ELECTION CALLED FOR JOE BIDEN

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

Volume 140, Number 39



WEATHER, p. 8

FRI: 51°F | 40°F Rain and fog.



Thursday, November 12, 2020



A Bostonian standing upon a lamp post waves a flag bearing president-elect Joe Biden's name in Boston Common Nov 7.

MIT sees an 'uptick' in COVID-19 cases

First-year Sloan MBA classes have suspended in-person instruction

By Shelley Choi ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT is seeing a "troubling uptick" in COVID-19 cases, MIT Medical Director Cecilia Stuopis '90 wrote in an email to the MIT community Nov. 10. "In the first nine days of November, we have identified 45 positive cases through our Covid Pass screening program. By contrast, we had just 30 cases in all of September and 46 in all of October."

Stuopis wrote that several of the cases were "concentrated among" students at the Sloan School of Management and appear to be the "result of exposure away from campus, and do not reflect spread from person to person on campus."

According to the COVID Pass website, 36 MIT community members have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week. In comparison, the City of Cambridge has reported about 92 new cases in the past week. Additionally, 59 MIT community members are currently in isolation after testing positive and 68 are in quarantine after being in close contact with an individual who tested positive.

Sloan has suspended in-person instruction for its first-year MBA classes from Nov. 5 to Thanksgiv-

COVID Uptick, Page 7

IN SHORT

The Spring 2021 Housing Ap**plication** is due Nov. 16 for first years, sophomores, and juniors planning to live on campus.

Drop date is Nov. 18.

Nov. 18 is also the last day to change a subject to or from PE/NE grading and the last day to petition for a December Advanced Standing Exam.

Interested in joining The Tech? Email join@tech.mit.edu.

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

DSL hosts Reboot for community wellness

Event organizers report 'positive feedback' from students, faculty, staff attendees

By Grace Song

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Division of Student Life (DSL) collaborated with organizations across MIT to host MIT Reboot Nov. 2-11, with over 25 virtual and in-person for students, faculty, and staff. The initiative aimed to "recharge" MIT community members' "minds and bodies" amidst "the pandemic, social unrest, and a contentious election," Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson wrote in an email to

MIT Reboot was created by a committee of students and staff "to encourage MIT community members to take care of themselves and each other," Nelson wrote. Nelson cited a recent MIT pulse survey where about 50% of student respondents indicated that they felt isolated while about 70% indicated that they felt overwhelmed.

The MIT Reboot 2020 Committee was composed of staff from DSL organizations such as MIT Dining; the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER); MindHandHeart; as well as other offices and student organizations.

Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff participated in the MIT Reboot activities over the 10 days. Examples include "Knitting Night" with SaveTFP, "Virtual Wake Up & Stretch" led by DAPER, and a conversation on anxiety and stress hosted by the Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life on Zoom. "Upward of 100 students participated in DAPER-sponsored activities such as virtual stretch breaks and online fitness classes," Nelson

Outdoor activities such as lawn games and "Shine on the Vote" were open to MIT community members living on-campus. According to Nelson, "volunteers for the Shine on the Vote program distributed more than 1,375 battery-powered tea lights to undergraduate and graduate residents across campus."

Nelson wrote that event organizers have reported "overall positive feedback from students, faculty, and staff who participated in Reboot

MIT Reboot, Page 7

Remembering Prof. Angelika Amon

Amon conducted groundbreaking research in cancer, aging, and imbalance in chromosomal number; mentored over 80 researchers

By Kerri Lu

Angelika Amon, professor of biology, died Oct. 29 at the age of 53 after a two-and-a-half year battle with ovarian cancer. Amon is remembered for her pioneering research in chromosome imbalance and cell division, as well as her courage, passion, and enthusiasm for science.

Amon earned her undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University of Vienna and became a postdoctoral researcher at MIT's Whitehead Institute in 1994, where she was supervised by biology professor Ruth Lehmann. She joined the biology department faculty in 1999 and was also a member of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research.

euploidy, chromosome copy imbalances in cells that can lead to conditions such as Down Syndrome Her lab also researched the effects of aneuploidy and cell growth and division on aging and cancer.

