

MIT administration responds to Lobby 7 protest

Kornbluth: “Let us strive to be a community that can offer the world the wisdom of our example.”



MIT community members participate in demonstrations in Lobby 7 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, November 9.

By Alex Tang
NEWS EDITOR

On Nov. 14, President Sally Kornbluth provided an update in the form of an FAQ to the MIT community summarizing the events of Nov. 9. via email [1]. Kornbluth also released a video regarding the tensions on campus. This followed up on a prior email to the MIT community regarding a protest and counter-protest that occurred in Lobby 7 and the Infinite Corridor Nov. 9 [2].

On Nov. 9., the Coalition Against Apartheid (CAA) began protesting at 8:00 A.M. At 10:00 A.M., both protest and counterprotest had developed. In her Nov. 9. email, Kornbluth said that the protest “became disruptive, loud and sustained through the morning hours.” MIT police were present and according to Kornbluth, did “an outstanding job of de-escalating the situation.”

At 4:55 P.M. Nov. 9, MIT Advisory notified the community via email to avoid Lobby 7 “due to an ongoing demonstration” and to “seek alternative routes.”

By 5:00 P.M, MIT Police were preventing entry to Lobby 7 via the front entrance at 77 Massachusetts Ave, where a crowd of protestors were assembled on the steps. Video from the MIT CAA Instagram account shows MIT police positioned at entry and exit points of the first and second floors of the Lobby 7 area.

Later that evening, Kornbluth said that although many students left before the time set by the administration, a few individuals did not.

In a letter circulated to the protestors in Lobby 7 and the Infinite Corridor, protestors were warned that “a line had been crossed.” Additionally, protestors were warned that “by choosing to violate our policies and guidelines, you have chosen to accept the consequences.” The letter was signed by President Kornbluth,

Provost Cynthia Barnhart PhD ’88, and Chancellor Melissa Nobles.

In the email sent Nov. 14, Kornbluth clarified some of the statements made in the letter, acknowledging that “the language caused confusion and concern.” She wrote that students who remained after the deadline “have been restricted from participating in non-academic campus activities while the Committee on Discipline (COD) begins the formal disciplinary process.” She stated that complaints lodged against individual students “on both sides of the conflict” have been referred to the COD.

Kornbluth wrote that the Institute is “taking special steps” to manage the spike in reported violations of Institute policy. She added that the administration is working to “through a high volume of complaints expeditiously but with the same care and attention.”

President Kornbluth wrote that “MIT has enhanced campus security measures and patrols.” She added that the administration is “developing guidelines for addressing classroom disruptions” that will be communicated to department heads in the near future.

In her video address, Kornbluth stated the events of Nov. 9. were a “low point for our community - because we lost the capacity for listening and learning.” She posed: “is that really what we want MIT to be?” Kornbluth added that she “trust[s] and expect[s] that [the community] can do better.”

Kornbluth said that the people of MIT have “tremendous intellectual and creative gifts” and encouraged the community to “offer the world the wisdom of our example.”

[1] <https://president.mit.edu/updates/update-events-november-9>
[2] <https://bit.ly/kornbluth-protest-letter>



Protestors gather along Massachusetts Avenue in front of Lobby 7 to show solidarity with Palestine, Sunday, November 12.

Ayomikun Ayodeji ’22 announced Rhodes Scholar

Ayodeji: “Very early on at MIT, I realized that we were extremely privileged to have access to resources... that can enable us to start implementing change and positively impact the lives of society.”

By Alex Tang and Karie Shen

Ayomikun “Ayo” Ayodeji ’22 was recently announced as a Rhodes Scholar. Ayodeji sat down with The Tech to share his journey and passions regarding energy systems and management in Africa. Ayodeji graduated from MIT with degrees in chemical engineering and management, and is currently an associate at Boston Consulting Group.

TT: How are you feeling after the announcement? Could you share with us what you intend to do as a Rhodes Scholar?

Ayodeji: In one word, I would say blessed. This is an incredible opportunity, and I feel very fortunate to have had everyone from my recommenders believing in me. All the experiences I was able to get at MIT and beyond set me up for this.

Another word would be inspired. In the final part of the selection process for the Rhodes Scholarship, I met a lot of incredible young minds from the West African region. I came out of that feeling extremely, extremely inspired about the future of the continent and what I should expect to see in this new stage of life.

In terms of plans as a Rhodes Scholar, in the first year, I am planning to use it for a master’s in energy systems to get a more robust technical grounding on energy production. I want to unpack what pathways are needed to bridge the gaps we have in energy access on the African continent.

In the second year, I’m planning on doing an MSc in global governance and diplomacy. That will be more towards understanding what it’s like to be at the intersection of implementing policy changes, while attracting investments into key infrastructural development builds that need to happen specifically within the energy sector.

TT: Tell us a bit about your journey as an international student, and your time at MIT and now at Boston Consulting Group.

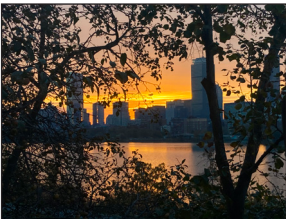
Ayodeji: I grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, arguably the most populous city in Africa. There’s a lot of hustle and bustle: the city is alive at all times of the day, and everyone is super passionate about what they do.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of

things that hold us back as a country. Some are connected to the infrastructure that is needed for the basic life of a human and the standard of living, one of which is energy and electricity access. My childhood experience was like it was pretty much certain that at some point electricity was going to cut off. Everybody was prepared with their generators and fuel or with their candles and kerosene lamps for the event in which you lost power. This got me thinking a lot about energy at a very early age.

