thetech.com

Volume 141, Number 26



WEATHER, p. 2 Chance showers

SAT: 64°F | 50°F Showers

Thursday, October 28, 2021



MIT finishes first in the Men's Collegiate Eights during the Head of the Charles, Sunday.

# Endowment performance and report of committee on discipline discussed at Oct. 20 faculty meeting Task Force 2021 and Beyond recommendations after first two phases and draft of new

Institute values statement also presented to faculty members for comments and suggestions

By Kristina Chen EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT's endowment performance, the annual report of the Committee on Discipline (COD), updates from Task Force 2021 and Beyond, and the draft of the Institute values statement were presented at the Oct. 20 faculty meeting.

Executive Vice President and Treasurer Glen Shor summarized the performance of MIT's endowment in fiscal year 2021, in which MIT achieved a 55.5% return on its endowment, or a \$9 billion

On account of the increase in endowment, the Institute will implement a 30% increase in payout for fiscal year 2023, providing around \$286 million in additional budgetary resources for the year. Of that additional payout, 40% can be used for unrestricted purposes.

Shor explained that the decision to increase payout by 30% and not any higher was to provide the Institute "resilience" to stresses like MIT's losses following a similarly high endowment gain (55.6%) in fiscal year 2000.

Vice President for Human Resources Ramona Allen and Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz discussed how the additional resources would be used, describing the announcement of a three percent base pay increase and stipend increase for staff, faculty, postdoctoral associates and fellows, and graduate students starting Dec. 1.

Provost Martin Schmidt PhD '88 also discussed Institute priorities for utilizing the resources based on conversations held in Spring 2021. These included community and diversity investments, such as community spaces; research "deferred maintenance" improvements; housing, childcare, and transportation for graduate students; and education, social impact, climate, and sustainability initiatives. Areas for continued focus included completing the College of Computing, Institutewide life sciences coordination, and capital renewal.

COD Chair Jay Scheib presented the annual report of the COD for the

2020-21 academic year. The number of complaints to the COD in the past year increased to 812 from 290 in 2019-20 and 286 in 2018-19.

Of the 812 reports, 680 were related to personal and sexual misconduct, 129 were related to academic integrity, and three were related to student organization misconduct. Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, the number of academic integrity reports increased from 54 to 129, the personal and sexual misconduct re-

Faculty Meeting, Page 2

# IN SHORT

Halloween is Oct. 31. Stay safe and

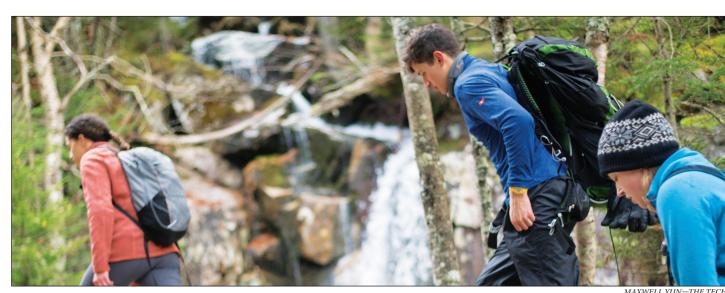
Nov. 1 is the **last day to add half**term subjects offered in the second half of the semester.

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

The Spring 2022 housing switch lottery application is open until Nov. 29 at myhousing.mit.edu.

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

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



Hikers with the MIT Outing Club enjoy the wilderness at Franconia Ridge, New Hampshire, last Saturday,

# **HEALTHCARE**

Unionizing will provide the benefits graduate students need. OPINION, p. 4

# **LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS**

Four city council candidates who will work for students. OPINION, p. 5



# **NO CLEAN BREAK** No hard reset.

#### Vegan pizza makes its CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7 landing. ARTS, p. 6

**MIYOKO** 

# **SECTIONS**

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Thursday, October 28, 2021

**WEATHER** 

# Spooky showers send students spiraling

By Ryan Conti and Alex Bean STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Hey besties! <3 This week, we'll see lots of clouds, with intermittent showers heading into the weekend. If you're planning to treat yourself to a Halloween party, don't be tricked into thinking the night will be clear! In addition, temperatures have officially started to dip; this week features no highs above 65°F (18.3°C).

Nor'easterlies have begun to rear their head in New England,

producing wind gusts in Massachusetts on the scale of a Category 1 hurricane and causing serious flooding in New York and New Jersey; expect the approaching precipitation to be the remnants of these Nor'easterlies! Looking to the future, be prepared for snow to start falling! New England had its first snow this Monday in the Kancamagus Pass of New Hampshire, and it shouldn't be long before the rest of New England gets its own share of the fancy freezing flakes.

#### **Extended Forecast**

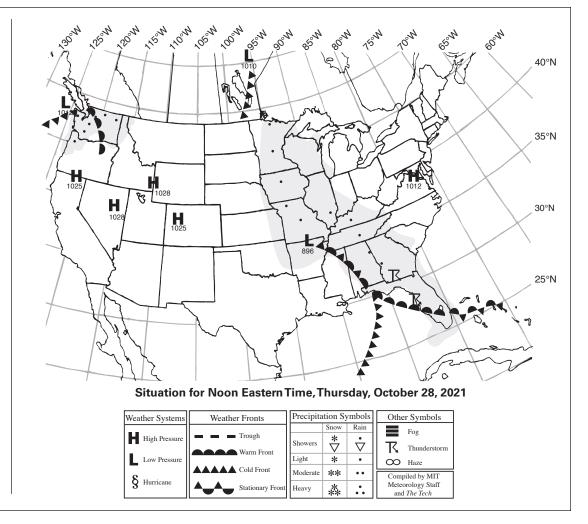
**Today**: Cloudy, with a high near 54°F (12.2°C). Winds around 16 mph, in the north.

Tonight: Cloudy, with a low near 42°F (5.5°C). Winds around 7 mph in the north.

**Tomorrow**: Mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of showers overnight, a high around 54°F (12.2°C) and a low around 51°F (10.6°C).

Saturday: Likely showers, cloudy, a high around 63°F (17.2°C) and a low around 54°F (12.2°C). Winds around 10–13 mph, in the northeast and east.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a high around 64°F (18°C) and low around 50°F (10°C). Winds around 6–9 mph in the west.



# 16 Task Force 2021 and Beyond committees contribute to final report

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

ports increased from 204 to 680, and the number of student organization misconduct reports decreased from 32 to three.

