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Thursday, March 17, 2022

WEATHER, p. 2

Mostly cloudy. SAT: 54°F | 48°F

MIT offers admission to 1,337 applicants into Class of 2026

33,796 students applied, a 2% increase from last year

By Srinidhi Narayanan

MIT admitted 1,337 out of 33,796 applicants via early and regular round applications, for an overall acceptance rate of 3.96%. This is a 2% increase in number of applicants from last year, with both years being significantly greater than the prepandemic baseline of about 20,000 applications.

MIT suspended the SAT/ACT requirement last year due to disruptions faced by many students in scheduling tests because of the pandemic. Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services Stu Schmill '86 had attributed the spike

in applications to this suspension. However, although the SAT/ACT reguirement was not waived this year, application numbers were similarly

The acceptance rate from this year is a slight decrease from last year (4.03%), with both marking a sharp decrease from pre-pandemic acceptance rates (approximately

As per MIT tradition, the decisions were released on Pi Day, March 14, at 6:28 p.m. Admitted students must decide whether or not to attend by May 2.

In addition to comments in a blogpost on MIT Admissions, Director of Special Projects Chris Peterson SM '13 spoke on the admissions process in an email to The Tech, stating that "With this many applications, it really takes a tremendous amount of dedicated work from our entire team, many of whom spent 8+ hours a day in Zoom committee for weeks on end, trying to select the best class possible.

On behalf of the admissions office, he wrote that "we're very excited about this year's applicants, and can't wait to welcome them to campus at the first CPW [Campus Preview Weekend] since 2019 in a few weeks," and encouraged current students to sign up to host prospective students for CPW at community.



Organizations including the MIT Energy Initiative, MIT Divest, and Climate & Sustainability Consortium came together at MIT's first Sustainability Midway in Lobby 13, Tuesday.

IN SHORT

Half-term final exams (H3) end

The deadline to submit events for CPW is March 19.

Students should sign up to host prefrosh for CPW by March 20

at https://community.mitcpw.org/

Spring break is March 21–25.

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

Send news and tips to news@

Two EECS degree proposals and supporting students affected by war in Ukraine discussed at faculty meeting

Faculty at the March meeting also heard presentations about changes to thesis submission, annual tuition and financial aid, and new mechanisms for faculty-Corporation engagement

By Kristina Chen PUBLISHER

At the March 16 faculty meeting, faculty members discussed support for students impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the termination of MIT's Skoltech Program, proposals for two new degrees in the electrical engineering and computer science (EECS) department, and a proposal to require theses to be submitted digitally. Faculty also heard reports on annual changes in tuition and financial aid, new mechanisms for engagement between faculty and

members of the MIT Corporation, and the slate of nominees for faculty chair and committees.

Skoltech and support for students affected by Ukraine

Chancellor Melissa Nobles described support systems in place for Ukrainian and Russian students affected by the events in Ukraine. These include the chancellor's office's Indirect Impact team, whose primary responsibility is to "reach out to students when tragedy or catastrophic events occur off campus," and inform them about accessing MIT's student support network, and to alert the students' academic advisors and heads of house so that they may provide support.

Nobles said that on the day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Blanche Staton, senior associate dean for graduate education, and David Randall, senior associate dean for student support and wellbeing, sent "supportive messages" to the 18 undergraduate and graduate students from Ukraine and the 38 students from Russia.

Additionally, the Student Financial Services waived the spring student work contribution for Ukrainian undergraduates and replaced it with the MIT scholarship, and Grad-Support provided "similar support" for Ukrainian graduate students, Nobles said.

MIT's International Students Office also organized a group information session with immigration attorneys to facilitate any legal assistance the students might require.

Associate Provost for International Activities Richard Lester PhD '80 discussed MIT's decision to terminate the MIT Skoltech Program, announced Feb. 25; the program will formally end April 26.

fael Reif chose to end the program after being advised by his senior risk group, which consists of Vice President for Research Maria Zuber, General Counsel Mark DiVincenzo, and

Lester said that the program was terminated because "MIT could not be associated even indirectly with a government that had perpetrated such an appalling act of aggression against the sovereign democratic state." MIT joined "the global ef-

Faculty Meeting, Page 3



Professor Agustín Rayo '01 was named Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Jan. 25.



MIT Shakespeare Ensemble puts on the play Coriolanus, Thurs-

Professor Agustín Rayo looks ahead to his new role as the Dean of SHASS

Rayo had previously chaired SHASS committees and served as associate Dean of SHASS 2016-19 and later as interim dean

By Yeabsira Moges and Srinidhi Naravanan

amed Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Jan. 25, after having served as the interim Dean following former SHASS Dean Melissa Nobles's appointment to the Chancellor position. The appointment went into effect Feb. 1.

Rayo has been an MIT faculty member since 2005, and served as associate Dean of SHASS from 2016-19. His work lies at the intersection of the philosophy of logic and the philosophy of language, and seeks to understand the relationship between our language and the world it represents, clarify the connection between logic and mathematics, and investigate the limits of communicable thought, according to his faculty page.

Rayo is devoted to campus lead-Philosophy professor Agustín ership and service, chairing the SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee. the SHASS Educational Advisory Committee, and the Digital Humanities Steering Committee while associate Dean. He was also housemaster of Senior House from 2010-14.

A detailed biography, description of service, and comments from administrators can be found on MIT

The Tech communicated with Rayo via email. His responses have been lightly edited for clarity.

The Tech: What do you hope to accomplish in your time as the dean of SHASS, especially with regards to the school's focus on research, critical skills, and international education?

Agustín Rayo: I want to continue to highlight the core role of the humanities, arts, and social sciences at

lems you have to understand how the world works. Our School can help students acquire that understanding.

SHASS also empowers our undergraduates to develop the whole of their multidimensional selves. It gives students who are focused on STEM the freedom to delve into speculative fiction, performance, music technology, ethics, logic, the ancient world, justice, policy-making - or dozens of other explorations.

TT: Can you elaborate on the direction in which you are hop-

Agustín Rayo, Page 2

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

A tribute to MIT's father of jazz. ARTS, p. 7

WRESTLING

MIT Wrestling makes historic wins. SPORTS, p. 15



COMPARTMENT NO. 6

Kindred spirits on a train. ARTS, p. 7

DOOMSDAY

The two year anniversary CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10

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WEATHER

Spring warmth arriving just in time for break!

By Paige Yeung and **Phoebe Lin**

While Boston is warming up dramatically this week with a near record high of nearly 71°F this Friday, a cold front is heading toward the east coast, bringing showers to Boston this Saturday. A modest amount of rain is expected, though winds will stay relatively calm. Hopefully this doesn't

dampen your spring break travel plans!

The onset of daylight savings means that it's been brighter outside later in the day. Get used to the brightness — in related news, the Senate just recently voted to keep daylight savings permanent! To celebrate (or not), make sure to set aside some time this week to catch some rays and to enjoy the warm weather outside.

Extended Forecast

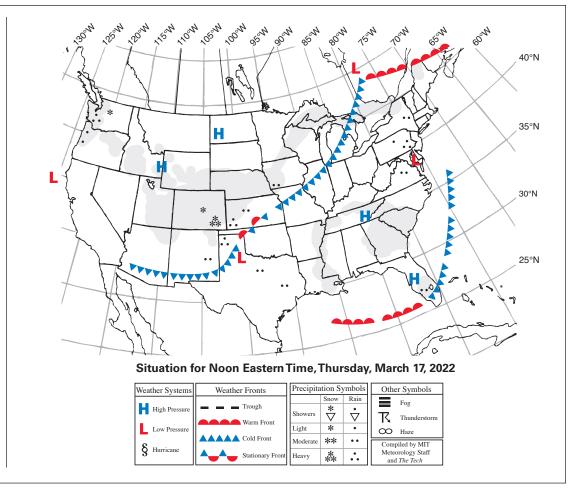
Today: Mostly cloudy. High around 56°F (13°C). Winds 5-8 mph, from the southeast.

Tonight: Chance of rain, fog. Low around 46°F (8°C). Winds 4-6 mph, from the east.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. High around 71°F (22°C) and low around 46°F (8°C). Winds 6-8 mph, from the west.

Saturday: 90% chance of rain. High around 54°F (12°C) and low around 48°F (9°C). Winds 7-10 mph from the southeast; gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny. 30% chance of rain. High around 57°F (14°C) and low around 42°F (6°C). Winds 6-11 mph, from the



Rayo: 'I'm worried that DEI conversations at MIT have become increasingly polarized and people are more ready to disparage the other side of the debate'

Agustín Rayo, from Page 1

ing to take SHASS?

Rayo: Rather than thinking of SHASS as a single entity, I think of it as consisting of three parts: a house of humanities, a house of arts, and a house of social sciences. I'm hoping to support the growth of all three.

MIT's humanities programs are ranked among the best in the world. They teach critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the world's history and culture. I'd like to empower our distinguished humanists to continue doing what they do best. And I'd like to convince our students to take more humanities classes. Alumni often tell me that their most meaningful experience at MIT came from a humanities class. I wish I could give this insight to students just starting out. The performing arts

based in our School are an important part of the MIT experience. Our acclaimed Music Program which includes a conservatorylevel music track — is among the reasons students choose MIT. The 2024 opening of our new music building will usher in a new era of programming, classes, and events. And the recently opened theater building in W97 has created unparalleled opportunities for the-

MIT's social science fields are problem-solving engines, with superb graduate programs and research that informs national and international policy in sectors ranging from healthcare to jobs to democracy. I want to support this research and empower students to integrate these powerful methodologies into their studies.

Finally, the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives allow MIT students to develop as respectful, knowledgeable global citizens. It gives them the skills they'll need to become international

TT: What is the importance of an education in SHASS, especially to students at a tech school?

Rayo: The humanities, arts, and social sciences are crucial to understanding the human condition and our complex social, political, and economic institutions. MIT's SHASS classes help develop powerful career, leadership, and problem-solving skills. They also help develop core values, a moral compass, and a more nuanced perspective of the world.

TT: How will you help promote further diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within SHASS?

Rayo: I will continue advancing our DEI efforts, reflecting our commitment to shared values of excellence, collaboration, kindness, and mutual respect. I care deeply about the mental and physical well-being of our students.

