT leadership to be more explicit or visible in conveying MIT's goal of preventing sexual harassment" by encouraging reporting and communicating no tolerance for harassment. The group recommends leadership skill-building trainings for conflict resolution and student-led discussions focused on preventing campus sexual violence.

The Policies and Reporting group is co-chaired by Policy and Compliance Specialist Pierce and Assistant Provost Doreen Morris. The group recommends improvements to internal policies and community-reporting practices for sexual assault.

Pierce said that the wording of sexual and gender-based harassment policies in the Policies and Procedures manual and the Mind and Hand Book could be made clearer and more consistent. In addition, MIT's complaint policy will change next semester: a new Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office will make an-

nual reports on complaints against faculty and staff.

Pierce stressed the importance of both privacy and transparency. "We want to make sure that how we disclose [complaints] does not discourage complaints and addresses a culture where people don't bring up [sexual misconduct]," Pierce said.

Barnhart said that, based on the Association of American Universities (AAU) Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct, among those involved in harassing behaviors at MIT, 18.1 percent are faculty members or instructors. This was higher than the AAU aggregate average of 9.6 percent. At MIT, 10.7 percent of those involved in harassing behaviors are the student's teacher, and 5.2 percent are the student's advisor (compared to the AAU aggregate averages of 7.2 percent and 1.7 percent respectively).

The Academic and Organizational Relationships working group, co-chaired by Professor Tim Jamison and Professor Paula Hammond '84, investigated these "power imbalances inherent in research institutions" in relation to sexual assault.

Hammond emphasized the importance of a "cross-campus discussion about MIT's values" and recommended the creation of a value statement to represent MIT's campus culture.

Jamison said the group has drafted a set of recommended expectations for all community members, with specific responsibilities for faculty and research supervisors.

Hammond said the group recommends mentorship training for faculty and transitional funding for graduate students changing re-

search groups due to harassment complaints. The group also recommends improving faculty advisor accountability by allowing graduate students to provide feedback on their advisor in a protected setting and mandating regular review of the culture of research groups by an objective third party.

After the working group presentations, the forum opened the floor to those who wished to speak.

Julianne Zimmerman '88 pointed out how the report reveals "the power imbalance and the prevalence of faculty participation in harassing behaviors" and asked about recommendations for addressing "established faculty and long-standing habits."

In response, Hammond emphasized the necessity of holding all faculty accountable and said that they recommended that department heads "have a way of assessing the mentoring of faculty in their department."

Jamison added that the working groups' recommendation encourages faculty in positions of power to take responsibility for their relationships with dependent or "vulnerable" individuals, such as graduate students or undergraduate researchers in their labs.

Mark Goldman G pointed out how MIT, unlike "other schools such as Yale, Stanford, Princeton, and Brown," currently does not release information on how "faculty members responsible for sexual harassment" are punished, despite "report[ing] the same punishments for students," and asked about the release of the data. Goldman is an opinion writer for *The Tech*.

Barnhart emphasized the importance of privacy for those in the

data and said that they "don't have enough information to release it without violating privacy."

Daniel Gonzalez '20, judicial committee chairman of the Interfraternity Council, commented on the importance of involving undergraduate students — who comprise the grad classes of the future — in the policy suggesting process. Gonzalez suggested the establishment of "classes in the communication requirement that encourage dialogue across different social privileges."

Aditi Gupta G asked about the compensation that the faculty serving as departmental liaisons for diversity, equity, and inclusion receive.

Johnson responded that she does not "know what's available for faculty doing this work" but pointed out the "great support and resources for students who continue to do this work."

Hammond added that the Academic and Organizational Relationships working group recommendation includes a provision for recognition of faculty work.

Chemistry and biology professor Cathy Drennan commented that it is often difficult for faculty to work around the incomplete information they have about tenure candidates' mentorship relationships due to the confidentiality constraints of Title IX complaints. Drennan also gave a "positive shout-out" to the Violence Prevention and Response hotline, calling it a "huge improvement since I've been at MIT"

Assistant Director of LGBTQ+ Services Lauryn McNair asked about "recommendations specifically to support students in trans communities" and added that trans

representation on the committees to determine support services would help combat unconscious biases in the policy-making process.

Barnhart responded that an implementation team will be created to ensure trans representation on the committees. Pierce said that her working group sought to address gender-based harassment by collecting feedback from people who don't conform to stereotypical gender norms.