Scheib said that most cases were resolved through education sanctions for students, and only three in 2020–21 required students involved to be "separated from the Institute either temporarily or permanently."

Scheib explained that the increase in cases reflected "the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as altered campus access and some of the other COVID-19 policies." Of the personal and sexual misconduct reports, 632 pertained to violations of COVID-19 policies.

Of the students referred to the COD in 2020–21, 44.7% were graduate students, 13.8% were seniors, 10.9% were juniors, 14.1% were sophomores, and 16.5% were first years; the percentages in 2019–20 were 12.5% graduate students, 15.9% seniors, 20.2% juniors, 25.7% sophomores, and 25.7% first years. Scheib attributed the increase in graduate students referred to there being more graduate students living on campus.

Scheib added that because of the "unique risk factors associated with students returning to campus" during the pandemic and the need to "take immediate action to address non-compliance with COV-ID-19 policies," the COD delegated authority to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, which addressed violations on an expedited basis.

517 of the cases were processed through the COVID-19 expedited process, and 12 were resolved through the COVID-19 amnesty policy. Despite implementing an expedited process, Scheib said that the COD maintained its values of "fairness" and "finding gentle and productive ways to hold students accountable."

Additionally, the COD made several changes to account for federal regulations surrounding Title IX requirements that took effect in 2020. The COD expects to continue making changes to the requirements for likely federal regulation changes in 2022.

Co-chairs of Task Force 2021 and Beyond Professor Rick Danheiser and Vice President for Open Learning Sanjay Sarma presented the work of the task force.

Danheiser summarized the first two phases of the task force's work; the first phase, which took place summer 2020 to early 2021, included generating ideas through community feedback, and the second phase, which took place March 2021 to end of summer 2021, was the refinement and implementation planning phase.

The second phase involved 16 refinement and implementation committees, each of which compiled a three to five page report on their work and recommendations

as part of the task force's final phase two report.

Sarma presented the resulting recommendations of the task force, summarized under five themes, which Sarma presented: articulating MIT's public responsibilities and imbuing them in its community, culture, and actions; rethinking how and where MIT works; reviving MIT's curricular offerings and pedagogy; taking a holistic approach to learning and training; and modernizing MIT's data, systems, processes, and financial models.

After sharing key points of its final report at the faculty meeting and undergraduate officers, the task force will share the report with the MIT community and follow up with ad hoc discussions about aspects of the report.

A few of the key points shared at the faculty meeting included supporting the Institute's five-year diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan; developing guidance for new ways of working at MIT; reconsidering MIT's needs for space; incorporating digital learning into MIT's academic programs; creating community and outdoor green spaces; exploring lifelong and postgraduate learning; strengthening professional and personal development options and advising for graduate students; improving funding for graduate students; approaching funding for MIT under recovery; and forming a one agile team to coordinate projects across the Institute.

A first draft of the new Institute values statement was also presented to faculty at the meeting by Values Statement Committee Chairs Professor Daniel Hastings PhD '80 and Deputy Director of MIT Libraries Tracy Gabridge '88.

Hastings described the values statement as a document that would "articulate the values" to help MIT community members "make choices" and that would be distinctive to MIT.

After working with the values statement committee to discuss with the MIT community, create a draft, and present the report, the committee will continue to finalize the report by seeking input through additional meetings with community members and an online idea bank.

Gabridge said that once updated with this input, the report will be submitted to the Provost and Chancellor for approval, at which point the values statement and its implementation plan will be formally adopted.

Faculty then provided their thoughts on the statement.

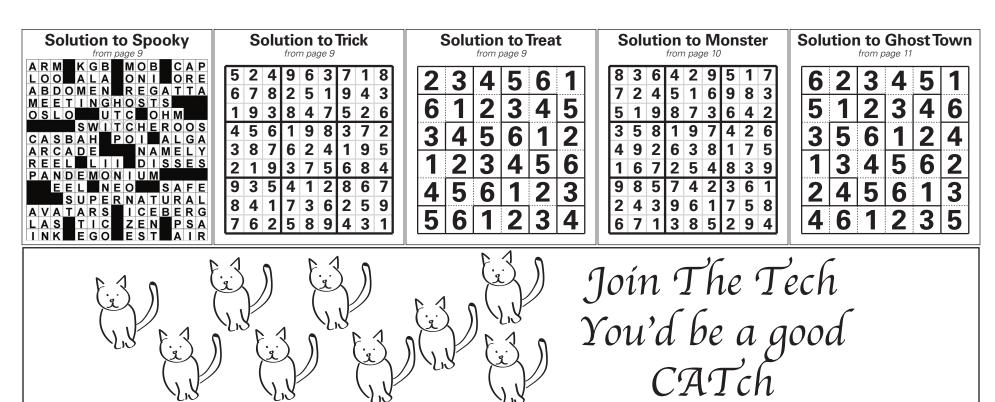
Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Larry Susskind commented that many of the values in the statement were "inward-facing" rather than "outward-facing," but that he found "impressive" in value statements from other organizations a description of "the nature of

the public responsibilities that both the institution" and its members have. Susskind said that he hoped to see more "inclusion of statements with regard to our collective as MIT and our individual responsibilities as public members"

Professor and Director at the Center for Transportation and Logistics Yossi Sheffi said that he thought the statement felt more like a code of conduct and that he "could not find" anything that "any other university would not have in its" value statement. Sheffi also asked whether the statement would include a mention of freedom of speech.

Professor of History Anne Mc-Cants said that she appreciated that the committee highlighted "the problem of values that sometimes just conflict with each other," and that while she is "not sure a single document can encompass" all conflicting values, she finds it important for MIT's "education mission" to acknowledge the conflicts.

Professor of Physics Edmund Bertschinger noted that while the committee described some values in the statement as aspirational, it did not use the word "performative." Bertschinger said that for living documents, "there is a certain view of originalism and framers' intent" and hoped that the committee would think about how conversations about the values within the statement would "evolve decades from now."



Thursday, October 28, 2021

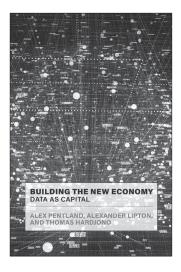
The Tech 3

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# **Faculty books**

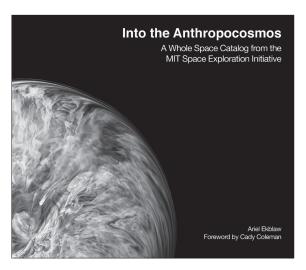


# **Building the New Economy**

Data as Capital

# By Alex Pentland, Alexander Lipton and Thomas Hardjono

How to empower people and communities with user-centric data ownership, transparent and accountable algorithms, and secure digital transaction systems.



