

Provost Schmidt is next RPI President

*Schmidt has been at MIT for 40
years as student, professor, provost*

By Kristina Chen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Provost Martin A. Schmidt SM '83 PhD '88 will serve as President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) beginning July 2022. Schmidt will continue to be provost of MIT until February 2022, to complete the current budget process.

According to a letter from President L. Rafael Reif to the MIT com-

munity, Reif hopes to "identify" Schmidt's successor "promptly" to allow Schmidt time to prepare for his new position and to "ensure a smooth transition for MIT."

In an MIT News article, Schmidt said that when RPI first approached him "over the summer regarding the presidency," he was "not at first convinced that it was a fit" for him.

Provost, Page 2



KATE LU - THE TECH

Jakin Ng '25 teaches "Folding Fanatics", a class on the art of origami for ESP Splash, which took place virtually this year.

56 COVID-19 cases reported in past week

*CDC recommends that all individuals ages 18 and older receive a
booster vaccine, currently available for all adults in Massachusetts*

By Kristina Chen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As of 10:30 p.m. ET Dec. 1, MIT Medical has reported 56 positive COVID-19 tests out of 21,080 total tests in the past seven days (Nov. 25 to Dec. 1) for a positivity rate of 0.27%.

While lower than the Cambridge 14-day average of 0.40% and the Massachusetts 7-day average of 3.72%, the percent of positive cases is higher than any weekly average previously recorded by MIT Medical during Fall 2021. The next highest percent was 0.16% from Nov. 14 to Nov. 20, during which 55 positive tests (out of 33,728) were recorded, including 7 undergraduate and 23 graduate students.

Of the 56 positive cases recorded between Nov. 25 and Dec. 1, 21 are students, 29 are employees, and six are affiliates. 81 members of the MIT community are currently in isolation.

The month of November saw the most positive COVID-19 tests at MIT (184 out of 132,743 tests) this semester, compared to 77 (out of 140,111) in October and 118 (out of 142,267) in September.

In a Nov. 17 email to the MIT community, MIT Medical Director Cecilia Stuopis '90 wrote that in 2020, "MIT saw its highest rates of COVID-19 cases between Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr. Day," likely a result of the cold weather causing people to gather indoors more frequently and to remove their face coverings.

Stuopis wrote that currently, with many community members traveling and spending time with family and friends, MIT Medical expects more cases and advises avoiding crowds, wearing multiple face coverings while traveling, and eating outdoors when possible.

As of Nov. 29, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance states that everyone over the age of 18 should receive a booster vaccine for COVID-19. Previously, only individuals over the age of 50 were strongly recommended to receive a booster.

The adjusted guidance may be in response to increased risk of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which was first classified Nov. 26. The first confirmed case of the Omicron variant in the U.S. was re-

ported in California, according to a Dec. 1 statement from the CDC. The Omicron variant may spread more quickly than other variants, such as the Delta variant, currently the predominant strain of COVID-19 in the U.S.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a booster vaccine has been made available to all individuals 18 and older who are fully vaccinated (at least 6 months after their second Pfizer or Moderna dose or at least 2 months after their Johnson & Johnson dose). MIT Medical is not currently providing booster vaccines.

MIT Medical continues to require community members to wear face coverings while indoors and abide by a once or twice weekly testing cadence to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

IN SHORT

The Spring 2022 housing switch lottery application deadline has been extended to 11:59 p.m. Dec. 2.

For subjects with final exams, **no assignments may be due after Dec. 3**. For subjects without final exams, no exams and at most one assignment may be given between Dec. 3 and the final day of class.

Dec. 9 is the last day of classes.

Final exams will take place Dec. 13–17.

Pre-registration for IAP is open until 5 p.m. Jan. 3.

