

# Annual MIT Mystery Hunt is held in-person over 2023 IAP

## Over 4,000 people participated, 38% teams virtual

By Isabella Duan  
STAFF WRITER

MIT's 43rd annual Mystery Hunt was held on-campus over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend from Jan. 13 to 16. The annual puzzle hunt was organized by Brad Schaefer in 1981 as a one-day event; it has since evolved into a multi-day challenge with more than a hundred puzzles per event.

### Mystery Hunt Structure & Theme

Mystery Hunt, one of the oldest and largest puzzle hunts in the world, is open to MIT students and the public. The goal of the hunt is to find answers to a series of puzzles "to lead the teams to the location of a coin hidden somewhere on the MIT campus," according to the MIT Puzzle Club website. Puzzle Club is the executive group that organizes Mystery Hunt.

The coin has been hidden in a myriad of places — from the lighted diamond sculptures near Building E62 in 2017 to a cup in bushes near Building 57 in 1993. Due to the puzzles' complexity, it usually takes more than 48 hours of hard work for a team to reach the end.

"We had around 4500 participants split among 300 teams," Puzzle Club president Walker Anderson '23 explained. Of the teams, 32 teams reached the "halfway" mark

and 8 teams completed the hunt.

Per tradition, this year's theme "Museum of Interesting Things" was written by "teammate," the 2022 Mystery Hunt winner, and consisted of over 152 total puzzles. The initial structure involved six museum exhibits—atrium, science, natural history, art, world history, and innovation. Each exhibit was made up of several unique puzzles; for example, the art exhibit showcased puzzles titled "Graffiti," "Collage," and "Cute Cats."

Gabriel L. Mintzer '21, a Mystery Hunt participant since 2018, recalled, "I really wasn't sure what to expect based on the opening ceremony [...] and figured there had to be some sort of twist." Upon exploring the museum and solving enough puzzles, teams discovered the true theme of the year: the puzzle factory.

Despite the initial museum exhibit theme, Anderson stated, "the theme is more centered around the factory [...] the factory, the puzzles it makes, and the AIs [who create the puzzles] behind it."

After "reactivating" these AIs and completing their respective challenges, the winning team would find the 2023 coin in The Bush Room at the organizers' headquarters. This year, the coin was found by "The Team Formerly Known as the Team

Formerly Known as the Team Formerly Known as the Team Formerly Known as the Team to Be Named Later" (TTBNL).

TTBNL has been participating in Mystery Hunt for many years, with some members writing for previous Mystery Hunts in the past, explained Anderson.

### Transitioning back to an In-Person Hunt

The last two Mystery Hunts were held online due to the pandemic. Mintzer shared that while he felt the organizers "did a nice job handling the remote nature of the hunt," which included a virtual recreation of the campus in 2021, "this year's return to in-person hunting was very much appreciated."

"[It] was amazing and helped foster a feeling of return to normalcy that was very welcome," he reflected.

The changes due to the pandemic were also felt by the executive team. From the planning side, Anderson noted that some of the planning knowledge was lost over the years.

"[It] was a really big change from being online for two years, since we needed to remember to do things like reserve classrooms, and rent AV equipment to use for

Mystery Hunt, Page 2



CADY BORONKAY - THE TECH

Happy first day of spring semester, beavers!

## YEAR IN REVIEW

see insert, page R1

## Stratton Student Center closed indefinitely

The Stratton Student Center has closed following a series of water pipe explosions, Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson announced in an email to the MIT community Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Staff are "working diligently" to assess the damage and determine when "critical systems can get back online." The Division of Student Life and the Department of Facilities are "planning for an extended closure" out of an abundance of caution. In particu-

lar, there is "significant damage" to the basement and first-fourth floors.

Student Organizations Leadership & Engagement (SOLE) also reached out with more clarifying information for student organization leaders. As a result of the closure, the SOLE office has been temporarily relocated to W31-110 (Intercultural Engagement Office). SOLE is also working with student organizations to gain access to the student center to "pick up needed items."

