thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2 Partly sunny. SAT: 26°F | 21°F Mostly sunny

Volume 140, Number 47 Thursday, February 11, 2021

Undergraduates to get reusable utensils

75% of fall pilot survey respondents 'likely' to continue using utensils

> By Nicole Chan ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

All undergraduate students enrolled in the dining plan will receive reusable utensils in the welcome bags provided when they move on to campus, Undergraduate Association (UA) Sustainability Chair Megan Xu '22 wrote in an email to *The* Tech Feb. 7.

In the fall, the MIT Student Sustainability Coalition (SSC) "supplied 230 interested students living on campus with a set of reusable wheat straw plastic utensils to use," according to the Recommendations Report for MIT Campus Dining for Spring 2021 by the SSC, Waste Watchers, and UA Committee on Sustainability. At the end of the semester, the select students were "surveyed about their experience," and "140 students responded."

According to the survey results, "of the individuals who did not use reusables, 35% did not want to clean them, 33% forgot to bring them, 5% preferred to use disposables, and the remaining 20% were automatically given disposables, had a stockpile of disposables from earlier in

the semester, or lost their utensil set."

"50% of students said that the utensils did not work well with all food items, most notably meat and other foods that need to be cut," the survey writes.

Despite student dislikes, "75% of students were extremely or somewhat likely to continue using their utensils after the pilot," and "63.4% of students indicated that they would still use reusable utensils when in-house dining resumes."

The SSC thus recommended that MIT supply "stainless steel reusable utensils sets to all returning Spring 2021 students as part of their campus-arrival welcome bag." This recommendation came after noting that procuring stainless steel is cheaper than disposables and wheat straw plastic utensils and that "77% of students indicated metal as their preferred material for utensils."

The SSC also recommended that MIT "offer disposable utensils and disposable bags only when requested by the student." This "promotes the usage of reusables" by encour-

Utensils, Page 2



Sloan professor Gary Gensler was nominated by President Biden to serve as chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

IN SHORT

Physical education registration opens at 8 a.m. Feb. 11 for undergraduates and at 8 a.m. Feb. 16 for graduate students.

Spring term registration week ends Feb. 12.

Undergraduate move-in is Feb. 13–15. **Q-Week** will take place for seven days following move-in.

Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. Feb. 15 is Presidents' Day.

The first day of classes for the spring semester is Feb. 16.

MIT affiliates should complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

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Professor arrested for grant fraud

Chen's lawyers seek sanctions against Mass. US attorney

By Srinidhi Narayanan

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT Mechanical engineering professor Gang Chen was arrested on allegations of federal grant fraud, President L. Rafael Reif wrote in an email to the MIT community Jan. 14. Chen was charged by criminal complaint with wire fraud, failing to file a foreign bank account report (FBAR), and making a false statement in a tax return, according to Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling's

Chen has held various appointments with the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) since 2012, "often in exchange for financial compensation," according to the Attorney's Office. These appointments included acting as an "overseas expert" for the PRC government "at the request of the PRC Consulate Office in New York" and serving as a member of "at least two PRC Talent Programs."

The Office pointed to a February 2016 email Chen sent to himself from his MIT account, alleging that it "partially detailed" his "efforts to promote the PRC's scientific and economic development."

According to the Attorney's Office, excerpts from the email read "1. promote chinese collaboration... 3. our economy is no. 2, but from technology (structure of economy) and human resources, we are far from no. 2... 4. we are paying big price in environment, not sustainable, as well as from labor cost ... We must count on technology, cannot grow as past ... We realize not just independent innovation; but also internationalize to plan for and facilitate.'

Chen's lawyers say that this email contained notes of somebody else's statements at a lecture he attended, not his own thoughts, and that the press release omitted the conclusion of the email, which made it clear that he was summarizing the comments.

Many of Chen's appointments from PRC government officials, as well as numerous undisclosed contracts, are "expressly intended to further the PRC's scientific and technological goals," said Matthew McCarthy, one of the Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents assigned to Chen's case, in an affidavit.

McCarthy stated that he was "aware that the general subject matter of Chen's research at MIT nanotechnology - was specifically identified" as an "area of interest to the PRC government." Lelling also said that he thought it was no coincidence the Chinese government publicly identified nanotechnology as a priority.

McCarthy identified several contracts that "entitled Chen to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct payments and millions of dollars in funding" for his research from the PRC. Among these were a five-year contract with the Zhongguancun Development ("ZDG"), a PRC state-owned enterprise funded by the Beijing Municipal Government; a consultant position for the "Outstanding Talent Plan" at a state-owned school managed by local PRC officials, for which Chen agreed to "identify and recommend students for admission to top-tier universities" in the U.S; and an appointment to the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) Advisory Board, for which Chen and his research group "benefitted from approximately \$19 million in funding."