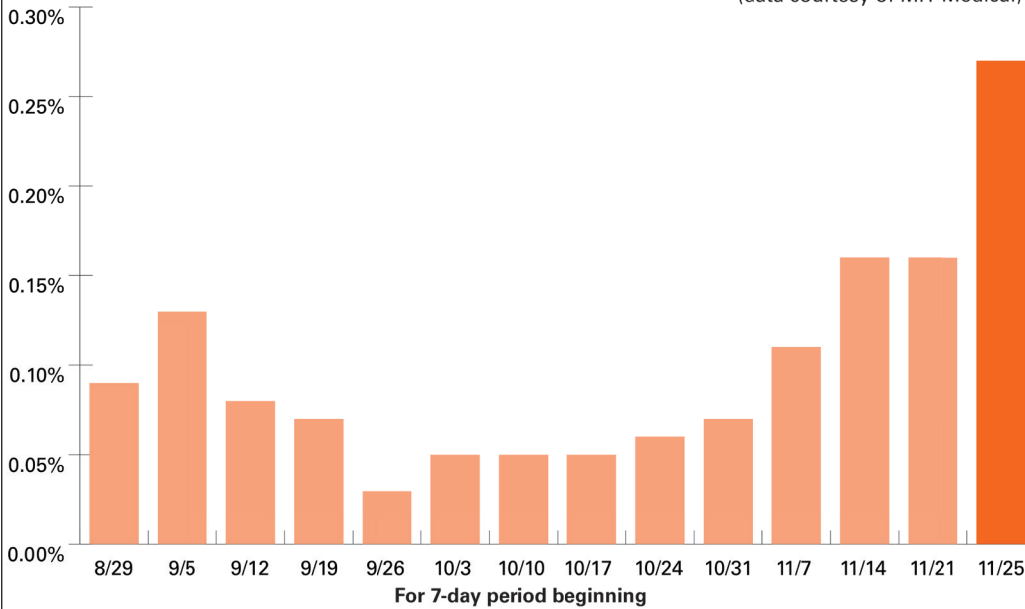
Pre-registration for Spring must be initiated by 5 p.m. Jan. 6, and pre-registration closes Jan. 13.

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

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

Rate of Positive COVID-19 Tests at MIT During Fall 2021, by Week

(data courtesy of MIT Medical)



ARUN WONGPROMMOON—THE TECH

The rate of positive COVID-19 tests in the past seven days is MIT's highest this semester.



LONG NGUYEN

The Musical Theater Guild presents *Firebringer* produced by Starkid.

RADIO OPERATOR

Search for identity.
ARTS, p. 4

TAIWAN

Missing sights, scenery, and sentiments.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7



KING RICHARD

How legends were raised. ARTS, p. 4

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WEATHER

Holiday rays will stay — dismay!

By Phoebe Lin
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

Record warmth is arriving this week along with the start of meteorological winter! What a strange time of year. A ridge of high pressure is affecting much of the country, inhibiting the formation of clouds and letting sunny days take over this week. Maybe it's not too late to wear your warmer fall clothes one last time!

Although January is his-

torically Boston's snowiest month, we are a little overdue on recording our first measurable snow on the ground. On average, Boston usually receives its first measurable snow on November 29th. The first hints of snow over Thanksgiving break were exciting for many of us, but we'll have to wait just a couple more weeks for some stronger storms to accumulate and to turn our campus wintery white!

Extended Forecast

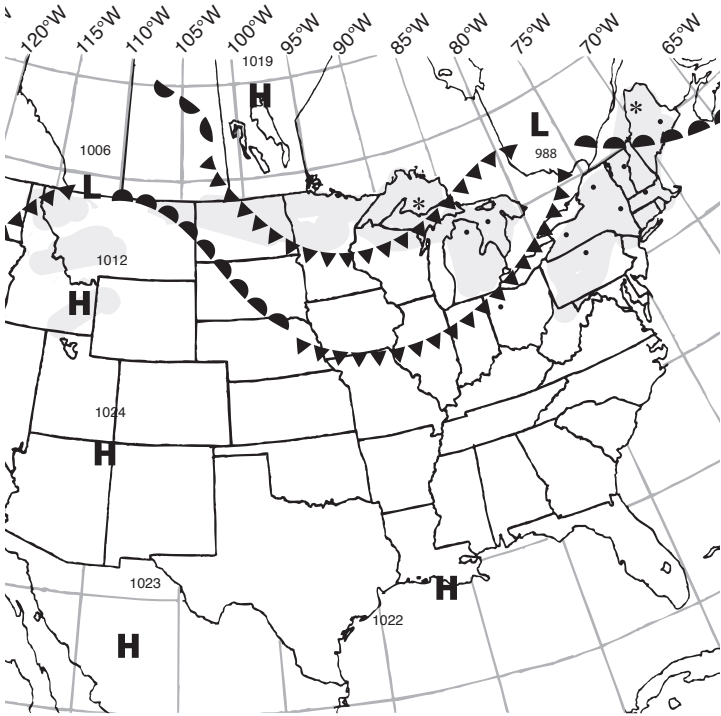
Today: A chance of showers, then foggy. High around 55°F (13°C). Winds around 10 mph from the south.