We are seeking to further diversify our faculty and student cohorts. In our hiring and teaching, we work to ensure underrepresented groups are afforded as many opportunities as possible. Tracie Jones, Assistant Dean for DEI, is leading these

I'm worried that DEI conversations at MIT have become increasingly polarized and people are more ready to disparage the other side of the debate. This is partly a reflection of our state as a nation. But I hope we can do better in SHASS. I hope we're able to give others the benefit of the doubt.

TT: Given that you are also a professor in the philosophy department, how does that play into your role and how do you hope to see the department grow in the near future?

Rayo: Philosophy will always be my first love. But I'm the Dean of all of SHASS, not just of philosophy, and I'll try not to forget that while I'm in this role.

TT: Consensus shows that MIT has one of the best humanities departments in the country, and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings often ranks it highly in comparison to its peers. To what do you ascribe this success?

Rayo: As is often the case, it's about the people. Our school attracts some of the world's finest scholars and artists. Our students are incomparable. And our staff are absolutely amazing.

Editor's note: Yeabsira Moges '25 conducted the question-andanswer email exchange for this

Remembering electrical engineering professor emeritus Markus Zahn

Markus Zahn SB '67, SM Field Theory: A Problem Solving '68, EE '69, ScD '70, professor Approach. emeritus of electrical engineering, passed away at the age of 75 March 13. Zahn is remembered for his electrodynamics research and writings, teaching prowess, and renown as a student advisor.

Zahn earned his undergraduate and doctorate degrees at MIT before becoming a professor at the University of Florida. He joined the faculty at MIT in 1980 and retired in 2015.

According to Zahn's obituary, his research interests in electrodynamics ranged "from the theoretical to the practical." This included high-voltage charge transport and breakdown phenomena in dielectrics; battery technology; applying magnetic processes for oil cleanup; detecting buried land mines; and charged, polarizable, and magnetic fluids.

Zahn also conducted research on how electricity moves "through different mediums" and penned a seminal textbook in the field, *Electromagnetic*

For Zahn's contributions to his field, he became an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers fellow in 1993 and received the Paris Sciences Scholar ESPCI (École supérieure de physique et de chimie industrielles) Medal in 2000.

Zahn has taught 6.013 (Electromagnetics and Applications), 6.641 (Electromagnetic Fields, Forces, and Motion), 6.642 (Continuum Electromechanics), and 6.UAT (Preparation for Undergraduate Advanced Project).

Zahn "collected stamps and enjoyed bicycling, baseball, good food and time with his family," his obituary states. He and his wife Linda "shared a love of travel and were able to visit much of the world." He is survived by his wife, four children, and seven grandchildren.

Zahn's online memorial can be found at www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/ markus-zahn.

— Wenbo Wu



Over 100 classes were taught by MIT students during Spark, MIT's annual teaching and learning extravaganza for middle schoolers, March 13.



Frosh explore the Museum of Science during a Connect by Chance event, March 6.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 THE TECH 3

New degree proposals include Artificial Intelligence and Decision-Making (6-4) SB; Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science (6-14) MEng

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

fort to isolate" Russian President Vladimir Putin and his government by no longer being involved in "activities that might assist the Russian state in its technological and economic development."

Lester expressed that it is "unfortunate" that MIT's action in response to the illegal actions of the Russian government "will also harm some of the very people in Russia who object to what their government is doing," including Skoltech colleagues and students.

As of last month, 21 MIT faculty members and around 40 students and postdoctoral students were participating in projects as part of the Skoltech program. MIT will work with the principal investigators and Skoltech program leadership to help personnel transition to other work and ensure that students can complete their thesis and

Aside from Skoltech, Lester said that MIT has a "handful" of smaller engagements in or with Russia that have either been paused or are under review by the senior risk group.

During a discussion following Nobles and Lester's presentation, Deputy Dean the Sloan School of Management Michael Cusumano asked whether MIT could "do something as an institution" to help displaced Ukrainian scholars, whether through partnerships with other universities or funds remaining from the Skoltech program.

Lester responded that MIT has yet to see many requests to support these scholars, mostly because "the immediate questions they face are ... about survival and securing the basics of food and accommodation and safety," rather than their academic careers. Lester added that in the similar case of Afghan refugee scholars, MIT had formed an ad hoc Afghan Working Group to develop responses across the Institute and would likely also take an ad hoc approach to issues surrounding Ukrainian scholars.

Lester acknowledged that in light of multiple crises arising, there 'would be some benefit to considering how we might develop a more systematic approach to this kind of engagement on humanitarian grounds.

Aeronautics and Astronautics Professor Olivier de Weck PhD '01 asked how MIT would support faculty "in limbo" after the termination of the Skoltech program. Lester responded that MIT would address these professors on a case-by-case

EECS degree proposals

EECS Professors Leslie Kaelbling and Dennis Freeman PhD '86 introduced proposals to establish a Bachelor of Science (SB) degree in Artificial Intelligence and Decision-Making (6-4) and a Master of Engineering (MEng) degree in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science (6-14).

First proposed in Fall 2021, the 6-4 SB would allow students to develop techniques for analyzing and synthesizing systems that "interact with an external world via perception, communication and action, and that learn, make decisions, and adapt in a changing environment," according to Kaelbling's presentation. The program would integrate disciplines from multiple departments, including electrical engineering, computer science, statistics, operations research, and brain and cognitive sciences.

The proposed MEng program for 6-14 would operate similarly to MEng programs for the 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-7, and 6-9 majors, where students complete a fifth year of study with additional coursework and a thesis and have the opportunity to receive financial support through a research or teaching assistantship.

The 6-14 MEng program would be administered by a committee of faculty and administrative officers appointed jointly by the EECS and economics department heads. Admissions would be available to students who had completed their junior year in the 6-14 Bachelor's program. Students would be advised by a member of the EECS or economics department, likely their undergraduate advisor.

Freeman said that enrollment in the 6-14 major has increased from 29 students in Fall 2018 to 126 in Fall 2022, and that both faculty and students have been very interested in the formation of an MEng program. Freeman added that students originally majoring in 6-14 have considered switching to 6-3 to take part in the MEng program.

Economics Professor Glenn Ellison PhD '92 added that he has seen a "bigger lobbying campaign by students" requesting the 6-14 MEng program "than for any other issue" he has had in the department.

At present, approximately 44% of 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3 students pursue an MEng in their programs, so the number of students participating annually in the 6-14 MEng would likely be around 18.

Both proposals will be voted on at the April 20 faculty meeting; approval at the meeting would result in the programs being available to students beginning Fall 2022.

In response to the proposal for a 6-4 SB, Anthropology and Management Professor Susan Silbey expressed concern over how the program would administer its human- and decision-centric areas. saying that attaching explanations for human behavior to "machines with rapid and extensive data capacity" could have negative consequences without "understanding the fundamental problem" of "how human behavior is aggregated."

Kaelbling welcomed discussion on the topic outside of the meeting, in the interest of time, but cited examples of classes jointly offered with non-EECS departments with flexible interpretations of humanand decision-centric areas.

In response to both proposals. Literature Professor Diana Henderson said that she was concerned students would feel pressured to choose an EECS discipline over other options due to opportunities like the MEng program and the large number of undergraduates studying EECS.

Freeman and Undergraduate Officer in EECS Katrina LaCurts acknowledged that currently many students are enrolled in Course 6 majors, but that less than half choose to pursue an MEng, suggesting that a new MEng program would not put additional pressure on students.

Additionally, EECS Professor Martin Rinard and EECS Department Head Azu Ozdaglar PhD '03 emphasized their willingness to collaborate with other departments, particularly humanities departments, to create more opportunities for and to encourage students to participate in cross-disciplinary initiatives such as SuperUROPs (Advanced Undergraduate search Programs).

Rinard also proposed that other departments form MEng programs to create similar graduate opportunities for non-Course 6 students.

submission Digital thesis proposal

Professor Roger Levy, chair of the committee on the library system, presented a proposal to formalize a requirement for digital thesis submission.

Previously, MIT required physical thesis submission in order for archival preservation; though due to the pandemic however, starting in Spring 2020, the Institute's emergency academic regulations resulted in a shift to requiring digital thesis submission. The proposal would make this shift permanent, changing the format of the thesis being submitted without otherwise modifying the thesis requirement.

Levy said that digital submission was found to be "cheaper, faster, and simpler," waiving the fee needed for students to submit a physical thesis and no longer requiring the physical document to be scanned. Additionally, digital thesis submission is more environmentally-conscious and becoming more common at peer institutions.

The proposal states that digital thesis submission would also expand the MIT Libraries ability to accept digital supplementary materials along with the thesis and reduce the time between graduation and thesis access. Additional digital and physical components could also be submitted to the libraries as part of

Faculty brought forward concerns about students potentially revising their theses after submission or otherwise protecting the archival copies from modification. Levy addressed these concerns by saying that the copies submitted to the libraries would be final, with no channels for revision

Faculty also asked whether students would be able to embargo their thesis work after submission and questioned the policy that results in students' theses copyrights

belonging to MIT. Levy said that students would still be able to embargo their theses and that changing the copyright policy would potentially be addressed in a different proposal.

Annual tuition and financial aid report

Provost Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 gave an annual report on changes to MIT's tuition and financial aid.

In her report, Barnhart referred to MIT's goal to remain "accessible to the best students regardless of their geographic or financial circumstances" while also keeping its full tuition cost competitive with that of MIT's peers - Harvard University, Yale University, Princeton University, and Stanford University.

Barnhart also said that MIT matches undergraduate and graduate tuition through graduate tuition subsidies and is a need-blind institution, committed to "meeting full financial need for everyone."

Barnhart displayed a chart showing the increase of MIT's tuition and fee increase overtime, from \$42,050 in 2013 to \$55,878 in 2021, similar to that of its peers (Harvard saw an increase from \$40,866 to \$55,587 in the same period.)

Barnhart also outlined metrics to measure MIT's success in providing aid while remaining competitive with its peers, including yield for students admitted to both MIT and one of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, or Stanford, MIT saw an overall yield of 82% in 2021, yield of 88% for students admitted to both Yale and MIT, vield of 83% for students admitted to both Princeton and MIT, yield of 54% for students admitted to both Stanford and MIT, and yield of 48% to students admitted to both Harvard and MIT. Both overall vield and bilateral vield for admits to peer institutions have mostly increased in the past decade.

