thetech.com

Volume 141, Number 23



WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 71°F | 59°F

Mostly sunny.

FRI: 69°F | 56°F

Sunny.

SAT: 61°F | 54°F

Partly Sunny.

Thursday, October 7, 2021

# MIT Police releases security & fire safety report October 1st

Total number of criminal offenses fell by 35 between 2018 and 2019

By: Kristina Chen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The MIT Police Department released its Annual Security and Fire Safety Report Oct. 1. Per the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the report includes policies relating to community safety, security, and misconduct; options for reporting crimes; resources for victims of violent crimes; and statistics about crimes at and around MIT's campus. The 2021 report includes statistics from 2018–2020.

The crime statistics disclosed in the report are collected from crimes reported directly to the MIT Police and from other campus offices, such as the Office of the Dean for Student Life, Student Support Services, Residential Life, and MIT Medical.

The total number of criminal offenses reported on campus, in non campus locations, and on public property adjacent to MIT fell from 89 in 2018 to 54 in 2019 and to 17 in 2020, when campus density was significantly reduced due to the COV-ID-19 pandemic.

The most common type of criminal offense reported at MIT was

burglary in all three years, followed by rape and fondling.

There were 42 burglary reports in 2018, decreasing to 23 in 2019 and five in 2020.

The number of reports of rape was 22 in 2018, 13 in 2019, and three in 2020. 13 of the reports of rape in 2018 and 12 in 2019 were from oncampus residence halls.

There were 11 reports of fondling in 2018, five in 2019, and three in 2020. Like reports of rape, most of the reports of fondling were made from residence halls.

In 2018, there were eight reports of motor vehicle theft, which decreased to three reports in 2019 and one in 2020

Reports of aggravated assault increased from three in 2018 to five in 2019 and then decreased to three in 2020.

The report also includes Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offenses, which increased from 33 in 2018 to 34 in 2019. The number of VAWA offenses in 2020 was 10. The number of cases of domestic violence grew from 11 in 2018 to 17 in 2019, and the number of cases of

Security, Page 2



**Nimbus, the solar-powered vehicle** designed and manufactured by MIT's Solar Electric Vehicle Team, participates in the annual Roslindale Parade Sunday.

#### **IN SHORT**

Oct. 8 is **add date**, the last day to add a full-term subject.

Oct. 8 is also the **last day to drop half-term subjects** offered in the first half of the term; the last day for juniors, seniors, and graduate students to change to or from P/D/F grading; and the last day to change a full-term subject from listener to credit.

**Ring Delivery for the Class of 2023** will take place Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 is **Indigenous Peoples Day**. No classes will take place.

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.

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

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



MIT Medical holds its flu vaccine clinics Oct. 4-Oct. 8 in Morss Hall in Walker Memorial.

#### MIT and Amazon launch Science Hub collaborations

The Science Hub, a collaboration between MIT and Amazon, launched Oct. 4. The Science Hub aims to "support research, education, and outreach efforts in areas of mutual interest," according to the Schwarzman College of Computing (SCC) website.

The hub is administered by the SCC at MIT and will focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics in its first year.

Aude Oliva, senior research scientist and director of strategic industry engagement at the SCC, will be the principal investigator for the hub.

Oliva said that MIT is "excited by the potential of collaborations with industry leaders who bring their insights to the research, want to support the next generation of talent, and are best positioned to implement what is learned," on the SCC website.

The website also writes that the collaboration with Amazon will facilitate programs across MIT including annual fellowships for graduate and postdoctoral researchers, events to accelerate and make more accessible AI and robotics research, and stand up research projects led by faculty members.

"We are particularly keen to utilize the breadth of collaboration mechanisms available ... including sponsored research which could lead to open-source publications and community outreach that will broaden participation in the research process", the website quotes Siddhartha Srinivasa, director of Amazon Robotics AI. "These mechanisms are now open to all the business areas of Amazon beyond Robotics too."

The website adds that the Science Hub "complements" existing collaborations between MIT and Amazon, including Amazon's partnership with MIT Leaders for Global Operations and MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics' support of the Amazon Last Mile Routing Research Challenge.

— Kristina Chen

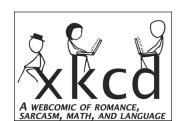
## CONCERNS ABOUT UNIONIZING:

A graduate student suggests potential downsides to the GSU's efforts. **OPINION, p. 6** 



#### HERE'S A SIGN

Don't struggle in silence. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 4** 



#### XKCD

Morning News. **FUN, p. 5** 

#### **SECTIONS**

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2 The Tech
Thursday, October 7, 2021

**WEATHER** 

# Sunny fall weather mocks midterm season

By Phoebe Lin
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

As midterms loom above us this week, so does the sun, boasting temperatures slightly above the historical October average for Boston. Higher than average temperatures are expected in much of the Northeast for a couple more weeks. At least the humidity in Boston has dropped significantly! The sun is

having much more of a successful midterm season than I am.