Susan Murcott '90, a lecturer in D-Lab, expressed concern for the inclusion of the "invisible people who may not have been covered by the survey — staff and facilities people" in the conversation about campus climate.

Barnhart responded that the administration plans to conduct a similar sexual assault and harassment survey for the entire campus community.

Gabriel Fields '19 expressed concern about Professor Seth Lloyd's continued role in teaching and advising freshmen despite his previous relationship with Jeffrey Epstein.

Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88 responded that the "most immediate concern" is to communicate with students currently enrolled in Lloyd's quantum computing class. Schmidt said that both anonymous feedback and direct communication with Mechanical Engineering Department Head Evelyn Wang '00 have been offered to students in the class.

Members of the MIT community can email comments on the working group reports and sexual assault prevention to community-climate@mit.edu or input them at j.mp/nasemfeedback until Nov. 15.

Do you like doodling during class?
Are your psets covered with drawings?
If so, become a Tech Illustrator!

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

Report gives ‘really simple solutions and a relatively clear path,’ says GSC Pres.

Working Group, from Page 1

this income is decent for a typical graduate student, others, such as graduate student families, may struggle supporting their family financially.

“We’re trying to really chip away at the root cause of a lot of issues for graduate students. The GSC will continue to be involved,” Su said.

Su said that four graduate students were assigned to the working group by Waitz to provide feedback

and perspective and to conduct some of the ongoing research, such as exploration, benchmarking, and discussing possible solutions.

“This is definitely going to be a multiyear process,” Su said. He said it is “up to administration to continue engaging with this and also the students to remain engaged,” but that “this report is definitely a solid first step. It’s identifying the baseline problems, giving really simple solutions and a relatively clear path forward on the financial part.”

Goodwin Procter nears end of investigation

Epstein Reforms, from Page 1

the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation for review prior to the Committee’s statement to the public.

In a Nov. 4 email to *The Tech*, Zuber declined to provide further comment, citing the lack of “adequate new info for an article,” as “the follow up from the postdoc and research staff forum has so far been a number of individual conversations.”

Kolodziejski wrote in a Nov. 4 email to *The Tech* that the commit-

tee “is just beginning their work, and hence I have very little information to share.”

Kimberly Allen, director of media relations for the MIT News Office, wrote in an email to *The Tech*, “Those leading the various workstreams are committed to sharing information as their efforts progress.” She highlighted “the president’s invitation to share ideas at communityprocess@mit.edu, as well as ... the Institute’s non-retaliation policy and its anonymous reporting hotline.”

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ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

CORRECTIONS

A news article in last week's issue on the creation of student committees to address outside engagements and campus climate said that Mahi Elango '20 and Peter Su G will chair both committees. In fact, Elango and Su will chair only the Guidelines Committee and appoint chairs to the Climate Committee.

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>

We want pedestrianization

Pedestrianization, from Page 4

within the district are strongly favored" (*The Urbanist*).

Case studies can reveal, with compelling statistics, the economic worth of these conversions when implemented in active commercial neighborhoods — meaning central location and high concentration of “stop and stay” activities like cafes and retail outlets. In Copenhagen, the pedestrianization of Strøget in the 1980s proved that removal of cars can increase revenue for local retailers, with a whopping 400 percent increase in “stop and stay” activities since the program’s implementation (*Global Designing Cities Initiative*).

Statistics can demonstrate how pedestrianization improves the street-goer's experience, as well. The City of Copenhagen reported a 35 percent increase in pedestrian volumes in the first year alone, as well as a 20 percent increase in time spent by pedestrians in the street and an 81 percent increase in outdoor cafe seating.

Our policymakers can use other cities' zoning initiatives and policies to move forward on a program that has already brought so much joy to university students, Boston residents, and transient tourists alike. Drawing from the success of Open Newbury, City Council should advance the pedestrianization of Newbury, reclaiming the street for residents, visitors, and shop-owners alike.

Newbury Street is one of the most socio-economically and culturally diverse places in Boston, a quintessential representation of

our city's unique historic culture and urban flavors. And it really is the most idyllic location to test this. First of all, Newbury encompasses everything that is so beautiful about the great city of Boston. Its streets are lined with refurbished brownstones, trees, and lively businesses. The diversity and variety offered, of shops and cafes and restaurants' offerings and prices, of the people who roam the streets, residential and student and foreigners: the space is accessible and comfortable and inviting for anyone, of any class, of any kind, and it represents Boston so perfectly.