I graduated from high school in Nigeria, and then studied at United World College of the Adriatic in Italy for two years. It was phenomenal, and it was the first time I had left the shores of Nigeria. I think that was the experience that set me on the path of the change that I want to see in the world and the change that I want to pursue.

For some reason, I managed to convince MIT to give me admission. I studied chemical engineering and management. I wanted to have that



1	2	3
13		
17		



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WEATHER

Yet another stormy weekend ahead

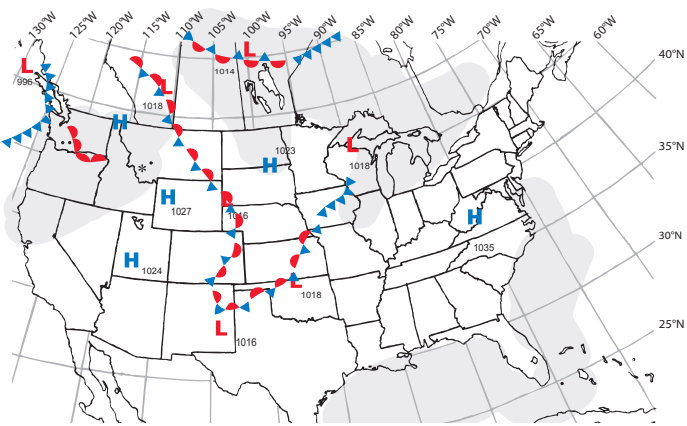
By Vlad Oros

METEOROLOGIST

The cool days and freezing nights that the Boston area has seen earlier this week are bound to take a break as a warm front will be moving in, bringing temperatures 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above average for this time of the year. The relief will be short-lived, however: a nor'easter will bring light

to moderate rain and gusty winds this weekend, with rapidly dropping temperatures. Afterwards, more typical November temperatures will return, with mostly clear skies.

Elsewhere in the US, Southern Florida is facing a significant flood threat due to heavy rain caused by a tropical system, and an atmospheric river event will lead to significant precipitation in California.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 16, 2023

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	*	▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	*	▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	**	••	
		***	•••	

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High around 57°F (12°C). Westerly winds around 8-13 mph.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Low around 43°F (6°C). Southerly winds around 3-9 mph.
Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning, with increasing clouds and a chance of rain later at night. High around 59°F (15°C) and low around 55°F (13°C). Southerly winds around 5-10 mph, increasing to 14-20 mph.
Saturday: Rain in the morning, tapering off to showers in the afternoon. Morning high around 56°F (13°C), with daytime temperatures falling to 43-48°F (6-9 °C), and a nighttime low of 33°F (1°C). Southerly winds shifting to northwesterly at 10-17 mph.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High around 49°F (9°C) and low around 32°F (0°C). Westerly winds around 7-12 mph.

Interview with 2023 Rhodes Scholar A. Ayodeji '22

Rhodes Scholar, from Page 1

fluency of energy innovation and understanding of the processes in which you're taking theoretical concepts of how you produce energy and bringing them into the field.

After interning with Pioneer Natural Resources [now a part of ExxonMobil], I was looking for something that was more management-related and ended up landing an internship with BCG. There I've taken the lens of solving problems and supporting many clients across a variety of different industries and topics. You're really creating value by putting your best foot forward to come up with innovative creative solutions that help them with the problems that they're facing. I've actually been able to do both private equity work, but a lot of my work has also been in energy, which is what I'm interested in. I'm excited to take this to the next stage with the Rhodes program.

TT: What do you feel are some of your most notable achievements from your time at MIT? How did your time at MIT shape your projects?

Ayodeji: Very early on at MIT, I realized that we were extremely privileged to have access to resources and mentors and programs that can enable us to start implementing change and positively impact the lives of society outside of MIT and within. One of which was the MIT PKG office, which I frequented quite a bit. In my freshman year, I assembled a team of four friends from both MIT and Harvard and we built a classroom server working with a community organization called NECT, North East Children's Trust. They cater to children who have been orphaned by the Boko Haram Conflict in

northeastern Nigeria and are thinking about how to expand their educational programs and how to prepare these kids for the future stage.

For me, the fact that I was able to contribute was mind-blowing. We got the Davis Projects for Peace Fellowship, which was



COURTESY OF AYOMIKUN AYODEJI

Ayomikun Ayodeji '22 named Rhodes Scholar.

a \$10,000 grant. We also got a \$2,500 grant from EASE (Expediting Access to Standard Education). You're seeing a lot of freshmen lads and one sophomore just going at it. That perspective really shaped the rest of my time at MIT.

TT: What communities from MIT do you feel most proud to represent?

Ayodeji: One of the things I'm most proud of is the communities that I was blessed with during my time at MIT. The first was the African Student Association (ASA). I tell people

that the first person who picked me up from the airport when I landed in Cambridge, took me back to MIT, and fed me lunch was a member of ASA. He helped me feel at home literally from landing at the airport. It became clear that the amount of love and care that this community had already shown me without even knowing me personally was a very natural reaction.

