



FARIN TAVACOLI—THE TECH

**In response to the conclusion of Derek Chauvin's murder trial,** MIT administration set up an "Impact Board" Tuesday evening on Kresge Oval, upon which MIT community members could post notes as an "opportunity for expression and dialogue."

## Faculty discuss fall planning, first-year unit limit at meeting

*Faculty members share thoughts on potential vaccine requirements or disclosure policy for fall semester*

By Kristina Chen  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Faculty attendees discussed fall planning and changes to the first-year spring credit limit at the virtual April faculty meeting. Attendees additionally recognized the recipients of the Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award and reviewed motions to change the required units for the Master of Architecture (MARCH) degree and to add new senior leadership roles to the rules and regulations of the faculty.

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 provided an overview of the Insti-

tute's plans for Fall 2021 and posed additional questions for faculty to discuss.

Barnhart said that the Institute hopes to "be back to full operations" or "as close to normal operations as we think we can be" in the fall by inviting all students back to residences, classrooms, and labs; resuming full in-person academic and research activities on campus; and bringing back in-person residential, co-curricular, and athletic experiences.

Barnhart added that staff are expected to return by Sept. 7 and that there will be "new ways of working."

Additionally, MIT expects that many COVID-era restrictions will be lifted, but some may remain in place. "We don't know to what extent, but testing, enhanced cleaning, physical distancing, and mask-wearing could be necessary," Barnhart said.

Barnhart also described what MIT does not know yet, including what the state of Massachusetts will require of universities; whether students, faculty, and staff should be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or required to report vaccination status; how much testing

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## Geathers, Chen reflect on year in office, discuss changes for 2021

*The incumbent Undergraduate Association president and vice president are running for second term unopposed*

By Srinidhi Narayanan  
NEWS EDITOR

Danielle Geathers '22 and Yu Jing Chen '22 are running for re-election for Undergraduate Association (UA) president and vice president.

*The Tech* spoke with Geathers and Chen over Zoom to reflect on their year in office and discuss their platform and plans. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

***The Tech:* What part of your experience over the past year drove you to run again?**

**Danielle Geathers:** I definitely

think the biggest thing is understanding that the work we started isn't finished, and understanding how short institutional memory is and how short it has been in the past. In looking back on our past year we're really proud of everything we have accomplished, but at the same time we think "we could have done that better" or "oh, this is actually a better way to do it." Having done a full term, we really do understand where everything fits in. We still have learning to do, but at the same time we have a completely different understanding of how the Institute works, how the UA can work,

and what students want; we have the chance to start anew while keeping our values the same. We're willing to put the time in, and we're ready to get some more stuff done.

**Yu Jing Chen:** We definitely wouldn't run again or invest so much time and energy into this, unless we really believed that there was a difference to be made in this coming year, and the difference we think can be made builds off of what we started. You can see this reflected in our platform. We wanted people to get the

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MICHELE GABRIELE

**Flowers were set out at the memorial dedicated to Sean Collier** near Hockfield Court. Sean Collier served as an MIT Campus Police and lost his life during the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing.

### IN SHORT

**Building assignments** for current first years will be released April 23. Fall housing switch lottery results will also be announced.

**Drop date** is April 29. It is also the last day to change a full-term subject from credit to listener or to or from PE/NE grading.

The deadline to submit a proposal for **UROP direct funding** has been extended to April 29.

MIT community members living in Massachusetts should **pre-register for COVID-19 vaccines** and update their vaccine status at [covid-vaccine.mit.edu](https://covid-vaccine.mit.edu).

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

**Send news and tips to** [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## Class of 2023 Brass Rat unveiled at virtual Ring Premiere on April 19 via YouTube livestream

*Bezel includes Purell sanitizer stand and 0.0 GPA after two semesters of Pass/No Record*

By Nicole Chan  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Class of 2023 Ring Committee unveiled its Brass Rat design at Ring Premiere April 19 via a YouTube livestream beginning at 8:23 p.m. ET. Ring Delivery is tentatively scheduled for October 2021.

The main bezel features a beaver holding a silver tube containing a diploma scroll, connecting the first and last shared experiences of the class. Its tail showcases a "23" hidden as an optical illusion and the railing behind the beaver bends into a pi symbol, representing the March 14 anniversary of admissions decisions.

The left half of the bezel fea-

tures an inscribed "IHTFP" in pixelated MIT buildings reflected in the Charles River. A Purell hand sanitizer stand appears on top of the Kresge Auditorium, symbolizing the hacking culture at MIT. On the Green Building, a "0.0" marking "immortalizes the class's freshman year GPA, due to Pass/No Record and emergency grading."

The right side of the bezel features Boston landmarks, including the Citgo Sign, Prudential Center, Boston Common, and brownstone houses representing the fraternity, sorority, and independent living groups. An apple tree is a "nod to Harvard for our cross-registered classes and shared library system," Chair of the Ring Committee Anan-

ya Gurumurthy '23 said during the premiere.

Above the beaver, there is a crescent moon and a full moon, representing the two moon phases during convocation and graduation, the first and last days that the Class of 2023 will be students at MIT. In the sky, a rocket "marks the beginning of a new era in space travel," referencing the Falcon 9 flight as well as the Perseverance Mission, according to Gurumurthy.

Margaret Zheng '23, committee publicity co-chair, said that the seal shank represents "the diversity of our class," replacing the "traditional MIT seal featuring two male figures." The left side of the seal stands a female figure holding a hammer,

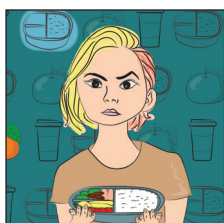
symbolizing hands-on innovation and craftsmanship. Her "modern apparel" emphasizes "durability and convenience." The male figure on the right holds a book while wearing a lab coat, symbolizing the "tremendous contribution made by scientific researchers and medical workers at MIT and around the globe."