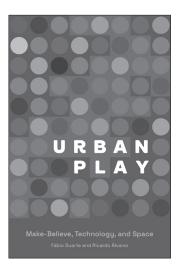
# **Into the Anthropocosmos**

A Whole Space Catalog from the MIT Space Exploration Initiative

# By Ariel Ekblaw

Foreword by Cady Coleman

A lavishly illustrated catalog of space technology of the future: lab-tested devices, experiments, and habitats for the age of participatory space exploration.

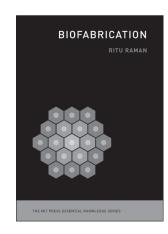


# **Urban Play**

Make-Believe, Technology, and Space

# By Fábio Duarte and Ricardo Álvarez

Why technology is most transformative when it is playful, and innovative spatial design happens only when designers are both tinkerers and dreamers.

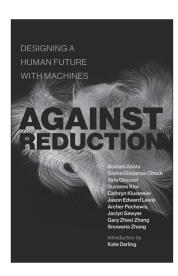


# Biofabrication

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.

# **Alumni books**

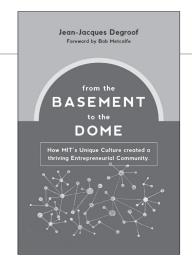


# **Against Reduction**

Designing a Human Future with Machines

By Noelani Arista, Sasha Costanza-Chock, Vafa Ghazavi, Suzanne Kite, Cathryn Klusmeier, Jason Edward Lewis, Archer Pechawis, Jaclyn Sawyer, Gary Zhexi Zhang and Snoweria Zhang

Introduction by Kate Darling Provocative, hopeful essays imagine a future that is not reduced to algorithms.

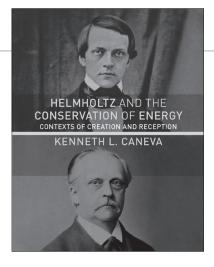


# From the Basement to the Dome

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.

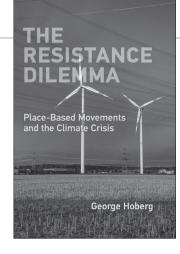


# Helmholtz and the Conservation of Energy

Contexts of Creation and Reception

# By Kenneth L. Caneva

An examination of the sources Helmholtz drew upon for his formulation of the conservation of energy and the impact of his work on nineteenth-century physics.



# The Resistance Dilemma

Place-Based Movements and the Climate Crisis

# By George Hoberg

How organized resistance to new fossil fuel infrastructure became a political force and how this might affect the transition to renewable energy.



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Photo credit: Haley Chung



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**GUEST COLUMN** 

# A \$6,000 bill and inadequate coverage: How MIT health insurance fails graduate workers

To win comprehensive healthcare coverage, MIT graduate workers must come together to form a union

By Ethan Baker, Sneha Kabaria, and Owen Leddy

All MIT graduate workers know that the cost of living in the Boston/Cambridge area is exorbitant. **Now, imagine being hit with a surprise \$6,000 medical bill** — this is the nightmarish reality for some graduate workers at MIT.

Despite MIT's extreme wealth, many of its graduate workers with chronic health needs do not receive affordable care with the currently-offered student insurance; moreover, relief funds meant to help with unexpected medical costs are poorly publicized and can be denied on arbitrary technicalities to the graduate workers who need them most. To secure comprehensive healthcare coverage and to make sure that every graduate worker can afford to receive the healthcare they need, we must come together to form a union.

Most graduate workers are covered by MIT's Student Extended Insurance — our only option for affordable healthcare. Unfortunately, as Alex, a graduate worker in the Biology department discovered, one critical category of care inadequately covered by MIT is meal support and nutritional counseling — the standard of care for eating disorders. Over the last year, Alex was hospitalized repeatedly and required daily nutritional support in order for her to be able to perform her research and work towards her degree. She was required to pay a \$25 copay per daily session; while \$25 may seem small, this fee added up to over \$2,000 over three months.

# Relief funds meant to help with unexpected medical costs are poorly publicized and can be denied on arbitrary technicalities.

After accruing this \$2,000 debt, Alex could no longer afford her copays and was forced to stop some of her recommended treatment early. At the same time, she was still suffering from severe mental health symptoms and — having exhausted traditional lines of pharmaceutical care over the preceding several years — was prescribed a new drug to treat PTSD symptoms and severe, treatment-resistant depression. The worker received preauthorization for the treatment, but despite this, MIT insurance did not completely cover the cost of the drug, leaving her with an additional \$4,000 bill on top of the \$2,000 debt that she had already incurred.

What graduate worker can cover a surprise bill for nearly \$6,000?

MIT ostensibly offers financial assistance for unexpected medical expenses via the Miller Fund, but has declined to cover the cost of Alex's new drug and the accrued copays on an outrageous technicality. Because the worker had to charge most of the costs of the treatment to a credit card (Alex was never informed that this could

be disqualifying, but had no other option to afford her necessary healthcare), the expenses were considered "already paid." Therefore, Alex was ineligible, even though she had no means to pay down the resulting credit card bill other than by seeking personal loans from her friends.

Accessing the Miller Fund is made even more difficult and confusing by the requirement that applicants must have a sponsor for their claim. When the worker's psychiatrist left MIT for a new position, she was told to find a new sponsor and file a new application in order to continue making the case that she should receive financial relief. As of today, the Miller Fund still has not covered any part of the \$4,000 bill (and no part of her previously-accrued \$2,000 debt).

# We organized to harness our collective power and successfully pressured MIT to expand mental health coverage.

In September, the MIT healthcare plan unexpectedly changed without notification, withdrawing a previous expansion of coverage: the MIT administration claims to have had no warning that this change was coming. Unbeknownst to graduate workers and other beneficiaries, coverage for any support provided by a registered dietitian was reduced to 12 sessions per year with a \$25 copay, after which any additional sessions would not be covered at all. Because Alex needed to see a dietitian so frequently, by the time she found out about these changes, she had incurred an additional \$3,000 in charges. Initially, MIT refused to investigate whether or not coverage had actually changed for graduate workers, insisting that this was an individual mistake. After a protracted fight to get MIT and the insurance provider to acknowledge that the charge was unfair, MIT promised that the charges would be covered. Despite these assurances, weeks later, the \$3,000 charge still has not been reverted.