Later on, I chaired an initiative called African Learning Circle. We invite a lot of entrepreneurs and people who are doing incredible stuff connected to the African space. It's a way for us to be inspired by our predecessors. You feel that shared connection of having the African experience and sometimes just a shoulder to lean on because MIT gets tough, so finding your people really matters.

The second organization would be CRU, one of the Christian groups on campus. I felt a lot of love, especially as I was walking along the faith journey and trying to figure out what it meant to be a Christian as well as be at MIT, a super intellectual place - how faith empowers us to do a lot of things.

Wrapping up senior year, I could feel a lot of encouragement coming from everything that I had been involved with. I ended up getting the Robert T. Haslam Award for chemical engineering. It's one award that's given to a chemical engineering senior every year to indicate the highest promise in chemical engineering. I also got the Pierini Senior Academic Award from Sloan. It's another award that's given to someone who shows very strong academic potential and diligence within the management field. Those awards I carry with pride. I'm trying to do my best to put my best foot forward and learn from a lot of people around me.



ALISON SOONG—THE TECH

Students gather to watch MITHenge, a semiannual phenomenon where the setting sun aligns perfectly with the Infinite Corridor, Saturday, November 11.

MIT celebrates MITHenge

MITHenge occurred from Nov. 10 to Nov. 13. During MITHenge, the setting sun aligns with the Infinite Corridor, a hallway approximately 823 feet long. This phenomenon occurs at two different times each year — around November 11 and January 31.

This year, MITHenge was accompanied by a number of events organized by MIT's MindHandHeart. On Nov. 8, Professor Richard Binzel of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences gave a lecture on cosmic alignment. On Nov. 10 and 11, refreshments were served and a closing reception were held.

— Jayashabari Shankar, Russel Ismael, and Tina Zhang

IAP meal plans announced

In an email to the community, MIT Campus Dining announced that dining plans for the 2024 Independent Activities Period (IAP) will be available for purchase starting Nov. 13 via MyCard. The IAP costs for the 8, 10, 12, and 14 meal plans will be \$132, \$159, \$186, \$202 per week, respectively. All meals will be served at Maseeh Dining Hall and will be from Jan. 7 to Feb. 2. Spring semester meal plans will begin on Feb. 3.

— Russel Ismael

MIT arranges annual family weekend

By Tina Zhang
STAFF WRITER

MIT held its annual Family Weekend from Oct. 27 to Oct. 28. Visiting families had the opportunity to attend events including special concerts to lab tours.

Families were invited to listen in to open lectures for classes ranging from 16.002 (Unified Engineering: Signals and Systems) to 18.02 (Multivariable Calculus). Different academic departments also held receptions catered towards visiting families. Many participated in campus tours of laboratories and facilities and ate at campus dining halls.

Many parents attended open lectures for their child's classes. Zoe Zhang, who attended 18.02 (Multivariable Calculus), said "The class I attended was great. Having a class with my daughter was amazing." Tony Nguyen, who attended 7.012 (Introduction to Biology), said that "it was very entertaining and informative."

Parents observed extracurricular activities as well. Katharine Santos watched her daughter's Taekwondo Club practice and said that "watching how the Taekwondo instructors emphasized strategy and hitting with a particular amount of force from a particular angle made me realize how a scientific approach pervades everything at MIT."

Parents had positive feedback regarding the dining hall food. Nguyen said, "I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the dining hall food the first time I tried it." Zhang added, "The best meal was probably the last meal I had before I left on Sunday. I tried food from different stations, and it was the best meal out of the three meals I tried in the Maseeh dining hall."

On Oct. 29, the annual Family Weekend Concert concluded the weekend of events. The theme of the concert was celebrating the "universality of music." The MIT Wind Ensemble, Festival Jazz Ensemble, and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed a series of musical pieces with global influences, featuring works by Prokofiev, Clifton Williams, Ellington, and many others.

Many parents viewed the concerts as the highlight of Family Weekend. Zhang said, "the concert I went to was awesome, and the performances were fantastic." Santos added, "the most interesting event was definitely the wind ensemble and jazz concert. The musicality was incredibly impressive."

HRS Dean clarifies proposed housing rate changes

Friedrich: "Students asked us to look at housing price models to make them more equitable."

By Jayashabari Shankar, Tina Zhang, and Alex Tang
NEWS WRITERS

A Dormcon general body meeting on Oct. 26 discussed a potential shift to a one-rate model for all on-campus housing. Two representatives of the Division of Student Life (DSL), David Friedrich and Helen Wang '24, were in attendance. David Friedrich, the Senior Associate Dean of Housing and Residential Services, responded to a request for comment by the Tech.

In his email to *The Tech*, Friedrich said the new rate would be decided relative to the financial aid award a student is given. "The exact price of the one rate was not discussed in detail, but it would likely be a new blended rate tied to the financial aid allowance," he wrote. Furthermore, he said that "any changes to housing rates and financial aid would be reviewed and approved annually by Institute leaders."

