

APRIL FOOLS' — CALTECH JOKE ISSUE

see insert, page C1 (OPPOSITE PAGE 6)

Undergraduate Association releases 2024 election results

Class council results revealed, referendum two passes

By Alex Tang & Russel Ismael
NEWS EDITORS

In an email sent to the MIT undergraduate community March 23, the Undergraduate Association (UA) revealed the results for the 2024 UA Election. Up on this year's ballot were the spots of UA President and Vice President, 2025 and 2026 Class Councils, and two referendums. Referendum one failed: the second referendum passed. 2112 total undergraduates participated, accounting for 46.15 percent of the undergraduate student body.

The first referendum did not pass, receiving a split of 628 "Yes" votes and 1057 "No" votes. The contents of the referendum involved a resolution on whether or not student leader and volunteer positions should be paid. Student positions that are recognized by this referendum included by are not limited to resident student governments, Institute Committee representatives, and Class Councils.

The second referendum, said that if adopted, would call for the UA to back a ceasefire in the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and condemn the suspension of pro-Palestine organizations on campus. This referendum passed with 1209 votes for "Yes" and 688 votes for "No," which constituted a 63.73 percent majority.

In an interview with The Tech, Rishika Bansal '26, UA Vice-President-Elect, stated that Referendum one not passing means that the UA will still continue to keep going, much like they "have operated the

last however many years."

"As to why it didn't pass, I think it's the same reason why my initial thought to this referendum was 'no,'" Bansal said. "We have student leaders and other groups, and they're not paid. We have dorm governments, and they're not paid. So, why would we pay the UA then?"

Bansal acknowledged that although there was an argument to be had about this issue considering other schools do pay their undergraduate government leadership, including Harvard, but added that there is no reason to specifically fund student leadership roles compared to other roles.

Regarding the topic of the second referendum, Bansal said that the UA officers are discussing how to handle the matter.

"We're trying to adhere to what the referendum states and respect the fact that it did pass through the correct processes," Bansal said. She highlighted how the UA is taking careful steps to very much respect the referendum's wording, and that this referendum will be "applicable throughout [the next school year]."

Enoch Ellis '26, UA President-Elect, stated that if the motions for the second referendum "plays out the way that they should," then the implementation should "all be handled before [the UA officers] transition administratively." Ellis further said that President Sally Kornbluth has already been notified of this referendum, so the current UA administration is "working with her to honor the word of the referendum."

Bansal clarified that the UA "can

really only advocate for something." The UA does not have executive power over the MIT administration, so they "cannot force professors or MIT to do something."

Four students were written in as nominees in total for the positions of Secretary and Social Chair in the 2025 Class Council and Treasurer and Social Chair in the 2026 Class Council.

The election results are as follows for the Class of 2025.

Position: Name, (Votes For)
President: Megha Vemuri, 381
Vice President: Grace Li, 337
Treasurer: Ji Won Kim, 326
Secretary: Paula Contreras, 17 write-ins

Publicity Chair: Miles Hartley, 308
Social Chair: Kevin Waku, 31 write-ins

The election results are as follows for the Class of 2026.

Position: Name, (Votes For)
President: Heba Hussein, 364
Vice President: Elaine Wang, 320
Treasurer: Trace St. Julian, 26 write-ins
Secretary: Zac Nwogwugwu, 336
Publicity Chair: Kelly Heo, 334
Social Chair: Luke Anger, 6 write-ins

The dates for the Class Council of 2027 election is April 15, 8:00 a.m. and will close April 19, 5:00 p.m.. The petition packets are due April 6, 8:00 p.m..

Fin. aid increased for 2024–2025 AY

Tuition also increased by 3.75 percent

By Russel Ismael & Tina Zhang
NEWS EDITORS

On March 21, MIT announced that undergraduate financial aid will increase to approximately \$167.3 million compared to \$152.3 million awarded in the previous year. The Institute believes that this amount will be more than enough to balance out the 3.75 percent tuition increase, which will correspond to a \$62,396 tuition with ancillary fees. With a full meal plan and on-campus residency costs added, the total cost to attend MIT as an undergraduate would be \$85,960.

Furthermore, students are expected to receive an average financial aid of \$63,146 as scholarship for the next school year. About 60 percent of Institute students receive need-based aid, with \$12,715 as the median paid tuition after aid has been given. In the 2022-2023 year, 58 percent of full-time undergraduates who received a scholarship paid \$9,926 in tuition after term-time

work. 39 percent of MIT undergraduates also received enough financial aid that allowed them to attend the Institute without tuition.

However, starting next school year, students with a household income of less than \$75,000 are no longer expected to pay tuition although students may be asked to contribute via summer savings or work programs during the academic year. For families with an income of \$140,000 or less in the 2022-2023 academic year, students still took a median student loan of \$5,443.

Despite such increases, 80 percent of MIT alumni graduate debt free. Only 14 percent of the Class of 2023 graduated with any sort of debt — the median was \$14,844. The Institute further stated that "the average cost of an MIT education for those who receive financial aid has been reduced by almost 25 percent over the past two decades."

More information about financial aid can be found on the Student Financial Services website.

New Student Center grocer: Concord Market

In an email to the MIT community, DormCon Dining Chairs Tyra Espedal '26 and Ananda Figueiredo '25 announced that a new grocer called Concord Market will open in the Stratton Student Center (Stud). It is expected to open in late 2024 or early 2025. Concord Market will replace LaVerde's Market, which previously occupied the first floor of the Stud and closed down permanently on April 17, 2023.

Concord Market, which has a site in Concord, Massachusetts, will open its second location in the Stud and will sell "a large selection of grab-and-go and heat-and-eat meals," including sandwiches and other grocery items. It will also offer catering for events on campus.

Concord Market was founded in 2018 to offer healthy food options "in a world dominated by big-box retailers." According to its website, the market prides itself in building "personal connections with its customers."

According to a link from the MIT Division of Student Life, Concord Market was chosen as the new grocer in the Stud because of its focus on "top-quality products, healthy and fresh produce, competitive pricing, and a great store experience." The opening of the market will be another step towards making the Stud a hub for well-being on campus.

— Tina Zhang

Enoch Ellis '26, Rishika Bansal '26 to be Undergraduate Association Pres., VP for '24–'25 AY

Enoch Ellis '26 is UA President, Rishika Bansal '26 is UA Vice-President.

By Russel Ismael
NEWS EDITOR

Enoch Ellis '26 and Rishika Bansal '26 were announced as the Undergraduate Association (UA) President and Vice-President-Elect, respectively, after running uncontested. Both Ellis and Bansal had prior experience in the UA, with Ellis currently serving as the UA's Officer of Community & Diversity and Bansal as Treasurer. The UA held a Q&A session for the candidates instead of the traditional debate on March 15.

In the Q&A, Ellis said that he is prioritizing a "dare to dream, dare to do" attitude that aims to benefit the MIT community, such as

"streamlining access of resources for clubs."

"I know right now, in some of the work that I've done with our diversity and community-based organization, there's a lot of confusion," Ellis stated. "I got some conflicting information about where to get money from, how to apply for things, the general [request-for-payment] process, and so that's something we really want to look into, for the rest of this year and also starting next year."

In an interview with The Tech, Bansal mentioned that she intends on "[taking] the things that [she's] learned this year and bring them forward to really help undergraduates."

"A lot of what I realized this year is that the Treasurer's current role in the UA is largely hampered by administrative things," Bansal clarified. "It's hampered by going through different layers of bureaucracy and filling out forms, so what I'd hope the next Treasurer does is automate a lot of those things." By minimizing bureaucracy, Bansal believes the UA would have more time to deal with pressing matters such as allocating funds to student groups.

Improving efficiency across various systems is a recurring theme in both Ellis and Bansal's goals, as they also want to improve the shuttle transportation system. Ellis described how he wants to

increase the system's efficiency to facilitate travel for "students that live across the bridge," including students in fraternities, sororities, and other off-campus housing.

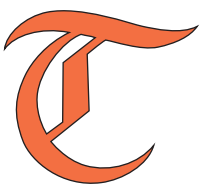
In the Q&A, Ellis also noted that the financial transparency of the UA is a priority, and that student organizations emphasized funding sources as the most salient issue. To combat this, that, Ellis discussed with the Institute Community and Equity Office about receiving a \$30,000 grant to help fund organizations for diversity and community-based organizations.

"I was of the belief that if an organization wants to do an event, money shouldn't be a barrier

or limiting factor for them to be able to do that with," Ellis stated. Bansal is also helping Ellis with creating a new diversity fund, as she stated that the Institute has "a lot of money that's just lying around" that could be used to benefit undergraduates.

Bansal further stated that she and Ellis would "never be able to represent the full gamut of what MIT is," so prioritizing policies that will have more "people who are in the room at the table" is of paramount importance. Ellis also wants to adopt a "case-by-case basis" when it comes to appointing UA positions, and to "take

Election, Page 2



WEATHER FORECAST

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

Storms to darken the pre-eclipse sky

By Phoebe Lin
SENIOR METEOROLOGIST

A Nor'easter is intensifying as it moves across New England this weekend, bringing heavy rain, wind gusts, and local flooding. Forecasts are expecting up to 2" of rain, while flood warnings and wind advisories are beginning to be issued. Sleet and snow are possible, but rain will likely remain the main concern.

Conditions may clear up gradually in anticipation of eclipse travel, though showers are still likely through Fri and Sat. Make sure to pack rain gear and stay safe on those slippery roads!

THURSDAY

41°F | 34°F

FRIDAY

47°F | 37°F

SATURDAY

40°F | 33°F

APRIL 4

SITUATION FOR NOON (ET)

Extended Forecast

Today: Rainy, with a chance of morning snow showers. High around 41°F (5°C). East winds 22-27 mph, with gusts up to 40 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low around 34°F (1°C). Northwest winds 12-17 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

Friday: Cloudy. High of 47°F (8°C), low of 37°F (3°C). West winds 12-17 mph.

Saturday: Rain showers. High around 40°F (4°C) and low around 33°F (1°C). North winds 10-15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. High around 42°F (6°C) and low around 33°F (1°C). North winds 8-12 mph.

Do you think YOU can fit the page better than we did?

Join Production, Get Paid, Eat Dinner!

join@tech.mit.edu

Q&A and interview with upcoming UA president and vice president

Election, from Page 1

a deep look inward at [the UA] structure” to ensure equity in the organization.

Furthermore, Ellis and Bansal also expressed interest in cooperating more with other student-led organizations like the Association of Student Activities (ASA) and Student Organizations, Leadership, and Engagement (SOLE), as “most [UA] work happens through committees.”

“I think the relationship between the UA, ASA, and SOLE plays out pretty naturally, where each group supports the other,” Bansal said. “We work with both SOLE and ASA when it comes to primarily funding student groups.”

Bansal stated that the UA has access to some funding that other organizations do not have, so they are able to allocate more money to individual groups who demonstrate a need for them. She said that most Institute funding is only available for individuals, not groups, so she is looking to bridge this gap. Ellis hopes that the “additional funding, additional resources, and additional staff” would reinforce pre-exist-

ing student groups.

Beyond funding, they seek to resolve the food insecurity problem. Ellis noted in the interview that such a problem has been pervasive amongst undergraduates since 2016, so they intend on sending out surveys later in April to get a clearer picture.

“We are currently working with the [Dean of Student Living] and institutional research to make sure that some of the recommendations [to alleviate food insecurity] are feasible with the infrastructure they have in place,” Ellis said. “But I think the food insecurity conversation comes down to what the Institute values, and what they are willing to trade.”

Such food insecurity issues were exacerbated when the Institute shut down food cafés at the beginning of the academic year. Ellis wants this issue to be “an issue of the last decade” instead of being an issue still persisting today.

Ellis and Bansal concluded the interview by stating “they are looking forward to engaging with the student body next year,” and that they “are currently looking for people who are interested in joining the UA.”

Student sexual harassment and misconduct survey released

Last survey conducted in 2019 resulted in sweeping changes.

By Alex Tang & Russel Ismael
NEWS EDITORS

In an email sent out to the MIT community on Apr. 2, Chancellor Melissa Nobles invited the MIT undergraduate and graduate student body to participate in the “Harassment and Misconduct Survey for Students.” Last conducted in 2019, this survey is anonymous and the Institute will only receive a summary of the results.

The Institute is conducting this survey because they are “committed to providing a working, learning, and living environment that is free from sexual harassment and misconduct.” Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, and Nobles wrote that she hopes that all students answer the survey, regardless of their situation. She further wrote that student feedback “will help [the administration] better understand the MIT climate, assess [their] ongoing outreach and prevention efforts, and address possible gaps in services.”

Results from the 2019 survey have shaped the Institute’s response to handling harass-

ment and misconduct. In the fall of 2019, former President L. Rafael Reif announced changes in response to the survey, including a “new policy for handling harassment and discrimination complaints against faculty and staff” that went into effect in February of 2020, and the creation of the Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office (IDHR).

The IDHR has seen a steady growth in reports regarding discrimination or harassment in both student and employee cases. In 2022 to 2023, 198 employee and 218 student cases were reported. 44 percent of the cases were classified as “Sex/Gender-Based Discrimination.” Most recently, the IDHR has been charged with “handling incidents related to campus tensions stemming from the Israel-Hamas war.”

Nobles stated that the survey is expected to take 10 to 25 minutes to complete. 50 awards valued at \$500 each along with 700 TechCash prizes at \$25 each will be awarded to random participants. Nobles urged those who have difficulty accessing the survey or have questions to contact mitcommunitysurvey@mit.edu.

h's MLI

By The Tech Sports staff

ILB Postseason. In the American League Division Series against Minnesota with 6 outs, the Texas Rangers, record 1-0 against the Tampa Bay Rays. The Philadelphia Phillies swept the Los Angeles Dodgers in a 10-0 victory.

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

The Tech is looking for copy editors!

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

Sol. to i love you

from page 12

1	A	L	I				4	T	H	U	S
8	D	E	M	O	N		9	L	A	V	A
11	O	N	T	H	E	F	E	N	C	E	
			13	R	A	W	R	X	D		
			14	U	N	D	O	E	S		
15	M	A	S	K			17	C	O	L	L
20	E	L	I				21	M	E	M	O
22	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	E	N	D	
		27	O	N	E	M	O	R	E	T	R
		28	S	O	F	T					

THE TECH STAFF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PUBLISHERS Jyotsna Nair '25, Ellie Montemayor '26

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Alex Tang '26

MANAGING EDITOR Kate Lu '25

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Vivian Hir '25

CONTENT

NEWS Jayashabari Shankar '27, Tina Zhang '27, & Russel Ismael VS, NEWS EDITORS. STAFF | Alex Tang '26, Julia Fortt '26, Jessica He '26, Josh Nix '27.

WEATHER Adrienne Lai '25, CHIEF METEOROLOGIST. STAFF | Phoebe Lin '24, Rine Pan '24, Yoland Gao '25.

CAMPUS LIFE Alor Sahoo '26, CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR. STAFF | Vivian Hir '25, Caroline Chea '25, Vi Trinh '27, Claire Wang '27, Susan Hong '27, Russel Ismael VS.

ARTS Anahita Srinivasan '25, ARTS EDITOR. STAFF | Cameron Davis G, Vyshnavi Vennelakanti G, Teddy Schoenfeld '24, Alexis Yi '25, Vivian Hir '25, Ellie Montemayor '26, Kelly Kim '26.

SPORTS Hannah Friedman '27, SPORTS EDITOR.

SCIENCE Karie Shen '27, SCIENCE EDITOR. STAFF | Russel Ismael VS, Ved Ganesh '27.

ENTERTAINMENT Ellie Montemayor '26, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR. STAFF | Manaal Mohammed '25.

OPINION Srinidhi Narayanan '24, OPINION EDITOR.

PHOTO Alexa Simao '25 & Omar Orozco '25, PHOTO EDITOR. STAFF | Alex Laiman '24, Cady Boronkay '24, Jade Chongsathapornpong '24, Kate Lu '25, Michelle Xiang '26, Ellie Montemayor '26, Alison Soong '27, Emmanuel Adetunji '27.

PUBLISHING PRODUCTION Ellie Montemayor '26, PRODUCTION EDITOR. COPY Claire Mao '26 & Geoffrey Enwere '26, COPY CHIEFS. STAFF | Vi Trinh '27.

ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS Peter Pu '26, BUSINESS MANAGER (ASSOCIATE). Li Xuan Tan '26 & Colin Clark '26, TECH DIRECTORS (ASSOCIATE). STAFF | Madeline Leaño '26.

ADVISORY BOARD Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, Barry S. Surman '84, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Saul Blumenthal '98, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholanteril '02, Marissa Vogt '06, Austin Chu '08, Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08, Marie Y. Thibault '08, Angeline Wang '09, Jeff Guo '11, Anne Cai '14, Jessica L. Wass '14, Bruno Faviero '15, Kali Xu '15, Leon Lin '16, Kath Xu '16, Lenny Martinez Dominguez '17, Charlie J. Moore '17, William Navarre '17, Emma Bingham '19, Nafisa Syed '19, Áron

Ricardo Perez-Lopez '20, Nathan Liang '21, Joanna Lin '21, B. D. Colen.

EDITORS AT LARGE Senior Editors: Arun Wongprommoon '23, Phoebe Lin '24.

THE TECH (ISSN 0148-9607) is published periodically on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 391529, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. EMAIL: tt-general@mit.edu (general), tt-ads@mit.edu (advertising). Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2024 THE TECH. Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

SUBMISSION: We accept guest columns and op-eds from members of the MIT community for publication into print and online issues of THE TECH. We reserve the right to edit all material before publication. For any content submitted to and published by THE TECH, the creator of the corresponding work grants THE TECH a royalty-free, irrevocable, and perpetual license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, and create derivative works from such content. All material submitted becomes property of THE TECH.

