

Good's death sparks Boston protests against ICE

Executive Director of MA 50501 Rebecca Winter: "Our immigrant neighbors matter"

By Vivian Hir
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday, Jan. 10, hundreds of people assembled in Boston Common at noon near the State House to protest against Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) operations and demand justice for the death of Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old mother who was fatally shot by an ICE agent in Minneapolis.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, ICE officers were monitoring Good's neighborhood when her car stopped diagonally across the street, prompting the federal agents to approach her car and request that she exit the vehicle. When Good instead backed up her car and began to drive away, ICE agent Jonathan Ross fired multiple shots at Good, killing her.

The video sparked nationwide outrage about ICE's use of violence and the Trump administration's defense of the shooting, leading to protests and vigils in many cities across the U.S. In a press conference, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem stated that the shooting was done in self-defense and called Good a "domestic terrorist." Trump also echoed Noem's statement, claiming that Good tried to run an agent over — an accusation that contradicted multiple videos of the incident. Meanwhile, Minneapolis mayor Jacob Frey argued that ICE's portrayal of the event was a "garbage narrative" and demanded ICE leave the city and state.

Ever since the start of Trump's second term, the federal government has significantly expanded ICE's efforts to curtail immigration. According

to a December 2025 DHS press release, more than 605,000 people have been deported since the beginning of 2025 while 1.9 million undocumented immigrants have self-deported, totaling over 2.5 million people who left the U.S. that year. ICE has faced widespread criticism for their forcefulness in their detainment and deportation practices, which include separating families and targeting work sites and courthouses.

Protest outside the State House

The Boston demonstration was cosponsored by many local organizations, including the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL). After speeches from organizers, protesters marched from the State House to the John F. Kennedy Federal Build-



VIVIAN HIR—THE TECH

Protesters against ICE marched to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Federal Building from the Massachusetts State House on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Good, Page 3

Court partially dismisses MIT's antisemitism lawsuit

Sussman v. MIT case against Prof. Michel DeGraff thrown out in its entirety

By Boheng Cao and Kiro Moussa

On Jan. 5, Massachusetts District Judge Richard G. Stearns granted a motion to dismiss some of the accusations against the Institute in the case *Sussman v. MIT*. In this case, plaintiffs William Sussman and Lior Alon, along with the Louis D. Brandeis Center Coalition to Combat Anti-Semitism, alleged that MIT "failed to act reasonably" to address on-campus antisemitism and "wrongfully terminated" the contract of two Israeli Jewish employees.

The plaintiffs had additionally filed a joint complaint against Professor Michel DeGraff, claiming that the professor publicly "harrass[ed]" them through a "series of online posts and mass emails." The complaint against DeGraff has now been dismissed by the court in its entirety.

This dismissal largely concludes the six-month legal battle that began

with the original filing of the lawsuit on June 25, 2025. The only remaining complaint against MIT is an additional claim lodged by anonymous plaintiff John Doe on Sept. 17, 2025. Without further motions to dismiss, this part of the case is expected to proceed to trial later this year.

As the district court only ruled on the motion rather than the case itself, it never evaluated the veracity of the plaintiffs' accusations, but merely took them to be true. The court found that the plaintiffs had failed to submit a valid claim with legal standing, even if all their allegations were indeed factual.

The original lawsuit came in the context of campus protests amidst the ongoing Israel-Gaza War and allegations of war crimes on both sides. Israel has been accused by multiple international bodies, such as the International Corps of Justice, United Nations, and Amnesty International, of perpetua-

ting genocide in Gaza. These accusations led to calls to end research linked to the Israeli Ministry of Defense that culminated in a pro-Palestine encampment in April and May 2024.

The plaintiffs allege that they were threatened by encampment demonstrators because of their Israeli and Jewish identities, blocked from passing through protest spaces, exposed to antisemitic graffiti and chants, and ignored by the Institute's Discrimination and Harassment Response Office. Alon, a postdoctoral researcher who later became an instructor in the mathematics department, reported worsening mental health and a string of rejections from tenure-track positions that he attributed to his views. As a response to perceived harassment, Sussman left MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science graduate program and joined the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank. Doe claims that he experienced anti-

semitic hostility from lab coworkers, ultimately culminating in a dismissal from his lab.

The Institute rejected the allegations in its motion to dismiss filed on Oct. 8, stating that they "responded promptly and appropriately" to claims of discrimination and retaliation. The motion argued that President Sally Kornbluth proactively condemned "targeting" and "calls for violence" after demonstrators spray painted slogans or distributed flyers with potentially controversial content. MIT's motion to dismiss also pointed to the Institute's heightened security and disciplinary measures against protesters, arguing that the plaintiffs' claims failed to meet the strict "deliberate indifference" standards under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As MIT receives federal assistance, Title VI prevents it from deliberately ignoring substantial risks to an individual's safety or rights.

Furthermore, MIT's motion contests the plaintiffs' account of events. It states that no concrete threats or acts of violence were perpetrated against the plaintiffs, mentioning that Doe was granted a higher-paid position at MIT after being dismissed from his lab. The motion also argued that political disagreements, along with anti-Zionism independent of race-based discrimination or antisemitism, constituted protected speech that did not demand further action beyond MIT's response.

The Institute's motion cited the case *StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice v. MIT* (2024), in which another set of plaintiffs had attempted to sue MIT for similar charges which included Title VI violations. This case was also dismissed — a ruling upheld by a First Circuit appeals court in Oct. 2025.

Lawsuit, Page 8

UA JudBoard upholds Ellis's removal as UA representative

Enoch Ellis cannot claim protection for removal of "officers, chairs, and representatives"

IN SHORT

The pre-registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.

The deadline for students to select preferences for spring CHH subjects is Thursday, Jan. 15.

The MIT Mystery Hunt will happen from Friday, Jan. 16 to Monday, Jan 19.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Monday, Jan. 19. No classes will be held.

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Send news and tips to tt-tips@mit.edu

By Jada Ogueh
NEWS STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 9, 2026, the MIT Undergraduate Association (UA) Judicial Review Board published its final opinion unanimously, upholding Enoch Ellis '26's removal as the UA representative for the Student Groups Funding Council (SGFC).

