

New apartment-style housing for graduate students to be built on Vassar Street by 2022

The residence adds 550 beds to graduate housing

By Cami Mejia

MIT will expand west campus housing for graduate students beginning in 2021, adding 550 new beds and completing MIT's 2017 pledge to add 950 beds to the housing system. The new building will be located between Simmons Hall and the MIT Police station, according to an announcement released by Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, Provost Martin Schmidt PhD '88, and Executive Vice President and Treasurer Israel Ruiz SM '01.

According to the graduate housing's FAQ, the residence will be an apartment-style building meant to emulate living off-campus at an affordable on-campus location. The building is expected to be "a mix of unit types for single graduate students and graduate students with families."

Rates for the residence hall will be determined by the building's condition as well as the rates charged for similar on- and off-campus housing options.

"We are currently envisioning that the residence will feature first floor community space and a mix of apartment-style units with kitchens. The apartments will range in size from efficiencies to one-, two-, and four- bedroom plans," Senior Associate Dean for Housing and Residential Services David Friedrich and Vice President for Campus Services and Stewardship Joe Higgins wrote in a statement emailed to *The Tech*.

The selection of these specifications was guided by the Graduate Student Housing Working Group's 2018 report, which showed that "students value and prioritize proximity to campus and affordability more than building amenities such as fitness centers, lounges, and other types of common activity areas," Friedrich and Higgins wrote.

As stated in the FAQ and the announcement, MIT is partnering with a third-party developer for the project to allow MIT more financial flexibility to expedite the housing expansion process. The identity of this third party has not

yet been released. Once an agreement is finalized, more details will be released to the community.

The FAQ also states that the project team is working with the Parking and Transportation Office to determine the new location and to accommodate graduate students who park in the West Lot. The team is also working with the MIT Police to assess their space needs and to determine a new on-campus location for the police station.

Talks of expanding graduate housing originated in the Graduate Student Housing Working Group 2014 report. Surveys showed dissatisfaction in the graduate student community regarding cost of off-campus housing and lack of availability of on-campus housing.

The report recommended "MIT build housing for 500-600 students to meet current unmet need" in "buildings that can accommodate a variety of housing types" rather than traditional dorm-style. It also suggested that

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COURTESY OF ROBERT KRAWITZ

MIT defeated Endicott 63-54 in non-conference women's basketball in Rockwell Cage Saturday.

MIT affiliates unite against Citizenship Amendment Act

Prof. Aiyar leads effort in statement of solidarity with student protests in India

By Rujul Gandhi

NEWS EDITOR

Over 150 MIT students, faculty, staff, alumni, and associates signed a statement "in solidarity with the peaceful and historic student protests" against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed in India in December. The statement calls for the withdrawal of the CAA and National Register of Citizenship (NRC).

The statement reads, "We strongly condemn the increasingly violent suppression of these citizens' protests ... that have left several dead. We praise the courage, dignity, humor, resolve, and dynamism with which the students and ordinary citizens continue their protest."

The CAA provides a path to Indian citizenship for Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi, and Christian undocumented migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh who entered India before 2014.

"Ostensibly introduced to protect these religious communities from 'persecution,' the Act does not

in fact mention 'persecuted religious minorities,' identifying, instead, migrants belonging to the six religions, conspicuously excluding Muslims from its purview," the statement from MIT affiliates reads.

"By introducing religion as a marker for communities which will receive such state protection, the Act directly violates Article 14 of the Indian constitution that explicitly guarantees equality to all persons, both citizens and foreigners, within the territory of India," it states.

The statement states that the effect of the CAA must be understood together with the NRC, which is an "administrative undertaking to create a registry of all existing Indian citizens." If the NRC is implemented, the statement says, "an overwhelming number of Muslims, who have lived within the territory of India for generations as well as more recent migrants, could be rendered stateless."

"It has been dispiriting to see the current Indian government under-

CAA, Page 2

HMMT student group reorganizes in response to cultural concerns

Committee created to address elitism, lack of racial and gender diversity in math competition staff and officers

By Kerri Lu

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Harvard-MIT Math Tournament (HMMT) student group is undergoing an internal reorganization in response to members' cultural concerns about elitism and diversity. The reorganization includes changes in the staff selection process and the creation of a committee on diversity, inclusion, and belonging.

HMMT members will vote on the proposed changes at a general meeting in late January.

HMMT is a group of Harvard and MIT students who organize a biannual high school math competition of the same name. The November tournament is held at Harvard, and the February tournament is held at MIT.

The HMMT tournament directors for the 2019-2020 school year are Jeffery Yu '22 and William Ho,

a junior at Harvard. Ho wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the tournament directors oversee about 300 undergraduate members, including about 70 staff and 23 officers.