SPORTS BLITZ

Saturday, November 4th:

- Field Hockey lost to Babson College 1-3
- Women's Soccer defeated Babson College 5-0
- Rifle defeated Norwich University 4379-4264
- Men's Fencing placed in top three 5 times in 3 competitions (with 229 total competitors)
- Women's Fencing in top three 7 times in 3 competitions (with 169 total competitors)
- Men's Water Polo lost to Brown University 7-9
- Women's Volleyball defeated Smith College 3-0
- Men's Swimming and Diving won at Springfield College 229-62
- Women's Swimming and Diving won at Springfield College 230-67

Sunday, November 5th:

- Men's Water Polo lost to Harvard University 11-17

Tuesday, November 7th:

- Men's Squash defeated Northeastern University 9-0
- Women's Volleyball defeated Emerson College 3-0

Wednesday, November 8th:

- Women's Basketball defeated Emmanuel College 73-55
- Men's Basketball defeated UMass Dartmouth 88-81

Friday, November 10th:

- Women's Basketball lost to NYU 55-88
- Men's Squash lost to Western University 4-5
- Men's Basketball lost to Rhode Island College 81-90

Saturday, November 11th:

- Women's Soccer defeated College of Mount Saint Vincent 3-1
- Men's Cross Country placed 1st of 34 at the NCAA East Regional Championship
- Women's Cross Country placed 1st of 33 at the NCAA East Regional Championship
- Men's Squash lost to University of Rochester 3-6
- Women's Basketball defeated Washington University St. Louis 70-58
- Women's Volleyball defeated Babson College 3-1
- Football defeated WPI 25-21

Sunday, November 12th:

- Rifle defeated John Jay College 4400-4204
- Women's Volleyball defeated Springfield College 3-2
- Women's Soccer defeated University of Southern Maine 4-1
- Men's Squash defeated St. Lawrence University 5-4

Tuesday, November 14th:

- Women's Basketball lost to Colby College 63-70

Wednesday, November 15th:

- Women's Fencing at Harvard
- Men's Fencing at Harvard
- Men's Basketball

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Upcoming Sports Events

FRIDAY 17

Men's Water Polo vs Iona University (NWPC Championships) 1 p.m.

Men's Squash vs Colby College 6 p.m.

Women's Volleyball vs NCAA Second Round 7 p.m.

SATURDAY 18

Men's Water Polo vs TBA (NWPC Championships)

Men's Cross Country vs NCAA DIII National Championship 11 a.m.

Women's Swimming and Diving vs Bowdoin College and WPI (at WPI) 11 a.m.

Men's Swimming and Diving vs Bowdoin College and WPI (at WPI) 11 a.m.

Women's Cross Country vs NCAA DIII National Championship 12 p.m.

Women's Soccer vs John Carroll University 1:30 p.m.

Men's Squash vs Trinity College 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs Macalester College 2 p.m.

Women's Volleyball vs NCAA Third Round 5 p.m.

SUNDAY 19

Men's Water Polo vs TBA (NWPC Championships)

Women's Fencing at Northeast Fencing Conference #1 9 a.m.

Men's Fencing at Northeast Fencing Conference #1 9 a.m.

Men's Squash vs Hobart College 11 a.m.

TUESDAY 21

Men's Basketball vs Tufts University 7 p.m.

SATURDAY 25

Men's Basketball vs Keene State 2 p.m.

TUESDAY 28

Men's Squash vs Brown University 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Salem State University 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 29

Women's Volleyball at NCAA Quarterfinal

Women's Basketball at Tufts University 7 p.m.

THURSDAY 30

Women's Volleyball at NCAA Semifinal

It would be turtley awesome if you join The Tech

Email us at join@tech.mit.edu

Lexington High School's team competes at the finals of MIT High School Science Bowl Invitational, Saturday, November 11.

Set in 1970s post-Stonewall New York City, the play captures themes of empowerment and feminism.

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Maddie Roth

Kresge Little Theater

**October 27th, 28th, 29th;
November 2nd, 3rd, and
4th**

By Anahita Srinivasan
ARTS EDITOR

I've read my fair share of Shakespeare plays (both comedies and tragedies), and I'm always a fan of adaptations that seek to interpret the original text with a modern twist. So when the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble announced that they would be performing *Much Ado About Nothing* this semester, I knew I had to see it for myself.

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble is a community of students who share an interest in theater, specifically Shakespearean works. Every semester, they perform a full-length play and put together the entire show themselves: costumes, props, and script. The ensemble's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* ran for six showings on October 27th, 28th, and 29th and on November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. I had the opportunity to attend the closing night show on November 4th, and it was an excellent experience.

Much Ado About Nothing, originally written by William Shakespeare in 1598 and 1599,

is a witty, banter-filled comedy following the love lives of two couples: Beatrice and Benedick and Claudio and Hero. Beatrice and Benedick are both tricked into believing the other is in love with them, which leads to them actually falling in love, while Hero faces a false accusation regarding her modesty that leads to the dissolution of (but eventual happy ending to) her engagement with Claudio. The original play is set in Messina, on the island of Sicily, but the ensemble chose to set the show in 1970s New York City, post-Stonewall, in order to explore the concepts of internalized homophobia and second-wave feminism.

This proved to be an excellent choice. The original play already explores the themes of gender roles and empowerment, but by portraying Benedick as a girl and exploring how Beatrice and Benedick's relationship would change if they were a same-sex couple, this version of the play was able to dig deep into some difficult topics with grace and lightness.

Speaking of Benedick, Claire Wang '27's performance was excellent. Benedick had some great comedic moments in the show: one such example was when Beatrice reluctantly invites her to dinner and Benedick, in her love-struck fantasy, decides to interpret Beatrice's irritation as concealing her true feelings. Beatrice, portrayed by Kiersten Mittel '24, also did a fantastic job. In general, Beatrice and Benedick's relationship was heartwarming with moments of both hilarity and emotion.