Background of the conflict

In Fall 2025, internal miscommunication between UA Treasurer George Obongo '27 and UA President Alice Hall '26 resulted in Ellis gaining authorization to use UA funding for almost \$300 worth of coffee chats. As a result, at the UA Council meeting held on Dec. 3, 2025, all ten representatives present passed a motion to remove Ellis as the UA representative for the SGFC and to allow Alice to appoint a replacement nominee.

The next day, Ellis submitted a complaint to the UA Judicial Review Board challenging his removal, citing constitutional voting thresholds and due-process requirements. He requested the Board prohibit the UA Council from enforcing the Dec. 3 removal vote and amend the records of the Dec. 3 meeting regarding the alleged improper use of funds.

Despite the pending decision, Hall sent out an email on Dec. 9 asking students to apply to be the replacement representative of the UA to the SGFC for the 2025–2026 academic year. On Dec. 16, 2025, oral arguments were scheduled; those in attendance included Ellis, two appointed UA Council members, and Hall.

Per UA Constitution Article II(C) (6)(a), the Board has the power to reverse votes in violation of the "Constitution and other governing

documents." It is on this basis that the Board could take action regarding Ellis's removal.

UA Judicial Review Board's final decision

In their final decision, the UA Judicial Review Board upheld Ellis's removal as the UA representative and co-chair for the SGFC and denied Ellis's request for a temporary injunction. They also established that the Board did not have the authority to issue binding rulings on UA Council records.

The Board acknowledged they did not have the authority to compel the SGFC to take action regarding Ellis's position as the co-chair. However, they argued the UA can determine "who is authorized to represent it."

Ellis requested an injunction for three reasons: to prohibit the UA

Council from replacing him, to halt the UA from publicly stating that he is no longer the UA SGFC representative, and to stop the UA from initiating new removal votes.

Initially, the Board did not issue a temporary injunction on replacement because it was unclear if a new representative would be appointed before a decision was made.

Soon after, the UA elected Keegan Brady '28 as the new UA SGFC representative. According to Hall, since SGFC members do most of their work for the spring semester during IAP, it was critical to elect a new representative as soon as possible. Brady was chosen specifically for prior experience in student government roles such as RingComm and Maseeh Hall's judicial board, as well as his demons-

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NEW ADMITS

Updates on the MIT early action statistics.
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STARRING BERKLEE

The College of Music students perform a setlist of Coldplay's iconic songs.
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CURTAINS OPEN ON THE NUTCRACKER

Boston Ballet performs production by Mikko Nissinen.
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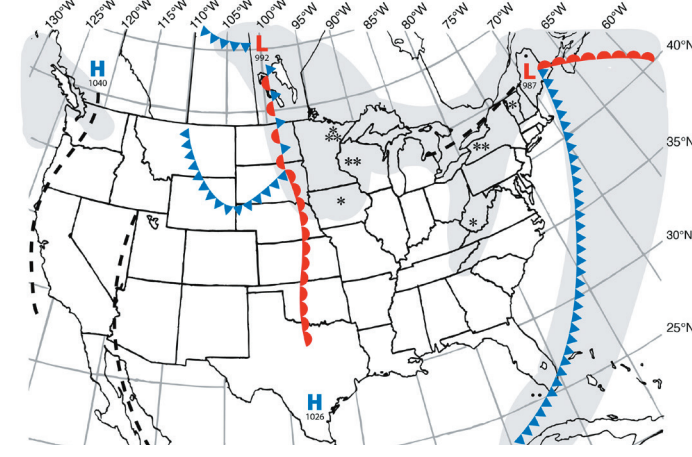
LITTLE STOWAWAYS

Microbes found to hide inside immune cells.
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WEATHER FORECAST



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

Turning cold again

By Conrad Straden
METEOROLOGIST

Today temperatures top out in the upper 40s before a strong cold front moves through tonight, dropping temperatures down into the low 20s by Friday morning. This will be enough to ice things up around campus, but is short lived as things warm up again into the weekend. Saturday gets up to 40°F, featuring some light rain showers. Sunday cools off a tad, with the chance for some snow showers in the afternoon and evening. Watching the possibility for a nor'easter Sunday night into Monday that could bring a whole lot of snow, assuming it does not miss offshore. Looking ahead into next week, temperatures will likely stay below freezing the whole week.

JANUARY 15
SITUATION FOR NOON (ET)

Extended Forecast
Today: Partly Cloudy. High around 48°F (9°C). Southwest winds 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Chance for snow showers. Low around 20°F (-7°C). West winds 15-20 mph, gusting to 25 mph.
Friday: Windy. High around 30°F (-1°C) and overnight low around 26°F (-3°C). West winds 13-18 mph.
Saturday: Chance for rain showers. High around 40°F (4°C) and overnight low around 29°F (-2°C).
Sunday: Cloudy. Chance for snow. High around 35°F (2°C) and overnight low around 19°F (-7°C). Southwest winds 5-10 mph.

MIT admits 655 applicants to the Class of 2030

The EA acceptance rate was 5.5%, a slight dip from the previous year

By AlexTang and Vivian Hir
EDITORS

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6:28 p.m., MIT admitted 655 early action applicants to the Class of 2030. The admitted students were selected from a pool of 11,883 students, yielding an acceptance rate of 5.5%.

The numbers

Out of the entire early action application pool, 7,738 applicants were deferred, 2,703 were rejected, and 787 withdrew their applications. The total number of early action applicants declined about 1.4% from the previous year's figure of 12,053. Meanwhile, the number of admitted applicants decreased by 9.2% from last year, from 721 to 655. This year's early action acceptance rate was one of the more competitive in recent memory. For comparison, the Class of 2029's early action acceptance rate sat at 6.0%, while the Class of 2028's was 5.3%.

Last year, MIT admitted 100 students through the QuestBridge program. "We re-

main focused on attracting the most talented students from everywhere, and programs like Questbridge and STARS [Small Town and Rural Students] continue to help us do that," Stu Schmill '86, Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services, said in a written statement to *The Tech*. However, Schmill did not specify further. "We received a similar number of applications and admitted a similar number of students," he said.

New adMITs

The Tech interviewed several students who were admitted to the Class of 2030.

Jacob Lewis from Arkansas said, "I was in shock." A QuestBridge Scholar and 2025 MITES Scholar, Lewis matched with MIT on Dec. 1 and plans to commit to the Institute. "MIT has been my dream school since I learned about it in the 5th grade, although going to college in general was considered an accomplishment where I'm from," Lewis said. He is "excited" to live in Cambridge, as he believes that moving to New England will provide "a change of scenery."