HMMT members are responsible for writing problems and staffing the competition. A majority of members are MIT students, Ho wrote.

Ho wrote in an email to the HMMT community Dec. 6 that he had recently received feedback depicting "HMMT's culture and presence at Harvard in an extremely dissatisfying light."

Ho wrote that HMMT members outside the predominant demographic of "male-identifying, highly-talented at competitive math, East Asian MIT students" face an "inequitable" barrier to inclusion in the organization.

In addition, Ho wrote that the recruiting practices and geographic accessibility of HMMT events are

"skewed towards MIT," making it difficult for Harvard students to become involved. Ho also acknowledged a lack of inclusivity for general members who are not HMMT officers or staff.

"Every one of you is important to HMMT and should be treated with respect and dignity irrespective of how much competition math you have done or whether you are a straight Asian male from MIT," Ho wrote.

In the email, Ho proposed increasing the accessibility of the November competition to students "from historically disadvantaged backgrounds on the basis of gender identity, ethnicity, or socio-economic class."

Specific proposals included "selecting participants for HMMT who are in greater need of the opportunity" and "eliminating the top 40

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IN SHORT

Pre-registration deadline for IAP is Jan. 10.

Insurance waiver applications for

individual or family health insurance for spring semester are due Jan. 15.

Online UROP applications for IAP are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 16.

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.

SHAKESEARE ABRIDGED

3 actors, 37 plays, a boatload of fun.

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CATS

Bizzare CGI taints a classic musical. **ARTS, p. 4**



MOBY DICK MUSICAL

For those who read the sparknotes version.

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How AI can help accelerate development in the region.

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A rollercoaster of winter

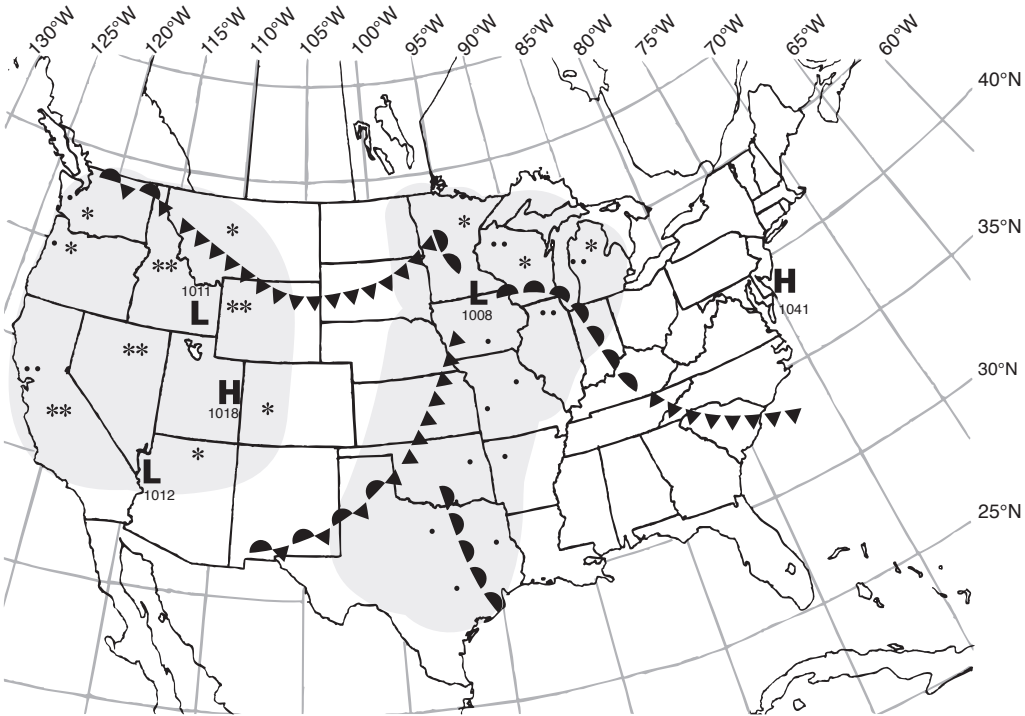
By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Welcome back to campus, into the heart of winter in Boston! The sky still gets dark very early, but the days will get steadily longer throughout the winter and into the semester. If you traveled to a warmer climate for the break, the next day may come as a shock — expect very cold and windy weather today and tomorrow, so bring a hat and jacket! The week-

end will bring a different type of shock. The entire east coast is expected to experience heavy precipitation through the weekend, but at least it will be warm! We will likely have rain in Boston starting Saturday afternoon, going into Sunday. However, the storm will be much more intense through the southern states and may result in tornadoes and hail in eastern Texas and Louisiana. Regardless, it will be an exciting start to the new decade!