MIT established a collaboration th SUSTech in 2018, and while "Chen is its inaugural MIT faculty director, this is not an individual collaboration; it is a departmental one, supported by the Institute," Reif clarified in a second email to the MIT community Jan. 22.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) conducted a border search of Chen and his baggage upon his return from a trip to the PRC in January 2020. When CBP asked about the purpose of Chen's trip, he responded that his meetings in China "were 'a collaboration," and when asked what the focus of the collaboration was, Chen replied "a

Arrest, Page 2

2,425 undergraduate students to live on campus in Spring

graduate students are living on "through the housing waitlist" mpus this Spring, Housing & Residential Services Communications Manager Zachary Tsetsos wrote in an email to The Tech Feb. 4.

932 first-years, 759 sophomores, 469 juniors, and 224 seniors plan to return to campus.

Tsetsos wrote that approximately "100 students" canceled housing "since the housing application closed Jan. 4." Housing numbers "[continued] to shift slightly each day" as some students took "advantage of the extended cancellation deadline" through Feb. 7, and others were

Approximately 2,425 under- offered a housing assignment

The 2,425 returning undergraduates include 41 students participating in the FSILG pilot and living in one of the three pilot houses.

Tsetsos wrote that of the 224 seniors returning to campus, "approximately 80" were "approved through the Student Housing Assistance Review Process," while the rest were "identified as juniors eligible for Spring 2021 housing who have recently gained senior standing."

– Caitlin Fukumoto

MINARI

The beginning of a long overdue healing. ARTS, p. 4





BLACK PANTHERS

A story as relevant now as ever before. ARTS, p. 5

SECTIONS

Arts	4
Campus Life	6
Fun Pages	7

2 THE TECH THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021



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WEATHER

Back to Boston, bundled

By Sarah Weidman

February in Boston is proving to be just as cold and blustery this year as it always promises to be. The city saw some light and fluffy snow over the past week, and temperatures will stay below freezing (often, well below freezing) for the next several days. Plan to stay inside on Friday if you can, as wind chill temperatures may reach close to 0 °F due to the classic strong Boston winds. For those of you arriving back to campus on Friday or Saturday, there is a chance to see some snow on Saturday night!

For some of you, February in Boston may be the first time you experience bitter cold and

snow! Usually first year students have a chance to prepare for the winter through the steadily cooling fall semester, but not this year. Although snow can be incredibly exciting, staying warm is an art in itself. Good strategies include wearing multiple layers (top and bottom!), preferably non-cotton, with a waterproof layer on top. Hats, mittens, and scarves are always helpful, especially if you plan on throwing snowballs at a friend (with consent, of course). Thick wool socks and waterproof boots can help keep your feet warm as you trudge through the snow. However, if you decide instead to stay in your dorm room, huddled next to the radiator with a mug of hot chocolate, nobody will blame you.

Extended Forecast

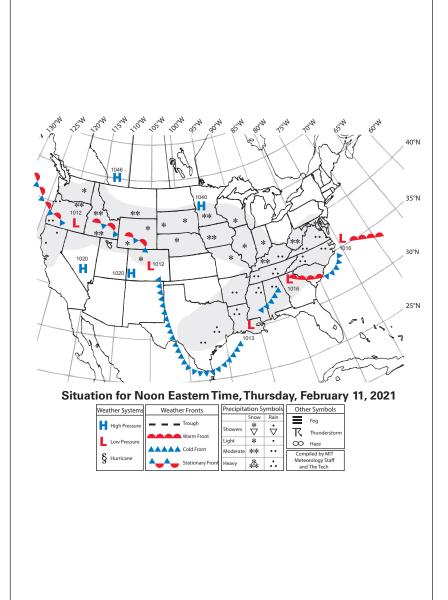
Today: Mostly sunny. High around 30 °F (-1 °C). Northwest wind around 5-10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low around 12 °F (-11 °C). Northwest wind around 8-12 mph.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High around 25 °F (-4 °C) and low around 12 °F (-11 °C). Northwest wind around 8-12 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with chance snow overnight. High around 26 °F (-3 °C) and low around 21 °F (-6 °C). North wind around 5-10 mph.

Sunday: Chance snow, then cloudy. High around 30 °F (-1 °C) and low around 17 °F (-8 °C).



SSC to publicize reusable utensils efforts during Q-Week

Utensils, from Page 1

aging students to be more "selfaware of their own material footprint" and "decreases" potential wasted utensils. The report also wrote that MIT Dining should "procure more sustainable singleuse items where the reusable alternative is less favorable."

