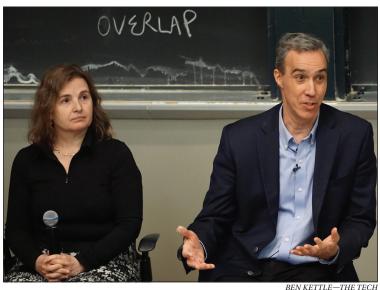
thetech.com

Mostly sunny. SAT: 30°F | 27°F

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Volume 140, Number 02



MIT Schwarzman College of Computing Dean Daniel Huttenlocher and CSAIL Director Daniela Rus answer questions about computational ethics at the College of Computing community forum.

Questions answered at Feb. 12 College of **Computing forum**

New college to focus on the social and ethical duties of computing

By Kristina Chen

Over 100 MIT students, faculty, administrative staff, and researchers attended a Feb. 12 community forum on the organizational structure of the Stephen A. Schwarzman College of

Following updates from Daniel Huttenlocher PhD '88, dean of the college of computing, forum attendees asked questions to the college leadership team. The college leadership team is composed of Huttenlocher, David Kaiser, associate dean for social and ethical responsibilities of computing in the college, Julie Shah PhD '11, professor of aeronautics and astronautics, Asu Ozdaglar PhD '03, head of the EECS department, and Daniela Rus, director of CSAIL.

Huttenlocher said the college is "aimed at addressing the opportunities and challenges of the computing age." He said computing has become "important in every discipline" and described the college's role "in bringing multiple programs together ... which is not always easy in the academic environment where we tend to be departmentally organized."

Huttenlocher said the three main focuses of the college are supporting growth in computing, facilitating computing collaboration across disciplines, and concentrating on social and ethical responsibilities of computing.

The College of Computing includes seven current units at the Institute: the EECS department, the

College, Page 2

MIT to support nonprofits that serve sexual abuse survivors

MIT will donate to BARCC, EVA Center, My Life My Choice, and Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts

By Ananya Gurumurthy

MIT will donate \$850,000, the amount MIT received from Jeffrey Epstein between 2002 and 2017, to four nonprofits supporting survivors of sexual abuse. MIT will donate to the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), the EVA Center, My Life My Choice, and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

The nonprofits were selected by the Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response.

Kolodziejski, professor of electrical engineering, wrote in an email to The Tech that the organizations were chosen because they "directly impact victims of Epstein or sexual abuse survivors." The organizations also address the original intent of MIT's donation "to support victims of sexual assault by offering support services and addressing sex trafficking," Kolodziejski wrote.

Kolodziejski wrote that the committee considered both well-established organizations and "smaller burgeoning organizations" as long as the organization "considers both prevention and response."

Gina Scaramella, BARCC executive director, wrote in an email to The Tech that BARCC's mission is to "end sexual violence through healing and social change," "provide survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse with the support they need and deserve to heal," and "advocate for systems change to prevent sexual violence."

Kolodziejski wrote that the committee believes MIT's \$850,000 donation will have "significant impact" to support the organizations' "joint mission to affect sex trafficking and to support victims and survivors of sexual assault." The committee considers the donation "a large sum of money and strives to make wise decisions on the disbursement of the funds," Kolodziejski wrote.

Scaramella wrote that although the donation "does not right Epstein's crimes or change MIT's past actions in relation to Epstein," it will "have an impact in providing vital support to survivors." In addition, that the donation comes "at the recommendation of MIT community members invested in addressing sexual violence is also very meaningful to us," Scaramella wrote.

Kolodziejski wrote that the nonprofits "are local to MIT and work collaboratively, and in partnership with each other, to serve their



MAXWELL YUN—THE TECH

Students drop parachutes from Lobby 7 for 16.00 (Introduction to Aerospace Engineering and Design).

IN SHORT

UROP Direct Funding applications are due today.

The last day to add half-term subjects for the first half of the semester is this Friday.

2022 Ring Premiere is 7 p.m. Friday in Kresge Auditorium.

Valentine's Day is this Friday.

No class on Monday due to Presidents' Day, an Institute holiday. Classes next Tuesday will follow a Monday schedule.

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@

MIT Physics suspends Seth Lloyd

Lloyd will no longer supervise new graduate students

By Richter Jordaan

Professor Peter Fisher, physics department head, has suspended mechanical engineering professor Seth Lloyd's secondary appointment in physics.

The physics department is "working with MechE... to review the [Goodwin Procter] report and Prof. Lloyd's actions and reach a permanent resolution," Fisher wrote in an email to the physics community Feb. 4.

Fisher wrote that Lloyd "will no longer be able to supervise new graduate students, attend Departmental events or serve on Depart-

mental committees." However, Lloyd will "continue to supervise students currently assigned to him [until] MechE, Physics and MIT reach a decision about his final state."

Professor Evelyn Wang '00, mechanical engineering department head, wrote in an email to The Tech that "at President Reif's request, I am working closely with departmental, School of Engineering, and Institute leadership to consider appropriate action regarding Professor Lloyd."

"Having Seth suspended will mean that our quantum computing effort will shift to other faculty. The Department will work with QIS [Quantum Information Science] faculty to help with this," Fisher

President L. Rafael Reif placed Lloyd on administrative leave Jan. 10. Goodwin Procter's report on MIT's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein wrote that Lloyd "purposefully failed to inform MIT" that Epstein was the source of two \$60,000 donations and "knowingly facilitated Epstein's plan to circumvent any possible MIT vetting process."

In a Medium post Jan. 16, Lloyd denied breaking MIT protocol in accepting Epstein's donations, writing that the "accusation that [he] hid Epstein's identity from MIT" is "completely false."

Simmons Heads of House reminisce

Heads of House to depart in July

By Evan Denmark

Simmons Heads of House John Essigmann PhD '76 and Ellen Essigmann PhD '80, and Associate Head of House Steven Hall ScD '85 will leave Simmons Hall at the end of the academic year. Hall will become the Head of House at the New Vassar dorm to be opened Fall 2020.

The Tech sat down with the Essigmanns and Hall to discuss the end of their time "in the sponge,"

as residents affectionately call Simmons.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The Tech: What is the beginning of your Simmons story?

John Essigmann: It's kind of a funny story. Ellen and I were the heads of house in New House for seven years. We were thinking about moving on, and as we watched this building go up, we

Simmons, Page 2

THE ASSISTANT

Less glamour, more gloom. ARTS, p. 8

MIT DEMOCRATS REBUTTAL

Why you shouldn't listen to endorsements. OPINION, p. 4

DATING IS HARD

Especially at the Institute. OPINION,



SONIC

The hedgehog in all his live action glory. ARTS, p. 7

BIRDS OF PREY

Entertaining but lacking in development. ARTS,

SECTIONS

Opinion	.4
Arts	.7
Fun Pages	11
Sports	12

2 The Tech
Thursday, February 13, 2020

WEATHER

And you thought spring was here

By Sheila Baber

Happy second week of the semester, everyone! Just as some of us were getting ready for the spring (and I noticed some flower bushes in bloom near Building 66), it turns out that Boston winter is not ready to let us go quite yet! Put those coats and mittens back on, lest you catch a cold. Or worse.

Thankfully, there will be some respite from the rain and fog this weekend. Friday is looking mostly sunny, Saturday is looking sunny, and Sunday is also looking pretty sunny. But this influx of high pres-

sure is accompanied by very cold temperatures—Friday is expected to get down to 7°F (-13.9 °C)!