The class shank features Athena and Cerberus in front of the Great Dome. Cerberus's three heads represent the students' past, present and future connections to MIT. Athena lays her hand on top of Cerberus's head, "guiding the hound as well as MIT students through any obstacles we may face," said Ring Premiere Co-

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### STOP ASIAN HATE

The UA Diversity Council denounces anti-Asian racism and shares resources.  
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### LOVE

A gratitude, a ritual, an expression.  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**



### BOATS

Staying afloat... at what cost? **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

### WHY ARE PREFROSH EXCITED?

2025s tell us their favorite CP\* events.  
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WEATHER

# Spring into the last month of class!

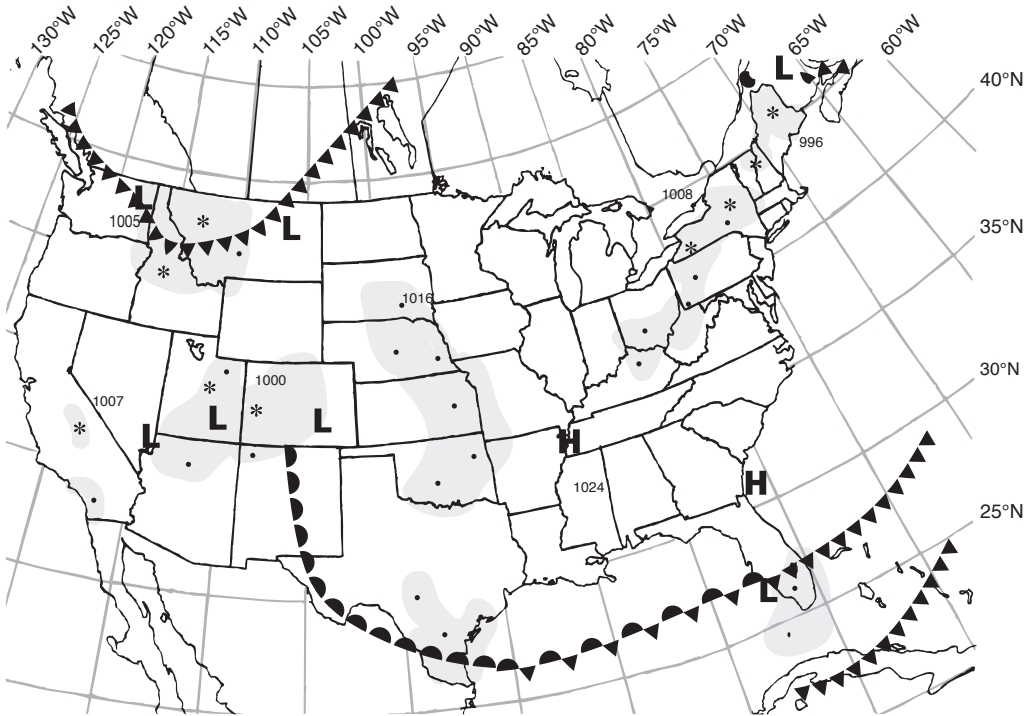
By Trinity Manuelito  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

With spring here, everyone on campus is looking to enjoy some time in the sun. This week everyone is in luck! The next few days will be sunny with a hint of clouds. The long weekend just passed but that doesn't mean you can't find some time to head outdoors. Some ways to spend time outdoors include a socially distanced walk with a friend, pset on Kresge,



















and throwing a frisbee on Killian. Whatever it may be, try to get outside and enjoy the sun! On Sunday, rain is a possibility so don't put away your raincoats just yet. Even though rain and cooler temperatures can get people down, power through the rest of the semester. The final stretch is here! Summer is around the corner. With nicer weather starting to roll in, try to have some fun amidst the chaos that is the final weeks of the semester.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Cloudy. High around 50°F (10°C). West winds around 23 mph.  
**Tonight:** Cloudy. High around 50°F (10°C). West winds around 23 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Sunny and clear. High around 58°F (14°C) and low around 45°F (7°C). West winds around 10-14 mph.  
**Saturday:** Sunny. High around 66°F (19°C) and low around 48°F (9°C). West winds around 10 mph.  
**Sunday:** Rain likely. High around 52°F (11°C) and low around 45°F (7°C). East winds around 14-17 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, April 22, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
<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 <i>The Tech</i>
					

# First-year credit limit vote will likely take place at May faculty meeting

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

will be needed in the fall; and how teaching and learning in the fall will differ from pre-COVID teaching and learning.

Professor Claire Conceison asked whether faculty meetings would be held during the summer and whether non-MIT students would be permitted to come to MIT's campus to participate in activities. According to Chair of the Faculty Rick Danheiser, it has yet to be discussed whether faculty meetings will take place during the summer and that updates will likely be communicated via morning calls. Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz said that he anticipates planning for educational and research activities involving visitors to occur "over the next few weeks" and advised activities with visiting participants to have backup plans.

Professor Christopher Zegras PhD '05 asked what capabilities faculty can expect to have provided by the Institute to facilitate hybrid teaching and meetings. Waitz responded that they can assume the same capabilities that MIT currently has.

Professor Eugenie Brinkema said that, especially for faculty with children or vulnerable family members who are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, MIT should provide "a lot of latitude in faculty decisions regarding things like teaching and learning ... and deciding if they want to, for example, continue to teach virtually."

Professor Haynes Miller asked whether MIT has any metrics or benchmarks that they expect to reach before "things become normal" or that might indicate when a return to virtual learning would be necessary.

Waitz responded that Professor Peko Hosoi along with members of MIT's COVID Management Team have worked extensively to have a "good sense of what it takes to manage MIT in a pandemic." He said that with respect to vaccinations, it would be useful for MIT to know how many people are vaccinated, how effective the vaccine is, prevalence of the vaccine in the community, and the impact of the vaccine on serious cases of COVID-19.

Waitz said that MIT will not know what many of the parameters will be like in the fall, since "we're still only a few months into living with the vaccine and knowing how effective it is." Waitz added that it would be helpful to have more information to strengthen MIT's understanding for the fall.

Faculty members discussed at length whether the COVID-19 vaccine should be required for all members of the MIT community and how community members could report their vaccination status.

Professor Yossi Sheffi PhD '78 asked why MIT is "even considering" not requiring everybody that can be vaccinated to be vaccinated.

Vice President for Human Resources Ramona Allen responded that MIT plans to "strongly urge staff to get the vaccine." However, "some people feel very strongly ... against getting the vaccine, and so we want to be respectful of that opinion as well. No decision has been made. It would be our hope that the entire community would be vaccinated, but I'm not sure we're gonna get there."

Director of MIT Medical Cecilia Stuopis '90 added that ideally, "100% of our community takes the vaccination," but in contrast, "with the reality of the world that we live in and with the very human people that we interact with who have free agency, and we do have to have that respectful approach in dialogue with them."

Professor Roger Levy asked whether MIT could require disclosure of vaccinations from a legislative or legal perspective, such that MIT does not need to risk intrusion on "individual liberty."

Vice President and General Counsel Mark DiVincenzo responded that he does not believe there will be legislative action from the state requiring vaccines or disclosures but that as a legal matter, MIT can require employees to vaccinate. Additionally, MIT is discussing whether or not "even if we didn't mandate that [they receive vaccines], we would be asking people to confirm whether or not they have been vaccinated" via COVID Pass.

Professor Caroline Jones asked whether it was possible for MIT, if community members report vaccination status, to require unvaccinated individuals to test frequently or to analyze the risk of being exposed for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Waitz cited MIT's wastewater detection program and current on-campus testing as effective in determining cases of COVID-19 early. Waitz added that he is "a strong supporter" of requiring vaccination information from individuals, as it would enable MIT "to better manage the campus and give everyone additional liberties and releases from some of the restrictions we have now."