The SSC reached out to the "MIT Dining team to help them determine what was feasible for implementation within COVID era constraints," SSC member and Waste Watchers administrator

Natalie Northrup '22 wrote in an email to *The Tech* Feb. 7. MIT Dining and the SSC worked together to "supply all students living on campus with a personal set of re-

usable utensils."

The next step for the SSC team is "to publicize the efforts through

avenues like Q-week [sic] and UA publicity channels." Students can "use their utensils regularly and responsibly" and "bring their utensils and reusable tote when they go to pick up food so they don't have to request disposable items."

Over 170 MIT professors signed letter defending Chen

Arrest, from Page 1

collaboration is a collaboration,' or words to that effect," according to McCarthy.

When CBP asked if Chen "did any research or just held meetings during these collaborations," Chen responded that all of his "research is conducted in the [U.S.]," or words to that effect." McCarthy noted that the CBP officers who questioned Chen claimed his answers were "short and curt, and he appeared evasive."

Chen "failed to disclose" that he was an advisor to SUSTech and four other PRC appointments on a grant renewal proposal to the Department of Energy (DOE) in March 2017, McCarthy wrote; McCarthy "confirmed with DOE officials that, at a minimum, Chen was required to disclose these activities" in the appendices of the proposal. McCarthy added that "Chen failed to disclose the above-listed PRC appointments and activities" in a March 2019 progress report.

Chen also failed to file an FBAR for the 2018 Tax Year, and "answered 'no' to the question of whether he had" a financial interest in or authority over a financial account in a foreign country, which McCarthy believes is "false" because "Chen appears to have owned or had an interest in multiple bank accounts at the Bank of China in 2017 and 2018."

Lelling told reporters that it "is not illegal to collaborate with foreign researchers. It is illegal to lie about it"

Chen's lawyers asked a federal judge to sanction Lelling Feb. 4 for his "attempt to gin up Chen's charges" and making his activity sound "far more nefarious" than the reality. Lawyers Brian Kelly and Robert Fisher said that the charges "represent the dying gasp of blatant anti-Chinese bias in 'the waning hours of the Trump Administration'" and that Lelling's public statements would interfere with a fair trial.

In their request for sanctions, Kelly and Fisher argue that Lelling held a press conference a few hours after the complaint was unsealed, in which he made "numerous false, highly inflammatory statements," claiming that the allegations were "not just about greed, but loyalty to China"; they stated that there is "nothing in the Complaint to suggest that Chen is not loyal" to the U.S.

Over 170 MIT professors signed a Jan. 21 letter defending Chen against the allegations. "We stand in solidarity with our colleague ... We feel that he deserves full support and commitment from MIT," the letter wrote.

It added that the professors were "baffled" by many parts of the official complaint and public statements against Chen, stating that the complaint "represents a deep misunderstanding of how research is conducted or funded" at MIT.

The letter addresses various allegations in the complaint, suggesting that the complaints are "flawed and misleading." In response to the wire fraud allega-

tion, the letter states that "Chen's scientific collaborations and broader connections to China are a matter of extensive disclosure and public record," and are "anything but hidden" from DOE grant reviewers.

Chen's arrest comes nearly a year after the arrest of Harvard Professor Charles Lieber, who was a "contractual participant in China's Thousand Talents Plan" from 2012 to 2017; the Thousand Talents Plan is a prominent talent program that "seeks to lure Chinese overseas talent and foreign experts to bring their knowledge and experience to China and reward individuals for stealing proprietary information," according to the Department of Justice's Office of Public Affairs.

While Harvard did not pay for Lieber's legal defense, MIT will fund Chen's legal defense. An independent GoFundMe, organized by Chen's daughter to cover "expenses beyond this agreement" raised \$401,387 as of Jan.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 THE TECH 3

Biden nominates Sloan Professor Gary Gensler for SEC chair

President Joe Biden nominated MIT Sloan Professor Gary Gensler to serve as the 33rd chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Jan. 18.

Since November 2020, Gensler has led the Biden-Harris transition team's planning for oversight of the financial industry. If confirmed by the Senate, Gensler will face a variety of challenges, including how to address market volatility, financial applications like Robinhood, and the rise of retail investors.

Gensler is a professor of the

practice of global economics and management at the MIT Sloan School of Management and deals with public policy, financial technology, blockchain, and cryptocurrencies. He is also the co-director of MIT's Fintech@CSAIL and senior advisor to the MIT Media Lab Digital Currency Initiative.

Gensler has a history of public service, having served as the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets and Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance during the Clinton administration from 1997 to 1999 and 1999 to 2001, respectively. In recognition for his service, he was awarded the Alexander Hamilton Award, the Treasury's highest honor.