Amon mentored over 80 undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers during her 20 years as an MIT professor, according to MIT News. She was awarded the School of Science's Undergraduate Teaching Prize in the 2006–2007 academic year.

Amon has taught 7.013 and 7.016 (Introductory Biology), 7.06 (Cell Biology), and 7.52 (Genetics for Graduate Students).

President L. Rafael Reif wrote in an email to the MIT community that Amon "built an extraordinary ca-

Amon conducted research in an-reer — and in the process, a devoted community of colleagues, students and friends. Famously generous with her time and ideas. ed herself fortunate to have had exceptional mentors and so made it a point to develop rising researchers herself. Impatient with injustice, she spoke out fearlessly for the equality and rights of women and minorities in science and society."

Lehmann, now the director of the Whitehead Institute, told MIT News that Amon "was an inspiring leader, not only by her trailblazing science but also by her fearlessness to call out sexism and other -isms in our community. Her captivating laugh and unwavering mentorship and guidance will be missed by stu-

Angelika Amon, Page 7



SHINJINI GHOSH — THE TECH

The setting sun peers down the length of the Infinite Corridor for the semiannual MIT Henge Monday.

FORMAL FRIENDS

What happens when you call a professor by their first name? CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6



ELECTION CELEBRATION

People crowd Boston Common after news of Biden and Harris winning the 2020 presidential election. PHOTO SPREAD, p. 4



SECTIONS

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Nevada?

Solution, page 7

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Arizona!

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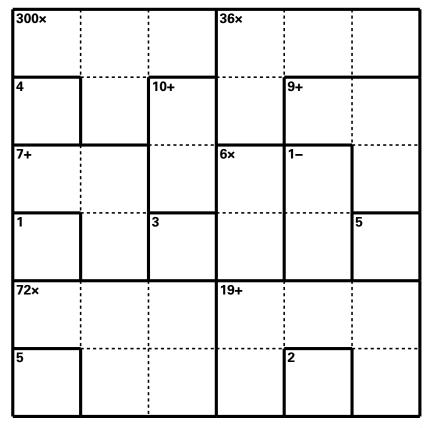
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Georgia

Solution, page 7



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.

Family Room Stuff by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 7

ACROSS

- 1 Reveals, as one's teeth
- 6 Newborn cow
- 10 Dull in color
- 14 Camel's South American cousin
- 15 Cincinnati's state
- **16** Swerve suddenly
- **17** __ days (long ago)
- **18** Microscope glass to look through
- 19 Take a bold chance
- 20 Scrabble, backgammon,
- 22 Snow-clearing vehicle
- 23 More twisted, as a sense
- 24 Herb for pickles
- **26** Beavers' river blockers
- 29 Hate greatly
- 33 Messy pile
- 37 Consider to be
- 39 Damascus' country
- 40 Monastery leader
- 42 Get a look at
- 43 Leaks out slowly 44 Bravery in battle

- **48** Part of your face that blinks
- 50 Hollywood headliner
- **52** Tips of shoes
- **54** Sports channel summary
- 58 Family room seating for three people
- 61 Extra-comfy seats
- 65 Typical Saudi
- 66 "Not guilty," for example
- 67 Taj Mahal's country **68** Get cash for
- 69 "... lived happily __ after"
- 70 Tall swamp grasses
- 71 Donut's center
- **72** Single-minded expert
- **73** Double-curve letters

DOWN

- **1** Drop of paint
- 2 Give the OK for
- **3** Airplane-tracking device
- 4 Manicurist's __ board
- **5** Smoothed, as wood 6 Pepsi or Coke
- 7 "Excuse me" throaty sound

- 8 _ up (formed a queue) 45 Prayer's last word
- 9 Dinosaur's egg or footprint **47** Stop exercising for a while
 - 10 Appliance for viewing movie rentals
 - 11 Authentic

 - 13 Make beer or tea
 - 21 One with a diploma, for
 - 25 Sports team's setback
 - 27 Southwestern flat-topped
 - 28 Appears to be

