



BEN KETTLE - THE TECH

MIT Field Hockey forward Paige Forester '23 handles the ball against a player from Endicott College in their 2-1 win Tuesday night.

63 first years and 137 second years moved into new dorms

Number of FYRE applications lowest in five years

By Kristina Chen
and Nicole Chan
NEWS EDITORS

Approximately 550 first-year students moved onto campus Aug. 28-30, "joining more than 1,024 students who had previously arrived for FPOPs, international student orientation programs, orientation, and REX," David Friedrich, Senior Associate Dean of Housing and Residential Services (HRS),

wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

This data does not include student athletes or students who transitioned from SHARP summer housing to their Fall 2021 housing assignments in early August. There are "more than 3,400 total campus residents that are expected to have arrived after the Labor Day holiday," Friedrich wrote.

First-year and sophomore students were able to move into different resident halls by par-

ticipating in the opt-in First Year Residence Exchange (FYRE) and Sophomore Year Residence Exchange (SYRE) programs, respectively. Students who wished to change their building assignments for the 2021-2022 academic year filled out online applications for the exchange program, according to the Division of Student Life website. SYRE was offered twice,

FYRE and SYRE, Page 5

Hayden Library reopens after Jan. 2020 renovations completed

Newly renovated spaces include courtyard, cafe, central staircase, pavilions, flexible study and community areas

By Kristina Chen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hayden Library and the Building 14 courtyard reopened to the MIT community Aug. 23 after almost two years of renovations.

A celebration of the library's reopening will take place Sept. 7-10.

Renovation of the Hayden Library began in January 2020, following a design phase that included input from the MIT community and was guided by the Ad Hoc Task Force on the Future of Libraries.

The design of the library and courtyard was created by Kennedy & Violich Architecture. The design concept, called "Research Crossroads", aimed to reflect "the many intersections that define research in today's academic library — connections between disciplines, community members, and between digital and tangible col-

lections," MIT Libraries Director of Communications Brigham Fay wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

The first floor of the newly renovated library includes a courtyard, a central staircase and pavilions, a space for community events called The Nexus, a Courtyard Cafe, and a collaborative reading room.

The courtyard is a green space with a wall of accordion doors that open to the outdoors. The Nexus has sound and projection capabilities, a retractable wall, and furniture that can be rearranged to transition the space for community events or studying.

The Courtyard Cafe will be open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and features an open seating area overlooking the courtyard.

The intermediate 1M floor of the library includes several group study rooms which can be reserved online, as well as a loft

above the first floor reading room and cafe seating area.

The second floor of the library includes a quiet reading room, a consultation suite for meetings with library experts, a rest area called The Oasis, and a large study room.

The Oasis is a space meant for contemplation, meditation, or a break where community members are encouraged to unplug and rest.

The library is the first construction project at MIT to focus on "Red List Free" materials for its interior finishes and fabrics and to use 1.0 gallon per flush toilets, which save 90,000 gallons of water per year over conventional toilets.

The library was renovated with additional energy considerations in mind, such as high-performance sealed insulated windows to reduce thermal losses and upgrades to air-handling units and lighting to optimize energy use.



CADY BORONKAY - THE TECH

Students fill Johnson Arena Sept. 3 to learn about many campus organizations and student groups at the Activities Midway.

Updated Fall 2021 COVID-19 policies explained

MIT community members must remain in compliance with testing and attestations

By Kristina Chen
and Srinidhi Narayanan
NEWS EDITORS

Campus Access and Visitors

To access campus, all faculty, students, and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an exemption. Vaccination status can be reported at covidvaccine.mit.edu.

Community members on COVID Pass must be compliant with vaccination, twice weekly testing, and daily attestation requirements to access campus buildings.

Students who are not in compliance will still be able to access their residence halls.

Visitors may be authorized to access campus if they are escorted by a COVID Pass holder, via Tim Tickets

(MIT's new visitor pass system), or if they are on COVID Pass.