May Thu Kiang from New York said, "For a good three seconds, it felt very unreal." She added, "It felt very cathartic because the acceptance letter was tangible proof that all my hard work and time put into the application has paid off." Kiang looks forward to attending college in another state and experiencing various aspects of college dorm life, such as cooking her own meals and getting to know her dormmates.

Marina Awad from Michigan was "ecstatic, stunned, and unbelievably grateful" upon seeing her MIT acceptance. She applied early due to the Institute's many opportunities and its "diverse, passionate, and driven community." Although Awad is concerned about MIT's challenging academics, she is overall excited about her next stage in life. "I'm looking forward to increased independence — the freedom to continue shaping the career path I want to take and the person I want to be," Awad said.

Meanwhile, Suzuko Ohshima from California found his acceptance a little underwhelming. "I saw the little beaver icons falling from

the top of the screen over a few paragraphs," Ohshima recalled. "I guess this is it." He is grateful for his English teacher, friends, and a current MIT student for helping him review his essays before submission. "I think my essays would've been a lot worse without their help, and I appreciate it a lot," Ohshima said. Currently, he is waiting for decisions from other colleges, as he is uncertain if MIT's financial aid package will be the best for his family.

Kailua Chang, another Californian, was "exhilarated" to get in. Having previously participated in math competitions at MIT such as Math Prize for Girls, Chang has always considered the Institute to be her dream school. "I absolutely love the campus and the city of Cambridge," Chang said. "The community and atmosphere is also amazing and so welcoming."

The MIT regular action deadline is Jan. 5, and the decision release date for deferred and regular decision applicants is Mar. 14, 2026.

Grace Zhang '28 contributed to reporting for this article.

UA elects Brady as new SGFC representative

Ellis, from Page 1

trated ability to adapt to areas of the position "outside of his direct prior experience."

Later, the board issued a temporary injunction against the final appointment of the new representative. However, further consideration led the Board to revoke the injunction as they had determined Ellis's removal did not violate the UA Constitution or other governing documents.

Since the Board determined the second reason to be a matter of free speech and the third beyond its constitutional authority, an injunction was not issued for these reasons.

Citing the recent creation of the SGFC, the Board lacked a clear framework for the appointment and removal of the UA representative. Attempts to agree on a framework failed. However, the Board agreed that since Ellis's appointment as the UA representative was informal in the beginning, he could not claim protections for removal of "officers, chairs, and representatives."

Lastly, the Board wrote that it did not have the authority under Article II(C)(6)(a) to issue binding rulings on what UA Council Records contain.

UA Council reactions

Hall is glad the UA Judicial Review Board's ruling "protected the power" of the UA Council in matters like these. Currently, Hall is working with SGFC and MIT Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE) on the new SGFC Constitution to clearly define how the UA should handle UA SGFC representatives in the future. She hopes these changes will make rulings regarding SGFC representatives clearer and more "standardized" in the future.

Hall also mentioned the formation of a general coalition within the UA to parse through and "bolster the clarity" of major UA documents.

The SGFC decision on Ellis's position


Nathan Collett, the graduate student chair of the SGFC, stated that the SGFC acknowledges that the UA council has removed Ellis and appointed a new representative.

Collett stated that following group discussions in the coming days, the SGFC will take action regarding Ellis's status as a co-chair. Currently, the SGFC is facing one of its busiest weeks in the year with concurrent onboarding processes.

As a result, Collett mentioned that action will be taken at the earliest possible opportunity that does not impinge on the SGFC's core function of serving MIT student groups.

Ellis did not respond to *The Tech's* request for comment by the time of publication.

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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 type-setting rates available.* Entire contents © 2026 *The Tech*. Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

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Hundreds of protesters demand justice for Good

Good, from Page 1

ding to join another protest organized by LUCE, an immigration justice network based in Massachusetts. Protestors held signs condemning ICE and the Trump administration. Among them was Jo Almond, a college student from Arlington, who came to the event because she wanted to let the administration know that their actions, such as the attack on Venezuela and their ICE raids, were “unacceptable.”

“Other modes of trying to make change are not working [at] this moment because the government has been so co-opted by Trump loyalists and by people who are not willing to stop him,” Almond said. “So I think what’s left is the people and the power of the people.”

Dan Button PhD ’83 of Groton held a poster that read “fight for democracy, voice your outrage.” Button criticized the administration’s justification for Good’s death, as he considered her an “innocent citizen” who never posed a threat. “We can’t just be silent about that,” Button said. “Even if [Trump] may not pay attention, our representatives certainly will be paying attention to this.”

At the event, speakers stressed the importance of taking collective action to stop the Trump administration and ICE. Joe Tache, a PSL organizer and Massachusetts candidate for the U.S. Senate, described the “exploitation and oppression” of the Trump administration as an “invasive plant” that requires “pulling it out from its roots.” He underscored the need to organize a national movement to “transform society” under the Trump administration. “It’s not just enough to give lip service to the issues,” Tache said. He called for people to walk out on Jan. 20, the one-year anniversary of Trump’s inauguration.

Rebecca Winter, the Executive Director for Massachusetts 50501 and a LUCE volunteer, expressed anger about the “lawless” killing of Good. “We are out there lawfully standing up and documenting ICE atrocities while we still have the constitutional rights to do so,” Winter said. She urged demonstrators to join groups such as LUCE and 50501 to protect their communities. “Renee showed up. Keith [Porter] mattered. Our immigrant neighbors matter,” Winter said. Keith Porter had been fatally

shot by an off-duty ICE agent in Los Angeles on New Year’s Eve.

Besides condemning ICE’s actions, speakers also criticized the U.S.’s Jan. 3 attack on Venezuela. Evan MacKay, speaker for the United Auto Workers and Cambridge-area candidate for State House, stated that the U.S.’s underlying intention is the “exploit[ation]” of the Venezuelan people through oil companies and other financial interests. “We stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Venezuela as they defend themselves against U.S. imperialism and demand that our tax dollars be used to meet social needs, not to bankroll imperialist war,” MacKay said.