Repeatedly receiving enormous medical bills can threaten graduate workers' ability to focus on research, fully participate in the MIT community, complete their degrees, or even meet their basic needs. Graduate workers living with chronic health conditions or facing a sudden medical emergency should not be saddled with the additional burden of worrying about their insurance coverage, struggling to come up with the money to cover the cost of treatment, or fighting to overturn wrongful charges or to access relief funds. Moreover, all graduate workers still lack coverage in several basic areas of care, and more unexpected changes to insurance policies are still possible without a collectively bargained contract.

MIT lags behind peer institutions on health benefits, and particularly behind

universities where graduate workers have unionized. For example, graduate workers at the University of Michigan secured dental coverage in their union contract in 1983 and also enjoy vision coverage, which is not currently available to MIT graduate workers. Meanwhile, at MIT, the GSC has been asking that MIT provide dental insurance to graduate workers for decades, to no avail. Instead, many MIT grad workers go without dental insurance, or pay out of pocket over \$500 every year.

Previous advocacy efforts organized by the GSU have demonstrated the power of collective action to win expanded healthcare coverage for graduate workers. Prior to the GSU's Mental Health Campaign (then operating as Grad Students for a Healthy MIT), graduate workers only received coverage for 12 therapy sessions per year, after which they incurred a \$25 copay per session. For anyone receiving weekly therapy, this cost quickly became prohibitive, adding up to over \$1,000 a year. We organized to harness our collective power and successfully pressured MIT to expand mental health coverage. We won 52 fullycovered therapy sessions per year, plus expanded benefits for antidepressant drugs, trans-inclusive healthcare, and more. But there is still a long way to go to ensure comprehensive, affordable healthcare coverage for all graduate workers, including those with chronic conditions, like Alex.

# Forming a union is about workers standing in solidarity with one another to ensure that everybody's needs are met.

By coming together to form a union, graduate workers will finally have a democratic voice at the table to advocate for fair healthcare coverage. Forming a union is about workers standing in solidarity with one another to ensure that everybody's needs are met — that means making sure that everyone can afford to take care of their physical and mental health and that no worker has to face the panic of a bill they can't afford on top of a medical emergency.

With our union, we will have the collective power to fight for the healthcare we need.

Join us by signing your union card at *mitgsu.org/sign*.

If you are experiencing similar issues with healthcare as a graduate worker, please contact the MIT GSU at *contact@mitasu* org

Ethan Baker is a 5th year graduate student-worker in Biology.

Owen Leddy is a 3rd year graduate student-worker in Biological Engineering.

Sneha Kabaria is a 2nd year graduate student-worker in Chemical Engineering.

All authors are organizers for the MIT Graduate Student Union.

# **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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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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 ${\bf Guest\ columns}$  are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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**GUEST COLUMN** 

# MIT Democrats endorses candidates for the Cambridge City Council and Boston mayoral race Azeem, Sobrinho-Wheeler, Siddiqui, Bullister, and Wu address issues important to MIT

students

By Seamus Lombardo, Andrea Arias, Dahlia Dry, and David Mazumder

While university students such as those at MIT make up large parts of the vibrant communities of both Cambridge and Boston, the issues important to us and the challenges we face are often not given their proper weight in the local governments of these cities. This November, in the Cambridge City Council race and the Boston Mayor's race, we have a chance to make our voices heard as MIT students and elect local representatives that better reflect our generation, diverse backgrounds, and the issues that matter to us as

The five candidates MIT Democrats has chosen to endorse match the priorities of our generation and seek to address the challenges facing MIT students. Students living in Cambridge and Boston face an affordable housing crisis, with rents both on- and off-campus being driven sky-high by rising market rates. Most MIT students do not own cars and prioritize affordable public transportation and safer biking infrastructure. All members of our generation are constantly confronted with the existential threat of the climate crisis and want our elected officials to do more to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We as students value our diverse community - we want all MIT students regardless of their race or citizenship status to feel safe and welcome in Cambridge and Boston.

All of these candidates share our values on these issues so important to MIT students. They have detailed plans to increase housing affordability, combat the climate crisis, and improve public transit. We selected these candidates after a vigorous discussion and a vote of our membership. Thanks to Cambridge's ranked choice voting system, we can lend our support to the following four candidates for Cambridge City Council.

# **Burhan Azeem**

Burhan Azeem graduated from MIT in 2019 with a degree in materials science and engineering. He ran and was endorsed by MIT Dems in 2019 and ended as the first runner-up. This year he is running again for

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Censorship and the **Carlson Lecture from** an alum's perspective

I am saddened but not surprised to read about the cancellation of the Carlson Lecture of Professor Abbot, as well as by the response of some members of the community. When I was an MIT student, I challenged an MIT censorship policy by showing a film, following it with an open discussion. The response of the administration was to bring me up on charges in front of the Committee on Discipline (COD). The COD ultimately dismissed the charges and ruled that the policy constituted. sive restraint on freedom of expression at

Cambridge City Council on a platform centered around the issues that matter most to students: housing, transportation, and climate action. He has worked extensively on his proposed Cambridge Students Association to facilitate important dialogues between student leaders in Cambridge and city councilors to better engage and empower the Cambridge student population.

After immigrating from Pakistan to the U.S., where he came to personally understand housing instability through his family's struggles, he delved into sustainability research at MIT and spent his free time becoming involved in local activist groups like A Better Cambridge focused on advocating for more affordable housing. Burhan's primary comprehensive plan aims to address the climate crisis with the theory that building a more sustainable Cambridge means also building a more equitable Cambridge. Through investing in green, efficient transportation and pushing for dense, cost-effective and affordable housing development, Burhan believes that we can successfully create transformative change in the direction of both a better planet and a better city for everyone.