Professor Leon Glicksman mentioned that many undergraduates are required to receive immunizations prior to enrolling at MIT and asked whether there is a policy for students who refuse the immunizations.

Stuopis said that those immunizations are mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which allows religious or medical exemptions to the requirements. Additionally, MIT enforces the immunizations through registration holds on students.

Glicksman asked whether there have been cases in which students have "raised a ruckus" due to the requirements. Stuopis answered that "every year, there's a handful of students who raise a ruckus," and those students are "almost always domestic students" rather than international students, who sometimes do not have access to vaccines required by the Commonwealth.

Glicksman also asked whether the COVID-19 vaccine could potentially go on the same list of required vaccinations, to which Stuopis responded "yes."

Discussion on the vaccine also took place in the Zoom chat.

In response to questions in the chat about whether the COVID-19 vaccines having full FDA authorization rather than EUA approval during a health emergency would make a difference in requiring vaccinations, Stuopis wrote that "the clear preference would be to have full authorization. That being said, the cogs of the FDA run at their own pace, and we may not be able to use that as a gating criteria."

Stuopis added that "the data supplied for EUA approval for these vaccines was very near the same amount of data that would typically be provided for a standard path to approval."

Additionally, when asked in the chat whether data has been collected on the COVID Pass app on vaccine rates or access within the MIT community, Stuopis wrote that "the yield on the self-reporting of vaccination in CovidPass has not been as robust as we would like. There are also many MIT community members who are not in COVID pass who we do not have insight into." MIT is currently working on a reporting system for all community members that "should be ready to roll out soon," Stuopis wrote.

Professor Arthur Bahr, chair of the committee on the undergraduate program (CUP), presented a motion to change the first-year spring credit limit from 57 units to 60 units. The motion was moved and seconded by

faculty members for a vote at the May faculty meeting.

Bahr said that the main reason for the change is that "60 is simply a more rational upper limit than 57, given how many subjects are 12 units and how relatively few are nine." Additionally, the CUP voted at its March 31 meeting to approve the proposal with a vote of 13 in favor to one not in favor.

The proposal was initially presented at the March faculty meeting.

Bahr added that students and advisors should recognize that the 60-unit credit limit is "an upper limit, not a norm or expectation" and that the CUP believes "that for most students in most semesters, not just the first year, 48 [units] is likely to be a more appropriate load" than 60.

Bahr said that the CUP is working on a statement of intent regarding the proposal that would explain its rationale as well as "educate first year advisors and students alike about manageable course loads."

Professor Steven Leeb PhD '93, the only CUP member who did not vote in favor of the proposal, proposed a formal motion to delay voting on the change to the credit limit until the February 2022 faculty meeting. Leeb's motion was moved and seconded.

Secretary of the Faculty Professor David Singer said that because there was no mechanism for voting at the April meeting, the vote on Leeb's motion would take place at the May meeting prior to the vote on Bahr's motion.

Leeb said that "nothing in the [CUP's] proposal is necessary to start a happy and full year next year" and that he would be grateful if faculty allowed "a little bit more time to discuss" the change.

Professor W. Craig Carter also raised concerns about the CUP's proposal from the March meeting which sought to eliminate Early Sophomore Standing (ESS). Carter mentioned that in addition to ESS, Advanced Placement exams and Advanced Standing Exams may create disparities among first years and questioned "whether advanced standing is a good measure of mastery and perhaps a lost opportunity to revisit fundamental concepts."

Carter also suggested that the CUP or other faculty members develop a stronger measure of whether students are receiving a better education at MIT.

Responding to Leeb's and Carter's concerns, Bahr stated that the CUP has gathered input on the proposal from faculty governance committees, student support services,

the Office of Minority Education and that "feedback in support of the proposal has been overwhelming."

Additionally, Associate Director of Academic Services at the Sloan School of Management Mary Camerlengo asked whether the committee on academic performance would still consider requests to exceed the credit limit if the change is made. Bahr answered that no provision is being made for petitions to exceed the credit limit.

Faculty additionally moved and seconded a motion presented by Professor Martha Gray PhD '86, chair of the committee on graduate programs, to decrease the number required units for the MARCH degree by removing 30 units of unrestricted electives, thereby decreasing the total units from 312 to 282. No changes would be made to the program's thesis requirement.

Gray said that the program would remain "in line with accreditation requirements, but the change will facilitate timely graduation and increased flexibility for students by reducing the overall workload."

Faculty also moved and seconded a motion to add two new senior leadership roles — the Dean of the Schwarzman College of Computing and the Institute Community and Equity Officer — to the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty.

The three motions and Leeb's proposal to delay voting on the first-year credit limit will be voted on at the May faculty meeting.

Professor Bevin Engelward, chair of the Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award selection committee, presented the award's 2020-2021 recipients, Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Desirée Plata PhD '09 and Urban Studies and Planning Professor Justin Steil.

Engelward said that the senior faculty colleague who nominated Plata wrote that she is "motivated by the common good, especially in regard to keeping people safe from hazardous chemicals in the environment ... In alignment with her passions, she is a global leader in proactive environmental engineering ... Her work is leading us away from the cleanup mode of environmental protection and towards smart and sustainable innovation that aims to prevent future negative impacts on the environment."

Engelward said that the senior faculty colleague who nominated Steil wrote that he "is a nationally recognized scholar of urban plan-



# Two professors received Edgerton Award, nominated by senior colleagues

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ning and law” whose research “has been particularly impactful with re-

gard to fair housing and preserving existing civil rights protections. 57 cities, counties, civil rights organizations, and fair housing organiza-

tions across the U.S. have cited his research... Professor Steil brings MIT students into contact with real world problems that they help to address.”

The Edgerton Award annually recognizes outstanding non-tenured members of the MIT faculty “for exceptional distinction in

teaching, research, and service” from candidates nominated by other faculty members, Engelward said.

# Geathers: ‘Moving forward, Institute committees are big on our agenda’

Interview, from Page 1

sense that we’ve done a lot, but we need to make sure that this isn’t lost.

**TT: Are there salient differences from or additions to your campaign platform from last year?**

**Geathers:** There are differences. We accomplished a lot from our last platform like Indigenous Peoples’ Day, creating the Diversity Council, free menstrual products. So obviously, it wasn’t going to be exactly the same. There was more [focus on] institutionalizing things. Our platform this time is very much like “we got Diversity Council, and they met for a year, but if we leave, who’s to say they meet ever again?”

Yu Jing is involved in the first generation low income (FLI) coalition and creating an office has become a top priority for us. Figuring out how to make sure the Institute creates an office and a space, and hires staff, and provides the necessary resources for that community is one major thing that we added on to the platform. Last time, we were definitely less experienced, our platform was definitely like naming things. Rather than the sporadic initiatives we wanted to do, it’s more so tying it all together and figuring out how we can actually long term make changes and institutionalize things that will have a great impact on the UA.