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High around 32°F (0°C). Northwest winds around 8-18 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low around 24°F (-4°C). West wind around 5-11 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High around 49°F (9°C) and low around 47°F (8°C). Southwest wind around 13-17 mph.
Saturday: Partly sunny, then chance of showers. High around 61°F (16°C) and low around 60°F (16°C). Southwest winds around 13-17 mph.
Sunday: Showers likely. High around 61°F (16°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, January 09, 2020

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	--- Trough	⬆	⬇	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	⬆	⬇	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	⬆	⬇	☁ Haze
	— Stationary Front	⬆	⬇	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Three seniors and two alumni named 2021 Schwarzman Scholars

Recipients will pursue masters degrees in global affairs at Tsinghua University

By Edwin Song
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Mariam Dogar '20, Adedoyin Olateru-Olagbegi '20, Jessica Quaye '20, and Jessica Wang '16 have been selected for the 2021 class of Schwarzman Scholars, according to a MIT News article Dec. 4. A second alum also received the scholarship but is not yet ready to make a public announcement as of press time.

The three seniors and two alums join a class of 200 students around the world in completing a one-year masters program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing. According to MIT News, the recipients were selected from over 4,700 applicants for a program “complemented by internships, career development mentors, high-profile speakers, and opportunities to travel throughout China.”

According to an article in the *New York Times*, the program aims to address the “economic frictions grow[ing] between China and the West” by “educating the world’s future leaders.” MIT News reported that since the establishment of the Schwarzman Scholarship program in 2015, 18 MIT students and graduates have received the fellowship.

Mariam Dogar: expanding healthcare access through policy and technology

Mariam Dogar is a Course 7 major and Course 11 minor, according to MIT News. During her

time as a student, she has worked at the World Bank to create telemedicine policy recommendations and helped design a Malaysian MBA workshop while on the teaching team for leadership and negotiation classes at MIT. In addition, she “has worked in digital healthcare investing abroad and volunteered in refugee programs in Jordan and Greece,” according to her biography on the Schwarzman Scholars website. She has also held leadership positions at MIT Mock Trial, GlobeMed@MIT, and PaksMit.

Dogar hopes to help improve healthcare policy and harness technology for “delivering care to those who need it, when they need it.” In an email to *The Tech*, Dogar described the Schwarzman Scholarship program as a chance to immerse herself in “a little bit of a culture and society that is so unlike that of my own” and “gain the knowledge [she] need[s] to impact health policy globally.” She chose China as her place to learn about healthcare policy due to its “unique challenge of providing healthcare to 1.4 billion people” and its “recent digital healthcare revolution facilitated by policymaking through the national telemedicine network and technology offered by WeChat and Ping An.”

Dogar credits her Schwarzman Scholarship and her confidence in her role in and “vision for the future of healthcare” to her broad, non-

standard path through “different fields, like investment, policy, and teaching.” She urges “people who feel like they don’t know what they want to do with their lives to stay calm and keep sampling different fields.”

Adedoyin Olateru-Olagbegi: improving global health with innovation in digital technology

Adedoyin Olateru-Olagbegi is a Course 6-14 major with a passion for global health. She has served as director of Camp Kesem, student advisor to President L. Rafael Reif, secretary of the Black Students Union, and EMT with MIT Ambulance, according to MIT News and her biography on the Schwarzman Scholars website.

According to the Schwarzman Scholars site, Olateru-Olagbegi “plans to focus on health in developing countries with an emphasis on innovative digital tools.” She chose the Global Affairs program in Tsinghua University for its interdisciplinary curriculum, international student body, and focus on China.

Olateru-Olagbegi wrote in an email to *The Tech* that studying China is particularly relevant to her interest in global health “both in terms of how public health has changed within China and how China interacts with other countries in reaching their public health goals.”

In her email, Olateru-Olagbegi advised students interested in fol-

lowing in her footsteps to just “go for it” and reach out with any questions to people like her, while also making sure to take care of themselves.

Jessica Quaye: business, technology, and international policy

Jessica Quaye is a Course 6-2 student “interested in the intersection between business, technology and human interactions,” according to the Schwarzman Scholars site. She has served as president of the African Students’ Association, a member of the Undergraduate Association, and an undergraduate student advisor in the EECS department. In addition, she is the founder of the International Students of Color Working Group and “established the first MIT Global Teaching Lab initiative in Ghana,” according to MIT News. She has also interned at Google, Microsoft, and Bain and Company.