After the speeches ended around 1:40 p.m., protesters began marching from the State House to the JFK Federal Building via Bowdoin St while chanting phrases affirming their support for immigrants and criticizing Trump’s mass deportation agenda. “Trump, Trump, what do you say? How many kids are detained today?” protesters chanted. Members of the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians played tunes while some demonstrators blew their whistles loudly. Around 2 p.m., the group arrived at the JFK Federal

Building, joining a second protest organized by LUCE with hundreds of protesters.

A second protest outside JFK Federal Plaza

At the start of the second protest, Reverend Nathan Ives from the St. Peter-San Pedro Episcopal Church in Salem gave an opening prayer in a moment of silence. In the prayer, Ives mourned the loss of Good and the 32 detainees who died in ICE custody in 2025, calling their passing a “loss of innocence from hatred and totalitarianism.” Ives prayed for God’s guidance and inspiration during these difficult times in the hope that everyone, including the “most vulnerable,” will be “respected and protected.” Afterwards, Pietra Adami from the Brazilian Women’s Group read aloud the names of every victim who died in ICE detention centers or were killed by ICE.

In their speeches, organizers talked about the harmful impact of ICE on their communities, from declines in public school enrollment to children losing their parents. The speakers also implored demonstrators to stand up and protect immigrant neighbors in their community. Dálida Rocha,

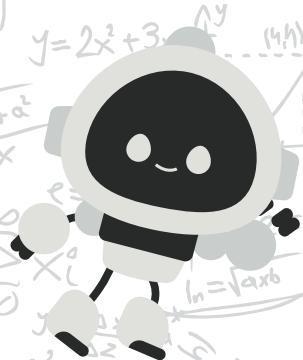
the Executive Director of Neighbor to Neighbor, emphasized her belief in protecting one another regardless of background or immigration status. Rocha urged the audience not to let fear stop them and instead to be courageous for their neighbors and communities. “We will keep showing up [on] our neighbor’s doors, the streets, the schools, the houses of worship, wherever our neighbors may feel threatened,” Rocha said. “We will show up until more people choose humanity over hate.”

The protest ended with a speech from Heitor Soares, a 19-year-old from Malden whose father was deported back to Brazil last year. When his father was detained in June, Soares asked his community for support and raised over \$30,000 on GoFundMe for his father’s legal defense. He expressed gratitude to his community, noting that the outpouring of support would never have materialized if he had never asked. Soares called for the audience to stand up against ICE. “You can’t just turn [a] blind eye anymore,” Soares said. “Choosing to not be educated is the same as choosing to turn your back on the community.”

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BALLET REVIEW

Boston Ballet’s ‘Nutcracker’ returns for the holiday season

Perdziola’s layered sets and pristine corps highlights this beloved Christmas production

Mikko Nissinen’s *The Nutcracker* by Ernesto Galan, with P.I. Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* score

Boston Ballet

Directed by Mikko Nissinen

Citizens Opera House

Nov. 28 – Dec. 28, 2025

By Chloe Lee
ARTS STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Boston Ballet’s beloved holiday production of *The Nutcracker* returned to the Citizens Opera House. From the moment the curtain rose, it was clear that this production would deliver technical excellence and theatrical enchantment in equal measure.

The evening began with a charming prologue featuring young performers and a magician, setting a lighthearted and joyous tone. The strings of the Boston Ballet Orchestra, under conductor Mischa Santora, sounded flawless in these opening moments. While the orchestra’s intonation faltered at times, especially with flutes and the violins’ pizzicato, the group maintained a stable tempo that supported the dancers. A delightful canon explosion ended the scene, drawing laughter from the audience and establishing the production’s playful spirit.

Robert Perdziola’s sets proved to be one of the evening’s greatest triumphs. The reveal of each scene resembled the unwrapping of a carefully layered present, with moving parts that transformed the stage throughout the performance. The party scene’s set featured

a magnificent Christmas tree, complete with glowing lights. The production’s use of the entire stage created a sense of expansive wonder, especially during the snow scenes when snowflakes kept falling as the Snow Queen and King performed their elegant duet.

The dancing itself was nothing short of spectacular. The *corps de ballet* moved in remarkable unison, their movements so synchronized they appeared to breathe as one. Their jumps were incredibly light and stable, defying gravity with apparent ease. Principal dancers brought technical prowess and characterization to their roles. Clara, danced by principal Chisako Oga, was captivating throughout, while Madoka Sugai’s Dew Drop and Ji Young Chae’s Sugar Plum Fairy drew attention for their expressive artistry and musicality.

The production’s sense of humor shone through in unexpected moments. The rats, costumed in elaborate detail, struck diva-like poses that had the audience giggling. The fight over the nutcracker was genuinely funny, with the orchestra beautifully supporting the comedic timing. A jester and ballerina who entertained the family during the party scene added delightful theatrical flourishes, while the canon that eventually strikes down the Rat King provided a satisfying dramatic payoff.

Creative choreography throughout kept the familiar story feeling fresh. The Arabian dance in Act II emerged as a clear crowd favorite, with its fast-paced intensity and heart-racing moves, including breathtaking moments when the female dancer was turned completely upside down. The performance radiated strength and precision, earning enthusiastic applause.

The orchestra delivered Tchaikovsky’s immortal score with generally strong results. The bassoon’s rich, gorgeous tone blended beautifully with the clarinet, while the brass section maintained solid dynamics and subdivision throughout. The harp was particularly beautiful during the Waltz of the Flowers, setting a perfect tempo that allowed the



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE TRISOLINI/BOSTON BALLET
Ji Young Chae and Jeffrey Cirio in Mikko Nissinen’s *The Nutcracker*.

dancers to float across the stage in their lovely flower-adorned costumes. Dana Oakes’ extended trumpet accompaniment during the choral portion of the snow scene deserves special recognition for its contribution. However, the orchestra had occasional stumbles. Sometimes, the strings rushed tied eighth note rhythms, and dotted notes felt hurried in certain places. The first brass entrance during the *pas de deux* felt oddly placed and disrupted the flow.

On the other hand, the *pas de deux* showcased pristine dancing, with the Sugar Plum Fairy’s sparkly costume catching the light as she executed careful, deliberate movements. Jeffrey Cirio as the Nutcracker Prince displayed his characteristically beautiful technique alongside the commanding presence of his partners. The string runs during this section were remarkably clean, demonstrating the best of the orchestra’s technical capabilities.