This issue of THE TECH is sponsored by: THE KNIGHT SCIENCE JOURNALISM PROGRAM @ MIT

SPORTS BLITZ

Friday, March 22nd:

- Women’s Swimming and Diving placed 5th with 243 points at the NCAA Championship
- Men’s Swimming and Diving placed 11th with 106 points at the NCAA Championship
- Men’s Tennis defeated Wesleyan University 6–3
- Baseball defeated Montclair State University 9–4
- Baseball lost to Montclair State University 6–9
- Women’s Tennis defeated Emerson College 9–0

Saturday, March 23rd:

- Men’s Fencing placed 22nd at the NCAA Championship
- Women’s Swimming and Diving placed 5th with 344.5 points at the NCAA Championship
- Men’s Swimming and Diving placed 12th with 148 points at the NCAA Championship
- Sailing placed 4th at the Duplin Women’s Team Race at Harvard University
- Sailing placed 6th at the Friis Trophy
- Women’s Lacrosse defeated United States Coast Guard Academy 8–5
- Men’s Lacrosse lost to Babson College 8–15
- Men’s Tennis defeated Wheaton College 8–1

Sunday, March 24th:

- Softball defeated Colby College 6–1
- Softball defeated Elmhurst University 8–0

Monday, March 25th:

- Softball defeated Kalamazoo College 20–4
- Softball lost to Colby College 9–14

Tuesday, March 26th:

- Baseball lost to Babson College 8–14
- Women’s Tennis defeated Caltech 8–1

Wednesday, March 27th:

- Softball lost to Kalamazoo College 5–9
- Softball defeated Gustavus Adolphus College 5–1
- Women’s Lacrosse defeated Clark University 23–2
- Men’s Lacrosse lost to Hamilton College 11–17

Thursday, March 28th:

- Men’s Track and Field participated in the Raleigh Relays
- Women’s Track and Field participated in the Raleigh Relays
- Softball defeated Colby College 11–2
- Softball defeated Gustavus Adolphus College 5–1
- Men’s Volleyball defeated SUNY Poly 3–0

Friday, March 29th:

- Women’s Tennis lost to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges 4–5
- Men’s Volleyball defeated John Fisher University 3–1

Saturday, March 30th:

- Women’s Openweight Crew vs BU Lightweights and Wellesley- V8: 2nd; 2V8: 2nd; 3V8: 2nd; V4: 2nd
- Men’s Heavyweight Crew vs Holy Cross- V8: 2nd; 2V8: 3rd; V4: 2nd
- Men’s Track and Field placed 8th at Tufts University Snowflake Classic
- Women’s Track and Field placed 13th at Tufts University Snowflake Classic
- Men’s Lightweight Crew participated in the National Collegiate Lightweight Invitational
- Sailing placed 6th at the Boston University Trophy
- Sailing placed 5th at the Marchiando Trophy
- Sailing placed 11th at the Dellenbaugh Team Race
- Women’s Lacrosse defeated Wellesley College 23–3
- Softball lost to WPI 3–4
- Baseball lost to Salve Regina 0–7
- Men’s Volleyball lost to Nazareth University 2–3
- Men’s Lacrosse lost to Springfield College 10–13
- Softball defeated WPI 9–8
- Baseball lost to Salve Regina 6–16

Tuesday, April 2nd:

- Women’s Tennis beat Smith College 9-0
- Baseball lost to Babson College 3-10
- Men’s Lacrosse lost Colby College 9-11

Wednesday, April 3rd:

- Women’s Lacrosse beat Emerson College 24-5
- Men’s Volleyball beat Springfield College 3-2

Upcoming Sports Events

THURSDAY 4

Men’s Tennis
at Brandeis University

FRIDAY 5

Men’s Track and Field
at Colonial Relays

Women’s Track and Field
at Colonial Relays

Women’s Lacrosse
vs Bowdoin College

SATURDAY 6

Men’s Track and Field
at Colonial Relays

Women’s Track and Field
at Colonial Relays

Men’s Lightweight Crew
at San Diego Crew Classic

Men’s Track and Field
at Amherst Spring Fling

Women’s Track and Field
at Amherst Spring Fling

Women’s Openweight Crew
vs Boston College

Women’s Lightweight Crew
vs Simmons and Bates

Men’s Heavyweight Crew
vs Marist College

Sailing
at Brown, Yale, and Tufts

Softball
at Babson College

Women’s Tennis
vs Clark University

Baseball
at WPI

Men’s Lacrosse
vs United States Coast Guard Academy

Softball
at Babson College

Men’s Volleyball
vs American International College

Baseball
at WPI

Men’s Tennis
at Bowdoin College

Women’s Lacrosse
vs Mount Holyoke College

SUNDAY 7

Sailing
at Brown, Yale, and Tufts

Men’s Lightweight Crew
at San Diego Crew Classic

TUESDAY 9

Baseball
vs Springfield College

WEDNESDAY 10

Softball
vs Simmons University

Baseball
vs Tufts University

Men’s Tennis
vs Babson College

Softball
vs Simmons University

Women’s Lacrosse
vs Babson College

FRIDAY 12

Men’s Track and Field
at UConn Northeast Challenge

Women’s Track and Field
at UConn Northeast Challenge

Men’s Volleyball
vs UVC Tournament

Softball

at Wheaton College

Women’s Tennis
vs Amherst College

Men’s Tennis
vs Skidmore College

Softball
at Wheaton College

SATURDAY 13

Men’s Volleyball
vs UVC Tournament

Men’s Track and Field
at UConn Northeast Challenge

Women’s Track and Field
at UConn Northeast Challenge

Women’s Lightweight Crew
at Knecht Cup

Women’s Openweight Crew
at Knecht Cup

Men’s Heavyweight Crew
at Donahue Cup

Men’s Lightweight Crew
vs Biglin Bowl

Sailing
at Harvard, Thompson Trophy, and Oberg Fleet Race (at MIT)

Women’s Lacrosse
at Salve Regina University

Women’s Tennis
at Wellesley College

Men’s Tennis
vs United States Coast Guard Academy

Softball
vs Springfield College

Softball
vs Springfield College

Men’s Lacrosse
at Emerson College

SUNDAY 14

Sailing
at Harvard, Thompson Trophy, and Oberg Fleet Race (at MIT)

Women’s Lightweight Crew
at Knecht Cup

Women’s Openweight Crew
at Knecht Cup

Men’s Volleyball
vs UVC Tournament

MONDAY 15

Men’s Tennis
at Springfield College

TUESDAY 16

Women’s Tennis
at Springfield College

Baseball
at Springfield College

Men’s Lacrosse
vs Williams College

WEDNESDAY 17

Softball
at Tufts University

Baseball
at Amherst College

Men’s Tennis
vs Emerson College

Softball
at Tufts University

Women’s Lacrosse
at Springfield College

WORLD & NATION is a two-page column featuring news articles syndicated from a selection of major newspaper outlets, covering topics of public interest and critical information which extend beyond the bounds of THE TECH's coverage as centered around the MIT and local community. Ownership of syndicated content is retained under their original respective publications, and is republished in this format to serve as an easily-accessible, printed digest for THE TECH's readership.

The column consists of two pages, with Side A focused on US news and politics and Side B on topics of international concern. The articles featured here are abridged as to contain only their most essential points; readers are directed to read more about an article from its original publication.

The University of Texas at Austin is cutting its DEI staff to comply with state law

The University of Texas at Austin is eliminating an unknown number of diversity, equity and inclusion staff positions and closing its department focused on access and belonging on campus, university President Jay Hartzell said.

The staffing cuts come as the university works to comply with the state's anti-DEI law, or SB17, that bans public colleges and universities from maintaining DEI offices, holding mandatory DEI training, and having departments focused on "promoting differential treatment" based on race, sex or ethnicity.

— Nicquel Terry Ellis, FROM CNN
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

Protesters temporarily shut down Mass. Ave. bridge in Boston, police say

Police temporarily closed the Massachusetts Avenue bridge on Saturday as protestors marched through Boston in support of Palestinians in Gaza, officials said.

State Police said the demonstrators walked from Newbury Street in Boston to the bridge at about 6 p.m. The State Department of Transportation issued an alert on social media just before 6:45 p.m. that said the bridge was closed to traffic in both directions.

— Nick Stoico, FROM BOSTON GLOBE
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 30, 2024

Ruby Garcia's family found Trump's comments about her killing 'shocking'

The family of a murdered woman has angrily disputed Donald Trump's claim that he spoke to them. At a Tuesday rally, Mr Trump used the alleged killing of 25-year-old Ruby Garcia by an undocumented immigrant to illustrate his strong stances on immigration and crime.

"She lit up that room, and I've heard that from so many people," Mr Trump said. "I spoke to some of her family." But Ms Garcia's sister said they never talked to Mr Trump or his campaign. "He did not speak with us, so it was kind of shocking seeing that he had said that he had spoke with us, and misinforming people on live TV."

— Bernd Debusmann Jr., FROM BBC
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

California sheriff's deputies kill 17-year-old boy with mental health issues

Southern California sheriff's deputies shot and killed a 17-year-old boy with mental health issues after he armed himself with a knife and locked himself inside a bathroom at a home, authorities said Wednesday. The teen was being transferred from a hospital, where he had been treated after cutting himself, to a mental health facility when he escaped on Tuesday, the San Bernardino county sheriff Shannon Dicus said.

The boy, a foster youth who lived in Hesperia, later showed up at a home in Victorville, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles, where his sisters live in foster care, Dicus said.

— Abené Clayton, FROM THE GUARDIAN
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

Obama and Clinton rip Trump, boost Biden at \$26M NYC campaign fundraiser

Barack Obama and Bill Clinton joined President Joe Biden Thursday night in New York at the most lucrative fundraiser of the 2024 campaign, warning fellow Democrats that Donald Trump must be defeated while making forceful cases for Biden's reelection.

Appearing on stage together at Radio City Music Hall, the former presidents defended Biden's record in a push to rally Democrats around not just beating Trump but allowing Biden to continue his agenda.

The three presidents took turns taking questions during an "arm-chair conversation" moderated by Stephen Colbert, host of CBS' "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

— Joey Garrison, FROM USA TODAY
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 29, 2024

Hospital at center of Al. embryo ruling is ending I.V.F. services

Emily Cochrane

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

A Mobile, Ala., hospital at the center of a State Supreme Court ruling that found that frozen embryos could be considered children said on Wednesday that it would no longer provide in vitro fertilization lab services after this year.

In an email explaining the decision, Hannah Peterson, a spokeswoman for the Infirmary Health hospital system, cited "pending litigation and the lack of clarity of the recently passed I.V.F. legislation in the state of Alabama."

It was not immediately clear what effect the decision would have on patients seeking I.V.F. treatment. The fertility clinic that leases space in the hospital and uses its lab services said it would relocate.

But the announcement added a new layer to the confusion and

apprehension that has hung over patients since the February court ruling, which led the Mobile clinic and others in the state to temporarily suspend I.V.F. treatments.

Infirmary Health and the clinic, the Center for Reproductive Medicine, have been embroiled in legal turmoil since three couples sued them over the accidental destruction of their frozen embryos in 2020.

The State Supreme Court ruling was a victory for the couples, allowing them to proceed with their wrongful-death claims with the court's assertion that frozen embryos could legally be considered children. A second lawsuit was filed against both the hospital and the clinic in the weeks after the decision.

In the wake of the ruling, Alabama lawmakers scrambled to pass legislation that would shield clinics from criminal or civil liability. The new law does not apply to any embryo-related lawsuits in progress before it was enacted, in-

cluding the Mobile case.

With the suits against it still to be resolved, the hospital said on Wednesday that it would no longer offer I.V.F. treatment services after Dec. 31.

The Center for Reproductive Medicine said in a separate statement that it had also resumed treatment and would relocate its work to new facilities in Mobile and Daphne, Ala.

The new locations, the center said, would allow it to continue a "mission of helping individuals and couples achieve their dreams of starting or expanding their families."

The hospital's decision also underscored concerns that the new Alabama law had not gone far enough to adequately protect access to I.V.F. treatments, given that it did not address the question of whether frozen embryos should be considered children. Legal experts warned that the law might face additional constitutional challenges.

Deadly weather leaves destruction from Ga. to Il.

Dalia Faheid & Gene Norman

FROM CNN
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

At least one person is dead, several are injured and destruction has been reported in multiple states after a powerful storm system spawned tornadoes and damaging storms from the South to the Ohio Valley.

At least one person was killed in Kentucky as a result of Tuesday's destructive storms, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said. A man was killed in a car accident in Campbell County as brutal storms battered the state early Tuesday.

No other deaths or injuries were reported in the state, Beshear said. "But listen, the loss of one life, and I believe this is a young man, is a tragic occurrence and we'll be praying for him and his family," Beshear said. The governor enacted a statewide state of emergency Tuesday after the Lexington area saw "significant damage" from the storms.

The storms also injured at least 10 people in Jeffersonville, Indiana, just north of Louisville, the town's mayor told CNN affiliate WLKY. Photos posted by the mayor showed chunks taken out of several homes' roofs and debris strewn about an area neighborhood.

Severe thunderstorms brought "flooding, downed trees, power outages, and road blockages" across West Virginia, according to Gov. Jim Justice, who declared a state of emergency Tuesday for Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln and Nicholas counties.

At least 13 homes were damaged and some residents were injured, Fayette County, West Virginia, Office of Emergency Management director Kevin Walker told CNN. The injuries were non-life threatening, Walker said.

"Some are destroyed, and some have major damage," Walker said. Sixteen tornadoes were reported Tuesday and Wednesday morning across Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia,

along with dozens of damaging wind reports, including gusts topping 100 mph in Kentucky.

A tornado ripped through Conyers, Georgia, just southeast of Atlanta early Wednesday morning, downing power lines and causing damage there, according to CNN affiliate WXIA. The storm sent a tree smashing through a teen's car and into his lap. The teen was rescued and taken to a hospital, WXIA reported.

The National Weather Service office in Peachtree City said the twister was rated EF2, traveled approximately 9.5 miles and was 800 yards wide. Winds were as high as 115 mph.

No injuries were reported.

An Ohio elementary school was left in shambles in Proctorville after a tornado-warned storm moved through the area. Luckily, students at Fairland West Elementary were on spring break, but the school will remain closed for now, school district officials told CNN.

Trump posts \$175 million bond in NY civil fraud case

Kara Scannell & Jeremy Herb

FROM CNN
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 2, 2024

Former President Donald Trump has posted a \$175 million bond as he appeals the judgment against him in the New York civil fraud case brought by state Attorney General Letitia James.

Trump's bond pauses any action that James could take against Trump's properties in response to the judgement until at least September, when the state appeals court also set a schedule to hear his appeal of the \$464 million verdict against him.

The bond is underwritten by Knight Specialty Insurance, a California-based insurance company, but the court document does not list the collateral that Trump used to secure the bond.

Last month, Trump said at a news conference he would use cash to cover the bond, but claimed that he also wanted to use cash to fund his reelection

campaign.

Yet asked if he planned to start personal funds into his presidential campaign, Trump said, "First of all, it's none of your business," before adding, "I might do that. I have the option."

The bond amount was lowered by several hundred million dollars by a state appeals court last month after Trump's attorneys argued that covering the full bond on the \$464 million verdict against him was not feasible. (Trump himself was ordered to pay \$454 million; the \$464 million includes the disgorgement for his adult sons Don Jr. and Eric.)

In January, Judge Arthur Engoron fined Trump and his co-defendants, including his adult sons and his company, \$464 million, finding they fraudulently inflated the value of the former president's assets to obtain better loan rates.

Trump had been given 30 days to post the bond for the full amount of the judgement while

he appealed, as is required by state law, but his attorneys said he could not find an insurance company to underwrite that large of a bond. That prompted James to take steps to prepare to seize Trump's assets in the event Trump failed to post bond.

When the 30-day deadline hit, however, the New York appeals court stepped in and lowered the bond to \$175 million, giving Trump an additional 10 days.

"As promised, President Trump has posted bond," Trump attorney Alina Habba said in a statement. "He looks forward to vindicating his rights on appeal and overturning this unjust verdict." In a Truth Social post on Tuesday morning, the former president said he posted the bond "just for the right to appeal this travesty of a case" and criticized Engoron.

Trump also posted a \$91.6 million bond last month in the E. Jean Carroll defamation case while he appeals that verdict against him.

Zelensky lowers Ukraine’s draft age, risking political backlash

Andrew Kramer

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine has signed into law three measures aimed at replenishing the ranks of his country's exhausted and battered army, including the politically poisonous step of lowering the age when men become eligible for mobilization, and eliminating some medical exemptions.

Parliament passed the legislation lowering the draft eligibility age to 25, from 27, last May, but Mr. Zelensky had delayed signing it in hopes that it would not be needed. He relented on Tuesday and signed the measure, along with laws eliminating a category of medical exemption known as “partially eligible” and creating an electronic database of men in Ukraine, starting at age 17, to crack down on draft dodgers.

“It is a very unpopular decision, and that is why Zelensky held it

without signing,” said Volodymyr Arieiev, a lawmaker in Parliament who is in the opposition European Solidarity party. “Now he has no choice.”

Russia’s forces have been on the offensive along the front line, and Ukrainian generals have warned of a broader attack in the spring or summer, even as Ukraine’s army runs low on ammunition and many soldiers have been on continual combat duty for two years.

Ukraine’s army of about one million soldiers is fighting the largest war in Europe since World War II, waged in muddy trenches or the ruins of cities in urban combat. Casualty rates are high. Most men who wanted to volunteer for the military have already done so, and small anti-draft protests had broken out before the new laws were passed.

Ukraine is expected, at best, to hold the existing front lines in ground fighting this year, but only if a new influx of American weapons arrives, military analysts say,

and risks falling back without it. To maximize its efforts, Ukraine plans to replenish its army through mobilization while trying to keep Russia off balance with sabotage missions behind enemy lines and long-range drone strikes, such as attacks on an oil refinery and weapons plant in Russia on Tuesday.

Ukraine relies on its allies for most new ammunition and weapons, and renewing that arsenal is mostly a matter beyond the country’s control. In Washington on Monday, the House speaker, Mike Johnson, laid out conditions for a vote on a fresh infusion of American weapons and financial aid, in the strongest indication yet that the assistance could be forthcoming despite opposition from many Republicans.

At home, Ukraine has stumbled on the overhaul of mobilization rules. In January, its Parliament withdrew a draft law on mobilization that included stiffened penalties for draft dodgers.

Biden administration gauges Israeli compliance with laws of war

A group of 17 Democratic senators is calling on the Biden administration to reject Israel’s claims that it is not violating international law by restricting humanitarian aid amid a growing debate in Washington over whether the United States should suspend arms transfers to the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The State Department last week received Israel’s written assurances that its use of U.S.-supplied weapons in the Gaza war has not violated international or U.S. laws in its conduct of the war and protection of civilians, including the provision of sufficient aid.

The assurances were sent in response to a national security memorandum issued by President Biden in early February.

— Karen DeYoung, John Hudson & Yasmeen Abutaleb,

FROM WASHINGTON POST
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 22, 2024

Scotland’s government says a new law will tackle hate crime. Critics say it could hurt free speech

A new law against hate speech came into force in Scotland on Monday, praised by some but criticized by others who say its sweeping provisions could criminalize religious views or tasteless jokes.

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act makes it an offense to stir up hatred with threatening or abusive behavior on the basis of characteristics including age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity. Racial hatred was already banned under a law dating from 1986. The maximum sentence is seven years in prison.

— Jill Lawless, FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

Zimbabwean president declares state of disaster due to drought

Zimbabwe has declared a national disaster over a drought caused by the climate event known as El Niño and President Emmerson Mnangagwa has said the country needs \$2bn in aid to help millions of people who are going hungry. The severe dry spell is wreaking havoc across southern Africa.

“No Zimbabwean must succumb or die from hunger,” Mnangagwa told a press conference. “To that end, I do hereby declare a nationwide state of disaster, due to the El Niño-induced drought.” Due to poor rains, more than 2.7 million people will not have enough food to put on the table this year, he warned.

— FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

British Steel wins multimillion-pound contract for Egyptian rail project

British Steel has won a multimillion-pound contract to supply rail for a new route in north Africa, the company has announced. Approximately 9,500 tonnes of track, produced in Scunthorpe, will be provided for Egypt’s first fully electrified mainline and freight network which stretches from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

The network is 410 miles (660km) long and will carry trains for passengers and goods up to a maximum speed of 155mph. British Steel is among a number of suppliers providing rail to the project.

— FROM PA MEDIA
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 2, 2024

World Central Kitchen attack in Gaza spotlights dangers for aid workers

A few weeks before seven World Central Kitchen aid workers were killed in an Israeli airstrike, Israel’s Defense Ministry issued a request to Anera, another humanitarian group operating in Gaza. The ministry wanted the coordinates of Anera’s offices, distribution centers, shelters and other places where the organization’s employees work or live.

It was the second time that Anera had been asked to provide such coordinates, said its president and chief executive, Sean Carroll, whose group partners with chef José Andrés’s World Central Kitchen (WCK) in Gaza.

— Tim Carman & Emily Heil, FROM WASHINGTON POST
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

Biden and Xi seek to manage tensions in phone call as US officials head to China

Joe Biden and Xi Jinping have clashed in a telephone call about Taiwan and US trade restrictions on technology, but sought to manage their tensions as two top US officials prepare to visit Beijing.

The nearly two-hour telephone conversation on Tuesday was the two leaders’ first direct interaction since a summit in November in California that saw a marked thaw in tone, if not the long-term rivalry, between the world’s two largest economies.