We believe that Burhan's first-hand understanding of the interconnected nature of the problems that we face and his experience calling MIT home for four years make him the best candidate to be the voice that MIT students need in shaping the future of

## Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler is a first-term city councilor, a renter, and a democratic socialist who currently serves as the Chair of the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee and Co-Chair of the Housing Committee in City Hall. Before taking office, he worked at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a land policy think tank focused on supporting conservation projects and helping other organizations build sustainable communities. As councilor, he has been vocal in his support of workers' right to organize and specifically of the MIT Graduate Students Union, and has advocated for a citywide Green New Deal for Cambridge. He has also been involved

MIT." But the policy remained in effect for several years, with continued threats of enforcement and later with modifications. At the time, I hoped and thought that I could increase awareness of the importance of free speech at a university. It seems that over the years, censorship has only gotten worse. One of the attorneys who represented me at the time went on to found the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) in 1999. He recently told me that he originally expected that it would only be around for 10 years as censorship at universities was so absurd, but, unfortunately, FIRE is still going strong!

Even the arguments have not changed. It seems that everyone claims to support free speech, and then some people want to add exceptions for their own discomforts. I suggest that it is precisely the disagreeable words that need protection! I think w all agree that members of the MIT comwith issue-focused community organizations such as the Democratic Socialists of America, Cambridge Bicycle Safety, and City Life/Vida Urbana to support tenant rights, strengthen bike infrastructure, and fight for a Cambridge that works for everyone.

# Sumbul Siddiqui

Sumbul Siddiqui is a Cambridge native, Pakistani immigrant, and former attorney currently serving her first term as Mayor and second term as a city councilor. As mayor, she was tasked with handling the city's COVID-19 response and made significant investments to directly support Cambridge families, small businesses, and residents as well as manage accessible testing and vaccination throughout the city. As someone whose family directly benefited from a lottery to enter the Cambridge affordable housing system, she has been a passionate advocate for tenants' rights and funding new affordable housing construction. Additionally, she has used her time in office to advocate for better bike and transit infrastructure (including a fare-free T) and has had a consistent record of engaging with the MIT community and listening to the concerns of students throughout her tenure.

### Dana Bullister

Dana Bullister is a long-time East Cambridge renter, data scientist, and MIT alumna running for a seat on the City Council for the first time. She studied the role of misinformation in political discourse early in her academic career and now teaches and researches how better data can drive more equitable and sustainability-focused policymaking at Northeastern University. She would bring needed expertise to the Council as it confronts the inter-linked challenges of increasing housing affordability, biking and pedestrian infrastructure, and access to public transit. A community advocate for increased transparency and people-centered decision-making with Our Revolution Cambridge, Dana would focus on accountability and openness in the selection of the next City Manager. Dana has modeled this ethic in her own campaign with weekly candidate town halls and has made engagement with student concerns a pillar of her candidacy.

munity should have our ideas challenged. That must include being able to express unpopular or distasteful ideas, and yes, these can make people feel uncomfortable or hurt. The retraction of the invitation to deliver the Carlson Lecture was clearly meant as a punishment for the views that he expressed.

The events around the invited Carlson Lecture and views of Professor Abbot demonstrate how censoring speech can result in an increase in publicity for hurtful views. Instead of having productive dialogue about climate science, the field in which Professor Abbot is well respected, or about diversity. where his views are more controversial, the decision to censor has resulted in conversations about when and how someone at an academic institution is permitted to present. President Reif recently sent a letter to the community in which he stated "Freedom of expression is a fundamental

#### Michelle Wu

In addition to these candidates in Cambridge, we also want MIT students who live in Boston to have their voices heard in the important Mayoral race — and the candidate that will best stand up for student priorities is Michelle Wu. Michelle knows what it is like to be a Boston-area university student from her time at Harvard, and she is now raising her family here. First elected in 2013 as an at-large member of the Boston City Council, Michelle has experience promoting diversity, fighting climate change, and standing up to corporate interests from within the local government. She is the only mayoral candidate that supports rent control, a bold reform to tackle the housing affordability crisis severely affecting students. She has proposed a detailed Green New Deal for Boston to cut emissions, improve climate resilience, and advance environmental justice. On transportation, Michelle is fighting for fare-free public transit, better biking infrastructure, and a safer Boston for pedestrians. Lastly, as a woman, Asian American, and child of immigrants, Michelle represents a historic chance to advance diversity in the leadership of Boston.

#### Call to Action

We encourage all MIT students to make their voices heard in these important upcoming elections! Look up your polling place here and make sure to vote November 2!

Our endorsement process: MIT Democrats hosted a discussion event about the 2021 local elections. Afterwards, we held a vote among our membership, and the above candidates

The following members of MIT Democrats assisted in writing this endorsement:

Seamus Lombardo, PhD candidate in Aeronautics and Astronautics, Executive Board Member of MIT Democrats Andrea Arias, Undergraduate in Math-

ematics, Member of MIT Dems

Dahlia Dry, Undergraduate in Physics and Electrical Engineering, Member of MIT Dems

David Mazumder, Medical Student in Health Sciences and Technology, Member of

value of the Institute." I strongly agree. Yet I'm not convinced, after all this time, that things will change. But I do hope that MIT can someday become a place that celebrates freedom of speech, and will never again take away the right to speak due to someone's unpopular, distasteful, or even incorrect views.

It is sad that we are still having this conversation after so long. This act of censorship provides an opportunity for the MIT community to stand up for academic freedom going forward and to try to prevent this from happening in the future. I previously wrote in The Tech, "The administration must understand that censorship is growing on campuses and that they should be in the forefront fighting this dangerous trend, not leading it." I hope that it will not take another 30 years for MIT to accept that

Adam Dershowitz, BS '89, MS '91, PhD '98

# **OPEN LETTER**

# MIT must not cancel scientific presentations over societal pressure

By Daniel B. Borenstein

Dear Dr. van der Hilst,

I am writing to you as an MIT graduate out of concern for your decision to cancel this year's Carlson Lecture. I know MIT has always been open to men and women from all walks of life and am fine with reviewing whether there are existing policies that would disadvantage any qualified student. However, it is far from clear to me whether DEI efforts and policies are an improvement or divisive. Of course these are just initials, and the policies and approaches can be constructed differently in different institutions. When something is labeled like this and becomes a movement, I do

feel some discomfort. Obviously, you must have felt some pressure by it or the tenets behind it to cancel the lecture.

Professor Dorian Abbot wouldn't have been invited if his scientific work didn't merit the honor. More importantly, I can't find anything to suggest that he is a racist or even biased. Perhaps the Hitler reference he and Stanford professor Iván Marinovic used as an example of an extreme result of distorted values was a bit much, but it isn't his main argument related to academic freedom and achievement.

