



MICHELE GABRIELE

MIT graduate students rally together on Hockfield Court Tuesday for the launch of the Graduate Student Union.

MIT Graduate Student Union holds launch rally

Supermajority of graduate students must sign cards for union election to take place

By Kristina Chen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The MIT Graduate Student Union (GSU) was publicly announced for the first time and held its launch rally at Hockfield Court Sept. 27.

The GSU had organized for nearly four years before being publicly announced. GSU member Gabriel Nahmias G wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the GSU did not “want to go public until we knew we were in a position to represent all graduate student-workers at MIT.”

The GSU is affiliated with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), a national, independent, membership-run union.

To petition the National Labor Relations Board for a union election, the GSU must receive a supermajority of graduate student signatures on union cards. The GSU must then win a majority vote at the election to be officially recognized as a union, at which point it could negotiate a contract with MIT.

Since the launch rally, over one thousand graduate student workers have signed a union card, according to Nahmias.

Nahmias added that the GSU would “democratically determine” issues to negotiate in its contract. The GSU website currently lists five demands for MIT: fair work expectations, a safe and equitable work environment with dependable accountability, financial security and

guaranteed support, affordable housing and comprehensive benefits, and equal opportunities for international students.

Additionally, the GSU has worked on various issue campaigns focused on specific challenges for graduate students. These include a mental health campaign through Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT, the Reject Injustice through Student Empowerment campaign which combats harassment and discrimination, a COVID-19 relief campaign, and an international student working group.

The GSU also currently includes over 250 union representatives, comprising graduate students from department across MIT.

Nahmias wrote that before going public, the GSU organized by reach-

ing out to student-workers to hear their issues, learning from other university graduate student unions, voting to affiliate with UE, and launching issue campaigns.

The launch rally took place from 5–6 p.m., and several hundred graduate students were in attendance. Many attendees wore red in support of the GSU or held posters reading “MIT works because we do.”

Lucy Hu G, a GSU organizer and graduate student in health sciences and technology, and Ki-Jana Carter G, a GSU organizer and graduate student in materials science and engineering, moderated the rally.

Hu spoke first at the rally, saying “Any grad student can tell you we are not just students — we are researchers, teachers, grant-writers, event or-

ganizers... in short, we are also workers ... MIT works because we do, and that means we not only need, but we deserve a real say in our working and learning conditions.”

Lucky Pattanaik G, a graduate student in chemical engineering who organized with GSU for over two years, also spoke at the rally. “Fundamentally what this union represents is a shift in the power structure here at MIT away from the administration to the graduate workers, and today is really the start of us translating our collective power and strength into real democratic action.”

Pattanaik also forecasted that MIT would launch an anti-union

MIT GSU, Page 2



ALEXA-RAE SIMAO

One of the many creations for sale at the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch is displayed for a preview Sept. 24.

IN SHORT

All students are required to **receive a flu vaccine by Nov. 21** in order to access buildings and register for classes.

MIT Medical flu clinics will take place in Walker Memorial Oct. 4–8, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Students are eligible to **apply for a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund grant** by submitting a form (sent via email) by Oct. 5.

Undergraduate registration for **second quarter PE classes** opens 8:00 a.m. Oct. 6.

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

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



OLIVIA LEE

Meet Pi, the ever-adorable pug, on Tuesdays at Killian!

BORDERS

Prioritizing those in need of safety and security.

OPINION, p. 4

FOR THE PLEASURE OF IT

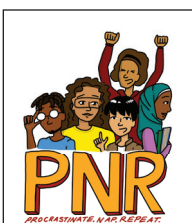
Listening to podcasts.

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7

DOING SOMETHING

Anything at all.

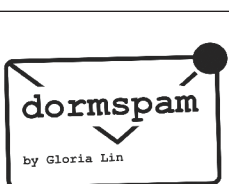
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7



PNR

The Banana Lounge Effect.

FUN, p. 5



DORMSPAM

Fresh renovations.