So why is it so cold in Boston during winter? Why, it is because the Earth's pole is tilted! The Earth is actually closer to the Sun during Northern hemisphere winters, and farther during Northern hemisphere summers. But the angle (and so the flux) of incident sunlight is on the Northern hemisphere is lower due to the orientation of the tilt with respect to the sun. Now we are in the process of getting farther away from the sun, with the pole tilting towards the sun. Spring is coming someday!

Forgive me, I'm Course 12.

Extended Forecast

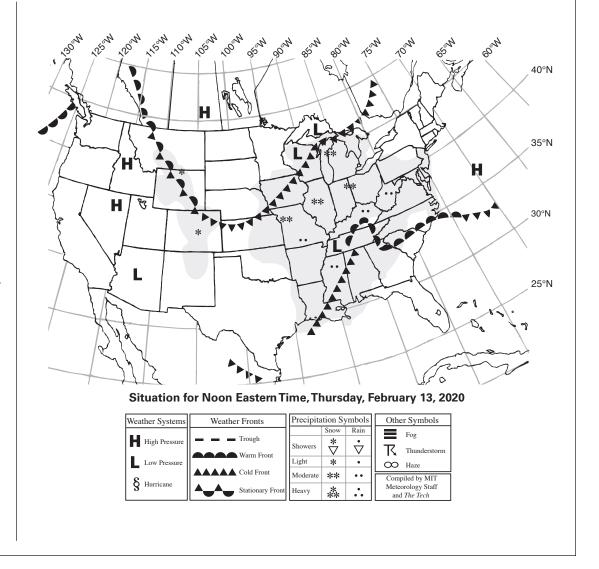
Today: Rain and sleet. High around 39 °F (3.9 °C). East wind to become northwest, around 7 mph.

Tonight: Rain will clear, mostly cloudy. Northwest winds 8 - 11 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with high near 29 F (-1.7 °C) and low around 7 °F (-13.9 °C). Northwest winds 10 - 14 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with high near 30 °F (-1.1 °C) and low around 27 °F (-2.8 °C). Northwest winds 7 - 9 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Sunday: Partly sunny with high near 44 °F (6.7 °C) and low around 29 °F (-1.7 °C). Southwest and west winds with gusts as high as 22 mph.



Huttenlocher intends for computing to be incorporated into other majors

College, from Page 1

Operations Research Center, the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, the Center for Computational Science and Engineering, CSAIL, the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, and Quest for Intelligence.

In addition to these existing units, the college will introduce three new "cross-cutting" areas: the Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing, the Common Ground, and the Center for Advanced Studies of Computing.

Huttenlocher said that "any students and faculty in these existing units or part of the new things that we're building are part of the college."

Huttenlocher described the Common Ground of the College of Computing as an educational initiative of "multi-departmental teaching groups to facilitate offering of computing classes and coordination of computing-related curricula across academic units at MIT." The Common Ground's objectives are to develop integrated computing classes, to enable co-teaching, and to de-

sign an embedded curriculum that infuses ethical issues in computing classes and computation in other existing classes.

Huttenlocher expressed an intention to incorporate computing into other majors, so that students "don't even have to be in a blended major with Course 6 to learn the parts of computing [they] want to learn and understand the paths through curriculum at MIT to get [them] there."

During the forum, Huttenlocher also addressed the social and ethical responsibilities of computing, including teaching, research, and engagement initiatives. Huttenlocher said that "the important thing" about conversations regarding these responsibilities is having "multiple perspectives and developing the language and the research and the results to have informed perspectives," Huttenlocher said.

Huttenlocher said that from an academic standpoint, the college leadership team wants "to make sure" that the college is "actively integrating social, ethical, and policy considerations in [the] teaching, research and implementation of

computing." He added that "some course materials for embedding social ethical responsibilities in classes" will be prepared "pretty quickly."

Huttenlocher also presented plans for the College of Computing's administrative headquarters in Building 45, which is intended to house 50 faculty research groups, a mix of lab space types, two classrooms, open and closed community and meeting spaces, a street-level café, and potential event space. The construction of the headquarters is expected to be completed in 2023.

John Essigmann: Simmons architechture allows fluid movement of students

Simmons, from Page 1

had no idea that we would be living here. Because the construction was way over budget, there was some stress within MIT Administration about the new dorm, so they wanted experienced heads of house to come in who knew about student programming.

In our first year, Simmons wasn't completed. We had no MPR [multi-purpose room]. The reception hall served as the place where we had house government meetings. The dining hall wasn't open, so they brought in food from Next House and set it up in the glass arcade. On nice days, we'd have dinner on the terrace. You'd say it was like we were all going camping and everybody had a job in helping make this campsite operational.

When we were asked to move over here, we thought it would just be for a couple of years but, you know, Simmons is really a wonderful place.

TT: Why did you decide to stay at Simmons?

J. Essigmann: There are a couple of reasons. One, Ellen and I have always liked doing challenging projects together.

The second reason is something a little bit more philosophical, something that Larry Bacow and Bob Silby [former MIT faculty] called the educational triad. It is this idea that when you're a professor at MIT, you have three responsibilities. One is the class-

room, one is research, and one is your community. And if all of those things come together very well, then it is wonderful. And I believe the blueprint for Simmons was the educational triad.

In the original plan for Simmons, there was the idea of residential scholars, older adults who represent the academic mission, in conjunction with community. And I think it worked very well so that's why we stayed and why we tried to keep it going.

TT: Steve, what is your story to Simmons?

Steve Hall: It must have been 2007 when an email went out to the faculty looking for new Heads of House. I actually interviewed at East Campus, but did not get selected so I was encouraged to apply to Simmons. I was selected and it has been great since then.

TT: You've been here for 17 years. How would you describe the culture of Simmons when it started and how has it evolved?

J. Essigmann: Personally, I think it has something to do with the architecture which allows this fluid movement of students through the building that prevents Balkanization. Before, we were in New House, which is at the other end of the dipole. It is a highly Balkanized community, which is wonderful. But here, the whole floor functions as a whole.

And it became a place where you could do experiments with the space. The lounge system is an ex-

periment created by the founder's group. The form and the function of the architecture kind of go together. We have physical lounges that you could occupy as a social lounge and make your own. Over the years, there have probably been about three dozen formal lounges. Simmons was an incubator and students were driving the cultural process.

Only a small number of dorm events were our ideas. Most have been student-driven. Some students even invented a silly game called Scootah Hockey.

Ellen Essigmann: We've seen both the structure of small separate communities, like at New House, and also larger communities at Simmons. It works so well over at New House We've also seen how wonderful it is at Simmons where people don't stay on one floor. They may move around year to year, but the architecture doesn't stop them from returning to previous areas of the building. For example, many students might go back to the study break that their freshman GRA is hosting. This leads to a wonderful mix of people because you may have your home section or lounge, but also plenty of flexibility to move and meet new people.

And this created a community that just grew organically, very grassroots. Looking back, there has just always been a critical mass of students who were really enthusiastic about doing things and creating things at Simmons.

TT: What were some of those pivot moments that you thought changed the culture of Simmons?

Hall: A real dining program has made a big difference. Dining used to be à la carte and there were only five meals per week. For instance, you could go down to dining on a weeknight and there might be 20 people. It really was a subcritical mass of people to build a community.