Barnhart also presented a chart of yield by income grouping, which showed that the percentage yield for most income groups was higher for students entering MIT in 2021 than in 2018-2020, with the exception of families with annual income between \$150,000 and \$199,999 and between \$250,000 and \$299,999. For those income groups, yield was significantly higher for students entering MIT in 2019.

Barnhart also mentioned that MIT's financial aid expenditures have increased annually since fiscal year 2010, reflecting that the cost to MIT "and the price tag of our education has been going up at a rate faster than our students and their families' capability to pay.'

Because MIT has a "commitment to meet need," MIT's "financial aid budget has been increasing every year," Barnhart said.

In academic year 2020-21, MIT Scholarships summed to \$115M (lower than usual due to COVIDreduced costs), 57% students were MIT Scholarship recipients, and the median MIT Scholarship for a student was \$51,082 — 78% of total tuition, room and board, and other

In the last academic year, 38% of undergraduates had free tuition and 20% were Federal Pell Grant recipients. Seven percent of undergraduates took out loans and 18% of graduating seniors borrowed to pay for tuition. The median debt at graduation for borrowers was \$15,721. Additionally, 58% of undergraduates had MIT or federal work study jobs and had average earnings of \$966 annually.

For the upcoming academic year 2022-23, MIT will see a 3.75% increase in tuition costs, a 3.7% increase in housing costs, and a 4.0% increase in dining costs. As a result, the financial aid budget will be increased to \$161.8M to account for these increases, to align with the College Board's updated financial aid calculations overall, and to reflect the Institute's goal to increase the income level for MIT's free tuition guarantee from \$90,000 to \$140,000.

Corporation-Faculty engagements

Chair of the Faculty Lily Tsai presented findings from the ad hoc committee on Corporation-faculty engagements, charged to review existing mechanisms of engagement between the MIT Corporation and faculty and to formulate recommendations for new ways of engagement.

The committee found that more two-way dialogue including real time exchange with questions and answers would be essential for "full discussion and the development of mutual understanding," Tsai said.

Additionally, the committee determined that "more mechanisms for understanding faculty views of Institute-wide cross school priorities would be beneficial."

To allow for these conversations, the committee decided on three proposals: random faculty and Corporation dinners or Zoom meetings scheduled around quarterly Corporation meetings, the invitation of the faculty chair to discussions of the executive committee on the Corporation regarding matters of significance to the faculty, and a speaking and discussion slot for the faculty chair at Corporation meetings upon the faculty chair's request.

Slate of nominees

Deborah Fitzgerald, Chair of the Committee on Nominations, presented the slate of nominees for faculty chair and standing faculty committees. Literature Professor Mary Fuller was nominated for the position of Chair of the Faculty for the 2023-2025 term.

New members were nominated to the committees on academic performance, campus planning curricula, discipline, faculty policy, graduate programs, the library system, nominations, student life, undergraduate admissions and financial aid, undergraduate program, Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award selection, and James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award selection.

Faculty members will vote on the slate of nominees at the April faculty meeting.



The MIT Symphony Orchestra's spring concert featured Kalinnikov's Symphony No. 1, Marquez's Danzon No. 2, and Sarasate's Carmen Fantasy, Friday.



MIT Wind Ensemble has their first concert of the semester, Saturday.



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OPEN LETTER

An open letter on the Russo-Ukrainian war

Dear MIT community,

On Feb. 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine is my home. My parents and all my relatives are in Ukraine. Many of my friends have become refugees; many others took up arms and are defending the country. In this letter, I want to explain why this war is unjust, why you should care, and what you can do to help Ukraine.

This is a war of Russian imperialism. Russian president Vladimir Putin started this war to install a puppet regime in Kyiv and bring my country into Russia's imperial fold. But Ukrainians do not want this. Ukrainians strive to be a part of the free world — the world of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights. Equally as important, Ukrainians do not want to be a part of the "Russian world." Russia has subjugated Ukraine (as well as Belarus, Georgia, and parts of Central Asia) for many centuries. For centuries, Russia tried to erase Ukrainian language and culture and killed our poets and scientists. It went as far as to create an artificial famine Holodomor of 1932-33 — to exterminate Ukrainians and break them into submission. Putin is part of that disdainful tradition.

That is why Ukrainians fight — and fight so fiercely. Ukrainians fight for their freedom, for the right to be Ukrainian, for the right to determine their own future. These aspirations are universal. They are just. If you believe in these rights, if you believe that big countries subjugating smaller ones by force is wrong, you should care about Ukraine

Furthermore, the Russian military unable to achieve its aims in a fair fight — is committing war crimes. Russia is shelling residential areas, destroying civilian infrastructure, and shooting at the evacuation routes that their own leadership agreed to. Kharkiv, a city of 1.5 million people just 20 miles from the Russo-Ukrainian border, has been reduced to rubble. Russian forces bombed a maternity hospital in Mariupol. Russian forces are using armaments and tactics forbidden by international law. Russian forces shelled the largest nuclear power plant (NPP) in Europe — Zaporizhzhia NPP. They control Chornobyl NPP and cut it off from the proper maintenance. These actions risk creating a nuclear catastrophe larger than the one in 1986. For the sake of human compassion and for the sake of the environment, you should care about Ukraine.

Okay, you care, but what can you do? The way to end this war is to pressure

Putin into good-faith negotiations. This pressure comes from Ukrainian military strength and Russian economic weakness. And YOU can help us ramp up the pressure by:

- This is the most important thing you can do for Ukraine, and I implore you to do it. If you are a U.S. citizen, please call your representatives, senators, and the White House. Tell them that you support humanitarian, financial, and military aid for Ukraine. Right now, the highest priority for Ukraine is air-defense systems and anti-tank equipment. Tell your officials that doing business with Russia and thereby sponsoring the war is unacceptable. I beg of you, Europeans in particular: say no to Russian gas and oil!
- 2. Donate to the Ukrainian cause. The Ukrainian Cultural Center of New England has published a list of U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations you can support at https://uccn.org/charities/.

If Ukraine stops fighting, there will be no Ukraine. If Russia stops fighting, there will be no war. Ukraine cannot surrender. Please help us survive. Please help us win.

> Yevhenii Usenko PhD Student, MIT Sloan School of Management

GUEST COLUMN

Our successes together

MIT's partnership with the GSC and other student representatives has led to many substantive improvements for graduate students over the past five years

By Melissa Nobles and Ian Waitz

On April 4 and 5, some of MIT's graduate students will participate in an National Labor Relations Board-run election to determine whether to form a union associated with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Whatever the outcome of this election, all of us who lead MIT will continue to support every one of our extraordinarily talented students. Like every institution, we will always have room for improvement. Those of us who have devoted our lives to MIT and making it a place of excellence and belonging for generations of our students, are deeply aware that we must always strive to do better. We respect and admire all of our graduate students and are committed to ensuring that each of them thrives during their time here.

Indeed, it is our deep interest in our students' work and success that has led us to embrace roles in student support and academic life, rather than focusing solely on our teaching and research. And it's why we're invested in strengthening MIT's uniquely effective collaboration with its student leaders — an approach that has been advocated by the Institute's student community, is in keeping with MIT's spirit and values, and informs MIT's work to create a more caring and supportive environment for everyone.

Over the past five years, our direct partnership with graduate student leaders, including the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and other representatives, has led to many substantive improvements for MIT's graduate students, including:

- Greater financial security for all students: MIT's cost-of-living-based stipend increases part of a process led by the GSC have outpaced those at nearly all private universities with graduate student unions. Throughout the pandemic, MIT offered its students generous assistance with housing costs, moving expenses, and other financial burdens.
- MIT has invested in students with the most pressing needs: The Institute has introduced new programs through which we have allocated approximately \$1 million in grants for graduate students with families, students on short-term appointments, and doctoral students needing longer-term support.
- MIT has provided enhanced health and wellness support: MIT Medical continues to offer excellent, robust health insurance options with premiums that are on par with or less expensive than our peers and has expanded copay-free access to behavioral health care outside of MIT Medical from 12 visits per year to 52.
- MIT has championed its international students: In 2020, MIT joined with Harvard University in successfully filing suit against the U.S, Department of Homeland Security to rescind a federal policy that would have barred international students on F-1 visas from taking a full online course load while studying in the United States. And to help manage the challenges that the pandemic presented for its international graduate students, MIT allocated \$5.8 million to facilitate roughly 1,300 remote international ap-

- pointments. This ensured that students did not face interruptions to their academic and research progress, and were able to continue their studies and research from abroad.
- MIT has worked to build a more inclusive, supportive, and diverse commu**nity:** It has hired school-based diversity deans; increased staffing in the International Students Office, Career Advising and Professional Development, and GradSupport; added an employee to provide dedicated support for veterans and created a Grad Families Office; invested additional resources in its Violence Prevention and Response and Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response offices; refined anti-retaliation policies; provided guaranteed transitional funding for students who wish to change research advisors or groups; and offered additional mentoring and harassment-prevention training.
- MIT has fostered students' personal and professional growth: It has enhanced advising and training, offering more than 40 workshops and panels in partnership with 15 academic and administrative departments and developing more focused career fairs and networking opportunities.

As we draw closer to the election April 4–5, now is the time for graduate students to become as informed as possible on these matters. It is essential that every eligible student make it a priority to vote: This election's outcome will be determined by a simple majority of those who vote, but will be binding on both voters and non-voters in the proposed bargaining unit.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Kristina Chen, Editor in Chief Wenbo Wu, Managing Editor William Xu, Executive Editor Chloe McCreery, 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.

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.

Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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

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OPEN LETTER

Ukraine is fighting the war that we should be fighting

The following letter is adapted from the speech given at the MIT Vigil Rally that took place March 3.