Gensler also served as the Chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission during the Obama administration, leading the reform of a \$400 trillion swaps market from 2009 to 2014.

Gensler has also worked for political campaigns, as an economic advisor for Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, senior advisor

for Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign, and Chief Financial Officer for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

Prior to his public service, Gensler spent 18 years working at Goldman Sachs, and was co-head of finance before leaving to work under the Clinton administration.

Two of Gensler's courses, 15.S12 (Blockchain and Money) and 15.S08 (FinTech: Shaping the Financial World), are available on MIT's OpenCourseWare.

— Kylee Carden

Solution to Black History

from page 7

8	3	2	9	1	7	6	5	4
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Solution to Following

from page 7

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Solution to Move-In

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MOVIE REVIEW

What it takes to love

Minari's depiction of family and faith breaks your heart and heals it

Minari

Directed by Lee Isaac Chung

Screenplay by Lee Isaac

Starring Steven Yeun, Han Yeri, Alan Kim, Youn Yuh-jung

Rated PG-13

Streaming and in select theaters Feb. 12

By Lulu Tian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

We seek faith to make sense of mysteries, like the inexplicable forces that drive people apart and bring them together. It's hard to articulate why people fall out of love, why we push away the people who are closest, and why we choose some things over others. *Minari*, the stunning new film of director and writer Lee Isaac Chung, doesn't try to explain these patterns, but simply shows them to be true.

The film follows the Korean-American Yi family: Jacob and Monica, husband and wife, and their children Anne and David. The family is realistic, inspired by Chung's own childhood memories. In an A24 Q&A where Sandra Oh interviewed the director and select cast members, Chung revealed that his process for the film started with writing everything he could remember from when he was as old as his six-year-old daughter. Based on Chung's own experience, the film begins when the Yi family ends up in rural Arkansas on a large expansive field that Jacob hopes to turn into a farm and source of self-sufficiency.

From the beginning, the cinematography is striking in its ability to be both sweeping and intimate, capturing the never-ending land and sky as well as the contained interior of the family's home. The lush shots that look up and around at the rural landscape feel like a love letter from Jacob to this hopeful, new world where he so desperately wants to prove himself. The sense of place is furthered by the use of ambient sounds — birds chirping, grass whistling, TV droning in the background, even the squeaking of picked vegetables. These sounds of daily life form a barely noticeable, but ever present soundtrack. The subtly constructed sensory experience, unrushed and in real-time, makes the setting both homey and other-worldly.

The camera often feels omnipresent in a way that is tied to the gaze of the children. David and Anne see everything: their parents fighting, the subtle racism and bigotry from the townspeople, the stress and hope of their new lives. Family dynamic are quickly understood when the children retreat and emerge again to throw paper airplanes with "STOP FIGHTING" written, and the film is peppered with similarly striking yet mundane memories.

David, a spirited and charming child with heart problems, becomes the eyes that relive and expand upon writer Chung's emotions. His immediate world - the small home in the middle of nowhere - is defined by his parents, who speak Korean with English mixed in, and older sister, who is haughty yet caring. Outside of their insular life though, there are unavoidable necessities: social interaction, financial stability, and a sense that everything will be okay.

Monica, the mother, is especially frustrated by their living situation. Han Yeri delivers an electrifying performance with her piercing gazes and thoughtful caresses, balancing the roles of mother and wife that too often conflict. Her marriage with Jacob is imperfect: they are two people who "went to America and forgot everything," driven apart by constant disagreements and differences in values. Shouting arguments scenes pit husband against wife, switching between close shots focusing on their individual pained expressions. Yet after these sequences, frames revert to showing all members of the family together, and life as a unit continues. The robustness of the Yi family is solidified by the cast's all-around natural and cohesive performances.

Steven Yeun is on his way to becoming a household name, and his tortured, internal portrayal of Jacob, who embodies the American Dream and more, is remarkably personal. During the Q&A with Sandra Oh,

Yeun described the emotional journey he underwent to play his character. Like David in the film and director Lee Isaac Chung, Yeun grew up in America with certain preconceptions and boundaries around the idea of his Korean immigrant father. "We remember our parents through their suffering or the ways in which we miscommunicate our love to each other," Yeun described. This film, he said, allowed him to work past those barriers and see that in many ways, he is his father. Choking up, Yeun fell into a brief silence that resounded with a million unspoken thoughts. Collecting himself, the actor carefully declared, "The feeling of making this film is a reconnection."

The idea of reconnection is most poignantly realized through the character of Monica's mother, grandmother to David and Anne, who joins the family in Arkansas. Almost too easy going, grandmother is constantly joking and never doing things that a "real grandma" should do, like making cookies according to David. She adds humor to the everyday scenes, and her unconditional love for David, despite his resistance to accepting her, manifests in some of the most entertaining and heart-wrenching moments of the film. Her role as a family member is somewhat external in how she pulls and pushes the nuclear family further and closer.