FUN, p. 5

SECTIONS

Opinion 4
Fun Pages 5
Campus Life 7
Sports 8

WEATHER

Cooler temperatures welcome October

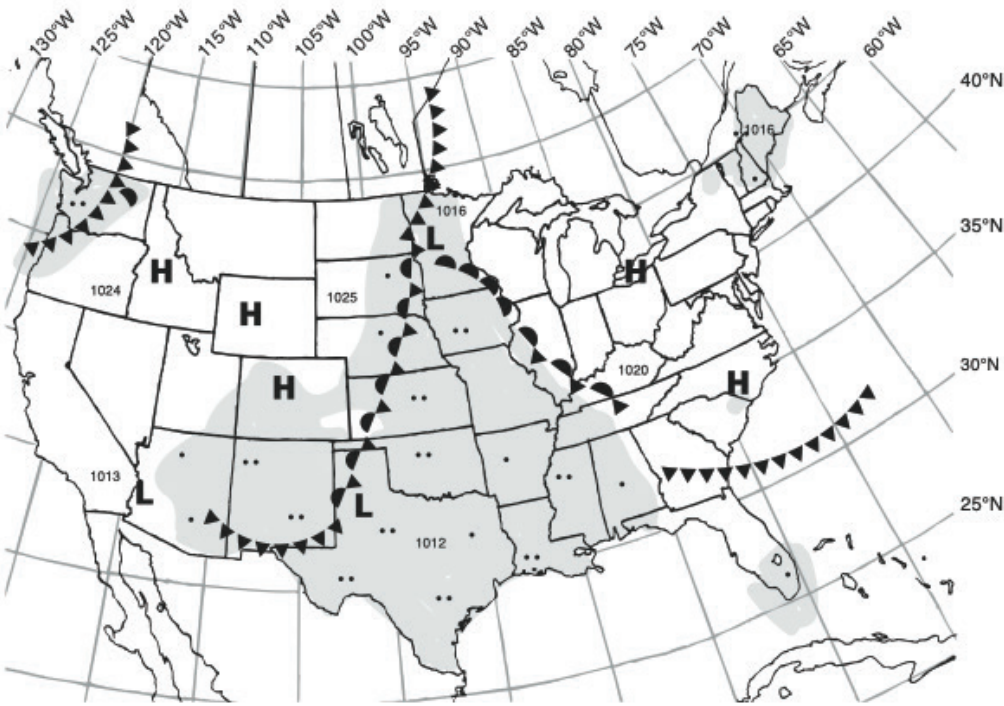
By Trinity W. Manuelito
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

With October starting tomorrow, cooler temperatures and some rain will welcome the spooky season. The next few days will remain mostly sunny with some clouds and showers scattered throughout. There will be a chance of rain, this morning before 8 a.m., this afternoon, and during the weekend. Make sure to have your sweatshirts and raincoats on hand!

Although cooler temperatures may not seem as fun as the summer and all the talk of midterms happening around campus, there is much to be excited for. For instance, the trees will start to turn into beautiful fall colors. Also many fall flavors can begin to be incorporated into your diet. As we progress further into the fall season, and the semester, do your best to take a break from psets and enjoy the weather. Spend some time on Killian. Take a walk with some friends. Smell the roses!

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly sunny, slight chance of showers. High around 62°F (17°C). Northwest winds around 11-15 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low around 49°F (9°C). Northwest winds around 9 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny. High around 64°F (18°C) and low around 49°F (9°C). Northwest winds around 7-9 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny and chance of showers at night. High around 68°F (20°C) and low around 54°F (12°C). Light wind.
Sunday: A chance of showers. High around 64°F (18°C) and low around 54°F (12°C). East wind around 6-9 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, Sept. 30th, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * (light), * (moderate), * (heavy)	Fog: ☁
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Rain: ▽ (light), ▽ (moderate), ▽ (heavy)	Thunderstorm: ⚡
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light: * (light), * (moderate), * (heavy)	Haze: ☁
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front		

Sutherland: Graduate advocates ‘not here to disrupt or destroy MIT’s vital mission’

MIT GSU, from Page 1

campaign. “In reality, MIT has been preparing for this campaign for quite some time. They’ve hired a lawyer from one of the biggest anti-union firms in the country as their chief legal counsel. In 2016, following Columbia’s attempts to unionize, they filed an amicus brief with eight other universities opposing the right of graduate workers to come together and unionize.”

Pattanaik added that the GSU had spoken with over 2,500 graduate student-workers, and “an overwhelming majority” were in support of unionization.

Former Graduate Student Council (GSC) President Madeleine Sutherland G, a graduate student in chemistry, spoke at the rally.

Sutherland said that while she was president, the GSC was “compelled [by MIT] to argue about things that should never be an argument ... that [MIT] can’t make COVID-testing a de facto condition of employment and then have no accessibility plan ... that it’s wrong to let researchers get coerced into working with no pay, that it’s wrong to put grad workers under threat of eviction from grad housing ... that it’s simply unreasonable to expect grad workers to progress in

their dissertation research without knowing whether they’d be funded the next year or even the next month.”

“Contrary to the way graduate advocates are often characterized, we are not here to disrupt or destroy MIT’s vital mission. We are here to build a better version of MIT,” Sutherland added. “Workers at MIT are forming a union as a way of saying to our employer that there is a minimum standard of living and working conditions that must be met ... for us to be healthy human beings and to do the work of education, discovery, and innovation that drew us to MIT in the first place.”

