



KATE LU—THE TECH

**OneMIT Commencement Ceremony 2023** took place Thursday, June 1.

# Affirmative action brought down by Supreme Court

## President Kornbluth: “These decisions represent a turning point for our nation”

**By Alex Tang**  
NEWS EDITOR

On June 29, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action, ruling that race-conscious admissions processes at Harvard and the University of North Carolina were unconstitutional. In a video to the MIT community on July 1, President Sally Kornbluth said she wanted to “express my profound frustration with these decisions.” She added that such an action “threatens our mission.”

### Upending Precedent

Before this ruling, the Supreme Court had upheld affirmative action policies, albeit with slight majorities. In 1978, the Court said that considering an applicant’s race through an affirmative action program was a viable factor in building a diverse class, similar to characteristics such as an applicant’s geography or scholastic achievement. In 2003, the Court reaffirmed the constitutionality of such a program.

With its current conservative supermajority, the Court was split along ideological lines, ruling 6-3 and 6-2 in the University of North Carolina and Harvard cases, respectively. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson recused herself in the Harvard decision.

In the majority opinion, Chief

Justice John Roberts wrote that “many universities have for too long... concluded, wrongly that the touchstone of an individual’s identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin.” Justice Clarence Thomas added that current university admission policies “fly in the face of our colorblind Constitution.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in the dissent that the Court’s decision “subverts the constitutional guarantee of equal protection by further entrenching racial inequality in education, the very foundation of our democratic government and pluralistic society.” Justice Jackson said, “Deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life.”

### President Kornbluth’s Response

On June 7, President Kornbluth sent an email to the MIT community anticipating the decision, stating that “we expect the ruling to pose a serious challenge to sustaining, in future classes, the diverse mix of undergraduate and graduate students who make MIT the place it is today.”

Kornbluth wrote that her inauguration demonstrated to her “the simple reality that MIT has never been more excellent and never more diverse.” Later on, she wrote that “every MIT student brings

their own life experiences that enrich the education of all students, and every student is a valued and important member of our community.” Thus, Kornbluth states that MIT ought to “do whatever we can, within the bounds of the law, to keep our doors open to this full breadth of human talent.”

In her video address, Kornbluth echoed her previous statements: “MIT has never been more excellent and has never been more diverse and I see these factors as inextricably intertwined.”

In the aftermath of the decision, Kornbluth cited the ruling as threatening the Institute’s ability to “prepare the next generation of leaders for our multi-racial society.” She stated that “these decisions represent a turning point for our nation” and added that “we need to take a step back and decide how to address the racial and economic inequalities that still persist in our society.”

### An impact on and off campus

The decision has broad implications beyond the college admissions landscape. President Kornbluth wrote in her June 7 email that “the decision may also affect a range of programs and services beyond admissions.” In an NPR interview, Harvard co-counsel Bill Lee said that the ruling will “open a Pandora’s box across the coun-

try and across institutions and industries.”

The ruling will likely impact selective high schools, including Boston Latin, Thomas Jefferson, and Stuyvesant. Such schools have recently been a source of controversy following measures to diversify the student body.

### An uncertain future

In her email and video communications, Kornbluth reiterated the necessity for MIT to obey the law while also continuing efforts to promote diversity on campus. Kornbluth wrote, “We will do everything within the law that we can to sustain the MIT community as we

know it.”

Kornbluth underscored the importance of education, saying that “I know that education is the most... powerful way for individuals to change their circumstances,” but added that in light of the decision, “we need to reimagine how we educate our whole population, so everyone has a fair shot.”

She concluded her video message with the following note: “I am working closely with faculty and administrative leaders to understand the decision fully, and we will dedicate ourselves to maintaining the diverse and inclusive environment that we have worked so hard to build.”

## IN SHORT

**The last day to petition for August or September Advanced Standing Exams is July 13.**

**The last day of classes for summer session is August 18.**

**The Tech’s mailing lists have been shut down;** use [tt-join@mit.edu](mailto:tt-join@mit.edu) for general questions and the following new department-specific mailing lists in the interim: [tt-news-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-news-editors@mit.edu); [tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu); [tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu); [tt-arts-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-arts-editors@mit.edu); [tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu); [tt-science-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-science-editors@mit.edu); [tt-sportseditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-sportseditors@mit.edu).