J. Essigmann: Yeah, mandatory dining really had a great effect. It builds a community, especially for first-years, who are all taking the same GIRs. Students now have the opportunity to study together, dine together, and socialize together, which really created a gluing experience.

TT: Steve, as you become the Head of House for the New Vassar dorm, have you thought about how you want to create those social gluing structures?

Hall: Yeah, there is a founder's group and we are certainly thinking about those structures. The group has thought hard about values, and both students and staff want it to be a fun, welcoming, and inclusive place. I certainly hope that a lot of values from Simmons will end up in the new dorm.

TT: What does the future hold for each of you?

J. Essigmann: The short answer is that we will move out in July. The long answer is that after we leave, we both have a lot of things that we want to write down, not just about our professional lives, but also

what we've learned about the formulas for success in student programming here. Like in science, we do an experiment, we tabulate the data, and we write a paper.

TT: When you write those things down, what are some of the top things that come to mind?

J. Essigmann: We do host ten study breaks per semester, one for each GRA. I think that, from my perspective, study breaks create a time when students can be guaranteed they are going to see us. So it's not just about food; it's about face time with each other.

Another thing we do is host special events, like a Valentine's Day dinner, Thanksgiving dinner, and the Senior Send Off, which have become wonderful community building events that students really look forward to.

E. Essigmann: I think the Simmons Hall government is really quite unique on campus because it is New England town hall meeting-style rather than a representative style. It allows everyone to participate, which contributes to that grassroots style of organization. Not to say these are things that we invented because we didn't, but they are an important part of what makes Simmons work.

TT: How many study break smoothies have you made?

J. Essigmann: I think that's why they invented logarithms.

Both John Essigmann and Steven Hall will remain in their faculty positions after their transition out of Simmons.

Thursday, February 13, 2020





Solution to Dating from page 11

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

Solution to Discounted

from page 11

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

Solution to See 36

					110	וווע	μa	ye	11					
D	С	C		Р		T	R	0	W		Α	В	С	D
Α	Н	Α		S	Α	Н	Α	R	Α		C	R	Α	Ν
M	I	L	L	I	М	Е	T	E	R		Н	0	R	Α
Α	L	L	I		S	S	Е			Т	0	W	S	
G	L	U	0	N		I	D	L	Е	M	0	Ν	Е	Υ
Ε	S	Р	Ν	Ε	W	S		U	Р	I		В	Α	D
			С	Н	Е		Α	L	T		o	Α	Т	S
	F	R	U	ī	Т	F	Т	L	L	T	N	G	S	
S	L	Α	В		R	ī	М		0	D	E			
Ī	0	N		D	Α	S		Α	G	Ī	Т	Α	Т	0
D	0	G	F	Ī	G	Н	Ŧ	S		G	ī	V	E	N
	R	E	L	Ÿ			w	Ī	G		М	E	A	N
С	A	Ŧ	o	Í	Р	П	Ē	D	A	T	E	R	R	E
Ā	G	Ō	G		В	R	E	E	Z	Ė	_	S	E	_
P	E	P	S		Ĵ	Ë	Ŧ	s	Ē	T		E	<u></u>	T
	_	-	_			_	•	_	_	•		_	_	

Biz pays the bills

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

Email join@tech.mit.edu









...and more than 70 other organizations!



Publisher

Nathan Liang '21

Editor in Chief Kristina Chen '23

Business Manager Thomas Wang '21

Managing Editor Ivana Alardín '21

Executive Editor Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez '20

NEWS STAFF

News Editors: Kerri Lu '23, Wenbo Wu '23; Associate News Editors: Zoe Anderson '21, Sharon Chao '21, Rujul Gandhi '22, Edwin Song '22; Staff: Billy Woltz '20, Margaret Rodriguez '22, Zoe Sheill '22, Shelley Choi '23; Meteorologist: Sarah Weidman '21.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editors: Joanna Lin '22, Kevin Pho '22, Ana P. Reyes Sánchez '22, Chloe McCreery '23; Staff: Yichi Zhang G, Nicole Teichner '22, Caroline Bao '23, Arthur Reiner De Belen '23, Dean Fanggohans '23, Ronak Roy '23, Olivia Schirm '23, Arun Wongprommoon '23; Illustrators: Jaeho Kim '20, Max Yu '21.

DINION STAEL

Editor: Jen Fox '21; **Staff:** Mark Goldman G, Octavio Vega '22.

SCIENCE STAFF

Associate Editors: Isabel Barnet '22, Anushka Ray '22; **Staff:** Jocelyn Shen '22.

SPORTS STAFF

Editors: Ben Kettle '22, Suleman Thaniana '23.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Lior Hirschfeld '21, Liane Xu '23, Erika Yang '23; Associate Editor: Shreyan Jain '20; Staff: Rogers Epstein G, Alexandra Sourakov G, Mariam Dogar '20, Matt Farejowicz '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, Vaishnavi Phadnis '22, Victoria Dzieciol '23.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Ethan Sit '21, Kevin Ly '22; Associate Editors: Maxwell Yun '21, Assel Ismoldayeva '22; Staff: Mahi Shafiullah G, Leon Yim '20, Ether Bezugla '22, Sophia Fang '22, Shinjini Ghosh '22, Alex Li '22, Kevin S. Chen '23, Maximo Machado '23.

COPY STAFF

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

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Steven Ngo '22, Daniel Zhang '22; **Staff:** Asia Hypsher '21, Tafsia Shikdar '21, Leon Yu '21, Alvin Zhu '21, Pranit Nanda '22, Amber Liu '23.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Tareq El Dandachi '22.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, Barry S. Surman '84, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Satwiksai Seshasai '01, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. 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 Faviero '15, Kali 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, Emma Bingham '19, Vivian Zhong '19, B.D. Colen.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editor: Whitney Zhang '21; Senior Editors: Nafisa Syed G, Ivy Li '20, Eber Nolasco-Martinez '20, Steven Truong '20, Josephine Yu '20, Adira Balzac '21, Jessica Shi '21.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Joanna Lin '22, Kevin Pho '22, Ana P. Reyes Sánchez '22, Chloe McCreery '23; Staff: Jonah Darnel '22, Rishi Kommalapati '23, Sophia Leon Guerrero '23, Kimmy McPherson '23, Olivia Schirm '23, Arun Wongprommoon '23; Copy Editors: Jack Dinsmore '22, Kendall Yu '21, Pranit Nanda '22, Laura Schmidt-Hong '23, Stuti Khandwala '23.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMASTER. Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8224. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2020 The Tech. Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Endorsements are dumb

Vote for candidates you support, not those that others endorse

By Jaeho Kim

Last week, MIT Democrats published an article announcing their endorsement of Elizabeth Warren. Here's what I think: endorsements are dumb, especially on a publication like *The Tech*, and especially from a group such as the MIT Democrats.

Endorsements are dumb, especially on a publication like The Tech, and especially from a group such as the MIT Democrats.

Endorsements, if one thinks about it, are a strange concept. In a representative democracy such as the one we have in the United States, each individual theoretically has the same amount of say as any other person in the United States; yes, this is not entirely true in many circumstances because of the electoral college, gerrymandered districts, or the power of money in politics, but my point still stands in theory. So, in this democracy we have in America, what is the point of endorsing one candidate over another? I can think of some reasons why some might think it is a sensible thing to do: maybe a large labor union endorses a candidate because that candidate is known to be supportive of that particular occupation, or a large cultural group endorses a candidate because of known social activism from that candidate's past. In these situations, an endorsement at least makes a bit of sense. But MIT Democrats is

So why is the MIT Democrats writing an article on their endorsement? Why should we, the readers of *The Tech*, care about what these people have to say? The answer is that we shouldn't. The MIT Democrats are not representative of who MIT students/fac-

ulty are, nor what we represent. They are just a group of students, no different from me and you, reading the silly memes on the Fun pages, who just happened to announce their opinion on *The Tech*. Their word on Elizabeth Warren is not the final word, and they have an ulterior motive in endorsing her: more so than just letting the readers know that she is running for president. (Spoiler alert: they want you to vote for her.)