As a post-midterm reward, consider sailing or kayaking for the last time this season before it becomes too cold outside. Though some showers are possible, heavy rain is unlikely. The Charles River is lovely at this time of year, giving us calm waters and picturesque sunsets. It's a shame we can't all take our midterms outside!

#### **Extended Forecast**

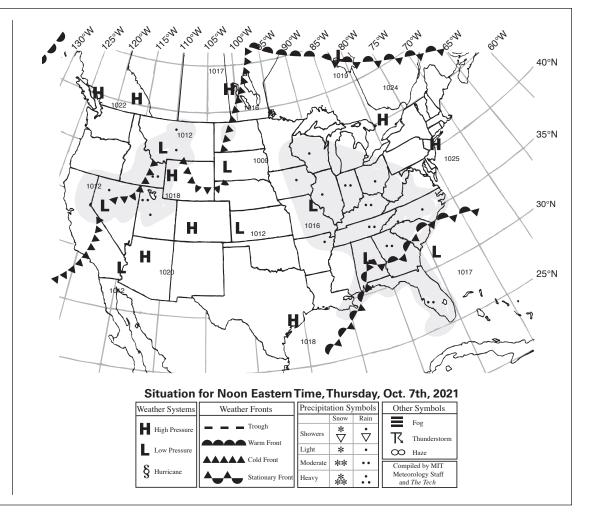
**Today:** Mostly sunny. High around 71°F (22°C). Light winds turning southeast.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low around 59°F (15°C). Winds around 6 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, then chance showers. High around 69°F (21°C) and low around 56°F (13°C). East winds around 10-13 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny. High around 61°F (16°C) and low around 54°F (12°C). East winds 8-10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. High around 64°F (18°C) and low around 56°F (13°C). Light winds, 5-7 mph.



# Majority of VAWA offenses in 2018 and 2019 occurred in campus residence halls

Security, from Page 1

stalking decreased from 19 in 2018 to 13 in 2019. Dating violence reports increased from three to four from 2018 to 2019.

The majority of VAWA offenses occurred in campus residence halls

Arrests and disciplinary referrals increased from 44 in 2018 to 63 in 2019. In 2018, there were 43 cases of liquor law violations (with one arrest) and one case of drug abuse violation. In 2019, there were 57 cases of liquor law viola-

tions, four cases of drug abuse violations, and two cases relating to weapons. There were no arrests in 2019.

There were two fires in residence halls from 2018–2020, one in 2018 and one in 2020.

No hate crime related to disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religious, or sexual orientation was reported by the MIT Police from 2018–2020.

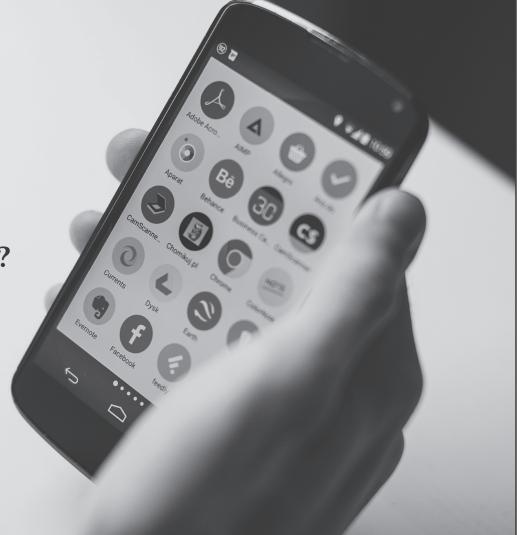
Crime reports can be made to the MIT Police at (617)-253-1212 or anonymously at (617)-258-8477.



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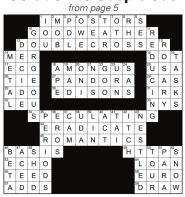
#### **Solution to Hosed**

#### Solution to Midterms

from page 5

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

#### **Solution to Suspicious**





Are you dying to tell someone your latest ephiphany?

Write about it!

Join Campus Life @ The Tech!

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu



Community Social

Refreshments and Music

All are invited Thursday, October 14, 2021 4-5 pm



Link to map

Outdoors on the North Corridor, between Buildings 12, 13, 24, and 31

Technology

12

# Capture the Moment



Join Photo at The Tech join@tech.mit.edu

#### BE A PART UF ++++++++++++++

THE THEATER ARTS FALL 2021 ARTMAKING LABORATORY...

