



STEPHANY PANG, SHINJINI GHOSH—THE TECH

Due to a series of misconducts as of Monday, Suzy Nelson temporarily suspended the pod program for students of Baker House, New Vassar, and Maseeh Hall.

# Pod programs suspended in Baker, Maseeh, NV residence halls due to policy violations

## Pods may be reinstated after further contact tracing

By Kristina Chen  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The pod programs in Baker House, Maseeh Hall, and New Vassar (NV) have been temporarily paused due to “reports of unauthorized gatherings both on and off campus” that purportedly involved residents of the dorms, Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson and MIT Medical Director Cecilia Stuopis ’90 announced in an email to MIT undergraduates on March 1.

Nelson and Stuopis wrote that “over 50 students” were involved in the gatherings or were pod mates of those involved in the gatherings. The pod programs have been paused to make time for contact tracing and to determine whether there has been any spread of COVID-19.

In the past seven days, MIT Medical has identified 24 positive tests out of 23,077 total tests, according to MIT’s COVID-19 testing dashboard. Of the 24 positive cases, 14 are students. Additionally, 15 students are currently in isolation and 68 are in quarantine.

The pod programs in the residence halls may be reinstated once contact tracing has been conducted. The pod program will be reinstated “if testing and contact tracing results show there’s no impact on Maseeh,” Maseeh Heads of House Suzanne Flynn and Jack Carroll wrote to Maseeh residents.

During the pod program suspension, all students in the affected residence halls are not permitted to gather with pod mates in pod lounges or each other’s rooms, to remove their face coverings in the presence

of pod mates, or to relax physical distancing guidelines. Students living in Baker, Maseeh, and NV may still attend in-person classes and access other MIT facilities, following MIT’s COVID-19 policies.

Additionally, students who have information that can help MIT Medical’s contact tracers better understand the weekend gatherings are advised to email [covidteam@med.mit.edu](mailto:covidteam@med.mit.edu), Nelson and Stuopis wrote.

The Division of Student Life has implemented a COVID-19 Student Amnesty policy. Similar to MIT’s Good Samaritan Amnesty policy, MIT “will also treat the violation” of COVID-19 policies “primarily as a health and safety matter,” rather than as a disciplinary incident.

Pod Pause, Page 2

# Police secure arrest warrant for suspect involved in shooting

## Pan was named a person of interest in murder of Yale student Kevin Jiang

By Caitlin Fukumoto  
STAFF REPORTER

The New Haven Police Department secured an arrest warrant Feb. 27 charging Qinxuan Pan MNG ’15, an MIT graduate, with murder for the death of Kevin Jiang, a Yale University graduate student.

Police found Jiang, 26, shot dead with multiple gunshot wounds in the East Rock neighborhood of New Haven, Connecticut, near Yale’s campus Feb. 6. New Haven Police Chief Otoniel Reyes said police were dispatched after several 911 calls around 8:30 p.m. reporting gunfire and a person shot in a press conference on Feb. 8. Yale University President Peter

Salovey identified Jiang as the victim in a message to the Yale community Feb. 7.

Salovey wrote that Jiang was a graduate student at the Yale School of the Environment. Jiang was an Army veteran and member of the Army National Guard. He had been engaged to a recent MIT graduate.

Reyes said Jiang was operating a vehicle at the time he was shot and that there is “developed information” suggesting that he was targeted.

Police named Pan, 29, a person of interest in the murder Feb. 10, though he was not a suspect at the time. Pan was accused of stealing a

Suspect, Page 2

## IN SHORT

March 8 is a **student holiday**; no classes will be held. Monday classes will be held on **Tuesday, March 9**.

MIT affiliates should complete the **COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Form**.

The deadline to submit nominations for the **MIT Awards** is March 26.

Interested in **joining The Tech**? Email [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu).

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CADY BORONKAY—THE TECH

Students attend a 2.00B lecture in 2-190 on Monday, the first day of in-person classes.

