thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2 THU: 84°F | 72°F

> FRI: 85°F | 71°F Chance of showers.

SAT: 85°F | 68°F Mostly cloudy.

Volume 143, Number 10 Thursday, July 6, 2023



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

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

### 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 country and across institutions and know it." 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

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 for general questions and the following new department-specific mailing lists in the interim: tt-news-editors@mit.edu; tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu; tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu; tt-arts-editors@mit.edu; tt-campus-life-editors@ mit.edu; tt-science-editors@mit.edu; tt-sportseditors@mit.edu.

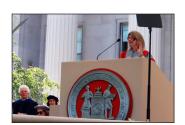
Interested in joining The Tech? Email ttjoin@mit.edu

Send news and tips to 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**

Campus Life . . . . . 3 Photo Spread....4 Fun Pages . . . . . . . . 7

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

**VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS** 

let me go back in time

By Vivian Hir

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

left, Vivian," Mr. Arnold, my former club

advisor, said wistfully as I sat across from

him in the upper school cafeteria. It had

been seven years since I set foot in Taipei

American School, an international school I

attended in Taiwan for two years in middle

school. Two years is short, yet I had many

I wasn't sure what these "changes" con-

stituted, but I knew that part of the changes

included Orphanage Club, the volunteer

club I was heavily involved in during that

time. Other changes I anticipated learning

about were administrative ones, such as the

many donation plaques on the walls and

I thought the conversation would be

more light-hearted by sharing recollections

and asking how other people in the club

were doing, but the conversation left me

feeling sad and nostalgic about a past that

couldn't be restored. He began the conver-

sation by talking about how much difficulty

the club experienced ever since I left. Some

ter I left, such as the flood that destroyed the

club's storage room in the basement and

COVID putting a standstill on major events,

expect to happen, such as the administra-

tion requiring the club to have no money

in the account to comply with their rules of

nonprofits. This new rule didn't make any

sense to me because money is necessary for

clubs to operate at a bare minimum. I was

raisers, like the flea market sale, weren't an

option anymore. After the pandemic, the

school decided to become a closed cam-

pus, which meant no more public events

like the PTA Spring Fair. The whole thing

reminded me of MIT's choice of keeping

its closed campus policy last fall, and many

MIT community members disagreed with

I couldn't believe that iconic schoolwide

events were now only for affiliates of the

school. I didn't understand why the school

administration was making it more difficult

for student organizations, especially volun-

teer and outreach clubs like the Orphanage

Club, to be engaged with the surrounding

community. Doesn't such a policy further

reinforce the idea that an elite, private insti-

tution is an ivory tower, sealed off from the

I also experienced these feelings of

frustration when I had discussions with

other MIT ESP (Educational Studies Pro-

gram) members on how to run Splash, an

educational high school program, despite

having restrictions on student numbers

and no open access on weekends. Hear-

ing this news from Mr. Arnold reminded

me of last year's discussion about whether

except my former school is still a closed

The specific issues that my club expe-

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

MIT should be an open or closed campus,

even more disappointed to hear that fund-

But there were other issues that I didn't

like the Pearl S. Buck Christmas party.

of these issues were ones I was aware of af-

vivid memories, from the Chungyi Orphan-

age outing to the Candlelight Dance.

the newly built gate with turnstiles.

"So many things have changed after you

Times Have Changed

rienced were distinct from the ones I en-

countered as an admin in MIT ESP, yet I

noticed some similarities between the two

organizations: new administrative policies

that place more strain on student organiza-

tions and the pandemic being a huge dis-

ruptor on club operations. Before I go on, I need to consider that as much as students.