Visitors and event attendees accessing campus and MIT-sponsored events via the Tim Tickets System must provide contact tracing information and attest to being fully vaccinated or having a medical or religious reason for exemption. The Tim Tickets functionality will be available mid-September.

All other visitors are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID vaccine. Visitors are not required to have a negative test to come on campus.

The general public is able to access MIT's outdoor spaces and select indoor spaces: the first floors of the Stratton Student Center, Stata Center, and Koch Institute.

Testing

All campus residents — and students not residing on campus — must take COVID tests twice a week, and must adhere to either a Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday testing schedule. Other individuals accessing campus buildings must test at least once per week, and are encouraged to test on Wednesdays, the lightest testing day.

Testing will be managed through COVID Pass, and testing kits are currently available for pickup on weekdays at the Johnson Athletic Center, the MIT Medical atrium, the Stata Center, and Lobby 7.

Social distancing and face coverings

When outdoors, unvaccinated individuals not wearing a face cov-

ering should maintain three feet of distance between themselves and others.

Face coverings are required in all MIT buildings for all individuals, irrespective of vaccination status. Face coverings may be removed when alone in a fully enclosed space or when actively eating or drinking indoors. Students living in MIT Housing or FSILGs may remove face coverings in their private rooms or suite common rooms while the door is closed. When speaking to a group, the speaker (if vaccinated) may remove their mask while speaking, provided all other group members are masked. In a given space, only one person may be unmasked at a time.

COVID-19, Page 2

IN SHORT

The **registration deadline** is Sept. 10.

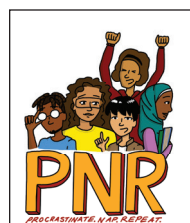
The deadline for second-term juniors to submit the **HASS Concentration Proposal Form** and for final-term seniors to submit the **HASS Concentration Completion Form** is Sept. 10.

The first day of **first quarter PE classes** is Sept. 13.

Faculty, students, and staff should report their **vaccine status** at covidvaccine.mit.edu.

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

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



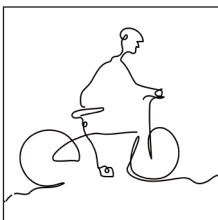
PNR

Infinite.
FUN, p. 4



SENIOR YEAR

Am I coming or leaving home, this time?
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6



POTHoles

It's all perspective.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7

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WEATHER

Rapid rain, soon sunny

By Phoebe Lin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Another burst of storms is set to dump rain on Cambridge on Thursday before following up with some warm, sunny weather. Beware of localized flooding (even if you've passed your swim test)! In a couple days, consider taking advantage of the sunny weather to study outside with friends, or take a walk along the river, or enjoy some watermelon slush, as we savor the last of our

summer warmth and transition into the swing of classes. Further down the east coast, Tropical Storm Mindy is projected to travel over Florida, in the latest of this year's destructive hurricane season. As the east coast deals with excess moisture, the west coast continues to battle drought conditions and wildfire. California's Dixie Fire is approaching two months without containment, affecting the air quality of locations as far as the East Coast.