Person-focused improvements to the urban landscape have been highly praised by street-goers and shop owners alike. Open Newbury days, debuting now for their fourth consecutive summer, transform the street into a lively pedestrian walkway. Bostonians flock excitedly to the site, increasing foot traffic more than 150 percent from an average weekend day (*UrbanLand*). That's right: on a typical day, the city logged 20,000 to 25,000 people roaming Newbury; the pedestrian counter for Open Newbury counted 50,000 people throughout the day (I haven't completed my economics degree yet, but I assure you that this is statistically significant).

We live for this kind of experience: for being able to walk freely, to own our urban space, to roam outside of shopfronts and cafes and sit in the street and breathe air free from the exhaust of stalling traffic blocks, and let children populate the street. In Pontevedra, Spain, open streets have resulted in

more children, more life on the streets, and healthier adults as a domino effect. Carlos Ferrás, an expert in demography and a lecturer of Human Geography at University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), lauds Pontevedra's pedestrianization initiative's impact, "promoting attractive and affordable residential developments in the urban area rather than in the suburbs, and an urban model that is sustainable, greener, convenient, and designed to support citizens throughout their parenting process" (*City-Lab*). Families out on the streets, it turns out, makes our streets a whole lot more active, and our residents a whole lot healthier and happier.

Think of a functional, breathable, sociable city street: is it packed with cars or people?

This transition doesn't have to be stark, either; *interim pedestrianization* allows for closing off vehicular traffic at some times in the day — midday lunch hours and mid-afternoons where people are out and about — and reopening it for heavier commuting hours.

Some worry that removal or restriction of car lanes may displace commuters and foster heavier congestion on surrounding routes. In reality, pedestrianization drives rational adjustments to residents' optimal mobility habits. Congestion in paral-

lel streets occurs only in the short term, as travellers defer to local solutions. Over time, altered mobility patterns reach new equilibriums, and commuters opt to the more convenient route of non-auto transit. This contributes to public transit improvement's positive feedback loop: the more commuters, the more funding allocation, the better the efficiency and experience of travel.

Social disconnect prospers when cities harbor such dense volumes of people. But can you imagine how much better Bostonians' experiences could be with pedestrianization? Wouldn't we all love a world where your commute is a 15 minute bike or T ride instead of 30 minutes of frustration, sitting in traffic? A world where motor infrastructure can't block out the laughter of kids playing in the streets, and those kids' parents aren't suffering heart palpitations at the image of their kids actually playing the street?

Pedestrianization is an absolutely necessary shift our cities need to make, right now. It's a movement which is already happening across the world, improving community wellness, increasing social interaction, supporting sustainable infrastructure. If you want to support the movement, you can reach out to your Boston City Councilor and ask them to support pedestrian-focused programs and zoning ordinances. It's time to reclaim the roads for Bostonians — because the streets are for us, not our Buicks.

Jen Fox is a member of the MIT Class of 2021 studying economics and urban planning.

GUEST COLUMN

What was missing at the Climate Policy Symposium

Where was climate disinformation during the discussions last Tuesday?

By Arnav Patel

Oct. 29 marked the second symposium of the MIT Climate Symposia. Named “Challenges of Climate Policy,” the event featured professors and researchers from a variety of different fields revealing their thoughts on the impacts of climate change on national security, equity, global migration, markets, and long lasting societal changes.

Yet, little was discussed on a major reason behind the ineffectiveness of government action.

Sure enough, urgency filled the air. There was resounding agreement that climate change is a major threat, and that current policy measures are inadequately addressing the issue. There was a consensus on the need to address the social cost, the adaptation, and the prevention of climate change through political mechanisms. Yet, little was discussed on a major reason behind the ineffectiveness of government action, a factor that should be in any discussions related to climate policy — the climate disincentive campaigns pursued by fossil fuel companies.