 - 31 Hula dancers sway them
 - **32** Toward sunrise

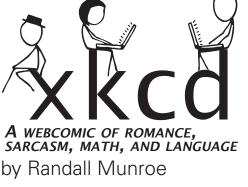
 - 41 Threesome
 - 46 Anti-drug cop, for short
 - **49** Dig further down
 - **51** Bring back to the payroll
 - 53 Soothing cream
 - **55** Walking sticks

- **12** Flying-related prefix
- short
- 30 Elm or fir

- **33** Possess
- 34 Online auction site
- 35 Fit for the job
- 38 Be introduced to

- 56 Office assistants
- 15 14 16 18 19 17 20 22 21 26 33 |34 |35 |36 39 40 42 43 44 45 46 48 49 50 58 59 60 62 63 64 61 65 66 68 69 70 73
 - 57 __ and joy (something treasured)
 - 58 Wide belt 59 Three-layer cookie
- **60** Season after summer
- **62** Fortune-teller 63 Three-foot length
- 64 Talk back to rudely

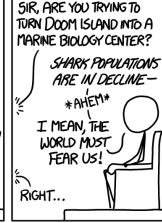
[1326] Sharks











NEVER ESCAPE!



THE TECH **5**



ris victory

flocked to Boston Common on ne election of Joe Biden as the tates. Several major news netthe election Saturday morning I. Biden's running mate Kamala an vice president. The festivities ing around a Donald Trump doll, raffic lights, and waving Bidenic standstill and constant honks mon.



6 The Tech

ME VS. ME

When formality goes out the door

You're my friend, end of conversation, sorry!

By Joanna Lin

On Friday, being more discombobulated than usual because of the election, I unmuted in front of my entire class and said, "Hey, [insert professor's first name]? Did you mean to share your screen?" I froze immediately after saying their first name and had to muster an unimaginable amount of will-power to finish the rest of my question. I felt like I had just committed one of the worst faux pas in my life — and it was recorded to be stored on Panopto video forever.

Some of my professors do walk in on the first day of class and say, "Call me by my first name," but it's definitely not a majority. I've had entire discussions about how to discern when it is allowed to call a professor by their first name. Is it when they sign an email to you with it? Or when they specifically say, "Please call me by my first name"? My other worry is that if I let it get to that point, have I been being too formal to the point of annoyance? On the other hand, why do we even try to pretend that we don't talk about Daddy Dourmashkin and Jason Ku on Confessions all the time?

The dichotomy is present in every one of my interactions, and it never fails to be jarring. One of my closest friends interviewed me for a position in a club we both were part of. Even though I knew it was a formal interview, I assumed we would interact as friends, an impression that was quickly rectified in the first 30 seconds. It was *Scary Interviewer*, not *Meme Exchanger*, on the other side of the Zoom call.

Why do we even try to pretend that we don't talk about Daddy Dourmashkin and Jason Ku on Confessions all the time?

Yet, game nights, bonding activities, and the like all serve to break down this border. A large goal for a lot of communities is to create friendships, and that means being less professional and more relatable. For me, it was especially helpful that my lab is super friendly and I could view my mentors as friends pretty early on. It helped me come out of my shell and ask questions I thought were *a little* too dumb, which ended up making me a better researcher.

As a first-year, I definitely thought things like "Oh, that upperclassman would never want to talk to me, a measly frosh," although maybe that was just because I'm extraordinarily shy and non-confrontational. Regardless, there were upperclassmen who reached out to me, which led to some really great friendships. Now, as an associate advisor and general upperclassman, that's the approach I try to take with younger students.

In one of my classes this semester, I was leading a discussion on a short story with a first-year classmate. For our preparation Zoom, the first sentence that came out of my mouth was "I have no idea what this story was about," and it completely changed the dynamic of our conversation. My partner was really surprised that I would admit that but also grateful that they didn't have to try to pretend to know what was going on with this really dense piece of French literature either. And then we actually talked about our interpretations, and I learned so many things that I didn't know about that short story.