Do not blindly follow other people into the polls, but make your own decisions based on your own research of the candidates.

Why is this endorsement any different from any regular person who goes on to publish an opinion article titled "Why I am voting for Trump," or "Why Bernie Sanders is the best candidate we have"? The answer is, it's not. You might think being self-proclaimed Democrats and being part of a student organization revolving around a political party means they are more involved and educated in the political process, and therefore more knowledgeable about the candidates. That may be true, but that does not mean the rest of us are in any less of a position to say the same thing about ourselves. As a naturalized citizen of the United States who was not long ago a citizen of another country, I know the American political system is what other democratic systems strived to be for the last two centuries. Thanks to the freedom of the press, and the wealth of knowledge and traceable pasts of these candidates, we Americans have the ability to choose the best candidate for the U.S., to hold politicians accountable, and not to follow blindly after a peer group or a

celebrity for "political advice." This is the true power of a system where the governed have a voice.

So, I encourage you all to find that voice: do not blindly follow other people into the polls, but make your own decisions based on your own research of the candidates; for example, if you did your research, you would know that despite the MIT Democrats claiming Warren fought to end big money in politics, she herself took big money donations during her 2018 Senate race. MIT students, of all people, should know the importance of knowledge and education. There are pit traps everywhere, in the forms of echo chambers and fake news, so I encourage you all to have a discussion with not only your friends, but also people you would not normally talk to, as well as widening your sources for news. This nation is facing tumultuous times, and we are the ones who can help our great nation wade through these treacherous

There are pit traps everywhere, in the forms of echo chambers and fake news, so I encourage you all to have a discussion with not only your friends, but also people you would not normally talk to.

I'm going to end this rant by endorsing
— just kidding, it doesn't matter
who I endorse. Just do what you do best: do
your research, go out, and vote.

Jaeho Kim, Senior in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science, a member of nothing

GUEST COLUMN

Why are relationships so hard at MIT?

Skip 'Dating 101' and invest in people

By Ananya Gurumurthy

"Dating 101." That is quite literally the name of a seminar available to students, sent out in an email last week. Upon first glance, this title seems to solicit some sort of comedic response. I mean, seriously, how ridiculous is it that something like this actually exists? But upon further reading, I noticed that this seminar was really taking itself seriously. It legitimately served to teach students how to put themselves out there in the hopes that they would actually invest in new relationships with different people.

There's a cruel irony in offering this course at MIT — as if it's truly invested in its students "getting out there" and "mingling" with new people.

There's a cruel irony in offering this course at MIT — as if it's truly invested in its students "getting out there" and "mingling" with new people. After hearing my friends and family members' situations at other universities, I've realized that the single greatest enemy of a healthy, functional relationship (romantic or otherwise) is going to school at MIT.

Unfortunately, this fact makes a somewhat disconcerting amount of sense when you consider the environment MIT creates for its students and the pressure that it adds to their lives. MIT takes pride in requiring each and every student to work incredibly hard, regardless of their course.

Additionally, the curricula of many technical classes here fail to address major learning gaps that students might have after high school. To make matters worse, many of these classes seem diametrically opposed to providing students with even a shred of transparency. Grade cutoffs and distributions are hardly ever published preliminarily, so students struggle to predict their performance (so much so that the UA had to create a subcommittee for it). As a result, every major at MIT feels more difficult than their counterparts in other, equally prestigious institutions, and MIT's vague grading policies and utter lack of transparency leave such little breathing room for students. It's no wonder students give up on "putting themselves out there" and investing in relationships (once again, of any kind).

As a freshman coming out of PNR, I perhaps am only beginning to understand what it is "really" like to be a student here. However, I cannot help but feel naïve for believing that attending MIT would bring countless relationships with people with similar passions and ambitions. And while I have had the privilege of forming friendships with some of the most incredible people I could ever ask for, the level of social withdrawal that I have seen in the first week of classes, both from myself and my peers, has left me with yawning guilt that no amount of psets will be able to dispel.

Somehow, though it boasts Nobel laureates, CEOs, and some of the most brilliant minds on the face of the earth, MIT has missed one of the most crucial tenets of life, which was so eloquently put by Phoebe Waller-Bridge in her Golden Globe-winning series *Fleabag*: "people are all we've

got." Though simple, it could be the most powerful notion I have ever realized. At the risk of sounding somewhat morbid, none of us has infinite time. Every person reading this must remember their own mortality. Regardless of the trillion-dollar tech giant we start or the Nobel Prize-winning research we author, there is no guarantee (especially with the rising threat of climate change) that anything we do is going to be remembered after we are not physically here to remind people about it. Our impact on the world around us depends solely on the audience that chooses to listen to us and is survived by the *people* that we leave

Get more involved with the groups of people you love: living communities, extracurricular communities, and other campus organizations.

behind and how they choose to remember

Similarly, there is no guarantee that the administration is going to read this article and suddenly change all of its policies. But I suppose I really want to believe that the amazing students on this campus can be brave enough to invest in each other. A little effort and time can foster healthy and happy relationships. Get more involved with the groups of people you love: living communities, extracurricular communities, and other campus organizations. Who knows? You might even meet someone you want to ask out.

On Fossil Fuel Divestment Day, MIT still refuses to act

When does the institute join the party?

By Arnav Patel and Darya Guettler

On Feb. 13, we celebrate Global Divestment Day, a day intended to draw attention to the growing movement to divest holdings, ranging from pensions to university endowments, from fossil fuels.

It's a day to commemorate those who have already committed to this ambitious goal, and to remind those who have not that joining the movement brings the world one step closer to solving the climate crisis.

MIT, unfortunately, is not delivering on its promises to promote large scale political action on climate change. MIT has not divested its \$17 billion endowment from its fossil fuel holdings, which MIT Divest is fighting for.

MIT has refused to join numerous institutions worldwide in a clear next step in the fight against climate change. Our administration has failed to support a morally necessary and financially secure pathway to presenting our school as one that stands in solidarity with those fighting against fossil fuel companies, specifically their disinfor-

mation campaigns and lobbying activities, which have continuously proved to halt constructive political action to mitigate the effects of climate change. Must we, as an institution, continue to lag behind our peers?

MIT, unfortunately, is not delivering on its promises to promote large scale political action on climate change.

Over the last few months, we have seen immense progress on the divestment front. The New York state pension plan has chosen to divest from coal companies in an attempt to continue their work in climate change resilience and mitigation.

Just last week, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard voted in a landslide to divest Harvard's \$40 billion endowment from fossil fuels. Two weeks ago, the student governments at the Big Ten schools collectively wrote a letter demanding their schools divest from fossil fuel companies. They represent the largest conference of universities in the United States, consisting of universities such as Northwestern, University of Michigan, Purdue, and Indiana University. This symbol of solidarity from schools that are not traditionally associated with climate activism perfectly displays the breadth of the divestment campaign.