I also really appreciated Hero (played by Susan Hong '27)'s character arc. Hero is introduced to us almost entirely silently. For the first half of the play, she basically accepts whatever fate is handed to her; sure, she's in love with Claudio and agrees to marry him, but we never really see her take an active role in their relationship. This changes when



OMAR OROZCO—THE TECH

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble rehearses for their performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*, Thursday, 26 October.

Claudio leaves her at the altar for an offense she never actually committed. I loved seeing Hero stand up for herself afterwards, especially during the scene of Claudio's second wedding in which Hero is revealed to be the bride.

Much Ado About Nothing is also plain hilarious. The main villain, Don John, has one goal and one goal only: to stir up trouble, which Ellie Winkler '25 does masterfully. All of the interactions between Don John, her accomplices, and the police had the audience in stitches. The ineptitude of the police combined with Don John's flair for the dramatic and the accomplices' complete bewilderment was comedy gold.

Plus, there was quite a bit of camaraderie between the actors during the play itself. Several of them broke character during Hero and Claudio's wedding scene, which in turn brought the audience to laughter. I later learned that there had been several pranks played on the cast as part of a closing night tradition for the students for whom this

would be their last show. There's a scene in which Beatrice juggles oranges on stage impromptu in an attempt to impress Benedict, and Don Pedro appears on stage in a crown and sunglasses, to the amusement of the other cast members. This explained the breaks in character: none of the cast members were expecting these rather comical changes. You could really tell that the Ensemble as a whole is a tight-knit community.

Ultimately, MIT Shakespeare Ensemble kept the audience riveted for two and a half hours, a difficult feat in and of itself, but only made more so by how complicated Shakespearean works are. The language is difficult to decipher, both on a page and especially when spoken live. Much of the vocabulary is outdated, and there are idioms and turns of phrase that have since gone out of use. You didn't need to understand the language to understand the themes or the story: the cast's acting was enough to propel the action forward. It was truly an excellent performance.

Siddhu Pachipala '27 on why politics is a necessary complement to scientific research

The MIT undergraduate explains his path from research on mental health to his desire to transform science into policy.

By Karie Shen

Siddhu Pachipala '27 intends to study Course 17 (political science) at MIT. He believes there is a need to become fluent in both the languages of science and politics in order to change the world for the better. He sat down with The Tech to discuss his journey from a psychology researcher to an aspiring politician.

Q: In high school, you participated in the Regeneron Science Talent search. What was your research about?

A: The current systems for the detection and treatment of mental illnesses are premised on a single book: the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). This is a textbook of every psychological illness recognized by the American Psychiatric Association and the symptoms associated with them. The problem is that symptoms don't cleanly map onto

problems in the body, so the name of a condition doesn't tell us what's going on.

My research focused on creating an alternative approach to detecting mental illnesses. I used 112 different markers from MRI scans and psychosocial inventories to create a biopsychosocial characterization of an individual rather than a symptom-based one. This biopsychosocial system was hitting 80-90% accuracy in identifying what treatment a patient should take, compared to the current system's 30-40% accuracy. We're seeing precision medicine in many medical fields but less in psychiatry, so this was a proof of concept that something like this could work.

Q: How did your research shape your current career trajectory?

A: In order to revise the system of detection and treatment, there has to be collaboration between researchers and legislators. The DSM is used because

of the way our insurance system is framed. The fact that a psychiatrist can put their finger on a very specific illness affecting a person helps with billing. It's convenient and downstream from the way our healthcare system works. But psychiatric illnesses are much more muddled and amorphous.

I saw two approaches to this issue: scientific and political. Through a scientific lens, we can ask, "What are our methods for testing patients, determining if they are high-risk, and treating them?" Through a political lens, "Are people able to find in-network mental health professionals? Are mental health professionals willing to take insurance?"

If we, scientists, fail to engage with the political, then we risk letting our work sit in a journal. It doesn't end up shaping the world. It's important to come back to the people who are going to write the bills that change our systems.

Q: How do you think that your time at MIT will help you reach your goals in research and politics?

A: MIT has a legacy of bringing rigor and data to whatever it touches. In terms of political science, there's a lot of great work on understanding when systems work best to capture people's opinions, what government structures are most effective, and how means of activism produce optimal results. We analyze politics through a quantitative lens. At MIT, the "science" in political science isn't undervalued.

In addition, the MIT Science Policy Initiative goes to Washington, D.C. every year to meet with legislators and people working for executive agencies at the intersection of science, technology, and policy. This is where the rubber meets the road in terms of translating scientific data into the text of a bill. I hope to be part of that.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Someone needs to learn to tell Martin Scorsese "no"

Although the film is beautifully shot and scored, its director's-cut-length and script excesses drag it down



Killers of the Flower Moon

Directed by Martin Scorsese

**Screenplay by Eric Roth
and Martin Scorsese**

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone, and Jesse Plemons

Rated R. Now Playing

By Cameron Davis

Perfect job security is a dangerous thing: tenure for professors and lifetime judicial nominations are both examples of the freedom that a job guarantee offers and the risks (shoddy teaching, politically radical decisions) that it brings. Exactly fifty years after his crime film *Mean Streets* debuted in 1973, with a dozen award-winning films under his belt, Martin Scorsese has come as close to perfect job security as artists get — for better and for worse.