In the past week, the world has seen heroic images of Ukrainian resistance against Russian invasion. Students picking up arms to defend their homeland; civilians forming human walls to stop the enemy's advance; Ukrainians abroad organizing awareness and fundraising campaigns; Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky standing his ground, unwavering on the front lines in Kyiv. Ukrainians' efforts have been portraved as an act of self-defense, of patriotically defending their country against foreign invaders. What we need to realize is that Ukraine is not just fighting for itself — it is fighting for the freedom of people around

Just a few hours after Russia invaded Ukraine, China sent a sortie of warplanes into Taiwanese airspace. North Korea fired yet another ballistic missile. The governments of Venezuela and Myanmar are continuing their human rights abuses. These incidents continue to happen because Russia is empowering these countries. The Ukrainian army is fighting, right now, not just to defend their homeland and their people but to defend us, to defend our freedom, and to defend democracies around the world.

In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, and the world watched in silence: even the

sacrifices of the Euromaidan protests were not sufficient for us to act. In 2019, when China killed democracy in Hong Kong and in 2020, when Belarus brutally cracked down on peaceful protesters calling for fair elections, the world stayed silent. All these events, directly or indirectly, have contributed to the war in Ukraine today. Putin is sending troops to Ukraine through Crimea and Belarus; and it is because we, as democracies, failed to act in the eight years leading up to this war that now the Ukrainian people are suffering.

This war is not just about Ukraine. It is not just about Taiwan, South Korea, or some other far-away democracy that stands as the next domino to fall after Ukraine. Any country could be next. Any home, any family could wake up to the sounds of shelling and missile strikes. On March 2, Russia sent warplanes into the airspaces of Sweden and Japan. If the war in Ukraine isn't proof enough, this further demonstrates that being an ally of the free world — even being part of NATO — is not a guarantee of safety. Even in the U.S., there are people waging a war of misinformation; there are Americans supporting Putin unapologetically; there is the looming threat of authoritarianism trying to take over. This is what we are fighting against.

The current situation is not one in which we are trying to help Ukraine fight their war. It is one where brave Ukrainians are fighting our war, the war that we should be fighting in the first place. Ukrainians are fighting and dying to protect the ideals that we claim to uphold: freedom, liberty, democracy. Why is it that we are not fighting with

The free world has been large on words and small on actions in the past eight years. While a general atmosphere of appeasement certainly played a role, it has also been frustratingly vague when it comes to "how to help." For governments, traditional diplomacy seemed to have lost its viability. For individuals, there have been very few options beyond "raising awareness" via social media. This time, however, the movement supporting Ukraine seems to have succeeded where previous attempts have failed.

Ukraine is remarkably adept at resisting their foe in this modern, digital age. Their proficiency spans all levels, from the highest echelons of government to each and every individual. President Zelensky, who won the 2019 election with a mostly virtual campaign, has forged an online persona of staunch, unwavering resistance. The Ukrainian Army has mastered the modern art of crowdfunding, which it has been practicing since 2014. Perhaps most awe-inspiring is the fortitude of individual Ukrainians, from those resisting the invasion on the front lines to those helping abroad. We see many displays of this courage here at MIT -Ukrainian members of our community who, despite bearing the pain, anger, and incessant dread of war, stood up and organized a massive ongoing campaign to offer us a chance to help.

Our Ukrainian friends are doing so much to tell us exactly how we can help. They are swallowing back tears to publicly recount the atrocities committed against their families. They are resisting the urge to fly home and pick up a rifle, so that they might be able to find some help for their country abroad. They are mustering the

tenacity to not constantly check the news and their messages, but instead focus on creating an entire support campaign from scratch. They are doing this for our sake, so that this time, unlike our past blunders, we actually have a chance to pull our weight in our own fight. Donate to support Ukraine - the National Bank of Ukraine has already made it as easy as clicking a few buttons, and the MIT Ukrainian community has made it even simpler. Pick up your phone. Call your representative. Demand MIT to act now.

MIT as an institution has valued the critical importance of ethics in science and the significance of science in ethics. It is time for us to once again stand up for these values and ensure that our actions reflect our beliefs. MIT should continue to publicly support its Ukrainian community. The administration should disclose its ties with Russian oligarchs, Russian oil, and reconsider the ethical implications of their investments. We should also leverage our political influence as an institution to amplify the voices of our Ukrainian community, and do our best to support Ukrainian students both financially and academically. Only in such a way can we, as an academic institution, live up to our commitment towards ethics and our responsibility towards

I am so proud of my Ukrainian friends for organizing this powerful, coordinated effort. They are doing so much just to offer us the chance to help, handed to us on a silver platter. Now, it is up to each and every one of us to act for Ukraine, and to defend ourselves.

Слава Україні!

Yu-Chi (Jacky) Cheng '23

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Senior Associate Dean of Housing & Residential Services responds to "We are unionizing for quality and affordable housing"

I read last week's opinion piece "We are unionizing for quality and affordable housing" with great interest because our department shares the goal of providing quality and affordable housing for members of the graduate student community and because we have been working with many campus partners in recent years toward that goal.

Housing & Residential Services oversees on-campus housing assignments, as well as the repair, maintenance and stewardship of 19 residential houses. This includes eight graduate residences totaling 2,700 beds that can currently house up to 37% of MIT's graduate students. Our team is responsible for ensuring that residences are welcoming, safe, and support MIT's distinctive residen-

The opinion piece inaccurately characterized the Institute's residential system as being out of touch with graduate students' housing needs and offered an unfairly grim picture of the living conditions within our on-campus residence halls. It also claimed that a union will secure housing gains and a housing-related grievance process for graduate students in a collective bargaining agreement which, when you examine the collective bargaining agreements at Harvard and Columbia, has not occurred at these peer schools with graduate student unions.

I'd like to share my perspective about our longstanding efforts to improve the MIT graduate housing experience, including resident satisfaction with the on-campus housing experience, MIT's commitment to offering capacity to house nearly 50% of graduate

students, and the ongoing collaboration that continues to create positive outcomes for the student experience.

MIT shares our students' goal of providing quality, affordable housing.

We know that housing costs make up the largest portion of graduate students' budgets, whether they live on or off campus. MIT's housing inventory remains below the area market rates and our approach to ratesetting is informed by the Graduate Housing Working Group, which is composed of student leaders, Heads of House, and Institute

The Institute sets rates on an annual basis based on a variety of factors, including housing operational costs, and shares projections with graduate student leaders who then incorporate the proposed housing rates into their annual stipend recommendation calculations. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MIT did not increase housing rates in 2021-22, even as the Institute increased graduate student stipends by 6.25%. MIT also provides students with a variety of additional financial resources such as short- and long-term funding, and grants for graduate students with families.

Our goal is to provide a range of housing options — single rooms, efficiencies, hedroom and multi-hedroom units in a mix of newer and older buildings - so students can make choices that best fit their circumstances. As is the case with any housing system, rate increases are necessary to cover annual increases in operational costs — including livable wages for the hundreds of staff members who help keep our 24/7 housing operation running.

As in any other housing system, buildings require regular maintenance and repairs. While the experiences described last week in The Tech do not paint an accurate picture of most residents' on-campus housing experience, I am always concerned whenever a resident has a negative experience and make sure we follow through on addressing those issues that do arise. We have a talented and committed team that is available to residents 24/7 to respond to building-related issues in partnership with the Department of Facilities. Longer-term, the MIT 2030 Framework will help us to address deferred maintenance across the campus and in the residence halls.

Our data show that graduate residents are overwhelmingly satisfied with their on-campus housing experience, and we are building more graduate residence

According to survey data, 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with their choice to live on campus.

That's why MIT graduate students continue to choose to live on campus — and in response to that demand, MIT's residential system is in the midst of a significant expansion. By the fall of 2024, MIT will have delivered more than 1,075 new beds for graduate - surnassing a 950-bed ment the Institute made in 2017 - which will provide capacity to house close to 50% of the graduate student population.

Existing collaboration with student leaders creates positive outcomes.

The partnership between the Institute, student government organizations and the Graduate Housing Working Group has led to tangible improvements in the overall graduate housing experience. We have partnered to create renewable housing contract opportunities to enable students to extend their on-campus housing assignments, expanded the housing options available to couples and streamlined housing processes, including adapting the contract period to better align with when students arrive for the start of their programs.

With input from graduate student leaders, Heads of House and campus partners, we are upgrading our housing management system to improve our processes and offer a more user-friendly student experience. As part of this significant change, students will no longer need to go through a lottery process and will instead be able to select their desired housing unit. Through this new process, which will be launched this spring for the 2022-23 housing cycle, students will be able to view available housing options, compare different unit types and price points and select an on-campus housing option that meets their individual or family needs.

MIT is home to some of the most innovative thinkers on earth, and I am proud that many of our graduate students call our residence halls home. We will continue to work with nartners across the Institute to make improvements to our operations, systems, and the conditions of our current buildings, while we also expand housing capacity to provide even more on-campus housing opportunities for graduate students.

> David Friedrich Senior Associate Dean, Housing & Residential Services

Have something to say? Write opinion for The Tech!

opinion@tech.mit.edu



OPEN LETTER

An open letter on the considerations to be made about MIT graduate student unionization

We are writing as interested faculty, not at the request of the MIT administration. The possibility of MIT graduate students forming a workers' union will be determined by an upcoming vote April 4-5. We fully support the right of graduate students to decide whether or not to unionize. At issue is the question of whether our students and our Institute would be better served by a relationship that positions students as "workers" in an industry-like organization or as academic partners and rising colleagues who, in the course of their educational program, contribute to our shared teaching and research missions. We urge our community to consider this question openly, broadly, and with the utmost care. In our view, unionization would represent a fundamental change in the academic partnerships between faculty and graduate students and could put at risk the critically important relationship between graduate student mentee and faculty mentor, potentially jeopardizing the leadership roles that our students and faculty hold in advancing the future of science, technology, and

The relationship between workers and management in a unionized environ-

ment, as laid out under the National Labor Relations Act, reflects organizational structures drawn from the history of labor relationships in industry. Such a structure would position graduate education quite differently from its historic role in academia. By its nature, a unionized environment emphasizes the common experiences of workers over their individuality; it reduces flexibility in favor of a highly structured relationship between manager and workers.

We believe that such industry-framed relationships are ill-suited to the nature of and rapidly evolving opportunities in graduate education, where individuality and flexibility are necessary to foster a dynamic trajectory for graduate students as they move from undergraduate degree holders to full participants in discovery and teaching. Interposing a bureaucratic and potentially oppositional relationship of "workers and management" could undermine the success of this critically important step in career evolution. We welcome our graduate students into our programs as partners and colleagues in the pursuit and transmission of knowledge, and we feel that the best way to do so is with an unwavering commitment to the development of policies, programs, and a culture that will support collaborative, flexible, and, above all, collegial interactions.