VOCAL ASSEMBLY IS A CO-CREATED ARTWORK MADE OUT OF THE SOUNDS PF OUR VOICES\*\*

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-WEEK PROCESS"

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Join The Tech You'd be a good CATch

#### THE HOME PAIGE

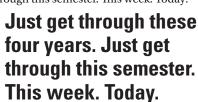
# Here's a sign

If you're looking for one

By Paige Bright

Last spring, with the energy and can-do attitude that only frosh have, I signed up for five classes. In the fall, I just wanted to prove that I could make it through a semester at MIT, but that didn't quite feel like enough at least not then. I wanted to prove that I could push myself even further, and I don't quite know why.

We often get into the mindset that if we can theoretically handle a certain academic load, then we should. After all, that is what got us through most of school before college. For some of us, this mindset goes away, but I have been having trouble shaking it. Part of me thinks it's because I know that my academic career won't be over after these four years. I know that I want to go to grad school next, and it is beginning to make college feel like high school again. Just get through these four years. Just get through this semester. This week. Today.



I was struggling last semester. It felt like I didn't have anyone to turn to, because talking to people takes time, and that was the one resource I didn't have. I also just didn't have people. It's hard to imagine a time when I didn't see people semi-regularly between classes, or a time when I didn't go out of my way for a quick 30-minute social break in Hayden Library.

One of my favorite quotes from a song asks, "If sky's the limit, why am I always looking at the ground?" At the start of last spring, I felt free. On the one hand, I got to take an additional 12 units (much to my detriment), while on the other, I was on campus. I got to see Fenway, grab coffee from 1369, and I saw the Dome. These are big deals; as obvious a point it is to make, we only get to experience MIT for the first time once. While in hindsight these experiences don't feel like that much, many sophomores (and I imagine



GLORIA LIN-THE TECH

We only get to experience MIT once, and I hope to enjoy it.

many freshmen too) are still finding "common" MIT experiences shocking and filled with wonder. For me, this leads to trying to "achieve" as many of these experiences as possible - which was hard to do during online classes — and so I did five classes.

#### As obvious a point it is to make, we only get to experience MIT for the first time once.

I made it through, somehow, but I don't think I will ever do five classes again. There is so much I want to do during my undergraduate experience, and I don't want to miss out because I was too stubborn to practice proper self care.

All of which is to say, if you are looking for a sign to drop that class, here is one. If you aren't required to take that one class and it's slowly killing you every week, lecture, and pset, maybe now isn't the right time. And if you are required to take it, I hear you. It is frustrating to be in a position where the only way out is through. I

do, however, implore you to not struggle in

#### All of which is to say, if you are looking for a sign to drop that class, here is one.

Part of the only reason I was able to get through my workload last year was because I told people I was struggling. I told professors that I was terrified of the upcoming finals, and I told my pset partners when I needed to take a break. Everyone wants to help you succeed, and to the same extent, no one wants you to fail. Putting your thoughts and worries out into the world is oddly comforting; from what I can tell, even having someone acknowledge that you're going through a hard time is comforting.

Struggling is, for better or worse, an MIT experience, but I have learned that only focusing on school and nothing else is not the sort of struggle I enjoy. Many people somehow manage to enjoy their time at MIT, and I, for one, want to be one of them.

## Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!



#### ...by joining the production department at The Tech!

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# NEUNFUNFUNFUN TUN FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN UNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

#### Hosed

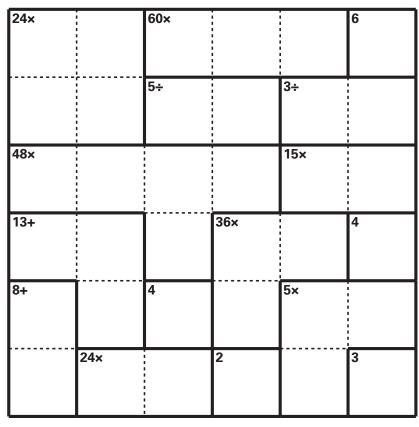
Solution, page 3

1			2		5			6
	7						5	
				8		2		7
	2	9		6	1			4
		5				6		
<b>6 7</b>			4	5		3	1	
7		4		2				
	5						2	
2			9		3			5

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.

## **Midterms**

Solution, page 3



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.