I have personally witnessed the added stress and anxiety students experience when they are thrust into academic settings for which they are not prepared.

MIT's curricula and competition already provide more than enough stress as it is. Let's help better prepare disadvantaged, minority, LGBTQ, etc. students at lower levels so when they are admitted they can compete on an equal footing. If professors aren't even-handed, they should be educated or replaced so there is a level playing field for all students.

I am worried about our society in its readiness to label people or actions as racist, an extreme form of bias. Most people are unaware of their prejudices, which can be modified, if not corrected, simply by bringing their attention to them in a friendly way. Others are able to evolve from initial prejudices through education and experience.

Racists embrace their prejudices conscious ly and often act on them.

We need to listen to the Abbots and Marinovics even if we don't entirely agree with them. Let's not do anything to limit or stifle scientific work and/or presentations. I have never written a message like this, but when MIT cancels a scientific presentation, I have to write something. We must not give in to social, political, or societal pressures in instances like this.

Daniel B. Borenstein '57, MD, FAPA Clinical Professor of Psychiatry (Retired), UCLA Geffen School of Medicine Past President, American Psychiatric Association

# **RESTAURANT REVIEW**

# A new take on an American classic: pizza I tried vegan mozzarella for the first time, and it tasted surprisingly normal

**By Mindy Long** 

Miyoko's Creamery, a leading plant dairy brand headquartered in Sonoma, CA, is launching its newest product: liquid vegan mozzarella that melts, stretches, bubbles and browns exactly like conventional dairy mozzarella. This fall, Miyoko's Creamery embarked on its Mind-Blowing, World-Changing, Phenomenally Vegan Pizza Mozzarella Tour of the East Coast, with stops in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. I recently had the chance to try one of Miyoko's new vegan pizzas at one of its Boston food truck stops in Boston Common at the Boylston MBTA station.

Miyoko, the creamery's founder, is a chef and animal sanctuary founder who is dedicated to the vegan movement. In 2014, they launched a vegan dairy company under the name Miyoko's Kitchen, later renaming it Miyoko's Creamery. Since then, the company has experienced explosive growth, leading Miyoko to be named one of the inaugural Forbes 50 over 50.

I tried a slice of both the margherita and (vegan) sausage pizzas. At first glance, the mozzarella was barely visible on the pizza as it had a thin texture. Once I took a bite of the margherita, though, I could taste a hint of cheese. Looking more closely, I saw Miyoko's added salt to the margherita because the cheese was relatively tasteless. The vegan sausage, supplied by Hungry Planet, another plant-based meat brand, compensated for the lack of taste

of the cheese on the sausage pizza.

Since this was my first time trying vegan pizza, I can't rank Miyoko's compared to other vegan pizzas. I was, however, pleasantly surprised that the pizza tasted normal. If I had not known it was vegan, I would've guessed I was eating high school lunch pizza.

Overall, I had an enjoyable experience tasting vegan pizza for the first time. Miyoko's still has some room for improvement, such as increasing the texture and creaminess of their vegan mozzarella, but that is no small task for a plant-based dairy manufacturer. I'm impressed by how far they've come to replicate a typical pizza, and I look forward to their next creations.

The new cashew-based, liquid vegan mozzarella will launch in Sprouts across the

**★★★☆☆** Miyoko's Creamery Vegan dairy brand,

Sonoma, CA

country Oct. 18, 2021. Whole Foods will begin carrying the item in January 2022. If you want to see the product on your local grocer's shelf or in your local pizza shop, let them know by filling out this form.



# THE HOME PAIGE

# Reset

# Can't we make it stop, for just a minute?

By Paige Bright

STAFF WRITER

In TV shows, there's this cliché. Two characters (no matter their relationship) get into a fight and after some amount of time (whether it be a few episodes or an entire season), they decide that they want to move on. Except they don't quite know how. It would be all too simple to just have one character say their actions were wrong; after extended fights like this, usually both parties are to blame for the situation in some respect. And so, through desperation (and possibly lazy writing), one character walks up to the other and says, "Hi. I'm [insert name here]. I don't think we've met."

They, much like the audience, want things to go back the way they were, give or take the minor/major dysfunctional aspects of the relationship. People like clean breaks. Ripping the bandaid off, no anesthesia. A nice reset button, in which everything is magically fixed, and everyone move on.

I've been wanting to walk up to MIT, shake her hand, and say "Hi. I'm Paige. I don't think we've met."

I had a bad freshman year. I have been trying to accept this statement for a while now, yet every time it crosses my mind, I just can't process it. Recently, I remembered that *something* was off last year. Everyone was hosed — this much I knew — but this was different. I think it's relatively common to voluntarily hose yourself — with too many classes, too many clubs, too many bad decisions. But this was different. *Something* was off. Then, I started looking through my past writing and remembered. It felt like no one cared.

For those who don't know, this spring, we didn't get a spring break. Instead, we

had a series of three-day weekends spread out over the course of a semester. This time off evolved into extra time for psetting and no time to destress. This sentiment was expressed everywhere I looked: *The Tech*, PNR Comics, MIT Admissions blogs, MIT Confessions. I just kept thinking:

Everyone knows how much pain we are in. Can't we make it end, for just a minute?

But this never happened. The world kept on spinning, and we pushed through. And I forgot. I forgot the pain, the agony, the resentment. Towards myself, for putting myself through that.

Should I have taken a gap year?
Resentment towards MIT for letting it

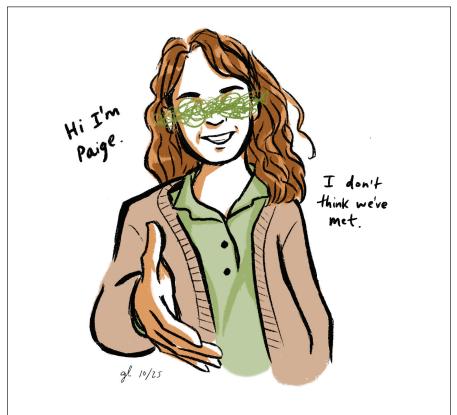
Do something. Do anything.

Mostly, I just felt numb. I understood the emotions of hating a world I worked so hard to be a part of, but I just never felt them. How could I have? There isn't enough time; the world keeps on spinning. But that was the COVID era. Things this semester were going to be different. They needed to be. Someone was going to care.

I wanted to forget what last year was like. I wanted to start fresh. "Hi. I'm Paige. I don't think we've met."