Chelsea Onyeador G, a graduate student in the aeronautics and astronautics department and political action chair of the Black Graduate Student Association, also spoke at the rally, recounting her experience as a Black woman at MIT.

“When I applied to MIT, I didn’t expect that from the moment I stepped on this campus that I’d be pushed to carry the burden of trying to make the space better for the historically marginalized,” Onyeador continued. “Honestly, I spent a lot of time wondering how much more I could achieve without that weight on my shoulders.”

Onyeador also described her experience working on Institute committees and “the MIT admin playbook of ... talking circles until students lose bandwidth or simply graduate.”

“These official committees ultimately end up recommending actions that are performative or make marginal impact.” To emphasize the importance of unionization, Onyeador contrasted these efforts with those made by student advocacy groups who worked to increase the number of covered therapy sessions for graduate students, quadruple the number of Black graduate students within the aeronautics and astronautics department, and bring diversity, equity, and inclusion to MIT’s attention.

President of the Harvard Graduate Student Union Brandon Mancilla and Rohan Chitnis G, graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science, also spoke at the rally.

Graduate students can sign a union card or participate in the GSU’s campaign by filling out forms at the GSU website. Additionally, MIT community members can support the GSU by signing an open letter organized by the MIT Student Worker Alliance or by donating to the GSU.

English Language Studies program moves under CMS/W department

English Language Studies (ELS), MIT’s program for non-native English speakers, moved from global languages to the comparative media studies/writing (CMS/W) department July 1.

According to an MIT News article, following the move, all of MIT’s Institute-wide writing and communications instruction are now under the same department.

Lecturer Eric Grunwald, who is also the concentration advisor for ELS, is the interim head of ELS.

The courses offered through ELS will remain unchanged, and any bilingual/ESL undergradu-

ate or graduate student at MIT may register for an ELS subject.

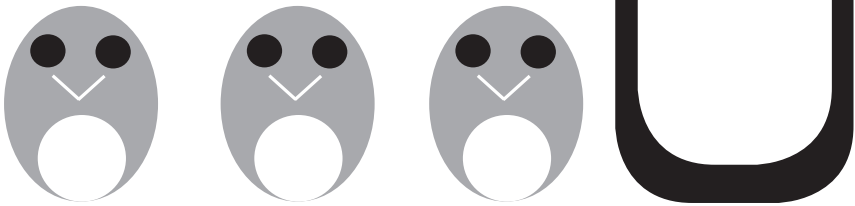
The ELS program will also continue to help facilitate MIT’s communication requirements for bilingual first-year and graduate students: the English Diagnostic Review portion of the First-year Essay Evaluation and the English Evaluation Test, respectively.

MIT’s ELS curriculum is designed for non-native English speakers to “foster effective communication” in academic and professional contexts and “facilitate their studies at MIT and their work beyond,” the CMS/W website writes.

— Kristina Chen

Be a PENguin

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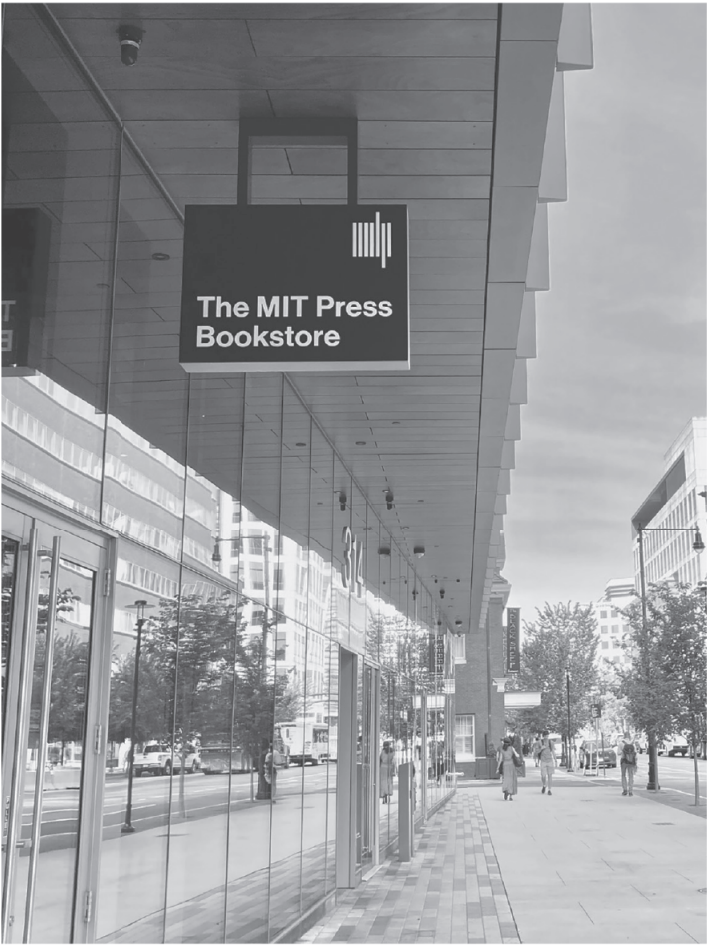
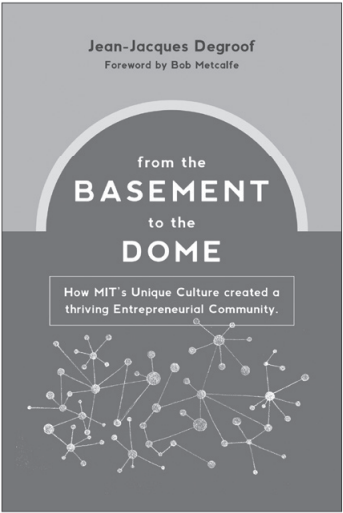