Scorsese's newest picture, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, is yet another by him to highlight the artistic impact of his career successes. Adapted from the 2017 novel of the same name by New Yorker journalist David Grann, the film centers on a series of murders in the Osage Nation during the early 20th century after the discovery of oil on the Native Americans' land. With a runtime

of more than three and a half hours, the cinematic release is essentially Scorsese's director's cut, featuring a tight, compelling first couple hours followed by a repetitive latter half.

The audience is thrust into post-World War I Oklahoma, where Ernest Burkhart (a perpetually frowning Leonardo DiCaprio) has left his job as an army cook to try to strike it rich. And where better to do it than on the tribal lands of the Osage Nation, where the Native Americans have become exorbitantly wealthy from selling their newfound oil. White people hover parasitically around the reservation, as laws require white guardianship of the money and marrying into the tribe bestows headrights for a share of the oil wealth. Legal and romantic shenanigans are the least amoral white schemes; petty theft, insurance fraud, and cold-blooded murder are employed by white people, including Burkhart himself, to take advantage of the Osages. These more nefarious deeds are best embodied by Burkhart's uncle, William ("King") Hale (a characteristically mafia-adjacent Robert De Niro), an older rancher who pretends to support the Osage people while secretly orchestrating all sorts of violent criminal acts against them.

Ever the grifter, Hale notes Burkhart's relative good looks and sets him on Mollie Kyle (a perfectly cast, warm yet guarded Lily Gladstone), a fortuitously single Native American woman whose family is wealthy from significant oil headrights. Although at first more focused on her money than her charm, Burkhart is taken by Kyle, and the two fall in love, marrying in a beautiful ceremony. The joyous union has a grim backdrop though, as Hale puppeteers Burkhart and other cronies into murdering ever more of Gladstone's family to secure a greater headright share. We have no choice but to

hope for police or political intervention.

At its core, the story is an engrossing one, combining the horrors of historic injustices with the feeling of revisionist fairness of a good nonfiction novel. And the first half moves along with a brisk, dark, gruesome pace, introducing us to the exceedingly tangled webs of the Osage people and their white interlopers. In both groups, characters are richly drawn and, generally, brilliantly cast.

In the former, Mollie's sisters (JaNae Collins, Jillian Dion, Cara Jade Myers) are chatty and flirty as young women but wary as Osages; her mother (Tantoo Cardinal) is weary, from another epoch altogether; her ex-husband (William Belleau) is depressed and alcoholic, yet attempts strength in the face of being wronged; and her tribe's leaders (Everett Walker, Talee Redcorn, Yancey Red Corn) are tragic, doing the best they can as their people are pulled out from under them. On the other side, scummy hangers-on like Mollie's brother-in-law (Jason Isbell) are everywhere; criminals like murderers and bootleggers (Louis Cancelmi, Sturgill Simpson) are universally stupid but terrifying nonetheless; Burkhart's family members, including his brother (Scott Shepherd), clearly don't have his best interests in mind; and townspeople like the doctor and undertaker (Steve Witting and Steve Routman) are all clearly in on the game.

Above them all rises Lily Gladstone as Mollie, whose long gazes, insightful aphorisms, and heavy silences carry with them immense exhaustion, tremendous empathy, and deep knowledge of the realities of the world around her. Her hearty chuckles spread warmth, just as her piercing glares take it away, and her scenes in sickness and in health alike speak volumes. Meanwhile, DiCaprio and De Niro — as much as possible for actors of their stature and inherent

skill — phone in their performances. Just like Scorsese, they too have job security (together having been in more than 15 of the director's films), and there's little new they have to offer.

Getting back to that job security, it's of course well-deserved; Scorsese's directorial fundamentals are at the top of their game. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is breathtakingly shot, with long, beautiful scenes of Oklahoma; its lighting is eerie and evocative; its set design is authentic and convincing; its score (the last by frequent collaborator Robbie Robertson) is a haunting mix of Native American songs and bluesy Americana twangs.

But after several hours of unrelentingly brutal Native American killings and little in the way of character development or plot progression, the movie stalls. Introducing an FBI agent is a nod to the novel (whose subheading “The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI” signifies the agency’s larger importance in its pages), but carries little interest or weight in the film, and an extremely prolonged courtroom drama is as tired and troped as legal film gets. Actors introduced in this second half, such as a dull Jesse Plemons or an unintentionally funny Brendan Fraser, all feel shoehorned into a story that shouldn’t be theirs. A final narrative twist, more than 180 minutes in, feels even more unearned.

These missteps devalue historical lives with Scorsese's insistence on making the longest blockbusters in the business. Length — and lack of substance to back it up — was an issue in other Scorsese films such as 2013's *The Wolf of Wall Street* and 2019's *The Irishman*, but because of the incredible importance of this story being told right, this is the most frustrating instance yet. So much excellence could have been sharpened and contained if only someone learned to tell Scorsese "no."



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DETAILS



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REGISTER





The sun rises an hour earlier thanks to Daylight Savings Time on the morning of November 5.



Attendees make origami orchids at the annual OrigaMIT Convention, Saturday November 4.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH



Geometric origami creations by Nobuko Okabe on view at OrigaMIT Convention's exhibition in 1-150, Saturday, November 4.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH



A giant spider lurks in the corner of 26-100 on Halloween.