Quaye hopes that the Global Affairs program at Tsinghua will “deepen her understanding of public policy and dreams of one day driving policy change in Ghana,” according to MIT News. In an email to *The Tech*, Quaye wrote that she singled out the Schwarzman Scholars program for its “emphasis on global leadership training,” “strong focus on understanding China,” and “good balance of teaching, experiential learning, and research in international relations, public policy, economics and business.”

Quaye advises students interested in the Schwarzman Scholar-

ship to have a clear goal and understanding of how the program will support it and to contact the Office of Distinguished Fellowships.

Jessica Wang: bridging the gap between humans, computers, and government policy

Jessica Wang is a Course 6-3 graduate of the class of 2016. She also completed an MEng focusing on human-computer interaction in 2017. Her biography on the Schwarzman Scholars website describes her as “passionate about utilizing human-centric design in building technological systems and shaping technology policy for government.”

As a student, Wang “researched online sociopolitical discourse and misinformation, writing her thesis on digital systems to bridge ideological divides,” according to MIT News. In addition, she “served as president of MIT Chinese Students’ Club and held leadership positions in MIT TechX and HackMIT.”

According to the Schwarzman Scholars site, Wang “currently builds collaborative design software as an engineer at Figma, a startup in Silicon Valley, and volunteers with Larkin Street, a nonprofit tackling youth homelessness.” Her past work experience includes Facebook, Uber, and a machine learning startup.

Wang declined a request for comment from *The Tech*.

February teach-ins to spread awareness about events in India

CAA, from Page 1

mine the fundamental principles of secularism and equality Indians promised themselves at the moment of Indian independence,” Dwaipayan Banerjee, professor of science, technology, and society, who helped circulate the statement, wrote in an email to *The Tech*. “At the same time, the last months have seen equally historic protests, bringing together a coalition of resistance across religious lines.”

Sana Aiyar, professor of history, led the effort to write the statement. Aiyar wrote in an email to *The Tech*

that in spite of violent police action and internet shutdowns, “The protest has only been growing and has effectively turned into a vigil — to protect the Constitution of India and the ideals of equality, democracy, and secularism that are embedded in it.”

Aiyar wrote, “A group of us here at MIT believe that to be silent at this historical moment is to be complicit in abandoning these ideals, especially for those of us who have either built out careers ‘studying’ India or are from the region. ... We decided to circulate the statement of solidarity among our MIT com-

munity to give voice to many who felt the same way as us.”

“Starting this petition is an attempt to further amplify the voices of those who are defending the principle of Indian secularism, even as ongoing police retaliations continue to violate the rights of citizens to protest,” Banerjee wrote.

“The response from the MIT community has been gratifying,” Balakrishnan Rajagopal, professor of law and development in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, wrote in an email to *The Tech*. He hopes the statement “sends a signal to the MIT leader-

ship and to other universities, about ... what universities must do as part of their ethical obligations, in these critical times.”

“We have been supporting the protestors in our individual capacities, but we also reflected on MIT’s own relationship with India,” Aiyar wrote. “Thousands of MIT students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other affiliates are directly and indirectly connected with India.”

Aiyar wrote that the statement had gathered nearly 135 signatures within two days. “I don’t want to speak for the entire MIT community, but the statement certainly reflects

the point of view of these signatories,” which include, “students and faculty, and staff and alumni of almost every school at MIT,” she wrote.

“I hope that this statement clarifies to stakeholders, both here [in the U.S. and] in India, the commitment of the undersigned to stand alongside those defending the principle of democratic secularism,” Banerjee wrote.

Aiyar wrote that teach-ins will be organized in February to spread awareness and continue conversations about events in India.

The full statement is available online.

Graduate Student Housing Working Group recommendations enacted

Housing, from Page 1

these housing units be able to accommodate both married and unmarried students and families.

In 2017, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart charged the Graduate Student Housing Working Group to assess how housing needs had

changed since the 2014 report. The working group found that “about 1,000 to 1,100 graduate students who currently live off-campus might prefer to live on-campus if additional housing became available,” according to Barnhart’s overview of the working group’s 2017 interim report.

MIT then committed to a graduate student housing expansion plan of adding 950 new beds. The plan consisted of continuing to build the 450-unit graduate student residence hall in Kendall Square (which netted 250 new beds), building another residence hall with at least 500 beds, and applying for a permit

to increase the number of permanent graduate beds by 200.

In their email to *The Tech*, Friedrich and Higgins wrote that “there are currently no new plans to build new graduate residences beyond the Site 4 Tower scheduled to open in August 2020 and the West Campus residence.”

Several members of the Graduate Student Housing Working Group are currently serving on the Graduate Housing Implementation Team, which works to implement the recommendations of the working group.