including me, disagree with the adminis-

stand their views and make compromises,

are more concerned about issues such as

liability and safety, sometimes I feel that ul-

timately, such policies end up putting a lot

of burden on student groups to do a lot of

extra work just to comply with the rules. I

weeds, so I will end my thoughts on admin-

It was sobering to learn about the chang-

es in administration and challenges in the

Orphanage Club, but I found it uplifting to

hear that the high school officers were try-

ing their best to think outside of the box of

other fundraising methods. I am hopeful

that the current and future students of the

club wouldn't let anything stop them from

achieving the club's mission of helping the

were some young students eager to join the

Orphanage Club in middle school. Hearing

about these excited fifth graders reminded

me of the time I just joined the club as a

new sixth-grade student, idealistic about

changing the world for the better. I miss the

energy I once had, committed to the belief

that volunteering would have a positive im-

pact on an individual, whether it was mak-

ing care packages for the needy or encour-

aging others to donate to Oxfam on Hunger

Day. If only I could go back to that optimis-

tic mindset and not let cynicism get in the

passionate students in the Orphanage Club,

like the current president, made me won-

der if I even had a passion for anything any-

more. Sure, I have some hobbies that I in-

clude in introductions about myself — I like

running, reading, and learning French on

Duolingo. The problem is that I don't have

a core passion that I once did in middle

school such as community service, which

was once a central core of my identity. I still

like learning about various topics in the life

sciences, but doing lab work makes me for-

get about the overarching goal of improving

me feel tired to the point that I don't feel

like I have the mental energy to think about

other things besides classwork. I used to

be very involved in ESP, but now I feel kind

of burnt out from the experience. I want to

go back to feeling excited and caring about

hand is *I don't know how*. Finding the right

balance between not letting academics at

MIT overwhelm and consume me while

having the time to pursue other activities

After we discussed changes in the Or-

activities outside of classes, but the issue at

Two years of college have already made

drug delivery to cure cancer.

has always been a challenge

Listening to Mr. Arnold talk about some

I was also touched to hear that there

underprivileged and needy.

way of things.

While I understand that administrators

tration, in the end, we must learn to under-

and thinking of putting things that look 'It's a problem I am also aware of and notice among college students, Vivian," Mr. Arnold said with a troubled look that I also Hearing him ask this question was the first time I was mad about chasing the shiny attractive things in life, whether it is securing an internship at a prestigious company or focusing on landing a six-figure job after graduation. Maybe it is the intern-

ship searching season that's causing me to change my mind, but it seems like everything is about serving my interests first instead of having goals that I used to strive for back when I was in Orphanage Club, like being selfless and helping others around To some extent, I feel like college has made me lose sight of the bigger picture in life. The more I thought about it, the more from working at a top company if I end up

MP

P

former school to reinstate its old policies and administrative rules. The same goes for my former club, which leaves me with the question of how much of my past self can be restored. It's something I have control

I said goodbye and then left the school

gate. On the bus ride to the MRT station,

the conversation still lingered in my mind.

It was nice to visit the school after so many

conformed to common career paths.

over, right?

I shared these feelings of frustration

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

The Tech is looking for copy editors!

phanage Club and the school, Mr. Arnold

asked me about my college life. I told him

the basics — I am majoring in Computer

Science and Molecular Biology (Course 6-7

for MIT speak) and I am part of organiza-

tions like MIT ESP and The Tech. Before the

conversation came to an end, however, Mr.

Arnold asked me, "What do you want to do

felt so jarring. It wasn't even a strange

I already answered this question many

times in recent years, from meals with fam-

ily friends to conversations with people in

the lab. The tone and way he looked me in

the eye with such gravity left such a strong

impression on me that I couldn't forget this

quite simple: work in the biotech or pharma

industry and potentially pursue a PhD after

undergrad. Let me correct myself: that was

still a Course 5-7 and didn't yet experience

a mini quarter-life crisis of why I didn't en-

joy wet lab research as much as I expected.

The updated answer in 2023 would still

have something to do with the life sciences,

but with a greater focus on the intersection

of health and computer science. My honest

answer would include having some remote

interest in life science consulting and tech

'I am not sure. Probably work in the bio-

My answer wasn't a bad one per se, but

my response made me sound like I settled

for some ordinary life by following what

most people around me are doing: study

hard for the interviews, secure a job at a

top company, and live a comfortable life.

Having such goals are understandable and

relatable, and I have also developed these

goals over time, but they remind me of a

book titled Excellent Sheep. It's about the

elite colleges end up doing consulting or fi-

nance instead of thinking about what they

say something beyond career and profes-

sional goals, like something along the lines

of raising awareness about societal issues

and taking action to improve the lives of

those who need help. Unfortunately, my

current goals have not considered ways to

Arnold is that the spirit of the sixties still

lives inside of him: the activist spirit, ide-

alism, and passion for the betterment of

society. It is this distinctive character that I

haven't quite encountered elsewhere in my

life — the drive to make the world a bet-

ter place that starts with serving the local

community. In other words, I can't think of

many peers like Mr. Arnold in my day-to-

day life. Similarly, I struggle to think of or-

harsh, but I honestly can't.

ganizations in my life like Orphanage Club that focus on charity. Perhaps I am being

One thing I will never forget about Mr.

tackle society's pressing issues yet.