This never works in TV shows. Eventually, the characters fight again, and words left unsaid bubble to the surface leaving a bad taste in your mouth. From here, the TV cliché can go one of two ways. Either the characters reflect on how much they've grown and move past this (now understood to be) petty argument for the better, or their relationship doesn't make it past another round of fighting.

I was desperate enough to ask for a reset — desperate enough to forget. A nice clean break from the hell that was last year, in



GLORIA LIN—THE TECH

IMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE

I was desperate enough to ask for a reset.

hopes that this semester I could start fresh. MIT hasn't changed. This is still the same relationship. We are burdened by the knowledge and experiences we wish to forget.

MIT will always be a struggle. Perhaps this statement would be easier to accept if last year was in person. I was more likely to feel alone and unseen when struggling in an online environment. But now, it feels

like I was blindsided twice: once with the innocence of a freshman, and once again with the innocence of a sophomore excited to have things finally improve. Was I naive to hope for improvement? Did I truly think things could be better? I don't know. Everything feels just *slightly* off. It would be naive not to acknowledge this. There will be no clean break, and no hard reset.

Hi. I'm Paige. We've met.

Sports-writ-er(s)
/'spôrts,rīdərs/
noun

noun: sports writers

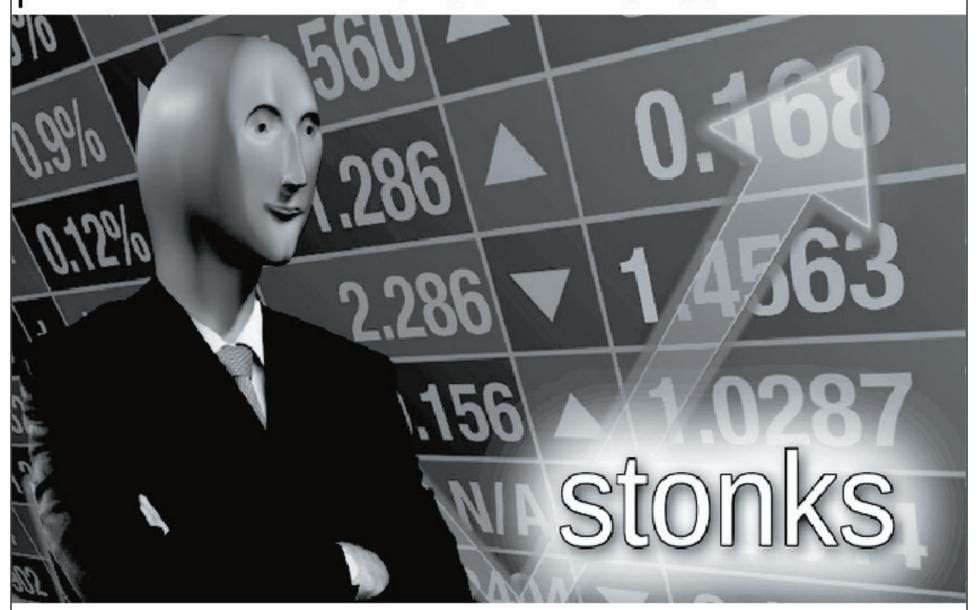
journalists who write about sports.

No prior experience needed! Just an interest in sports. And probably writing.

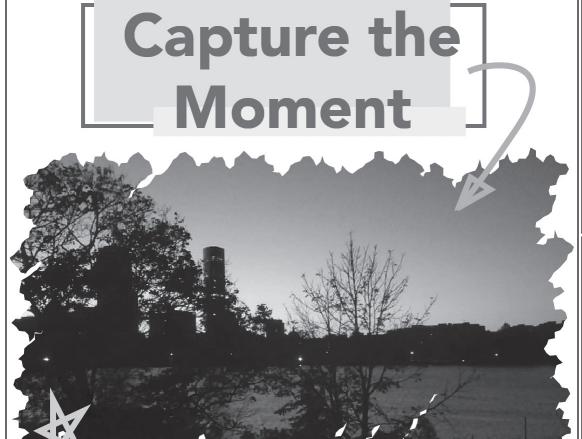
For more information, please contact sports@the-tech.mit.edu

8 The Tech
Thursday, October 28, 202

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# FUNFUNFUNFUNFUN **FUN**FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFU UNFUNFUNFUNFUNFU

# Trick

Solution, page 2

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

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.

# Treat

Solution, page 2

	40×	150×	
	<b>-</b>	12×	
4	<b>-</b>	24×	12×
	3	5	
180×		6×	3
<b>-</b>	2×		4
		4 3 180×	12x  4 24x  3 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.

# **Spooky** by Jonathan Huang

Solution, page 2

# **ACROSS**

- 1 A lot of money, minus a leg
- 4 Putin's former employer
- 7 Black Friday group
- 10 "For real?" "No \_ 13 London lavatory
- 14 Phrase before carte and
- 15 Follower of pepper, on
- pizza 16 Minecraft find
- 17 One of three insect tagmata
- 19 Head of the Charles, for one
- 21 Zoom room creators
- 23 Munch Museum just opened in this city
- 24 See 69-across
- 25 Resistance unit
- 27 Comedic swaps 32 North African fortress
- 36 Polynesian mashed starch
- 37 Cell in a red tide
- 38 Pac-Man place
- 39 "That is to say..." 41 Wind on the water?
- 42 XIII x IV
- 45 Like some Eminem tracks
- 46 Chaotic situation

- 49 It is often jellied in England 8 Some bits of a string?
- 50 Mr. Anderson, in the Matrix
- 51 Opposite of out?
- 55 Type of beings found in the circled letters in this crossword
- 59 The Dashavatara, for example
- 62 Cool lettuce type
- 63 \_\_\_ Palmas
- 64 Part of a trio with toe 65 Peaceful garden
- 66 "Please mind the gap." (at a T station)
- 67 Squid defense
- 68 Part of a trio with id
- 69 24-across 05:00
- 70 Broadcast

# **DOWN**

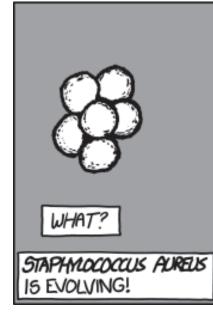
- 1 Site to remember
- 2 Required uniform at Hogwarts
- 3 Shape in 3D
- 4 Shinto sprite 5 Narrow valley
- 6 Central African Republic
- 7 Country where one might find a 32-across