In the last 15 years, \$2 billion dollars have been used to fund organizations dedicated to lobbying Congress and to supporting climate deniers' campaigns. ExxonMobil knew since the 1970s that climate change would lead to global catastrophe, yet it directly engaged in policymaking to hide this fact. The American Petroleum Institute (API), of which Shell, Exxon Mobil, and Chevron are

members, defined victory as when "recognition of uncertainties [of climate science] becomes part of the 'conventional wisdom.'" Other organizations like ALEC and WSPA view the development of climate science and science-based climate change education as a direct threat to their own abilities to succeed.

In a three hour set of panel discussions on the challenges of climate policy, only two and a half minutes (by Dr. Laura Stokes in the mitigation panel) were used to discuss climate denial propaganda. Big campaigns driven by fossil fuel companies to write misleading articles, engage with media to spread their opinions, and work with government officials negatively influences environmental progress. The past and present effects of climate disinformation should be getting more attention. MIT had (and continues to have) an opportunity to make a focal point out of it, and it is deeply unfortunate that it chose not to engage in such a discussion at this specific and relevant symposium event.

Climate disinformation should be discussed as a major problem, not only because of how wrong it is, but how effective it has become. The drop in climate change believers and governmental action on protecting the environment in the 2000s was heavily influenced by conservative think tanks funded by fossil fuel companies. It would be a logical step to assume that fossil fuel companies and their respective campaigning organizations. More than just lobbying our government, they have worked to influence education and social understanding, even to those as young as kindergarteners. The scientific and research community is aware of climate change because that community is exposed to the real facts. The average per-

son is not. These companies want to create a large population fueled by ignorance to blindly defend them from those that want to hold them accountable.

As a response to the initial divestment movement from a few years ago, the MIT Climate Symposia were meant to answer questions regarding the changing climate. The fact that a series of panels dedicated to discussing climate policy did not engage in a conversation on climate disinformation is disappointing. Policy can only work if our policymakers and their constituents are not hearing continuous lies and propaganda brought forth by fossil fuel companies interested primarily in their own survival.

Climate disinformation should be discussed as a major problem not only because of how wrong it is but how effective it has become.

So even though the MIT Climate Symposium did not mention climate disinformation as much as it should, this is your reminder that it continues to exist. It continues to be a dark stain upon the environmental progress of our nation and the world. It continues to harm the world's ecosystems, the cities that we live in, and each and every one of our futures. And at the end of the day, MIT should have no part of that. We must engage in conversation surrounding this problem and propose the way that MIT can respond to it.

And the best response for MIT is divestment: our school should divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies. Divest-

ment would entail a removal of any MIT investments in fossil fuel companies that continue to advocate for climate denial and policy that does not represent the best interests of the American people.

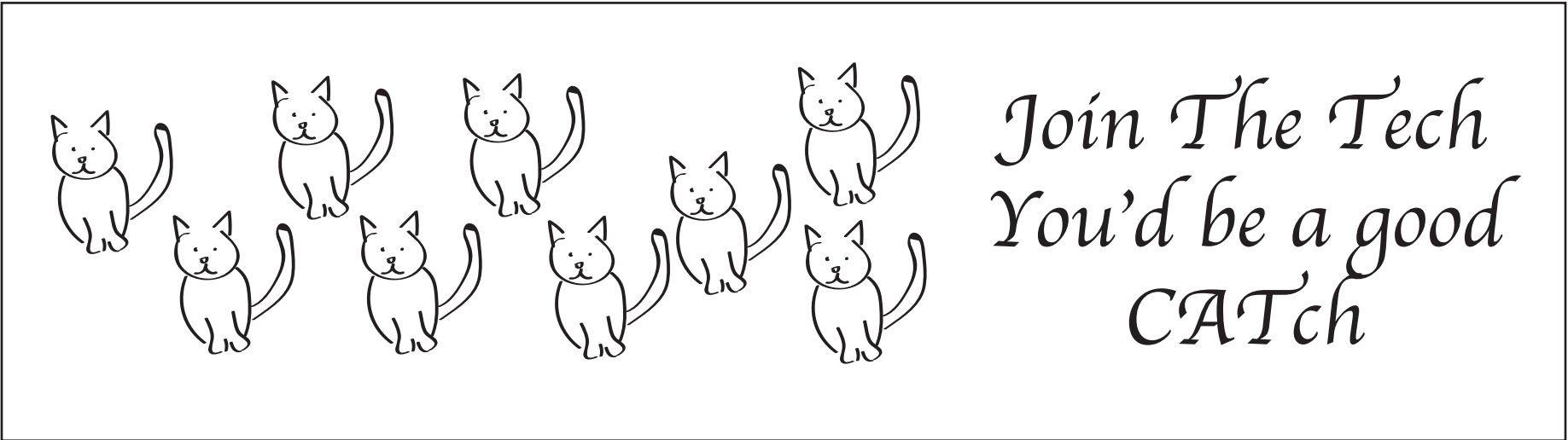
**MIT is an institution
dedicated to education
and the spread of
knowledge.**