Tonight: Slight chance of showers, then cloudy. Low around 39°F (4°C). Winds around 16 mph from the west.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 43°F (6°C) and low around 29°F (-2°C). Winds around 17 mph, weakening later in the day.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High around 42°F (6°C) and low around 27°F (-3°C). Winds around 9 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, then chance of showers. High around 43°F (6 °C) and low around 35°F (2°C). Winds around 8 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, December 2, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow * Rain ∇	Fog ☁
L Low Pressure	∩ Warm Front	Light ∇ Moderate *	Thunderstorm ⚡
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Heavy ** ***	Haze ∅
	◐◑ Stationary Front		

Schmidt supervised 35 PhD theses while faculty at MIT

Provost, from Page 1

However, as he considered it, Schmidt “came to realize that there is something special about being given the opportunity to lead your undergraduate alma mater.” Both Schmidt and his wife attended RPI as undergraduates.

Schmidt graduated from RPI with a bachelor's in electrical engineering in 1981 before receiving a master's and a doctorate from MIT in electrical engineering and computer science (EECS) in 1983 and 1988, respectively.

Schmidt then became a member of EECS faculty in 1988 and was named Ray and Maria Stata Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2016.

Prior to becoming provost in 2014, Schmidt served as director of MIT's Microsystems Technology Laboratories from 1999 to 2006 and as associate provost from 2008 to 2013.

Schmidt told MIT News that he “came to MIT in September 1981 as a 21-year old graduate student, and never left.”

“MIT has been a remarkable home for me,” Schmidt added, “It has allowed me to pursue my research and teaching passions, and has immersed me in an environment of inspiring and dedicated staff, students, and faculty. I've been presented with exceptional opportunities to contribute to MIT and beyond.”

As associate provost, Schmidt was responsible for MIT's build-

ings, space allocation, and facilities budgets and helped lead the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force in response to the financial crisis of 2007–8.

As provost, Schmidt has served as MIT's senior academic and budget officer, responsible for MIT's educational programs and the recruitment, promotion, and tenuring of faculty. During his term, Schmidt has helped to create the College of Computing, co-chaired the board of edX with Harvard Provost Alan Garber, and overseen the development of an Institute-wide Strategic Action Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and an MIT Values Statement.

As a researcher, Schmidt studied microelectronics and sensors and collaborated with companies like 3M, Bosch, and General Motors. He additionally supervised 35 PhD theses, received 37 patents, and helped start seven companies.

In Reif's letter, he wrote that Schmidt “embodies an MIT ideal — a scholar at work in the world” and that he “could not be more grateful” for Schmidt's “expert counsel and his enduring friendship.”

In Schmidt's new role at RPI, he will succeed fellow MIT graduate Shirley Ann Jackson '68 PhD '73, who has been RPI president since 1999. Jackson announced that she would be stepping down in June 2021.

MIT community members who would like to suggest candidates for MIT's next provost may email provost-search@mit.edu.

Biz pays the bills

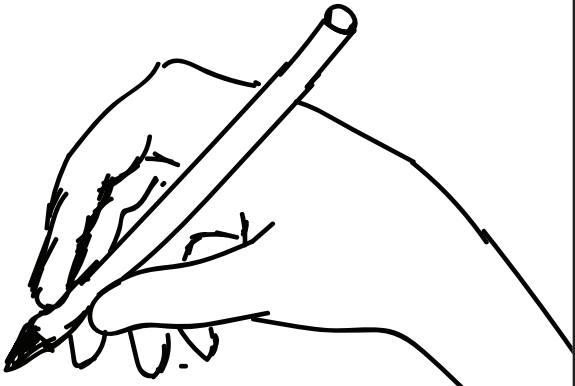
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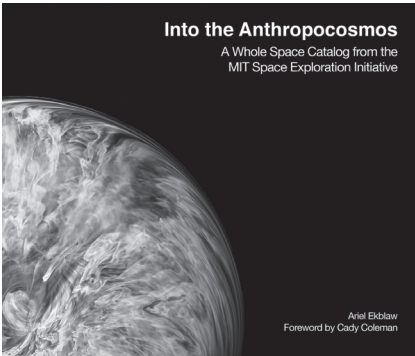