Throughout the evening, the production made excellent use of theatrical elements. A cloud descended from above during the transformation scene, reinforcing the dreamlike quality of Clara’s journey. The production’s visual richness was enhanced by a carriage with reindeers in the snow scene, perfectly synchronized soldiers, and even the appearance of a large rabbit and gingerbread men.

As the final notes sounded and the curtain fell, the audience rose in enthusiastic applause. Boston Ballet’s *Nutcracker* proved why this production has become an essential part of our holiday season. The combination of stunning sets, exceptional dancing, and Tchaikovsky’s beloved score creates an experience beyond mere entertainment. Most importantly, it shares the pure theatrical magic that appeals to audiences of all ages. For anyone seeking to embrace the holiday spirit, this production remains an absolute must-see.

CONCERT REVIEW

Berklee students bring Coldplay’s spectacle to life

A Coldplay tribute showcased Berklee students’ musical range, emotional depth, and collaborative spirit

A Sky Full of Stars — The Songs of Coldplay

Berklee College of Music

Choreographed by Anthony Burrell

Berklee Performance Center

Dec. 4–5, 2025

By Victoria Paesano
ARTS STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Dec. 4, Berklee College of Music students presented a Coldplay tribute concert that closely resembled a stadium show. Featuring a broad selection of musicians and dancers, rotating vocalists, and immersive production elements, “Singers Showcase: A Sky Full of Stars — The Songs of Coldplay” reimagined Coldplay’s iconic repertoire. Each performer brought their own style and strengths, which highlighted the power of unity over solo performances. The repertoire featured Coldplay’s most iconic songs, such as “Viva La Vida,” “Yellow,” and “A Sky Full of Stars,” showcasing impressive creative arrangements and theatrical elements. Overall, the concert was energetic and inspiring in both its ambition and execution.

The concert opened with “Humankind,” a song that immediately established a sense of awe and anticipation. As the audience

members’ light-up wristbands illuminated the space, the opening helped immerse the audience in the concert’s celestial atmosphere. Lead singer Mikey Mousaw’s energy surged in “Higher Power,” while a projected image of Chris Martin’s face against a cosmic backdrop evoked the band’s futuristic aesthetic. Rhythmically driven and upbeat, the song relied on a strong beat and bright harmonies. The performers’ confident stage presence, along with their dynamic dancing and visible audience engagement, brought out the song’s palpable energy in real time.

After “Humankind” came “Viva La Vida,” a song that featured active audience participation through clapping and call-and-response moments. Its bold rhythm and rich harmonies stood out as vocalist André Diaz glided onstage, approaching and engaging with the audience. The singer called out to the audience in Spanish, encouraging them to join in and immerse themselves even further in the music. The crowd’s enthusiastic “oh-oh”s made this one of the most memorable moments of the night.

Meanwhile, “Let Somebody Go” shone for its quieter melody and was performed by duo Nia Angelique and ROWAN. Lyrically, the song centers on the themes of vulnerability and regret, which the performers mirrored with their perfectly synchronized high notes and cohesive phrasing. The delicate and powerful piano accompaniment, with its flowing legato notes and a few thoughtful pauses, allowed the emotional melody to truly shine. The vocalists’ careful listening and trust in one another evoked a sense of longing and unresolved tenderness that felt tangible, and their genuine hug at the end underscored the emotional sincerity of the performance, offering a poignant sense of closure to the song.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH PRIAR
Berklee College of Music students perform a Coldplay tribute concert, “Singers Showcase: A Sky Full of Stars — The Songs of Coldplay,” at the Berklee Performance Center on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025.

One of the most emotional moments in the performance was “Speed of Sound,” led by vocalist Christos Metaxas and marimba soloist Maria Finkelmeier. People gasped with excitement upon hearing a familiar melody come from the marimba. The singer’s expressive vibrato and dynamic control brought out the song’s yearning quality, while soaring violin lines and a powerful guitar solo added emotional intensity.

Later, “Sparks” transitioned into “Yellow,” which was beautifully arranged by Indira Fe Sánchez Bhajan. The musical texture gradually thickened from a sparse, intimate sound stemming from lead vocalist Allanie Ortiz to a fuller, radiant ensemble. The concert concluded with “Up&Up,” featuring the full ensemble on stage. Seeing musicians, sing-

ers, and dancers together was deeply moving; each of them was clearly driven by an intrinsic passion for their art. In the back, the band remained engaged and precise, while the dancers added a narrative quality to the show through costumes coordinated with the lyrics and themes of each song.

By the end of the night, the audience’s thunderous applause made it clear that the performance resonated with everyone. This Coldplay tribute was more than a cover concert. It showcased the passion, creativity, and collaborative power of Berklee students. From the emotional vocal performances to the glowing wristbands, the concert captured the magic of a Coldplay show while revealing the incredible artistry of the next generation.

The bacterial fugitives behind hospital-acquired pneumonia

A new study shows how hospital-acquired ‘A. baumannii’ microbes can prolong infection by hiding from antibiotics inside immune cells

By Ekaterina Khalizeva
SCIENCE STAFF WRITER

When bacteria infect our bodies, a fierce battle unfolds. Microbes fight for resources to grow and spread, and in response, get bombarded by medications and our immune response. If successful, these defense mechanisms clear out the invaders and prevent infection from spreading. Some pathogens, however, have evolved elaborate ways to avoid detection. In a recent study, researchers at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) uncovered how one bacterial species, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, hijacks immune cells to hide from the body’s anti-bacterial mechanisms. Once the immune system eliminates the microbes outside the cells, these fugitives re-emerge from their hideout and start the infection all over again.

A. baumannii is challenging to fend off due to its own defense mechanisms, known as antibiotic resistance genes, that counter most drugs at clinicians’ disposal. This hardness has made treating *A. baumannii* so difficult that the World Health Organization has classified it as a critical priority pathogen. The pathogen’s preferred targets don’t make treatment any easier — *A. baumannii* commonly infects the critically ill, often in a hospital’s intensive care unit (ICU), causing up to 3% of pneumonia cases acquired in hospitals. Patients with such infections stay in the hospital for an extra month on average, with mortality rates around the world ranging from 24% to 83%.

With this rising threat, scientists are racing against the clock to better understand

A. baumannii and develop more effective medicines. In their study, WUSTL researchers found that *A. baumannii* has an unusual way of prolonging infection.