Georgetown University, with its endowment of \$1.8 billion, just divested, after eight years of student activism on their campus. Overall, over 1,180 institutions have committed to divesting, representing assets totaling to over \$14 trillion. This movement is global. It's advancing. It's gaining momentum. Divestment has continued to gain progress all over the country and around the world.

And it is time for MIT to play its part.

Where does MIT stand on Fossil Fuel Divestment Day? Behind everyone else. And that is unacceptable. We know the science, we've seen the projections, and we all know

what has to be done. If MIT truly has pride in its ability to produce leaders, expand knowledge of science and fact, and drive the world to a better place, divestment must happen as soon as possible. It's ironic that a school that is so dedicated to the search for truth refuses to disavow the very companies that continue to spread lies about the threat of climate change. It's ironic that an institution so dedicated to research refuses to let go of the very companies that don't listen to proven fact.

Where is the MIT that is at the forefront of science and technology leadership? Where is the MIT that everyone looks up to? Where is the MIT that drove its students, its professors, its faculty to come here?

An answer is needed. We owe it to the world to take the next step.

MIT, join the movement. Divest from fossil fuels.

Arnav Patel and Darya Guettler are both juniors studying mechanical engineering. They are the Publications Co-Directors for MIT Divest. Sign the petition for MIT to divest from fossil fuels.

GUEST COLUMN

Challenges of graduate student medical leave

Improved support is needed

By Brian Gilligan

I attended MIT as an undergraduate and was excited to continue as a graduate student. Five months into my graduate program, I took a voluntary medical leave to care for chronic back pain and depression. I was already familiar with some support resources available at MIT, Mental Health and Counseling and Student Support Services (S3), since I had used them as an undergraduate. I did not realize that the equivalent of S3 for graduate students is woefully inadequate.

S3 acts as the hub for MIT's support resources for undergraduates dealing with personal or academic concerns. It also manages undergraduate medical leaves. I visited the office during walk-in hours several times as an undergraduate and was always pleased with my experience. The S3 office does a remarkable job serving the undergraduate population. 75% of MIT undergraduates will visit Student Support Services by the time they graduate, and 86% would recommend the office to a friend.

In contrast, only 14% of graduate students have used the GradSupport team in the Office of Graduate Education (OGE) and 18% are unaware that this office exists.

Graduate students make up 60% of the MIT student population, but only three deans are dedicated to graduate student advising and support, compared to seven deans at S3. This disparity is compounded by the heavy workload facing graduate students. With a demanding course load and the additional responsibilities of graduate research, my work now is at least as time-consuming as my undergraduate classes were, when incredible support was readily available.

As a result of an under-resourced Grad-Support team in the OGE, I had trouble getting in touch with the deans while arranging my leave and return. Often, my emails went unreturned and my phone calls unanswered. When I was approved to return from medical leave, I was not made aware of this decision until three weeks after it had been made. Given the time-sensitive nature of taking leave, my stress was compounded as I waited in uncertainty on both ends of my leave.

MIT is fortunate to have therapists on staff, but once my leave began, I could no longer visit MIT Medical and had to work with the outside healthcare system. Low availability of mental healthcare is a problem nationwide. One study in Psychiatric Services found that the average wait time for

an initial psychiatric appointment is 25 days. When researchers called listed psychiatrists, only four-in-ten initial calls were answered, while 16% of listed phone numbers were incorrect and one-third of unanswered calls were returned. Furthermore, another study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that only 55% of psychiatrists accept private insurance. My experience was consistent with these findings. I called many psychiatrists and therapists with few returned phone calls. With few options, I ultimately saw a therapist who did not accept insurance of any kind.

I received my master's degree last spring but feel that this positive outcome was a result not of MIT's support services.

Medical leave is not easy. I was going to physical therapy twice a week, mental health therapy every other week, and seeing a psychiatrist monthly. I also worked part-time in order to pay my housing, transportation,

and healthcare costs. I ultimately obtained the care I needed to improve my health and returned to MIT. I received my master's degree last spring but feel that this positive outcome was a result not of MIT's support services, but of my own fortunate circumstances. My advisor was incredibly patient and understanding throughout the process. I grew up near Boston and could lean on my family for support. I am a U.S. citizen and could therefore get a job while on leave. These factors allowed me to use my medical leave as a chance to focus on my health, despite the stresses that I faced. I have spoken to enough graduate students to know that many struggle with advisor conflicts, financial circumstances, and isolation that would prevent them from seeking help in the first place. In fact, only 40% of graduate students are comfortable approaching their advisor about non-academic issues. Having been an undergraduate here, I know that MIT is capable of supporting its graduate students. It can and must do better.

Brian Gilligan SB '17 SM '19 is a member of Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT. Please reach out to grads4healthymit@gmail.com to follow up on the piece or Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT's campaign.

OPINION POLICY

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

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 <code>letters@tech.mit.edu</code>. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to <code>The Tech</code>, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by noon four (4) calendar 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.

TO REACH US

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 <code>general@tech.mit.edu</code>, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing <code>eic@tech.mit.edu</code>. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to <code>news@tech.mit.edu</code>. Letters to the editor should be sent to <code>letters@tech.mit.edu</code>. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <code>http://thetech.com</code>

Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us! Write for Campus Life. *join@tech.mit.edu* Or join us for dinner, Sundays 6 p.m. (W20-483)



Thursday, February 13, 2020 THE TECH 7

MOVIE REVIEW

Birds of Prey is nothing to squawk at

DC's newest showcase of Harley Quinn brings together a new cast of entertaining but mostly underdeveloped heroines

★★★☆☆

Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn

Directed by Cathy Yan

Screenplay by Christina Hodson

Starring Margot Robbie, Rosie Perez, Ewan McGregor

Rated R, Now Playing

By Rogers Epstein STAFF WRITER

Ever since Suicide Squad came out and flopped in theaters, one of its few memorable takeaways was Margot Robbie's performance as Harley Quinn. From the prevalence of Harley Quinn Halloween costumes that year, it was clear that she was bound to return to the screen. Knowing this at the time, Robbie was able to spearhead Birds of Prey in the hope that this new movie would stay true to the character. Working with director Cathy Yan, she and other lead characters were much more consistent and interesting than those in Suicide Squad.

In fact, a much better movie to compare to Birds of Prey is Deadpool. Both are superhero films where the titular character provides some heavy narration, and the first halves of both movies utilize a good amount of nonlinear storytelling in order to provide exposition and set up character motivations. This bouncing back and forth is honestly a bit distracting. Additionally, both movies are R-rated and use that freedom wisely. Harley is definitely a character that makes more sense when dropping Fbombs and inhaling the occasional drug. Violence is also heightened, so if you can't watch a pair of legs get broken here and there, this might not be the movie for you.

The movie begins with Harley dealing with her breakup with the Joker and attempting to start finding her own place within Gotham. While partying, she meets Dinah Lance (Jurnee Smollett-Bell), aka "Black Canary," and Roman Sionis (Ewan McGregor), aka "Black Mask," our main bad guy. At first, Harley mostly stumbles her way around the plot. It reminded me a lot of Jack Sparrow in the most recent Pirates of the Caribbean films, where he has been turned into a caricature who only progresses through the story through others' decisions and his own dumb luck. It's a little disappointing to see Harley portrayed similarly in the beginning, taking a while before she makes a decision that impacts the plot.