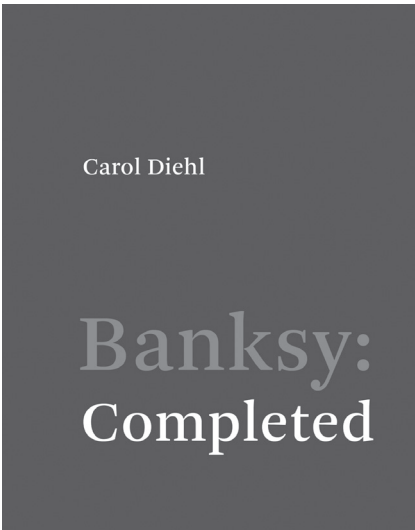
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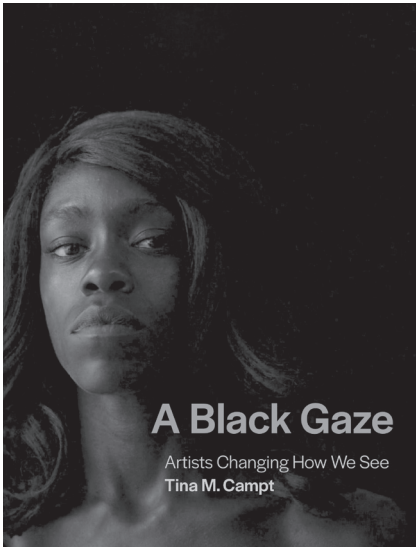
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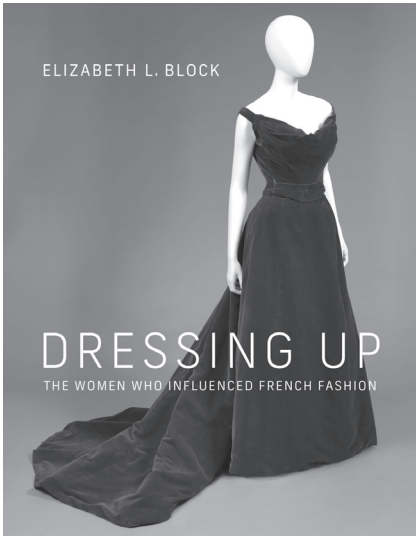