Extended Forecast

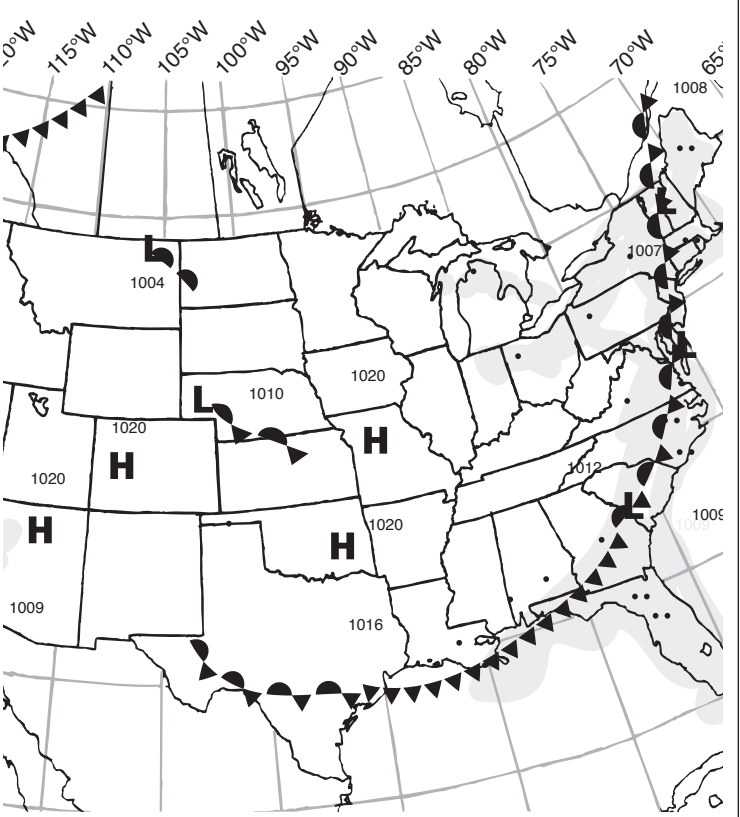
Today: Showers likely and a thunderstorm or heavy rainfall possible. Patchy Fog. High near 75°F (24°C). South winds around 10 mph.

Tonight: Heavy Rain and thunderstorms likely before 1 a.m. Patchy fog possible in the evening. Low around 64°F (18°C). Winds in the west around 7 mph.

Friday: Mostly Sunny with a slight chance of showers after 1 p.m. High near 74°F (23°C) and low near 57°F (14°C).

Saturday: Sunny and mostly clear, with a high around 74°F (23°C) and a low around 63°F (17°C). Winds around 9–10 mph in the west, turning southwest in the evening.

Sunday: Sunny, then partly cloudy. High around 81°F (27°C) and low around 65°F (18°C). Southwest winds around 8–15 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, September 9, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Warm Front	* (Snowflake)	∇ (Inverted Triangle)	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Stationary Front	* (Snowflake)	• (Dot)	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane			** (Double Snowflake)	•• (Double Dot)	∞ Haze
			⚡ (Lightning Bolt)	•• (Double Dot)	

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and *The Tech*

Unvaccinated individuals must quarantine after contact

COVID-19, from Page 1

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires face coverings to be worn in designated spaces on the MIT campus. Face coverings are not required outdoors for vaccinated individuals.

Eating
Eating indoors is permitted in all campus buildings. Individuals are strongly encouraged to limit group size and eating time and to maintain extra distance when eating indoors. Capacity should be reduced in spaces with active dining to allow for physical distancing.

MIT encourages dining outdoors when possible.

When to quarantine
A fully vaccinated individual experiencing symptoms consis-

tent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves and be clinically evaluated and tested for COVID. Most fully vaccinated people without COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine, be restricted from work, or be tested if exposed to someone with COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low. However, they should still monitor for symptoms of COVID for two weeks following exposure. Unvaccinated individuals who are close contacts are required to quarantine for 10 days and monitor themselves for symptoms and check their temperature daily for 14 days. These individuals do not need to test unless symptoms develop. At the end of the 10-day quarantine period, if the individual has remained asymptomatic, they will be able to use COVID

Pass again and must immediately be tested.

Events
Internal events for MIT departments, labs, centers, faculty, and student organizations may be held on campus. Events by external groups may also be allowed if sponsored by recognized student groups or faculty and staff with departmental approval. Event attendees not in COVID Pass must check in at the event venue or be escorted by a COVID Pass holder. Event organizers must collect contact information for all indoor event attendees and retain the information for 14 days after the event for contact tracing purposes. Attendees at events must be in line with all other Institute eating, face covering, and social distancing policies.