OMAR OROZCO—THE TECH



Students learn about research opportunities at MIT Biotech Group's Life Science UROP Mixer in the Koch Institute, Wednesday, November 1.

KATE LU—THE TECH



ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH



THE TECH

MIT community members participate in demonstrations in Lobby 7 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, November 9.



OMAR OROZCO—THE TECH

MIT students, parents, and families in line for their cena at Latino Cultural Center's Cena a Las Seis event for Family Weekend, Saturday, October 28.



ARUN WONGPROMMOON—THE TECH

MIT Mocha Moves hosts Ring the Alarm (RTA), a Boston-wide dance competition, in Walker Memorial, Friday, November 3.

When you search up
"Misinformation Superspreader"
Steve Kirsch, MIT '80 is the top hit.
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If the covid vaccines are safe, why is every government in the world hiding the record-level data from view?

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ALOR'S LORE

Near Misses? Potential Deaths.

High school personnel risk student lives, denial ensues

CONTENT WARNING

This article contains discussions of campus violence at a public high school.

By Alor Sahoo
STAFF WRITER

Life events aren't random and independent. When a "very good thing" happens, it's more likely to happen in the future. When a "very bad thing" happens, it's also more likely to happen in the future. Our influences stick around — for better or for worse. When an "almost very bad thing that was narrowly averted" happens — a very bad thing is still more likely to happen.

It's problematic to assume that an almost-catastrophe — or “near miss” — is just as benign as a pure success. It's not.

The events of the past are almost never independent of the ones in the future — especially if we control for the institution involved. And in some of the worst cases, that involves loss of life.

With this in mind, I take you back to the events of November 4th, 2023 at Stockdale High School, where I graduated from. Here's the gist:

A mid-size fight — which was preceded by other fights — broke out in the school quad. For context, the quad is a large circular grass field with tables around it and adjacent to other buildings and exits. A staff member who tried to intervene was hurt — according to students on social media.

Numerous students then reported seeing guns. However, at this point, multiple security guards had locked potential exits, such as those into the “spine,” which branches off into numerous classrooms. This forced a substantial number of students to climb fences to escape.

After the chaos, the Kern High School District (KHSD) insisted that “there was no firearm found on campus” and that these were merely “unsubstantiated rumors.”

Hopefully, you've spotted some issues with how this situation was handled. Some of it has to do with a lack of

proactivity: why didn't the staff member have more support to try and deescalate the situation? But the bulk of concern is what happened during the incident and after.

For example, one report on social media noted that some students had to “wait along with many students” until someone unlocked the exits. If there was an active shooter, would someone physically unable to walk (e.g. someone using wheelchair or crutches) sit there while their classmates climb to escape? Or are they just going to have to sit there and risk their lives?

The other issue is the response by the KHSD. How did they conclude that these were “rumors?” To do so, they would need to do one of the following.

Identify a very clear, small group of suspects that can be interrogated. Given the inevitable chaos that resulted, it is unlikely that the suspects could even have been identified clearly. This video, for example, shows students jumping over a fence in large numbers.

You search everyone. Again, see the same footage from before. Because if there were students who climbed over the fence, the person with the gun could feasibly have also. One student even got as far as the restaurant across the street, so the range is very far.

I can't think of anything else. It's not like a confession from someone is enough to declare the situation a "rumor."

Therefore, why is the KHSD so dismissive? They're falling into that same fallacy — that a near miss is “normal” and “fine.” It's not normal and it's not fine. A “near miss” is a step away from “tragic disaster.” Nearly all students and parents recognize this, and they're scared. Adding to this concern, multiple headlines in local news outlets asserted that the threats were “not credible” or “unfounded” — when this is not the case.

Even without any deaths or critical injuries, don't believe that there were no victims. Every student at Stockdale High that day was — and still probably is — on edge and distressed. The KHSD is doubling down to protect themselves — and not their students. The responses by security personnel during the incident and the KHSD afterward are inexcusable.

CORRECTIONS

Drone deliveries will leave privacy concerns up in the air — clarification: In a previous version of this article, the author stated that “Beck said that ‘privacy-enhancements have a bigger impact on female consumers.’” To clarify,

the proper name is “Berke” instead of “Beck.” Moreover, Berke did not study the cause of why people were more inclined to choose ground vehicles, and the article has now been updated to reflect this.