I knew that Mr. Arnold expected me to

truly want to pursue.

phenomenon in which a lot of students at changed.

companies, but it didn't sound authentic.

tech industry after graduation," I said reluc-

tantly. I knew my answer fell flat.

My standard answer in the past was

the response I said a year ago when I was me.

philosophical question I couldn't answer.

Never had such an ordinary question

after graduating from MIT?"

don't want to be too critical and get into the moment. I had to say something different

good on their resume."

I wondered how much good would come

not even liking the job. What difference

that I dislike?

having me.'

## **Solution to Doku-Doku Solution to Doku**

By The Tech Sports staff

ain the MLB Postseason. In the Americ

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

2 1 6 4

**Solution to Shifty** 

PEPS ITCH FIAT ONEUP THAI ROMA SOAMI GANG AWOL STROLLINTHEPARK EELEAR TAP DOUBLEREVERSE CHIRP RACE EON
ROVE TROTH PAID
ODE LEAD BELLS CARBONNEUTRAL YON PSI YAK FLOPPYDISKDRIVE LAVA SORE GENOA
ICES OMITEATIT
PENS NESS PODS

**Sol. to High Romance** THIISSSLAPS

Г O L D A ̈́Р A R Т

O C E A N B L U E

# Warm, sunny days to soak up the summer

A string of warm, sunny days are coming for Boston Day weekend. Dewpoints remain high especially along the coast, and scattered thunderstorms are possible heading into the next few days. Though it hasn't been the warmest of summers in Boston, beware of the humidity which

thunderstorms have been sweeping through the Great Plains, with Iowa and Indiana still recovercaused widespread damage last week. Smoke from the Canadian wildfires has continued to blan-US. It's been quite the active time for weather, so we hope you're staying weather-safe. wherever vou are!

Today: Mostly sunny. High around 84°F (29°C). West winds around 10-15 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Low around 72°F (22°C). South winds around 7-12 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. High around 80°F (27°C) and low around 66°F (19°C). East winds around 5-10 mph.

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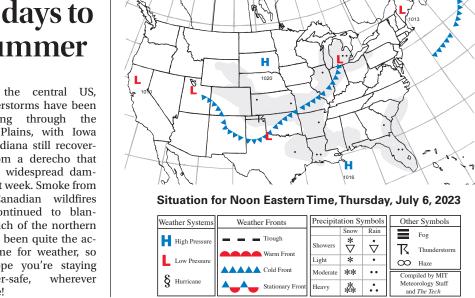
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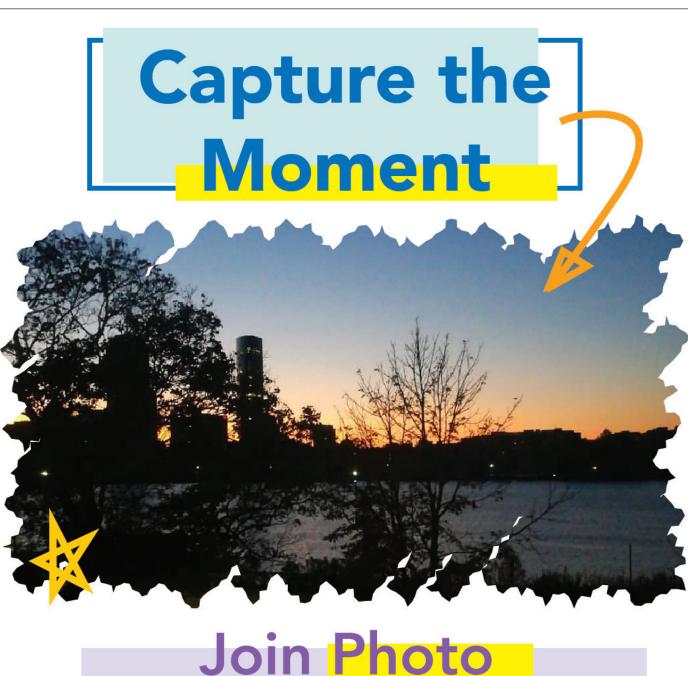
# By Phoebe Lin In the central US,

following Independence ing from a derecho that is driving up heat indices!



### **Extended Forecast**

Tomorrow: Chance showers. High around 85°F (30°C) and low around 71°F (22°C). South winds around 12-15 mph. Saturday: Mostly cloudy. High around 85°F (30°C) and low around 68°F (20°C). Southeast winds around 8-12 mph.