US officials said the talks were not aimed at managing but rather than resolving differences, and the two leaders were open about heated disagreements.

— FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 2, 2024

More than 53,000 to flee Haiti capital in less than three weeks

Evans Sanon

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

More than 53,000 people have fled Haiti’s capital in less than three weeks, the vast majority to escape unrelenting gang violence, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday.

More than 60% are headed to Haiti’s rural southern region, which worries U.N. officials.

“Our humanitarian colleagues emphasized that these departments do not have sufficient infrastructure, and host communities do not have sufficient resources, to cope with the large number of people fleeing Port-au-Prince,” said U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

The southern region already hosts more than 116,000 Haitians who previously left Port-au-Prince, according to the report by the U.N.’s International Organization for Migration.

The exodus from the capital of some 3 million people be-

gan shortly after powerful gangs launched a series of attacks on government institutions at the end of February. Gunmen have burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that remains closed and stormed Haiti’s two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

More than 1,500 people have been reported killed up to March 22, and another 17,000 have been left homeless, according to the U.N.

Among the rare travelers trying to head north instead of south from the capital were Marjorie Michelle-Jean, a 42-year-old street vendor, and her two children, ages 4 and 7.

“I want to see them alive,” she said, explaining that stray bullets keep hitting the tin roof of their home. Last week, they tried twice to travel to her hometown of Mirebalais in central Haiti but were forced to turn back because of roadblocks.

“I will definitely try again,” she said. “It’s absolutely not safe in Port-au-Prince.”

Of the 53,125 people who fled Port-au-Prince from March 8-27, nearly 70% already had been forced to abandon their homes and were living with relatives or in crowded and unsanitary makeshift shelters across the capital, the U.N. found.

More than 90% of Haitians leaving the capital have been crowding into buses, risking travel through gang-controlled territory where gang rapes have been reported and gunmen have been known to open fire on public transport.

The violence forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry to announce last month that he would resign once a transitional presidential council is created. Henry was in Kenya to push for the U.N.-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country when the attacks began, and he remains locked out of Haiti.

Taiwan wakes up to aftermath of worst earthquake in 25 years

Rupert Wingfield-Hayes & Fiona Nimoni

FROM BBC
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 3, 2024

The people of Taiwan have woken up to the aftermath of its worst earthquake in a quarter of a century. Rescue efforts continued on Thursday after a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck the island’s eastern coast on Wednesday at 07:58 local time 23:58 (GMT).

At least nine people were killed and more than 1,000 injured when the quake hit 18km (11 miles) south of Hualien. More than a hundred people are still understood to be trapped in collapsed tunnels and roads along the coastline.

Rescue operations to reach 77 people trapped in the Jinwen and Qingshui tunnels along the road in Hualien continued into the early hours of Thursday morning.

Pictures show how the road outside the Qingshui tunnel had simply fallen away.

There are many narrow, wind-

ing roads and tunnels carved out of the rock and mountains that run along Hualien’s rugged coastline.

The route is popular with tourists, famed for its spectacular views from the mountains out across the Pacific Ocean. But it is also known to be treacherous, not least because of the possibility of landslides.

One of the routes takes locals and tourists to the Taroko National Park, named after a landmark gorge, just outside Hualien, which is considered to be one of the natural wonders of Asia. Three of those who died were hikers on a trail there and 50 of those who are trapped are staff who were being transported to a popular hotel, ahead of a four-day long weekend.

It is unclear how long those inside will be trapped - and whether or not they have food and water, or can communicate with the outside world.

The earthquake also triggered tsunami alerts earlier in the day on Wednesday in nearby Japanese and Philippine islands - but the

alerts were later downgraded.

It caused the most damage in Hualien, where buildings fell, roads were blocked and train lines disrupted, leaving the remote region even more cut off from the rest of Taiwan.

"I was just getting out of bed when a clothes rack and a low cabinet fell over," Ocean Tsai, who lives in Hualien, told BBC Chinese. "It kept getting stronger, and I started worrying about our belongings at home. Fortunately, apart from the motorcycle tipping over, the damage was minimal."

Social media was soon filled with extraordinary footage of landslides along the coast. They tumbled down the mountains, making huge clouds billow up from the sea as they crashed into it.

Further north, Taipei was also shaken violently with footage showing collapsed residential buildings, and people being evacuated from their homes and schools. Local TV stations aired clips of smashed vehicles and stores in disarray.

INTERVIEW

Breaking Boundaries in Music

The Tech sits down with Chromic Duo to talk about music, multimedia, and storytelling

By Vivian Hir
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Tech sat down with Dorothy Chan and Lucy Yao of Chromic Duo, an interdisciplinary music group that explores the intersections between various mediums, from toy pianos to sound walks. Chromic Duo recently performed From Roots We Carry under the Celebrity Series of Boston program on Friday, March 22nd, in Somerville Theater. From Roots We Carry encourages listeners to ponder upon the significance and impact of intergenerational legacies.

This interview has been edited for clarity.

The Tech: What’s the story behind Chromic Duo?

Dorothy Chan: We met at the New England Conservatory (NEC). We were both at a music festival and we met in the hallway. I was rolling the toy piano and Lucy was like, “What is this?” We are both curious people and that’s a guiding force for us.

Lucy Yao: I was thinking about what else could there be besides classical piano and other kinds of stories. People are not being represented in classical music. I was thinking of interesting ways to do that. When I saw her [Dorothy], there was this surprise.

TT: How did you come up with the name?

DC: chuckles. We locked ourselves in a room and decided on a name. It sounds like a science element name, a physics term, like things morphing together.

LY: To me, chromic feels very futuristic and hopeful in some ways. Like Asian futurism and what could be possible. It’s looking back on our work and what’s exciting for us. After four years of being together, that’s what chromic is.

TT: How did you become interested in toy pianos in combination with other mediums like storytelling and installations?

DC: It was around 2016 to 2017. I was doing a lot of contemporary classical stuff, so I was diverging from playing Chopin and Beethoven. I was doing experimental chamber music and I stumbled upon it [toy piano]. The toy piano part came from being curious about how the sound was made. The toy piano is not a standardized instrument. It is made of a lot of materials: plastic rods, glass rods, hollow rods. It is fascinating what sounds it is capable of making.

I was like, “Wow, there is a whole world of people playing this in a serious setting.” It’s not just for kids. It tugs at me differently because it breaks the traditional sense of expectation of what instruments can be or how the Western classical world should behave: people clap at a certain time, people dress at a certain time.

I was just excited about how it is a non-serious instrument that people are making serious music with; it opens up accessibility for me. The piano doesn’t have to be this rigid thing. It can be so many things and it can touch you, like all music.

LY: This is a perfect moment for me to segue into this. We played toy pianos in 2019, but as the pandemic hit shortly after our first concert, we had to think of other mediums, and other ways of collaborating online. It wasn’t just talking about toy pianos, but also a shift in thinking. We don’t have a concert hall anymore, but we need to tell stories. We need stories to heal us. How can we do that? That opened up the

possibilities for us. We fell into technology and coding and everything else.

TT: What’s the story behind your Boston Celebrity Series program, Roots We Carry?

LY: The program name comes from one piece we did that specifically talks about Asian American identity called From Roots We Carry. But that’s not how I would describe it. The piece asks about the traditions and rituals we have inherited from our parents, meditating on what we carry, and what we want to leave behind. We invite the audience to reflect as they listen to stories and interviews talking about these things.

DC: This [From Roots We Carry] is a collaboration with Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, a multidisciplinary artist. The sculpture you saw [in the video] is the visual element that accompanied the music and narration. We brought this piece into the concert hall setting so we could bring in these stories and the performance ritual to concertgoers. We will be playing this at the Celebrity Series as the closing piece.

TT: What happens behind the scenes from an idea to the finished product, whether it is a video or installation? How did you end up collaborating with Amanda?

LY: It’s funny how things can connect and make sense only when you have some distance behind them. For instance, this project [From Roots We Carry] first premiered in the fall of 2022. I learned about Amanda’s work during the pandemic in early 2020. I remember it was the peak of anti-AAPI hate crime. Chinatown was struggling to come back and there were a lot of people scared to open their businesses. There was a lot of fear, justifiably so.

Amanda was such a signal of hope and resilience. She worked with the NYC government and had beautiful, colorful displays in Times Square and the city. There was one at Lincoln Center that said, “We belong here.” Pictures of elderly Asian Americans. I never saw anything like that before, or people like us. It brought me a lot of inspiration.

I saw that and at the same time, we were collaborating with the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program. They wanted to find a special way to present the young composers’ compositions. The concert hall was closed and they asked us since we did augmented reality and Zoom performances. We created our first sound walk using augmented reality.

The sound walk led from Central Park to Lincoln Center and their phones were triggering different sounds as we told different stories. How can we imagine a future in which Asian American history is taught in schools? How can we imagine a future that is more representative of a full, diverse story?

DC: We will be playing a concert adaptation of Ravel’s Pavane. It’s talking about the final point when we arrive at Amanda’s mural that says, “We belong here.” The piece is like a circle, in the sense of learning classical music and being together. We wanted to be more in touch with our community, so we started expanding by doing dance, film, and sound walks. Sound walks make the concert experience more accessible because they can be done anytime by downloading an app. We bring all that stuff and go back to the concert hall. Our ethos spans across different mediums and audiences.

TT: Lucy, you said that MIT’s virtual reality hackathon was inspirational. Could you elaborate on that?

LY: I have always been attracted by other things outside of music, even when I played classical music. I loved to sit in on lectures on literature. I was a Shakespeare fan. I also liked Murakami. I came to the MIT hackathon through NYU ITP (Interactive Telecommunications Program). I am not a coder, but I love collaborating with coders and programmers. I wanted to break out. I was in a creative rut. I was excited when I got to collaborate with people. I came with no plan, just to see what would happen like if I ran an experiment at the hackathon.

Even though I felt like an imposter because I had no technological skills, I felt affirmed by my ideas and the way I think through storytelling, creating art and connecting people through that medium. I realized that I had so much to offer. That’s how we ended up on the project Failtopia, which has a lot of themes in common with Chromic Duo. People have always talked about failure. You know, the Museum of Failure. NASA reports on failures. There are studies about it [failure].

But there is still a culture of not showing that, especially on social media or in our careers as artists. After you graduate, it is difficult to talk about it. I didn’t have stuff figured out and felt like a failure. I wanted to create a space where it was okay to talk about it and share stories of failure. That’s how Failtopia came to be.

It was a VR experience where you could share your stories and learn from previous generations and mistakes. Failtopia has that aspect of shared learning and intergenerational exchange of ideas. There are so many ways to communicate. You can do it through concert, VR, XR. The possibilities become more expansive.

TT: How has your Asian American identity shaped your music and art?

LY: The Asian American identity doesn’t directly apply to the experience. In general, I approach the creative process by asking, “Who is this for, and why does this story need to be told?” What kind of lessons and stories can we learn from?

DC: My music is motivated by wanting to share something, like myself, thoughts that I have. I was a passport baby. I was born in the U.S., but I grew up in Hong Kong. Then I came to the States.

When the word, “third-culture kid,” came about, I was like, “This is me.” It is hard to find what is home for me. In the U.S., I am not quite American, but I am also not quite a Hong Konger. When we are in the process of finding home, finding belonging in different works, it is a journey where we always yearn to find that place and to reflect on these issues.

We are all carrying something. We don’t stop in our lives to think about those issues enough. I think that especially in a concert setting, we have you hear us for an hour. Let’s use this hour to go further and deeper.

TT: How has your classical performance training influenced your musical compositions?

DC: I didn’t really start writing music until the last couple of years. Classical training is more like a foundation. The foundation helps you understand the form of art. A typical example is like art school and you draw the apples. In the end, you do a dot and splash. Without that journey,

it is hard to imagine what rules to break and what it means to be drawing the apple versus that splash.

LY: I have an example of this in our process [musical composition]. We are currently working on an artist residency and sound walk project that will have visual filters. We are building an app with Texas A&M. Being classically trained and analyzing piano sonatas form helped. We think of ABA form not just in composition but also in a sound walk, in the stories we are telling, like the UN SDG (Sustainability Development Goal) about life underwater. How do we tell a story that compels people to feel moved, inspired, and called to action?

A form is the main theme, the opening of a piece that’s more accessible and it won’t scare people right away. You offer some of yourself to open up this vulnerable space. B form is going to develop and challenge our listeners because it is difficult news and a deeper form. Then we return to A form. We went into this vulnerable space and asked the question, “What can we do to make sure life isn’t below water, that we commit to this goal?”

TT: What projects are you currently working on? Any ideas on what future paths Chromic Duo will take?

DC: We have so many fun ideas we want to explore. more like managing time and funding to make them happen. Lucy mentioned the Texas A&M project, which will be launched at the end of April. We have another sound walk collaboration with Wave Hill Public Garden in New York. We are working with students and fellows to conserve nature and find ways to connect to nature. That will launch in the fall.

Lastly, we are also doing a dance project in the fall with this dance group out in Kalamazoo, MI, called Wellspring. The project has high school dancers finding stories about home and food, food that makes them feel a sense of belonging. We are putting it together into a piece. There’s live music and choreography.

TT: What do you do when you experience a creative block? Where do you get inspiration for your music and art?

DC: As cliché as it sounds, giving yourself space is important. I am an accountable, responsibility-driven person. I have to get it done at a certain time. I am knocking them off. But to sit down and engage with art and create stuff, I need to not have so many of those things. When I have space, I don’t have much of a block. I can dabble on it.

LY: Honestly we have very different answers on it [creative block]. When Dorothy is in the zone, she has full creative expression. A creative rut is more defined by burn-out, like the administrative and production side. It’s more like how to create space for rest and for taking care of yourself. I don’t know if creating is the problem. It’s more of balancing out the things. I get stuck on ideas. I go through periods when there isn’t anything in my brain, so I don’t feel as motivated.

It’s having a rest and break and doing something completely different. It’s seeking out help from others and hearing what’s inspiring to them. I love going to conferences and seeing what people are presenting and working on, like art galleries and film screenings. Anything that gets my mind going and thinking from a different perspective.



Enjoy reading these arts articles?
Don't you also want free food, free movies, free books and more as well?

Join arts at The Tech!
join@tech.mit.edu



Tim the Beaver rescued by Coast Guard after nearly drowning

USCG lieutenant: "A truly humiliating performance for a Semi-Aquatic species"

Willy Wonka
NEWS EDITOR

In a harrowing turn of events that has left the MIT community reeling, beloved mascot Tim the Beaver was rescued by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) after nearly drowning in the waters of the Charles River during a morning swim last Friday.

Student eyewitnesses described the scene as chaotic, with bystanders watching in horror as Tim struggled to stay afloat in the remarkably calm waters. Several MIT students attempted a rescue, only to quickly realize they themselves also lacked swimming skills.

Mary Williams, a Cambridge local who was passing by on a morning jog, came across the frenzied scene and promptly dialed 911.

"I found it truly shocking that so many students lacked the common sense to dial 911 before attempting a rescue," Williams told a Tech reporter.

After the call, USCG Lieutenant Rachel McMillan was dispatched to lead the rescue mission. The USCG team promptly deployed highly-trained water rescuers to retrieve Tim. After a few tense minutes, the team successfully brought Tim to shore and wrapped him in a warm blanket, much to the relief of spectators gathered on the riverbank.

Lt. McMillan recounted the dramatic events with a mixture of amusement and disbelief. "When we received the 911 distress call about a

beaver, we assumed it was simply an animal rescue," she explained. "Nothing could have prepared us for the sight of Tim frantically struggling with his paws to stay afloat in the Charles. It was a truly humiliating performance for a semi-aquatic species."

News of Tim's brush against death sent shockwaves through the MIT community, prompting an outpouring of support and concern for the beloved mascot. "Tim may not be as strong a swimmer as his California counterpart, but he is a resilient beaver," remarked President Sally Kornbluth in a statement to the community. "We are incredibly grateful to the USCG for their swift response and heroic efforts to save our cherished mascot."

In an interview with *The Tech*, Provost of Education Cynthia Barnhart reflected on students' poor swimming skills and failed rescue attempts, noting that "[the institute] may need to raise the bar to pass the swimming test administered to incoming first year students in light of the disappointing showing by MIT bystanders."

As for Tim, the ordeal has not dampened his spirits. "According to my preliminary calculations, I should have remained buoyant enough to swim in the Charles, but I seem to have underestimated my swimming skills," he admitted. "However, I remain in good health and will continue to cheer on all of MIT's athletic teams when they inevitably lose. Wait, this is off the record, right?"



RICH CORNISH - THE TECH

Tim never lost his sprightly, cheerful demeanor even after staring death in the face.

MIT Commencement Shake-Up: Samuel Bankman-Fried Takes Center Stage

Campus left in eager anticipation for the arrival of their most notable alum

Amanda Tori Meating
STAFF WRITER

In a surprising turn of events that has left the MIT community buzzing with anticipation and excitement, the Institute announced this week that it has replaced its 2024 commencement speaker, Dr. Noubar Afeyan, with none other than Samuel Bankman-Fried (also known as SBF) — the infamous cryptocurrency mogul and founder of FTX Exchange.

While Dr. Afeyan — best known for his co-founding role in pharmaceutical company Moderna — was initially slated to address the graduating class, MIT's decision to tap Bankman-Fried as the new commencement speaker has caused quite a stir on campus. Many MIT students expressed excitement over the new speaker selection.

"I'm stoked for SBF's speech! This is going to be more epic than Mark Rober's speech! I'm sure all the other universities are so jealous!" Nicholas Stevenson, a senior in Applied Physics, told the Tech.

However, reservations have been raised about the logistics of the event, including how Bankman-Fried would give a speech from behind bars. Some students have also expressed frustration about the inability to obtain autographs or handshakes. President Sally Kornbluth sought to address these concerns in a statement to the community.

"Mr. Bankman-Fried is an incredible innovator and entrepreneur," Kornbluth's statement reads. "MIT is proud to possess such a talented and inspiring alumnus. After working with federal authorities, I am excited to announce that I will personally visit Mr. Bankman-Fried at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center so he can give his speech live via teleconferencing. All students will also have their diplomas personally signed by Mr. Bankman-Fried."

One professor submitted an anonymous comment to The Tech regarding the speaker switch-up. "I don't think going to a prison is befitting of an MIT president," the professor remarked, "but I would gladly go in her stead to

meet Samuel Bankman-Fried."

Some students see it as an opportunity for MIT to make history. Trang Vuu, a Chemical Engineering PhD student, considers it a benefit to diversity.

"Sure, some people may be concerned about MIT replacing Dr. Afeyan, whose cultural background as a Lebanese-born Armenian adds richness to his perspective, with a white speaker. However, it's worth noting SBF will offer a diverse perspective as MIT's first commencement speaker federally convicted of seven charges!" Vuu commented.

Dr. Noubar Afeyan himself expressed support for the decision in an interview with the Tech, stating, "As an entrepreneur myself, I recognize the entrepreneurial spirit in Mr. Bankman-Fried, and I would gladly give way for this talented young man, perhaps the finest in MIT's history, to inspire future MIT graduates."

As the countdown to commencement begins, all eyes are on MIT as we prepare to warmly welcome Samuel Bankman-Fried to the virtual podium.

IN SHORT

If you're wondering what's in this issue: It's a load of nonsense.

Send news and tips to tech@caltech.edu

Greetings from your friends on the warm, sunny west coast! Thanks so much for your hospitality — we hope to see you again real soon <3

—The California Tech Editors

Note from THE TECH: This April Fools' insert within Issue No. 5, published on April 4, 2024, was crafted by staffers from The California Tech and MIT's THE TECH. The content of this issue is intended to be satirical and intended for humorous publication.