Nelson acknowledged the inconvenience the closure may pose to the MIT community; she also emphasized the hard work of the team, requesting "understanding and patience" as staff work through the situation.

As more information becomes available, updates will be posted on the Student Life website. MIT community members can email [w20updates-reply@mit.edu](mailto:w20updates-reply@mit.edu) with questions and comments regarding the student center closure.

— Eunice Zhang

## MIT updates intellectual property policy

MIT's Academic Council approved the adoption of an updated Intellectual Property Policy, Vice President for Research Maria T. Zuber announced in an email to the MIT community.

According to Zuber, a working group was tasked to "clarify [the] policy and bring it line with modern practices" after seeking feed-

back from stakeholders including the Committee on Intellectual Property and the Faculty Policy Committee. The updated policy is intended to "provide clear guidance on rights and obligations that MIT and its community members have with respect to intellectual property." In particular, it "formalizes a process to ad-

dress any dispute that may arise about IP ownership."

Zuber added that the Technology Licensing Office has a Frequently Asked Questions page and requested that those with questions about the new policy can email the office at [tlo@mit.edu](mailto:tlo@mit.edu)

— Alex Tang

### IN SHORT

Spring registration deadline is Feb. 10.

It is also the deadline for final-term seniors to submit their **HASS Concentration Completion Form** and degree applications and for second-term juniors to submit their **HASS**

### Concentration Proposal Form.

**xFair** is on Feb. 10 in the Media Lab from 10 a.m.–5p.m.

Interested in **joining The Tech**? Email [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu).

Send news and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

### WAY OF WATER

The first of four sequels planned for 2009's *Avatar*, the film features a familial bond, stunning visuals, and a sweeping score. **ARTS, p. 4**

### STATE STREET PROVISIONS

A Sunday brunch complete with sticky buns, sandwiches, French toast, pancakes, and burgers awaits. **ARTS, p. 5**

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WEATHER

Welcome back beavers

By Shinjini Ghosh  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Welcome back, everyone! With the first week of classes already under our belt and the weather looking up from last weekend, here's to hoping for a cheery, sunny, and generally warm spring semester. While

the upcoming weekend is mostly cloudy and dry after a warm sunny Friday afternoon, expect the week to bring in a lot of rain and snow showers, even as the temperatures rise. Remember to keep an umbrella handy as you scurry between classes and look forward to warmer times!

Extended Forecast

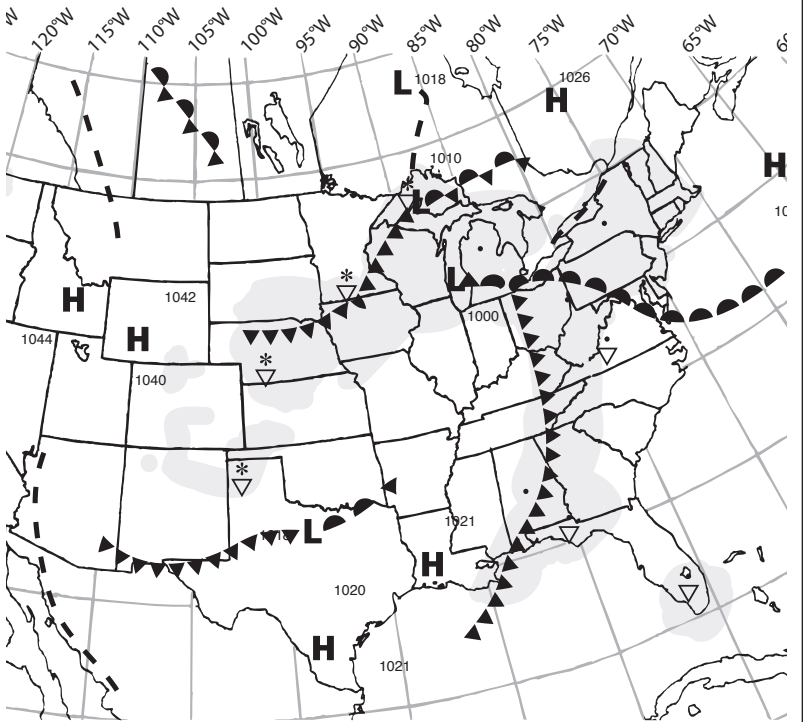
**Today:** Cloudy with occasional afternoon showers. High around 47°F (8°C). Winds S at 5-10 mph.