The idea of faith ties to every experience of this adjusting family. Acknowledging the concept of love is not enough — the belief in it has to be as desperate as clinging onto ideas of luck or heaven or God. Family is not something rational or planned; it can be broken but still one. Seeing a film that understands that family is not about just a connection but rather a constant process of reconnection is as moving for the audience as it is for Yeun and moderator Sandra Oh, who are overcome with emotion while discussing the film. In focusing on the realness of one particular family's story, Minari manages to capture a greater experience, beyond what Hollywood has been able to understand about Asian Americans and family before. It's not a concrete idea, but it's the beginning of a long-overdue healing.



Steven Yeun stars as Jacob Yi in the 2020 film Minari.

MELISSA LUKENBAUGH, COURTESY OF A24

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

MOVIE REVIEW

A moving undercover thriller based on true events

An interview with the cast of Judas and the Black Messiah, a film that is more relevant now than ever

By Vyshnavi Vennelakanti

"Power anywhere where there's people!" These inspiring words from the charismatic Chairman Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya) leave us rooting for a group that would go down in history: the Black Panther Party. *Judas and the Black Messiah* tells the story of Fred Hampton - the Black Messiah who leads the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, and William O'Neal (Lakeith Stanfield) — Judas — who infiltrates the Black Panther Party as a counterintelligence operative on the orders of FBI.

The movie begins with a few clips from the Eyes on the Prize interview with William O'Neal regarding his infiltration of the Black Panther Party, which was a Black Power political organization. The film then brings us back in time to trace the moments that started it all. After driving a stolen car, O'Neal is arrested and given an ultimatum by FBI Special Agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons): face several years in jail or keep tabs on Fred Hampton and the Panthers' activities for the FBI. O'Neal makes the first of many bad choices by choosing to be an FBI informant, thus betraying the trust of his community.

While the film's plot is based on true events, director Shaka King creatively portrays the story as an undercover thriller rather than the stereotypical biographical movie. The film is more than the meeting of two characters as the title suggests, with suspenseful storytelling that constantly leaves the audience short of breath in anticipation of what will happen next.

There weren't many historical resources available to inform the cast of the movie about Fred Hampton, and the most authentic references were his wife, Mother Akua - formerly known as Deborah Johnson (Dominique Fishback) — and his son, Fred Jr. Kaluuya and Fishback traveled to Chicago and spent time with them to learn more about Fred Hampton and the Panthers'

activities In a college roundtable interview, Fishback talked about how her interaction with Mother Akua inspired her interpretation of the character, "[She] told us that the Panthers were very disciplined and never spoke out of turn. I did not understand this initially. We left our space so open that the energy flowed through us in a way that I learned to trust Daniel and others in a different way." She explains, "I learned that when you're able to trust, you're not so defensive and on guard, and when you're not on guard, you don't have to speak with a certain anger. So, I could see the gentleness in why she would feel so open to let him in."

Although the film provides a glimpse into Fred Hampton's life, the details of the Black Panther movement expand much beyond what is shown. Talking about the events that did not make it into the movie, Kaluuya says "There's incredible stuff that happens on a street level with the Black Panther Party. It will not end well for anyone involved if I say it on a Zoom call. All those details about understanding what Chairman Fred did on the frontline, how he united certain forces was incredible." Kaluuya continues, "The Rainbow Coalition was a product of what he really did in creating the Black Union. Those kinds of factors and stories really resonate with me."

The role of O'Neal as an FBI informant was characterized by conflicting emotions,

and Stanfield brilliantly portrayed this inner turmoil. After his actions have been revealed. O'Neal is asked what he would tell his son about his actions. He responds with a quiet power by saying that he'll let history speak for him. The actor himself reflected on O'Neal's actions, saying, "Although, I find a lot of things he did reprehensible on the surface level, I realized that most people would not like to be imprisoned for five years and would have taken the easier route if given a chance. Out of a million people, there are two people like Fred Hampton while the rest are like O'Neal. Most of this can identify with wanting to secure our own selves and people rather than appeal to the general public."

In addition to the excellent performances and still relevant themes, the set design of the film does a great job taking us back to the 1960's. Further setting the tone for the film, the score of Judas and the Black Messiah, composed by Mark Isham and Craig Harris, includes both period songs and suspenseful music. This movie is sure to strike a chord with all of us while creating more awareness about the sacrifices made in the past. As Fred says, "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can never kill the revolution."