MIT is an institution dedicated to education and the spread of knowledge. Quite literally, our university's mission is "to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century." Over \$1 billion of shareholder investment in fossil fuel companies goes towards climate policy lobbying on behalf of these entities. MIT, unfortunately, invests part of its endowment into this horrible, destructive practice — an ironic and hypocritical activity. MIT considers itself to be a global scientific leader, and by investing in companies that engage in disinformation, MIT goes against everything it stands for.

President Reif, in the first symposium, said we needed something “new” to tackle the problem. The MIT Climate Action Plan has failed to do something “new.” So let’s try something different. The MIT community deserves better from its leaders.

MIT needs to divest from fossil fuels. Sign our petition and join our movement.

Arnav Patel is a member of the MIT Class of 2021 studying mechanical engineering. He is the publications Co-Director for MIT Divest.



Ruckus serves up delicious noodle dishes in a casual setting

Monday–Sunday 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Silicon Valley returns for a sixth and final season as startup Pied Piper reaches new heights



COURTESY OF RUCKUS

Overall, Ruckus was a nice treat. The food was good and not too pricey for a night out. The vibe of the restaurant was pleasant, and the experience was enjoyable, so while I wasn't blown away by the whole adventure off campus, I'd recommend going there as a fun date night or dinner with one or two friends.

Jared remains the ethical heart of the show. If Richard's idealism is quickly undercut by his disregard for Jared until crucial moments where he scrambles for Jared's help, then Jared's idealism is what firmly holds *Silicon Valley* as a show for the good guys, whoever they may be, no matter how selfish. When Richard finds out his problem with Colin, he inevitably runs to Jared for advice when his circle of advisors, Dinesh, Gilfoyle, and Monica (Amanda Crew), disagree with cutting Colin out of the company. Richard uses his algorithm to find Colin's secrets (which include numerous sexual misdeeds) and tells Jared, "This guy is as dirty as a dog, and we got him, cold," to which Jared replies, "But we're supposed to be the virtuous ones." Perhaps

It's no surprise that as we cheered for the startup Pied Piper, we also foresaw its downfall. After all, ethically ambiguous companies and the disillusionment of financial dreams have become normalized. They feature in popular American discourse, perhaps far too much. We ended last season with Pied Piper supplanting Hooli (and literally buying their office space). We've moved out of the garage and into modern offices. What truly struck me in *Silicon Valley* is how far our core team has climbed, and how far they can still fall.

MOVIE REVIEW

***Knives Out* keeps you guessing until the end**

Johnson crafts a delightful and whimsical whodunnit that's a must-watch for all mystery lovers



COURTESY OF CLAIRE FOLGER

Ana de Armas stars as Marta in *Knives Out*.

By Shreyan Jain and Erika Yang

STAFF WRITERS

An elegant Tudor mansion on an isolated estate. An assortment of eccentric characters, each with something to hide. A recently edited will that raises more questions than answers. And, of course, the impetus of it all: a dead body. It's a setting that anyone who has ever picked up a mystery novel is intimately familiar with. But after decades of police shows, procedurals, reboots, and remakes, you'd be forgiven for thinking the quaint charm of a closed door whodunit had worn off. Boy, does Rian Johnson have an answer for you. In his latest project, *Knives Out*, he manages to do the impossible, injecting fresh life and style into a genre that has slowly grown stale over the years while giving his audience the impression that they've stepped right into the pages of a modern day Agatha Christie story.

When famed mystery novelist Harlon Trombey (Christopher Plummer), the head of the wealthy Trombey household, is found dead on the eve of his 85th birthday, the police declare it a clear-cut case of suicide. But something doesn't quite add up, and an anonymous letter suggests there's more to Harlon's death than meets the eye. Enter Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig), a calculating private sleuth whose classy French name belies his Colonel Sanders accent and whimsical sense of humor. The entire Trombey family and everyone associated with it are placed under suspicion as the

true circumstances behind Harlon's death are slowly and methodically unraveled. In a way, Harlon unintentionally wrote the beginning of one last mystery before his passing — that of his own murder.