The new residence is expected to be completed by 2022.

HMMT tournament director opposes affirmative action in staff selection

HMMT, from Page 1

rule for November” because it “can be abused by certain privileged schools.” The rule states that the top 40 teams from the HMMT Sweepstakes competition are automatically admitted to the next year’s competition.

In a follow-up email Dec. 12, Ho wrote that to “ensure fairness” in HMMT’s organizational structure, some members had been “dismissed” from officer status. In addition, the former MIT Social Chair and Harvard Membership Coordinator officer roles were consolidated into new “Community Coordinator” roles.

To gather feedback from the HMMT community, Ho held an HMMT Open Forum at Harvard Dec. 14. Members of HMMT were also given the opportunity to voice their opinions through individual appointments with Ho.

Ho released an “Official Statement on Response to Cultural Concerns” in an email to the HMMT community Dec. 20. In the statement, Ho wrote that HMMT leadership is “committed to improving the climate of HMMT so that all stu-

dents, especially those who do not fall within the existing predominant demographic, feel accepted and valuable.”

The statement lists several concerns about HMMT culture, including “school disparities within culture,” “lack of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity,” “elitism,” “nepotism,” and the “heavy bias” of Problem Committee promotion toward students who participated in the Mathematical Olympiad Program and “other proven elite mathletes.”

“Inclusion in HMMT is highly contingent on already being friends with involved members,” Ho wrote, adding that some members felt unfairly excluded from “HMMT’s inner circle.”

In the statement, Ho and Yu proposed several changes to HMMT’s organizational structure.

These changes include allowing non-officers to vote on certain decisions at general membership meetings, holding officers accountable through “votes of no confidence,” forming general membership committees, restructuring the staff selection process, improving meeting accessibility through video

conferencing, and increasing contact between members and officers through monthly “office hours.”

“HMMT is a group of more than 200 members, and it’s truly disheartening that only 30 have been making the decisions for the last decade,” Ho wrote. Currently, HMMT officers make the majority of decisions within the organization.

Members may also provide feedback to HMMT leadership via an anonymous form.

According to the statement, HMMT Chief Advisor William Qian ’16 created the HMMT Special Task Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

The mission statement linked in the email states that the committee’s goal is to “review and advise the HMMT leadership on making HMMT a welcoming and vibrant community.” The committee will operate independently of the tournament directors.

The committee’s 11-week investigation includes a “discovery phase” to “identify key areas in need of improvement” and “produce an initial draft of actions” (Dec. 8 to Jan. 4), an “execution phase” to enact immediate recom-

mendations (Jan. 5 to Feb. 8), and a final “report phase” (Feb. 9 to Feb. 22). The initial drafts from the discovery and execution phases, along with the final report, will be available for comment by the HMMT community-at-large.

Andrew Lin ’22, an officer on the committee, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the committee will “start off with some simple solutions and initiate a discussion” about problems with HMMT’s “organizational structure and values.”

“HMMT is taking a closer look at how it operates, and that’s something I appreciate both on principle and as a person doing work for the organization,” Lin wrote.

HMMT Finance Chair Aileen Ma ’22, also an officer on the committee, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that she hopes to “establish good precedents and fix the root of the problem,” especially by “looking into how the current means of staff or officer selection may implicitly involve elitism” or have a “lack of racial and gender diversity.”

HMMT Community Coordinator Assel Ismoldayeva ’22 wrote in an email to *The Tech* that she plans

to promote “engagement with the HMMT community by having more frequent general meetings and social events at both schools.”

In an email to *The Tech*, Ho wrote that he has been aware of the “insular nature” of HMMT culture since his freshman year, when he “felt outside of the core HMMT base” because he was not a math major and did not have a pre-existing friend group in the organization.

“I suspect that there are qualified, capable students who want to contribute to HMMT but are barred by an apparently isolationist, homogeneous demographic,” Ho wrote.

Ho emphasized that he does not “want HMMT to diversify for the sake of diversity on paper” and opposes “affirmative action” in staff selection based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Instead, Ho hopes to “expand [HMMT’s] outreach and devote time and energy into getting to know these people and make them feel welcome and valued,” so that “diversity will follow over time.”

Editor’s Note: Assel Ismoldayeva is an associate photo editor for *The Tech*.

Have something to say?

Write opinion for *The Tech*!

opinion@tech.mit.edu

The film adaptation of the hit Broadway musical is an unfortunate miss

Jason Derulo stars as Rum Tum Tugger in Tom Hooper's *Cats*.

NILE SCOTT STUDIOS

Rachel Belleman, Marc Pierre, and Ivy Ryan playing out Shakespeare's historical plays as a football game.