# MIT will not compete in Spring varsity sports

## Modified in-person training permitted

By Srinidhi Narayanan  
NEWS EDITOR

Director of Athletics and Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) Head G. Anthony Grant announced that MIT will not compete in varsity athletics during Spring 2021 on account of health and safety concerns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, DAPER announced Feb. 11. All spring club

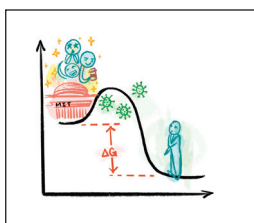
sports competition and travel will also be canceled.

The cancellation will impact “baseball, men’s heavyweight crew, men’s and women’s lightweight crew, women’s openweight crew, men’s and women’s lacrosse, sailing, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s outdoor track and field and men’s volleyball.”

Varsity Sports, Page 2

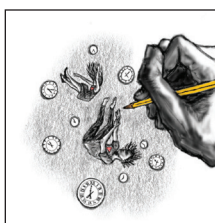
## STUDENT VOICES IN SUSTAINABILITY

How you can contribute to MIT’s climate action plan.  
**OPINION, p. 4**



## LE CHATELIER

Can enough energy reverse time?  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6**



## BENTO BOXES

Leaking out.  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7**

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WEATHER

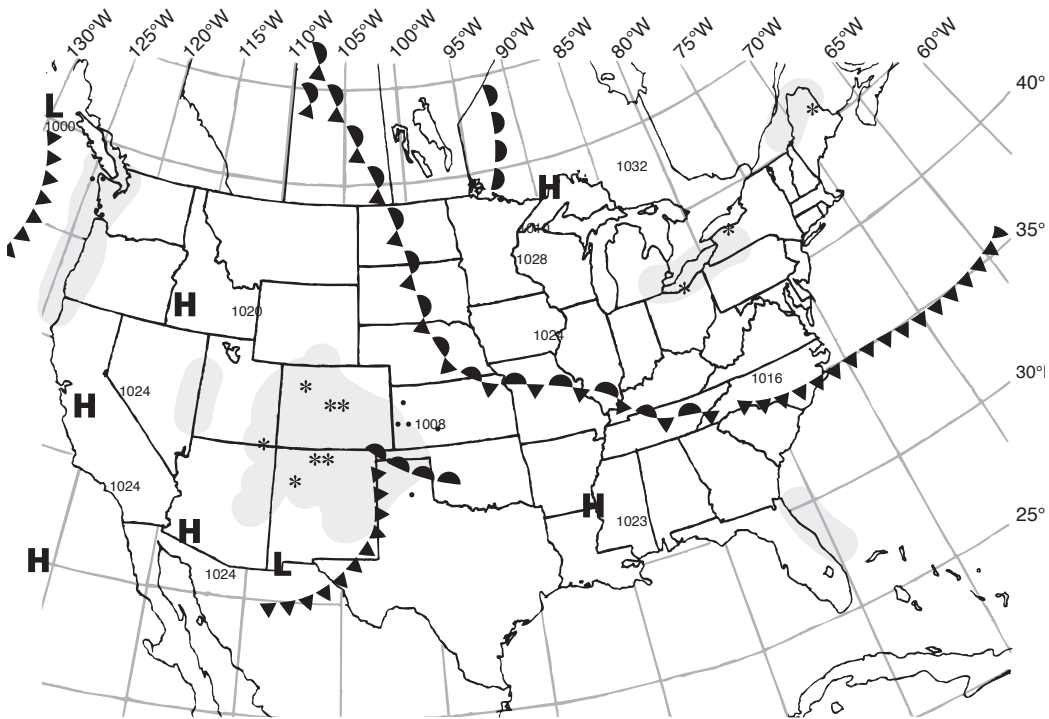
Wintry weekend

**By Shinjini Ghosh and Phoebe Lin**

Northwest winds remain gusty in the city. The Kresge lawn begins to show its greens as campus comes alive once again! Ducks can be seen swimming in the Charles River as we wonder, when will spring arrive?