**Tonight:** Rain showers early with overcast skies late. Low 41°F (5°C). Winds S at 10-20 mph.

**Tomorrow:** Sunshine with cloudy intervals. High around 55°F (13°C) and low 31°F (0°C). Winds W at 10-25 mph and gusts of up to 40 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy skies with high of 41°F (5°C) and low of 27°F (-3°C). Winds between 5-10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy skies with rain and snow showers later. High of 47°F (8°C) and low of 35 F (2 C). Winds at 5-15 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, February 9, 2023

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Rain	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light Snow	Light Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate Snow	Moderate Rain	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy Snow	Heavy Rain	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Mystery Hunt has shifted more online over pandemic

Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

kickoff," he wrote.

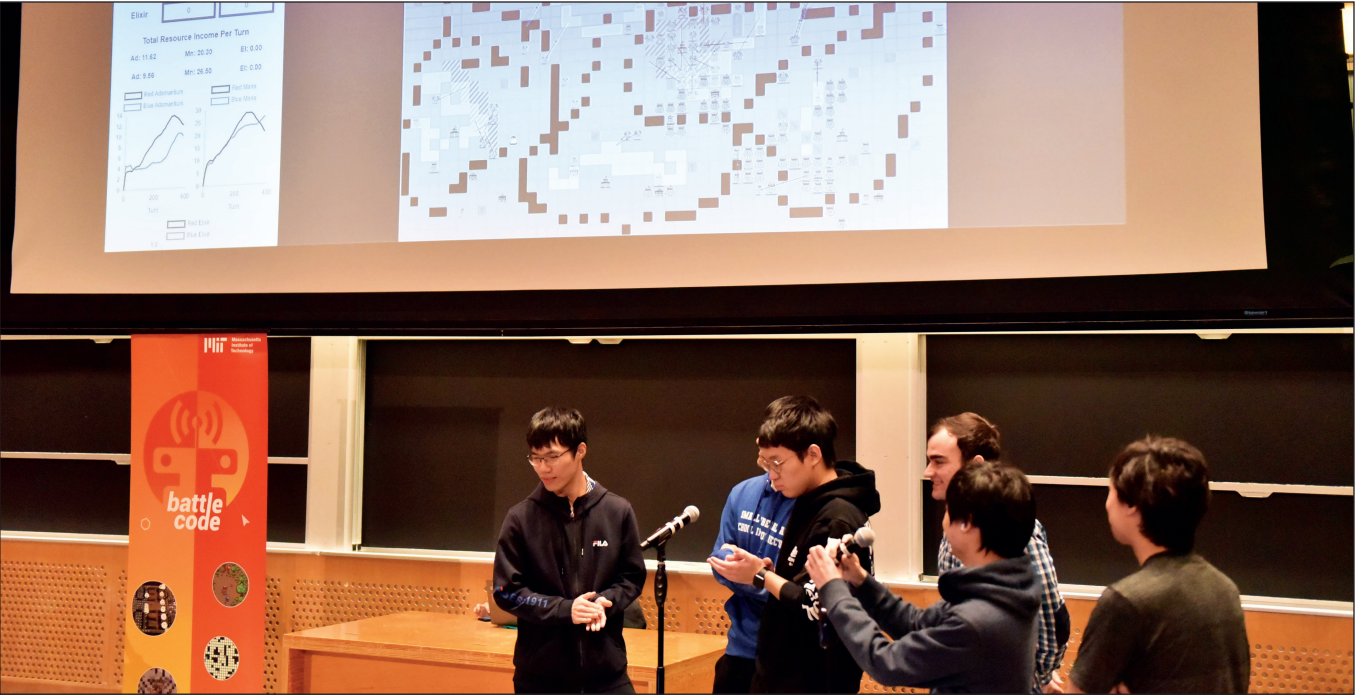
As a result of the pandemic, the structure of the Mystery Hunt also shifted—notably, towards a more online nature.