THEATER REVIEW

In the belly of the whale

World premiere of cheeky, heartfelt, self-aware musical adaptation of *Moby-Dick*

By Alexandra Sourakov
STAFF WRITER

Call me... impressionable, but I would say, echoing D.H. Lawrence's words about the source material, that this is "one of the strangest and most wonderful [musicals]" I've seen in recent times.

In the spirit of the novel it's based on, this four-part production packs an absolute bonanza of bizarre and beautiful things into a 3.5-hour multi-genre extravaganza. The first half is a self-proclaimed "vaudevillian" utopia: characters are introduced, whaling is glorified in song and dance, and the central conflict peeks its white head through the porthole. Pip's incipient insanity at the beginning of the second half signals the onset of mental, moral, and spiritual decline aboard the *Pequod*. The mood blackens and one misses the halcyon days of Parts I and II.

Notoriously, Melville's novel has large swaths of territory that aren't directly relevant to the progress of the narrative. These include discourses on whale classification, both biological and culinary, and musings on America, democracy, human nature, and life at sea. This is territory that this production charts like an old pro and is reminiscent of Dave Malloy's and Rachel Chavkin's treatment of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* in their 2015 musical *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*.

The musical's self-aware attitude smooths the transitions between these disparate acts, and some of the best pieces in this production result from such disjointed segments. One such chapter is the catalog of whales, which is adapted into the song "Cetology." The cast emerges dressed as a veritable menagerie of the whales described by Melville, at least two per cast member. Ishmael serves as MC, reciting the litany and the themes that are symbolically explored by Melville by means of the cetaceans.

The puppets and props designed and directed by Eric F. Avery are whimsical and resourceful. Just as in the musical composition, the set design is unified by a tasteful eclecticism: the creative use of plastic and other waste. As "this production is concerned with the most pressing themes of our time," Avery wants to remind the viewers "of [their] own complicity in the problems."

Just as each character has a role on the ship, each actor brings a unique talent to the show, making the motley array of musical compositions work. While there are classical Broadway songs, like "The Whale as a Dish/Cutting In," the musical also features African American work songs, rap, scat singing, gospel, and stand-up comedy. This last one was brilliant: Fedallah (Eric Berryman), a vaguely menacing, barely fleshed-out character in the book, takes a stand and tells it like it is in some of the best self-referential humor in the show. Berryman makes fun of Melville's portrayal of the exotic Middle Eastern man, the risible mysticism that surrounds Fedallah ("A turban made of his own white hair?" he curses as he tears it off indignantly), and the "wokeness" of the directors for cramming so many minorities into one show.

While most of the music and lyrics didn't blow me out of the water, the singing and dancing were top-notch. Tom Nelis, as Ahab, had an absolutely gorgeous baritone voice, grave and warm, like a glowing ember or honeyed brass, somewhere in the lower range with the tubas. The sustained vibrato of Dawn L. Troupe, who played the captain of the various ships that the *Pequod* encounters, was lush and lulling, like the rocking of a ship. Queequeg's (Andrew Cristi) vibrant and coquettish solo about cannibalism, "A Bosom Friend," was a stand-out in terms of lyrics, causing upswells of laughter at refrains like "endo, exo, necro, homicidal," meant to elucidate common misconceptions about cannibals.

The pacing of the show suffered a little in Part III, which was entirely devoted to the plight of Pip. Even if seen as the symbolical conscience of the floating nation-state, the lopsided weight given to Pip's tragedy upset the rhythm of the production. It would have been more interesting to see some of this time devoted to the internal struggles of Starbuck (Starr Busby) as he debates whether or not to mutiny against the increasingly mad, increasingly tyrannical Ahab. By the amount of time and psychological analysis they devote to him, the production implies that the least interesting character is Ahab.

Audience members have a chance to be immersed in the action when Ishmael solicits sixteen volunteers from the tiered seats that encircle the stage. The chosen don firetruck red ponchos, are towed in the row-



COURTESY OF MARIA BARANOV

Stubb (Kalyn West) and Tashtego (Matt Kizer) hunt a whale aboard the Pequod in the American Repertory Theater's musical *Moby-Dick*.

boats, witness a whale hunt from the front row, and squeeze spermaceti while holding hands with the crew in "A Squeeze of the Hand."

Scenic designer Mimi Lien, who also worked on *Natasha*, has pulled out all the stops in this production. The stage is simultaneously the interior of a ship's hull and the deck, a deconstructivist ship à la Gehry and Koolhaas' lovechild. It houses an orchestra that spans three decks, ribs of the hull that ascend up the wall and undulate onto the ceiling above, and a two-staged mast that rises stage center. *Ceci n'est pas un navire* but a representation of a ship the way it comes across in fiction. The end product is a thing of theatrical ingenuity that manages to convey the novelistic origins of the story.