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

**Send news and tips to** [tt-news-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-news-editors@mit.edu)

## TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Read about growth and reflection in the newest contemplative article by Campus Life editor Vivian Hir.

**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3**



## ONEMIT

Take a look at our favorite highlights from the Class of 2023 Commencement!

**PHOTO SPREAD, p. 4**

## FUN PAGES

Take a break from finals with this week’s fun pages!

**FUN, p. 7**

## SUDOKU CROSSWORD XKCD

... and more!

## SECTIONS

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Fun Pages . . . . .7









OneMIT Commencement Ceremony takes place Thursday, June 1. The 50th reunion class, Class of 1973, marches in a procession.

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Commencement attendees sing MIT's School Song, led by the Chorallaries of MIT.

KATE LU—THE TECH



Commencement speaker Mark Rober, YouTuber, engineer, and educator, delivers his commencement speech, Thursday, June 1.

KATE LU—THE TECH



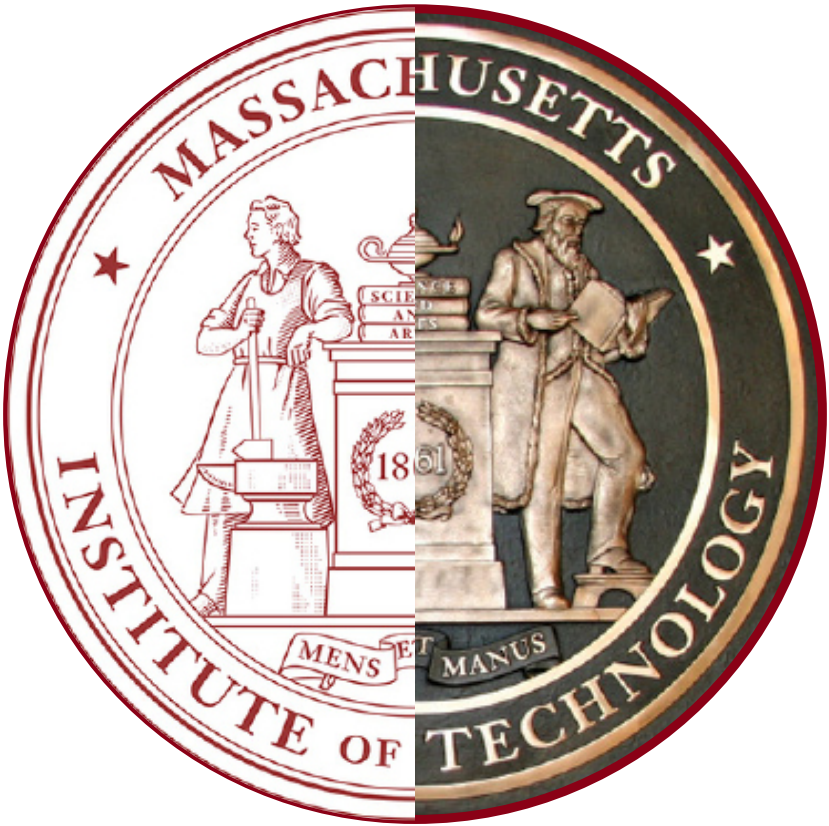
Mark Rober surprises commencement attendees by attaching graduation cap to drone and flying it over MIT's Great Dome, Thursday, June 1.

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MIT President Sally Kornbluth delivers her charge to the graduating Class of 2023.