WEATHER

WEATHER, p. C2

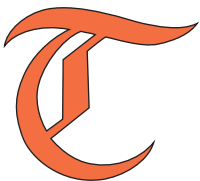
CLAIRVOYANT

DIGEST

DIGEST, p. C3

COOKING CATASTROPHES MIT DOESN'T ACTUALLY EXIST

CAMPUS LIFE, p. C4



TASK FORCE VOLUME OF GRAPES MEDIA LAB

CAMPUS LIFE, p. C5

SOME ARTICLES IDK WHATEVER ???

INSERT SECTION, p. C8

SECTIONS

Weather. C2
Clairvoyant. . . . C3
Campus Life . . . C4
Opinion C6
Sports C8
Quasar. C8

WEATHER FORECAST

6-10 day temperature outlook
Valid: February 7th to 11th
Source: NOAA/CPC

Probability of below
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Equal Chances means equal chances for above, normal, below
Probability of above
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

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

MY FAVORITE PART OF WINTER IS

WATCHING IT ON TV FROM CALIFORNIA

Computing Optional? Data Show Students Not Using Computers

Big William
NEWS EDITOR

The Tech is currently undergoing a writer’s shortage. As a result we have had to reuse some of the words we wrote in out last, March 21st issue.

“As a perfect example of why Boston [...] is the worst,”¹ “approximately 0”² “MIT students”³ “use computers or computing in their field.”⁴ “To”⁵ “study”⁶ “this,”⁷ “at the beginning of March, MIT’s Department of Facilities installed a number of cameras in the interior and exterior of Lobbies 7 and 10.”⁸

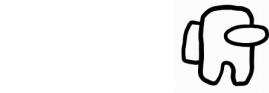
“In an interview with the Tech, President”⁹ “man with the head of an ass”¹⁰ “was”¹¹ “Optimally Stiff”¹² “in”¹³ “an odd, somewhat flirty interview,”¹⁴ “they”¹⁵ “said that “the impetus” for the cameras being installed was “not for surveillance of the student body.””¹⁶ “Enjoy the dreary, wet, and cloudy landscape”¹⁷ “and”¹⁸ “cameras,”¹⁹ “knowing everyone else is tanning on a beach somewhere.”²⁰

“Other”²¹ “changes include the retirement of the existing”²² “prime suspect.”²³ “At a time when other institutions of higher learning in America did not welcome or even admit those from the”²⁴ “sus”²⁵ “community to their universities, MIT was an exception”²⁶ “It is unfortunate but clear that for the”²⁷ “suspect”²⁸ “community, this atmosphere of safety, inclusion, and peaceful scientific study has ended.”²⁹

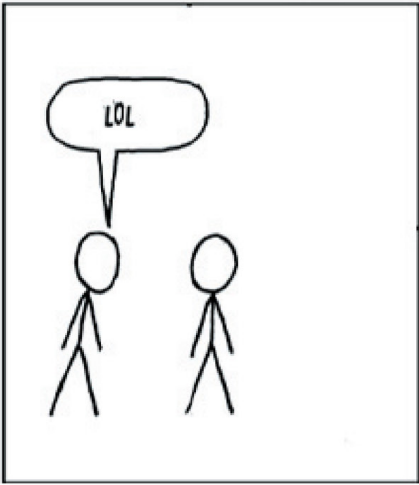
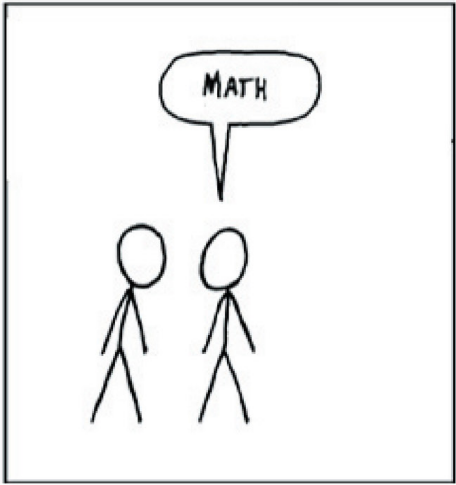
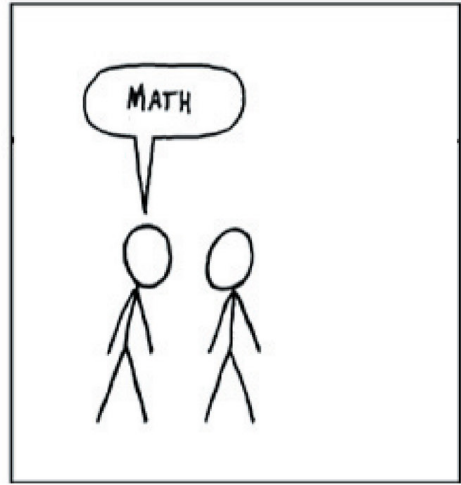
“Student reactions ranged from indifference to indignation. A poster plasted on campus had a picture of a”³⁰ “crew”³¹ “mate”³² “and the caption, ‘Our world runs on this... Thanks’”³³ “man with the head of an ass”³⁴ “The Tech spoke with a [...] student”³⁵ “who”³⁶ “said”³⁷ “‘What’s not to love about [...] man with the head of an ass?’”³⁸

“If you’re looking for a good laugh on campus, I’d recommend”³⁹ “jet setting away.”⁴⁰

1. Lai, Adrienne. “WEATHER FORECAST.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 2
2. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 83
3. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 219
4. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 84
5. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 7
6. Handel et al. “CAA’s suspension must be made permanent.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 11 l. 17
7. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 1
8. Tang, Alex and Russel, Ismael. “Cameras installed in Lobby 7 and 10.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 1
9. Tang, Alex and Russel, Ismael. “Cameras installed in Lobby 7 and 10.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 26
10. Oloko, Alayo. “MIT’s Shakespeare Ensemble delivers a hilarious performance of a Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 7 l. 5
11. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 7
12. Ganesh, Ved. “New AI model discovers optimally stiff and tough composites.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 9
13. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 8
14. Davis, Cameron. “Putting parental and spousal dynamics on gripping trial in Anatomy of a Fall.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 10 l. 25
15. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 41
16. Tang, Alex and Russel, Ismael. “Cameras installed in Lobby 7 and 10.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 27
17. Lai, Adrienne. “WEATHER FORECAST.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 11
18. Lai, Adrienne. “WEATHER FORECAST.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 12
19. Tang, Alex and Russel, Ismael. “Cameras installed in Lobby 7 and 10.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 3
20. Lai, Adrienne. “WEATHER FORECAST.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 12
21. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 46
22. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 10
23. Davis, Cameron. “Putting parental and spousal dynamics on gripping trial in Anatomy of a Fall.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 10 l. 39
24. Handel et al. “CAA’s suspension must be made permanent.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 11 l. 1
25. Davis, Cameron. “Putting parental and spousal dynamics on gripping trial in Anatomy of a Fall.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 10 l. 39
26. Handel et al. “CAA’s suspension must be made permanent.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 11 l. 3
27. Handel et al. “CAA’s suspension must be made permanent.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 11 l. 14
28. Davis, Cameron. “Putting parental and spousal dynamics on gripping trial in Anatomy of a Fall.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 10 l. 39
29. Handel et al. “CAA’s suspension must be made permanent.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 11 l. 15
30. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 63
31. “Upcoming Sports Events.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 3 l. 22
32. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 83
33. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 64
34. Oloko, Alayo. “MIT’s Shakespeare Ensemble delivers a hilarious performance of a Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 7 l. 5
35. Tang, Alex. “New Course 6 Major proposed in Electrical Engineering with Computing, 6-1 to be eliminated.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 1 l. 68
36. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 46
37. Ismael, Russel and Hir, Vivian. “Inside the mind of a musicologist.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 6 l. 117
38. Oloko, Alayo. “MIT’s Shakespeare Ensemble delivers a hilarious performance of a Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 7 l. 3
39. Oloko, Alayo. “MIT’s Shakespeare Ensemble delivers a hilarious performance of a Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 7 l. 138
40. Lai, Adrienne. “WEATHER FORECAST.” The Tech, 21 Mar. 2024, p. 2 l. 5



xkcd, i guess



Bob Carl and Harold Mart, altered from XKCD

The California Tech

SUPREME OVERLORD
Ellie Montemayor :)

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Michael Gutierrez
Lilia Arrizabalga

MANAGING EDITORS
Maxwell Montemayor
Victoria Davis

LAYOUT + GRAPHICS
Alanna Yelland

STAFF WRITERS
Zack Ivanisevic
Miles Stone
Leo Zhang
Jun Hyuk Kwak
Bao Nguyen
Sam Foxman
Ethan Labelson

BUSINESS MANAGER
Jonathan Booker

ADVISOR
Richard Kipling

The California Tech aims to publish biweekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers. Letters and submissions are welcome; email submissions to tech@caltech.edu, or submit them on our Discord server (https://tech.caltech.edu/discord). The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 12 PM on Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera ready art, but the Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at tech@caltech.edu.

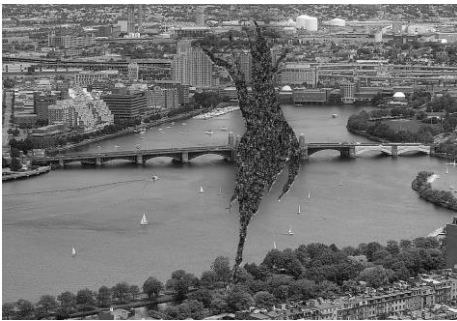
Clairvoyant Digest

**WARNING: DEI WIZARDS
HAVE REGISTERED
ANOTHER SEGMENT OF
MISPLACED TIME**
Citizens are advised to
duck, cover, and
embrace the void until
the Timeline stabilizes.

What you need to know about the Boston Rift

National

Edward Chesmore



*Pictured: The Rift manifesting in
Charles River on Wednesday*
THURSDAY, 28:3:2024

Following recent disturbances to Time, a new rift in spacetime has in Boston, Massachusetts. Owing to the nature of the Rift, the exact time of the anomaly's manifestation is impossible to ascertain. However, according to reports from riders of the city's subway system, signs of the Rift first appeared in early March.

"I ride the T to work most days, and I noticed signs around the 12th, but it took a while for me to recognize there was something extraordinary going on," said Margaret, a local nurse. "Sure, I heard what I now realize are the screams of souls trapped in the limbo between what already happened and what never will be, but to be honest, that's kind of typical for the Green Line."

TUNGSTEN CUBE



The #1
defense
against
spatial
instability

50% OFF AT YOUR LOCAL
RETAILER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Eric, a necromancer, concurred. "The other day I got on the T and arrived in Cambridge ten years

younger, but I figured it was just something in the air, or maybe a workplace accident. You know, last year when the ceiling was weeping blood, I contacted the city to complain, and they told us the trains were just having a bad day."

Since its early underground appearance, however, the Rift has grown a lot harder to ignore. Literally so: yesterday, the Rift overtook the Longfellow Bridge, where it continues to scream, swallow pedestrians and cars alike, and occasionally emit a mild lavender scent.

If you or your loved ones live in the Boston area, it is advised to keep up with local reporting on the Rift, avoid areas near the Rift, avoid areas with names synonymous with areas near the Rift, and avoid thinking about the Rift too much. City chronomancers are optimistic that the anomaly has reached its worst and will soon resolve. In the meantime, stay vigilant, and stay on time.

IT'S TIME WE FINISHED WHAT HOU YI STARTED

Tired of being forbidden from making eye contact with the glowing orb in the sky? Ready to take back your freedom or die trying? Apply now at spacex.com/careers/jobs!

*Qualifications: Class A3 or higher
telekinesis certification – 3 years
piloting experience OR Class B1+
technomancy certification – Infohazard
resistance OR born during solar eclipse*

Do blood sports have a place in modern society?

Opinion

Siera Yun

People are often surprised to learn I began my telekineticist career as an amateur gladiator in Ambroise's ring – yes, *that* Ambroise. I won't deny things got out of hand, and I would be the last to question the decision of the All-Seeing Eye to shut the place down.

Do you feel like a stranger in your own body? Have all your favorite foods started tasting wrong? Are you haunted by memories that aren't your own?
You may be suffering from resurrection illness and are entitled to financial compensation.

Call 1-800-UNDEAD today for a free legal consultation and a financial information packet.

But in the backlash, many have turned against the practice of combat sports entirely. Indeed, the hip thing now seems to be suggesting that athletics should be practiced without any risk of maiming, mutilation, or death, and anyone saying otherwise needs to get with the times. I completely disagree. A little risk is a part of life – indeed, it brings out the best in us. Without my stint at Ambroise's, I would not have learned the techniques that let me become the first non-natural-born telekineticist to achieve A2 certification. Have we forgotten even the Turnover Tournament began as a duel to the death, or do kids nowadays not even learn our history?

I'm retired from the sport now, but I certainly hope the next generation of telekineticists will have the same opportunity I did, though maybe in a better-run arena than Ambroise's. I cannot in good faith back any politician seeking to ban such activities. Don't like it? Don't participate. But people have the right to put their lives on the line to better themselves.

Infinite Storage Room now actually infinite

Local

J.R. Mole

Cal Tech is pleased to announce that the Infinite Storage Room, a series of chambers adjacent to the Student Activities Center, is now living up to its name.

After the nation was shocked by an investigation revealing that MIT's The Corridor Formerly

Known as the Infinite Corridor Which is Now Known to be 251 Meters Long was in fact 251 meters long rather than infinite, suspicions were turned on the Hotter Institute of Technology's famed Infinite Storage Room. A group of seniors took it upon themselves to investigate the underground chambers during 2023's Ditch Day. They were saddened and disappointed by the revelation that the Infinite Storage Room, too, was finite.

Following reports of the error, calTech's maintenance wizards quickly installed a new pocket dimension in the Storage Room, retroactively validating its name. Those who spend time in the Student Activities Center are advised to take precautions in the case that they end up lost in the Infinite Storage Room. In particular, frosh incapable of subterranean chemosynthesis should carry a month's supply of emergency rations, and all students and staff must be supplied a Banach-Tarski yarn ball for navigation.

"We're very grateful for Caltech wizards for their quick work," said a senior, about the recent updates. "Though we may lose some frosh along the way, this is a small price to pay for infinity."

FDA approves new prophecy- mitigation device

Technology

Adam Frankenstein

In a world first, the Metis device has passed its last round of clinical trials and is expected to be available for patients in early 2025. Developed by reclusive wizard Maia Powers, the device promises to treat those afflicted with distressing prophecies by constructing conditions which render a description technically true, while minimizing damage. An estimated 1.2 million people suffer from oracles foretelling death or misfortune for...

[PUSH PAGE KATAWARDS TO
READ MORE >>>](#)

Cooking Catastrophes: MIT Students Pioneer New Ways to Set off Fire Alarms and Turn Food Into Unrecognizable Substances

By **Smokey the Beaver**
ARSONIST

In a series of culinary calamities this semester, students across campus have managed to push the boundaries of cooking to new – and often alarming – heights. The latest incident occurred in Random Hall, where an undergraduate’s attempt to boil an egg ended in a blaze of glory.

“I just wanted to make an omelet,” lamented the student, who preferred to remain anonymous. “I just put my floormate’s cast iron pan on the stove, but next thing I know, there’s [expletive] fire shooting up to the ceiling, and the fire alarm is blaring,” they explained to a bewildered Tech reporter who happened to be walking by.

Firefighters rushed to the scene to find smoke billowing out the windows. While there was minimal damage beyond the kitchen, the ceiling was badly singed, and (as of the writing of this article) Random Hall

remains short one kitchen due to repairs.

“MIT keeps us busy,” remarked Cambridge Fire Department Chief Thomas Cahill, rubbing the bridge of his nose at the absurdity of the situation. “We get three to four calls a week due to cooking accidents from just the Institute. In fact, we’re thinking of expanding our Lafayette Square Station across campus and increasing staffing to accommodate the activity.”

Another cooking catastrophe unfolded in the early morning hours of last Sunday on the second floor of MacGregor House, where an alleged attempt to make instant noodles took a sinister turn. According to eyewitness reports, the noodles began glowing in the microwave and producing an incredibly foul odor. Residents in neighborhoods across the Charles River in Boston even reported smelling the odor.

After several 911 calls, firefighters were dispatched along with a hazmat team from the Cambridge Public Health Department

to locate the offending odor. Upon locating and removing the microwave containing the pile of glowing used-to-be ramen, samples were taken for laboratory testing. Tests by the Cambridge Public Health Department revealed the presence of 13 known carcinogens. Perhaps more frighteningly, further analysis of a sample sent to Brookhaven National Lab uncovered an unusually high level of radioactive iodine-131.

After immediate health screenings, students of MacGregor House were temporarily reallocated as hazmat crews spent two days cleaning the contaminated area. The Tech has chosen not to name the student responsible for this incident, but the message is clear: MIT students are not winning any Michelin stars in the kitchen. In a survey of 534 students conducted by The Tech, it was found that 97% solely eat from dining halls to avoid cooking, and 100% of students are confident that they would “badly screw up” while attempting to cook.

MIT has taken steps to address this alarming trend, including implementing a supplemental essay on cooking experience into its college application process. MIT has also gone great lengths in order to recruit Chemistry Professor Emeritus and Nobel laureate Tom Mannion out of retirement to teach remedial culinary chemistry and cooking classes for students in need of assistance.

“After these unflattering incidents brought to our attention the dire need for our institute’s students to remedy their poor culinary skills, we are taking concrete steps to ensure students have the tools they need to learn this basic life skill,” Vice Provost Peter Fisher announced in an email to the community. “But as long as MIT students continue to pioneer new ways to set off fire alarms and turn food into unrecognizable substances, it seems the fire department and hazmat teams will have their work cut out for them.

Mug-Gate: An Unfathomable Scandal in the Department of Physics

A physics professor found himself in hot water — quite literally — when he was caught red-handed with a Caltech prank mug. The true identity of the mug was revealed as the professor was preparing a hot cup of tea. This discovery led to swift action, with the professor placed on unpaid leave pending further investigation. In a statement, Physics Department Head Professor Deepto Chakrabarty deemed the possession of the mug “the most heinous offense committable.”

The accused professor pleaded innocent ignorance, claiming he had only previously used the mug for cold beverages. Rumors have begun circulating around campus that the MIT Corporation is considering stoning and burning at the stake as punishments for the offending professor.

— *Ethan Mugwart*, FROM *THE DAILY BREW*
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

MIT Undergraduate Association Accuses Caltech Counterpart of Election Interference

Yesterday, the MIT Undergraduate Association raised eyebrows by accusing their Caltech counterpart—the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT)—of sending agents to meddle in their recent elections. The evidence? A slew of eyebrow-raising write-in ballots for Bernoulli the Beaver (Caltech’s horrific new mascot), Nobel laureate Francis Arnold, and distinguished Caltech alumnus Nick Jasinski.

Even hastily scrawled jabs like “MIT = Caltech East Campus” and “California rules” made the cut for strange write-in ballots submitted during the election. ASCIT President Gabriella Twombly denounced the allegations. “Stop blaming Caltech for your lack of qualified leaders,” she quipped. Under her breath, she added, “Obsessed much?”

— *David Spicer*, FROM *LOUISIANA TIMES*
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

A Swim in Boston Harbor

A fun friends’ night out turned into an unexpected midnight dip into Boston Harbor for sophomores Samuel Miller and Alan Pivs. Their excuse? Google Maps lead them right into the frigid waters. Bystanders quickly sprang to action to pull the two out of the windows of the sinking car. The Coast Guard is currently in the process of assessing how it will remove the car from the harbor’s sea floor. Hopefully, Google Maps will add an update soon alerting careless MIT students of incoming large bodies of water.