## **Suspicious** by Jonathan Huang

Solution, page 3

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Sufferers of a common syndrome
- 10 Meteorologist's glad tidings
- 12 Extremely skilled spy
- 14 French sea
- 15 Opposite of dash
- 17 It measures heart currents
- 18 Like t, i, and n in units
- 25 Home to at least 34 Springfields
- 26 It comes in neck and bow varieties
- 27 Recently leaked papers that may come in a box?
- 28 Associate of CRISPR
- 29 Little fuss 30 Inventor Thomas and his family
- 31 Annoy
- 32 Romanian currency
- 33 One of the 13 colonies
- 34 Cause of some bubbles?
- 44 Completely eliminate
- 46 Foundation for an argument 12 Resolve
- 45 People with strong beliefs

- 49 Secure site starter
- 53 E, according to NATO
- 54 What may be forgiven?
- 55 Prepared a golf ball 56 Continental currency
- 57 Stacks on top 58 Even score

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Abbreviated debt
- 2 Like a pig or cow in Minecraft
- 3 Absolute English unit of force
- 4 Obligation
- 5 Govt. organization founded after the 1929 Wall Street crash
- 6 It combines with feather in punishment
- 7 Ear prefix
- 8 One of the expressions in an ea.
- 9 French third person pronoun
- 10 Stunning
- 11 Subtracting

- 13 Prayer's string of beads
- 14 What a pedal should hit
- 16 Examples include emptying the garbage or cleaning vents
- 18 Old World simian
- 19 Enraged
- 20 Japanese ogre
- 21 Best-selling handheld game console, in short
- 22 Sticky substance
- 23 Large vessel
- 24 Type of triangular congruency
- 35 Ellipses
- 36 Child of Aphrodite
- 37 Newton who is no longer part of New England
- 39 Designer of the Vietnam Memorial
- 40 One-fifth of Hamlet
- 41 Japanese sea bream
- 42 Restless desire
- 43 Settled comfortably
- 46 B, according to the Greeks 47 Passed easily
- 48 Store for tools 50 Visit to MIT, for high schoolers
- 51 It comes before normal and chute
- 52 White powdery substance

#### [1996] Morning News

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE. SARCASM. MATH. AND LANGUAGE by Randall Munroe

EVERY MORNING, BEFORE MY EYES EVEN FOCUS ALL THE WAY, I READ A BUNCH OF INFURIATING NATIONAL NEWS STORIES AND BAD OPINIONS. I WONDER WHAT THIS IS DOING TO MY BRAIN. IT'S PROBABLY NOT GREAT.



BACK IN MY DAY, WE HAD TO PAY PEOPLE TO PRINT OUT Infuriating News Stories AND BRING THEM TO OUR DOOR. AND WE WAITED UNTIL WE HAD STUMBLED OUT TO THE KITCHEN TO READ THEM. TOTALLY DIFFERENT.



OK, FAIR. BUT NEUSPAPERS AT LEAST HAD MORE LOCAL NEWS MIXED IN, RIGHT?



FULL OF BAD OPINIONS. YYYYYES. ALL OUR OPINIONS WERE GOOD. IT WAS A REMARKABLE TIME.

AND I BET THEY WEREN'T



Support your local paper, unless it's just been bought by some sinister hedge fund or something, which it probably has.



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#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# Some concerns about unionization from a graduate student

Over the last week, MIT's Graduate Student Union (GSU) has pushed for unionizing graduate students in alliance with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE). While several involved with the effort have graciously reached out to provide information, I think a public airing of concerns from a skeptic would benefit all. Understanding that all of us want only the best for graduate students, I summarize those (non-exhaustive) concerns below.

First, the textbook case for unions requires that laborers have few or poor outside options. That is not true here. All of us have exceptional human capital and could therefore get high-paying industry jobs or negotiate our way into other departments. That many of us left or turned down excellent private options to come here is evidence of that fact.

# I do not understand the position that collapsing all of us into a single bargaining unit would necessarily be a net positive.

Second, I do not understand the position that collapsing all of us into a single bargaining unit would necessarily be a net positive. As an economics student, I have very different interests from an engineering student, and it is unclear how a union

would balance those interests in a way that would make everyone better off. In the language of economics, unionization is not Paretian. Homogenization has its costs.

#### I am concerned about the adequacy of representation.

Third, I worry about inflexibility. I previously worked for the government and was forced to be in a union. The rigidity and duration of the collective bargaining agreement imposed severe constraints on my ability to negotiate with superiors and optimize my work experience. Again, it is unclear precisely how unionizing in this situation would make me and everyone else better off if we are constrained to obey the same contract.