The film opens with a series of quick shots of the interior of the Trombey manor, which is beautifully designed as an altar to both the decadence of the upper-class American elite and the all-too-familiar tropes of the mystery genre. In addition to all the ornate statues and figurines, oil-painted portraits, bear pelt carpets, and overflowing stacks of books, the wood-paneled walls are also home to secret trapdoors, passageways for eavesdroppers, and a creaky staircase that provides more than one character with an alibi. The meticulous attention to the film's set design is perhaps best encapsulated in the chamber in which Blanc conducts his interviews with the family members. Between all the masks, puppets, and countless other theater-inspired props in the room, the film seems to positively scream that its characters are putting on a grand performance for the detective.

And what a performance it is! The film's all-star ensemble cast does not disappoint, proving the perfect match for Johnson's creative vision. There's Harlon's eldest daughter Linda (Jamie Lee Curtis), a "self-made woman" who turned a measly million-dollar loan into a real estate empire. Her brother (Michael Shannon) has never had to work a day in his life, and her sister-in-law (Toni Collette) is a Gwyneth Paltrow-

like lifestyle guru and “Insta influencer” with her own skincare brand “Flam.” The obligatory black sheep of the family is the trust-fund playboy Ransom (Chris Evans). It’s just the exact assortment of archetypes that could overpower the underlying narrative (as in a closed-door set piece like *Clue*). Not so in *Knives Out*; as Blanc interrogates each suspect one-by-one, the camera cuts to flashbacks from their perspective revealing the secrets they’re desperately trying to hide. The result is a refreshingly unorthodox mystery in which you always feel one step ahead of Blanc... until Johnson pulls out the carpet from underneath you in a delightfully satisfying final scene.

The most impressive performance of the film, however, rightly belongs to Ana de Armas, who stands out against Hollywood heavyweights such as Christopher Plummer and Daniel Craig. Playing Marta, Harlon's nurse and trusted companion, Armas approaches her role as the moral center of the film with a kind heart and a fresh sincerity. If only the Trombeys could see her the same way; they may not remember whether she's from Brazil or Ecuador or Paraguay, but the one thing they're certain about is that "America is for America." The swiftness with which the family discards Marta as "the help" once Harlon dies provides the strongest insight into the film's undercurrent of social criticism aimed at the fabulously rich and entitled in America, who view their wealth as an irrevocable ancestral birthright. While not every rich American in this film is an openly alt-right neo-Nazi like the downright deplorable teenager Jacob Trombley (Jaeden Martell) — after all, his cousin (Katherine Langford) majors in feminist studies at Smith — they're all cut from the same cloth. Once Marta threatens their way of life, it's only a matter of time before the knives come out.

Fortunately, Johnson's efforts at constructing a mystery film that also has something meaningful to say about race and class relations in contemporary America never come off as heavy-handed, partly because the film balances it with plenty of lighter social commentary about millennial culture in the form of hilarious one-liners. "I read a tweet about a *New Yorker* article about you," Linda remarks in complete seriousness when she first meets Blanc. In her de-

★★★★☆

Knives Out

Directed by Rian Johnson

Screenplay by Rian Johnson

**Starring Daniel Craig,
Chris Evans, Ana de
Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis,
Michael Shannon**

Rated PG-13, Playing Nov. 27

fense, the detective isn't exactly immune to the trappings of modernity himself either; when Marta fails to understand a reference he makes to the Pynchon novel *Gravity's Rainbow*, he responds, "I haven't read it either, but I like the title." Johnson expertly mixes in such comedic bits without making them feel overdone or forced, which helps to keep the film relatively light-hearted despite the looming mystery. Between the suspense and comedy, there is never a dull moment throughout the film.

At the end of the day, *Knives Out* is a perfectly paced whodunnit that keeps the audience on their feet, taking us through a maze of twists and turns while always maintaining believability. Just when you think you have something figured out, a new detail emerges to upend your seemingly foolproof theory. Johnson doesn't unnecessarily linger over the side details he reveals about his characters, but introduces them just long enough for the audience to grasp the whole picture before pushing the film back to the main storyline. The result is an engaging and irresistible narrative that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the very end.