So with all the benefits of informality, what's the point of being professional? I do think it gives a standard of quality, for example, at conferences and such (and it's extremely fun to watch people you've crylaughed with giving an important formal talk about their cool discoveries). I also

think it has to do with respect for people who you haven't gotten to know on a personal level, although I'm not really sure if younger generations care about that as much. People have worked hard for their titles, like Dr. and Prof., so it makes sense to me to address them as such.

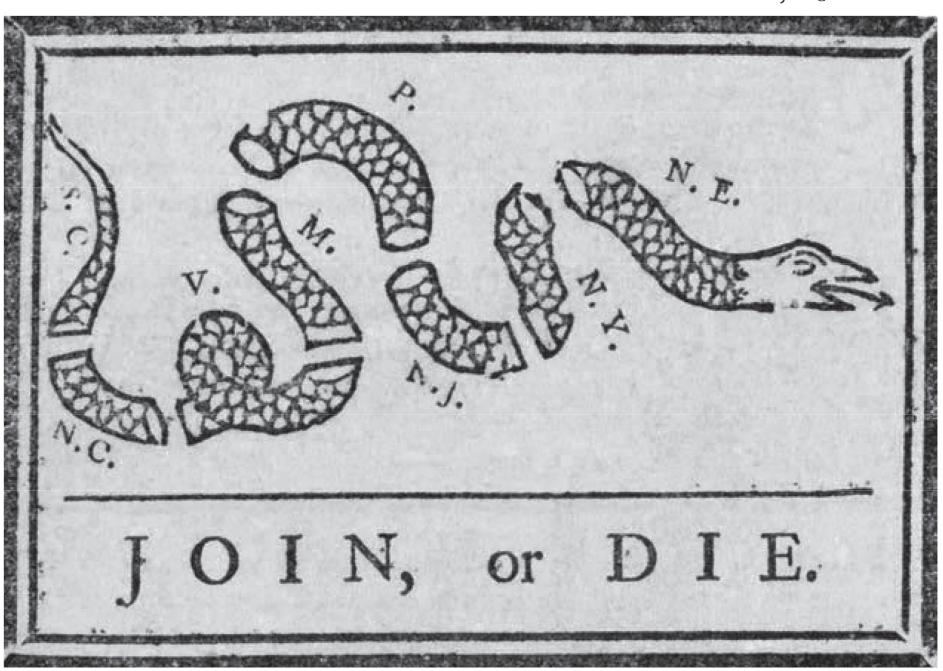
We're all showing each other our bedrooms and home offices on Zoom anyway.

It seemed like all bets were off since we're all showing each other our bedrooms and home offices on Zoom anyways, but this internalized need for professionalism is deeply embedded within my soul. I have not yet shown my face in my class since Friday due to self-inflicted embarrassment, and it may just continue this way until the end of the semester. In any case, I advise everyone to reach out to a friend or someone who you want to become friends with this week — it's a really fun exercise, and we could all use a new friend this far into the

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

The Tech is looking for editorial cartoonists.

join@tech.mit.edu



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

No modifications to be made to curricula of classes having moved to virtual instruction

COVID Uptick, from Page 1

ing break. All MIT classes will be fully virtual after Thanksgiving break until the end of the semester, as announced in July.

Additionally, first-year Sloan students are required to be tested for COVID-19 every other day Nov. 5-13. All other MIT students taking inperson classes or frequently accessing campus are tested twice weekly.

David Schmittlein, dean of the Sloan School of Management, wrote in an email to Sloan students Nov. 5 that the decision resulted from the "marked increase in the number of positive cases within our community, largely within the first-year MBA class." All other Sloan classes will continue as scheduled with inperson instruction until Thanksgiving break.

Sloan spokesperson Kate O'Sullivan wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the decision to shift to virtual instruction was out of an "abundance of caution."

O'Sullivan wrote that the Sloan School of Management worked "closely with MIT Medical throughout the semester" and remains focused on "supporting students who have tested positive" and "keeping our wider community healthy and safe through the remaining weeks of the fall semester."