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny. High around 39°F (4°C). Northwest winds around 15-25 mph.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low around 19°F (-7°C). Northwest winds around 10-20 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Partly cloudy. High around 32°F (0°C) and low around 18°F (-8 °C). Northwest winds around 10-20 mph.  
**Saturday:** Sunny. High around 33°F (1°C) and low around 16°F (-9°C). Northwest winds around 5-15 mph.  
**Sunday:** Sunny. High around 35°F (2°C) and low around 16°F (-9°C). Northwest winds around 5-10 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, March 4, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	*	•	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	*	•	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	***	•••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

MIT implements COVID-19 amnesty policy

Pod Pause, from Page 1

Under the policy, if a student self-reports their own behavior violating MIT’s COVID-19 policies to MIT Medical, the information will be protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and will not be shared with the Committee on Discipline for disciplinary action.

Students may, however, be required to comply with a “wellness

follow-up” possibly consisting of educational requirements, guidance by medical officials, quarantine, or self-isolation, according to the policy.

Nelson and Stuopis wrote in their email that they “want to make sure” MIT does not see an increase of COVID-19 cases as other college campuses have.

MIT concluded Quarantine Week (Q-Week) noon of Feb. 23 for undergraduates who recently

moved on campus. Q-Week was extended due to various students not complying with testing requirements and reports of undergraduates violating MIT’s COVID-19 policies. In-person classes and access to other MIT facilities began March 1.

In Fall 2020, when only seniors were invited to live on campus, the pod program at Simmons Hall was similarly paused for one week after reports of multiple pods intermingling.

\$10,000 reward in exchange for information

Suspect, from Page 1

car from a car dealership in Mansfield, Massachusetts around 5:30 p.m., a few hours before the Feb. 6 shooting.

Pan remains at large, with the United States Marshals Service expanding the manhunt nationwide March 1 and offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information that could lead to his arrest. Supervisory Deputy of the Agency Mat-

thew Duffy said Pan is believed to be staying in the Atlanta area in Georgia and should be considered “armed and dangerous.”

There were two previous warrants for Pan, one for stealing a vehicle out of Massachusetts and one for the possession of a stolen vehicle in Connecticut, according to Reyes.

In a Feb. 10 email to the MIT community, President L. Rafael Reif announced that “MIT Police

are in close contact with the New Haven Police Department and U.S. Marshals service and, based on information from these officials, have no reason to believe that our campus or Greater Boston communities are at risk.”

Pan completed his bachelor’s degrees in Computer Science and Engineering and Mathematics in 2014 and received a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2015.

Club and intramural sports are to continue

Varsity Sports, from Page 1

The decision to cancel spring semester sports competition “was very difficult, but we made it after much deliberation, consideration of federal, state, local and MIT Medical guidelines, and discussion with other stakeholders,” said Suzy Nelson, vice president and dean for student life. Student athletes’ and the community’s “health and well-being are our paramount concerns,” Nelson said.

The department is “currently working with MIT Medical and other campus partners on a plan to allow teams to participate in modified in-person training and conditioning during the semester,” consistent with National Collegiate Athletic Association health and safety guidelines, according to DAPER’s announcement.

The COVID-19 considerations for intercollegiate sports on the

MIT Athletics website include testing and attestation consistent with campus expectations; voluntary participation, staggered start times for practices, physical distance of six feet minimum, hand washing, face coverings, no provided water, and minimized use of shared equipment for in-person team activity sessions, strength and conditioning sessions, and Equipment Room access; remote team meetings; and suspension of locker room and laundry services.

The Sports Medicine Center will require appointments for routine care, virtual appointments where appropriate, and on-site temperature checks where appropriate.


For club and intramural sports, on-campus offerings will continue, consistent with state, local, and institutional guidelines while being subject to review. Club sports will employ physically-distant skill

drills and introductory activities for new members. An in-person intramural weekly league has been introduced for “cornhole, tennis, badminton, Kan Jam, soccer volley and a three-point shooting contest.”