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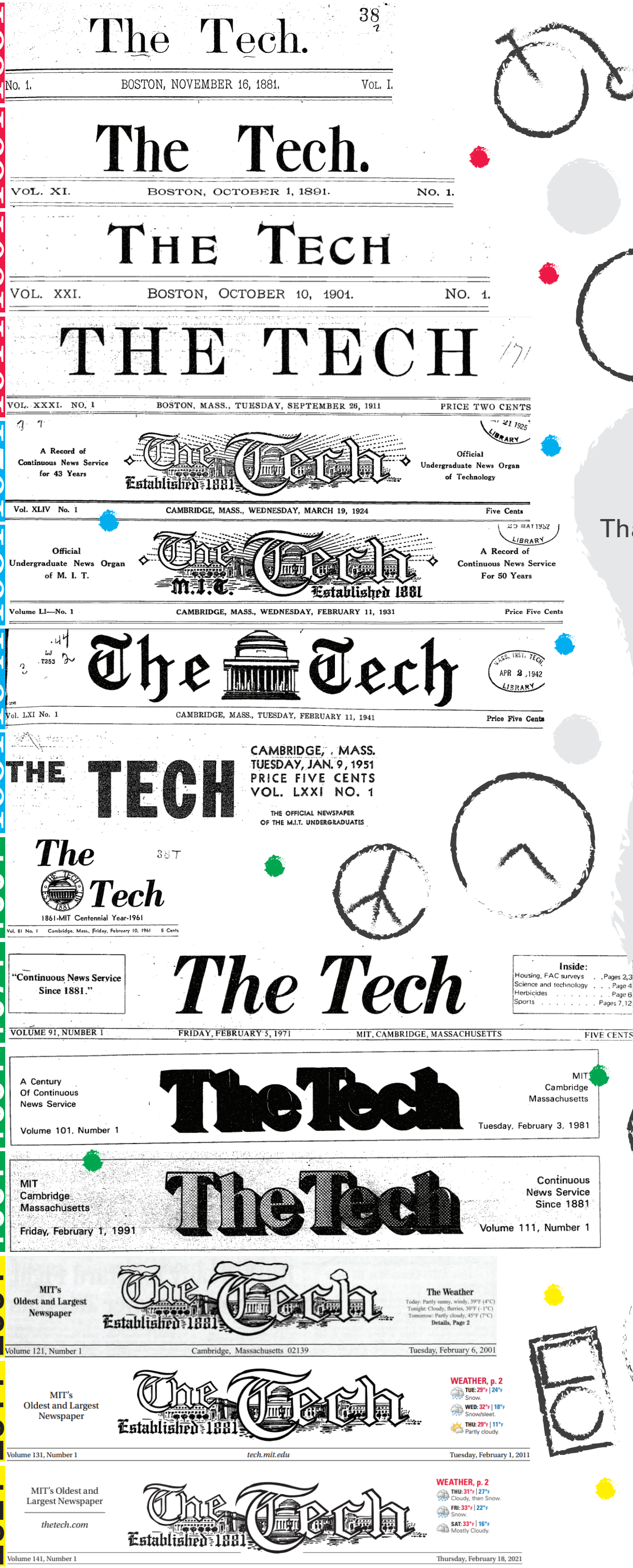
OneMIT Commencement Ceremony 2023 takes place Thursday, June 1. The event—comprising speeches, turning of the Brass Rat, and singing of the School Song—was for graduates of all degree programs in all Schools and the College.

KATE LU—THE TECH

# OneMIT Commencement 2023

The OneMIT Commencement Ceremony, a Class of 2023-wide event that comprised of speeches (including the commencement address of YouTuber Mark Rober) and the turning of the Brass Rat, was held on June 1st. Advanced degree ceremonies took place at various locations for each graduate school from May 31st to June 2nd, and the Undergraduate Ceremony was held on June 2nd.





# Hello!

Thanks for reading *The Tech*.  
It's readers like you who  
made it possible to keep  
*The Tech* running for  
the past 140+ years.

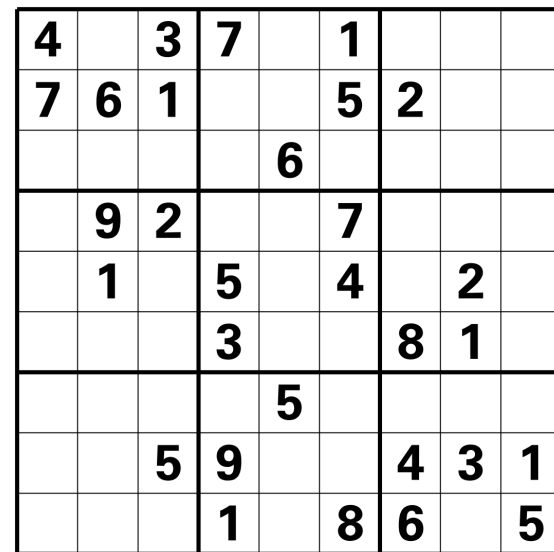
**Newspaper is dying!**  
**Help extend its life!**  
**Be part of history!**

No experience needed  
We have a wide array  
of departments - writing  
and non-writing - for  
all interests!