The Illinois chapter is the most progressive of the Black Panther Party where more women are placed in positions of power than other chapters. Thorne, who played Judy Harmon, the security captain of the Illinois chapter, studied extensively about the Panthers in preparation for her role. During the roundtable, Thorne reflected on women's power in today's world: "The primary change that I see is in understanding the fact that women will be placed in positions of power. Period. This is not nego $\star\star\star\star\star$

Judas and the Black Messiah

Directed by Shaka King

Screenplay by Shaka King, Will Berson

Starring Daniel Kaluuya, Lakeith Stanfield, Jesse Plemons, Dominique **Fishback**

Rated R

Streaming on HBO Max on Feb. 12

tiable. It's something that is necessary and needs to be far more commonplace than it is. And I think there is a shift in recognition of that - in seeing that women will not accept anything less. Not only are we fully cognizant of what we deserve, but I also think that there is a collective movement toward the actualization of those roles." She continued, "Regarding what needs to further change, it's based a lot in equity and accepting where we are so that we can move up to where we should be rather than making attempts of surface level presentations of balance and equality."

The interview has been edited and cut for clarity and length.



WARNER BROS. PICTURE

Lakeith Stanfield (left) and Jesse Plemons (right) star in Shaka King's latest film, Judas and the Black Messiah.

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FE CAMPUS LIFE CAM

WENBO'S WALKS

Wenbo Slips

My newest obsession? Snowshoe hares

By Wenbo Wu

EDITOR

I take a deep breath. 2021, here we go. This is going to be the year. I can just *feel* the excitement bubbling beneath my feet, escalating with every step I take. The world is a trampoline, and I'm its humble snowshoe

The cool Ianuary air hits my face as the albedo of the glistening grass turns the night to day... or is it the other way around? Who even knows whether it's 1 a.m. or p.m. anymore? My phone shames me as I turn it on, telling me that I have, in fact, messed up my sleep schedule pretty badly.

I take a step, then another, hearing the cracking ice beneath my feet. Even my smallest movements, most miniscule nosetwitches, manifest as thundering echoes through the hollow landscape. I don't know what it is about a snow-blanked landscape, but whenever I walk in one, I feel like I'm living inside a tranquil glass dome in a Christmas-themed gift shop.

I also know that if I were truly a snowshoe hare, I would soon be... how do I phrase this kindly... yeeted (yoten?) from the face of the planet. Every careless sound I'd inevitably make would go straight into some lynx's ear, and before I knew it, I would be hopping for my life. Not even the purest camouflage could save me then. I instinctively take a small hop, my every breath held in fee by such frightening thoughts.

I'm sitting on the sidewalk now, just... relaxing of course, as one does during such snowy weather. My back hurts, my whole body aches. Don't mind me, I didn't fall. I was merely using that unforeseen frictionless surface as a launchpad to a graceful floor-exercise landing. My grimace? That's from how... proud I am to have made that artful advancement, of course.

Owww.

"Ow"... what a strange word. I know what it's *supposed* to mean: an interjection of personal pain. However, I've somehow, over the course of the past 19 years of my life, conditioned myself into saying it in response to literally anything that even remotely involves the concept of linear momentum.

A ball hits me? Ow. I hit the floor? Ow. The ball hits the floor? Ow. The ball, floor, and I are actually all part of a rocket blasting off in consensus with the rocket equations? Ow. Ow. Ow.

The way I felt about "ow" as a child really paid off in mechanics. Every once in a while I'd see an exam or homework question that, long before I realize what I'm even supposed to do, would make me say "ow" under my breath. From that, I would quickly figure out that I was, for example, supposed to apply the conservation of linear momentum.

This would be my first trip outside the house in a snowstorm in the past six months. I can hardly believe how little snow provokes me anymore.

As a self-diagnosed Southern boy, I remember how my school district back in Texas canceled school for two weeks from

four inches of precipitation. I remember refreshing my Virginia school district's website in excitement waiting for a snow day announcement.

Those were the times, the times when I thought a single exam was going to determine my fate, whether I would end up as a hare or a lynx. Now I know the truth: no matter what, I was destined to be the hare. Sure, I could have passed off as long as I wanted to as a lynx. But where's the fun in that? Where's the hippity-hoppity joy that comes from feeling like a Disney Princess's animal sidekick? Surely you haven't seen any lynxes lately in such a film? But hares and rabbits? They're literally everywhere!

Okay, sure, maybe being a hare conjures up images of the base of the food web. Or perhaps it calls back to the ill-fated hare of tortoises past. But that doesn't have to be the case. Each hare must determine their own fate through wit or art, I suppose.