DAPER “will have competitive leagues on imleagues.com, as well as a casual drop-in every night from Monday-Friday” on the Intramural Discord server for students who want to play esports, the DAPER website writes.

DAPER is “committed to providing a meaningful athletic experience for our student-athletes while adhering to the most up-to-date health and safety guidelines,” Grant wrote in the announcement. “We are very much looking forward to the time when all of our student-athletes are back on campus striving for excellence in the classroom, in the community and in competition.”


# Find your place at The Tech




NEWS




PHOTO




CAMPUS LIFE




PRODUCTION



OPINION



SPORTS



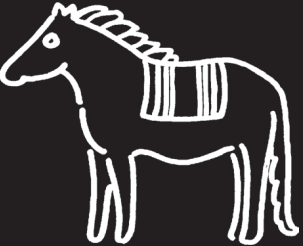
BUSINESS

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# Goose

Solution, page 8

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

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.

# HONK

Solution, page 8

19+					2x	6
6			12+			1
6x			20x		72x	
2x				6		
24x			22+			
	6x					5

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.

## In A Spin

by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 8

### ACROSS

- 1 Meat-and-potatoes dinner
- 5 Farmland measure
- 9 Puts on display
- 14 Volcanic flow
- 15 Chicken \_\_ mein (Chinese food)
- 16 Book of fiction
- 17 Beasts of burden in a yoke
- 18 Ceramic floor piece
- 19 Musical work with sopranos
- 20 Power sources with outdoor spinning blades
- 22 Flat French hat
- 23 Garden of Eden woman
- 24 TV network with an eye logo
- 25 Money back on a purchase
- 29 Every once in a while
- 34 Metal-bearing rocks
- 35 Convertibles and coupes
- 36 Once \_\_ blue moon (rarely)
- 37 Spinning laundry appliances
- 41 Compass point opposite WNW

- 42 Voicemail signals
- 43 Tug-of-war cord
- 44 Secondhand tires
- 46 Lavish meals
- 48 Toward the rear of a boat
- 49 Holder of peas
- 50 Cheer at a concert
- 53 Spinning rides with carved horses
- 59 Inland waterway
- 60 Army no-show, for short
- 61 End of a kite
- 62 Make amends
- 63 Rant and \_\_ (show anger)
- 64 Creme-filled cookie
- 65 Feeling antsy
- 66 Changed the color of
- 67 Attention-getting whisper

### DOWN

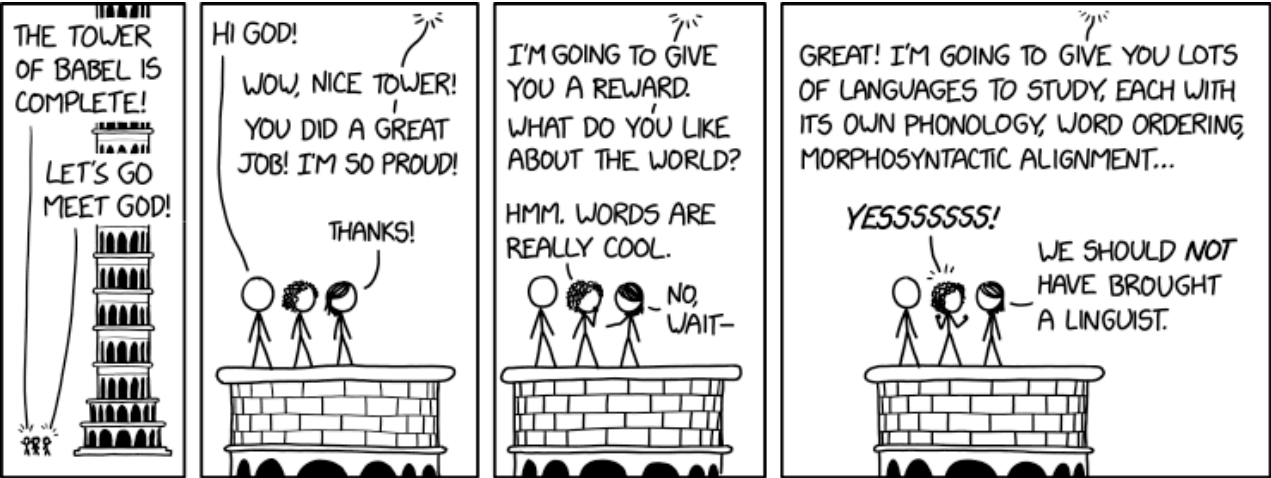
- 1 Leisurely, as a speed
- 2 Cabbie's vehicle
- 3 \_\_ so (nevertheless)
- 4 Wizard's magic stick
- 5 On the go
- 6 Long-and-narrow South American nation