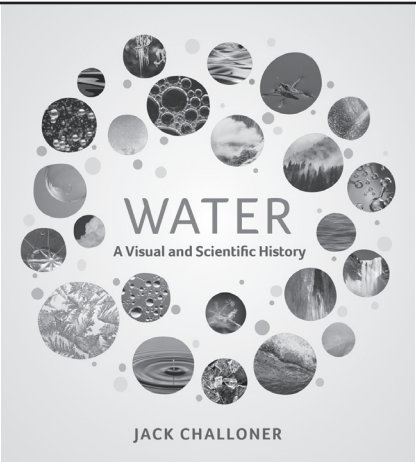


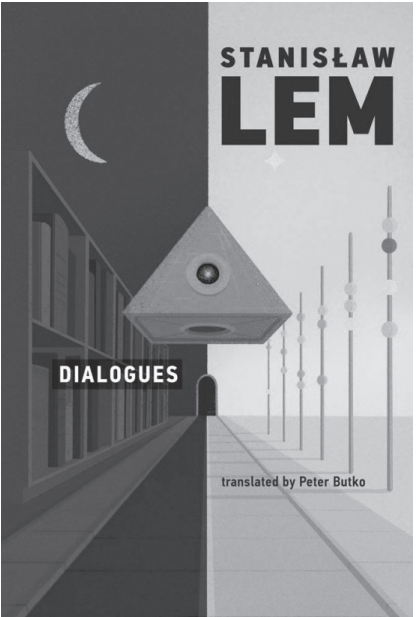


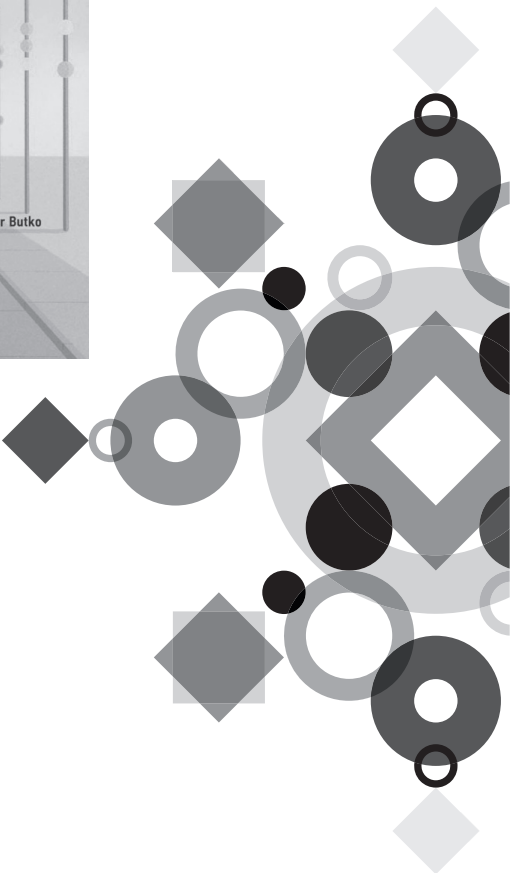


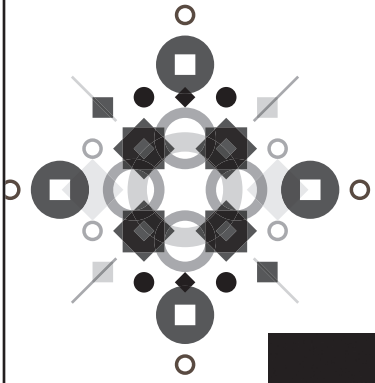








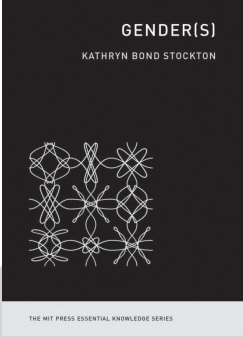





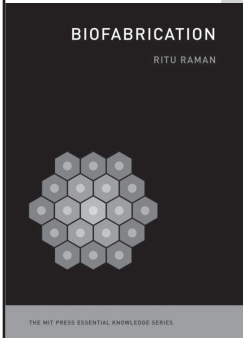
Gifts for the Intellectually Curious

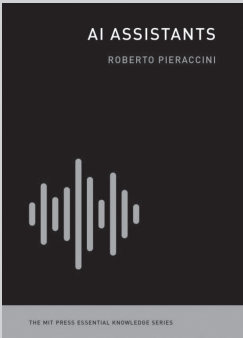
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A will of steel: Reinaldo Marcus Green imagines champions into existence in *King Richard*

★★★★★

King Richard

Directed by Reinaldo
Marcus Green

Screenplay by Zach
Baylin

Starring Will Smith,
Aunjanue Ellis, Jon
Bernthal, Saniyya Sidney,
Demi Singleton

Rated PG-13, Now
Playing

***The Radio Operator:* A look into 1930s New York City**

★★★★☆

The Radio Operator

By Ulla Lenze

HarperCollins Publishers

May 4

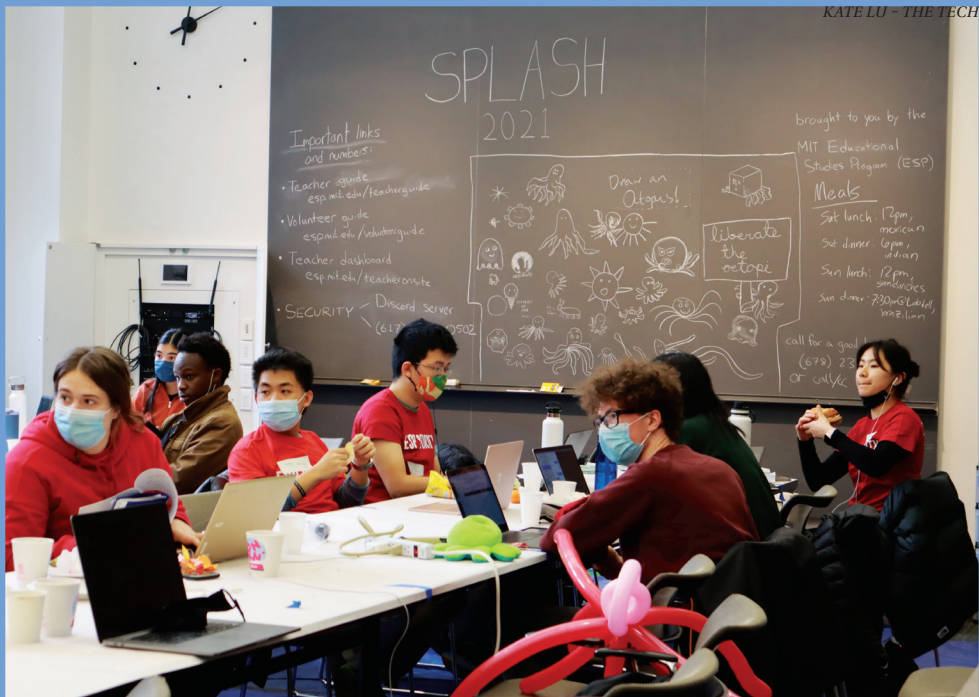
Overall, *The Radio Operator* is a brilliantly nuanced story with a complex main character and excellent worldbuilding. Ulla Lenze's English-language debut is one worth reading.