We believe, and many have articulated, that graduate students choose to come to MIT because of the departmental and faculty advisors who will work with them individually, as caring mentors, to develop foundational knowledge and to identify

topics at the forefront of their field for a thesis. In many cases, students do their thesis work by becoming research assistants (RAs), and they receive stipends supported by grants from federal, nonprofit, or for-profit organizations. For graduate students, the primary value of an RAship comes from the training process and how it prepares them for a lifetime of contribution to society. The team of mentor and student, interacting together in a partnership and as collaborators, is critical for this training process to be effective.

In preparing graduate students for a professional career, MIT also introduces them to the education of others, often by having students serve as teaching assistants (TAs). In this role, again, graduate students serving as TAs are mentored by the MIT faculty and often receive specialized training that creates a positive experience for both the TAs and their students. MIT graduate programs integrate research, communication, and disciplinary training, and no matter what profession graduate students ultimately pursue, the training they receive in these areas greatly helps them further their careers

MIT's graduate students do different kinds of research and teaching depending on their disciplines and subdisciplines. We afford autonomy to the faculty of each graduate program, within generally accepted parameters, to allow them to design programs that address evolving critical topics and rapid breakthroughs in research. Innovation at speed is one of our greatest assets, and that speed requires flexibility and interdisciplinary variation. Unionization, with its externally imposed

and uniform requirements, risks hampering the development of individual graduate students; it might also impede our ability as a university to adapt to new opportunities and challenges.

Excellent, internationally recognized graduate programs and support for our students are central to our mission; they are not optional accessories. Graduate students represent the future of our disciplines — and of MIT itself. We compete to bring to our campus the world's best students and faculty; there are no contributors more important to our mission and ambition. As the training ground for tomorrow's leaders, graduate education plays a particularly critical role in the continuous reinvention of our disciplines and our universities, which means that the question now under consideration is of the utmost importance. Is unionization in the best interests of our graduate students and their education?

Because of the risks of constraining the individuality, flexibility, and collaborative partnerships of student-faculty relationships that enable us to be leaders in research, science, and education, we believe that unionization is not in the best interests of our graduate students and their training. We believe that those relationships, and the leadership roles of our students and MIT, should not be placed in jeopardy unless there is overwhelming evidence that it is necessary.

Phillip A. Sharp Institute Professor and Professor of Biology

Alan D. Grossman Professor and Head, Department of Biology

GUEST COLUMN

Without a union, MIT is failing GRAs and undergraduates alike

Broken buildings and precarious housing can't be fixed by individual action

By Sydney Dolan, Ki-Jana Carter, and Alyssa Rudelis

As a graduate resident advisor (GRA), I provide guidance, resources, and a sense of community to the undergraduate students that live in MIT's residential facilities. I live with and get to know my residents, help them build community with each other through social events, and support them as they navigate the challenges of being college students. Interviewing to be a GRA at MIT is a very thorough process, involving multiple rounds of interviews with both housing staff and students. In return for GRA-ing, I do not pay rent for my room. While working for an institution that plans for graduate studentworkers to be severely rent burdened, the ability to save money on a graduate stipend is a huge financial advantage.

Starting my first semester as a GRA last fall, I was thrilled to get started and meet all my residents. However, I quickly discovered numerous issues. When I moved into my room, the ceiling leaked every time it rained. It stayed this way for three months. MIT administration has neglected to maintain their buildings for years, all while charging the same price for a crumbling building. Simple tasks like repairing the washer are left on

hold for months with no update on when the repairs will be performed. MIT has identified over \$2 billion in maintenance backlog on campus, and by their own admission, many of the undergraduate houses are in "poor condition."

Like many other GRAs, I quickly discovered how hard it was to advocate for myself in this role. When submitting requests for repairs, my concerns were quickly written off as a personal failure rather than an earnest request. In response to issues with heating that left me working in my room at my desk in a down jacket and sleeping in my winter camping sleeping bag liner, I was advised to use the thermostat. Trying to maintain adequate living conditions was exhausting, frustrating, and totally disruptive to my research, my studies, and my GRA responsibilities.

I was placed in the precarious situation of having to report concerns to the very people that could drop me as a GRA at any time for any reason. (The GRA agreement states: "An appointment may be terminated at any time if your House Leadership and/or Residential Education determine you are not fulfilling all written expectations and/or the responsibility of the role"). Initially, I felt like I didn't have a right to raise concerns about

my living situation — "You don't pay rent," I would tell myself. "How can you possibly complain?" The extent of the issues with my living space ultimately left me without a choice, but coordinating meetings with MIT's administration requires immense effort despite inconsistent results.

These issues are not uncommon for GRAs. Moreover, it's not just GRAs who are affected by building negligence. The students living in these houses deserve to have a building that is liveable and fully functioning. And if we as GRAs can't even get our own heating fixed in a reasonable time, how can we possibly help our undergraduates overcome their own challenges at MIT?

How would a union help?

When the union reached out to me after hearing about my ceiling, they provided me with legal resources and support, even before being officially recognized. It was immensely helpful to have a group of fellow graduate student-workers helping me figure out how to navigate my situation, especially because I had exhausted all formal channels.

With a union, GRAs and all other graduate students will have the collective power we need to resolve our issues. We would be able to:

- Negotiate a contract: GRA working and living conditions are related to the larger housing issue, which will be a major concern in negotiations with MIT.
- File grievances: With a union, GRAs could file grievances to resolve our issues together rather than being forced to deal with them as isolated individuals who can easily be ignored.
- Have a permanent organization to fight for our needs: MIT has already shown, and is showing right now, that they do respond to pressure when we're organized. The union provides an ongoing organization that can apply that pressure when we need it.

Graduate students deserve decent living conditions, and a union can provide the support for even niche situations like mine to make sure my voice is heard. To win our union, we need to show MIT that we are united by signing the VOTE YES PETITION and showing up to vote yes for our union April 4–5.

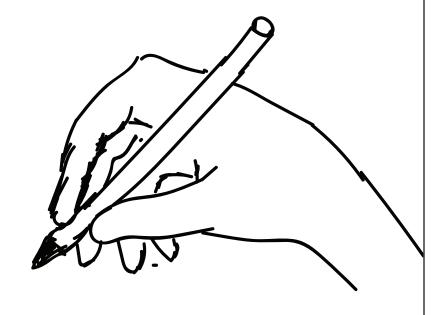
Sydney Dolan is a third-year PhD student in AeroAstro and a GRA in a sorority.

Ki-Jana Carter is a fifth-year PhD student in Materials Science and Engineering and a GRA in Baker House.

Alyssa Rudelis is a fourth-year PhD student in Physics and a GRA in Maseeh Hall.

Are you handy with a pen?

join @ tech.mit.edu



Thursday, March 17, 2022

The Tech 7

MOVIE REVIEW

Compartment No. 6: A winding love story, sans romance

Kuosmanen's portrayal of two strangers on a long train journey is a beautiful illustration of the fundamental human desire for connection

By Mureji Fatunda

STAFF WRITER

What is the essence of love when the typical trappings of romantic infatuation are stripped away? *Compartment No. 6*, the third feature film by Finnish director Juho Kuosmanen, offers one possible answer: acceptance. The new release, inspired by the novel of the same name by Rosa Liksom, is the story of an unlikely friendship borne of adventure.

Laura (Seidi Haarla) is a Finnish student living in Moscow. As the film begins she is preparing to set off on a long journey to Murmansk, a town above the Arctic Circle in northwestern Russia, to view a historic set of petroglyphs. Her partner Irina (Dinara Drukarova) bids her farewell and toasts to her journey at a party held the night before her departure. We later learn that Irina was meant to accompany Laura but had to cancel. During the party Laura seems out of place, frequently slipping into a side room to escape the scrutiny of the seemingly sophisticated crowd and ponder her place in both Irina's life and her community.

The film's main narrative begins with Laura on board the train to Murmansk. Her compartment-mate, Ljoha (Yuriy Borisov), is a Russian miner with a hardened appearance, due to the nature of his work and a generally rough lifestyle. Ljoha quickly es-



PHOTO CREDIT SAMI KUOKKANEN/AAMU FILM COMPANY. COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS.

Seidi Haarla as Laura and Yuriy Borisov as Ljoha in Compartment No. 6.

tablishes himself as messy and inconsiderate, spilling liquor and taking up part of Laura's space with his food and belongings. During an episode of drunkenness, Ljoha taunts Laura and makes vulgar suggestions, behaving so disruptively that one wonders whether they will even survive the journey together. Unsurprisingly, Laura attempts to abandon the trip early, getting off at St. Petersburg with the intention of returning to Moscow. However, she changes her mind when she realizes that the home she left behind is no longer waiting for her.

After Laura returns to the train, Ljoha shows emotion for the first time; he is simultaneously concerned for her and offended that she left. From this point onwards, the tone of their relationship begins to shift. The contrast between Ljoha and Irina's educated Muscovite friends is evident; while the party guests immediately understood Laura's desire to view the petroglyphs (and even offered reasons why the journey would be meaningful), Ljoha is perplexed as to why she is making such a long trip for that purpose. On an overnight stop in Petrozavodsk, Ljoha convinces Laura to join him on a visit to an elderly woman whom he is close to. During this outing we glimpse a softer side of Ljoha's personality, with him behaving in a protective manner towards both women. The duo returns to the train as a smiling and playful unit, with no sign of the wary strangers who left the previous

As the bond between Laura and Ljoha becomes stronger, Laura's connections to Moscow and her past gradually fray. She tries to phone Irina in Moscow during brief exits from the train, but it becomes harder to connect as the journey progresses. By the time she reaches Murmansk, Irina seems almost like a stranger on the other end of the phone; physical distance has morphed into interpersonal distance.

Ljoha's mood temporarily sours when

he and Laura are unexpectedly joined by another Finnish traveler for a segment of the trip. Their guest's departure coincides with the loss of Laura's camera, which she had been using to document both her life in Moscow and her train journey. Ljoha is unexpectedly tender and sympathetic after the camera's disappearance, and during this conversation he learns that Laura is not only going to see the petroglyphs, but also leaving behind a directionless relationship.