- 7 Dice toss
- 8 Lambs' mamas
- 9 Snooty
- 10 "Fingers crossed"
- 11 Higher than
- 12 "Wish you \_\_ here"
- 13 Narrow plank
- 21 Encountered
- 24 Gator cousin
- 25 Person using oars
- 26 Wipe from a blackboard
- 27 Attack from all sides
- 28 Campfire residue
- 29 Tire-filling machines
- 30 When flights are due in: Abbr.
- 31 Prehistoric lizards, for short
- 32 With no skill
- 33 Assignments for detectives
- 35 Matured, as wine
- 38 Spelling rule that ends "except after C"
- 39 Clean and orderly
- 40 Nest-egg acronym
- 45 Black birds
- 46 Pulled a trick on

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
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				23				24							
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34						35						36			
37				38	39						40				
41				42							43				
44			45					46	47						
			48					49							
50	51	52					53	54				55	56	57	58
59							60					61			
62							63					64			
65							66					67			

- 47 College Web-address ender
- 49 Establish as a fact
- 50 Troublemaking child
- 51 Any formal ceremony
- 52 The Bard of \_\_ (Shakespeare)
- 53 Ace of hearts, for instance
- 54 Out of town
- 55 Call a halt to
- 56 Servings of corn
- 57 Isn't truthful
- 58 Mail-drop opening

## [2421] Tower of Babel



Soon, linguists will be wandering around everywhere, saying things like "colorless green ideas sleep furiously" and "more people have been to Russia than I have," and speech will become unintelligible.



# Climate Action Plan: Why you need to care and the importance of student voices

*SSC students present proposals to Dr. Zuber; UA Council considers consensus decision; UA and GSC to host student focus groups*

If someone asked you about sustainability at MIT, what would you think of? Maybe a class that touched on climate change or how much energy all your lab machines use up. If you had to tell someone who does climate-related research at MIT, would you know where to look to find your answer? Perhaps you've pondered whether MIT still works with fossil fuel companies. All of these topics, and more, link to a document hidden on the new MIT Climate Portal — the MIT Climate Action Plan.

In 2015, MIT released its first five-year Plan for Action on Climate Change, or Climate Action Plan (CAP) for short. The 2015 CAP was a result of several previous campus efforts surrounding climate and was most notably MIT's response to a petition to divest from student-led group Fossil Free MIT. It has now become the go-to for MIT to describe what actions it is taking to combat climate change. The original document outlines a "plan for the MIT community to address the escalating disruption of our global climate" and states that "given MIT's mission, history and capabilities, MIT has a particular responsibility to lead; and that the moment is now." The 2015 plan has five different sections, broadly organized as research efforts to increase understanding, low-carbon technology development, education, sharing knowledge, and using the community as a test bed (including greenhouse gas emission reductions).

Five years have passed, which means the time is now for MIT to review its previous plan and set its new goals. As climate disasters from wildfires to ice storms impact the lives of millions, including members of the MIT community, the urgency to take action grows with each year. Every term of five years is more pressing than the last. According to the “climate clock” activists installed dur-

ing the United Nations General Assembly in September, we have just under seven years to prevent an irreversible climate catastrophe. By the time the next CAP comes out, we'll have just 18 months to prevent this irreversible climate catastrophe.