*join@tech.mit.edu*

# Doku

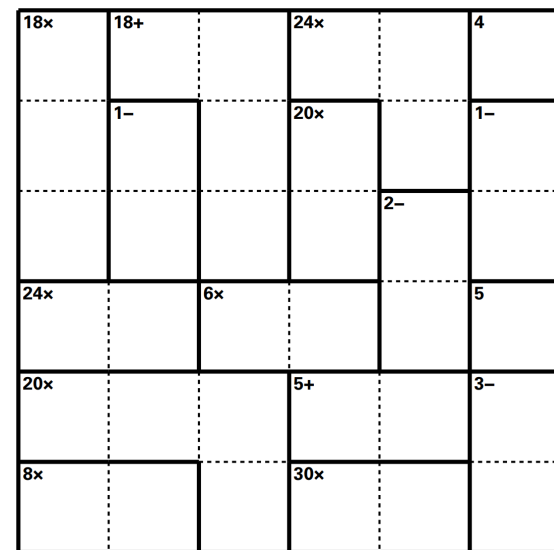
Solution, page 3



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

# Doku-Doku

Solution, page 3



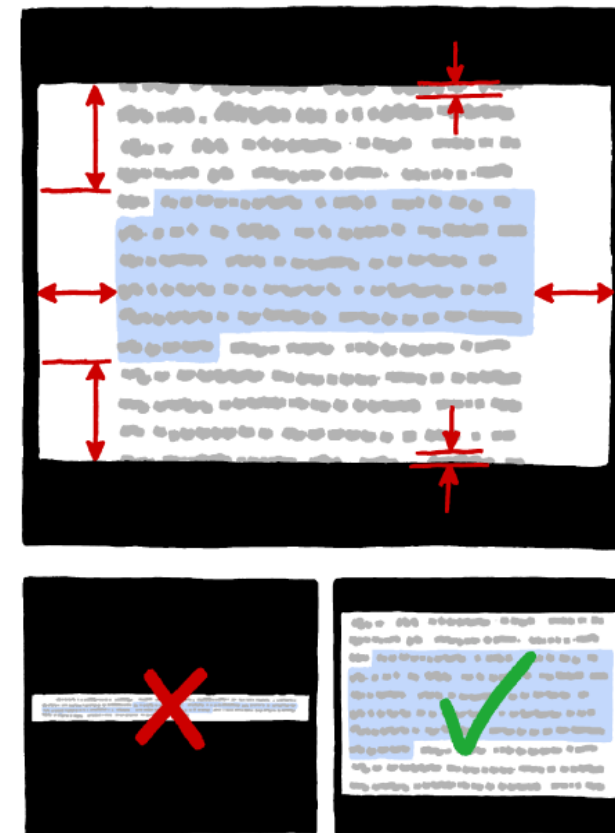
Instructions: Fill in the grid so each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