KATE LU - THE TECH



KATE LU - THE TECH



KATE LU - THE TECH



MIT Educational Studies Program SPLASH 2021

Splash, MIT’s largest annual teaching and learning extravaganza run by MIT Educational Studies Program (ESP), takes place 20-21 November. Approximately 200 classes were taught, and over 500 high schoolers participated virtually in Splash 2021.

VIVIAN’S REFLECTIONS

Taiwan, I miss you

Reliving memories of my time in Taiwan

By Vivian Hir

It has been five years since I boarded the plane to move back to the U.S. from Taiwan. As wistful as I was when I saw the green land vanish before my eyes, I thought I would get the opportunity to visit Taiwan a year or two after I left. But I was wrong. Each summer that followed presented a new obstacle preventing me from going back to Taiwan. I’m content with my life in the U.S., but that doesn’t mean my strong feelings of nostalgia for Taiwan have gone away. Whenever I look at old photos of me in Taiwan or flip through travel and dining books about Taiwan, a sudden surge of longing rises inside of me.

As I drifted away from my friends in Taiwan, I gradually realized that what I missed the most about Taiwan was no longer my school or volunteer club, but rather the small and ordinary aspects of Taiwan. What I ached for were the sensations and experiences that I couldn’t find in the U.S.: the soft, silky texture of tofu pudding melting in my mouth, drinking the warm, fresh soy milk from the local breakfast shack, the delightful chime I heard whenever I entered the Hi-Life convenience store.

As my memories of Taiwan became fainter, I romanticized Taiwan more. My memories became distorted, highlighting only the good things that Taiwan offered. I no longer cared that there were many rainy days in Taiwan and that the climate was humid, a far cry from the pleasant climate I experienced in the Bay Area. My recollec-

tions ignored the strong odors that came from certain alleys and the lack of greenery in Taipei. All I wanted was to be transported to Taiwan. Going back would not only help me reconnect with my Chinese heritage, but also allow me to relive my late childhood years. For me, Taiwan is frozen in time, evoking fuzzy memories that remind me of a lazy Sunday afternoon with the sunlight shining through the window.

My nostalgia for Taiwan made me wonder why I missed Taiwan so dearly even though I have no family there. Although I blended in with the people in Taiwan, I was still considered an outsider because I’m an American and my mom is from mainland China. My heart aches for Taiwan because it is the place that shaped who I am today.

Without Taiwan, I would still be the uncultured, disconnected Chinese American who refused to speak Chinese at home and detested going to Chinese school. The farther I am from Taiwan, the bigger the chasm between me and my ethnic identity grows. Over these five years, the constant, gnawing pain of emptiness has increased, a growing hole that makes my soul feel even hollower. I tried filling in this hole by learning Chinese online and reading books about Chinese history to compensate for the fact that I am no longer in Taiwan, yet the discomfort persists. I flip back to my old Chinese workbooks and fail to recognize some characters. I skim my elementary school Chinese textbooks and realize that I forgot so many traditional poems and stories. I mourn that I

spent my entire time in Taiwan building a Chinese identity and then moved back to the States and lost it. The ache is like a vicious creature, prodding me with questions about why I haven’t kept up with my thirteen-year-old self. Am I still Chinese enough?

Despite having lived in the U.S. again for five years now, I still think about Taiwan. Taiwan is more than a place to me; it is more like a loved one that I had a complicated relationship with in the past. Taiwan reminds me of an imaginary sibling that I found annoying at times growing up but end up missing dearly after leaving home. I regret not truly valuing Taiwan’s essence until physical distance and isolation made me realize how much I took simple things for granted in Taiwan: Good Cho’s, an eccentric yet cozy bagel shop, the enchanting atmosphere of the Eslite Bookstore, the irresistible aroma coming out from the DONUTES Bakery shop.

After returning to the U.S., I thought that I could go back to Taiwan during the summer, but each summer presented new obstacles. Summer school consumed my entire summer before entering ninth grade. Travel plans were impossible the year after since my dad was unemployed. A summer camp and volunteer position took up the following summer. Then COVID hit. As I write this now, I worry that I won’t get to visit Taiwan for many years.

I may not physically be in Taiwan, but I still try to recreate my experiences there. I walk down the aisle of the Asian grocery

store, scanning the snacks, from Kuai Kuai corn puffs to pea crackers that take me back to my times in Family Mart. I spend my free time compiling a Spotify playlist called Taiwan Nostalgia, playing songs that evoke the calm ambience of restaurants and dessert shops that I went to countless times. I watch music videos of my favorite songs by Taiwanese artists like Fish Leong, letting the sentimental feelings of loss envelope me like a warm blanket as I try to sing the lyrics without an accent. Still reminiscing about Taiwan, I watch Taiwanese teen films such as *Our Times* to relive those golden days that feel unspoiled and precious. When the credits start rolling in, I remain transfixed by the beautiful, touching ending that makes me cry internally about how I cannot go back in time.