**Chen:** Instead of just listing all the things we want to get done, like the initiatives and outcomes, we really want to invest in the process. We really want to invest in a foundation of the process, where people believe that they can make the change, whether they’re a first year or a senior. Our three [platform points] —protecting the magic of MIT, leveraging student power, and uplifting every voice — require bringing everybody in. That process is the big trick. We didn’t think about processes at the beginning, but now we’ve learned a lot more about organizational leadership.

**TT: What has campaigning been like amidst the pandemic? How have you been reaching out to people, getting people involved, or making them aware of the election under present circumstances?**

**Chen:** We definitely have done less campaigning this year and that’s because there is no other person running, and for all class council elections, there’s no contested election. But that doesn’t mean that we don’t want to engage people because there’s no competition. We’re thinking strategically and planning how we want to engage different commu-

nities for this new term. We’re thinking about how to make sure that what we work on is what the student body wants us to work on. That’s why a lot of our platform isn’t a list of things; we want that list of things to be made from the communities and student body themselves. I think the most community engagement will be happening not really this campaign season, so we’re thinking about what community engagement looks like whether that’s in the summer when people have more time or bringing those pieces together.

**Geathers:** Although it was also virtual last time, [last year] we were alone in our rooms all day. Now, Yu Jing and I are on campus, a lot of people in our community are on campus, and it’s nice to see people, talk to them, get the in person experience that we missed last time. This year we are president and vice president, so even if people don’t vote for us, it’s our responsibility to get people to vote in general. We do a lot of work with the election commission to make sure they understand they can use the UA Instagram, they can use UA Facebook, they can use undergrads@ emails to tell people that the election is happening. We encourage them to use that space, not necessarily campaigning for us, but getting voter turnout high in general. We’re planning to flyer dorms, probably get some emails up. We want to push voter turnout.

**TT: You’re running uncontested, which is different from last year. How did you find that different? How do you make sure you’re still holding yourselves accountable, thinking from various perspectives, and still trying to improve your platform, even if there’s no external party checking you?**

**Geathers:** That’s a good question. Historically, before our election, the past three were unopposed, and that’s more traditional unfortunately. Part of it is understanding that we aren’t going to be satisfied with 15%, 20% turnout. We are naturally competitive people and we do want the validation of people believing in our platform, so we wouldn’t be okay not doing anything just because history tells us those numbers will be low. We want to get up to what it was last year, which will obviously be hard because people were choosing [between candidates] but ideally we would want to keep raising the voter turnout because these positions are important. There is the motivating factor of wanting people to know what we are doing, and we want them to feel like they have a voice in

it and that they can shift back.

**Chen:** Election season shouldn’t be the only time we hold ourselves accountable or shape our platform. We have been and we will be investing a lot of time into thinking what this next year will look like. And a really important component of that is shaping the committees because they’re going to be the ones that implement a lot of the initiatives that we all collectively as a student body decide are important for us to take on. We shouldn’t be constrained to a week, and we’re thinking about how we want to do that most effectively so that people actually engage and give valuable feedback and input. I wanted to stress this idea of accountability and bettering ourselves because we are incumbents. It is something that needs to continue past campaign season and throughout the term, so we’re thinking about how to do best.

**TT: What are some highlights of the campaign so far?**

**Chen:** I really liked hammering out the platform. It was stressful getting everything into words, everything we want to convey, but it was really good for us to sit down and think about the big picture. With everything that’s happening in the world, like anti-Asian racism, or how mental health has been on campus with these long weekends, our role as student government is to engage with that. At the same time, we have to take a step back and think about the big picture like where the UA is going, and writing that platform helped us take a step back and think about how everything fits in.

**TT: Which initiative or goal that you’ve met from last year’s platform are you most proud of?**

**Geathers:** Personally for me, it was Diversity Council. Having been the officer on diversity last year, and seeing our current officer on Diversity put so much work in over IAP to make sure that groups understood the importance of diversity council was really exciting. Now we have meetings for 40 plus people, and we’re really getting that interaction. We’re turning a new page in terms of what the UA does. Understanding the importance of Diversity Council seeing it come to fruition this year has made me really proud and inspired me to make sure that that continues on.

**Chen:** The thing that I’ve been most involved in and really proud of is our response to COVID-19 and how we’ve embedded student voice into Institute decisions. The creation of pods is from the UA and the Committee on COVID-19, an ad hoc

committee that we created, to be at the frontline in embedding student voice. The grading policy, the one PE/NE that was given to students, and the fact that third party proctoring needed approval from the chair of the faculty before anybody could use it were because of us. There were a lot of student life decisions that we were able to impact this year. I’m really proud that we were able to be proactive in our response and be very on the ground because our response really impacted student lives.

**TT: On the flip side, is there anything that didn’t turn out as you’d hoped, or something you plan to improve this year?**

**Geathers:** We had a platform point related to Institute committees and student demand. It was hard to wrangle in all the student reps virtually. We did more than has been done previously in terms of actually having times when Institute committee representatives are supposed to come together, but I don’t think we’re at the point of completely leveraging student powers, where most people know what Institute committees are, most people know how to apply, or the representatives on these committees are engaging communities on the topics they’re working on. Moving forward, Institute committees are big on our agenda, we want to make sure that all of our representatives are top notch, know what they’re doing, excited for the work and willing to engage their communities. That was something we kind of touched on in the platform point, but now that we’re both on several Institute committees, we know how we can better leverage student power and get those handles.

**Chen:** One thing we could have improved on and will be improving on this coming year would be administrative transparency and the Institute committee process and embedding student voice in there. I’ve grown a lot in my understanding of the Institute, faculty, administration, and staff — how different players and stakeholders come together, how decisions are made at the Institute. That’s better informed me about how we actually make change. It’s not just about getting people to listen, because there are a lot of administrators that are listening, but rather, how we actually come to a solution that is good for all stakeholders. There are a lot of stakeholders we’re not thinking about as students. That experience and nuance is definitely something we’ll be bringing in for this coming year, and especially in how we work with Institute committees.

# Quarter rest on Hacker’s Map represents year spent away from campus

Brass Rat, from Page 1

Chair Katherine Guo ’23, Her face of determination “mirrors our class’s own determination as we overcome many challenges of this year as well as any future challenges in the years to come.”

The Brass Rat also features the Cambridge and Boston skylines. The Boston skyline includes Zakim

Bridge, Massachusetts State Hall, the John Hancock Tower, and the Boston Logan International Airport, while the Cambridge skyline includes the Kresge Auditorium, Stata Center, and the List Visual Art Center. On both skylines, the Harvard Bridge makes an appearance, connecting the Cambridge and Boston communities.