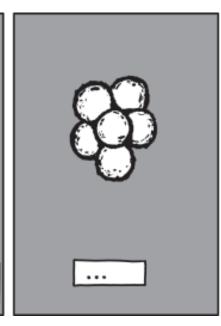
- 9 Hallux
- 10 Portable bed
- 11 A jealous mistress,
- according to Emerson
- 12 Pod member
- 18 Prefix to laryngologist 20 Indian monasteries
- 22 \_\_\_:// 26 Some have star noses
- 27 "Boohoo, so \_\_\_!"
- 28 Swamp
- 29 Religion possibly practiced
- in 20-across
- 30 Rudely stare
- 31 Comments
- 32 Invasive fish in the Mississippi
- 34 The room where it happened, of a crime
- 35 Superlative title that seems hard to measure?
- 40 Part of a trio with fire
- 43 Playwright of the 1959 avart-garde Rhinoceros
- 44 Location of patients, in brief
- 47 Output fluid from a chromatograph
- 48 Charge up 51 Benchwarmer

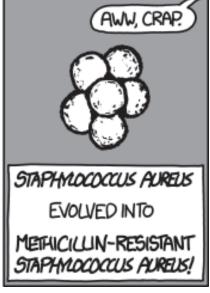
- 52 Food with corn flour as the main ingredient
- 53 Language in Tehran
- 54 Composer of some regularly used graduation music
- 56 Person with a superiority complex
- 57 With luck, they can be found in a pocket?
- 58 Cover for campers 59 Cassius Clay, more commonly
- 60 Carnival or Odyssey
- 61 A tall version is quite difficult

# [1147] **Evolving**





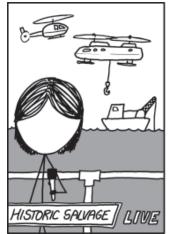


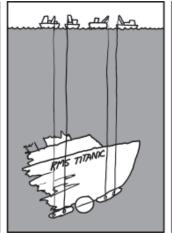


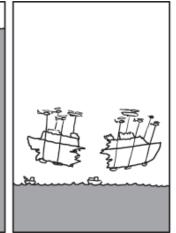
ence to cause evolution.

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

# [1598] **Salvage**









My hobby: Taking advantage of the rice myth by posting articles on "how to save your wet phone" which are actually just elaborate recipes for rice pilat.

# **Monster Mash**

Solution, page 2

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

# **Ghost Town**

Solution, page 2

4–		180×			6×
1-		2		8×	
	23+				8×
2×			180×		
	4				15×
144×					

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.

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

# [1905] Cast Iron Pan





IF YOU EVER LET SOAP

APPLY MOISTURIZER
TO THE PAN DAILY
TO KEEP IT FRESH.

...MOISTURIZER?
DO YOU WANT IT TO
GET ALL WRINKLY?

...I...GUESS NOT.

TUICE A YEAR, FILL THE PAN WITH IRON FILINGS AND LEAVE IT IN DIRECT SUNUGHT FOR 24 HOURS.

WAIT. 24 HOURS OF SUN?

IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO TRAVEL TO THE ARCTIC, YOU DON'T DESERVE CAST IRON.

# SPORTSSPORTSSPORTS

# **SPORTS BLITZ**

# Saturday, October 23

- **Rifle** faces defeat against the United States Coast Guard Academy 4184-4552.
- Sailing earns 7th out of 18 at the Oberg
- **Sailing** achieves 6th out of 15 at the Yale Women's Intersectional.
- **Sailing** finishes 16th out of 18 at the Atlantic Coast Championships.
- Sailing ends at 4th out of 6 at the Norm
- Reid Team Race.

   Women's Volleyball serves up a victory
- against Middlebury College 3-1.
  Women's Lightweight Crew sweeps the competition, winning 1st out of 7 in Lightweight Fours at the Head of the
- Women's Soccer stomps the United States Coast Guard Academy 2-0.
- Water Polo defeats Augustana College
- Water Polo obliterates Washington and Jefferson College 19-4.

write for us

e-mail join@tech.mit.edu

Be a PENguin

- **Men's Lightweight Crew** places 23rd at the Head of the Charles.
- **Men's Heavyweight Crew** places 27th at the Head of the Charles.
- Men's Soccer shuts out Babson College 1-0.
- **Football** clutches it against Norwich University 48-37.
- Women's Openweight Crew ranks 6th and 18th at the Head of the Charles.
- Women's Volleyball experiences a loss against Williams College 1-3.

#### Sunday, October 24

- Water Polo narrowly loses against Johns Hopkins University 10-11.
- Men's Lightweight Crew places 5th in the and 15th at the Head of the Charles.
- Men's Heavyweight Crew wins 1st and 11th in Collegiate Eights at the Head of the Charles.

#### Tuesday, October 26

• Women's Volleyball is defeated by Babson College 1-3.

# **Upcoming Sports Events**

# **SATURDAY 30**

Women's Openweight Crew Head of the Fish

Men's Heavyweight Crew Head of the Fish

# Sailing

Urn Trophy 10:00 a.m.

# Sailing

Nickerson Trophy 10:30 a.m.

# Sailing

Schell Trophy 10:30 a.m.

# Women's Cross Country

NEWMAC Championship 11:00 a.m.

# **Water Polo**

vs. St. Francis College 11:30 a.m.

# **Men's Cross Country**

NEWMAC Championship 12:00 p.m.

# Women's Volleyball

vs. United States Coast Guard Academy 12:00 p.m.

# Women's Soccer

vs. Smith College 1:00 p.m.

# Football

vs. United States. Coast Guard Academy

# Field Hockey

vs. WPI 3:00 p.m.

# Men's Soccer

vs. WPI 4:00 p.m.

# Water Polo

vs. Princeton University 7:30 p.m.

# **SUNDAY 31**

# Sailing

Urn Trophy 10:00 a.m.

# Sailing

Nickerson Trophy 10:30 a.m.

#### **Water Polo**

vs. Iona College 10:00 a.m.

# Sailing

Schell Trophy 10:30 a.m.

# **TUESDAY 2**

**Women's Soccer** NEWMAC Quarterfinal

# Field Hockey

NEWMAC Quarterfinal

#### Men's Soccer NEWMAC First Round

Women's Volleyball NEWMAC Quarterfinal