I know that my efforts to recreate these experiences are futile and will never make up for the things that get lost over time. Despite this inevitable fact, I believe there is some beauty in nostalgia because nostalgia makes me appreciate and recognize the good days of the past. My attempts to relive the moments serve as an active reminder that it is the ephemeral nature of childhood and early adolescence that makes these moments precious and worth remembering. So I let random thoughts about Taiwan pop into my head when I walk down Dorm Row or bike on Massachusetts Avenue. I may be more than 7,500 miles physically separated from Taiwan, but there is one thing I am sure about: Taiwan will always stay in my heart, no matter where I go.

THURSDAY 2

Pokerbots — Information Session
7–8 p.m. @ 2-190

MIT DanceTroupe — DeTour: ROAD WERK AHEAD
(featuring ADT and MissBehavior)
8 p.m. @ Kresge Little Theater

FRIDAY 3

Global Health Alliance at MIT — Fall Gala
5 p.m. @ Wang Auditorium

MIT Korean Cultural Association — General Body Meeting
5–6 p.m. @ McCormick PDR

MIT DanceTroupe — DeTour: ROAD WERK AHEAD
(featuring Fixation and Ridonkulous)
7 p.m. @ Kresge Little Theater

MIT Centrifuges — Magic Fugue Bus
(featuring MIT Spinning Arts)
8 p.m. @ 10-250

MIT Lecture Series Committee — Demon Slayer: Mugen Train
8 p.m. @ 26-100

SaveTFP — Whine & Cheese Night
9–11 p.m. @ 1-190

MIT DanceTroupe — DeTour: ROAD WERK AHEAD
(featuring MoveMENTality and Mocha Moves)
10 p.m. @ Kresge Little Theater

SATURDAY 4

MIT DanceTroupe — DeTour: ROAD WERK AHEAD
(featuring Mirchi and Ridonkulous)
1 p.m. @ Kresge Little Theater

AI@MIT Labs — Demo Day
1–2:30 p.m. @ 32-141

MIT DanceTroupe — DeTour: ROAD WERK AHEAD
(featuring Imobilare and Fixation)
4 p.m. @ Kresge Little Theater

MIT Muses — Muse Clues
5–7 p.m. @ 10-250

TEDxMIT — TEDxMIT Conference
5–8:30 p.m. @ 32-123

MIT Lecture Series Committee — Demon Slayer: Mugen Train
(followed by karaoke)
8 p.m. @ 26-100

MIT Logarithms — Princess and the Log
(featuring Roadkill Buffet)
8:30 p.m. @ 10-250