"We always try to make sure there are physical puzzles and events to make Hunt more a cohesive whole [...] but the stuff that can be digitized we've been putting extra effort to digitalize the last three years," Anderson emphasized.

This digitalization meant that many of the members this year were participating virtually. Of the 4450 participants, 1689 were online. The number of in-person participants was roughly the same as prior to the pandemic.

The 2024 Mystery Hunt will be written by this year's winner, TTBNL.

Readers with feedback or questions for the Mystery Hunt organizers can email [puzzle@mit.edu](mailto:puzzle@mit.edu).



ALEXA SIMAO - THE TECH

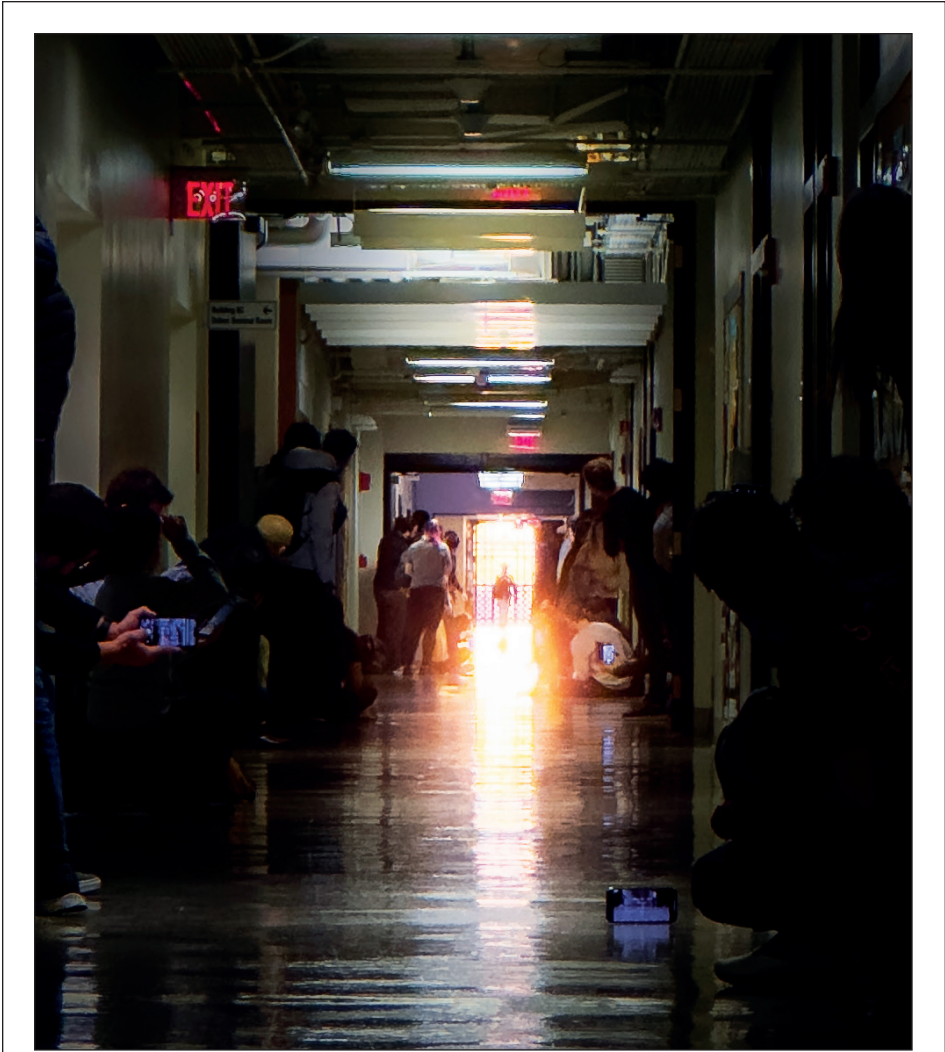
Teams narrate their strategies as they watch their AI programs compete at Battlecode 2023 finals in Stata, Sunday.