By the time the train nears Murmansk, Laura and Ljoha are fast friends. During a celebratory dinner on the last night of the journey, Ljoha is visibly touched, almost tearing up at one point. However, he soon appears overwhelmed by both the strength of feeling coming from Laura and the suggestion of their friendship continuing after the journey, stating "no need to do any of this" and then storming away when she attempts to collect his address. Laura follows Ljoha and wordlessly confronts him in a passionate embrace, forcing him to face feelings that he would rather suppress but after a few moments, he pulls away and disappears. We share in Laura's palpable sense of multiple cascading losses - of her relationship with Irina, her camera (representing memories of a romanticized life in Moscow), and finally of this ephemeral joy.

Laura's eventual visit to the petroglyphs is very different than imagined. However, it's clear that the vague, almost impulsive motivations that initially sent her on this unusual journey have crystallized into a sense of determination and intentionality, about Ljoha as much as her future.

During the film's first scene, one of the party attendees quotes a line from Victor Pelevin's novel *Chapayev and Void*, clearly foreboding Laura's impending journey: "to escape you need to know firmly know not where you're running, but from where." However, it seems that Ljoha too is "escaping" a difficult past, which manifests itself

Compartment No. 6

Directed by Juho Kuosmanen

Screenplay by Andris Feldmanis, Livia Ulman, Juho Kuosmanen

Starring Seidi Haarla, Yuriy Borisov

Rated R, Now Playing

in his complex emotional makeup. At the end of the film he remains unable to express his emotions directly, instead opting to send Laura a note conveying his feelings. It feels like the writers missed an opportunity to share more about Ljoha's backstory, which would have provided more context for his behavior during the second half of the film.

Throughout Compartment No. 6, much is communicated without words. Borisov in particular puts on an incredibly convincing performance as Ljoha, whose development from a rugged and opaque personality to one full of raw and turbulent feelings is the highlight of the story. The film's visuals are particularly effective; cinematographer J-P Passi manages to capture complex interactions between characters despite the tiny, cramped spaces on the train, and the documentary and landscape shots taken from Laura's camera help to reinforce our understanding of her character. Despite the simple premise of its narrative, Kuosmanen manages to finely probe the depths of human emotion with this film.

CONCERT REVIEW

14th Annual Herb Pomeroy Memorial Concert: A moving tribute to MIT's father of jazz

MIT's Festival Jazz Ensemble and Alumni Jazz Band perform live at Kresge Auditorium

MIT's 14th Annual Herb Pomeroy Memorial Concert

Featuring saxophonistcomposer Miguel Zenón

MIT Festival Jazz
Ensemble & MIT Alumni
Jazz Band

Conducted by Dr. Frederick Harris, Jr.

Kresge Auditorium

March 5

By Anahita Srinivasan

STAFF WRITEF

Last Saturday, the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble and Alumni Jazz Band, with special guest saxophonist Miguel Zenón, came together to perform at the 14th Annual Herb Pomeroy Memorial Concert at Kresge Auditorium. Directed by Dr. Frederick Harris Jr., the performance was a wonderful medley of a diverse variety of songs, featuring Zenón's incredible vocals and skill on the saxophone. It paid tribute to Herb Pomeroy, who founded the Festival Jazz Ensemble in 1963 and was a major force in the jazz world.

The concert began with a piece entitled "Blue 'N Boogie" composed by Dizzy Gillespie and Frank Paparelli. Jazzy and upbeat, the melody was carried by the saxophones. The piece was also an opportunity for individual instruments in the ensemble to stand out; there were saxophone, clarinet, keyboard, piano, and percussion solos, each of which contributed a unique element to the piece. After this lively opening was a series of two pieces, Duke Ellington's "Almost Cried" and "Sunset and the Mocking Bird," connected by an improvised interlude by MIT postdoctoral researcher Peter Godart on the piano. "Almost Cried" was slow and sinuous, starting with a beautiful trumpet solo, and the percussion emphasized the dreamy, emotional mood. Godart's interlude was a beautifully smooth transition and an impressive improvisation. Finally, "Sunset and the Mocking Bird" was a particular treat to listen to. Originally composed for Queen Elizabeth II, the piece evoked the mood of the beginning of spring and featured fast-paced riffs on the piano reminescent of birdsong. It concluded with beautiful trills on the clarinet that emphasized this mood.

The next portion of the concert consisted of a sequence of pieces composed by Miguel Zenón, world-renowned saxophonist who previously taught MIT's Advanced Jazz Performance course. Zenón began with an incredibly fast-paced saxophone solo that transformed into a piece that featured the entire ensemble — his own composition "Pandero y Pagode." The upbeat, catchy tune was emphasized by

the intertwined clarinet and saxophone solos, the latter performed by Zenón himself. In fact, Zenón and Dr. Harris both danced throughout the piece. The music then switched to a heavy beat reminiscent of rock music, accentuated by electric guitar, but it ended in contrast with soft trills on the piano.

Following this were two more of Zenón's original compositions: "Sangre de Mi Sangre" and "Ya." "Sangre de Mi Sangre" started off slower, with pretty chord combinations on the upright bass, but it quickly transformed into a piece with a strong beat. It then ended the same way it started: with floating, softer chords on the piano and upright bass. Finally, "Ya" was a fast-paced piece that was strong from the very beginning. Everyone on stage was absorbed in the music, and the incredibly high and fast notes made for an impressive show.

The MIT Alumni Jazz Band then took over for the next third of the concert. Featuring musicians from the class of '68 all the way to the class of '21, the band was a powerful reminder of MIT alumni's continued dedication to their school. Even more impressively, Dr. Harris noted that the band had only rehearsed together once - the night before the concert! Their first piece, "Take the A Train," was performed somewhat unusually as a ballad instead of as a swing, but it was a beautifully moving song. They followed up with Chick Corea's "Armando's Rhumba," which was unbelievably upbeat and energetic and a complete contrast to the previous piece. The percussion was really the highlight; the incredible drum section had the audience dancing in their seats, and the powerful ending really drove home the intensity of the piece.

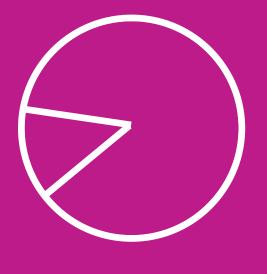
The Festival Jazz Ensemble then returned to perform the final third of the concert. Astor Piazzolla's "Oblivion" was first on the program, a piece which Dr. Harris described as being a "reflective, melancholy, passionate" song that the band was performing to send sounds of solidarity to Ukraine. It lived up to these expectations, opening with a haunting guitar solo and pretty flute trills, turning into a powerful piece, but maintaining the same melancholy undertones. This was followed by a harmonized version of Charlie Parker's "KC Blues" performed solely by the saxophone section, the highlight of which was Zenón's incredible solo with powerful high notes. Sonny Stitt's "The Eternal Triangle," a bebop, was next. The fast pace and high energy levels were kept up by the percussion, and the pianist and keyboard player sounded as though they were tickling the

To conclude, the Festival Jazz Ensemble along with Miguel Zenón performed two pieces by Zenón, "Esta Plena" and "Oyelo," in tribute to Puerto Rican artist Hector "Tito" Matos. This performance featured two special guests for percussion and vocals, and the audience caught a glimpse of Zenón's beautiful singing voice in both pieces. "Oyelo," performed as a big band arrangement, served as an especially powerful ending to the concert. All in all, the concert was a wonderful tribute to Herb Pomeroy that featured a excellently diverse variety of pieces, all skillfully played.

8 THE TECH
THURSDAY, MARC



Next House hosted a Pi Day event where students were voted to be pied in the face, Monday.



Happy Pi D

On Pi Day, not only do MI mathematical constant anniversary of our accept Many dormitories, living offices baked and gave out campi



MIT's Undergraduate Mathematics assocation holds a Pi Day social, Monday.



Students pose in the aftermath of Next House's Pi Day Celebration, Monday.



н 17, 2022 Тне Тесн **9**





Students cut pies to be eaten at Next House's Pi Day Celebration, Monday.

ay 2022!

T students celebrate the Pi, we celebrate the ances to MIT as well! g communities, and pies to lift the mood of us.





Pi day print on the Kresge Oval walkway, Monday.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 10 THE TECH

Exodus Ghost stories

By Paige Bright CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Two years ago, MIT got the email that we were getting evicted. The name for this day varies from person to person: email day, doomsday, the exodus. People frantically tried to piece their lives together, to pack up, move out, and say goodbye.

Now, whenever I enter a room, for the slightest moment, I picture the environment desolated. Chairs stacked on tables; chalk resting in the trays of chalkboards. I can almost see them — the ghosts. The people whose time at MIT was interrupted. Here are some of their stories.

There were signs of things ramping up. Purell stands everywhere, Campus Preview Weekend canceled. Large classes were moved online while Harvard announced that everyone had to leave. That wouldn't happen here, right? Admin actually cares about its students, right? I even told one of my Harvard friends that, if need be, they could stay in my room indefinitely. Technically against policy, but it's not like anyone in East Campus would know. Not like anyone would care.

And then the rumors started. "MIT follows its peer institutions." They will kick us out next. The email was confirmed to be sent out at 1 p.m. Still, I went to classes. I had nothing better to do. One class came and went. No email. I went to another it only had three people registered for it. One of them was a friend of mine. We were

After class, we talked for a while. Even though nothing official had happened yet, it just felt so surreal. We hugged. That was the first time I hugged them. We walked to EC together. We hugged again.

That was the last time I hugged them. The email came, and I resigned myself. I bought tickets to go home the following Tuesday. I went to my 6.042 midterm. People were gathered and nervous, but the exam went through as planned. Life goes on. One week was more than enough time; at least we had one more week.

— Toomas Tennisberg '23

Over the group chat, the team found a time to meet one last time that Thursday. At the time, we were supposed to have a week within our control: pack, organize travel plans, say goodbye. We were celebrating our seniors — we figured we may not see them again. It was bittersweet, but we were having fun. Balloons and streamers decorated the room, party tunes blasting over a speaker as we focused on being together and celebrating the team camaraderie. Someone had acquired a keg; a true symbol of a special occasion.