Sol. to The Whole Thing

from page 12

from page 12

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Sol. to Themeless

from page 12

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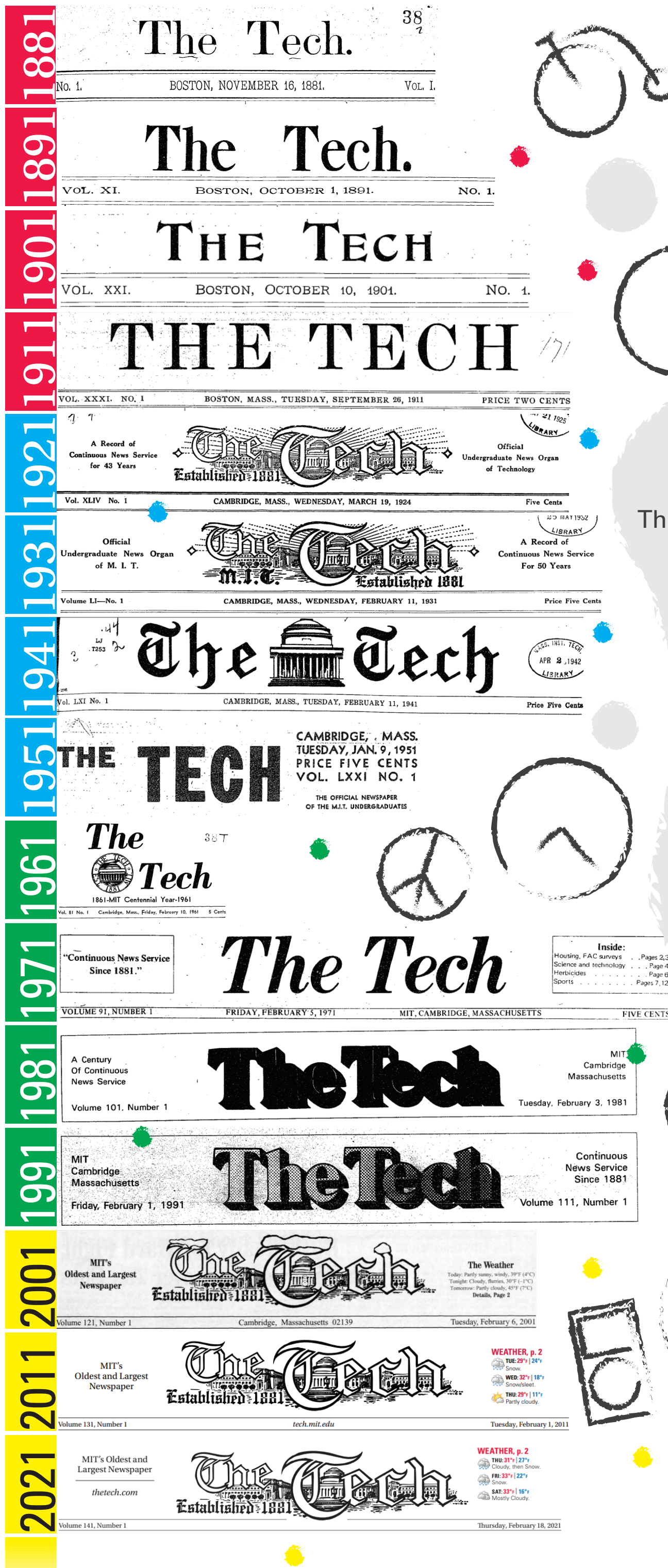
101 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

32. Take a stroll through Little Italy in the North End

**Join the Arts department
at *The Tech* and write
restaurant reviews.**

(And get reimbursed for your meal!)





MIT terminates UROP program

Too much affection on Newbury

Next issue: MIT jacks up laundry prices

Disclaimer: the content above is intended for entertainment purposes only and is to be considered satire. Any names are purely fictional and all references to places, people, and products are purely coincidental.

Just kidding.

Following her head to her lips, my view pans to another pair of lips belonging to a dude standing on the ground in front of the scooter's handlebars. Coming into view are his black bucket hat, baggy black pants with abundant pockets and black shoes of—I take off my glasses.

Themeless by Manaal Mohammed '25

9 Fiats
 10 Cool cat's "Understood"
 11 Troy's best friend in
 "Community"
 abed
 12 Reputation
 13 Mimics
 15 Get off here
 20 Lotus and Warrior, say
 22 Check your balance on it
 25 Wine go-with
 26 w * h for a rectangle
 27 Cat whine
 28 Hasty rash
 29 Expressionist painter Paul
 30 People seemingly unable
 to think independently, in
 online slang
 31 Snatches, playfully
 32 Thing to find at 54-down
 34 Prejudice-motivated
 felony
 37 Australian no, maybe
 40 "On it!" surecan
 42 Bear _____ (firm that
 failed in 2008)
 45 N.F.L.'s Grier
 47 Fiat stopper

The Whole Thing by W. Emmons

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01 Ceiling fixture
02 Ivy Leaguer
03 School of
meditation
04 Short staycations
05 Interoffice acronym
06 Italian tower
07 Conclude with
08 Avenue ____
Champs-Élysées
09 Keep under
control
10 Son of David
11 Pageant prize
12 Raced downslope
16 Norse inspiration
for Tolkien

18 Cork's country
21 Reduced
22 Finished a wall
or floor
23 Sorority letter
24 Seiko's printer
division
26 Schwarzenegger
role
31 "Quit it!"
32 Postage provider
33 Madame Butterfly
belt
35 "Repeat!"
36 Ceremonial clubs
37 Coeur d'___, ID
40 Disembar
43 Less barking
47 Water in Florida's
state song
49 Piece of paper
50 Have a bawl
51 "My luck's gonna
change"
52 Bridal bounty
53 Sacred city of Tibet
54 Ninnies
58 Aficionado's shouts
60 Pillow fight sound
61 Sec'y stat
62 Go public with
63 Symbols for kisses

Themeless

by Manaal Mohammed '25

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48 Lets out
49 Where Hercules slew a
lion
50 "Citizen Kane" director
Welles
51 Houses

52 Thick, say
53 Daesh, to Obama
54 NYC cultural attraction
55 Trudge
59 Pepe Le ____ (Chuck
Jones creation)