“The bacteria can go inside the immune cells that are supposed to kill it, survive there, replicate, divide, get out of there, and start a new infection,” study lead and WUSTL Professor of Molecular Microbiology Mario Feldman explained. “This is a big problem for antibiotics.” Not only do the bacteria have antibiotic resistance genes to fight back against the drugs, but also have alternative countermeasures if the pathogen encounters a new drug for which it has no resistance.

Unarmed but resilient

Before this study, scientists knew that *A. baumannii* could infiltrate immune cells in test tubes. The immediate next question for Manon Janet-Maitre, a postdoctoral researcher in Feldman’s lab, was whether these sneaky bacteria could reignite infections in the lungs.

First, she infected immunocompromised mice with *A. baumannii* to mimic what happens during hospital outbreaks. She waited one day for the microbes to infect the lung cells, including macrophages — the very immune cells responsible for destroying pathogens. She then washed fluid and extra cells out of the bacteria-ridden mouse lungs, leaving only the macrophages, some of which harbored fugitive *A. baumannii*. These macrophages were inhaled by another group of mice. If the fugitive bacteria were inactive, these mice would remain healthy. Instead, the bacteria multiplied and caused new infections.

“Those intracellular [bacteria] can serve as reservoirs for seeding infection,” Janet-Maitre explained.

While the experiment showed that the hidden bacteria could be reactivated in other hosts, this didn’t explain why patients were spending more time in the ICU. In a hospital setting, it was unlikely that a patient would hardly inhale lung macrophages of another patient if confined to a negative pressure room. Instead, Janet-Maitre proposed that the fugitive bacteria might keep the infection going within a patient even after the extracellular, non-fugitive bacteria have been destroyed. This could explain why pneumonia caused by *A. baumannii* leads to lengthy hospital stays.

The researchers then shifted their focus to the tools *A. baumannii* uses to survive inside macrophages. “[We] wanted to know what the bacterium is doing there, because if we found how they do it, we may stop it,” Feldman said. *A. baumannii* is known as a minimalist in terms of its molecular arsenal. “We were super surprised,” Janet-Maitre recalled. “It’s [surviving inside macrophages] so well, but it doesn’t have all the weapons that are known to other bacteria.”

Instead, *A. baumannii* uses multiple strategies to “persist and resist” despite lacking weaponry. The bacteria change their energy source, activate a stress response, produce proteins for scavenging nutrients, and even change their surface to adapt to the new environment. “The combination of all those factors [lets the

bacteria] thrive and survive inside of the macrophage,” Janet-Maitre explained.

Exposing the fugitives

This study is part of a larger effort of Feldman’s lab and others to unravel how *A. baumannii* are so successful at infecting immunocompromised patients and evading treatments.

“It changes the way that we think about [A. baumannii] infections,” said Northeastern University Associate Professor of Biology Edward Geisinger, who studies *A. baumannii* and was not involved in the WUSTL study. Considering how *A. baumannii* was mistakenly labeled by the scientific community as living exclusively outside host cells, this study underscores the need to “be flexible about the way we think about the pathogenic strategy of this bacterium,” according to Geisinger.

Feldman views this work as a paradigm shift: the ability of *A. baumannii* to hide inside host immune cells could explain why many antibiotics work in test tubes but fail in clinical trials.

“This has to be taken into account for development of new drugs,” Janet-Maitre said.

In the future, Feldman and his colleagues hope to prevent bacteria from seeking refuge in immune cells. If the findings of fugitive pathogens discovered in the mouse model are confirmed in humans, a new approach to treating *A. baumannii* infections could be possible; trapping the bacteria outside of host cells, for example, may make existing drugs more effective. In that case, last-resort antibiotics — the rare few that *A. baumannii* is not resistant to — could eliminate the microbes for good, leaving no fugitives behind.