Even if they don't think it consciously, one of the reasons people go to the theater is to be surprised, either by what they see, hear, learn, or feel. Multiple times throughout the

night, I felt the warming surprise that comes from seeing something brilliant conjured from thin air. I felt it when trap doors opened in the polished wood flooring and full-sized rowboats on wheels came out. I felt it when the ribbing of the ship's hull, so convincingly disguised as continuous planks of wood, curved upwards to allow the procession of whale-inspired puppets to parade past.

Perhaps *Moby-Dick* is one of those books that you plan to read someday but you just haven't gotten around to it (and you also plan for it to remain that way for the rest of your life). Perhaps it's associated with the scheduled ennui of high school English class. Or, perhaps, you are like the young narrator who opens the show, coming back again and again to this tale of the sea and obsession. Regardless of which slough of literary society you call home, this new musical will draw you in, maybe even literally if you so wish, to the great American tome.

[illegible]

It would be *turtley*
awesome if you
join **The Tech**



Email us at
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Moving Latin America forward: how to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence may be able to advance the economy and the collective social wellbeing of the Latin American people if the region cooperates and implements the right AI initiatives

Latin America is a region unique for its cultural and geographical diversity, as well as for its set of unique set of social challenges and opportunities. In the last century, Latin America has been slow to develop compared with other regions of the world such as North America or Europe. Some have even named the region the forgotten continent.

Artificial intelligence provides an opportunity to accelerate the development of Latin America in the near future. This will only be true if AI receives adequate support and if initiatives are developed rapidly in the region. While AI possesses major risks, it offers a unique and powerful tool to tackle the United Nations' (U.N.) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If AI is properly adopted in underdeveloped regions, it can be a powerful solution enabler for important problems in the region such as health, education, poverty alleviation, and other humanitarian emergencies, all issues playing a central stage at the U.N.'s 2030 agenda.

AI adoption in the academic sector and training programs in the region has been slow.

MIT is one of the key players worldwide in artificial intelligence research, and one of its main missions is to make a better world. MIT is arguably the most ideal place to kickstart the development of wide-reaching initiatives in AI that would socially benefit and boost growth of Latin America.

Cross-national and cross-sectoral collaboration is key to the development of AI. Hence, countries in the region need to heavily collaborate in the development of artificial intelligence initiatives. The region rarely collaborates in large scale multi-country projects that can generate value and serve all. AI initiatives offer the unique opportunity to think out-of-the-box, innovate and mend institutional pro-

cesses to encourage countries in the region to collaborate effectively, as this may be the only way forward to catch up with the most proficient AI initiatives happening in the rest of the world.

Digital Infrastructure and modernization **have to be rapidly adopted.** Digital modernization has enormous benefits for the region: it can lower administrative costs, processing times, and, more importantly, it will serve the purpose of generating essential data for training AI systems. The region also needs to keep in mind that building a reliable digital infrastructure requires the adoption of robust security systems to protect sensitive data. Very recently, we have witnessed massive leaks of sensitive private information worldwide due to weak digital infrastructure.

Latin America needs to invest heavily in training its workforce to develop and use AI. AI adoption in the academic sector and training programs in the region has been slow. AI can potentiate every academic program and discipline; a clear example is happening right here at MIT with the restructuring of the Institute with the opening of the Schwarzman College of Computing. The college is set to reshape MIT to be an AI-centric university. Latin America should not rely entirely on attracting foreign AI talent to develop its AI initiatives; it must aim to build its own AI workforce. Moreover, the region must also invest in strategies to keep its AI talent from the “brain drain” that is currently affecting the region, since the most proficient AI companies in the world, such as Google, are willing to pay big to attract the best AI talent they can find.

The region should also work toward a regional ethical framework on the use of AI. The ethical implications of AI have enormous effects on humanity. As of today, the world has not come up with concrete and actionable AI ethics frameworks. Latin America needs to be an ethics-first AI continent to guarantee that the technology will be developed and deployed for social benefit. An ethical framework should be a priority — one that is aimed at effectively regulating ethical concerns, such as the use of AI deepfakes to spread misinformation.

Latin America is experiencing a critical period of social unrest and the shifting of political powers due to social inequalities. AI can play a key role in the social and economic development of the region. To achieve that ambitious objective, the region needs to collaborate, create the appropriate digital infrastructure to sustain successful AI projects, train its next-generation AI workforce, and have a robust ethical framework to guarantee the positive impact of AI that the region needs. All of this will take us steps closer to ultimately making the world a better and more equal place for everyone.