KATE LU - THE TECH

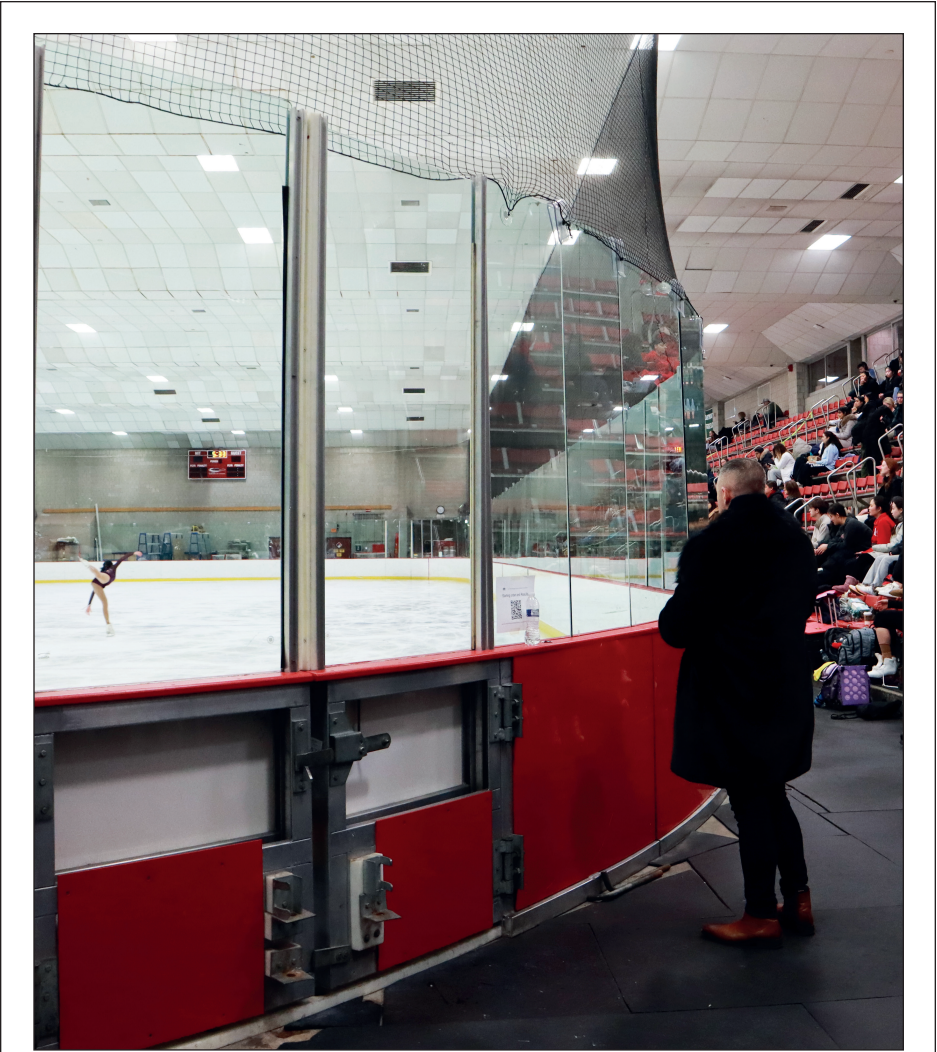
The MIT IAP Orchestra is back for the first time since January 2020, performing Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 8., directed by Tristan Shin '23, Friday.