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Solution to Replacements					
from page 7					
⁹⁺ 4	5	^{18×} 6	3	¹⁻ 2	1
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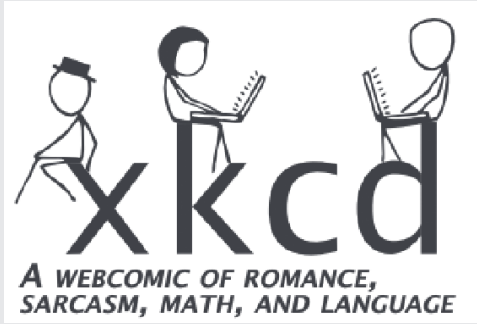
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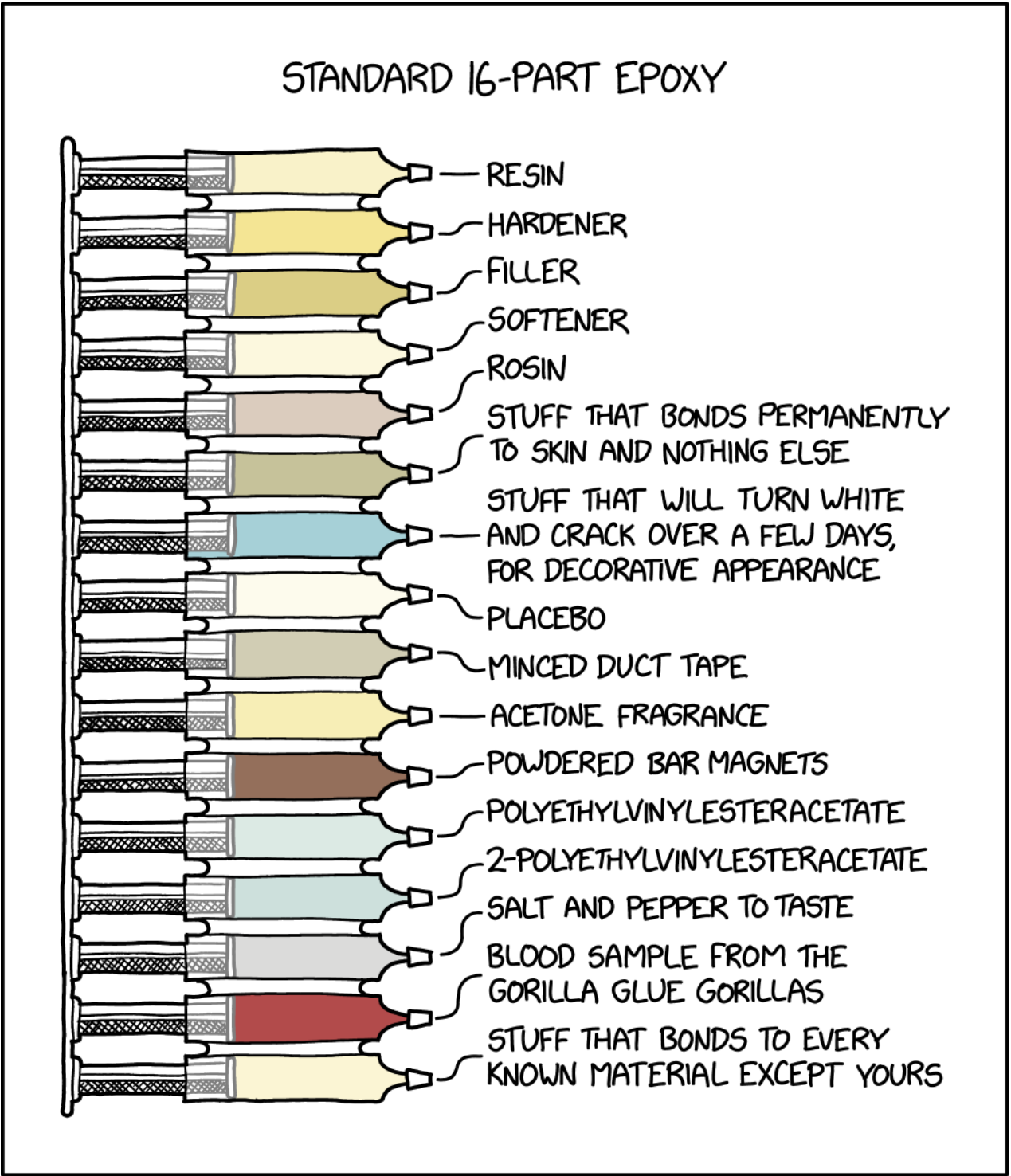
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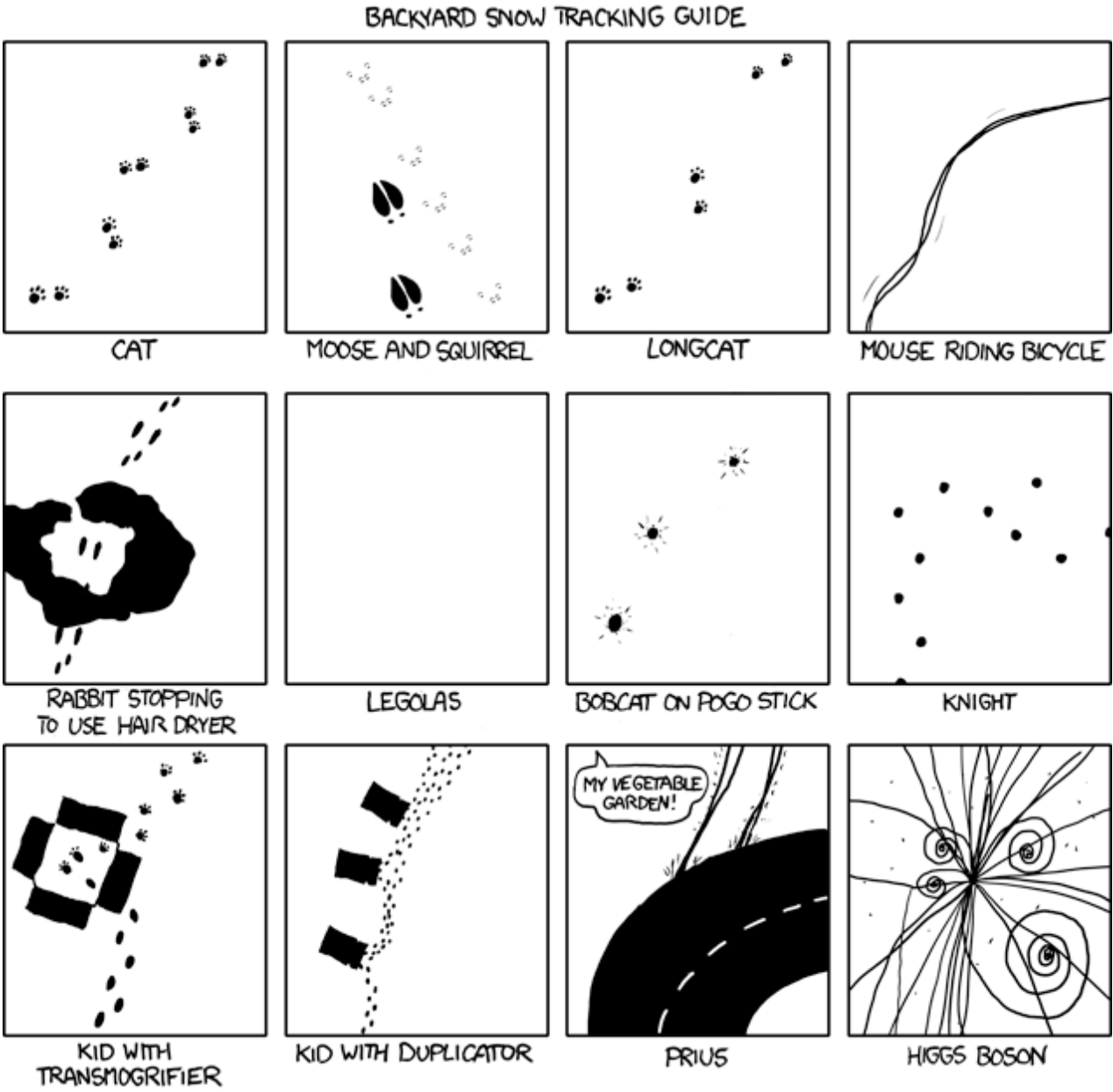
by Randall Munroe

[31994] 16 Part Epoxy



Some surfaces may seem difficult to glue. But if you research the materials, find tables of what adhesives work on them, and prepare your surfaces carefully, you can fail to glue them in a fun NEW way that fills your house with dangerous vapors.