In December 2020, the Undergraduate Association Committee on Sustainability (UA Sustain) asked the undergraduate student body: how has MIT done in reaching its previous CAP goals? As seen in the accompanying graph, there are many areas in which MIT can make more progress (using the campus as a test bed, partnering with industry and government to accelerate action on climate, and reducing its energy related carbon emissions).

A datapoint that wasn't measured but that is equally as important is this: how much does the MIT community actually know about the Climate Action Plan? Do students understand the potential of the CAP to change the campus they live on and the communities they partake in?

Take a moment to recognize that as a member of the MIT community, you possess the power to push for ambitious climate goals to influential MIT leaders and scientists. If you haven't had the chance to, look at the 2015 plan, and be your own judge on whether MIT set ambitious enough goals and whether we met them.

Finally, think about what you want to see in the next Climate Action Plan, and whether you want to be a part of this year's plan. Whatever the plan ends up being, it won't just shape the way the Institute acts and the way campus looks for years to come; it will shape your education, research, and career far beyond MIT.

Those of us in the Student Sustainability Coalition (SSC) have been thinking about the 2021 Climate Action Plan for some time now, and working on what we want to see in the plans as members of the sustainability

community at MIT. On Monday, February 22, a number of SSC students presented their recommendations across six key themes to the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC), chaired by Vice President for Research Dr. Maria Zuber. CAAC is charged with sourcing and providing recommendations for MIT's Climate Action Plan, and as such hosted the Student Voice forum/webinar, which was open to the entire MIT community. Following the presentations, Dr. Zuber led a discussion amongst students and CAAC members, beginning to delve into the nuances of the recommendations. Here, we provide an overview of the student proposals across the six themes:

- 1. Create the MIT Climate Council**, a governing body with diverse community representation that can set and implement ambitious goals for MIT's role in sustainability and climate action.

2. Implement an **iterative drafting process** for the Climate Action Plan creation, which should include at least monthly publications of drafts and solicitation of community feedback.
3. Treat the Climate Action Plan as a **living plan**, which can be frequently updated and revised. Updates to the plan's goals should be readily available on the Climate Portal.

MIT individuals and programs have informed climate policy at the city, state, federal, and global levels. However, these fragmented initiatives reveal the missed opportunity for a coordinated and much more powerful effort to link policymakers to MIT researchers. We thus suggest MIT:

1. Create a position in the MIT Washington office or in a politically-connected center (such as the Climate Pathways Project) focused on sourcing **opportu-**

Undergraduate respondents answer: Is MIT, as an institution, effectively...

Response Category	Taking action to mitigate climate change (N = 761)	Contributing to climate research (N = 766)	Reducing its energy-related carbon emissions (N = 760)	Providing students with educational opportunities in climate, energy, and the environment (N = 764)	Sharing climate knowledge with the broader external community (N = 758)	Using the campus as a test bed for sustainability (N = 762)	Partnering with industry and government to accelerate action on the climate change (N = 758)
Strongly disagree	5.1%	1.7%	3.7%	3.5%	3.8%	7.4%	9.2%
Somewhat disagree	16.8%	1.7%	13.4%	6.5%	12.4%	26.4%	18.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	29.6%	9.9%	47.1%	13.5%	29.8%	35.3%	40.6%
Somewhat agree	39.0%	46.9%	26.5%	47.7%	35.1%	23.8%	23.2%
Strongly agree	9.5%	39.8%	9.3%	28.8%	18.9%	7.2%	8.8%

## Undergraduate respondents indicate whether MIT has made progress on its climate action plan goals.

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**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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## ME VS. ME

# Is anything truly irreversible?

# Arthritis, the college years, and the lasting social effects of COVID-19

In the past few weeks, I've walked through the cold to my UROP, my in-person lab class, and the grocery store. Californians in Boston are generally divided into two categories: the ones who are terrified of the cold and wear excessively puffy jackets, and the ones who are wholly unprepared and continue existing in t-shirts and shorts.