Photo credit: Haley Chung

Recommended reads from MIT authors:

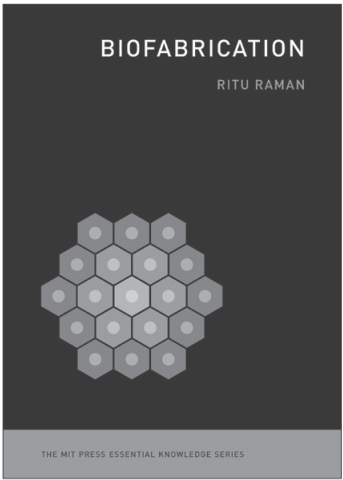


From the Basement to the Dome

How MIT's Unique Culture Created a Thriving Entrepreneurial Community

Jean-Jacques Degroof

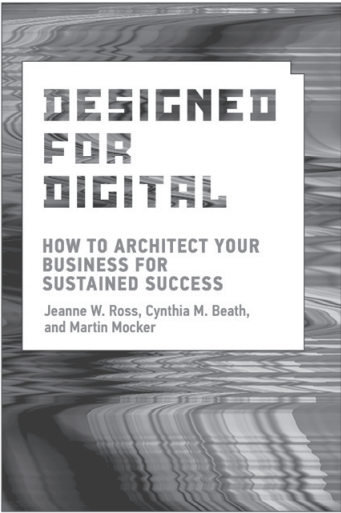
MIT alumni have founded at least 30,000 active companies that employ 4.6 million people. This book shows how the Institute became a world-famous launching pad for entrepreneurs.



Biofabrication

Ritu Raman

This Essential Knowledge Series book looks at how engineered materials and machines powered by living biological cells can tackle today's technological challenges.

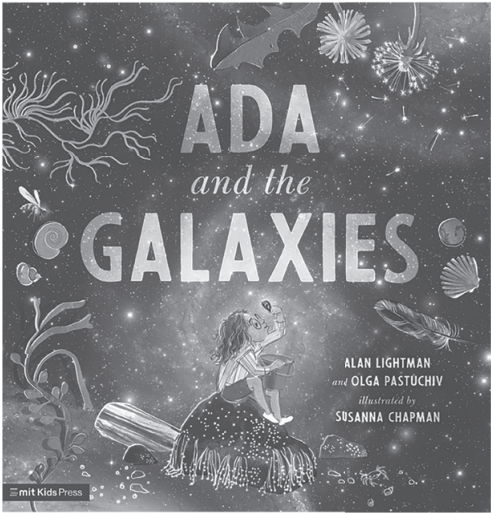


Designed for Digital

How to Architect Your Business for Sustained Success

Jeanne W. Ross, Cynthia M. Beath and Martin Mocker

Ross, et al, show how to redesign "big, old" companies for digital success. One of *Forbes's* Top Ten Technology Books of 2019, now in paperback.

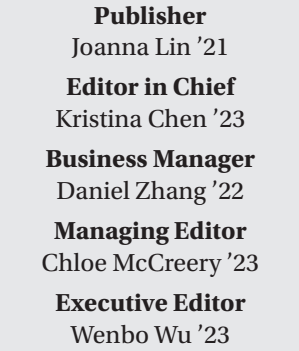


Ada and the Galaxies

Alan Lightman and Olga Pastuchiv

Stargazers rejoice! MIT's own Alan Lightman brings galaxies close in a stunning picture-book tribute to the interconnectedness of the natural world. Recommended for ages 4-6. **Autographed copies available at the bookstore while supplies last.**





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Crossing the line

Reimagining our need for borders

I am pondering what is happening to those who have left their homes in Haiti to make a new home in the United States. I have seen images and videos of men and women on horseback holding whips and riding down those who wade waist deep in river water seeking safety, only to be met with more violence. Yet I refrain from focusing on this scene, because I feel this scene is a distraction. I want to instead focus on what I see as the more serious problem at hand that gives place for racist acts of this kind to manifest: borders.