The Hacker’s Map lies on the inverse of the bezel. This year, the MIT

tunnel system map is a scaled model of the actual system, drawn in reference to MIT building floor maps. In addition, the Class of 2023 map features a graphic of an office chair, a reference to the shared experience of rolling down the tunnels beneath the main Infinite Corridor.

A quarter rest is seen next to Building 26 on the map, representing not just the melodies played by

students on the piano outside of 26-100 but also the year spent away from campus. The compass is stylized as a power switch symbol, with the straight segment indicating true north. This recognizes the technology culture at MIT as well as how the pandemic has “turned the students off and on again,” said Rachana Madhukara ’23, treasurer of the committee.

Before revealing the official bezel, the committee presented a joke bezel featuring a reconnecting Zoom screen, an Among Us figure, senator Bernie Sanders sitting on a chair, unit vectors describing the “Right Hand Rule,” and a French Tim the Beaver in the Charles River, riding a boat sponsored by Corona beer and wearing a face mask.

Rings can be ordered online.

Solution to Take

from page 5

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

Solution to True

from page 5

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

Solution to Breakfast

from page 5

D	I	N	G	M	A	R	C	J	E	T	S				
I	D	E	A	O	R	E	O	B	U	R	R	O			
S	L	A	M	T	U	N	A	L	I	N	E	N			
C	E	R	E	A	L	B	O	X	A	C	I	N	G		
				T	E	A		C	R	E	E	D	S		
G	R	A	M	M	Y	U	N	P	E	G					
L	E	V	I	S		A	S	I	A		L	A	S	H	
I	D	O	L		W	R	E	N	S		A	L	O	E	
B	O	N	K		H	A	R	E		P	S	A	L	M	
				B	L	A	B	S		S	A	S	S	E	S
O	N	F	O	O	T		A	I	R						
R	O	O	T	S		C	O	F	F	E	E	C	U	P	
A	B	A	T	E		A	B	I	T		W	O	R	E	
T	E	L	L	S		M	O	R	E		E	D	G	E	
E	L	S	E			P	E	E	R		S	E	E	K	

Solution to Break

from page 6

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

Capture the Moment

Join Photo at The Tech

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# #StopAsianHate: A call to action for the MIT community

*UA Diversity Council denounces anti-Asian racism and calls for solidarity with Asian members of the MIT community through collective action*

**By Kelvin Green II and Ishana Shastri**

As written in the Undergraduate Association Diversity Council (UADC) Charter, the UADC is empowered to “craft policy and statements addressed to the Institute.” Recent events, namely the media attention on anti-Asian racism and acts of white supremacy has led UADC to speak with one voice to denounce white supremacy and anti-Asian racism; address the hurt and pain our community feels in the wake of these violent acts; and demonstrate our solidarity with all Asian members of our community.

Undoubtedly, MIT would not be the same without the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The AAPI community is represented in our students, faculty, and administration; our housing staff, dining staff, and lab researchers; as well as first responders and front-line workers in the Cambridge community fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. We acknowledge the pain many members of our community are feeling and also protest the widespread invalidation by the media and others who use sympathetic language in reference to white perpetrators rather than affirming the grief people are grappling with at this time. Whether or not you identify as Asian, it is important to understand in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr, “Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” Silence is violence. To not be actively anti-racist is to be actively complicit in the violence of racism.

**Silence is violence. To not be actively anti-racist is to be actively complicit in the violence of racism.**

We acknowledge the history of anti-Asian racism in America. From the 1854 California Supreme Court ruling (*People v. Hall*) that people of Asian descent could not testify against a White person in court; to the Chinese massacre of 1871 where hundreds of white and Hispanic people entered Old Chinatown in Los Angeles, CA and attacked, bullied, robbed, and murdered Chinese residents in cold blood; to the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers; to the Rock Springs massacre of 1885 where 150 white miners brutally attacked their

Chinese coworkers forcing them out of the town; to the Japanese internment camps of the 1940s impacting over 100,000 Japanese people; to the murder of Vincent Chin by two white men in 1982; to the overwhelming racism and xenophobia expressed by the former President of the United States in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic; to countless other anti-Asian and racist acts which have not received media coverage or a page in a history book. We also recognize the diversity in the Asian community and protest the historical narrative which limits the perception of Asian to those of East Asian descent and neglects the effect of racism on South Asians.

**Although the Institute purports to have made strides toward justice, it still has a long way to go.**

We also acknowledge the history of racism at MIT. From MIT's relationship with the Wampanoag and Massachusett tribes and the land it currently occupies to the connections our founding president William Barton Rogers had with American chattel slavery; from the perpetuation of the model minority myth to the history of xenophobia and exclusion toward those of Latino descent; all these examples demonstrate MIT's troubling past and present with racism. Although the Institute purports to have made strides toward justice, it still has a long way to go. For far too long, MIT has excused racism, fetishization, and anti-Asian sentiment within the Institute. We must begin to acknowledge that these issues cannot be divorced from our campus.

## MIT should be hiring more counselors who specialize in racial trauma.

The UA Diversity Council calls on the MIT senior leadership to demonstrate efforts to hire more AAPI mental health counselors and mental support for underrepresented minorities. Racial trauma is not a new kind of trauma, and with the recent media attention around racial violence both locally and nationally, MIT should be hiring more counselors who specialize in racial trauma. Moreover, the lack

of accessibility to mental health and behavioral services within MIT Medical not only sheds a poor light on MIT's commitment to ensuring positive community morale, but also further stigmatizes requesting mental health support and lifts the already high barrier for underrepresented minorities to seek professional help from mental health services.

## We ask the MIT administration to begin disaggregating demographic data

We also ask MIT senior leadership to facilitate and host more open spaces for communication regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We ask for more centralized communication, strategy, and planning within the senior leadership, schools, and departments around DEI, instead of our current model of decentralization which has proven time and again to be an impediment in enacting DEI initiatives.

Not only is it important to acknowledge, speak out, and support those affected by injustice, but it is equally pertinent to investigate the breakdown of Asian-American student enrollment at the Institute. Simply stating that 36.1% of the domestic undergraduate population is “Asian” does a disservice to underrepresented ethnicities within the Asian-American community who fall into this aggregation; it also facilitates the trope of a monolithic Asian community dominating higher education. We ask the MIT administration to begin disaggregating demographic data and investigating ways of making more targeted attempts at recruiting and yielding underrepresented ethnicities within the Asian diaspora.

Combating racism and its byproducts is not only the responsibility of MIT senior leadership, but also of every member of our community and beyond. We encourage everyone to think about the intersectionalities of identity that are represented in these events. We saw on March 16 how six working-class Asian women aged 33 to 74 were targeted as a byproduct of fetishization and “fixation on sexual temptation.” We saw on April 15 how four members of the Indianapolis Sikh community were targeted in a mass shooting at a local FedEx facility. Not only are these acts of white terrorism sick-

**Stop Asian Hate, Page 7**

# DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (**hint: yours!**).  
Email your pieces to [cl@tech.mit.edu](mailto:cl@tech.mit.edu)

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**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Joanna Lin, Editor in Chief Kristina Chen, Managing Editor Chloe McCreery, Executive Editor Wenbo Wu, and the opinion editor, a position that is currently vacant.