It was after midnight and the energy had started winding down. A few people had already left the party to go home, but the rest of us had turned the music up and were dancing along or trying to converse over the music. A few of my teammates were squished up against each other on the couch, and I remember seeing one of them look up from their phones and vell something to the room, but nobody really heard her over the music that was bumping. She waved to catch the attention of a teammate standing next to the speaker and they hit the power button to shut off the music. In the next instant, everyone stopped their conversations and turned to the person on the couch.

"They just sent out an email. We have to leave by Sunday. We're getting kicked out."

Within a minute, the gathering splintered. Everyone checked their phones to read the email and emergency text that was sent out. People left the room to call parents, roommates, to try to reschedule flights and trains and buses, to panic in all their individual ways. Someone on the couch started crying and a few of us gathered around them. When I left the room, I saw a friend outside in tears, having a panic attack. Several of us nucleated around her, encircling her in a wordless embrace. When I left that cluster and went outside, I passed another nucleus of support on the sidewalk, circling a teammate who wasn't sure if they could go home or if they would have a place to stay.

I was in bed, trying to go to sleep, when I heard crying from down the hall. The kind of crying that requires getting up. Someone was rubbing his shoulder, others telling stories. And the night went on.

- Anonymous '22

It was just a normal week, rumors of a virus silently closing in on all of us, how we were all going to be sent home, etc. etc. you know — the usual. My phone was exploding, as all of my group chats were collectively freaking out. Everyone had questions, but the questions in the Next House Exec chat stayed relatively consistent: "How do we help out?"

I'd like to say that we were able to cast aside our personal emotions and fears to help each other move out smoothly in less than a week, but that'd be a blatant lie. I tried my best to push through the tears that drowned me every night to lead and attend meetings, and eventually the rest of the Next Exec did the thing Exec always does: they saw me struggling, and stepped in to help run things. They rented a U-Haul van and literally cleaned out the Cambridge U-Haul of their boxes. We spent hours speedrunning organizing PODS deliveries. We (unsuccessfully) tried to push for the clarity from the admin that we so very much lacked. And at the end of it all, we let out a primal scream, letting the whole House know that we, too, were overwhelmed by emotions from the week.

Days blurred together. I lived hour by hour, savoring the last moments. I spent hours crying, hugging friends for comfort, worrying, pushing through the tears and cruel ironies. I remember wondering how many friends I'd suddenly never see in per-

Exec did much more than I can capture in this recollection of the week, and I'm proud of everyone. All I hope is that our effort was worth it, but I can't be the judge of that.

— Tommy Adebiyi '21

There are very few moments where MIT truly comes together for each other. We say this is a school for collaboration, but what does that mean? During the Exodus, the MIT community came together to work miracles. We were each other's support systems. We helped each other up, and we kept on going. Things are only barely getting back to normal. But every now and then, we should take a step back. We have to see where we are coming from to see where we are going.

BEAVER FEVER

THURSDAY 17

MIT Global Health Alliance — Support Ukraine by donating to United Help Ukraine

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. @ Lobby 10

Asian American Initiative - East Coast Asian American Student Union fundraising

11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. @ Stud (boba sale)

Tulip x Women in EECS — HQ Tour / Meet & Greet

4:30 p.m. @ Tulip Headquarters (free transportation, RSVP required)

MIT Asian Dance Team — Spring Workshop Series: In the Morning by ITZY 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. @ MacGregor Dance

Ensemble Shakespeare - Coriolanus

8 p.m. @ La Sala de Puerto Rico (tickets required)

FRIDAY 18

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble

Coriolanus

8 p.m. @ La Sala de Puerto Rico (tickets required)

Shayna Ahteck - Mauritian Independence Day Celebration

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. @ SPXCE W31-110 (free Mauritian snacks and tea)

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VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS

Dear friend,

How well do I know you?

By Vivian Hir STAFF WRITER

Dear friend,

I thought the years of communicating online were sufficient for maintaining a close friendship until I bought I Wrote a Book About You for your birthday last year. I thought that completing the open-ended prompts wouldn't be too difficult since we have texted each other almost every single day since middle school. We have had a few in-person interactions, and I can still vividly recall memories from the summer of 2015 and even some from when we were children a decade ago. So I thought this would be enough to maintain our friendship.

But I was wrong. While most of the prompts in the book were about your personality and character, some prompts assumed that you existed in my physical world. One of the prompts asked what activities we enjoyed doing together. I spent what felt like a long time thinking of how to fill in the blank. Zoom calls sounded inadequate, and the word "Zoom" made me think of the pandemic even though the reason we had online video calls was distance, not COVID-19. Writing down "long, spontaneous text conversations" also didn't satisfy me. Thoughts that I previously never considered started rising to the surface of my consciousness. If I hadn't left Boulder, Colorado, what would we have done together growing up?

The birthday gift that was meant to celebrate our long-distance friendship only made me wonder what our friendship lacked. I thought about things we missed out on that other friends experienced together: celebrating graduation, going to prom, having sleepovers, and so much more. I know that it is useless to think about changing the past, but regret flooded me nevertheless. What was I doing that summer when we were in the same place? Why was I wasting time on your computer when we could have been doing something more meaningful? I took things for granted. I had assumed that I would see you again in a year or two. But the reality is that nothing in the future is certain.

I have to admit that after I mailed that book to you, I started questioning whether I could call you my closest friend. I know your insecurities, secrets, and aspirations, but can I really know you well despite having no day-to-day interactions with you? What are you like as a physical being?

I know that my question sounds strange considering I spent nearly the whole month of June with you five-and-a-half years ago. As the years go on, however, you gradually feel more abstract, as if you are just a part of cyberspace. I recognize your voice, but I read your text messages in my head in my own. Most of the time, I view your existence in the form of the active speech bubble in my messages app. I wonder what your college life is like hundreds of miles away, even the mundane things, like walking across campus or eating dinner with your friends. If you made daily vlogs, I would watch them religiously just to know how you are doing in

At the same time, however, I wonder if the online nature of our friendship is the reason I am still friends with you. As much as I would like to think that I know you as a multifaceted person, the truth is that we can selectively choose aspects of ourselves to present online. Consequently, we can choose what to hide from others. I was aware of the fact that you disagreed with me on a number of things in middle and high school, but that never really bothered me. I just told myself to accept our differences.

Would I have ended up drifting away from you over time if we went to the same school? Would our differences have seemed more striking? To be honest, I don't know, and that scares me. Yet our friendship still exists to this day, and I am grateful for that. You are the only person that I can talk to about my vulnerabilities and secrets. You know random quirks about me that I never share with others — pictures of my favorite stuffed animals, my mortifying elementary school diary entries, embarrassing iMovie trailers we made. Out of the friends I have made in the various places that I have lived, you are the only one that I have still maintained contact with since childhood.

Although each year only seems to prevent us from reuniting, I still cling to the possibility that I will see you again someday. I imagine meeting you in New York City, playing your favorite song Harlem by New Politics in the 125th Street station, pretending that we are the band members in the music video. I daydream about spending the whole day walking around New York City with you, exploring the various neighborhoods during our adventures.

Even if New York City doesn't work out for both of us, my dreams won't stop there. Maybe I can surprise you when I visit your college campus. Maybe I can fly back to Boulder and relive those simple summer days of early adolescence with you: walking around the neighborhood after dinner, appreciating the sunset's vibrant colors, playing on the swings at the local playground, enjoying the relaxing environment of Boulder Creek.

I know that I have shared many of my thoughts and feelings in this letter, but I also want to know what you think. Have you also imagined a version of our friendship that was face-to-face? Have you worried about how awkward and mechanical our in-person interactions might be when we meet again? I wish that I had conversations with you about what distance does to our relationship because it is the lack of this discussion that makes me feel farther away from you. I think what I seek from you is not mere connection, but conversation, because these two words do not mean the same thing.

Your close friend,

Vivian

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Pumpkin Pi Solution, page 14

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

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

Pecan Pi

Solution, page 14

4×		1–		20×	12×
	90×		6		
4		72×		6×	6
11+					2×
	80×				
3		1-		30×	

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.

Past/Present/Future by Sally R. Stein

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 Yuletide wise men
- 5 Helpful hints 9 Line on an agenda
- 13 Fathers of horses 14 Revered celebrity
- 15 Bend with the breeze
- 16 Makes preparations
- 17 Otherwise
- 18 Grocery shopper's sheet
- 19 The date five weeks ago
- 22 "Electric" fish
- 23 Abel's mom
- 24 Sound of scolding 27 Weep loudly
- 29 Mistakes in a book
- 34 Exclamation like "Aha!" 35 Remove from office
- 38 __ boom (aircraft sound)
- 39 Today's date
- 43 Justice Kagan
- 44 Decade fraction
- 45 Spanish cheer 46 Anthem section
- 48 Young dog
- 50 "Permission granted"

- 51 And so on: Abbr.
- 53 Sample of a beverage
- 55 The date five weeks from
- now 64 Wild animal's den
- 65 Neighborhood
- 66 Egypt's capital
- 67 In addition
- 68 Con game
- 69 Bert's Sesame Street pal
- 70 (Had) observed
- 71 Servings of corn
- 72 Shut loudly, as a door

DOWN

- 1 Long distance for a runner
- 2 United __ Emirates (Mideast nation)
- 3 Any artistic category
- 4 Magazine editions
- 5 Level of a ballpark
- 6 Sit __ by (do nothing)
- 7 Pursuit group in westerns 8 Arm of a jacket
- 9 Spot of land in an ocean 10 Small bed size

- 12 Ancient legend
- 20 Uninterested
- 24 Heavy books
- 25 "Thou __ not steal"
- 28 Harbor marker
- 32 Name of a book or film

- 42 Have faith in
- 47 Army "relax" command
- 49 Jigsaw puzzle components
- 52 Approximately, as seen before a year
- 55 "That's too bad"
- 56 Drained of color

- 11 Toward the dawn
- 13 Sunblock stat: Abbr.
- 21 Poetry selection
- 26 Seoul, South __
- 30 Fish eggs
- 31 Pester
- 33 Has sore muscles
- 36 Seek damages from
- 37 Sandy golf hazard
- 40 Anderson Cooper's channel
- 41 Greenish eye color
- 54 Gem from an oyster
- 16 18 23 24 | 25 | 26 28 30 |31 |32 |33 39 40 41 43 45 46 50 48 61 62 63