I walk past a pristine patch of snow, probably at least six inches tall. I want to make a snow angel. I admire the snow's purity, of course, but I never had a chance to treasure my own before becoming one of those grown-ups. I've only made a snow angel once, in fourth grade, but I feel nostalgic for an experience I hardly even had.

It would be a real shame if a car got stuck in it, I thought. It would be a real shame if a snow shovel and boiling water had to get involved, I thought, definitely not foreshadowing future visions past.

I want to make a snow angel. I really do,

except it's the middle of a pandemic and all of the clean-up and mask-wet-frommelted-snow-wearing would make the task logistically too complex to be worth it. But if I were a snowshoe hare, I would 1. be able to do the aforementioned thing and 2. not have to worry about catching COVID-19. Nature is healing, y'all.

So, just think about Mother Nature the next time you have to get a nasal swab, dear reader. Actually, please don't. I regret stating that advice. I can never outlive the weight of my past suggestions-made-injest because I tend to remember them too clearly until they become serious, precisely because I made such comments in a very specifically cursed-but-nevertheless-joking

Maybe this coming semester is the semester of animals. Maybe I'll write each column through the mindset of a particular animal as I live out my very human experiences. We can simply have an "animal of the week" every two weeks or so instead of last year's #deep question of the week. Maybe if I run this transition smoothly enough, you'll hardly notice a perspective shift at all.

The world may be a never-ending trampoline, but what if I took a few deep breaths instead? What if I stopped jumping around all day only to slink into my familiar hiding spot each night? What if I slept as quiet as a hare, out in the open. without a sound, without a fear? Now lettered lynx, tell your mirage: how sees him, my camouflage?



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 THE TECH 7

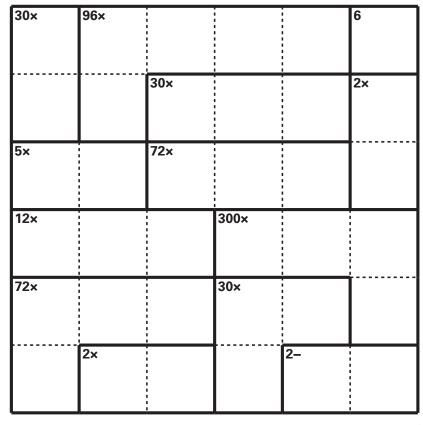
Black History Month

Solution, page 3

				1			5	
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Lunar New Year



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.

Following A Pattern by Fred Ohles

ACROSS

- 1 Officeholders, for short
- **5** Wild auesses
- 10 Up to the task
- **14** Z __ "zebra"
- **15** Magazine edition
- **16** Try to persuade gently 17 Woman's checked-pattern
- garment
- **19** __ d'état
- 20 Major blood vessel
- 21 PC key near the space bar
- 22 Open up, as shoelaces
- 23 Fuel efficiency stat.
- **26** Grad
- 28 Man's thin-line pattern office attire
- 34 Fancy party
- 35 Be of help to
- **36** Firstborn of two
- 38 Right-angle shapes
- 39 Hold (off)
- **42** Jai __ (ball game) 43 Pull on
- 45 Barnyard cackler

- 46 Semester
- 47 Woman's circle-pattern garment
- 51 Ripped (up)
- **52** Buckeye State sch. 53 Prepare, as tea
- **56** Explosive initials
- 58 Speaks unclearly
- 63 Volcanic outpouring **64** Man's droplet-pattern
- neckwear
- 67 Baking chamber 68 First Greek letter
- 69 Clock dial
- **70** Icy navigation hazard
- 71 Gossip-filled, informally
- 72 Those others

DOWN

- 1 Bear seen by Goldilocks
- 2 Capital of Norway
- 3 Untruthful one
- 4 Sour mood
- 5 Bro's sibling
- 6 Scolding sound

- 7 India's continent
- 8 Sack fabric
- 9 Reach an agreement
- 10 Gather gradually
- 11 Unexpected benefit 12 Speak highly of
- 13 Trade show, for short
- **18** River blockers
- 24 Grade-school support orgs
- 25 Sand particles
- 27 Do something with 28 Get chummy (with)
- 29 Volunteer's offer
- **30** Country singer's accent
- **31** Potato-growing state
- 32 Runs in neutral
- 33 Signs of sorrow
- 34 Receive or retrieve
- **37** Edge of a glass
- **40** Reject, as legislation
- **41** Comes to a close
- **44** Boxing-stopping letters
- 48 Sketcher's tablet
- 49 America's highest peak
- **50** Deception
- 16 15 17 19 20 22 23 24 25 35 36 38 39 40 41 43 46 48 49 52 58 59 60 61 62 53 | 54 | 55 56 63 64 65 | 66 68 67 69