**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 [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, 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.

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Take

Solution, page 3

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

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.

True

Solution, page 3

40x		270x			
	6+		23+		4
13+		1			6x
	13+			3x	
		8x			5
1		5		10+	

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.

Breakfast Table by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 3

ACROSS

- 1 Sound of a small bell
- 5 Chagall or Antony
- 9 Large passenger planes
- 13 Notion
- 14 Triple-decker cookie
- 15 Southwestern donkey
- 16 Shut with a bang
- 17 "Chunk light" sandwich fish
- 18 Sheets and pillowcases
- 19 Cardboard container for corn flakes
- 21 Scoring 100% on
- 22 Pekoe or Earl Grey
- 23 Sets of religious beliefs
- 24 Award for music recordings
- 28 Remove, as a clothespin
- 30 Big brand of jeans
- 31 India's continent
- 32 Hair on an eyelid
- 36 Revered celebrity
- 37 Small songbirds
- 38 \_\_ vera (medicinal plant)
- 39 Humorous head-smack sound

- 40 Rabbit cousin
- 41 Biblical song
- 42 Spills a secret
- 44 Talks back to
- 45 By walking there
- 48 Televis
- 49 Below-ground plant parts
- 50 Piece of china for cappuccino
- 56 Lessen, as the tide
- 57 Slightly
- 58 Was clothed in
- 59 Narrates, as a story
- 60 "The \_\_ the merrier!"
- 61 Narrow advantage
- 62 Otherwise
- 63 Jury member, in theory
- 64 Search for

DOWN

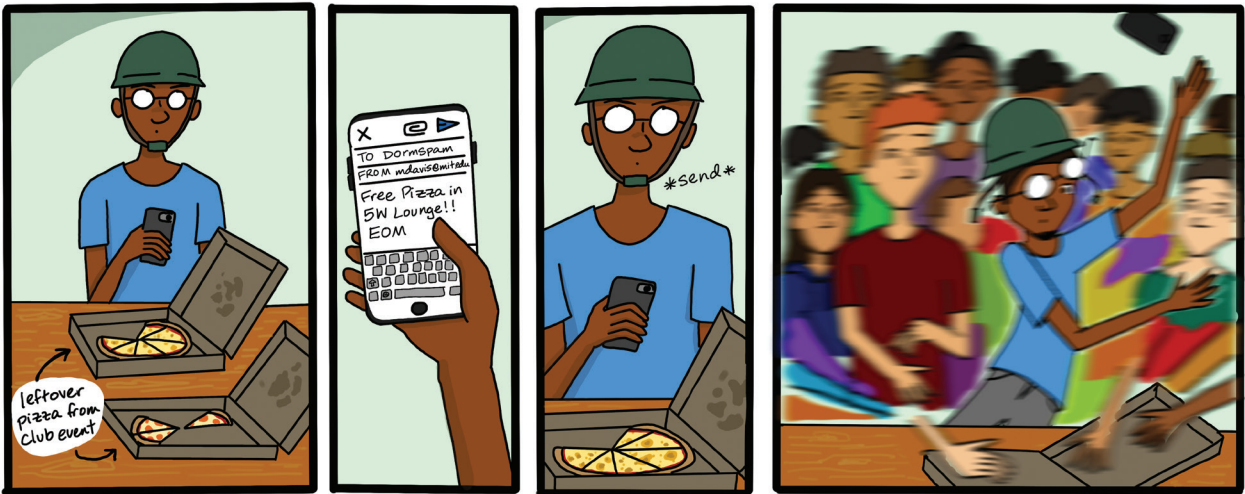
- 1 Shape of a hockey puck
- 2 Not doing anything
- 3 Close by
- 4 Scrabble or Monopoly
- 5 Diverse, as a "crew"
- 6 Dutch Caribbean island
- 7 Nevada casino city

- 8 Persuade gently
- 9 What a fruity drink is poured into
- 10 Bert's Muppet pal
- 11 Tide of fashion
- 12 Tunes performed
- 15 Harsh noise
- 20 S&Ls' cash dispensers
- 23 Experts on IRS rules
- 24 Smooth-talking
- 25 Change the decor of
- 26 The Bard of \_\_ (Shakespeare)
- 27 Breakable dairy-drink container
- 28 People downloading apps
- 29 Three-quarters of 12
- 31 The typical Saudi citizen
- 33 "Sorry to say . . ."
- 34 Shoe's bottom
- 35 Skirt borders
- 37 "Huh?"
- 41 Take the rind off
- 43 Misplaces
- 44 Kitchen gadget for flour
- 45 Deliver a speech
- 46 Peace Prize benefactor

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
				22				23					
24	25	26	27				28	29					
30						31				32	33	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			

- 47 Young horses
- 48 In flames
- 50 Place to pitch a tent
- 51 Woodwind instrument
- 52 Mothers of lambs
- 53 Secret message
- 54 Strongly recommend
- 55 Sneak a look (at)

To the Sharks by Alina Sarmiento



Idk why but EOM emails are so funny to me



FIGURING OUT WHY MY HOME SERVER KEEPS RUNNING OUT OF SWAP SPACE AND CRASHING:

1-10 HOURS

PLUGGING IT INTO A LIGHT TIMER SO IT REBOOTS EVERY 24 HOURS:

5 MINUTES

Googleing inevitably reveals that my problem is caused by a known bug triggered by doing [the exact combination of things I want to do]. I can fix it, or wait a few years until I don't want that combination of things anymore, using the kitchen timer until then.

Solution, page 3

21x		216x			25+		6
27+		7		1		5	3
	8x	2		1-		378x	7
		1-		27x			20x
26+			5		84x		2x
14x			25+				72x
30x			12+		10x		9
	17+			17+			84x
9				24x		1	8

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.

# Check in on your AAPI friends, listen to them, and respect their space

Stop Asian Hate, from Page 4

ening, but they also demonstrate the role of racism in these events. Racism also exists at MIT. Although MIT takes pride in its diversity, we consistently fail to adequately collect and sufficiently report-out racial and gender data, let alone educate and support those who come from marginalized communities and intersectional identities.

- We encourage all MIT community members to:
- Report incidences of bias and hate crimes.
    - Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response ([idhr@mit.edu](mailto:idhr@mit.edu)) can help anyone in the community, whether you seek support or would like to report an incident.
  - Donate funds to organizers who are doing the work to fight against anti-Asian Racism.
    - [#StopAsianHate GoFundMe](#)
    - [Hate is a Virus Fund](#)
    - [Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAJC\)](#)
  - Become more educated.