## [1863] Screenshots

# INTRO TO SCREENSHOTS

# SYLLABUS

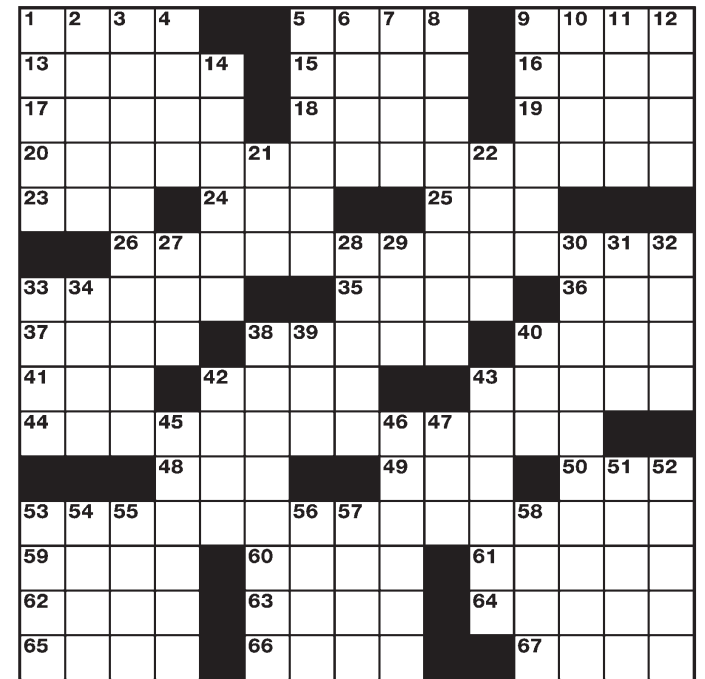
- HIGHLIGHTING: WHAT & HOW MUCH
- ASPECT RATIOS
- CROPPING: PRE- AND POST-
- WHITESPACE
- SCREENSHOTS VS LINKS
- CATCHING THE RIGHT GIF FRAME
- SNAPCHAT AND TRUST
- EMBARRASSING BACKGROUND TABS
- SPELLCHECK'S RED UNDERLINES
- SECURITY: BEWARE URL TOKENS
- REDACTING PERSONAL INFO
- USEFUL BROWSER MODES
- TRADEOFFS: PNG VS JPG
- WATERMARK ETHICS
- SPOTTING FAKES



MY CLASS ON SCREENSHOTS WAS A BIG HIT, ALTHOUGH FOR SOME REASON I ONLY EVER SOLD ONE COPY OF THE DIGITAL TEXTBOOK.

# Shifty by Aaron Ullman

Solution, page 3



- ACROSS**
- 01 Amps (up)
  - 05 Dermal irritant
  - 09 Edict
  - 13 Gain an edge on
  - 15 Cuisine with green curry
  - 16 Type of plum tomato
  - 17 "Same here"
  - 18 Bunch of buddies
  - 19 USMC offender
  - 20 Metaphor for ease
  - 23 Exotic leather
  - 24 Teacup handle
  - 25 Begin to use
  - 26 Trick play in football
  - 33 Nest noise
  - 35 See 29 Down
  - 36 Far beyond a millennium
  - 37 Don't stay put
  - 38 Promise of marriage
  - 40 All square
  - 41 Lines of tribute
  - 42 Principal part
  - 43 Sight accessories
  - 44 Counteracting emissions  
by planting trees
  - 48 Poetic direction
  - 49 Frat letter
  - 50 Natter on
  - 53 '80s file holder
  - 59 Hot rock
  - 60 Beyond miffed
  - 61 It's south of Milan
  - 62 Clinches
  - 63 Don't include
  - 64 Take a loss
  - 65 Authors
  - 66 "Quality" suffix
  - 67 Holders of legumes

- DOWN**
- 01 Rapper's entourage
  - 02 Cybermemo
  - 03 Ocean treasure hunter
  - 04 Grappling sport
  - 05 Socialite celebrity
  - 06 As compared to
  - 07 Is unable
  - 08 The latest in gadgetry
  - 09 Frozen dessert
  - 10 Part of the Corn Belt
  - 11 Latin love

- |    |                              |    |                     |
|----|------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 12 | Radio station format         | 55 | Device with a door  |
| 14 | Amass                        | 56 | Planetarium part    |
| 21 | Canine or chemistry facility | 57 | Spring blossom      |
| 22 | Roof border                  | 58 | Gain the benefit of |
| 27 | What may hold gold           |    |                     |
| 28 | Crumble slowly               |    |                     |
| 29 | With 35 Across, grind        |    |                     |
| 30 | Obsessed with                |    |                     |
| 31 | Grounds for germination      |    |                     |
| 32 | Breaks up                    |    |                     |
| 33 | Swamp predator               |    |                     |
| 34 | Morning host Kotb            |    |                     |
| 38 | "... Light Brigade" poet     |    |                     |
| 39 | Chaired                      |    |                     |
| 40 | Lentil cousin                |    |                     |
| 42 | Aerobatic maneuver           |    |                     |
| 43 | Something to cross           |    |                     |
| 45 | Skirt around                 |    |                     |
| 46 | Disconcerts                  |    |                     |
| 47 | Sound of disapproval         |    |                     |
| 51 | Skirt around                 |    |                     |
| 52 | 41 Across master             |    |                     |
| 53 | Acrobatic maneuver           |    |                     |
| 54 | Skate securer                |    |                     |