Roman starts off the movie as an engaging villain - his opening quintessential 'I'm a villain" scene (you'll know it when you see it) is strikingly brutal but also shows his instability. Despite McGregor's overacting the character as an unredeemable prick throughout the movie, Roman also provides some of the funniest moments of the film. Another engaging character is Dinah, who starts out as a singer in Roman's club. Her arc throughout the movie is probably the most interesting of any character's. She is presented with many opportunities to try to do the right thing, and while she is a good person from the start, it is enjoyable to watch her learn to act on her morals when she could easily turn a blind eye.

As a film that introduces a decent-sized ensemble of new female fighters, it's inevitable that many will feel one-dimensional. Yet many still get at least a splash of depth. For example, Huntress (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) mostly serves as an assassin but gets an unexpected dash of personality that plays surprisingly well. Pickpocket Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco) falls short in providing any individual charm, but her consistency and connections with other characters play well into the story. Gotham policewoman Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez) comes across as a stereotypical '80s detective (which they acknowledge in the film). However, her predictable storyline of trusting her gut against the will of her superior still gels well with other characters.

I also enjoyed most of the action sequences, which were well shot and choreographed. Some standouts include the colorful "terrible crime" that Harley reports, and the fun set pieces in the final act showdown between the "Birds of Prey" and Sionis' henchmen. There were probably a few too many fight scenes, though, as many characters were given perhaps one too many opportunities to show off their skills. While the movie was a modest 109 minutes, I still feel some of the time could've been better spent, say, exploring Harley's relationship with her pet hyena.

While there is certainly much to enjoy about the movie, I would have desired more substance from it. Especially with respect to the villains, it's hard to get behind most characters. Roman Sionis is fairly unsophisticated in motivation. With the exception of Dinah Lance, it's hard to point to much development and characterization of the lead roles, given that Birds of Prey is so plot-driven. That said, who am I to go into a Harley Quinn movie hoping for anything but a fun action flick?



COURTESY OF WARNER BRO

Margot Robbie returns as Harley Quinn in Birds of Prey.

MOVIE REVIEW

Gotta go see Sonic the Hedgehog

Dynamic characters balance out structural flaws for a fun, fast-paced film

By Kristina Chen

EDITOR IN CHIEF

After fleeing his home planet to protect his powers from exploitation, Sonic (Ben Schwartz), an anthropomorphic blue hedgehog who runs faster than sound, finds himself alone on Earth. Lying low in the small town of Green Hills to avoid detection, Sonic finds himself lonely and restless, spending his days watching from a distance but never interacting with the humans of the town. It isn't until Sonic accidentally sets off a power outage spanning the entire Pacific Northwest that his routine begins to change. Pursued by the unhinged scientific genius Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey), Sonic reveals himself to and seeks help from Tom Wachowski (James Marsden), a police officer hoping to transfer to the San Francisco Police Department.

Although the film's initial trailer, released April 2019, faced criticism for its unsettling design of Sonic — delaying the film's release from November 2019 to February 2020 as production redesigned the

character — the time taken to alter the design proved worthwhile. The computergenerated Sonic fits almost seamlessly in his more realistic environment and expresses his feelings of enthusiasm, frustration, and anger through convincing and life-like facial quirks. Sonic's quality of movement, especially his speed, is consistently dynamic and charming to watch, and the audience is treated with several engaging action sequences that showcase Sonic's power in various ways. I liked that each action scene was distinct and gave viewers an opportunity to see different facets of Sonic's abilities and how they interact with their surroundings and opposing forces.

Sonic is not only well drawn but also well written. In every scene that he apnears. Sonic draws attention with his high energy level and compelling character arc. Introduced as an outsider who is only able to pretend to be friends with other living things, Sonic immediately gains the sympathy of the audience. Though some might find his ceaseless excitement and inability to keep quiet irritating, Sonic's flaws and

the mistakes he makes can be explained by his experiences with isolation, which have made him overeager to have friends and to enjoy the world while he can. These flaws serve to make Sonic a more accessible character and allow viewers to see beyond his otherworldly blue fur and super-speed. Similarly, the primary antagonist, Dr.

Robotnik, constantly catches the audience's eye but in a very different way. Jim Carrey's rendition of Robotnik is neurotic and perfectly overdone. The evil lengths that Robotnik goes to in order to get what he wants and his thoughtless treatment of those around him inspire instant dislike, yet every appearance of Robotnik keeps viewers entertained, unable to predict what strange thing he might choose to say or immoderate action he will choose to take His intense lack of conscience combined with his dramatic mannerisms inflate his villainous presence and make him a worthy coun-

terpart to the naive and earnest Sonic. Unfortunately, the film disappoints when it comes to characters other than its protagonist and antagonist. Sonic's partner Tom and most other humans are flat and one-dimensional, used as devices for Sonic's development rather than as characters that can stand on their own. Moreover, the writing in most scenes involving these secondary human characters, aside from the occasional dad joke, is bland and not quite the right tone for movie characters. While some scripts earn criticism for cringey and unrealistic writing, this film was on the opposite end of the spectrum, with some conversations being so mundane and unmemorable that I questioned their value to

In addition to underdeveloped characters, the film falters due to an underdeveloped plot. As I watched the film, I felt that I could label its components as if filling in a junior high story graph, identifying the beginning exposition and rising action with a couple climaxes somewhere in the middle and ending with a conclusive resolution.



Sonic the Hedgehog **Directed by Jeff Fowler**

Screenplay by Pat Casey, Josh Miller

Starring Ben Schwartz, Jim Carrey, James Marsden

Rated PG, Playing Feb. 14

While I didn't expect much more from a family movie centered on a video game character, I was underwhelmed by the unidirectional path of the movie. It rarely deviated from its predictable and by-the-book central plotline, which was already just the

simple clash of good running from evil. However, what this movie lacks in plot, it makes up for with humor and heart. There were countless times when I found myself amused by a silly joke or endeared by Sonic's hyperactive behavior. The movie upheld an overall easygoing and lighthearted tone with just the right amount of one-liners and comical interjections. I also appreciated the filmmaker's efforts to sprinkle in the occasional reference to the Sonic games and thought these references were appropriately subtle yet rewarding. Furthermore, the overarching theme of the film is one of friendship, and as we watch Sonic go from a solitary hedgehog in hiding to a hero who, with his friends at his side, is not afraid to be seen, we experience a sweet, short, and satisfying journey. Whether you're a longtime fan of the Sonic franchise or someone who's looking for a fast and fun movie, Sonic the Hedgehog will fulfill your expectations of nostalgia and entertainment.



Ben Schwartz voices Sonic in Sonic the Hedgehog.

MOVIE REVIEW

Working for Hollywood

Director Kitty Green takes us behind the scenes of her film The Assistant

★★★★☆

The Assistant

Directed by Kitty Green

Screenplay by Kitty Green

Starring Julia Garner, Matthew Macfadyen, **Noah Robbins, Kristine** Froseth, Makenzie Leigh

Rated R, Now Playing

By Erika Yang and Nafisa Syed

"Don't worry, she'll get more out of it than he will." This seemingly reassuring line, muttered through a doorway, does nothing to cut the continuous discomfort that permeates The Assistant.

Jane (Julia Garner) is a new assistant at an unnamed film production company. Fresh out of school and immediately landing a job working for (who is assumed to be) a major figure in the film industry would be a dream come true for anyone looking to make it in Hollywood. However, Jane's initial optimism is broken down piecemeal as she is met with the harsh reality of working in such an environment.