- Read works by AAPI authors, including but not limited to Shark Dialogues by Kiana Davenport, *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* by Cathy Park Hong; *The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority* by Ellen D. Wu, and *The Making of Asian America: A History* by Erika Lee.
- Check in on your AAPI classmates and friends.
  - These times are harder than ever to keep up with the demands of being an MIT student and a member of the AAPI community. Check in on your friends, listen to their grievances, and respect their space and presence.
- Hold your friends and loved ones accountable to anti-racist values and good morals.
- Reach out for support.
  - MIT Mental Health and Counseling is a resource for students. Please click [here](#) if you would like to make an appointment.

We would also like to heavily underscore the work of other AAPI organiza-

tions on campus and within the greater Boston area whose advocacy for the AAPI community has been longstanding and under-acknowledged. On campus, MIT's Asian American Initiative (AAI) focuses on advocacy for the pan-Asian community, from hosting discussions and bringing light to important issues to fighting for greater AAPI civic engagement. In Boston, there are a range of AAPI organizations, from Asian American Civic Association (AACA) and Boston Asian Youth Essential Service (Boston Asian YES) to Chinese Progressive Association and the South Asian Workers' Center.

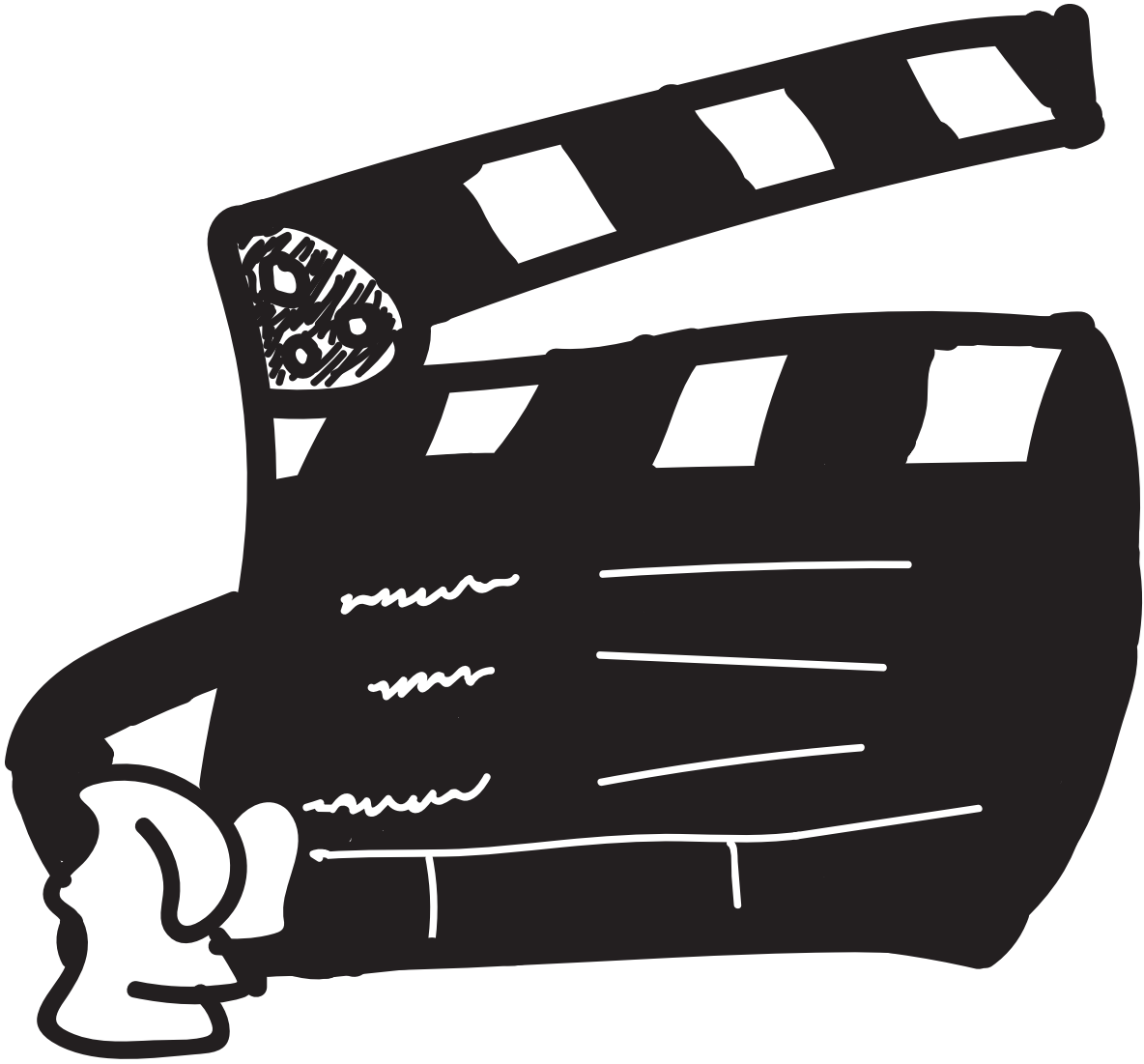
We stand in solidarity with our Asian friends, families, professors, and community members who remain terrified that someone's "bad day" could be the termination of their or their loved ones' lives. The undersigned organizations commit to being anti-racist, speaking out on injustice, and sharing the resources above to support the MIT community.

**Signed by:**

- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

- Asian American Initiative
  - Biology Undergraduate Students Association
  - Biological Engineering Undergraduate Board
  - Black Womxn's Alliance
  - Chocolate City
  - Civil & Environmental Engineering Student Association
  - FLI@MIT (First-Generation and/or Low Income)
  - G@MIT (Gay At MIT)
  - Interfraternity Council (IFC)
  - Latino Cultural Center
  - Mujeres Latinas
  - Native American Student Association
  - Society of Undergraduate Materials Scientists
  - South Asian Association of Students
- If you are interested in getting your organization involved with the UA Diversity Council, please email [ua-diversity@mit.edu](mailto:ua-diversity@mit.edu).

*Kelvin Green II '22 is Chair of the UA Diversity Council and UA Officer on Diversity. Ishana Shastri '23 is Vice Chair of the UA Diversity Council.*



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OPINIONOPINIONOPINIONC



CURSED THOUGHTS

Love is —

The things I carry in bento boxes



PHOEBE LEE—THE TECH

But don't I say it? Don't you see it? That neverending ache in my chest.

By Ana Reyes Sánchez  
EDITOR

Two days ago, at three in the morning, I sat on my bed with a friend, video calling another, and thought about how long it had been since I told them, *I love you*.

When did I stop saying those words to people?

I ordered Flour earlier today, and I paused before adding a coffee for my friend to the cart. Because — what if she didn't *want* coffee, today?