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

## [1862] Particle Properties

## PARTICLE PROPERTIES IN PHYSICS

PROPERTY	TYPE/SCALE									
ELECTRIC CHARGE	$-1 \quad 0 \quad +1$									
MASS	$0 \rightarrow 30 \rightarrow 200$									
SPIN NUMBER	$-\frac{1}{2} \quad 0 \quad \frac{1}{2}$									
FLAVOR	(MISC. QUANTUM NUMBERS)									
COLOR CHARGE	$R \quad G \quad B$ (QUARKS ONLY)									
MOOD	$\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right)$									
ALIGNMENT	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> GOOD-EVIL LAWFUL-CHAOTIC									
HIT POINTS	$0 \rightarrow$									
RATING	☆☆☆☆☆									
STRING TYPE	BYTESTRING-CHARSTRING									
BATING AVERAGE	$0\% \rightarrow 100\%$									
PROOF	$0 \rightarrow 200$									
HEAT	$\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right) \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \odot \\ \ominus \end{smallmatrix} \right)$									
STREET VALUE	$\$0 \rightarrow \$100 \rightarrow \$200$									
ENTROPY	(THIS ALREADY HAS LIKE 20 DIFFERENT CONFUSING MEANINGS. IT'S PROBABLY MEANS SOMETHING HERE, TOO)									

Each particle also has a password which allows its properties to be changed, but the cosmic censorship hypothesis suggests we can never observe the password itself—only its secure hash.

For the final exam, you take a screenshot showing off all the work you've done in the class, and it has to survive being uploaded, thumbnailled, and re-screenshotted through a chain of social media sites.



**THURSDAY, JULY 6 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2**

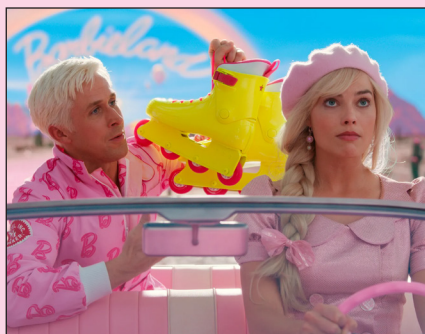
**JOY RIDE**  
**(FRI, JUL 7)**



## MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE DEAD RECKONING (WED, JUL 12)



**BARBIE**  
(FRI, JUL 21)



## OPPENHEIMER (FRI, JUL 21)



## THE FIRST SLAM DUNK (FRI, JUL 28)



**TMNT: MUTANT MAYHEM**  
(WED, AUG 2)



## MY ADVENTURES WITH SUPERMAN (THU, JUL 6)



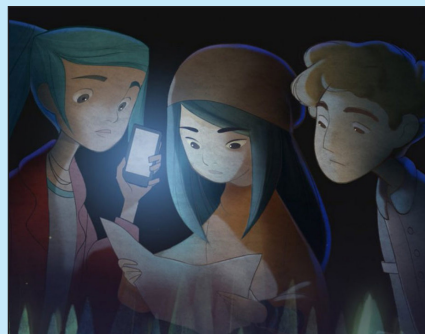
**GOLIATH**  
**(SUN, JUL 16)**



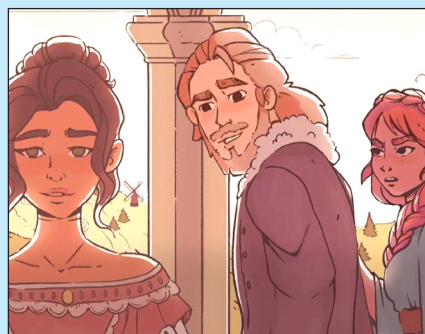
**THE WITCHER S2 VOL. 2**  
(THU, JUL 27)