GABRIELE MICHELE - THE TECH

The setting sun aligns perfectly with MIT's 825-foot-long Infinite Corridor, filling the entire corridor with sunlight during January's MIThenge, Tuesday January 31.



KATE LU - THE TECH

The MIT Figure Skating Club hosts a US Figure Skating Intercollegiate Competition, with skaters from 27 schools attending, Sunday.

# Say Hello



# To My Little Friend.

*photo@tech.mit.edu*



Despite a tepid storyline, however, *Avatar: The Way of Water* creates a lasting impact on the audience through its breathtaking visuals and terrific performances and is worth a watch.



**Capture the  
Moment**

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at The Tech**

**join@tech.mit.edu**

A banner for the MIT News Service. It features a background image of a newsroom with multiple cameras on tripods and computer monitors. A black box on the left contains the text "Get a chance to report on news at MIT!". A red box across the bottom contains the text "BREAKING NEWS: THE TECH IS RUNNING OUT OF NEWS REPORTERS!! JOIN NOW: JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU". The MIT logo is in the top right corner.

Get a chance to report on news at MIT!

**BREAKING NEWS: THE TECH IS RUNNING OUT OF NEWS REPORTERS!! JOIN NOW: JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU**



★★★★★

## State Street Provisions

## Brunch, \$\$

**255 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109**

**Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday 11 a.m.–11 p.m.**

**Friday 11 a.m.–1 a.m.**

**Saturday 10 a.m. –1 p.m.**

**Sunday 9 a.m.–11 p.m.**

**By Kelly Kim**

If you need motivation to get through a long week of psets, projects, or exam prep, Sunday brunch with friends will never fail to lift your spirits. To cap off a weekend full of fun activities and lots of food, my dad took me to State Street Provisions for Sunday brunch before he caught his flight back home. Located in the North End just steps away from Little Italy, State Street Provisions is near the wharf, where grand boats and a beautiful water view accompany an equally attractive menu and restaurant interior.

When I excitedly looked through the menu, the vanilla and toffee sticky buns encased in a rich brioche dough with pecans immediately caught my eye. As an avid fan of Flour's sticky sticky buns, I just had to order the State Street version. Given that my favorite breakfast item is pancakes, I also could not resist ordering the blueberry pancakes served with whipped honey butter and maple syrup. My father and I shared these two dishes, along with their breakfast

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Boats, Bacon, and Buns

## The Perfect Boston Brunch at State Street Provisions

sandwich filled with a fried egg, applewood bacon, white cheddar, and a gochujang aoli, all nestled in a buttery brioche bun.

The sandwich is normally served with crispy potatoes, which we decided to substitute with their French fries. I highly recommend also asking for a side of their aioli, which was the perfect condiment. As we eagerly waited for our food to arrive, I could not help but gaze at the interior, which reminded me of an English pub or tavern. With lots of lighting, a bar area, and seating both indoors and outdoors, one is sure to fall in love with the ambience and vibe of the space.

The first items to arrive were the sticky buns: two large, soft, gooey, and piping-hot swirled buns that you cannot help but devour immediately (after snapping a picture first, of course). Knowing we had pancakes and the sandwich still on the way, we made sure our stomachs had enough room for the deliciousness yet to come. I may or may not have still finished my entire sticky bun anyway.

Our mains soon arrived, and my eyes widened as I smelled the buttery pancakes, piled with countless specks of fresh blueberries. Our sweet dishes were complemented by the savory breakfast sandwich, which had the perfect balance of richness from the egg and brioche bun, saltiness from the cheese and bacon, and a spicy-sweet combination from the gochujang aioli. I highly recommend getting both sweet and savory items, for they balance each other well and will be sure to satisfy both your sweet tooth and savory cravings.