65

68

71

57 Stand up 58 Waffle __ (kitchen

70

- appliance) 59 Car transmission selection
- 60 Performers who overact

66

69

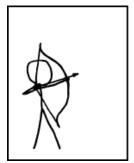
72

15

61 Ship of 1492 62 Quick haircut 63 Weed-chopping tool

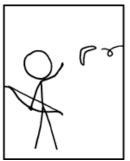
[939] Arrow













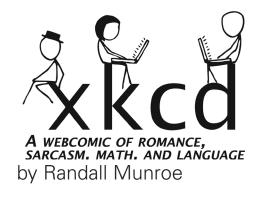
Banana Cream Pi

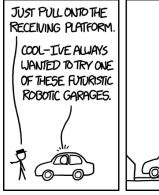
Solution, page 14

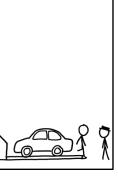
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	1		8		6		
7			5				9
	6				3		
	7	1	2	6	4	5	
		5				2	
8				2			3
		3		5		6	
	4	6	3	1			

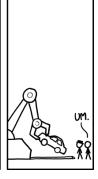
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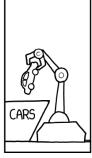
[1651] Robotic Garage

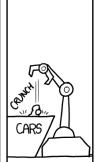












UE'LL DUMP OUT THE BIN WHEN YOU GET BACK AND YOU CAN PICK OUT YOUR CAR FROM THE PILE.

CAN YOU AT LEAST
MAKE SURE IT'S NOT
ON THE BOTTOM?
LOOK, ROBOTS
AREN'T MAGIC.



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with Maia Weinstock
in conversation with Evelyn Hu

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Solution to Pumpkin Pi

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

Solution to Pecan Pi

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

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

Solution to Banana from page 13

Solution to Past/Present

Course 6?

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PORTSSPORTSSPO

MIT Wrestling finishes a historic season with one national champion and two additional All-American wrestlers

The women's team finished fourth place out of 31 teams

By Donald McNeil and Wenbo Wu

The MIT Wrestling team qualified seven wrestlers for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Championships, wrapping up their competition with three All-Americans, including one national champion. The women's team also finished in fourth place out of 31 competing

"I knew what the team was capable of this year, but they still had to go out on the mat and prove it," MIT Wrestling Coach Donald Mc-Neil said. The team "proved that they could compete with some of the best wrestlers in the country," he added.

Sarah Sams '24, MIT's national champion, was the first national champion in women's wrestling for MIT. She is also only MIT's second women's team NCWA finalist (Elena Glassman PhD '16 finished in second place at the 2010 NCWA National Championship).

Sams "wrestled extremely well all weekend to bring home the title at 191 pounds, going 3-0 on the weekend," McNeil wrote in a statement to The Tech.

"In her first two matches she pinned both of her opponents in the first period," McNeil wrote, adding that in the finals, "she met up with Kiley Hubby of Big Bend Community College, the 2022 Junior College National Champion ... [and] ultimately won via an 11-7

"This is a huge win for" Sams, because "Hubby was a tough wres-

tler" and Sams "wrestled extremely well to get the win," McNeil said. "I am so happy for [Sams], this is a culmination of a lot of hard work in the wrestling room throughout the year."

According to McNeil, Sams finished the season with "an impressive 9-0, with 8 pins, an individual national championship, and a Northeast Conference Championship."

The week prior to the NCWA National Championships, Sams also competed in a Division One Women's Wrestling all-star match at Cornell University, where Cornell, Columbia University, Princeton University, Drexel University, and Lehigh University also sent

Sams won her match against Giselle Kimball of Lehigh by way of 10-0 technical fall.

McNeil said that Sams "learns quicker than anyone that [he has] ever coached." As an example, he "taught her a 'leg lace' two weeks before this event and she is already better with it than [he] ever was."

Sams "is only a sophomore and everyone on the team" aside from the first year "lost a year due to COVID-19," McNeil said. "I think the sky's the limit for her in the sport of wrestling. She puts in the work each week and I am very confident that she could compete against anyone in the country, in any division."

Viveca Pannell '25 also completed an All-American run, placing third at the NCWA Nationals at 123 pounds, going 4-1 on the weekend. Pannell's "weight class

was the toughest weight class in the tournament. She pulled off a very impressive performance to take third," McNeil said.

Pannell's only loss of the tournament was to Lauren Stone, the champion and "outstanding wrestler" of the entire women's division. Pannell finished her season an "impressive 12-2, with 10 pins, and a second place finish at the Northeast Conference Championship," McNeil wrote.

Pannell "is one of the toughest wrestlers that I have ever coached. She is a quick learner and is extremely tough. She put in so much work in the wrestling room this year. I was so happy to see it pay off for her," McNeil said.

Keith Skaggs '22 was MIT Wrestling's third All-American, finishing in seventh place, going 5-2 on the weekend. Keith finishes his career with MIT as a two-time All-American (he also placed eighth in

Skaggs also finished as the NCWA Northeast Conference runner-up and had an "impressive 18-4 record, including four pins on the year," McNeil wrote.

"I am very proud of [Skaggs] for this incredible accomplishment. [He] is one heck of a wrestler," McNeil said. "He dropped a tough match early in the tournament and rattled off three wins in the consolation bracket to earn All-American honors. He is as tough as anyone. It is not easy to rebound after a loss," but Skaggs "was determined to finish in the top eight and he went out and got the job done." Along the way,

Skaggs defeated "some formidable opponents," McNeil added.

MIT had four additional national qualifiers, including Sam Calvert '25, Zoe Pasetsky '24, Brendan O'Neill G, and Logan Madrigal-Silver '24. "Although they each fell short of all American honors, I am so proud of them. They all wrestled really well throughout the year," McNeil said.

Calvert had a "great season, going 13-8 on the year with 7 pins," McNeil wrote. Calvert bested the number three seed in his weight class, but ultimately fell one win shy of an All-American performance.

Calvert "has a great gas tank. He works so hard at practice every day and is one of the most coachable people I know. I know if he keeps it up he can be at the top of the podium next year," McNeil said.

Pasetesky also had a "great season," McNeil wrote. She won her first match at the NCWA Nationals and dropped her next two against more experienced opponents. This is Pasetesky's first year wrestling, and she finished 6-5 on the year, winning six matches by fall and taking home the Northeast Conference Championship.

"Zoe is so strong and has such great mat awareness. With another year of training under her belt she will be a title contender," McNeil

O'Neill also competed well for the team at nationals. He dropped two "tough matches to fall shy of his goal of becoming an All-American," McNeil wrote. O'Neill "has continued to improve throughout

the year. If you look at where he was in September and where he is now, you notice a world of difference," McNeil said. "He still has so much potential for his last season and I am excited to see what he can accomplish."

THE TECH 15

Madrigal-Silver also competed "well at nationals, dropping two matches, falling short of All-American honors," McNeil wrote.

"I am glad that [Madrigal-Silver] had the opportunity to compete at nationals. He is so strong and has a lot of potential to put together a strong season next year."

"The team has so much to be proud of this year," McNeil wrote. 'My goal was for everyone to have fun and work hard. I felt like the wins would follow. Luckily they did." McNeil added that he is "very proud" of the team and hopes that "each of them are proud of the work they put in. They should be very proud of their accomplishments."

"Finishing in fourth place in the women's division as a team at the national tournament was the icing on the cake and shows the group effort that everyone put in all year," McNeil wrote. "Everyone helped each other throughout the year. More experienced wrestlers took their time to work with newer wrestlers to ensure that they were up to speed with what we were learning. I am proud of them both as wrestlers and as people."

The NCWA Nationals were held March 10-12 in Allen, Texas. Students should contact wrestlingofficers@mit.edu if they are interested in joining the team or have



Sarah Sams '24, MIT's national champion, was the first national champion in women's wrestling for MIT, March 10-12.

Friday, March 11

- Men's Volleyball won at Lasell University 3-1.
- Men's Track and Field tied for 4th place at NCAA Division III National Championship.
- Women's Track and Field placed 29th at NCAA Division III National Championship.

Saturday, March 12

- Men's Track and Field tied for 6th place at NCAA Division III National Championship. Women's Track and Field tied for 58th place at NCAA Division III National Championship.
- Men's Tennis won against Colby College 6-3.
- Men's Volleyball lost against Springfield College 0-3.

Sunday, March 13

- Sailing placed 3rd of 8 at Wood Trophy.
- Sailing placed 6th and 9th of 9 at MIT Team Race Invite.
- Men's and Women's Fencing individual results can be found at *mitathletics.com*.

Monday, March 14

Baseball won against UMass Boston 6-1.

Tuesday, March 15

Baseball tied with Rhode Island College 14-14.

Wednesday, March 16

- Baseball won against Bates College 6-1.
- Women's Lacrosse lost against Roger Williams University 13-16.

Upcoming Sports Events

FRIDAY 18

Men's Swimming and Diving NCAA Championships

Women's Swimming **Diving**

NCAA Championships

Men's Tennis vs. Holy Cross 4:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 19

Men's Swimming and Diving NCAA Championships

Women's Swimming and **Diving**

Women's Openweight Crew vs. United States Coast Guard

Sailing

Southern New England Team

Sailing Harvard University

Sailing Geiger Trophy

Women's Lacrosse

vs. Mount Holyoke College 12:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis Bates College

1:00 p.m.

Baseball

Pomona-Pitzer 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 20

Sailing

Southern New England Team

Sailing

Harvard University

Sailing Geiger Trophy

Softball

vs. Luther College

1:30 p.m.

Baseball

Pomona-Pitzer

12:00 p.m.

Softhall vs. Trinity College (Conn.)

4:00 p.m. **TUESDAY 21**

Softball

vs. Grinnell College 1:45 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Caltech2:00 p.m.

Softball

vs. Lawrence University 4:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 22

Women's Lacrosse Skidmore College 4:00 p.m.

Baseball

Chapman University 7:00 p.m.

16 THE TECH THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

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