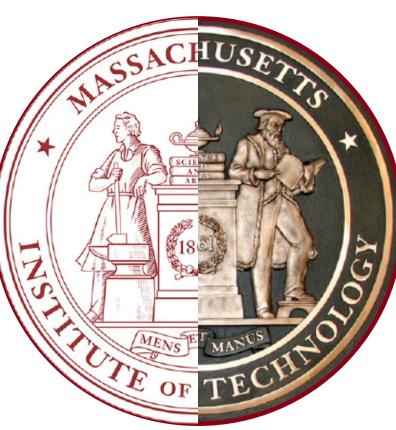
4 THE TECH Thursday, July 6, 2023 THE TECH 5



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



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







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



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



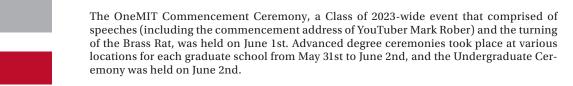
ation cap to drone and flying it over MIT's Great Dome, Thursday, June 1.



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.

# OneMIT

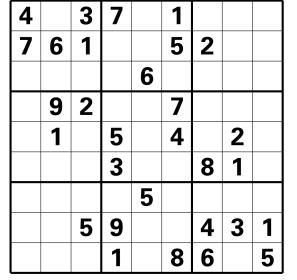




# Doku

Solution, page 3

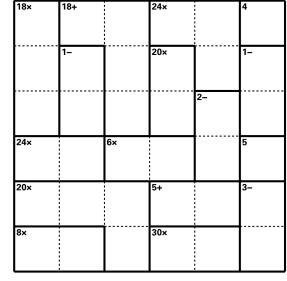
Thursday, July 6, 2023



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

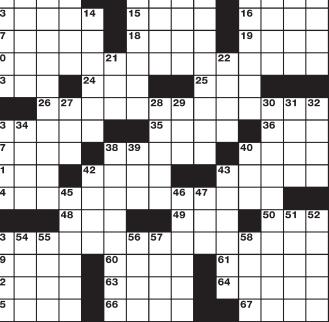
# **Shifty** by Aaron Ullman

# **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 Sleigh 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 gadgetr
- 09 Frozen dessert 10 Part of the Corn Belt 11 Latin love
- 46 Disconcerts
- 51 Skirt around



- 12 Radio station format 14 Amass
- 27 What may hold gold 28 Crumble slowly

22 Roof border

29 With 35 Across, grind 30 Obsessed with

21 Canine or chemistry facility

- 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
- 47 Sound of disapproval
- 52 41 Across master
- 53 Acrobatic maneuver 54 Skate securer