All of us need security. All of us can understand the pursuit of security in the face of destabilizing conditions, especially if this pursuit leads to changing homes. However, what has become clear in the wake of recent news is that the importance of borders (which are man-made) have seemed to transcend any moral responsibility we, as human beings, have to one another. I owe much of my conceptualization and beliefs about borders to writers such as Gloria Anzaldúa and Toni Morrison; I find that their writing offers a humane and nuanced lens whereby we can understand what is happening at the border of the United States. In that vein, it is not lost on me that this border requires immense resources and logistical support to remain; it is costly and wasteful. So for this border to exist de-

What motivates the need for a border?

It is no easy feat to leave family behind or to take children along a dangerous journey of uncertainty.

I want to restore agency to people who have migrated away from their home. It is no easy feat to leave family behind or to

The people at the border are fighting for control over their lives.

Kelvin Green II is a senior in the Department of Physics. Green is a member of Chocolate City, former Black Students' Union co-chair (2018-2019), is the former UGA Assistant Officer on Diversity (2020-2021), and serves as a representative on a host of Institute-wide and local committees.

A news article in last week's issue of *The Tech* incorrectly wrote that the Innovation HQ housed a space for MIT Music and Theater Arts. In fact, the Innovation HQ houses a space for Music and the Arts at MIT.

OPINION POLICY

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.

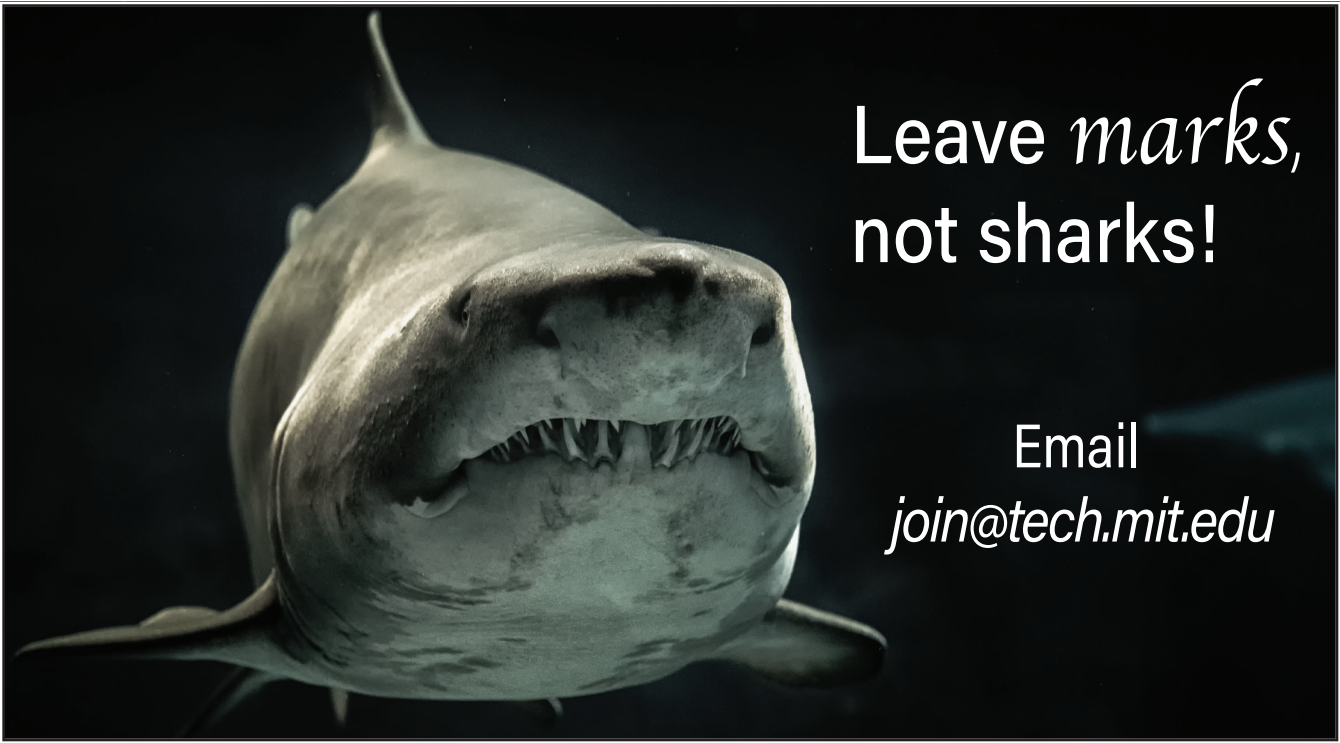
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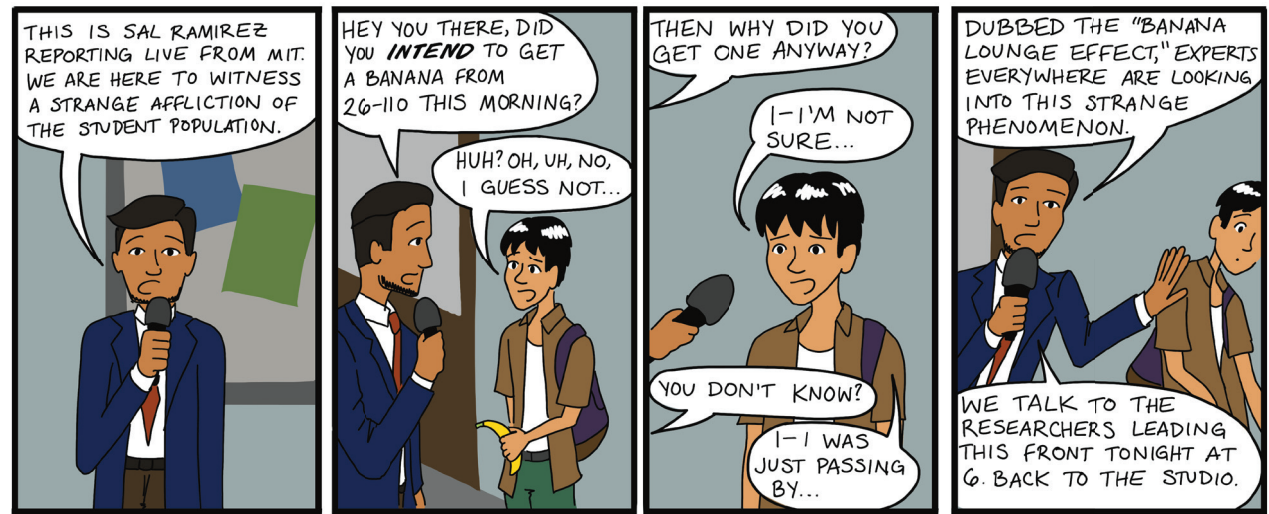
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The Banana Lounge Effect by Alina Sarmiento