Travel
A COVID-19 vaccination is required for all MIT-affiliated travel, domestic and international, with the exception of local travel (travel within Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont). All MIT-related travel must be registered in COVID Travel; individuals are encouraged to register personal travel. This requirement applies to undergraduate and graduate students, staff, faculty, and postdocs. MIT employees who have been granted a remote work exemption from the vaccination requirement are not eligible for MIT-related travel. Detailed information about any of these policies can be found at MIT Now.

We get you the tickets.
You get us the review.

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music • books • restaurants • interviews

join@the-tech.mit.edu

Back to the Lecture

Solution, page 8

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

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.

Revenge of the 25th

Solution, page 8

3+		360x			2-
270x				4	
	48x			5x	
20x		9+		3	
	3		3-	36x	
	2-			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.

Hammer Handlers by S.N.

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

- 1 Grisham's literary colleague
- 6 PR "performance"
- 10 "Butt out!" initialism
- 14 Choice word
- 15 Intern, for instance
- 16 Guitar device
- 17 Hammer handler
- 19 Jazz singer Laine
- 20 Stow, as a sword
- 21 Damon's pal
- 23 Neckwear on a Michener stamp
- 24 Common MBA prerequisite
- 25 Nova network
- 28 Hammer handler
- 35 Concluding bit of music
- 37 John, in Wales
- 38 Soft rock
- 39 Barnyard sound
- 40 Dickensian kid
- 41 Mogul
- 42 Approve of
- 43 Sign after the Twins

44 Sushi bar mushroom
45 Hammer handler
48 Neighbor of the Simpsons
49 Pendulum direction
50 Must pay
52 Keeps one's headhunter
 busy
56 Croat's neighbor
60 56 Across' currency
61 Hammer handler
63 Leak symptom
64 Jazz singer James
65 Mystery writing award
66 "Ah!"
67 Invitation exhortation
68 Homes in branches

DOWN

- 1 "Jabberwocky" opener
- 2 "Ain't gonna happen"
- 3 Product that may be puffed
- 4 Based on 8
- 5 Super-sizzling
- 6 Lucid
- 7 Profit pool, so to speak

- 8 Internal flash
- 9 Foam-dart propeller
- 10 General at Antietam
- 11 Bob Woodward alma mater
- 12 Crude cartel
- 13 Reserve a room
- 18 Louisville's river
- 22 Calendar watch reading
- 25 Addr. line, at times
- 26 Inconvenient to carry
- 27 Super buy
- 29 What stars call MGM
- 30 Alpine water source
- 31 Disney's follow-up to Dumbo
- 32 Apply lightly
- 33 Bring to mind
- 34 Over-overeager
- 36 Optimism metaphor
- 41 The Williamses, e.g.
- 43 M*A*S*H transport
- 46 Reliable expert
- 47 Not in concert
- 51 Stay away from
- 52 Knight at the movies

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				
65					66					67				
68					69					70				

53 Things we share
54 Wheel-shaped cheese
55 Stays put
56 Sharp break

57 Beats on sheets
58 Cleverly done
59 Isn't tactful, say
62 Safari transportation

[927] Standards

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:

(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)



Fortunately, the charging one has been solved now that we've all standardized on mini-USB. Or is it micro-USB? Shit.

16% of sophomores participated in virtual SYRE, 108 successfully switched residences

FYRE and SYRE, from Page 1

once virtually between June 18 and 23, and once in-person for sophomores participating in S'more Welcome activities.

Of 1,184 members of the Class of 2025, 89 submitted FYRE applications for a 7.5% participation rate. The participation rate was approximately 11% in Fall 2019, 12% in Fall 2018, 11% in Fall 2017, and 13% in Fall 2016.

As a result of FYRE, 63 first years moved between residence halls. New Vassar and New House were the most popular choices for the Class of 2025, followed by MacGregor House and Next House. Simmons Hall saw the largest number of requests to move out at 19,

followed by East Campus, Baker House, and New Vassar.

Of 1,076 members of the Class of 2024, 175 participated in virtual SYRE for a rate of 16%, and 108 successfully switched residence halls.