Get your applause out for *Knives Out*, for this is an all-around spectacular film. The best way to truly enjoy this movie is not by attempting to solve the mystery (chances are you won't), but by just being in the moment and letting it work its magic on you.

THEATER REVIEW

Suburbia lost

A sharp commentary on the hypocrisies of white liberalism

Admissions

Directed by Joshua Harmon

Written by Paul Daigneault

Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA

Oct. 25–Nov. 30

By Johnson Huynh

STAFF WRITER

To be an Asian-American reviewer is to be a stranger in the room. I would sit in the audience for press performances and see few faces like mine. Instead, I would be surrounded by a predominantly white crowd of reviewers. There I was, the odd one out amongst people twice my age. When I started reviewing, press shows were terrifying, but after many shows, I've learned to tune out the discomfort — the lack of diversity in the reviewing community. Then came *Admissions*, and the feeling came back.

In short, *Admissions* is a play about a white liberal family coming to terms with the access afforded to them by their race while also publicly valuing diversity. Sherri Rosen-Mason (Maureen Keller) is on the admissions committee for Hillcrest, a fictional

boarding school in New Hampshire. Her husband Bill (Michael Kay) is the headmaster of the school that their son Charlie (Nathan Malin) attends. The three of them have always valued the diversity around them and the respect they must have for people of different races. Their values become challenged, though, when Charlie doesn't make it into Yale but his biracial friend does. What follows next is a stinging reflection of America's hidden system that white people can leverage for their own advantage.

It would be criminal to talk about the play without bringing up its controversial decision to not include people of color. For a play about diversity, there are no actors of color onstage. Characters of color are only mentioned in passing and live on the peripheries of the cast's lives. For any person of color that felt those uncomfortable stares in public or that shift in tone when in a predominantly white environment, *Admissions* amplifies that sense of isolation. If you are a person of color, then this play should make you feel *off*. If it was any other play, I would have scrutinized this direction, burnt it to a crisp. However, this is a deliberate choice, one made to not only unnervingly people of color but also everyone else in the audience.

As Harmon describes his choice in characters: "People behave differently in 'polite company' than when they are alone. So I felt, if I were going to successfully drill down into the bedrock of the lives of well-meaning liberals and have any chance at exposing something honest and true and real about how privilege operates, I had to put



COURTESY OF MAGGIE HALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Sherri (right, Maureen Keller) tells Charli

them onstage alone.” So we get Sherri as she struggles to reconcile her lofty ideals with her aspirations for her son. In a devastating scene between her and Malin, Keller delivers a powerful performance as she convinces her son to abandon his attempts to “save” the education system and instead accept his white privilege. It is an intense back and forth that Keller wastes no time in setting the stakes for. Any scene she was in, as a matter of fact, felt intense. With no intermission in between the two halves of the play, the audience had no time to breathe. One could feel the tension in the air, thick like molasses.

Just as much as *Admissions* satirizes the hypocrisy of liberal racism, it never forgets its roots as a tragedy. That's right, this show is tragic. The Masons come face-to-

face with the knowledge that their liberal ideology may not always work in their favor, even if it garners public support. Each scene, then, is quick, loaded with commentary towards anyone willing to sacrifice values for success. As MIT students, it's easy to forget about the politics happening on the fringes of our knowledge. It's easier still to imagine that it doesn't pertain to us. That's why this play is so relevant now. *Admissions* is an intense scrutiny of race in everyday life, from how we make different races "other" to how we place ourselves in relation to them. Go see this play. Feel the discomfort. Reflect on what it means to you, not in racial terms, but through the lens of a participant in the system that favors certain races more than others.

Saddle

Solution, page 12

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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.