My mom falls into the first category, while I fall into the second. So, even as I wear the incredibly bulky jacket she forced me to bring to Boston, I feel the wind blow straight into my knee joints, given that I'm only wearing leggings. It's slightly uncomfortable, but not so much that I'd put on the ski pants I was also required to bring. What's more uncomfortable is the nagging voice in my head that I am "irreversibly damaging my joints." My hands turn red and cracked, but not enough for me to put on the gloves

sitting on my desk. Often, I can physically hear my mom telling me I'll get arthritis at 30, I'll catch a cold, or I'll get migraines when I get older if I go to bed with wet hair.

Sometimes I'm inclined to believe her — but how would I know? How is 60-year-old me going to come back in time and tell me that, indeed, I would have migraines and arthritis?

In chemistry, we learn that every reaction is reversible, as long as enough energy is supplied to push the reaction towards favorability. And I think that's how I used to think about things: Brute force and energy are all I need to make anything happen. Gibbs and Le Chatelier said so. That's certainly how I pushed myself to exhaustion and beyond, with the guarantee that I could make up my sleep debt "sometime in the future."

But now, as an old and weary upper-classman, I've begun to consider the other lesson learned in chemistry classes: relevant time frames. There are reactions that

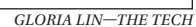
can be considered “to completion,” meaning you can assume that all the reactants are converted to products and proceed to the next step. Though the reverse reaction might happen, it probably won’t in the few minutes it takes to add the next reagent.

This is especially important in biology and psychology. The purpose of enzymes is to speed up spontaneous, yet incredibly slow, processes to a rate where life can function. Similarly, no matter how much energy is expended into learning a language now, I'll probably always be better at the two I learned as a child, because the window of opportunity closes at a certain age.

In the span of a lifetime, will I ever find the time to turn back? Even if I do, will it be possible to reverse anything solely with effort? Sometimes delta G is a mountain I don't want to climb, even if I could. The number of conversations I've had with friends that end with "I'll get a job, I'll work, and then I'll die" make the future seem bleak.

That brings me to the thought that instigated this week's article: Are we losing something in these college years, because of the pandemic, that we won't ever be able to get back, regardless of how much energy we pour into it? Not only the care-free pseudo-adult life, but also the bonds, the traditions (having to explain the pumpkin and piano drop to frosh hurts my soul), and the quirks that make MIT, MIT. Will it be forever impossible to catch up to those ahead of us?

Granted, many people are already worried about young children who won't learn how to socialize or play and share with others because of remote learning. I'm not sure if "the college years" are something to cry over, but they certainly are something special. The past year has been bizarre, and lonesome, given that socialization is a near necessity for humans. But we're the generation that grew up on the internet, and I believe we can survive what we've lost.



**Five semesters later,** 5.111 does in fact influence my life.









# 2021 College Scholarships & Community Involvement Award Opportunities



### Living. Learning. Sharing.

To support members investing in their education and communities, MIT Federal Credit Union will select six (6) Memorial Scholarship and one (1) “People Helping People” Award recipients in the Spring 2021.

### Deadline:

All submissions must be received by MIT FCU no later than 4pm EST on Friday, March 19, 2020.

Learn more at [mitfcu.org/scholarships](https://mitfcu.org/scholarships)



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### Solution to In A Spin

from page 3

S	T	E	W	A	C	R	E	S	H	O	W	S
L	A	V	A	C	H	O	W	N	O	V	E	L
O	X	E	N	T	I	L	E	O	P	E	R	A
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A	T	O	N	E		R	A	V	E	O	R	E
T	E	N	S	E		D	Y	E	D	P	S	S

### Solution to HONK

from page 3

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

### Solution to Goose

from page 3

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

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