For virtual SYRE, Next House was the most popular choice, followed by MacGregor House, New Vassar, and Simmons Hall. New Vassar received the most requests to move out at 50, followed by Maseeh Hall, Simmons Hall, and Next House.

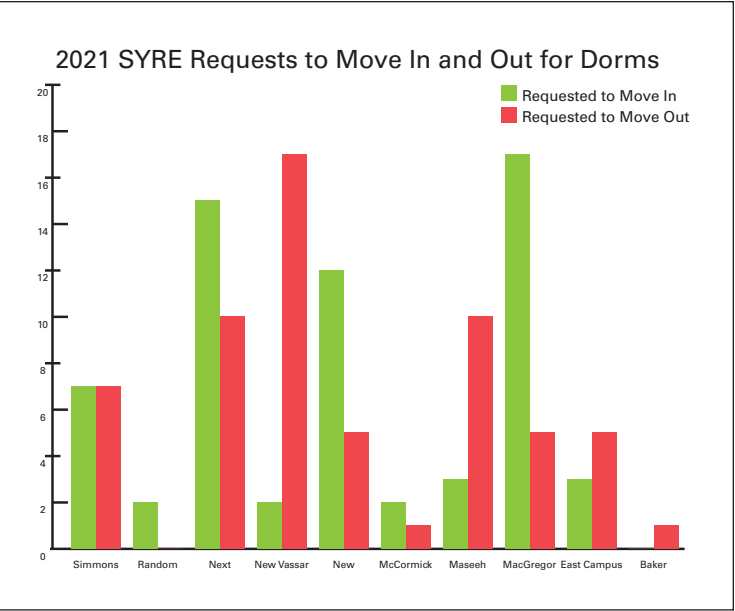
For in-person SYRE, 64 sophomores submitted applications, and 29 successfully moved between residence halls.

For in-person SYRE, MacGregor House was the most popu-

lar choice, followed by Next House, New House, and Simmons Hall. New Vassar once again received the most requests to move out, followed by Maseeh Hall, Next House, and Simmons Hall.

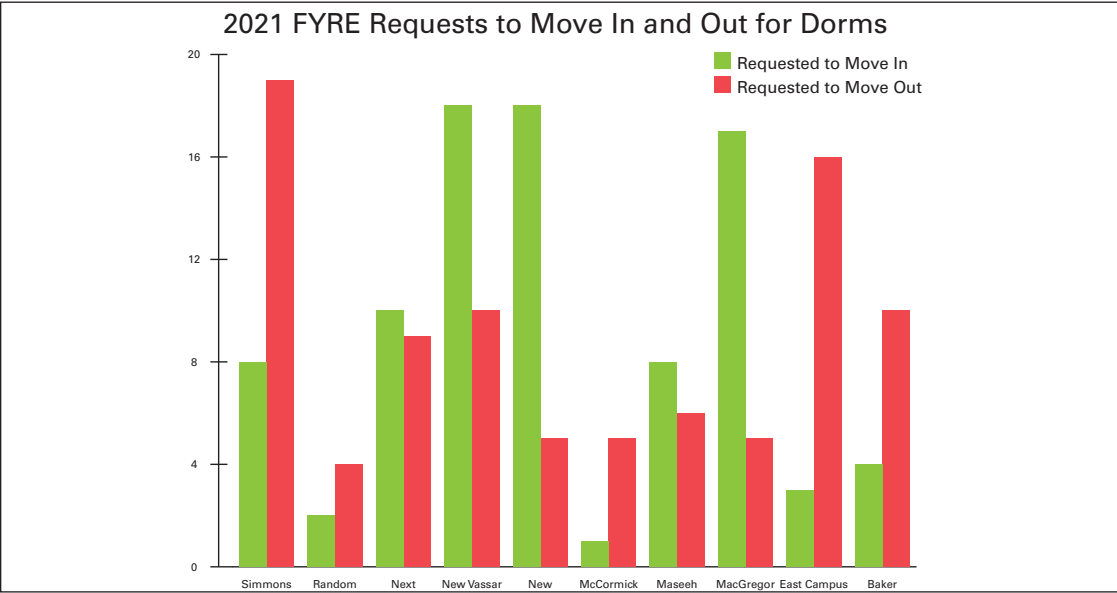
The SYRE process was launched by the team at HRS in collaboration with DormCon and Room Assignment Chairs in order to “help sophomores explore MIT’s residential communities as many students did not have the opportunity to live on campus during the previous academic year” Senior Communications Manager Zachary Tsetsos wrote in an email to *The Tech* on Sept. 7.