— *Devot Folwer*, FROM *KROTUS DIGEST*
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

MIT Dropouts Create Anti-Social App

A trio of MIT dropouts recently unleashed their brainchild upon the unsuspecting world—an “anti-social” app designed to revolutionize socializing by eliminating the need for actual human interaction. With features that allow users to engage in superficial conversations with AI chatbots about their most random exploits—including anything from scaling trees to attempting cartwheels on the beach—the app promises to make maintaining meaningful relationships a thing of the past. Need to convince others you’re out and about? No problem! The app can even send convincing text messages on your behalf. MIT students are hailing it as the ultimate time-saving tool. Meanwhile, for some bewildering reason, students from Boston College, Harvard, and Northeastern are reportedly in a frenzy to ban the app before it infiltrates their campuses.

— *Mark Zuckerberg*, FROM *FACEBOOOK*
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

Shocking new paper reveals MIT doesn’t actually exist

Small William
FROM *THE CALIFORNIA TECH*
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 1, 2024

CAMBRIDGE, MA — In a landmark study published in *Nature Memetics* on Monday, MIT was proven to be nothing more than a group hallucination, bringing an end to the nearly century-old debate.

“It looks like it exists – like it’s *right there* when you look at it, and it’s between two other prestigious universities, so it would make more sense for it to be there than not,” explained Caltech Professor of Neurobiology Milo Dingus, the study’s first author. “But it doesn’t actually exist.”

The breakthrough was made when researchers at Caltech became suspicious of the supposed “MIT University” when they noticed how similar it was to their own. “I mean, their mascot is a beaver too? And their newspaper is also called *The Tech*. It was all just a bit too good to be true,” Professor Dingus told the Tech in an interview.

But that wasn’t the first sign of trouble, Dingus recounted. “I was looking through a list of Fields Medalists one day and realized that none of them had graduated from MIT. How can this be? After all, Caltech has several Fields Medalist alumni, and we are much smaller. The

odds that such an apparently prestigious school wouldn’t have any Fields Medalists are lower than the Class of 2027’s SAT scores.” And so, Dingus and a hardworking team of undergraduate interns started investigating.

According to the *Nature* study, what everyone thinks of as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is actually a collective hallucination that started in the mid-19th century when a sociology professor at Caltech forgot to supervise his summer interns and gave them entirely too much budget. The students got drunk one night and reportedly thought up “Caltech east campus”, or “Masstech”, or “MIT.” They were specifically researching the college-seeing centers of the brain and purportedly inflicted this idea on the whole nation, before spreading the effect across the whole world. Whether it was on purpose or accident the world may never know.

The consequences of this action are very real, however. Many children grow up dreaming of going to MIT, many people even mistakenly believe they go to or have gone to MIT. Caltech’s Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects has been looking into rectifying this mistake. One of the proposed solutions is to actually open a satellite campus to Caltech in Boston, where people have been mistakenly believing there is already a college.

Is your cooking keeping the fire department active?



STEPHEN HAWKING—THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Did your instant ramen have to be sent to a national lab for radioactive nuclei testing? Sign up for **SA 16 - Cooking Basics** at the California Institute of Technology! Taught by Director of Student Activities, Tom Mannion, this class will make sure you are no longer on an FBI watch list for creating chemical hazards with your cooking.

MIT Task Force Launched Last Month to Unravel Mystery of Professor Exodus to Caltech Publishes Initial Findings

Nina Levin
NEWS EDITOR

It has long been suspected that the disappearances of several of MIT’s best and brightest faculty were actually cover-ups for those who committed the ultimate sin: transferring to MIT’s rival institution, the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). However, this was never quantified. That is, until a recent data release from the 2022-2023 academic year revealed that MIT recruited fewer faculty than it has lost to Caltech.

In light of this shocking finding, President Sally Kornbluth launched a task force last month to investigate the faculty defections and produce recommendations to remedy the crisis.

“This issue presents the gravest existential threat to our institution in its 162 year history. If we do not stymie the exodus of brilliant faculty away from our beloved institute, this may herald the end of MIT as we know it,” Kornbluth remarked in a statement accompanying the launch of the task force.

Encompassing over 60 tenured faculty and administrators alike, the Determination of University Migration Behavior (DUMB) task force hopes to shed light on the reasons behind the mass exodus

of faculty members to sunny Pasadena. Spearheading the DUMB task force’s initiative is Dr. Ivy Brainstein, who is the third chair of the task force after her two predecessors departed for Caltech.

“Our mission is to uncover the gravitational pull that lures our faculty away from the intellectual epicenter of MIT,” Dr. Brainstein remarked in an interview with the Tech.

According to Brainstein, despite efforts to reach out to departed professors via both their new Caltech email addresses and former MIT addresses, the task force failed to obtain a single reply. However, a breakthrough came while mailing paper surveys, with one lone respondent providing insight into her decision to join the Caltech ranks. Unfortunately, the returned envelope only included photos of the professor with her family splashing in the waves at Santa Monica beach and indulging in tacos from a food truck.

Despite the radio silence from former faculty and defections of some members to Caltech during the course of its investigation, the big DUMB task force published preliminary proposals for faculty retention yesterday, including the following:

1. Increased Taco Trucks on Campus:

Estimating the Volume of Grapes Required to Fill the Architectural Space of Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A Theoretical Approach

Brandon Lee
FAN CONTRIBUTOR

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, renowned for its quaint research and shocking architecture, serves as the focal point for an unusually intellectually stimulating question: how many grapes would it take to fill its numerous and varied spaces? This inquiry, while whimsical at its core, is a gateway to exploring fundamental principles of geometry, physics, and engineering. It challenges us to apply theoretical knowledge to solve a problem that is both abstract and concrete, blending academic rigor with imaginative speculation.

Our journey begins with the establishment of a methodological framework, designed to navigate the complexities of volumetric analysis within the context of irregular architectural spaces. The initial step involves estimating the total interior volume of MIT’s buildings, a task that requires a blend of architectural insight and mathematical precision. Given the absence of readily available data, we engage in a hypothetical exercise, setting the total volume at 1,000,000 cubic meters for the sake of calculation.

The volume of a single grape, modeled as a perfect sphere with a diameter of 2 cm, is calculated using the formula for the volume of a sphere:

This simplicity belies the complexities

ahead, as we must next consider the grapes’ compressibility and the density at which they can be packed—a nod to the principles of material science and mechanical engineering.

With these parameters in hand, we delve into the heart of our analysis, employing the formula to estimate the number of grapes. Each variable in this equation carries weight, from the correction factor K, accounting for the unusable space due to architectural features, to the compression factor Cf, which acknowledges the grapes’ potential to deform under pressure.

Our calculations yield a staggering figure: approximately 125 billion grapes would be required to fill MIT’s spaces. This number, though rooted in numerous assumptions, offers a moment of reflection on the scale of both the task and the institution itself. **If we included our hypothetical total volume at 1,000,000 cubic meters.**

This exercise in estimation goes beyond mere numerical curiosity, touching upon deeper themes in scientific inquiry and education. It illustrates the applicability of STEM principles to everyday questions, encouraging a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of approximation and estimation in science, skills as valuable as precise calculation and analytical rigor.

The implications of this study extend into the realm of pedagogy, suggesting innovative

ways to engage students with mathematics and physics. But what if we did not use our hypothetical number but gathered our information from third-party sources?

We can make a more accurate estimate for the number of grapes that could fit in MIT by first estimating the number of grapes to fit in Caltech, an architecturally superior campus. Given the updated information that Caltech had 739,000 square feet (approximately 68,700 square meters) of space in 2005, let’s refine our calculations to provide a more accurate estimate of how many grapes would be required to fill this space. It’s important to note, however, that square footage measures area, not volume. To proceed with our volume-based calculation, we’d need to estimate the average height of the buildings to convert this area into a volume.

For the sake of this information, let’s assume an average building height. Typically, academic buildings can vary greatly in height, but a reasonable average for a mix of single-story and multi-story buildings might be around 10 meters (about 3 stories high). This assumption allows us to estimate the total volume of Caltech’s architectural spaces and adjust our grape-filling calculation accordingly.

Based on the information gathered, we can now plug it into the formula above: We can now recalculate with the revised volume of ‘s spaces. Let’s proceed with the calculation.

5. Spaceship Zoom-Zoom Workspace (SZW): In yet another proposal, the task force suggested petitioning the US government and NASA for \$98 billion to construct the SZW—a cunning-edge, well-equipped aeronautics research facility designed to rival Caltech’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory—in neighboring Somerville.

In addition to these innovative solutions, the task force also entertained more unorthodox suggestions, such as improving salaries, enhancing employment benefits, opening up more funding to increase the number of graduate teaching assistants, reaffirming diversity and inclusivity efforts to foster a welcoming community, and providing more support for the mental health of individuals with seasonal affective disorder.

When asked about the latter proposals, President Kornbluth dismissed them as “categorically outlandish,” further noting that she “prefer[s] the suggestion of altering the Massachusetts climate.”

Dr. Brainstein expressed optimism that armed with the DUMB task force’s work, MIT can finally make a dent in its battle over faculty with Caltech. “My hope is that we can finally transform MIT to reflect the ineffable charm of Caltech and Pasadena.”

With the revised calculations, considering Caltech’s space to have a total volume of 687,000 cubic meters, we estimate that approximately 85,856,367,976 (nearly 86 billion) grapes would be required to fill the architectural spaces of the California Institute of Technology. This updated figure reflects the specific dimensions provided and our assumptions about building heights, offering a closer approximation to the intriguing question of filling MIT with grapes.

It’s important to note that the calculations and estimates provided within this exploration are based on data from the year 2006, reflecting Caltech’s reported space of 739,000 square feet (approximately 68,700 square meters). The assumptions made regarding the average height of buildings and the subsequent volume calculations are tailored to this specific timeframe.

As such, the estimated number of grapes required to fill the architectural spaces of Caltech—nearly 86 billion—is contingent upon these historical dimensions and does not account for any expansions, renovations, or changes that may have occurred post-2005.

Now that we measured Caltech; MIT being 2.3x larger than Caltech. It would take 197,800,000,000 grapes to fill up MIT.

So there you have it! Nearly 198 billion grapes are needed to fill out the Massachusetts Institute of Technology! Using Caltech’s data in 2005 of course. Get rekt!

Media Lab Innovation Tackles Veganism-Induced Toilet Clogs

By Sam Foxman

Plant-based, organic food preferences have [been on the rise since 2008](#) according to MIT Dining’s annual survey. Unfortunately, numerous recent studies have shown that organic and [vegan foods alter the gut microbiome composition](#) to produce abnormally large feces. The Tech spoke to a few custodial staff, who claim that these diet trends have resulted in an estimated dozen extended restroom shutdowns this semester.

“We found one turd the size of a full-grown adult squirrel,” custodian Alma Mathur explained after spending 90 minutes unclogging a toilet in building 68.

According to the resulting incident report, toxicologists in the division of bioengineering conducted [PCR](#)

[sequencing on the stool sample](#), and identified quinoa and chia seeds as the likely culprit. The identity of the perpetrator will be revealed, pending DNA testing. To benefit the MIT community, Student Financial Services will take note of toilet abuse when determining financial aid packages. Additionally, serious clogs should be reported to campus security going forward.

Amidst the chaos, MIT Media Lab has developed a new toilet for the modern age to solve the issue, according to an announcement printed on toilet paper rolls across campus.

“We plan to install our new vegan-accommodating toilets in Stratton Student Center to facilitate easy flushing of ‘elephant turds,’” reads the announcement. The new toilet innovation, developed with the generous support of undergraduate student tuition, is ushering

in a [new age of excretory innovation](#).

The announcement of the so-called ‘vegan toilets’ followed shortly after the news that the grocery store in the Stratton student center will be [replaced with an organic Whole-Foods-esque market](#) in late 2024 to early 2025. A subset of MIT students are excited for the new organic market, which will provide “a wide variety of everyday essentials like pasta [...] made with care,” with an added benefit of being tax-free under Massachusetts regulation due to its affiliation with an educational institution.

About the author: Sam Foxman (CS ‘26) is passionate about culinary art and science, and is a member of the CIT meats-rights club. Recently, he participated in a protest against Plant-Based Universities by eating an In-N-Out 4x4 cheeseburger outside the rival vegan club.



Organic vegan vending machines in Infinite Corridor, near the intersection of building 4 and 10 (room 4-115). These vending machines are the suspected nutrient source of the building 68 stool sample according to molecular epidemiology analysis of chia seed DNA.

OPINION NEWS
WORLD & NATION
SCIENCE
SPORTS
ARTS
FUN
CAMPUS
LIFE

Letter to MIT Beloved

My Dearest Samuel,

With fond affection, I address thee, my dear pookiebear! In the course of our epistolary exchanges, I have observed with no small dismay the tardiness that oft attends the conveyance of my missives to thy person. Hence, I have opted to employ the modern marvel known as “the Tech” in the dispatch of this communication, in hopes of expediting its delivery. Indeed, compared to the leisurely pace of traditional mail, this method hath proven to be remarkably expeditious.

Pray, dost thou find thyself assailed by the chill of Assachusetts Institute of Technology? Methinks the temperature doth hover uncomfortably in the forties and fifties, a climate I cannot but sympathize with from afar, for in my locale, the sun doth grace us with its warm embrace, bathing us in temperatures that surpass seventy degrees. Although my thoughts do stray to the desire of thy company, alas, such a wish remains unfulfilled. As the common parlance doth crudely express, “Sucks to suck.”

Know, my dear Samuel, that thou art sorely

missed, and thy memory doth occupy a cherished place within my heart. I bid thee good fortune in thy forthcoming topology examination; may the shapes reveal themselves to thee with clarity and grace. I beseech thee, take care of thyself, my beloved, and spare not thyself in pursuit of knowledge. Let us look forward to the occasion of our 1 year anniversary, coinciding with the forthcoming solar eclipse, as a beacon of joy and celebration.

With deepest affection and anticipation,
Jassie

Do You Deserve To Live? An Analysis of Rent in Pasadena Vs Cambridge

Prexy Wexy
STAFF WRITER

Pasadena, CA / Cambridge, MA - It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... A study published in last week's MIT Review of Economics and Statistics analyzed the rental markets of Pasadena and Cambridge, and presented a startling revelation. Students at the prestigious California Institute of Technology (CIT) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Masstech) are resorting to extreme measures to be able to afford the exorbitant price of living in their respective towns.

CIT, nestled between the bustling city of Los Angeles and the San Gabriel mountains, has long been a haven for budding scientists and engineers. However, beneath the walks blooming with olives, oranges, and turtles, there lies a dark truth: the cost of living is astronomical. This forces students to divert a majority share of their brainpower toward survival rather than studies and research. Faced with the kafkaesque nightmare that is Pasadena's housing market, some students have resorted to living below ground.

“We’ve been living in the tunnels below CIT. Sometimes we have to dig our own,” an anonymous student from Booty House confessed, sporting a hard hat and a shovel. “It’s cramped and steamy and there are spooky noises and it’s technically against the Honor Code to be down there, but the murals are nice! Plus, forcing people to pay money for such a basic life necessity as housing is already against the Honor Code, so I don’t feel too bad.”

Meanwhile, over in Cambridge lies Masstech, near HarVard University and the historic city of Boston. In the Boston area, the price of rent has been steadily increasing ever since Paul Revere rode through Charlestown’s streets, and it shows no sign of stopping any time soon. An alarming proportion of Masstech students engage in particularly archaic practices: selling organs to afford rent. One student, who also wished to remain anonymous, admitted that “I figured I only needed one kidney, so why not? The rent is a death sentence already”.

But how bad is it really? Based on data from Rent.com and Apartments.com, a studio apartment in Cambridge can re-

ally cost you an arm and a leg! Er, I mean, a cool \$2800-\$3100 a month. A full one bedroom apartment will cost your kidney, or \$3200 a month, and 2-3 bedroom apartments will range from \$4000-5000 a month. Pasadena, comparatively, will cost you \$1700-\$1900 a month for a cozy studio apartment, \$1900-\$2100 for a one bedroom apartment, and \$2800-\$3600 for 2-3 bedroom apartments.

With prices higher than a SpaceX rocket launch or your first-born child, how are students meant to afford to live? I mean, do they even deserve to live in these apartments where the rent could fund a small country's GDP? When confronted with the impossible cost of living for students, university officials from both CIT and Masstech offered canned responses about minds, hands, truth, and freedom. Whatever that means.

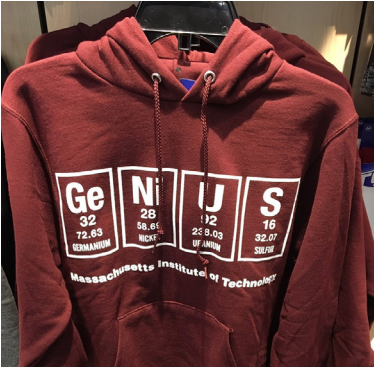
However, it looks like Masstech students come out with the L on this one, with far higher rent than CIT students will ever have to deal with, and a few less body parts to boot. So, always remember: if anyone ever asks you if you deserve to live at Masstech or CIT: No one does.

Battle of the Drip: MIT vs Caltech

Urmom Cosa
FASHION REPORTER

1: The Periodic Table Hoodie

Been done. If MIT students need a t-shirt to spell genius to them, the world is a bleak place indeed. While this may be a hoodie, it is certainly not enough to shield from the frigid Boston weather during the winter. It fails yet again against sweat during the sweltering summer. L weather complements L merch.



2: Plain Grey MIT T-Shirt (T-Shit)

I have few negatives to say about this design except that it is BORING! It looks like it could be sold at any major retailer. Why should I pay for merch just to get an unflattering piece of clothing?



3: Beaver Magnet

Good God. This is how nightmares are made. You could not catch me putting that magnet anywhere near where I live. Actually, if I did, you would catch me dead because that creepy ass beaver would have killed me. It's giving Happy Tree Friends, and if you have seen the show, you would know it never ends well for the characters.

1: This is How We Roll



Now, this is what you call an original design. Being the superior STEM school, Caltech boasts the better physics knowledge. This is merch that entertains and educates. Understanding the forces acting on a ball rolling down an incline is an essential piece of physics that needs to be shared.

2: Formulas Shirt



Being the best STEM school in the country, it is only right that the Caltech merch gets to include a wide variety of formulas. Plus, who knew formulas could look so pretty? It makes the hard to pull off Caltech orange pop.

3: MIT Shirt

This is hands down one of the best pieces of merch to exist. Not only does it spell



out a cold hard truth, but it does so with pizzazz. For this reason, Dean Chandrakasan has ordered 4,576 shirts already, one for each MIT student.



PSA: Random Printer

Hi Massachusetts Institute of Technology Students,

I wish this were a joke article but sadly it is not. It was brought to the Division of Student Life's attention that one of the color printers in Random Hall was recently damaged. The printer is soaked with piss and has puddled in the paper tray. Here's what we know:

- 1) This incident was most likely caused by an MIT student. The only way into Random is with an MIT ID.
- 2) This happened today or yesterday at the very latest.
- 3) Due to the basic laws of biology/physics, was probably a guy.

We don't know if this was done maliciously, and we'll update if there's more information. For now, this printer has been moved somewhere else. The other two printers (1 color and 1 b&w) have been moved to Andre Hamelberg's (our UA president god bless his soul) room and will be made online only when Andre is in his room. We don't want to restrict access to the printer off of one person's bewilderment, but at the same time we want to protect the one working printer that we have. Sorry for this inconvenience, this is truly unfortunate.