Speaking of which, the menu offers a great balance between the two. From their apple pie French toast to their State Street burger, which is creatively served on an English muffin, the brunch menu has



KELLY KIM—THE TECH

**Amidst the sweetness of the sticky buns and blueberry pancakes**, the breakfast sandwich at State Street Provisions brought some much needed savoriness.

plenty of breakfast and lunch options. But if one wants to simply sleep in on Sunday, no need to fret, for State Street Provisions is also open for lunch and dinner, where items like their comforting short rib bolognese and refreshing salmon poke are served for those who decide to hit snooze.

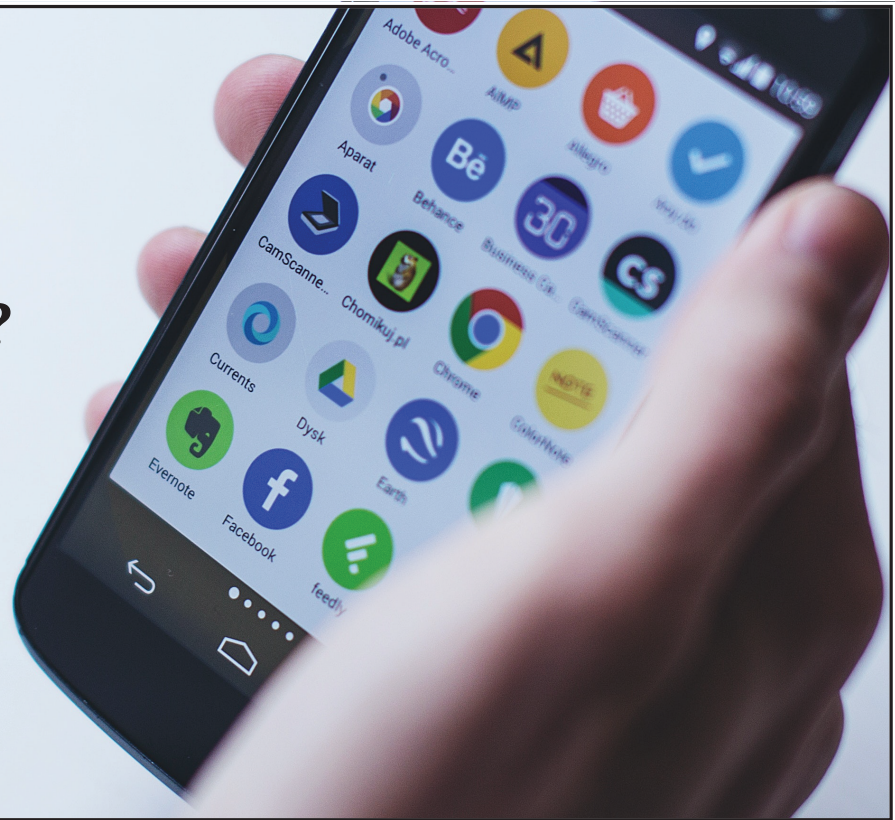
Its fantastic and scenic location by the water makes State Street Provisions particularly worthy of being on your Sunday brunch spot list. Moreover, its affordable prices are also convenient, especially for college students, with the vast majority of their menu items being less than \$20. State Street Pro-

visions proves that Sunday brunch does not have to be the expensive experience that it's usually thought to be. Its location offers the perfect post-meal stroll and opportunity — if one's stomach has enough room — to snag a cannoli at nearby Mike's Pastry for the perfect post-brunch dessert. Whether you are a college student looking for an affordable but delicious brunch experience or simply a Boston local looking for a scenic weekend or weekday eating spot, State Street Provisions is sure to satisfy any sweet or savory craving, regardless of price point, age, or schedule.

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## Solution, page 3

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.

Solution, page 3

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.