## OXENFREE II: LOST SIGNALS (WED, JUL 12)



## LAKEBURG LEGACIES (THU, JUL 20)



**REMNANT II  
(TUE, JUL 25)**



## Solution, page 3

- 01 "Great song!"
- 10 "OK, that's enough"
- 13 Something to play
- 14 "Knives Out" director Johnson
- 15 Shiftily
- 16 "The Metamorphosis" protagonist
- 17 "Turning Red" main character
- 18 \$0.01
- 19 Engrosses
- 20 "Celebrity Jeopardy!," for one
- 22 Tawny wildcat
- 23 Colored summer drink
- 26 Quitter talk
- 27 Flair
- 28 Comic book onomatopoeia
- 29 Software suite for data management
- 30 "Rocket Man" singer John
- 32 W-2 num.
- 33 Blunder
- 34  $\pi \cdot r^2$ , perhaps

37 One who might be a good  
neighbor

40 Nethers

41 Slippery

45 Watched the sphynx, say

46 Thieves' den

47 Christmas contraction

48 Base-8 numbers

49 Differentiated

51 Density markers  
rhos

52 What Columbus sailed

53 Kids' time out?

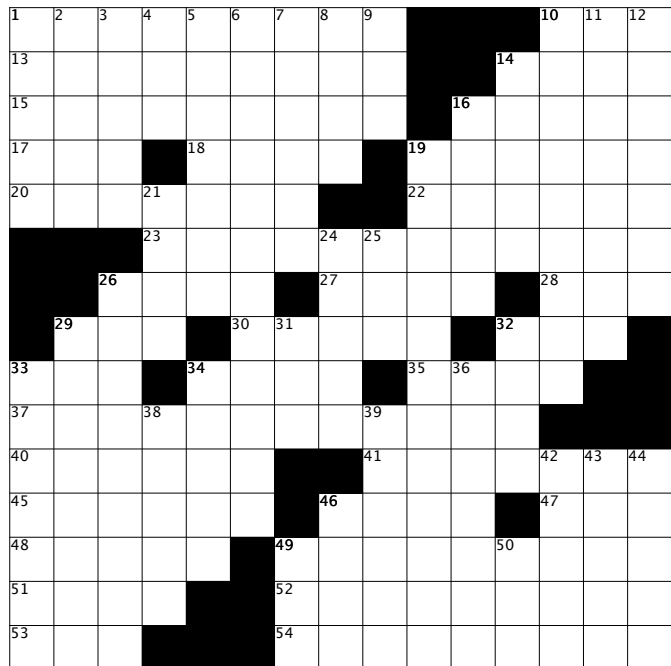
54 Mrs. Quick actress in  
"Sabrina the Teenage  
Witch"

- 01 " \_\_\_\_ the breaks"
- 02 New \_\_\_\_ (Yale location)
- 03 Letter-shaped beam
- 04 '60s strikers
- 05 Introduce
- 06 Crush, say
- 07 "Men in Black" role

- 09 Pig's digs
- 10 Photography technique
- 11 Extinct tusked beast
- 12 Agitated
- 14 Poe bird
- 16 24-down, typically said to a dog
- 19 Movie starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck
- 21 Mud bath locales
- 24 See 16-down
- 25 Chess rating
- 26 Comedian Scott Thompson, familiarly
- 29 Popular hot sauce
- 31 "Superman" villain Luthor
- 32 Flowery szns.
- 33 "For all intensive purposes" or "expresso" eggcorn

36 Phrase to smoothly insert  
oneself into a conversation  
yourang

38 Frank and Kudrow  
lisas



39 Casino figure dealer  
42 "Invisible Cities" author  
Calvino  
43 Bug virus  
44 \_\_\_\_\_ Park

46 "Livin' la Vida \_\_\_\_"  
49 Jerry's partner  
50 Cheap beer option, shortly

**By The Tech Sports staff**

**Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)**

## The Tech is looking for copy editors!