71

- **53** Drop of paint
- **54** Glowing review
- **55** At any time
- 57 Helpful hints **59** Uber competitor
- 60 Nevada neighbor

72

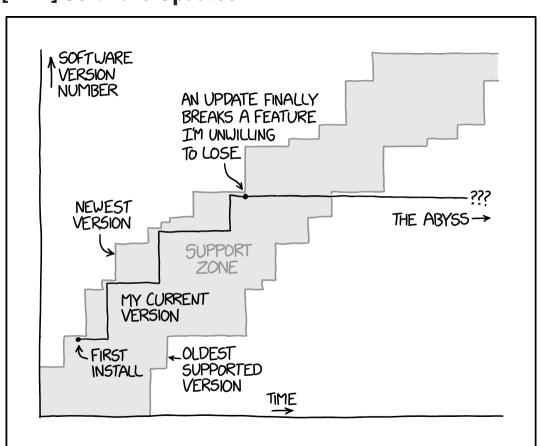
NEUNFUNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

- 61 Starch in sushi
- 62 Appear to be 65 "Quiet!"
- 66 __ aside (abandon)

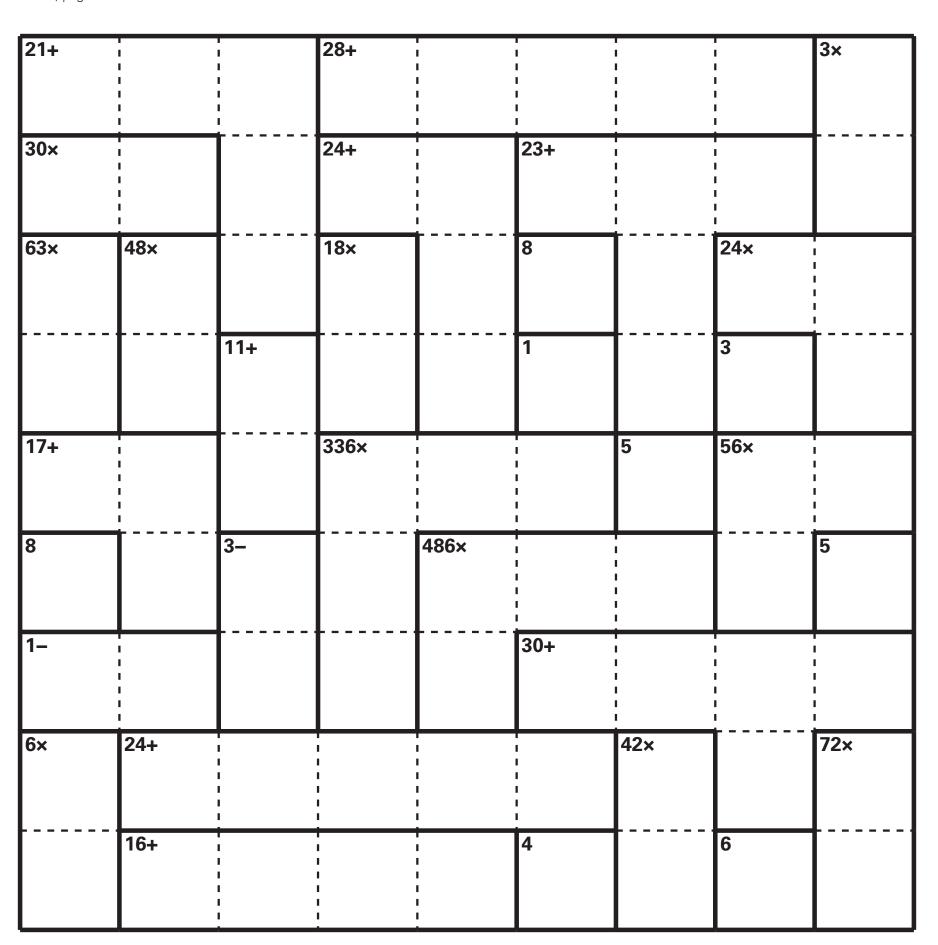
[2224] Software Updates





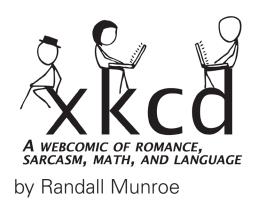
ALL SOFTWARE IS SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE.

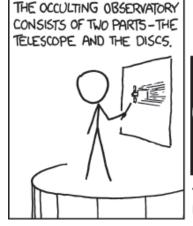
Move-In Weekend

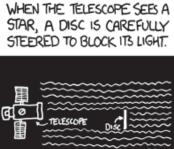


Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1-9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

[975] Occulting Telescope







THIS PROCEDURE IS REPEATED UNTIL ALL STARS ARE COVERED.