At MIT, we are organizing the first AI Latin American SumMIT 2020. The sumMIT will bring to MIT key leaders in the Latin American region from government, industry, and academic sectors. It will take place on Jan. 21–23, 2020 at the MIT Media Lab. The meeting seeks to reflect on current AI initiatives in the region, the benefits and risks of AI, and how AI may be able to advance the economy and the collective social wellbeing of the region. The sumMIT program will be focused on the use of AI to advance the U.N.'s 2030 agenda.

All of this will take us steps closer to ultimately making the world a better and more equal place for everyone.

The main motivation behind organizing the sumMIT is to enable a place for conversations to prevent the deepening of existing inequalities between Latin America and the rest of the world with respect to AI. As we start a new decade, the region needs to urgently take action on developing AI for social benefit in a set of key initiatives and also to learn from mistakes made in other regions of the world.

Omar Costilla-Reyes is the lead organizer of the AI Latin American SumMIT 2020. He is a Picower Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.

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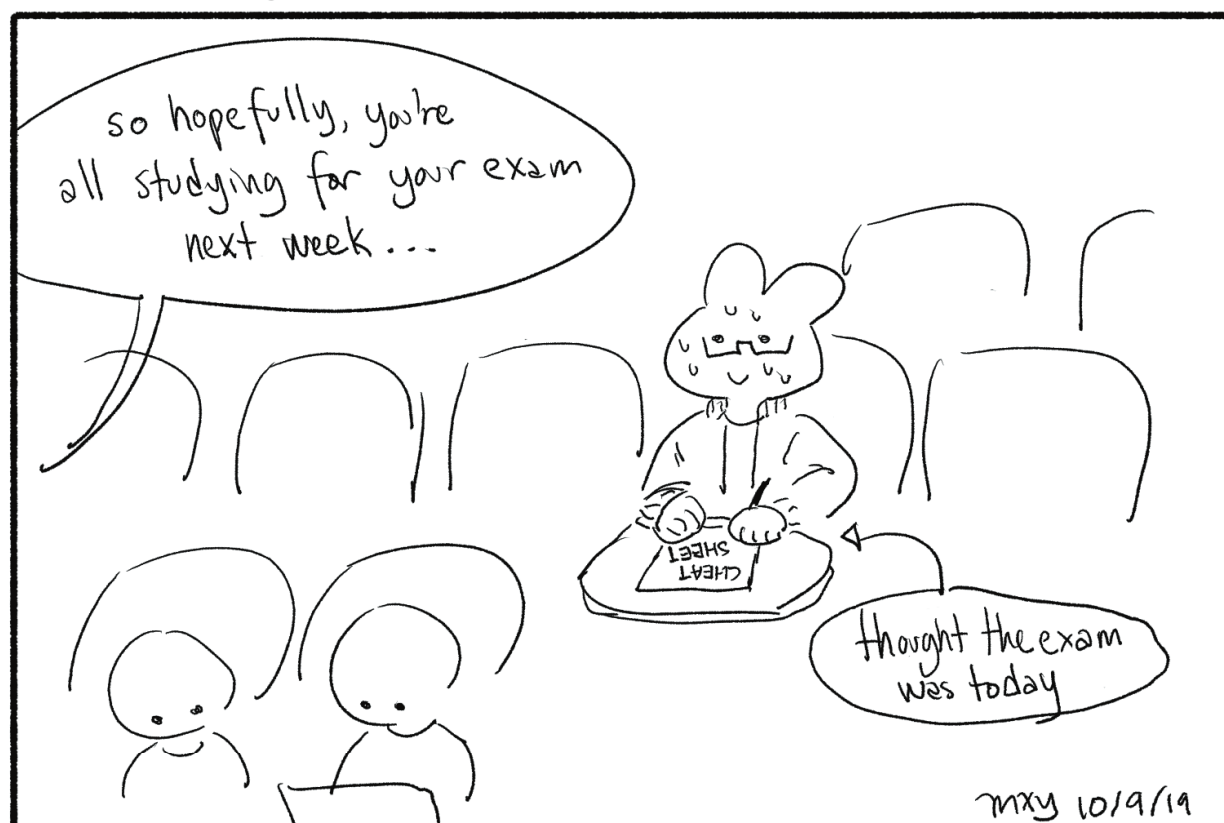
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miscellany #9: misexamination



MIT Doodles by Raphi Kang



Dining staff at 11 o'clock!

Kiwi fact #3: Kiwis sometimes mate for life. Often though, the female will find a male she likes better and leave the current spouse.

ih t f p

by Jaeho Kim '20

by Jaeho Kim '20

a comic about life at the 'tvte

[illegible]