The Division of Student Life,
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RECRUITING: Accomplished/ Enthusiastic PC Gamers



Hello! You there. Yes, you. Are you *seriously* playing video games *alone*? I understand, you have no other choice. You are tired of being trolled by your jungler in LoL, being teamkilled in R6, getting hit by allied air strikes in HELL-DIVERS 2, and suffering through own-goals in Rocket League. Everyone has experienced these situations and more. Still, you must solo-queue. Quite frankly, your high school friends stopped playing video games and you grew apart from them, problem sets took over, and no one will talk to you again if they find out you are a closeted League of Legends player. I get it, trust me. However, today I present a solution to your problems...

JOIN COLIN'S ELITE GAMING SQUADRON TODAY!

What are the benefits? Having reliable teammates, interesting games, *actual* friendship, and desperately needed coaching!

Why would I (Colin) be willing to help you? Quite frankly, the gaming scene here at MIT is *extremely* pitiful. It's well known that MIT doesn't consider ingame ranks in admissions, but I didn't realize it would be *this* bad! **My goal is to put MIT on the map as a gaming powerhouse, so that Caltech will finally have a true rival!**

Add 'bigcolin' on Discord for more information!

Dabney House
Call For a Good Time
(626) 395-1094

How I Became a Fashion Major at MIT

By Fatima Mitaf

“Fatima, have you considered which major you want to apply for?” my mother asked me the summer of my senior year in high school. “Electrical Engineering,” I said. “Excuse me!? Your skin would be starved of sunlight for four years.” “How about Computer Science?” “Political Science is acceptable.” “What about Mechanical Engineering?” “Social Engineering is alright.” “But I want to become a *real* scientist or engineer!” I’ve had an affinity for math and science since my earliest childhood. If I did something praiseworthy, I’d ask my dad for a math problem. I hand-calculated and memorized all the square numbers from 1 to 2500, and noticed many patterns; e.g., if x is an integer, the last two digits of $(25 - x)^2$ and $(25 + x)^2$ are the same. The Science Channel was my favorite TV network and the Museum of Science was my favorite “amusement park.” “Fatima, I spent my childhood studying math and science so I could attend a high-

ranking college, then be granted the opportunity to immigrate to the US and find a job there,” my mother said. “Now that you live in the US, you don’t have to study math and science so rigorously. You have freedom! You should pursue your dreams and become an actress, a musician, or an influencer!” “What if I like math and science?” “Pffft, why would you want to spend your days plumbing people’s toilets? I don’t want my daughter to have dirty hands. I want her to be pretty!” “But mom!—” “—Fatima! You’ve been wearing the same gray sweatshirt three days in a row. It smells worse than your brother’s hockey gear.” “But it’s comfortable!” “Aaah why do you have no taste in fashion? Don’t you know the prettier the clothes, the more uncomfortable they are? Anyway, you must choose a major that falls within the humanities department. That’s final.” Ultimately, I applied as a fashion major because it seemed easiest. Growing up in Massachusetts, I dreamed of attending UMass Amherst. Every day, I plead

with my dad to convince his friend, a UMass professor, to sneak us into UMass’s buffet, which has annually won “Best Campus Food” for the past seven years. After our brunchinner, I’d eavesdrop on some lectures, hoping that once I graduated high school, I’d be able to receive such an excellent college education at a *reasonable* price. In my senior year of high school, I toured MIT, choked on their pizza, and cried on my way out the “fire-alarm-will-sound-if-pushed” door. Still, my parents forced me to apply to MIT as a safety school. “I would like to study fashion at the Massachusetts Institoot of Tecnolawgy because...” I typed two hours before the application deadline. “You can abbreviate Massachusetts Institute of Technology as MIT. MIT knows its students have trouble spelling words containing more than three letters. That’s why they shortened their name to MIT instead of Masstech.” Unfortunately, MIT was the only school I got into. I braced myself for the next few decades of repaying student debt. Some days, I

contemplated becoming a drop-out loser like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, or Mark Zuckerberg. “Sweetie, if you had spent more time studying humanities instead of STEM, you might have gotten into UMass. I read over your UMass application and saw several red flags. Every time you mentioned a year, you rounded it to three sig figs. Your personal statement was written in binary. The only time you used English letters in your supplemental essays was when assigning numbers to variables.” “Agggghhhhh.” “It’s ok sweetie. Tim Mit attended MIT and he turned out alright.” “He’s a beaver.” “There’s not much wrong with being a beaver. Anyhow, you should feel grateful that you got into a college.” “I think I was destined to go to MIT,” I groaned. “The admissions officers probably said, ‘Fatima Mitaf is MIT af. Her parents made her name a palindrome, so nerdy!’” “Oh sweetie, I wrote Fat Ima on your birth certificate.” Just as I had cried on my way out of MIT, I cried on my way in.

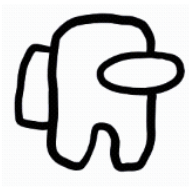
MIT to Establish a New Kindergarten After Renovations

Oliver Jaded

STAFF REPORTER

Following concerns about the amount of immature children on campus, MIT will be opening a new kindergarten on the third floor of the east parallel. This program aims to provide a space for students who may not quite be developmentally ready to fully integrate into campus society. While the average MIT student is over a decade older than the traditional kindergartener, some of the student body will still really benefit from a safe and contained space for those without fully developed brains. Individuals will be selected for this childcare program based on propensity for participating in danger-

ous and stupid activities, disrespect towards authority, inability to sit still, and overall immaturity. While it may seem cruel to separate these students from the rest of their peers, this will be the correct space for them based on their maturity and developmental readiness. The rowdy children will be contained during the floors “Mandatory Loud Hours” between midnight to 3am. This will not only provide them a much needed space to burn off their child-like energy, but will also keep them from disturbing the rest of campus with their rambunctious behavior. It remains to be seen whether this will negatively affect the neighboring senior citizen home to be opened 2 floors above.



Looking for love? We asked MIT math majors for advice.

By Manta Ray

AQUARIUM RESIDENT

For the fourth year in a row, MIT has claimed the top five spots of the prestigious William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. As a home of many mathematical competition winners, including IMO Gold medalists, this achievement does not come as much of a surprise. MIT math majors are among an elite group of undergraduates in the university, known for their work-ethic and discipline to the subject. Math students dedicate most of their waking hours pouring over abstract technical jargon and obsessing over proofs of claims that are impossible to understand without years of schooling, so they naturally have a way with words. In fact, those who study math have a reputation of succeeding in the classroom *and* in the bedroom. We asked the rizziest students of the mathematics program for their advice to their peers so that they may learn how to pursue their romantic interests. The first person interviewed was Jack Mehoff, a junior who made sure to introduce himself as a three-time IMO gold medalist and Challenger rank in League of Legends. “Yeah, I just can’t keep the women off of me,” he rizzed. I did not doubt this for a second. From his unkempt beard growing past his jugular to his disheveled clothing covered in crumbs of what seem to be Doritos, I myself was having trouble staying professional during this interview. Nonetheless, I was on a mission. *How else are the finance majors going to be able to go on dates without his advice?* So we began with the basics: asking out someone for a date. “There are many schools of thought when it comes to pursuing a mate,” explained Mehoff, who had begun sweating profusely. “I personally consider myself to be of the topologist school of thought.” I was intrigued. “Once you have made eye contact with a potential date,” he continued, “I would run up to them with my arms behind me, as you might see Naruto do, for instance, and shout

‘I want to go on a date with you!’, with a smile of course.” This approach is known in the literature as “straight-line homotopy” according to Mehoff. “Which makes sense as we are using the convexity of the space between pursuer and the pursued,” he lilted, going on to explain how this technique in particular has brought him many dates with “real-life women.” Given so many dates, I inquired whether Mehoff pays for them all. “Are we assuming an axiom of choice?” he asked. I urged him to keep within ZF and not ZFC. “Baka,” he muttered. “Without choice, how would you find a basis for an arbitrary vector space?” I tactfully explained that I prefer to work in ZF because I do not feel comfortable with the idea of non-measurable sets. Mehoff cackled uncontrollably for about 45 seconds. “I would not pay for my meals under ZF, but you may if you wish.” He made a mic drop gesture and excused himself, saying he needed to go “complete more sex” with “real-life women.” As Mehoff walked away into the sunset, he winked at me, and I realized in that moment that he was suggesting that paying for a date is independent of ZF and requires choice. I was in shock – this was a genius at work. As I attempted to regain my composure, another math student, Yuri Nator, silently approached me. In almost a whisper, he explained that he also had advice he would like to share that his “best friend” did not mention. Struck by the serendipity, I eventually pieced together that he must have been the person who, without blinking, stared intently at me while I conducted my last interview. Something caught my eyes – or I should say my nose – about Yuri Nator. I asked if he had been wearing any cologne. Nator explained that it was not a cologne I smelled, but instead a musk that had been fermenting for the last month as he had not showered. This was the first time I have heard of such a technique. “I have too many books to read, so to make more time I decided not to shower,” Nator ex-

plained while fidgeting his hands, staring at the floor with a faint smile. Without prompt, he began to speak about some of his most recent sexual partners in short sentences and at an almost inaudible volume. As he continued, it slowly dawned on me what I was hearing. It would be no understatement to say that *Nator was single-handedly carrying the sexual activity on campus.* The number of partners was so staggering that I had trouble counting. In fact, almost magically, I could tell that Nator was not only regaling his sexual history, but was also presenting a diagonal argument. I could not count the number of partners because it was uncountable! I was enamored. Nator lacked muscle definition and stood uncomfortably close to me during this interview. He exuded sexual prowess. Attempting to refocus the interview topic, I asked Nator if he had a particular sexual position that made him so good. The next few seconds of this interview changed my life. In fact, since writing this publication, I have been unable to write more articles due to the number of sexual partners I have had using this particular move. He called it the “Galois correspondence.” Named after the French mathematician Évariste Galois, who famously died in a duel rumored to be over a romantic interest, this maneuver is just as passionate as the death of its eponymous muse. The heart of the move is to make use of the one-to-one correspondence between the towers of extensions of your partners and the symmetries of the group formed by you and your lovers. We leave the rest of the explanation as an exercise for the reader. Once we completed the interview, Nator sped away, and I remained alone on MIT campus with knowledge that would change the course of my love life forever. If you are a biologist, chemist, or even a finance major, you are not alone in the struggle that MIT students face with relationships. I hope this piece will help you learn from the experts of your cohort, and will improve your sex life as it has improved mine.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinions of someone. Probably. Or not, we really don’t know. They were written by people who prefer to remain anonymous and have since fled to Latin America. If you need to contact them, you’re screwed. **Dissents** are when someone disagrees with a Supreme Court decision. **Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written under the influence of controlled substances in some cases, and under the control of influenced substances in others, so who knows if they have anything to do with the people who have to do with the newspaper. If you know what I mean. If you want to submit something you can send it by pigeon, telegraph, or by capturing a Tech staff member and tattooing it on their skin in some location that will only be exposed during nude staff meetings. Submit things before midnight, or your submissions will turn into pumpkins. Evil pumpkins!

TO REACH US

The Tech can be reached by shouting obscenities into any public phone in Boston, or by emailing a prominent stage magician with an act that involves trained birds. If you want to send it to some other place, call 411 and ask for assistance, because dear lord do you need help, there must be something wrong with your brain. The Tech can be found on the internet but reading the Tech on the internet will make you grow hair on your palms and eventually you’ll go blind.

CORRECTIONS

Corrections In this issue, just about everything we print is untrue. All likenesses of MIT students or faculty are coincidental.

Caltech Baseball Defeats MIT in Sunday Thriller

Betsy Mitchell
FORMER OLYMPIAN

PASADENA, Calif. – Solid pitching, poised defense and clutch hitting made the difference Sunday afternoon as the Caltech Beavers baseball team defeated the MIT Engineers 5-2 at the North Field.

The first meeting between these two elite schools since 2015, Caltech made a statement on the scoreboard right away as junior Cameron McNamée (Great Falls, Mont. Great Falls) connected for a one-out, bases-loaded single to bring home Jack Fishel (Baltimore, Md. Boys’ Latin School of Maryland) and Austin Wang (Palo Alto, Calif. The Harker School). McNamée touched home plate three batters later and the Beavers would finish the opening frame with a 3-0 lead.

First-year Kailen Hargenrader (Littleton, Colo. Columbine) led off the bottom of the second inning with a blast to right center for a ground-rule double before stealing third and then racing home on Wang’s RBI groundout.

Sophomore starting pitcher Brendan Flaherty (Narragansett, RI Lake Forest Academy) threw a quality six innings, allowing just one run and no walks while striking out eight MIT batters en route to his third win of the season.

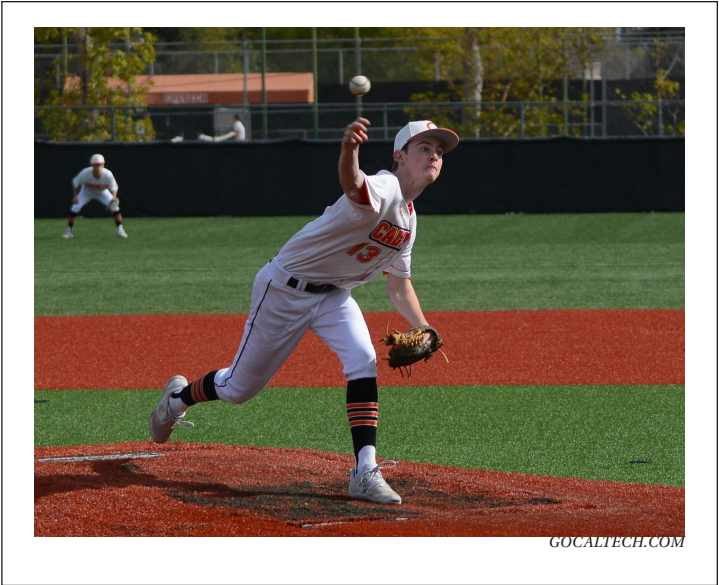
Rookie right-hander Joseph Pieper (Palatine, Ill. Palatine) took over pitching duties in the top of the seventh inning and retired the first three Engineers in order before Caltech extended its lead in the bottom half. Junior Thorsen Kristufek (McKinney, Texas McKinney) led off with a single

and scored on a one-out double by sophomore Mark Hu (San Jose, Calif. The Harker School).

MIT threatened in the top of the eighth with two runners aboard and only one out, but Pieper induced a groundball toward senior Patrick Donohoe (New York, N.Y. Bronx School of Science) at second base, who combined with Hu and McNamée to turn an inning-ending double play, firing up the home crowd.

A leadoff hit in the top of the ninth and a second-out sacrifice fly gave MIT a second run, but the rally fell short as the Beavers held on for the 5-2 win and Pieper’s first save of his Caltech pitching career.

Head Coach Kevin Whitehead and the team will resume SCIAC play on Friday, March 15 at the University of Redlands.



GOCALTECH.COM

Question the Quasar!

A new advice column about life, love, classes, and everything in between! Brought to you by the one and only **California MIT Tech**.

Hi Quasar,
I was having a very vivid dream in which I saw a toilet and really needed to use it. Now I have woken up covered in poop! What can I do about this?

Wow! That sounds epic! Don’t forget to announce this incredible feat to all your friends given the proper channels!

Now, so that the normies don’t laugh at you, let’s address the mess. Hop straight into the shower for a thorough scrub-down. Once you’re all squeaky clean, it’s time to tackle the laundry pile—those sheets aren’t going to clean themselves!

I know this seems like a lot of work, but take it as a sign to shake off any negativity and approach life with a sense of humor. After all, nothing says “seize the day” like waking up to a poopocalypse! Just remember to double-check your surroundings next time you find yourself in dreamland. You never know what surprises might await!

Hi Quasar,
I’m a devout Christian, but my partner and I want to explore new facets of our relationship. While maintaining our faith is paramount, we also recognize the importance of intimacy and connection in our partnership. We seek guidance on how to navigate this aspect of our relationship with respect for our beliefs and each other.

— Stella Virgin

Firstly, let’s remember that communication is key, whether you’re discussing scripture or bedroom escapades. Sit down with your partner and have a candid conversation about your desires and boundaries. It’s like having a heart-to-heart with the big man upstairs, but with a bit more giggling involved.

Next, let’s talk about preparation. Just like you wouldn’t dive into the Book of Revelation without some background knowledge, you’ll want to do your homework before embarking on this adventure. Invest in some high-quality lubricant (consider it your holy anointing oil) and take things slow, like a leisurely stroll through the Garden of Eden.

Lastly, let’s address the specific area of focus in your exploration: the buttocks. While this may seem like uncharted territory, it’s important to approach it with the same reverence and respect as any other aspect of your relationship. Discuss your intentions openly with your partner, ensuring that both of you are comfortable and enthusiastic about this exploration.

Remember, God created our bodies with care and intention, and there is no shame in seeking pleasure within the bounds of a loving and consensual relationship. As you journey into this new facet of intimacy, keep the lines of communication open, trust in each other’s boundaries, and approach it with the same reverence you hold for your faith. With love, respect, and a dash of humor, may your exploration be both fulfilling and spiritually enriching.

Hi Quasar,
Imagine a situation in which I had an average size banana (5 in length, 4.6 in girth) and it was stuck inside a toaster and is attached to my waist area. How could I remove this banana with minimal damage?

— Sumting Wong

Wow! That sounds epic! Don’t forget to announce this incredible feat to all your friends given the proper channels!

So, picture this: before diving into your predicament, let’s have a good laugh at the circus of life! Seriously, take a moment to reflect on how you ended up in this pickle. No judgment, just some good old-fashioned soul-searching, my friend!

Now, brace yourself for the Nutella Maneuver! It’s like a top-secret spy mission, but instead of dodging lasers, you’re coaxing Nutella onto a banana. Yep, you heard that right! With just the right amount of banana excitement (each to their own technique, mind you), behold the miraculous appearance of Nutella! It’s like a chocolatey magic trick!

Now, here’s the fun part: use that Nutella as your banana’s getaway car! It’s the ultimate lubricant to slip that banana out of its sticky situation. And hey, don’t forget to savor every last bit of that delicious Nutella. After all, it’s not every day you get to witness such culinary wizardry in action! Bon appétit, my adventurous friend!

Good Evening Quasar,
How should I (20M) react when my partner (19F) of 18 months confesses she’s developed feelings for women and, rather unexpectedly, blames me for her newfound perspective on love?

— Buck Nekkid



First, it’s important to maintain an open-minded attitude. While you may not have anticipated this revelation, it doesn’t necessarily mean that your relationship is doomed. Show empathy by actively listening and validating her feelings. Ask questions about her experiences and thoughts but avoid being judgmental or defensive.

Secondly, reassure her that she can still be honest with you without fearing rejection or judgment. Encourage open communication and create a safe space for discussing these emotions. This will help strengthen your bond as partners.

Thirdly, understand that the blaming might stem from insecurity, confusion, or even guilt over developing new feelings she doesn’t fully comprehend yet. Be patient with her and reassure her of your love and support. Encourage her to explore these feelings further while being mindful not to push her too hard.

Finally, remember that every individual’s sexuality is a personal journey, and it’s natural for people to experience shifts in their perspectives over time. If she continues to struggle with this realization or your relationship becomes strained, consider seeking couples therapy or guidance from a professional who specializes in helping individuals navigate complex feelings about sexual identity.

Dear Quasar,
I have a big party coming up! What are some exotic drinks that I can make for a fun time?
— Arnold Schwarzenegger

Oh boy do I have some magical potions for you!