In a society where the abhorrent actions and intentional ignorance of Hollywood's elite have been unraveled, The Assistant acts as a period piece, set in a time before the Weinstein scandals and #MeToo movement. It harkens back to the time when people blindly worked for moguls like Weinstein, obeying every order out of fear or ambition (or both).

Director Kitty Green sat down for a college roundtable interview to shed some insight onto the film and the making of it. Because she comes from a documentary background, it might have made sense for Green to have made a documentary on the topic. Instead, she chose to make a film out of it.

"If it were a documentary, it would've felt like a reel of women complaining. [With film], you can really hone in on the gestures, the microaggressions." said Green.

The use of gestures and attention to detail is masterful. Whether Jane is picking up a stray earring from her boss's floor or eating a solitary bowl of froot loops, her every move feels strained. Garner adeptly conveys a sense of detached pain; it feels as though Jane wants nothing more than to leave but must soldier on. Every insult Jane suffers, every unsettling situation she witnesses, every small mess she must clean up, is so densely layered that by the end of the film, its weight feels almost suffocating.

Green emphasizes that The Assistant is the narrative of a woman. The boss is never depicted on screen, which was entirely intentional. Green wanted to move away from the overwhelming number of depictions of the "bad men."

"The idea [is] that if we get rid of Harvey Weinstein, we fix everything. It's a bigger problem than that. In order to address [it] we need to look at not just how to stop assault, but how to get women into more positions of power," Green said.

The executives in the film are nameless and faceless. They could be any men, and Jane herself could be any woman. This was a key decision on Green's part: "[I] didn't make anything in it too personal so anyone could connect with [Jane]," she said. And she succeeded. Women from all walks of industry (a yacht company, cosmetics, etc.) had come up to her to express the relatability of the movie.

Having already been researching the topic of consent and power structures on college campuses, after the Weinstein scandal broke in 2017, Green decided to shift her subject onto the film industry, interviewing many women who had experienced the life Jane led in the film.

From former employees of the bankrupt Weinstein company and Miramax employees whose NDAs were over to current employees at major studios, Green was able to start piecing together the struggles of being a woman in the business. She heard stories of how strangely personal tasks would be sandwiched between mundane office work — the assistant might pick an earring off the floor,

The pacing of the film is unique in that the audience is made to go through every step of Jane's day with her. From the depressing cereal in the morning to each phone call and photocopy, there is no montage of the more mundane tasks to skip to the suspicious earring pickup.

Green spared no details — she "didn't want to let people off the hook." She wants you to feel as uncomfortable as Jane feels in the scenes. And in a way, it makes it feel more real than it already is. It is like you're literally going through the day with the character, forcing you to take some responsibility

Green's vision is successful. The camera rarely leaves Iane, and we are entirely focused on her every move. As she hungrily reads a screenplay, her dreams become ours. As she rushes to send an apologetic email, her panic becomes ours as well. The film feels like a slow-motion explosion; the tension is unbearably painful, and yet it is impossible to look away.

Another unique aspect to the film is the eerie silence, illustrating the "culture of silence" that had been adopted. With the only sounds coming from office work, like keyboard clicking and paper shuffling, the conscious lack of music makes it easier for the audience to step into Jane's shoes. Between the drone of office lights and the metallic thud of cabinets closing, conversations are the only respite the audience has from the silence that seems to hang heavy over the office.

With such a short script and limited dialogue, the film more or less relies on Garner's performance, which is the highlight of the film. When casting, Green wanted someone who would be "infinitely watchable" since the audience would just be watching Jane go through her daily tasks for most of the movie.

In addition to Garner, Kristine Froseth stands out as Sienna, a bright-eyed young woman from Idaho the company suddenly hires. Froseth's sweet delivery of the line, "Do I need a lawyer or something?" as she rifles through stacks of papers, stung sharply. We see this scene through Jane's eyes, and as Garner hesitates, we feel her

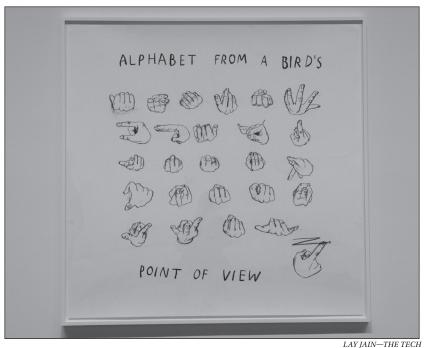
As Green puts it, Garner is "infinitely watchable"; each expression, each action is delivered with the most thoughtful of processes. Her Jane feels deeply familiar someone we know, someone we care about, someone we could become.

Unafraid to criticize the very business it comes from. The Assistant is intelligent in its vision and execution. It is certainly not a light-hearted movie, but rather an eyeopening experience.



COURTESY OF BLEECKER STREET MEDIA

Julia Garner stars in The Assistant as Jane, a new assistant at a film production



The Media Lab's Off the Charts art installation explores life experience as a deaf

Want a Front Page Byline?¶

Join News at The Tech#

Join at join@tech.mit.edu HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Lorem insum dolor sit amet.consectetur adipiscing elit. Duis quis turpis in ipsum ornare sodales ut eu ex. Donec vel mi egestas leo molestie placerat. Sed arcu urna, facilisis id risus et, scelerisque placerat urna. In odio mauris, feugiat at faucibus

dui. Praesent ullamcorper hendrerit dui, a auctor diam elementum a. Quisque bibendum elit sit amet felis euismod facilisis In conval lis enim vitae accumsan venenatis. Integer accumsan cursus est, eget mollis nunc. In lectus lorem, cursus vel neque at, vestibulum commodo ex. Vivamus imperdiet ligula non libero sollicitudin auctor. Praesent

Etiam imperdiet pellentesque tellus, at ornare sem tincidunt vel. Morbi porta tempus sem, vitae convallis augue feugiat non. Mauris ut tincidunt metus, vitae consequat velit. Suspendisse non facilisis enim, in laoreet mauris. Pellentesque eu auc tor ante. Integer egestas nulla orci. Maecenas ultrices nisl orci, fringilla congue libero eleifend vel. Suspend

Be the first to know about what's happening at MIT.

The Tech is looking for **news writers** to...

interview **students**, administrators, and faculty...

cover new

campus policy...

and find out how MIT **connects** to the rest of the **world.**

e-mail join@tech.mit.edu and say you want to write news.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 THE TECH 9

Global Education Office closed, study abroad to be managed by MISTI

The Global Education Office (GEO) closed Jan. 31. Study abroad programs and services will now be managed by MISTI, according to an email from the Global Education Team to students interested in studying abroad.

The team wrote that students 'will be able to receive the same level of support, assistance, and care as before, despite the elimination of the Global Education Office and positions."

Office of the Vice Chancellor

(OVC) Senior Advisor for Communications Michael Rutter wrote in an email to The Tech that the plan to merge study abroad into MISTI has been in development for two years. Rutter wrote that the GEO "was established over a decade ago when MIT had a very active study abroad program with a focus on the Cambridge-MIT exchange program, which no longer

Rutter wrote that the merging of study abroad programs into the

in "no significant changes" on the program application process or students currently studying

"A team re-evaluated MIT's international programs and decided that integrating the GEO and MISTI offices would better serve the needs of current and future students," Rutter wrote.