Aq buissed tsnf sem i

Certified by Jonathan Huang

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

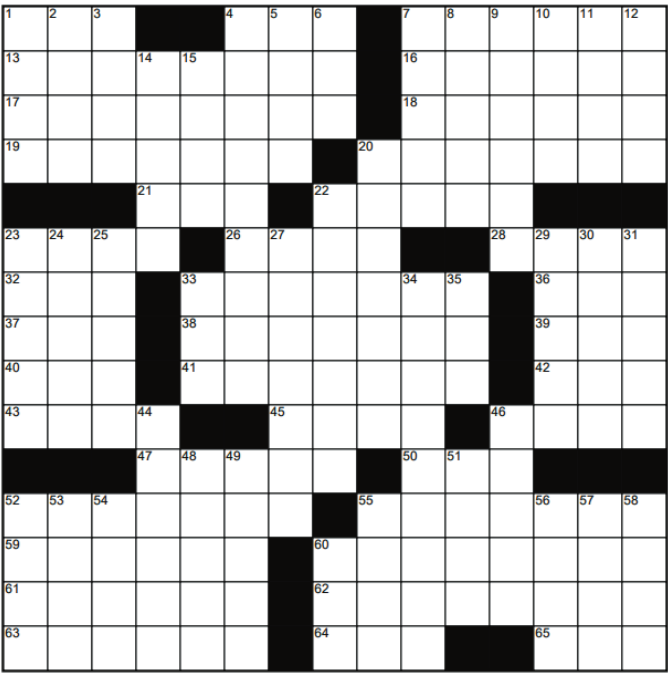
- 1 Actress de Armas
- 4 TV band between 30 and 300 MHz
- 7 His folly was over one million square kilometers large
- 13 It's found on some expensive food
- 16 See 52-across
- 17 Medical causes of upset stomachs
- 18 Family who adopted Leia Skywalker
- 19 "Props to you"
- 20 Colorful thing after a shower?
- 21 Part of basic cures?
- 22 Battle royale
- 23 Group of "Jeopardy" contestants
- 26 Palindromic respectful address
- 28 See 32-across
- 32 Participated in a 28-across
- 33 Notebooks, to some English speakers
- 36 Al Capone, for one
- 37 Animal with a planetary franchise?
- 38 Like some textbook downloaders, or what the ends of 13-across,