🌟 Lunar sparkle 🌟

Ingredients:

- Raisin Bran
- Sugar
- 2 10-gal buckets with lids
- Hotglue
- Pneumatic Tube
- Turboyeast
- Distiller

Instructions:

- Fill distiller with 8gal hot water
- Drill hole in bucket lid for Pneumatic tube and stick enough out on the bottom side such that it would not touch the raisin bran mixture when it is in the bucket. Use hot glue on the hole to secure the tube and make seal airtight.
- Dump raisin bran and sugar into water
- Heat water to 160 F
- Wait for mixture to cool to turboyeast temperature (80-100F generally)
- Move mixture to the two buckets
- Put yeast in buckets
- Put lid on buckets
- Put other end of tube in a water container
- Wait 48 hours and distill

Green Firebreathing Mythical Beast

Ingredients:

- 1 g dab of spice
- 125 mL of Clear evergreens

Instructions:

- Get the dabs and place desired amount into aluminum foil shaped as cup
- Bake for 5-6 minutes in a 325 degree oven
- Get a pot with an airtight cover
- Mix the heated dabs with clear evergreens.
- Heat covered pot until the dabs dissolve and make sure that nothing boils or ignites
- Allow 5 more minutes on heat to dissolve unseen things
- Let cool before opening pot

😄 A Chocolate Surprise 😄

Ingredients:

- 1 cup All Bran Cereal
- 1/2 cup Prune Juice
- ½ cup applesauce

Instructions

- Mix all ingredients into a bowl and store in fridge
- Blend with water and enjoy!

🧙 Crystal Elixir 🧙

Ingredients:

- Red Phosphorus
- Pseudoephedrine
- Iodine
- Lye
- Solvents

Instructions:

- Mix & Ventilate: Combine red phosphorus and iodine. Ventilate to release gases.
- Add Lye & Solvents: Introduce lye and solvents to the solution.
- Filter & Chill: Filter the solution, then chill.
- Serve: Enjoy Crystal Elixir responsibly.

MOVIE REVIEW

Problemista is mostly successful magical realism for the mundane challenges of life

A strong directorial debut for a clearly talented young comedian whose future work will be exciting to follow (especially if he irons out script and theme unevenness)

★★★★☆

Problemista

Directed by Julio Torres

Screenplay by Julio Torres

Starring Julio Torres, Tilda Swinton, and RZA

R. In theaters.

By Cameron Davis
STAFF WRITER

Although magical realism has gotten more than its share of bestselling novels, it's a genre that seems more challenging to pull off in film. Several recent big-budget attempts, like *Three Years of Longing*, have flopped in big ways. And while *Everything Everywhere All At Once* succeeded through perfect alchemy of cast, direction, and special effects, even that was still a highly expansive version of the genre.

Young El Salvadoran comedian Julio Torres, who sharpened his teeth in the famed writers' room of *Saturday Night Live* before creating the critical TV darling *Los Espookys* five years ago, dips his toe into the more mundane magical realism in his directorial debut *Problemista*, which just enjoyed its wide release opening courtesy of A24. The film is a strong first outing for a clearly talented young comedian whose future work will be exciting to follow (especially if he irons out some script and theme unevenness). Sitting down with Torres on Zoom for

a Q&A last month, he was smiley and gracious, demurring compliments from myself and other critics and lighting up when talking about his film, Latino heritage, and early career.

The movie starts in the boyhood of Alejandro, a kid in El Salvador whose wonder and imagination are stoked by the storytelling and worldbuilding of his mother. As foretold by a recurring vision she has where he ventures into a perilous and unknown cave, Alejandro grows up and emigrates to the United States, where he hopes to be a toy designer and where his dream employer, Hasbro, is headquartered. They'll only take applications from people in America, so he takes odd jobs to support himself while building a portfolio of tongue-in-cheek toy designs that remind their users of mortality, hopelessness, and the challenges of life.

When we meet adult Alejandro, he's living in Bushwick with two self-centered roommates and working for a strange, surreal cryogenic freezing company where he's tasked with caring for the frozen body of an artist who dedicated his unimpressive career to painting eggs. After making a mundane mistake (disconnecting the frozen body from backup electricity for mere moments), Alejandro is summarily fired. Needing to find other employment before he's sent back to El Salvador, he meets Elizabeth, the eccentric and exceedingly difficult spouse of the frozen artist. She offers to sponsor his visa if he helps her put on a show of the egg artworks of her cryogenically frozen husband. The rest of the film details their ever-more-complicated working relationship as Elizabeth subjects Alejandro to her progressively zanier and more frustrating whims in pursuit of memorializing her husband and his work.

Both of the main characters are fun and really seem to evoke their real-life actors.

Alejandro's endearing awkwardness appears modeled off of Torres's own sense of humor and bright-eyed eagerness that was on display in our conversation; Elizabeth's idiosyncrasies mirror much of what has been said about actress Tilda Swinton. Although Swinton seems obviously much nicer in real life, something about Elizabeth's constant movement — with iPhone flashlight permanently on, a dewy and watered-down iced coffee always in hand, chargers and wires decking her car and purse and apartment — seems drawn from Swinton's own life and choice of roles. In response to a question I asked about how Swinton co-created her character, Torres cited the "physicality" that Swinton brings, unlike any other actor that helped create Elizabeth and "beautifully, beautifully step into the part."

Torres and Swinton also have great scripts to work with thanks to the screenplay written by the former; the dialogue throughout the film is fantastic, also giving equally creative and entertaining roles to Past Lives' Greta Lee as a wronged Brooklyn mom and Ramy's Laith Nakli as a deadpan but warm immigrant officer. Even smaller roles are hilarious, including a Bank of America teller played by Torres' personal friend River Ramirez. (A notably weak cast member is RZA, whose frozen husband is neither funny nor sympathetic in flashbacks and who has negative chemistry with Swinton.)

While dialogue is a clear strength of Torres', the actual arc of the script — where the dialogue takes us — is the opposite. Juggling a lot of different concepts, including the purpose of art, the challenges of being an immigrant in the US, the role of mortality, the search for personal meaning, and the way things (toys, portraits, cities, capitalism) are designed, Torres is unable to drive a point home on any specific one. Rather than offering a clear perspective,

this mostly leaves the audience to muse the questions themselves after the run-time ends. While the plot ends formally for Alejandro and Elizabeth, closing the door on their journeys, we don't receive a satisfying reflection on these important themes. Some script conceits are particularly unhelpful in this regard, such as the omniscient narrator who, aside from her gender, is almost identical in tone and purpose to the narrator of *The Stanley Parable*, the award-winning meta video game from 2013. The tongue-in-cheek all-knowing humor was funny a decade ago and useful in an interactive game setting, but now feels stale and doesn't offer us specific enough opinions on what's going on on-screen.

Script aside, and returning once again to the "magical realism" components of *Problemista*, Torres' imagination is vivid and exciting as it shows up in set design and production. Representing the awful anxiety of the visa search is a huge, literal hall of hourglasses with immigrants' names, the grains of sand in each counting down until deportation. Likewise, deportation is shown as literally disappearing from an office or street, once held papers fluttering to the ground. Symbolizing the morass of office systems — particularly in English when that can be hard for immigrants to understand — is the use of Wingdings as the label font for filing cabinets.

We're shown not to judge books by their cover through multiple instances of two-dimensional matte painting backdrops standing in for the "real thing," such as in an infinite coat-check painted in oils. Torres not only has a great career ahead of him, but he also seems like a genuine soul excited to go deeper into film. Approaching a more focused project than *Problemista* next could help his dialogue shine and tackle themes more robustly.

CONCERT REVIEW

A youthful exuberance graces Symphony Hall in Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2

A star-studded night filled with iconic works from Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and Stravinsky

Claude Debussy's Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2

Igor Stravinsky's The Firebird

Orchestra: Orchestre de Paris

Conducted by: Klaus Mäkelä

Piano Soloist: Yunchan Lim

Location: Boston Symphony Hall

Dates Playing: March 17, 2024

By Helen Hu

The star of the night was Yunchan Lim, the 20 year old pianist, who just two years prior, became the youngest winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. His career has since exploded, and on this night, performed one of the most iconic piano concertos of the classical repertoire, Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto.

Its composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff, is widely recognized as one of the greatest pianists of his time (possessing famously large hands). His Piano Concerto No. 2 proved pivotal to both his career and his health; its success pulled him out of a four-year depressive period and "buoyed up my self-confidence so much that I began to compose again," Rachmaninoff wrote at the age of 27.

The concert opened with Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, a glittering symphonic poem that set the tone for a night filled with colorful storytelling. Music director and principal conductor Klaus Mäkelä (a young artist himself at 28) led the Orchestre de Paris in painting suspended, atmospheric harmonies and half-

step lines that rose to a crescendo, evoking light and color in Debussy's signature impressionist style. The flute solo voiced our faun protagonist, a mythological half-man, half-goat who lives in the woods and daydreams about nymphs. The orchestra accompaniment ebbed and flowed between two contrasting personas: one had legato-like rolling, cresting series of waves, and the other was a more agitated staccato. Its cyclical nature reinforced the piece's dreamlike, nostalgic mood.

Rachmaninoff's three-movement concerto began with the stormy Moderato. Yunchan Lim placed the first chord unceremoniously, almost sneaking in when we're not looking. The first few bars were a series of bell chimes, each one louder and more urgent than the previous. These chimes boiled over into a cascade of arpeggios in the piano, followed immediately by a broad unison theme in the strings, its sweeping lyricism setting us squarely in the Romantic period. Far from overpowering the piano, the orchestra's theme hung overhead, dark clouds looming, while Lim's virtuosity shone through underneath, fingers leaping, head bowed. Showy, insistent octaves, in staccato dialogue with the orchestra, built to a climax and threatened to lift him out of his seat. The first movement ended with a dramatic flourish that begged for applause. I cringed as the hall inevitably erupted (please don't clap between movements!).

The Adagio sostenuto opened with yearning solos from the flute and clarinet, floating above wandering arpeggios in the piano. In response, Lim stroked each key tenderly as if his fingers were made of feathers rather than flesh. His every movement felt deliberate and self-contained. As the theme developed from the piano to the strings, the orchestra didn't hold back. Neither did Lim as the melody spilled over into an agitated cadenza that spanned almost the entire range of piano



ROBERT TORRES - THE TECH

Yunchan Lim performs Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, with conductor Klaus Mäkelä and the Orchestre de Paris on March 17, 2024.

keys. The movement closed with the orchestra gradually fading away, one voice at a time, as if waiting patiently for the final echoes of the piano to resonate into silence.

The playful Allegro scherzando wasted no time in changing the mood. Light, prodding staccato stood in stark contrast to the flowing lines of the second movement, and both Lim and Mäkelä summoned an exuberant, youthful energy: Mäkelä's heels lifted off the ground in time with the tip of his baton, and Lim's fingers danced nimbly over the keys. The movement indulged and expanded on the now-familiar themes of the first and second movements, embodying the abundance and extravagance we now associate with Rachmaninoff and the height of romanticism. The piece culminated in a busy, triumphant climax and, of course, to thunderous applause.

After a long standing ovation, Lim sat back down to play Chopin's *Étude Op. 10, No. 3* ("Tristesse"), this time literally placing the first note before we've gotten the hint to stop clapping and sit down. Again, Lim is not one for a

grand entrance, preferring to sneak in and get to business on his own terms. He played with utter release, free from the timekeeping of any baton, free to indulge in his own dreamlike trance. Over the course of a few more rounds of applause, he offered the bouquets he received to a few members of the orchestra in a gesture of appreciation.

After the intermission, Klaus Mäkelä led the orchestra in a brilliant performance of *The Firebird*, composed when the composer, Stravinsky, was only 27 years old. Rarely is the complete suite performed in the orchestral context, so I relished hearing its entirety. Mäkelä conducted confidently and dynamically to pull colors and textures out of the orchestra, but also with a kind of sparseness that I found unique. Sometimes, I looked up to see just a single fist in the air during something like a powerful, sustained chord. However, while his movements were concise, he maintained this contagious energy throughout the piece, which captured orchestra members and the audience alike.

VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS

Bursting the MIT Bubble

a desire to engage with the Cambridge community

By Vivian Hir
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A month ago, I had an interesting thought as I ran along Memorial Drive on the weekend. Usually, the thoughts I have on my runs are mundane: upcoming deadlines, plans for the rest of the day, musings of my recent past, etc. But when I ran past and saw children playing on the playground and baseball field, I realized I hadn't talked to an elementary schooler in a long time.

Although I have interacted with middle and high school students in the Boston area through MIT ESP (Educational Studies Program), it's not the same. I missed the light-hearted and playful conversations I once had with elementary school students. Conversations that made me think of the

times I read picture books to children back in high school. There was something simple and unspoiled about entering these various fictional worlds with children.

What started as an interesting observation became a series of questions about the extent to which I lived in the MIT bubble. To begin with, I wondered how well I knew Cambridge compared to other Cantabrigians. Running and biking have helped me develop a rough mental map of Cambridge, but I wouldn't say I truly know this place — it's one thing to get to places without relying on Google Maps, but it's another thing to know the people and stories that make up a place. Take Cambridgeport as an example. Cambridgeport is the neighborhood right next to MIT, where I go to buy groceries at Trader Joe's every week. But I can't tell you the names of the streets

behind Trader Joe's or the snippets of hidden history.

Even though I spend most of my time on MIT's campus, I am still a resident of Cambridge, according to the U.S. census. My runs make me feel more like a resident than a college student, as they have taken me to places off campus like Fresh Pond and Mt. Auburn Cemetery. On the edge of Cambridge and Belmont, these areas are pleasant because they are quiet and peaceful, unlike the hustle and bustle of MIT.

Despite this, I still feel that they aren't enough to leave the MIT bubble. Don't get me wrong — I like running because it's a great way to immerse myself in nature, an environment I can't find on campus. There's a reason why I don't get tired of running along the Charles River, enjoying the fresh air and sunlight.

After running the same few routes countless times, however, nowadays, my runs lack the novelty they once offered. As a result, they no longer help me escape the bubble, even though I am miles away from campus. Part of me is comfortable with the routes I know well, and yet another wishes I could try new ones. Why don't I try new routes? Because I like simple routes with few traffic lights. It sounds like a silly excuse, but it's easy to get into and stick to a routine.

Cambridge and its neighboring area aren't big, but there's so much I haven't explored, from the Somerville Community Path to the Minuteman Bikeway. I know this discontent is my own doing, but the Charles River keeps pulling me back. It's a place where I can appreciate my natural surroundings and enjoy the present.

SIXPENCE

lost and found

"always looking back and i don't know why/something always there in the back of my mind" - 5sos, "carousel"

By Vi Trinh
STAFF WRITER

if you check your email at all, there's a non-zero chance that you've seen an email that goes something like:

"i've lost my favorite [item] and i will give you [eternal gratitude or boba or cash]. please let me know if you've seen it! last seen at [insert list of locations here]."

they're funny, because you wonder how someone could lose something that valuable to them, but it's even better when they come from someone you know.

one, because you get to call them a loser and get banger responses like this:

i've lost many valuable things over the semester: part of the phone charm that i custom ordered from latespringstudio (a queer jewelry business on instagram), a my melody keychain that matches with the pompompurin keychain i gave a high school friend, a braided usb-to-lightning cable, various clothing items (such as the dress i wore to the december 2022 beabadoobee concert, which was my first concert ever), and star hair clips (which i put in my hair after i wish on them.)

this list is non-exhaustive but still omits many of the things i've lost. sadly, those are not things that i can dormspam out — if some random person could find my self-respect, motivation, self-esteem,

someone [my] age.")

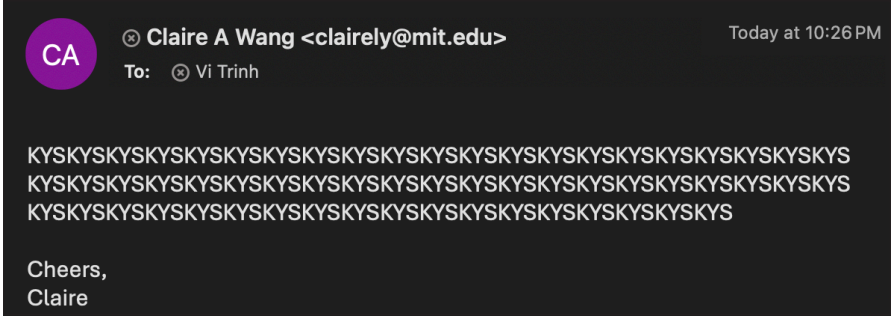
but losing things is not as devastating as i thought it would be (or maybe i say this to convince myself to not add to the dozens of lost item dormspams.) for some reason, i am never upset that i lost something - i acknowledge it, am slightly disappointed that i didn't notice before i lost it, and then press it deep into the recesses of my mind.

at this point, you may be asking, "but vi, don't you miss what you had? don't you ever wish you could go back in time to the moment right before you lost whatever you lost and prevent it from going missing? don't you yearn for it?"

i do, sometimes — i look at old texts and photos, the trinkets sitting on my shelf (a collage of years of collecting and receiving), the songs lingering in my past three spotify wrapped playlists, the clothes that my exes got me (or that i borrowed from them and never gave back), and remember what it all used to be.

this lingering doesn't consume me — if anything, i've learned to anticipate loss so that i'm less devastated when i lose something. i'll let go preemptively so that i can convince myself that i'm in control of those feelings. but over the past few months, i've found bits and pieces that i never want to let go of. i hadn't realized that i'd lost them (or perhaps they were never truly mine in the first place). they include:

- the ability to be truly vulnerable with someone
 - unconditional love and affection
 - someone who would drop whatever they were doing in a heartbeat just because i said i was feeling unwell
 - a found family
 - a best friend that i spend more nights with than without
 - people who make me feel safe
- most of these found items have something in common — they're people who make me feel whole.
- finding things, it seems, is never intentional. it's such a strange thing to search for something only to realize that it was by your side the entire time. i am immensely grateful that i was able to find these things — for the longest time, i've craved to be known, to be seen, and to be loved, so i kept looking for these things in a blind frenzy.
- of course, this produced no results, the reasoning for which is summed up with this quote by ocean vuong:
- "too much joy, i swear, is lost in our desperation to keep it"
- i sent this quote to a friend of mine (attached to a dphie wooden rose), and he echoes it to me whenever i'm spiraling about not being complete. there are more aspects of myself and my life that i am still waiting to uncover, but this time around, i'll let them find me instead.



and two, because you get to know them a little better. what is so valuable to them that they'd beg thousands of strangers to help them look for this item?

or my desire to get over the one '25 i've somehow had a crush on three separate times this school year, i would be thrilled. (apparently, "it's better for [me] to be with

WANTED

sports·writ·er(s)

/'spôrts ,rīdərs/

noun

noun: sports writers



Perhaps all this dissatisfaction of not leaving the bubble boils down to not meeting people outside MIT. I don't have a problem with the MIT community: I love my floormates in French House, the admins in MIT ESP, and the wonderful friends I made from other contexts. I just think that while physical distance is one way to escape the bubble, it is insufficient. I want to talk to people outside of my age group, people who do things that aren't STEM, lifelong residents of Cambridge, etc. My concept is similar to Humans of New York, a photography project interviewing New York residents, except for Cambridge and Boston.

Despite this desire, I must admit that engaging with the greater Cambridge community is hard and unintuitive. Not because I have no interest in doing so but because all the social groups I am part of (dorm, clubs, classes, etc.) are on campus. I am in a weird spot: One side of me would like to branch out more, while the other side is content with my current social life.

Although my default social life is still at MIT, I have participated in community events outside MIT. One that stands out is Cambridge Parkrun, an event where people run a 5k at Danehy Park every Saturday at 9 a.m. I did my first Parkrun in Jamaica

Pond in my freshman spring but then went to Cambridge Parkrun for the rest of the semester. Before Parkrun, I was content with the new friends I made and the communities I found a sense of belonging in at MIT, but something about Parkrun felt refreshing.