Cell Ag@MIT x SaveTFP — Vegan Ice Cream Tasting
9–11 p.m. @ Coffeehouse Lounge

SUNDAY 5

Battlecode — Information Session
4 p.m. @ 4-149

Asymptones — GLOSTIK
(featuring the Video Game Orchestra)
5:30 p.m. @ 10-250

Borderline — Open Tunnel Event
6–8 p.m. @ Tunnel66

MIT Figure Skating Club — Restart
6–8 p.m. @ Johnson Ice Arena

MIT/Wellesley Toons — How Toon(s) Get Away With Murder
8:30 p.m. @ 10-250

MONDAY 6

Pokerbots — Information Session
7–8 p.m. @ 2-190

TUESDAY 7

Battlecode — Information Session
5 p.m. @ 4-149

WEDNESDAY 8

MIT Asian Dance Team — Reverie
9–11 p.m. @ La Sala

THURSDAY 9


MIT Asian Dance Team — Reverie
6–8 p.m. @ La Sala

MIT Asian Dance Team — Reverie
(featuring MIT Lion Dance)
9–11 p.m. @ La Sala

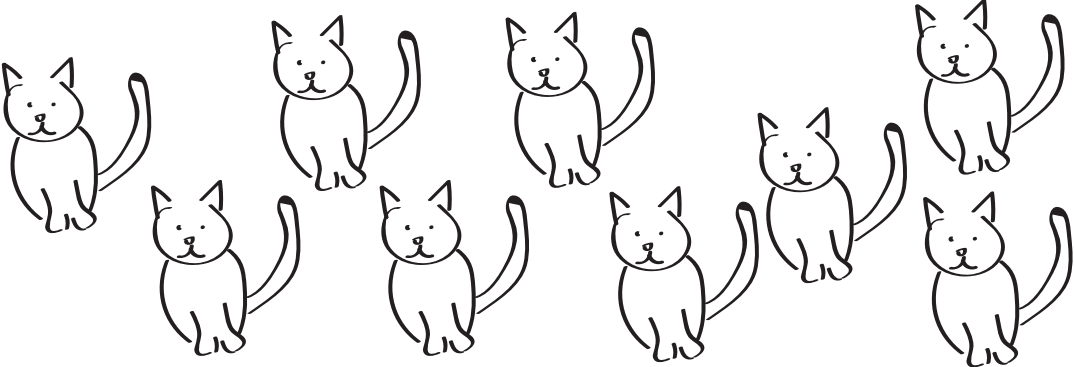
SATURDAY 11

MIT Video Game Orchestra — Fall Concert
@ Kresge Little Theater

Student Events Board — Tech Twinkles
7–9 p.m. @ Lobdell Dining



To have your student group’s event featured in *The Tech*, email cl@tech.mit.edu.



Join The Tech
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SPORTS BLITZ

- Tuesday, November 23
- Men’s Basketball clutched it out 66–65 against number 11 seed Tufts University.
- Saturday, November 27
- Men’s Basketball drops the ball against Keene State 74–92.
- Sunday, November 28
- Women’s Basketball dribbled the game away 50–54 against Bowdoin College.
- Tuesday, November 30
- Squash squashed Brown University 7–2.
- Wednesday, December 1
- Men’s Basketball dunks on Salem State University 80–64.

Upcoming Sports Events

THURSDAY 2

Women’s Basketball
vs. Salem State University
7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 3

Squash
vs. United States Naval Academy
6:00 p.m.

Men’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
6:30 p.m.

Women’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 4

Men’s Track and Field
vs. Boston University

Women’s Track and Field
vs. Boston University

Men’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Women’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Squash
vs. University of Virginia
12:00 p.m.

Water Polo
vs. Pomona-Pitzer
3:00 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
vs. Fitchburg State College
1:00 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
vs. Worcester State University
3:00 p.m.

Squash
at Franklin and Marshall College
6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 5

Water Polo
USA Water Polo D3 Championship

Men’s Fencing
vs. St. John’s University
9:00 a.m.

Women’s Fencing
vs. St. John’s University
9:00 a.m.

Men’s Fencing
vs. University of the Incarnate Word
10:00 a.m.

Women’s Fencing
vs. University of the Incarnate Word
10:00 a.m.

Men’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Women’s Swimming and Diving
MIT Winter Invite
10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Men’s Fencing
vs. Yale University
11:00 a.m.

Women’s Fencing
vs. Yale University
11:00 a.m.

Squash
vs. Dartmouth University
11:00 a.m.

Men’s Fencing
vs. Cornell University
1:00 p.m.

Women’s Fencing
vs. Cornell University
1:00 p.m.

Men’s Fencing
vs. Brandeis University
2:00 p.m.

Women’s Fencing
vs. Brandeis University
2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY 7

Men’s Basketball
vs. Emmanuel College
7:30 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
vs. Framingham State University
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 8

Squash
vs. Tufts University
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 11

Men’s Track and Field
vs. Alumni
12:00 p.m.

Women’s Track and Field
vs. Alumni
12:00 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
vs. Tufts University
1:00 p.m.

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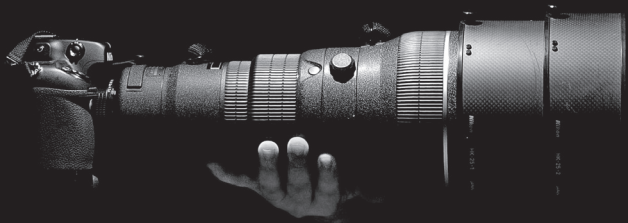
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Solution to Cleaning Up

from page 6

MAMA	EACH	BABES
OWES	CLUE	OBAMA
WASH	CLOTH	NUTTY
ERA	LINE	MESH
RESHAPE	PALETTE	
ADS	PEKE	ORG
NABS	ELOPES	WAG
OMAHA	OPS	SUEDE
DIR	BIOPIC	FLED
EGO	SONY	HBO
SOFTENS	MARSHAL	
SONS	WERE	AHA
ABOUT	WARMWATER	
IRATE	EDGE	LEAK
LAPSE	DEED	ADDS

Solution to Hot Choco

from page 6

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

Solution to Gingerbread

from page 6

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