- 20-across, 52-across, and 62-across help people become
- 39 Predecessor of Blu-Ray
- 40 Drink, as hot tea
- 41 White Castle's main products
- 42 Sport stand?
- 43 See 20-Down
- 45 Indian distance measurement roughly 3km
- 46 Extension of power
- 47 Protection
- 50 Tokyo Rose, ____ Taguri
- 52 Within this distance, one is a 16-across
- 55 Looked smug
- 59 2014 World Cup country, to the home team
- 60 Precedes play and effect
- 61 Commodity from 26-110
- 62 Flaunt
- 63 :) :))
- 64 Ibn in Arabic, or Mac in Irish
- 65 Sheet extension

DOWN

- 1 Common .io game
- 2 I don't know, in Mexico
- 3 They're found in central Europe, Japan, and Australia

- 4 Something recorded after a beep
- 5 Small quantity
- 6 Acronym for Childish Gambino's song that mentions the heat
- 7 Marine school
- 8 Strange
- 9 Ashley who won the US Figure Skating Champions thrice
- 10 Middle of UAE
- 11 The Biggest Little City In the World
- 12 Sketch
- 14 Double prefix
- 15 Norse god who loses his sword for love
- 20 Tools to control 43-across
- 22 A killer, usually of bulls
- 23 Folder to be emptied
- 24 Like some COVID-19 tests
- 25 Someone with impostor syndrome may feel this way
- 27 Turkey leads in production of this orange fruit
- 29 Supplement
- 30 Disguise
- 31 Ceased
- 33 Many vinyls, in brief
- 34 China leads in production of

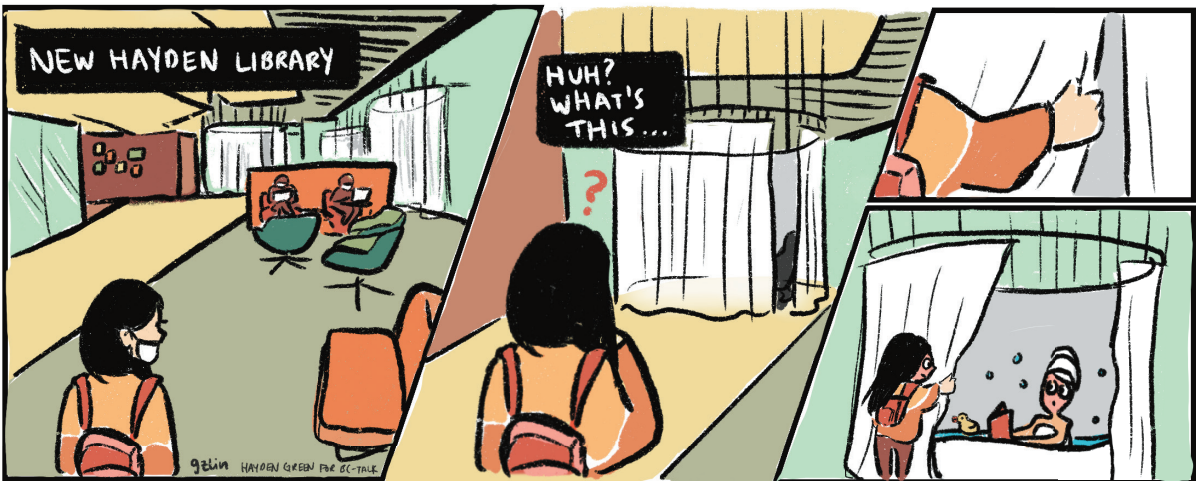


- this orange fruit
- 35 Leaky tire's sound
- 44 One who receives land from a lord
- 46 People for who a tectonic plate is named
- 48 River that divided the Roman Empire from the Vandals
- 49 Sunfishes
- 51 Opinion

- 52 Recedes
- 53 Ancient land that names Jesus's language
- 54 Sanskrit name given to a princess
- 55 Neighborhood in Manhattan
- 56 Fort with gold
- 57 Abbr. for the unnamed
- 58 Tootsie Roll Company's gumdrops
- 60 HTML formatting language

Fresh Renovation by Gloria Lin

9/30/2021 FRESH RENOVATION



Red Light, Green Light

Solution, page 8

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

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

Tug-of-War

Solution, page 8

30x			12x		12x
12+				10x	
240x			4		3
	2-		36x		1
3		2÷		30x	
6x			5		4

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.