Students interested in studying abroad will now work with one of MISTI's 17 program man-

MISTI office is expected to result agers. "Bringing a wider range of global programs under one office will also help students access more comprehensive information and explore opportunities," Rutter

> The OVC is now working with former GEO staff to "help them find other positions at MIT or elsewhere," Rutter wrote.

—Саті Мејіа





When you join Production at *The Tech* and get paid to advertise The Tech in The Tech



join@tech.mit.edu

10 The Tech

Thursday, February 13, 2020



BE SMART BUY SMART

with rates as low as 2.99% APR* AUTO LOAN

Take advantage of the upcoming President's Day weekend sales with an Auto Loan from MIT FCU.

Drive the car you want. Get a loan you love!

- Choose from various terms
- Apply & close online
- Purchase auto insurance through our partner, TruStage®



Apply for a New or Used Auto Loan now! mitfcu.org/SmartCar

Not a member? Join today!

Insured by NCUA

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 2.99% APR is for a 60 month term and includes Smart Money Rewards Program discount; standard 60 month rate is 3.24% APR. Payment example for a loan with 2.99% APR Smart Money Rewards rate is 60 monthly payments of \$17.96 per \$1,000 borrowed. Loan terms of up to 84 months are available for new automobiles; different payments terms have different interest rates; please see our current rate sheet for details on other terms. Rates are subject to change without notice. Offer is valid from 2/1/2020.

© Copyright 2020, TruStage. All Rights Reserved. Visit TruStage.com

NEW NAME.

Institute Discrimination & Harassment Response Office

SAME MISSION.

Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, and Bias at MIT

FOR EVERYONE.

Faculty, Staff, and Students







LEARN MORE AT IDHR.MIT.EDU.

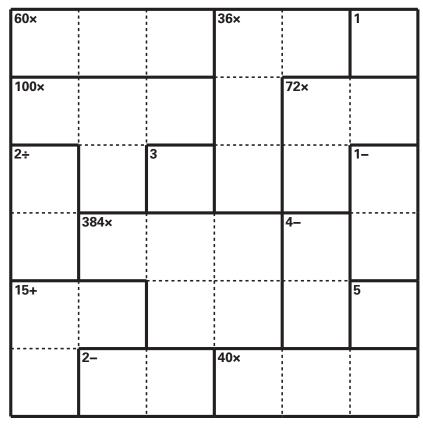
Dating the 'Tute

Solution, page 3

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

Discounted Chocolate



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

See 36 Across by Greg Johnson

Solution, page 3

ACROSS

- 1 Member of the 700 Club?
- 4 Racetrack service area 10 Four starters
- 14 Expression of discovery 15 Word from the Arabic for "desert"
- 16 Juice name prefix
- 17 Ruler measure
- 19 Dance done to klezmer music
- 20 "... for __ know" 21 GPS heading
- 22 Hauls away
- 23 Quark-binding particle
- 25 It's not earning interest
- 29 Sports "encore" network 31 Early Cronkite employer
- 32 Stale, say
- 33 Friend of Fidel
- 34 Common Muslim name
- 35 Food that may be rolled
- 36 Title of the puzzle
- 40 Hunk of marble
- 41 Wire __ glasses

- 42 Lines of admiration
- 43 Result of electron loss
- 44 Law and Order VIPs 45 Hurried tempo
- 49 Aerial battles 52 Donated
- 53 Bank (on)
- 54 Halloween costume
- accessorv
- 56 Ornery
- 57 Julius Caesar adversary
- 58 City center second home
- 61 Showing great enthusiasm
- 62 Nothing-to-it task
- 63 Chromosome determinant
- 64 Perks (up)
- 65 Latter-day nomads
- 66 It ends for RI in mid-fall

DOWN

- 1 Cost, so to speak
- 2 Calms down
- 3 Evoke
- 4 Inflation stat.
- 5 Purina alternative

- 6 Proposition to be proven
 - 7 Appraised
 - 8 Beryllium bearer
 - 9 49 Across setting
 - 10 Explosive exclamation

 - 12 Places for traveling
 - 13 Chain letters
 - 18 Den member

 - 24 Dr Pepper retro brand

 - 28 Upholsterer's amt. 30 Weak-willed one

 - 36 Building's square feet
 - 37 Kitchen cooker
 - 38 Londoner's fast food
 - 39 Old-style "Got it, dude" 40 Science Kid of TV

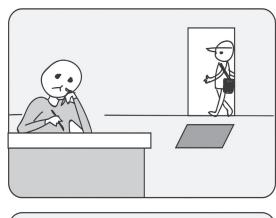
- 11 It might have lunch
- toddlers
- 22 "That's enough!" text message
- 26 Slow time
- 27 Dramatic postscript
- 34 Aspiration
- 35 Not to be repeated
- 44 Cable channel for
- 17 20 23 29 42 43 49 53 62 64 65
- renovators
- 45 Dramatic digressions
- 46 Disinclined
- 47 Got emotional, with "up" 48 Right after this program 50 Publicizes or criticizes
- 51 Birds do it 55 Steady look
- 57 Tube top
- 58 It might be lunch
- 59 Angry feeling
- 60 Vietnamese New Year

FUNFUNFUNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

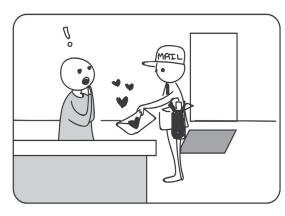
UNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

Valentine's Day











MIT Men's Club Ice Hockey loses 4-2 to UConn MIT players put up a good fight scoring in both second and third periods of the game

By Suleman Thaniana SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Men's Club Ice Hockey team played the University of Connecticut on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Johnson Ice Arena. Unfortunately, MIT lost the game 4-2 after an excellent fight.

The game started off quite slow, as neither team scored until the seventh minute of the first period, when Colombo Disalvatore IV scored for UConn thanks to an assist by David Zalozhin.

The match got a bit more exciting in the second period, with a total of three points scored. The first goal of the second period was scored by Jonathon Intravaia of UConn during a power play to increase their lead to 2-0. Within minutes, MIT came back with a goal of their own, taking advantage of a power play Nolan Hedglin G scored off an assist from Aaron Goodman G and Carson Smith 21. To end this period, UConn scored in the last minute, tallying their third goal.

The third period was the most exciting period of the game as MIT attacked, trying to end their two-goal deficit, while UConn showed their defensive prowess as they kept their defensive line strong. MIT's attacks paid off as David Woodruff G scored an unassisted goal during a power play 15 minutes into the period. Seconds later, UConn scored another goal, ending the match at a score of 4-2.

The MIT team's next game is against their Cambridge rivals, Harvard, and is highly anticipated. The match will be played at 8:45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17 at the Bright-Landry Hockey Center at Harvard.



MIT ice hockey players Arny Leroy G (left) and Jamison Rich '20 fight to free the puck in Saturday's game

Upcoming Sports Events

Friday 14th

Men's Volleyball vs Elmira 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 15th

Men's and Women's Track and Field hosting the Gordon Kelly

Men's Volleyball vs. Eastern Nazarene

Women's Tennis vs. Brandeis

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

Men's Volleyball

vs. Emmanuel 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday 19th

Men's Tennis vs. Bentley 4:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Wellesley 7:00 p.m.



MIT 2020 Quality of Life Survey



MIT wants to hear from you! Make your voice, experiences, and concerns heard. Participate in the MIT 2020 Quality of Life Survey and help make our community stronger.

800 \$25 prizes for randomly drawn participants!

To access your survey or learn more, visit ir.mit.edu/qol.