In high school, one of my teachers would bring me tea from Dunkin'. It started a couple weeks into the semester, after I had gone to him that first time — crying because I was so lost in my own head. I asked him if he could bring me tea the next day; I would pay him back.

It would be sitting at the upper left corner of his desk. Usually, it was oversteeped; the green tea had grown bitter. I would drink it — always.

There was one day I walked into his room to see a Dunkin' cup on his desk while he was talking to another student. We met eyes from across the room, and he nodded when I pointed to the cup. *Is this mine?* Yes.

Halfway through my senior year, my mom and I bought take-out cups at the dollar store, and I started asking my teacher, *Do you want tea tomorrow?* If he said yes, I would wake up early the next day and brew him mandarin green tea. I'd protect the cup from the wind on the way to school and leave it on the upper left corner of his desk before class started.

This wasn't bribery or sucking up, despite my girlfriend at the time making fun of me for it. This was a thank-you and something else — a gratitude, a ritual, an expression.

I don't know if I was his favorite student or not, despite the question swimming in my head constantly during high school.

What a stupid question. That's not the point.

The point is: we got each other tea. Sometimes, I would eat the cereal he kept in his desk and sit in my spot on the floor, next to the bookshelf, and feel that ache in my chest.

*Was I his favorite student?*  
I don't know.  
But the tea meant something.

I added that second coffee to my Flour order. I wondered if I was even ordering my

friend's drink correctly. And then I thought, *She'll drink it anyway*. Same way that I always drank that Dunkin' green tea.

How long has it been since I told my friend I love her?

We walked to Flour, and she told me about her week. I told her about mine.

A couple of years ago, I was with my friend while they were having a panic attack. I thought about the things swimming through my head: the texts, the whispered reassurances, the —

The kiss to my friend's shoulder, as they latched onto my waist. Putting my body between them and the wall. Wrapping my hand around their fist so they couldn't hit anything with their knuckles.

I thought about bento boxes and how I neatly pack these thoughts away, each going into its appropriate box.

We watched a show together this weekend, ordered the same food, and laughed in all the right places. Somewhere in their bento box is my friend screaming into me.

How long has it been since I told my friend I love them?

A couple of weeks ago, I sat on the floor of my room with another friend. I offered her tea, but she said, *It's okay, I'll leave soon anyway*.

We shared my first hug since COVID started. I watched her cry on the floor of my room and thought, *I will carry this, for you*.

When was the last time I told her, *I love you?*

Often, I break off half a tangerine, place it gently between me and someone else.

I wash my dishes when I know someone is coming over.

I ask, *Who was that boy you were canoodling with earlier?*

I think about how I told my friend at lunch today, *I don't say I love you enough, but I'll do better*.

I think about all the things I carry in bento boxes.

I don't know when saying the words "I love you" became difficult for me. And I don't know why.

But don't I say it? Don't you see it? That neverending ache in my chest.

*Have a cursed thought, question, or piece of feedback/comment that you'd like to share? Email cursed-thoughts@the-tech.mit.edu. If you want updates on new articles under Cursed Thoughts, add your email to tinyurl.com/cursed-thoughts.*

WENBO'S WALKS

Let me go  
I'm dissociating

By Wenbo Wu  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

On the first day of being I was a happy frog  
Perched on the back of a manatee  
Hidden behind those peek-a-boo palms  
Were eager eyes possessed to me  
*I remember*

A hundred in fluorescent weeds  
Aisles of tanks whose kindness I owe not to  
For my greatest desires were encased in glass  
And my greatest woes not true  
*I remember*

The jellied threads dangling from her mouth  
Like the strings of life and fate that snap  
So tenderly split between her thin-lipped tears  
And on the ceramic mantelpiece it cracks  
*I remember*

Like the cracking of a bow at pizzicatos  
I quiver at the dawning a cent-flat G  
The lily pads shake in thin-veiled anticipation  
And it falls and falls and falls on me  
*I remember*

Leathery skin stains scars brown  
On the white of a lakeside elephant  
The motors are coming, the motors are coming  
But to flee is not my temperament  
*I remember*

Pride is a sin but they never warned me  
That they feast on it at love's expense  
When what they own is an expensive thing  
They will bask in their pretense  
*I remember*

It happened one day, came crashing down  
I drowned and screamed his name  
I fought but couldn't — my mind was gone

From my body and was never the same  
*I remember*

Then came the disbelief, the grief of time  
Blood filled the water; my skin breathed the flames  
My amphibious disguise couldn't save a life  
And it devours me in shame  
*I remember*

What do I know anyway? I'm just so young  
How could one *possibly* know?  
Sewn within me is where I'm from  
The blue and the black and the iridescent glow  
*I remember*

His eyes consume me as his lips shape the words  
Hold me please I beg of you and show  
Me everything will be okay and it gets better  
And he tries; but how are you to know?  
*I remember*

Will the ripples ever stop? *Do* they ever stop?  
Oh god, they're turning again, they're turning  
On me I bear my life too much to breathe  
The words they submerge in me are burning!—  
*Please*

Let me go, set me free, take these chains off of me  
Dangling crows above my head  
Threats and fear, just rip their threads  
Let me live like I'm not dead  
*I want to live, I want to live*

On the first day of being you gave me life  
And even today I pay that price  
I beg of you please see your art  
If there's any left inside your heart  
*I want to live, I want to live*

My body is breaking; my heart is bruised  
But I beg for my future: don't take that too?



FARIN TAVACOLI—THE TECH

They're turning...

Welcome to CP\*, Class of 2025!

Prefrosh share why they're excited for MIT

By Kristina Chen  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

*Campus Preview Weekend returns as CP\* for a second year, taking place virtually yet still featuring many lively and eclectic events depicting the colorful and unique aspects of MIT's various residential communities and student activities, as well as showcasing academic opportunities at the 'tvt. The Tech spoke with a few prefrosh about their prospective areas of study, what they look forward to at MIT, and what events stood out to them at CP\*.*

**Alice Cai, Arkansas, 6-9/21E**  
Excited for: "Building cool shit with cool people."  
Favorite CP\* event: A day in the life: gather. Innovation at MIT

**Fatema Zaman, Florida, 6-3/16**  
Excited for: "Friends!"  
Favorite CP\* event: Next Haunt

**Andre Greene, Arizona, 2/8**  
Excited for: "To explore the community and finally visit the campus!"  
Favorite CP\* event: Play Science Bowl!

**Olivia Steger, New York, 6-3**  
Excited for: "The culture! Everyone was so welcoming and genuinely excited to share what they were working on with us."  
Favorite CP\* event: Edgerton Teams/Shops/Opportunities

**Akshay Gupta, India, 5-7**  
Excited for: "Being involved in frats!"  
Favorite CP\* event: Boston Street View Scavenger Hunt with Beta Theta Pi

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