Fourth, I am concerned about the adequacy of representation. What expertise and experience can the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America bring to the table? Does a union which seems to mainly represent workers of an entirely different type than graduate students have the relevant skills to represent an economics student or a chemical engineering student? Why would we expect them to do a better job than the existing structure of graduate students, which evidently has substantial experience negotiating with the administration and, by their own admission, has significant accomplishments? Not only that, but a simple perusal of the UE's website reveals them to be a politically radical organization with views that many, if not most students would disagree with, so why should we put ourselves in that position?

Fifth, I hesitate over the costs unionization will bring, both implicit and explicit. The explicit burden of fees is substantial,

while the implicit transaction costs we bear from extensive negotiation, homogenization, and the looming prospect of strikes are also quite high. I struggle to see an outcome where the expected value of unionizing is sufficiently positive that unionizing is as obvious a decision as the GSU makes it out to be.

# I hesitate over the costs unionization will bring, both implicit and explicit.

Finally, we sit in a privileged position. MIT is the best university in the world, and we are quite lucky to be here. Indeed, many would not only take large pay cuts to be in our place, but would go into substantial debt. Consequently, I don't feel oppressed; quite the opposite. We are privileged to be here, and it strikes me as fantastic to compare the plight of an MIT research assistant to the archetypal oppressed laborer.

#### MIT is the best university in the world, and we are quite lucky to be here.

The prospects of unionizing are unclear, and the trade-offs to this point have been poorly defined by the GSU. This is not a free lunch, and, indeed, it is uncertain whether any manna is forthcoming. Further dialogue on this front is essential, and I hope that we can respectfully engage over the coming weeks before a decision is made.

Jackson Mejia is a graduate student in economics at MIT.

#### **CORRECTIONS**

A news article in last week's issue of *The Tech* wrote that the Graduate Student Union would need a supermajority of graduate students to sign union cards to hold a union election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In fact, the NLRB considers 30% of a bargaining unit to be a valid threshold for petitioning a union election.

#### 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.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Dissents} \ are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial. \end{tabular}$ 

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*. 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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**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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Thursday, October 7, 2021

The Tech 7

#### **SPORTS BLITZ**

#### Friday, October 1

- Women's Tennis competes in the ITA New England Regional Championship.
- Women's Volleyball serves Framingham State University a 3-1 win.

#### Saturday, October 2

- Men's Cross Country finishes 1st at the Live in Lou Cross Country Classic.
- Women's Cross Country comes in 5th at the Live in Lou Cross Country Classic.

   Still and Long Talent at the Women's Adduction
- **Sailing** places 5th at the Women's Atlantic Coast Championship Qualifier.
- Men's Water Polo faces a 7-25 defeat against St. Francis College Brooklyn.
- Sailing earns 2nd and 13th at the Tufts Invitational III
- Sailing ranks 16th at the Danmark Trophy.
- **Field Hockey** experiences a 0-3 loss against Babson College.
- Women's Volleyball spikes a 3-0 victory

- against Smith College.
- Men's Soccer outscores the United States Coast Guard Academy 1-0.
- Women's Soccer dominates Wheaton College with a 5-1 win.
- Football loses 13-23 against Catholic.
- Water Polo edges out a 13-12 win against Iona College.

#### Sunday, October 3

• Water Polo is unable to defeat Princeton University in a 5-15 match.

#### Tuesday, October 5

- **Field Hockey** wins 9-0 against Clark University.
- Women's Volleyball comes out on top scoring 3-0 against Johnson & Wales University.

#### Wednesday, October 6

- Women's Soccer takes home the win in a 1-0 game with Babson College.
- Men's Soccer beats Brandeis University 1-0.

## **Upcoming Sports Events**

#### **FRIDAY 8**

Women's Tennis
NEWITT Tournament

Men's Tennis MIT Invitational

#### **SATURDAY 9**

#### Sailing

Stu Nelson Trophy 10:00 a.m.

#### Sailing

Coed Atlantic Coast Championship Qualifier 10:30 a.m.

#### Sailing

Smith Trophy

#### **Water Polo**

vs. Brown University 11:00 a.m.

#### Women's Volleyball

vs. Trinity University 11:30 a.m.

#### Field Hockey

vs. Mount Holyoke College, 1:00 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY 9**

#### Men's Soccer

vs. Emerson College 1:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer

### **SUNDAY 10**

vs. Springfield College

#### Water Polo

1:30 p.m.

vs. Harvard University 12:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY 12**

PORTSSPORTS SPORTS

**Women's Volleyball** vs. Clark University 6:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY 13

#### Women's Soccer

vs. Wellesley College 3:30 p.m.

#### Field Hockey

vs. Roger Williams University 6:00 p.m.

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By Opinion Writer

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