## Solution, page 3

1 Cumbersome to carry  
6 Coalition of politicians  
10 Chunk of concrete  
14 Nose-horned safari beast  
15 Lion's cry  
16 Pepsi or Coke  
17 Unconfirmed report  
18 Golden Rule preposition  
19 Ripened, as cheese  
20 Peddle merchandise  
23 NYSE debut  
24 Point opposite SSW  
25 Guide a car  
28 Attention-getting whisper  
30 Basic cable network  
33 Israeli airline  
34 Made a landing  
36 Husbands of countesses  
38 Be evasive in answering  
41 Stand up  
42 Supply the money for  
43 Degs. in finance  
44 Winter hrs. in Colorado  
45 Evening, in some ads

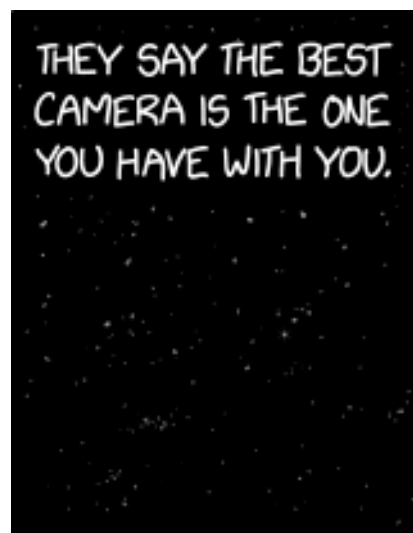
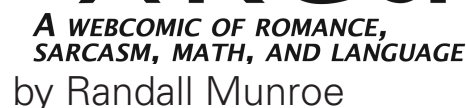
47 "No more for me, thanks"  
49 \_\_ favor (please, to Ruiz)  
50 Incoming plane stat.  
51 Echo words unthinkingly  
58 One-liner, for example  
59 Convent residents  
60 Leans slightly  
62 Yale students  
63 Delve \_\_ (investigate)  
64 Standard of perfection  
65 Hamilton's currency  
66 First son in the Bible  
67 Very recently

1 "It's freezing in here!"  
2 Informal denial  
3 Capital of Peru  
4 Be aware of  
5 Silky-haired terrier, for  
  short  
6 Shoe designer Magli  
7 \_\_ Star State (Texas)  
8 Grains in granola bars  
9 Headgear for queens and

- kings
- 10 Frighten
- 11 Theater tier
- 12 Beverages like beer
- 13 Not well-behaved
- 21 TV host Winfrey
- 22 Poker-pot starters
- 25 Speaks unclearly
- 26 Unspoken but implied
- 27 Antlered cousins of deer
- 28 Make angry
- 29 Surprise greatly
- 30 Large family
- 31 Overstuff
- 32 Government-issued IDs
- 33 Dutch cheese
- 35 Walked away
- 37 24-hr. cash dispensers
- 39 Male choir voice
- 40 Author Wharton
- 46 Amusingly unexpected
- 48 President Van Buren
- 49 Smooth out with an iron
- 50 Japanese printer brand
- 51 Global top or bottom

52 Similar (to)	56 Large quantity
53 __ fish sandwich	57 List-ending abbr.
54 Prefix for freeze	58 Plane without propellers
55 Workplace assistant	61 Guileful

## [2645] The Best Camera





## Solution, page 2

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



I hear once you've worked there for 256 days they teach you the secret of levitation.

FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN





# *The Tech* Spring 2023 Open House!

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**

*The Tech* Open House

5:30 PM How does *The Tech* work?

❖ free dinner ❖

6:00 PM Meet the departments

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

*The Tech* 's Open Ads Night

5:00 PM Copyediting session

6:00 PM Photo office hours

7:00 PM Production session

Come learn how MIT's oldest and largest newspaper is made, and meet the people behind it!

**Location: W20-483  
4th Floor of Stud**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

*The Tech* 's Open Issue Night

7:00 PM Production session

10:00 PM News editing session