There will be no modifications to the curricula of classes that have fully moved to virtual instruction. Sloan's planning for the spring semester will be "in concert with the rest of the Institute," O'Sullivan wrote.

Earlier this semester, Sloan went remote for a week after two large

outdoor gatherings of MBA students were reported in September. O'Sullivan wrote that the decision to switch to virtual classes Nov. 5 was unrelated to the remote week in September.

Stuopis wrote that to prevent community transmission, MIT community members should wear masks, maintain six feet of social distancing, and avoid "gathering with friends," "eating together," traveling, or "gathering for Thanksgiving or the holidays."

Stuopis emphasized that MIT Medical does not "report any of the information learned through contact tracing to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards," and students will not face disciplinary action "because of information you reveal to a contact tracer"

Ongoing programs include the Pets of MIT Facebook Group, 'Community Quilt' project

MIT Reboot, from Page 1

Nelson wrote that MIT community members can continue to participate in many events from MIT Reboot, which were "based on existing activities available through DAPER, Community Wellness, and other" departments, labs, and centers.

Ongoing programs include the Pets of MIT Facebook Group, virtual spiritual services, and the "Community Quilt" project, where "more than 700 kits containing colored pencils and paper for creating quilt squares" were distributed to be "sewn individually and stitched together to form an actual quilt," "MIT and DSL are committed to enhancing the student experience," to which "wellbeing is central," Nelson wrote. She hopes that MIT Reboot gave community members "an opportunity to recharge," encouragement to "try new activities that are particularly reinvorigating to them," or just "time on their own to practice ways of staying well."

Hockfield admired Amon's 'independent mind,' 'integrity,' and 'human compassion'

Angelika Amon, from Page 1

dents and faculty alike. MIT and the science community have lost an exemplary leader, mentor, friend, and mensch."

"Angelika was an amazing, energetic, passionate, and creative scientist, an outstanding mentor to many, and an excellent teacher," biology department head Alan Grossman told MIT News.

Many MIT community members have shared their memories of Amon on a PostHope page.

Leslie Lai '03 wrote that Amon was her undergraduate advisor. "Angelika made my life at MIT so much brighter and fun with her cheerful spirit, witty sense of humor, and that famous laugh of hers," she wrote. "Angelika had that rare combination of intelligence, warmth, empathy, integrity, sense of justice, and fearlessness, and I feel so lucky to have been in her presence for those few years."

Christina Ji '19 wrote that she did research in Amon's lab as an undergraduate. "She gave me the opportunity to learn how to run biology experiments with mouse models—

so many positive way ous instances, heari and her laugh—as sh a conference room or lab I was in—put face and in my heart."

a dream I'd had since high school. Her passion for science was readily apparent — when she announced she was just awarded a major grant, her immediate reaction was that she could work in the lab the next year!"

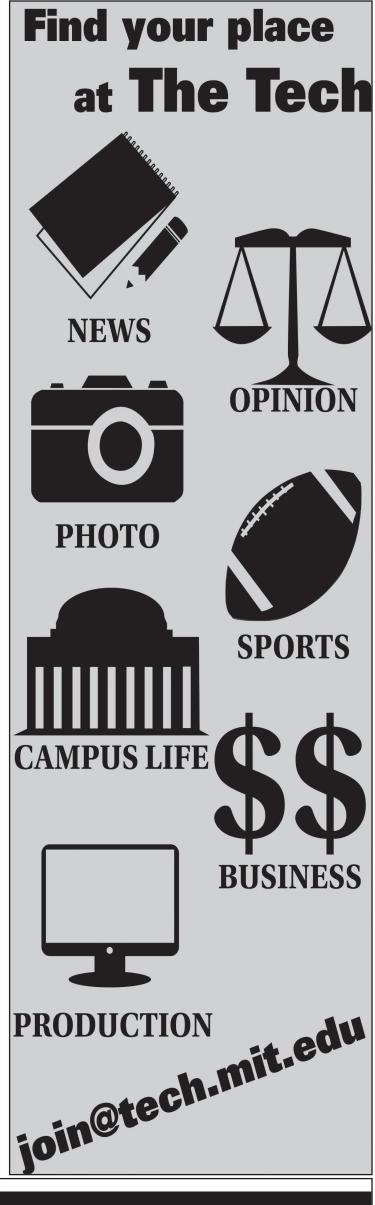
Alexandra de Rosa '13 also worked in Amon's lab as an undergraduate. "Angelika's enthusiasm was always contagious — for science, for students, for life," she wrote. "Her passion and joy have influenced so many, and she was truly a guiding light paving the way, strides ahead. She will be missed and remembered as an extraordinary scientist, inspiring mentor, and strong woman."