FYRE and SYRE data in this article were provided to *The Tech* by Tsetsos.



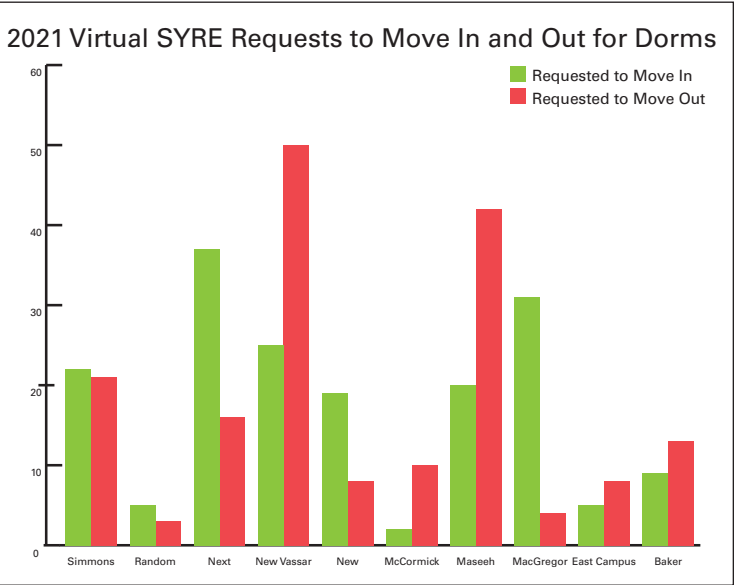
ARUN WONGPROMMOON AND KEVIN PHO — THE TECH

No sophomores requested to move out from Random or move into Baker during the fall iteration of SYRE.



ARUN WONGPROMMOON AND KEVIN PHO — THE TECH

Simmons, East Campus, and Baker received the most move out requests from the first year class through FYRE.



ARUN WONGPROMMOON AND KEVIN PHO — THE TECH

New Vassar and Maseeh saw the largest number of requests to switch out for virtual SYRE which took place Summer 2021.

The Mind and Hand Book is the official guide to MIT’s expectations of all undergraduate and graduate students, including the policies on academic integrity, alcohol, drugs, hazing, and sexual misconduct.



2021-2022 MIND & HAND BOOK

handbook.mit.edu



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WENBO'S WALKS

Bikes and bridges

In simpler times, everyone was either all good or all bad, influenced by an internal desire to be purely one or the other

By Wenbo Wu

EDITOR

My best friend and his parents taught me how to ride a bike this summer. And if there's one thing I realized while taking my daily 20-minute half-biked commute from my summer residence to the Davis Square T station for work, it has to be that the world isn't as pristine as it once was.

The road I used to believe was fairly smooth and uneventful from the perspective of a car or being on foot became almost unbearably full of potholes and muddy puddles from the perspective of a perilous bike. And this rudimentary line of thinking could go on, extended as a statement toward global warming or the pandemic or war or myriad other happenings. The perspective we take affects our view on almost everything in society; the calm tides to the pilot are rough seas to a sailor.

But what I mean is, I used to think that getting along with everyone else would be so easy: there always seemed to be obvious rights and wrongs or a clear distinction between victims and perpetrators. In simpler times, everyone was either all good or all bad, influenced by an internal desire to be purely one or the other.