Marbles

Solution, page 8

320x			24x		30x	24+		42x
	108x						2x	
6÷			20+	378x				24x
200x				7		24x		
84x				23+			16+	
2		63x				35x		
22+		42x		45x		16x		
9			2-			90x		
3			72x				40x	

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.

THE HOME PAIGE

Doing something

Anything at all

By Paige Bright

I keep trying to figure out if last year I didn't want to do anything or if last year I was terrified of doing anything. This, of course, isn't in reference to my classes — after all, I made it through my freshman year, and that wasn't nothing (which is more than being something). But beyond school work, my obligations were few and far between.

In the moment, and even now on occasion, I told myself that nothing felt enjoyable during COVID.

In the moment, and even now on occasion, I told myself that nothing felt *enjoyable* during COVID. I didn't want to take a virtual salsa class or learn the history of

swimming. And to that extent, I didn't want to go on weekend trips hiking in the woods, nor did I want to explore Boston in the spring. I simply wanted to go from my bed, to my desk, to dining, to my desk, to bed, lather, repeat. I wasn't depressed (at least to my knowledge). I was just scared and tired.

I have also been learning how to do nothing.

I was mostly scared of failing at school, something I (and certainly many students here) hadn't experienced before college. I didn't want to fail an assignment, test, or even worse, a class. Of course, no one wants this to happen to them. But it felt like grades still had/have a death grip over my ability to breathe. This spiraled into what felt like an endless lack of a want to do anything unnecessary. I could spend the next four years like this: only focusing on work, keeping my head down, and simply pushing

through the years. But I tried that last year, and I don't want it anymore. It is debatable whether or not I wanted it to begin with, but with things being back in-person, I at least have the drive to want more for myself.

So, here I am, trying to do something.

So, here I am, trying to do *something*. I am putting myself out there without fear of stretching myself too thin. I am now (evidently) writing for *The Tech*, and in CoMM (Community for Math Majors), and doing things that motivate me. I like to write, and I like questioning educational practices. And maybe I will overexert myself — but I find this scenario to be much less frightening than doing nothing but school.

I have also been learning how to do nothing. Two months ago, a friend who goes to school in New York asked if I would want to see a concert in Provincetown. The idea of going off campus and spending time

not psetting or studying (especially without knowing when midterms would be) was terrifying. So I said yes. And thus, last Friday, I packed a small suitcase, got on the red line to Braintree, met with my friends, and drove to Provincetown. It was so *freeing*. I let myself not stress over work, and for the first time since the beginning of the semester, a weight was lifted from my shoulders.

I am putting myself out there and taking space for myself.

I am putting myself out there and taking space for myself. My school work is still very important to me, but I think there has to be a reasonable balance between work and fun (an obvious statement that I refused to accept before this year). I am hopeful that I will look back on how I spent my time in college and be grateful that I did something more than go to school.

MIT application essays that worked

‘Although I only hear sounds, the rich dialogue and background noise make this other world feel real’

Prompt

We know you lead a busy life, full of activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do for the pleasure of it.

Response

A new adventure begins every time I play This American Life, a popular radio program. I may be jogging on the elliptical or biking on a dirt path, but I am now immersed in my own world. I become a

traveler, exploring eccentric corners all over the world from the Brautigan library to the wind telephone in Japan.

Although I only hear sounds, the rich dialogue and background noise make this other world feel real. Besides visiting new places, some episodes take me back to childhood. Memories of my long-forgotten obsession with ghosts come back alive when I hear the boys at summer camp scream “BLOODY MARY!” The fun

I get from listening to these simple and lighthearted moments doesn't end there. As I picture a cop's failed attempt to capture a squirrel, I try to restrain my feelings of schadenfreude, but I end up roaring in laughter.

No matter what the topic is, the episodes all help me relax. My hectic life comes to a temporary halt when the prologue begins. I engage with the story in different ways, whether it is having

imaginary conversations or relating to the character's emotions. As the story reaches its climax, I keep asking myself what will happen in the end. After the episode ends, I return to reality, but the powerful effects of storytelling still captivate me. I can't stop thinking of the fascinating plot and interesting people. Wanting to refresh my mind, I can't wait to listen to the next story.

— Vivian Hir '25

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

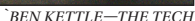
handbook.mit.edu



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE

- **Women's Soccer** demolishes Worcester State University 4-1.
- **Women's Field Hockey** obliterates New England College 2-0.
- **Men's Soccer** takes the W against Endicott College 2-1.



Players compete in an intramural dodgeball game between Terrascope and Burton 3rd Sunday. Fall intramural sports such as Dodgeball, Air Pistol, Badminton, Cricket, Esports, and Flag Football began their seasons this weekend.

Men's Soccer
vs. Brandeis University
7:00 p.m.

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