Julian Lange PhD '08 wrote that Amon "has been a mentor, advisor, and friend since 2000, when I started graduate school at MIT. In sharing her enthusiasm and kindness and scientific curiosity and inspiring drive with everyone around her, Angelika touched our lives in so many positive ways. On numerous instances, hearing her voice and her laugh — as she approached a conference room or meeting hall or lab I was in — put a smile on my face and in my heart."

Zach Crook PhD '13 was a teaching assistant for Amon during graduate school. "She taught me so much about what it means to be both a great teacher, and a great scientist. Her love of life and of learning was infectious," he wrote. "Her trainees, mentees, and students will do everything we can to carry on her scientific legacy."

Former MIT President Susan Hockfield wrote that Amon "inspired, encouraged and perpetually surprised and amused me. I loved so much her outspoken, independent take on the world." Hockfield wrote that she admired Amon's "independent mind," "integrity," and "human compassion."

Computational biology professor Manolis Kellis PhD '03 wrote that Amon was "a giant in the field of Biology, a close collaborator and friend, and an outstanding scientist and human being. She was always positive, full of enthusiasm and energy, rich with insights, and always brilliant... I hope her legacy will continue for many decades to come, and that her many trainees will carry her torch to new frontiers and many more generations of scientists after her."





Solution to Nevada?

Solution to Arizona!

Solution to Pennsylvania

Solution to Georgia

6

Solution to Family Room

BARES CALF DRAB
LLAMA OHIO VEER
OLDEN LENS DARE
BOARDGAMES PLOW
WRYER DILL
DAMS LOATHE
HEAP DEEM SYRIA
ABBOT SEE SEEPS
VALOR AMEN REST
EYELID STAR
TOES RECAP
SOFA EASYCHAIRS
ARAB PLEA INDIA
SELL EVER REEDS
HOLE NERD ESSES

8 The Tech
Thursday, November 12, 2020

WFATHFR

Record-breaking number of hurricanes going Greek in 2020

By Conrad Goffinet

2020 has been a remarkable year for Atlantic hurricanes and storms. This past Tuesday, tropical storm Theta became the 29th named storm in the Atlantic. The year has been so busy that the National Hurricane Center ran out of its 21 originally planned names and has now resorted to using Greek letters to refer to storms. One of the reasons for this recordbreaking year lies with meteorological technologies: the rise of more sensitive technologies has

allowed the observation of more storms over the middle of the Atlantic that previously would have never been named. That's not to say that the uptick in named storms is entirely due to better instruments, however. Long term trends of warming water in parts of the Atlantic almost certainly share the blame. This year, five separate storms have made landfall on the Louisiana coast, which is a new record. To cap it all off, this busy year for hurricanes might not be over yet — Nov. 30 marks the official end to hurricane season.

Extended Forecast

Today: Chance of showers in the early afternoon. Cloudy with a high of 62°F (16°C). Variable winds ranging from 6–10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low around 46°F (8°C). Northeast wind from 8–10 mph.

Tomorrow: Rain likely throughout the day and into the night with patchy fog during the day after 11 a.m. High of 51°F (11°C) with a low of 40°F (4°C) at night. Winds from northeast and northwest 8–14 mph.

Saturday: Sunny and clear with a high of 50°F (10°C) and a low around 37°F (3°C) at night. Northwest winds from 5–13 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high of 54°F (12°C) during the day dropping down to a low of 47°F (8°C) at night. Southern winds from 8–15 mph.