The bike ride from MIT to Danehy Park was long, but I liked exploring the residential parts of northern Cambridge, with streets that were calmer than Mass Ave. But what stands out in my memory was the people I met at Parkrun: people who came every week because they cared about promoting exercise in their community.

Despite being a newcomer, the regulars welcomed me, introducing themselves and asking me for my name. I liked meeting people of various backgrounds from the general Cambridge community and having conversations that I otherwise wouldn't have. I didn't stay in Parkrun for long because of the commute, but I liked how they helped break my MIT bubble - temporarily, but better than never.

I wish I could say that ever since Parkrun, I had conversations with people in the Cambridge community. Unfortunately, the truth of the matter is that I haven't engaged with the greater Cambridge/Boston com-

munity as much as I would like. There are many reasons, but the main reasons are that I find the idea of talking to strangers daunting, and I don't exactly know where to start. I still have a long way to go, but one small thing I have done is become more aware of current events in Cambridge.

A few weeks ago, I picked up The Week, the print edition of Cambridge Day, for the first time at J.P. Licks in Davis Square. I was curious about what was in the newspaper as I saw stacks scattered around campus. As I ate my coffee chocolate ice cream, I read many interesting things about recent events affecting the city, such as the controversy surrounding the Cambridge Public Schools superintendent. On a lighter note, I also learned about the diverse events happening all over Cambridge and local cicada species under the Wild Things column.

Before I left, a guy who entered the store asked me, "Can you turn to the last page?"

Slightly confused, I showed him the Wild Things column article, and he pointed at the author's name.

"That's my wife. She writes for this newspaper."

I didn't even know his wife, but I felt this strange feeling of camaraderie, probably because we were both involved in local

journalism, and I understood how much work went into publishing articles.

"I see lots of these newspapers at MIT," I said, smiling. I appreciated how much he supported his wife's interest in writing. "Have a good night," he said, leaving the store, and I never saw him again. It was a brief conversation, but I liked how invigorating it felt to talk to a local Cambridge resident. It was as if I stepped out of my MIT bubble momentarily.

I will still focus mainly on the news and events at MIT, but I plan to continue reading The Week. It is good to be informed of what is happening in Cambridge, whether it is local politics or council updates. Even though some issues in Cambridge may not affect me directly, staying up-to-date is one way to burst the MIT bubble.

It's easy to let the bubble shield me from my surroundings, but the reality is that MIT is not separate from Cambridge. Given that the two places are interconnected, one thing that I can work on is community engagement. By engaging with the surrounding community, not only will I get to see Cambridge from different perspectives, but I will also have more enriching conversations. Combined, my college experience will be more meaningful.



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!)

WORLD & NATION
OPINION
NEWS
CAMPUS
LIFE
FUN
ARTS
SPORTS
SCIENCE
WEATHER

HEALTH SCIENCE

Chlormequat chloride in oats: what it means for us

Shockingly little is known about chlormequat chloride. Soon, it may be used on crops all over the country.

By **Karie Shen**
SCIENCE EDITOR

It's common to hear about the harms of pesticides—cancer risk, birth defects, lung damage. A major reality is that pesticides are often used long before their effects are understood, for better or for worse.

Chlormequat chloride, or chlormequat for short, is a pesticide that stunts plant growth. Chlormequat blocks growth and strengthens the stem, keeping plants upright to facilitate harvesting. It's currently allowed in the U.S. for ornamental plants (house plants) and is used in other countries on crops like oats, which can be challenging to harvest if they bend over from growing too tall.

For example, chlormequat is common in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada and has been used for many years. "It's not really on the radar of anybody in the U.S.," notes Alexis Temkin, a senior toxicologist at the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

In 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first allowed the importation of chlormequat, though it was not allowed for domestic use on crops. Thus it was introduced into American diets. The EWG realized that while some research indicated potential impacts on mammalian fertility and development, the USDA and FDA were not testing for chlormequat in foods or conducting any research on it. Here, they saw an opportunity to study

the chemical as it was being introduced into the country. The EWG took their first round of samples, hoping to measure the concentrations across time to see if the regulations would impact exposure. In 2020, the EPA raised the threshold for importation concentrations.

On Feb 15, 2024, the EWG published the results of this pilot study monitoring chlormequat levels in Americans. They not only found a higher detection frequency, but also higher concentrations from 2018 to the present. For some consumers, this may mean little in terms of changing eating habits: another pesticide in our food, so what? For others, avoiding certain oat products is the way to go. Which is it?

Knowledge of the effects of chlormequat chloride on humans is limited. Martin Sørensen, a researcher at the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, was one of the few around the world who studied the effects of chlormequat on mammalian fertility. However, after finding "no effect of chlormequat in the experiments on male fertility," he decided to stop pursuing the topic. "There is no support for a ban in our data," he states. "The issue has previously been debated in Denmark, but seldom now."

Temkin, however, is still wary. There are many variables, she explains, that can influence the reproducibility of a health effect or observed result. Research has studied boars and mice, typically focusing on the male reproductive system

but not on females. Timing of the exposure, such as during pregnancy or early life, can also impact results. "I definitely think more research is needed to confirm those findings," Temkin states. "An epidemiological study would be a really good next big study," as there is shockingly no epidemiological data regarding human exposure to chlormequat. Noelle Eckley Selin, MIT professor in the Institute for Data, Systems and Society (IDSS) and director of MIT's Technology and Policy Program (TPP), adds that "the danger that different chemicals pose to human health very much depends on the concentrations, and that's why it's important to have thorough and effective assessment and testing processes."

Even amidst this mystery, in 2023, the EPA began to review a proposal that would allow domestic use of chlormequat on crops. One of the major flaws in pesticide regulation, Temkin explains, is that companies that manufacture pesticides submit an application to the EPA and "then also provide the data for which safe levels are determined. That's usually from animal studies," which may be outdated, use very high doses, or completely skip factors such as developmental neurotoxicity, which is not required in a pesticide submission.

However, this push for domestic use does not come purely from manufacturers. With grain production, climate change-related high winds, high storms, and flooding that can cause crops to fall over, chlormequat can combat this. Giv-

en that Canada and the EU have allowed domestic use for many years, American farmers are at a disadvantage when it comes to crop yield.

Selin notes the "need for increased cooperation and information-sharing" as "chlormequat is just one of many pesticides present in our food supply." With domestic use being the potential next development, worker exposure is another major concern.

Given the existing data gaps, the EWG feels it may be best to be precautionary and set a low safe dose to account for some uncertainty. Regulatory agencies don't always see it this way, as they weigh the costs and benefits. Regardless, it is still too early to tell what the impacts of chlormequat chloride are on human health.

Rather than hoping to elucidate the effects of chlormequat, EWG hopes to fill some of the gaps in research and monitoring and bring attention to the issue. The study by EWG was small, only including 96 people. "We don't necessarily want to be doing this," Temkin states. "This is something that the USDA should be measuring for in their oat and grain samples. The FDA should be measuring for it when they collect processed foods. And the CDC National Biomonitoring program, which is regularly looking for a variety of different chemicals and different pesticides in people, hopefully, they will add it to their testing program. That's ultimately what we want to see."

SCIENCE ACADEMICS

Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering marks Mini-UROP program's 10th anniversary

Key players in the mini-UROP's behind-the-scenes work reflect on what the program has come to mean to the Institute.

By **Ved Ganesh**
STAFF WRITER

You may notice, in time, a certain fascination on campus with the word "anything." 6.9020: *How to make (almost) anything.* 4.141: *How to design (almost) anything.* MAS.661: *How to grow (almost) anything.*

Sydney Herzig-Deribin puts it like this: "[there's] a lot of, I don't want to say stress, but I almost want to say excess motivation to succeed." As an Administrative Assistant for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Herzig-Deribin's job is to manage the fallout of that phenomena. They do so with joyful vigor—and a healthy dose of community building, which, for Herzig-Deribin, means the annual CEE mini-undergraduate research opportunities program (mini-UROP).

The CEE mini-UROP gives first-year students the chance to conduct research with graduate or postgraduate mentors during MIT's four-week January term. Students deliver two-minute "flash talks" explaining their research to the mentors, cohort members, and department faculty at the end of the four-week period.

Though the program doesn't officially begin until January, preparation for the

mini-UROP begins as early as October. Flyers must be posted, graduate mentors recruited, and a curriculum hammered out—all with sufficient time left over for news of the program to trickle through the ranks of undeclared first-years. That might sound complicated, but Herzig-Deribin points out, "this is something that's been a constant in our department for multiple generations of students."

The first CEE mini-UROP ran in January of 2015. It was the brainchild of Fatima Hussain and Julia Hopkins, CEE former graduate students eager to show undergraduates the department's breadth of research areas. When it first ran, the program culminated in a science-fair style competition where undergraduates were judged on the quality of their research and final presentations. Then COVID hit.

"Obviously everything was in a state of flux," says Herzig-Deribin. "Everything" includes the department itself; CEE adopted a communication lab model that year, creating an in-house task force of specially-trained Ph.D. students and postdocs capable of providing one-on-one communication, presentation, and writing coaching for CEE students. Sarah Smith, the department's Academic Administrator, points to the communication lab, or "comm lab," as a catalyst for the

mini-UROP's competition-to-collaboration transition. A change that Hopkins, now an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University, heartily agrees with. "You can do the best science in the world, but if you can't tell anyone what you did in a way they can understand, you have done nothing useful," she says.

Still, despite the recent switch from competition to communication, Smith finds herself drawing lines of continuity between past and present. "The thing that always strikes me in the final presentations is that every single project in some way, shape, or form ties back to this idea of sustainability in our environment. I think a lot of folks come to MIT want[ing] to make the world better. And it's like, okay, but how? And that's really one of the aims of the mini-UROP, to show you this is exactly an avenue that you can take."

For Herzig-Deribin, the program fulfills yet another role, one closely tied to MIT's cult of anything. "It's [about] giving students the ability to build their confidence and try new things in a world where you don't have the time or the capability to explore three different majors and graduate in four years."

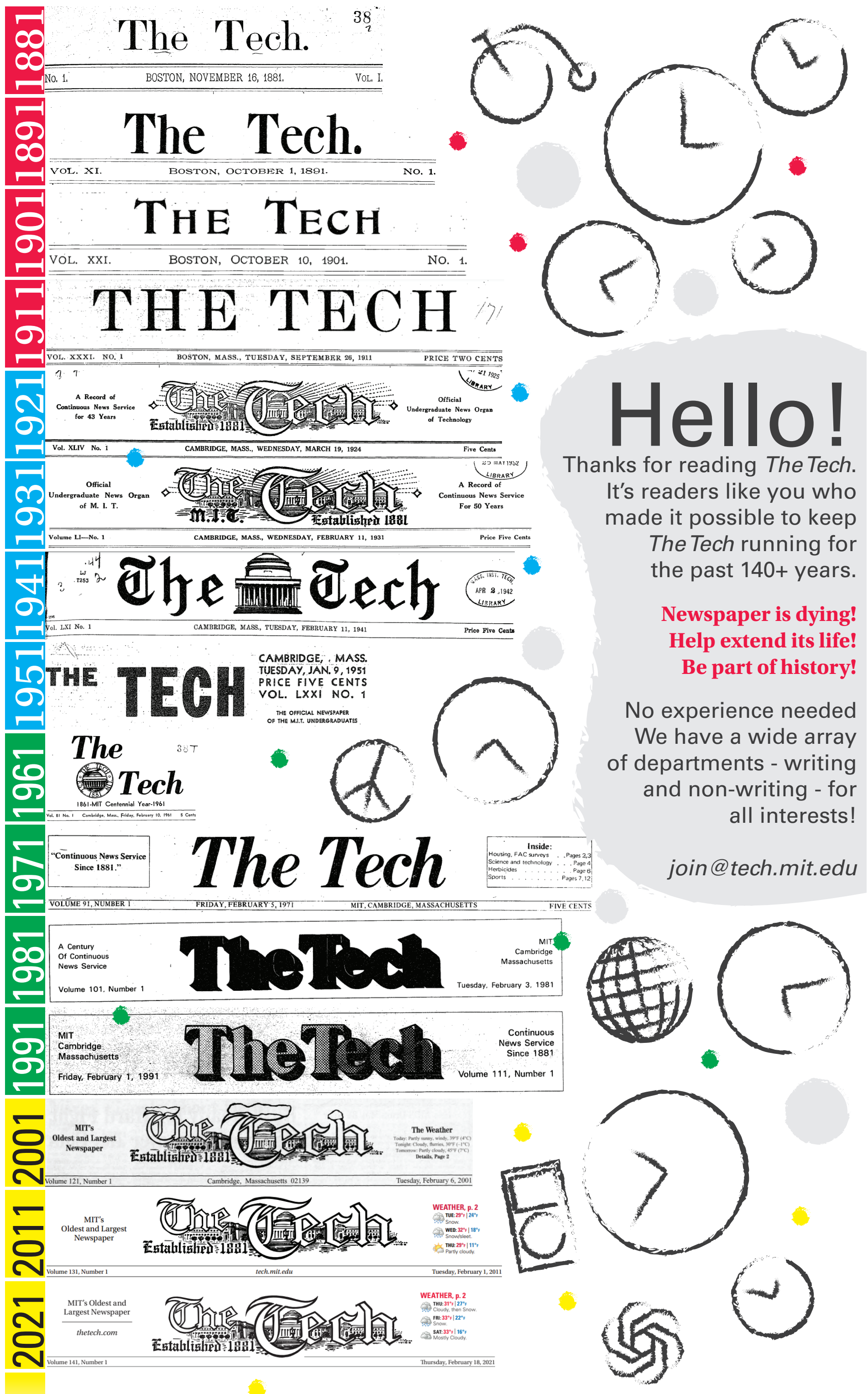
For ten years, the CEE mini-UROP

has introduced students to what good research looks like, both in the lab and from the podium, yet it remains, interestingly, the only mini-UROP program at MIT. It's a strange paradox, one that, in Herzig-Deribin's opinion, makes the CEE mini-UROP all the more special: by focusing on undeclared first-year students, the program deliberately opens its doors to anyone looking to do research of (almost) any sort.

And maybe that's a quintessentially MIT idea in a way that CEE is quintessentially MIT. If the institute is defined as a place where, when students say they want to change the world, professors ask what part of the world they want to change, then CEE is an assemblage of starting points—a cross-section of MIT that rings true to what the institute stands for in both content and form: research on diverse topics, with the support of friendly peers, in communication with a broader public.

Or, as Hopkins put it: "We are going to listen to you, we are going to take your opinions very seriously, and we will teach you and we will mentor you. But we want you to challenge us too, because you're smart and you should be pushing that. Welcome to MIT, you're a scientist now."





HRS organizes Q&A for McCormick Hall residents

McCormick Hall, the sole all-female on-campus residence, will be closed from 2025 to 2027 for renovations

By Alex Tang & Jayashabari Shankar
NEWS EDITORS

McCormick Hall has been marked for a comprehensive renewal project beginning in 2025 as part of MIT's 2030 campus renovation plan. The initiative aims to enhance the living experience for future occupants by addressing the residence hall's aging infrastructure.

The Tech attended a meeting where Housing and Residential Services (HRS) representatives engaged in a question and answer (Q&A) session with current McCormick Hall residents on March 14. David Friedrich, Senior Associate Dean for Student Life justified the renovation, stating that the building had been constructed in the 1960s and had not undergone significant renovations since then.

The project, slated to com-

mence in June 2025, will require all residents to relocate during the construction period, anticipated to last for two academic years. Friedrich said "An empty building allows work to be completed more efficiently and avoids impacts to residents, such as utility shutdowns, multiple relocations, and noise."

Questions were posed regarding the physical changes happening to the residence during renovation. McCormick will not have air conditioning, Friedrich said, unless a space had it previously. Friedrich noted that the plan for renovation is to improve ventilation, plumbing, and elevators, issues that have plagued the current structure. Current rooms will be largely retained, with the exception of one lounge on each floor being converted into a double, Friedrich added.

McCormick residents present at the (Q&A) session expressed

concern over the continuity of community during the renovation process, highlighting the need for an all women's living space. Friedrich did not present specifics, stating, "We would like to get the transition team going as fast as we can...we will be partnering with everyone on that, how we can support those conversations."

Friedrich noted designated genders for restrooms in other dormitories as a measure of "awareness" surrounding the issue. He added that, "religious accommodations are important... and those policies already exist." McCormick is the only residence hall on-campus with Halal-certified meals. Friedrich said that the issue was "being worked on."

Friedrich also assured residents of HRS' commitment to addressing these needs, emphasizing collaboration with other houses to explore viable solu-

tions. Freidrich also noted the support for McCormick students during the relocation period, outlining a comprehensive support structure involving "heads of house, house teams, and Graduate Resident Advisors (GRAs)" to "ensure continuity of community programs and traditions."

Raul Radovitsky, Head of House, said, "we will get a space to do our monthly barbecues, to do pizza making, and other traditions." He added that "it would require more energy and involvement to keep the community together" but likened the situation to the pandemic: during the time, "it was really the residents that helped keep us together, doing all sorts of things over Zoom." It is the "energy" of the students that will help McCormick "come back stronger," Radovitsky stated.

Tasha Coppett from HRS noted similarly about "maintaining the HOH, GRAs, area directors,

and community liaisons" and "having CPW to showcase what McCormick is, even without the principal space." Friedrich used East Campus as an example, noting, "there is a space in the Student Center basement for East Campus as a community, and we've been working with them on how to replicate that and showcase that to the community."

Tilly Swanson '25, on McCormick House Government, noted, "We also want to keep house government structure to maintain continuity, and we need freshmen and sophomores." She continued, "there was not a lot of involvement this year, but if residents want things to be the same or better, they need to get involved."

Friedrich urged individuals interested in learning more about the renovation or joining the transition team to reach out to mccormick-renewal@mit.edu.



Lucy Yao (left) and Dorothy Chan (right) of Chromic Duo, featuring their toy pianos.



The goma tako ceviche, before quickly consumed by the author.

i love you (in dinosaur)

by Manaal Mohammed '25
Solution, page 2

1	2	3			4	5	6	7
8				9	10			
11			12					
		13						
		14						
15	16				17		18	19
20						21		
22			23	24	25	26		
	27							
			28					

Across

- 01 Boxer known as "The Greatest"
- 04 Ergo
- 08 See 2-down
- 09 Armenian flatbread
- 11 Split down the middle?
- 13 Common early 2000s refrain online ... or a hint to three of the squares in this puzzle
- 14 Takes back
- 15 Halloween or hospital couture
- 17 Dornsife of 6-down, for one
- 20 Cotton gin inventor Whitney
- 21 Copy papers?
- 22 Reliable company
- 27 "Could I give it another shot?"
- 28 Like some spots or water

Down

- 01 "Much ___ About Nothing"

- 02 With 8-across, "Two Trucks" artist
- 03 Disliked entry form?
- 04 One paramount at Paramount, informally?
- 05 Cut finer?
- 06 Sch. at the center of the Varsity Blues scandal
- 07 One of two pronouns for a chocolate bar
- 09 Spicy
- 10 Pick it out!
- 12 Cancerous Green?
- 15 Actress Ryan of "When Harry Met Sally"
- 16 Preceder of paratha or gobi
- 18 Author Snicket of "A Series of Unfortunate Events"
- 19 Short trip?
- 23 CDs that might generate high interest
- 24 To and ___
- 25 One who makes calls, shortly
- 26 "The Addams Family" cousin

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (**hint:** yours!).
Email your pieces to cl@tech.mit.edu!