Attracting Spiral

Solution, page 12

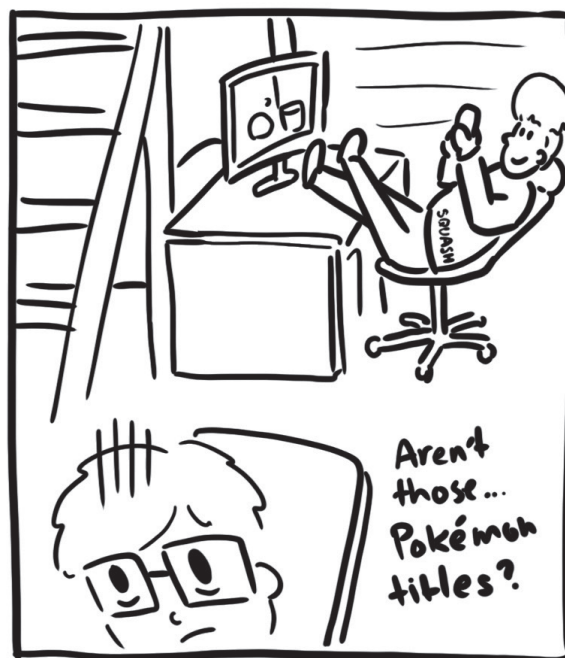
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Ruby & Perl



My Roommate: "Oh wow, according to this new study, the most inefficient coding languages are ruby and perl!"



Ruby & Perl 2



* Joanna is my **AMAZING** editor.



* Joanna is course 7

ihthfp

by Jaeho Kim '20

by Jaeho Kim '20

a comic about life at the 'tvte

Solution, page 12

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.



miscellany
a journal comic,
by Max Yu '21



MIT Men's Water Polo beat Iona College but face a loss against St Francis College

Engineers Men's Water Polo beat Iona College 11-10 while losing 12-11 to St Francis College

By Suleman Thaniana
SPORTS WRITER

MIT Men's Water Polo played two highly contested matches on Saturday Nov. 2 at the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool. The men won the first of the two games against Iona College 11-10 while they lost the second game against St Francis College 12-11 after two overtimes.

The match against Iona College started on the wrong foot as Iona scored the first goal 26 seconds into the first quarter. But the Engineers scored four goals right after, ending the quarter 4-1. The spurt featured two goals each by Kevin Downey '21 and Clyde Huibregtse '20. The second quarter was not as exciting as only two goals were scored, both by Iona as the deficit came down

to one goal. Both teams scored seven goals each in the final two quarters as MIT kept that 1 goal lead, winning the game. The last quarter was particularly exciting as Iona attempted to score a goal, to end the deficit in the final seconds, missing the shot. Throughout the game Downey and Huibregtse scored four goals a piece while Ward Weldon '20 played a vital role defensively with three steals, and goalkeeper Hayden Niederreiter '20 made 10 saves.

In the second match, St Francis started the game with a 3-1 first quarter lead. MIT fought back in the next two quarters and eventually tied the game at 7-7 early in the fourth quarter. Right after MIT got its first lead, Evan Kim '21 scored with 5:27 left in regulation. St Fran-

cis came right back with a goal of their own. Both teams went back and forth, finishing at 10-10 at the end of regulation. The game went into overtime. In the first overtime, none of the teams scored. Right after, in the second overtime, St Francis opened the scoring which was answered right back by MIT senior Huijbregtse. The match went on for a bit at the score of 11-11, as the end of the second overtime got closer. Eventually, St Francis first-year Dominick Hevesi scored off a forced turnover, winning the game for St Francis. In this game, Kim played excellently for MIT, scoring three goals in the game.

The team will next play Brown University on Senior Day, Saturday Nov. 9 at the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.



MIT Water Polo's Kaden DiMarco '22 works to find a pass in Saturday's 11-10 win against Iona College.

Thursday 7th

Field Hockey
vs. TBD
NEWMAC Semifinal
6:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
vs. Springfield or Emerson
NEWMAC Semifinal
7:00 p.m.

Saturday 9th

Rifle
vs John Jay
9:00 a.m.

Water Polo
vs. Brown University
Senior Day
11:00 a.m.

Football
vs. Norwich
Senior Day
12:00 p.m

Women's Soccer
vs. TBD
NEWMAC Championship
Game
5:00 p.m.

from page 9

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from page 9

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from page 11

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from page 11

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101 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

32. Take a stroll through Little Italy in the North End

**Join the Arts department
at *The Tech* and write
restaurant reviews.**
(And get reimbursed for your meal!)

(And get reimbursed for your meal!)

Tweet the best tweets?
Post the best posts?
Get a million likes on both?

**Join Social Media @
The Tech!**

join@tech.mit.edu

Like Alexander Hamilton?

**See him in your wallet
every week!**

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

Email join@tech.mit.edu



join@tech.mit.edu