After all, if all the rules and morals are already predetermined by society, how difficult

would it be to just follow them? I thought, naively of course, that if I tried my hardest to stay safely on the appropriate side of that "good-bad" line, life would be good and I would be perceived as such. Life, however, is not that simple. Rules conflict with each other, and even society's morals may not be correct on an individual or circumstantial basis.

When we are raised in a controlled K-12 environment, these metaphorical potholes of life seem obvious and avoidable. But while we might be able to swerve to avoid a bump in the road, it's much more difficult to control the effects of that action, especially with others on the road too. Even worse is when we don't see the obstacle speeding toward us at all.

But what I've had to learn the hard way these past few years in college is that in the context of a large world, even the most well-intentioned actions could lead to undesirable consequences. To be trite, hindsight is 20/20.

Indeed, to be perceived as an ideal individual, one must always don their most polished facade, even if it hurts to do so. Perhaps one's inability to maintain this facade as a result of a "bad day" could be perceived by others as a dispositional tendency to be malevolent or rude, and we all make mistakes and misjudgements from time to time. While there are undoubtedly actions which I consider inexcusable, I think we would all ben-

efit from giving each other the benefit of the doubt.

While I can try my best to be “perfect,” it’s fundamentally impossible to achieve.

But this is still oversimplified. For example, there's often a power imbalance in conflicts, whether this is explicitly codified or not. Most importantly, whether we like it or not, sometimes we need to prioritize ourselves and our own happiness, but an individual or group runs so counter to that value that the only option would be to burn some bridges. While this solution is far from optimal and easier said than done, in many situations, there is no other option. It is this aspect that has been the most difficult for me to accept. I might only have the opportunity to build new and better bridges if I remove the dysfunctional ones that are weighing me down.

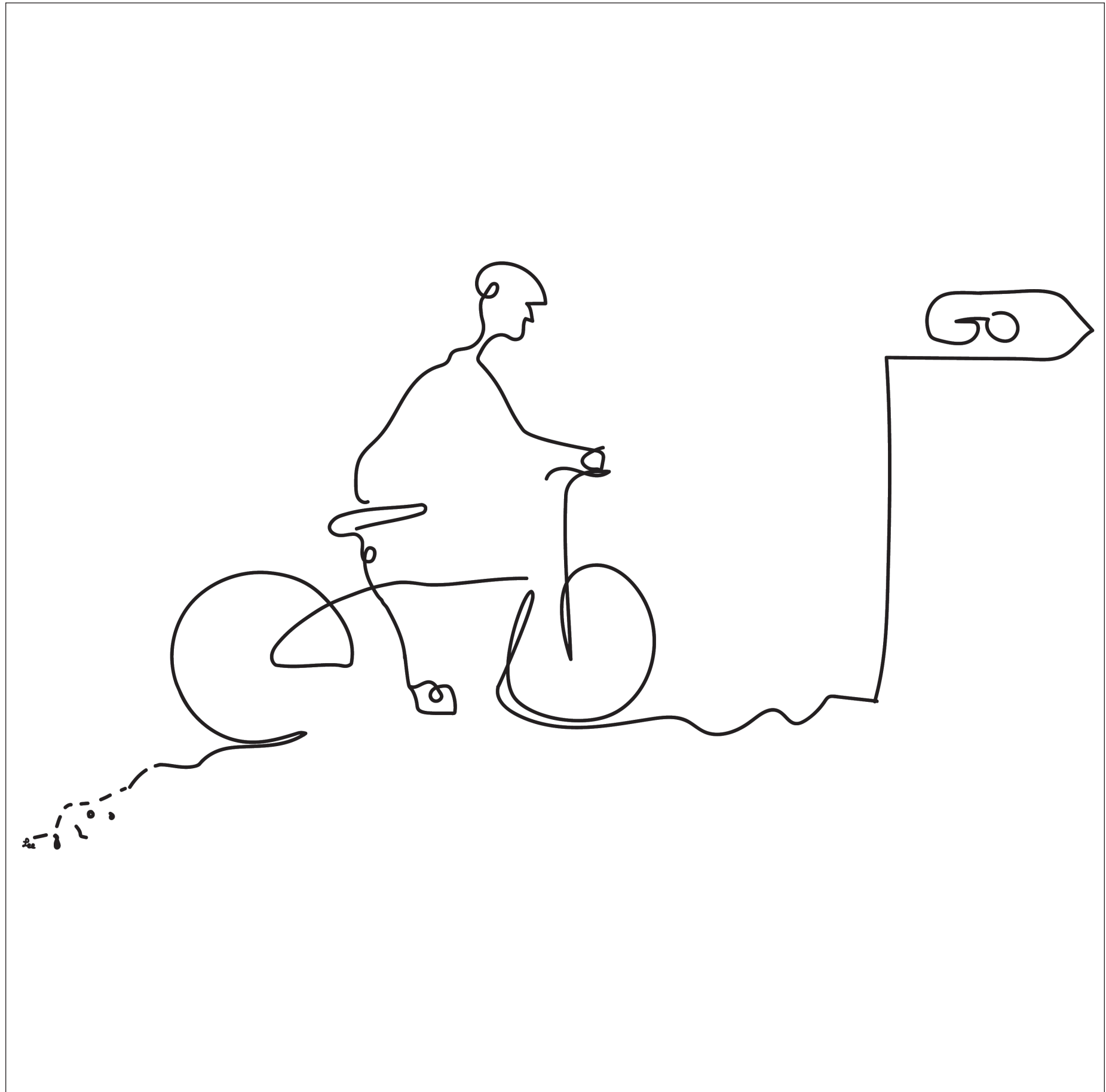
I'll be the first to say that I'm not the most confrontational. I'll accept that part of that is due to my temperament. But in addition to that, growing up, I was often taught to just take the blows, to accept that things were happening to me and to understand that the best solution would be the path of least resistance. I must simultaneously stomach a bad day and continue to function as though nothing had happened in the eyes of society. I must always be kind and always say no in the most roundabout of ways, all to avoid direct conflict.