55 Device with a door 56 Planetarium part 57 Spring blossom

NFU

UNFUNFUNFUNFUNFU

# [1863] Screenshots

# INTRO TO SCREENSHOTS

# the case, Altrates are a selecter selection Char All money was mi

# 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.



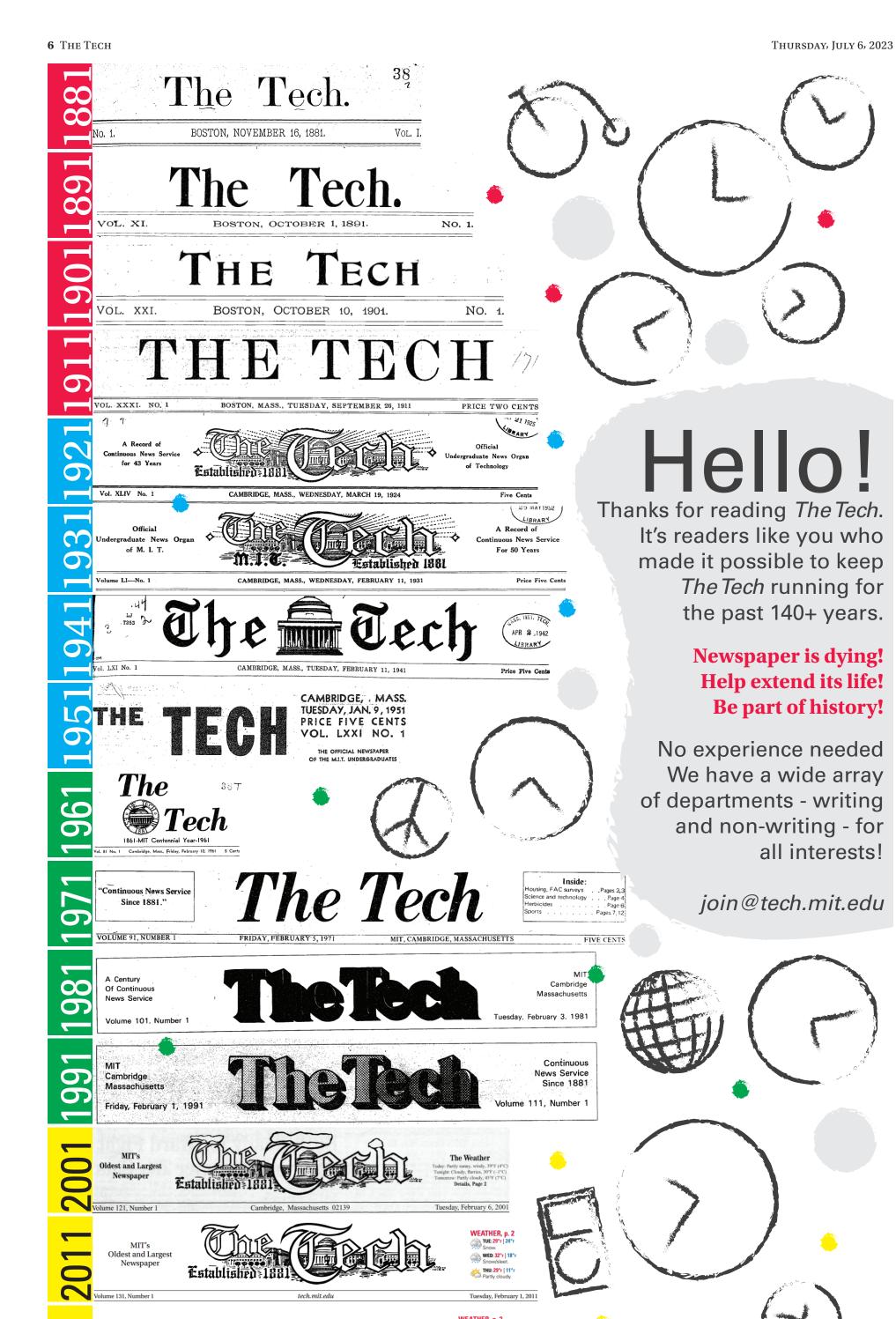
# [1862] Particle Properties

PARTICLE PROPERTIES IN PHYSICS



itself-only its secure hash. desig we can never observe the password the cosmic censorship hypothesis sug-

allows its properties to be changed, but thumbnailed, and re-screenshotted through a chain of social media sites. Each particle also has a password which 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,



FRI: 33°F | 22°F

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspape

thetech.com

# TECH's PICKS: ENTERTAINMENT THIS ISSUE

THURSDAY, JULY 6 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

## **FILM**

**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)



TV **MY ADVENTURES WITH SUPERMAN (THU, JUL 6)** 



**GOLIATH** (SUN, JUL 16)



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



**VIDEO GAMES OXENFREE II: LOST SIGNALS (WED, JUL 12)** 



**LAKEBURG LEGACIES** (THU, JUL 20)



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



# High Romance by Manaal Mohammed '25

Solution, page 3

### Across

- 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 \* r^2, perhaps

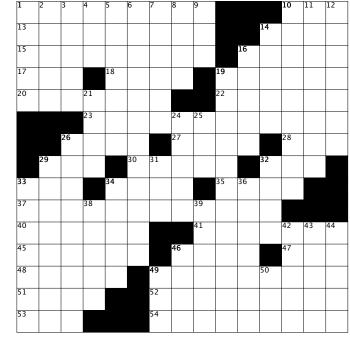
- 35 Talk up
- 37 One who might be a good neighbor
- 40 Nethers
- 41 Slippery
- 45 Watched the sphynx, say 46 Thieves' den
- 47 Christmas contraction
- 48 Base-8 numbers
- 49 Differentiated 51 Density markers
- rhos 52 What Columbus sailed
- 53 Kids' time out?
- 54 Mrs. Quick actress in "Sabrina the Teenage

### Down

Witch"

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

- 08 Hide
- 09 Pig's digs
- 10 Photography technique
- 11 Extinct tusked beast
- 12 Agitated
- 14 Poe bird
- 16 24-down, typically said to a
- 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
- 34 One-year record
- 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
- Park
- 46 "Livin' la Vida 49 Jerry's partner

50 Cheap beer option, shortly

B Postseason. In the Americ

ies against Minnesota with c

By The Tech Sports staff

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

The Tech is looking for copy editors!