While this ingrained mindset certainly worked to keep me agreeable (and more importantly, quiet) when I was younger, I've discovered only through numerous situations in the past few months that as a result of my outlook, I've lost much of the courage to stand up for myself. This often builds up until the situation becomes much worse, if only internally, than if I had just taken the risk to confront. I will need to make an active effort to regain that ability.

Unfortunately, however, I have in some ways allowed this to go on for too long, and some of that responsibility has inadvertently fallen onto the shoulders of my friends, which is something that I will try to minimize in the future (and would ideally never happen at all).

In many ways, learning how to ride a bike is similar to conflict resolution. In both cases, I strive for a sense of balance and sometimes, I fall down. But the important thing is surrounding myself with people who support me and help me get back on my feet, who make me realize that while I am still learning things that may have come significantly earlier or easier to many, I am still valued.

As for me? I hope that I'll learn how to build some new, sturdier bridges. Taking that statement purely out of context, that's what I came to MIT for, isn't it?



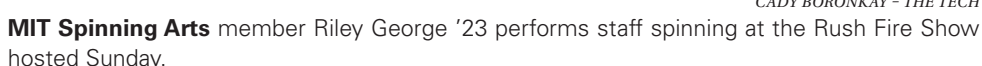
I finally got over my fear of death and rode a bike into the city.

PHOEBE LEE - THE TECH

Come see the newly renovated Hayden. Stop by Sept. 7-10, 9am-5pm, for special giveaways!



- **Women's Field Hockey** clutched it against Endicott College 2-1.
- **Women's Volleyball** swept Suffolk University 3-0.
- **Men's Soccer** faced defeat against Tufts University 0-1.
- **Women's Soccer** won against Johnson & Wales University 1-0.



Men's Soccer
vs. Roger Williams University
Wednesday, September 15

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

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