[702] Snow Tracking



I suppose that's more accurately a hare dryer.

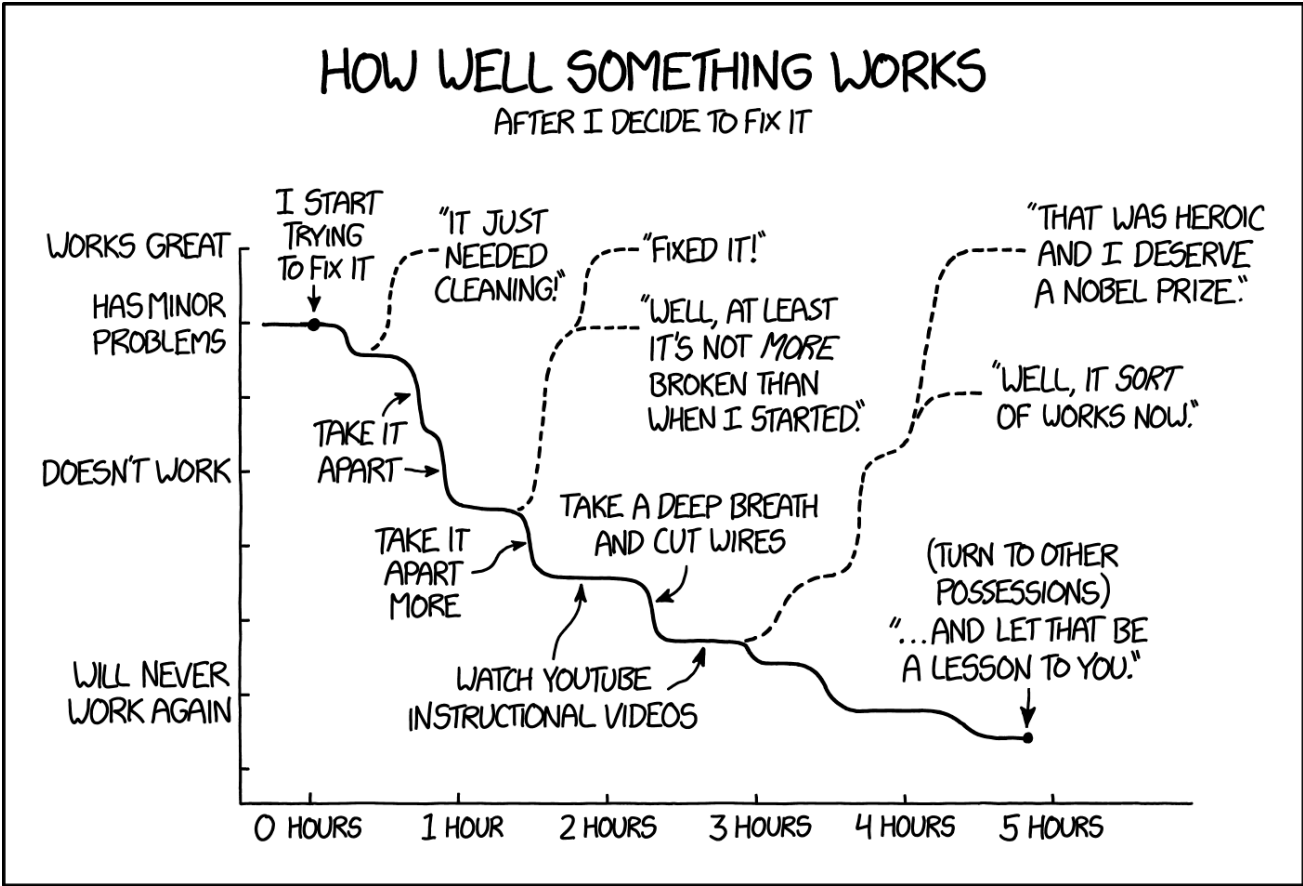
Replacements

Solution, page 5

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

[1994] Repairs



I was just disassembling it over the course of five hours so it would fit in the trash more efficiently.

Court rejected direct discrimination claim

Lawsuit, from Page 1

Professor DeGraff similarly submitted a motion to dismiss the charges against him. Noting the differences between Zionism and Judaism, DeGraff argued that the court's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s definition of antisemitism, as urged by the plaintiffs, would be tantamount to a First Amendment violation. This definition of antisemitism has been interpreted to preclude criticism of Israel and has faced extensive controversy, particularly from proponents of other definitions of antisemitism like the Jerusalem Declaration of Antisemitism.

DeGraff's motion adds that the plaintiffs failed to show "pervasive harassment," demonstrate that his

comments had "illegal motivations," or explain why his actions caused emotional distress.

In its final ruling, the district court stated that while MIT's response "left much to be desired" and was "far from what should be expected by a university administrator," the court did not believe that MIT "affirmatively [chose] to do the wrong thing in either instance." Even though the court conceded that Sussman's departure from MIT was, at face value, "deeply troubling," it noted that the stringent deliberate indifference test was not satisfied by the claim that "an institution could or should have done more."

The court also ruled that Alon had not experienced "materially adverse" retribution from either MIT or DeGraff after his reports

of discrimination to MIT. Even if Sussman had experienced such retribution, the court continued, the lack of deliberate indifference would have rendered his complaint untenable.

The court concluded that the claims do not fit in the "severe and pervasive racial harassment within the scope of Title VI." It also rejected the plaintiffs' direct discrimination claim due to a lack of opposition from the plaintiffs, along with the hostile work environment claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (equal employment opportunity). The court additionally dismissed the Louis D. Brandeis Coalition's legal standing in the case.

In a statement to *The Tech*, DeGraff said that he "welcomes the dismissal," calling the original lawsuit "frivolous."

He acknowledged the limitations of the ruling in its lack of fact finding, as the case never proceeded to court, but commended the court for its adherence to the precedent established in *StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice*. DeGraff continues to see the lawsuit as part of a "nation-wide pro-Israel lawfare campaign that threatens free speech and academic freedom," noting that he is still removed from the MIT Linguistics department and is facing a pay freeze — a disciplinary measure that he views as retribution for his pro-Palestine stance. DeGraff also noted that he received insults and attacks from the plaintiffs and other colleagues.

In his statement, DeGraff warned of increasing institutional acceptance of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and what he perceives as a "Pa-

lestine exception" to free speech. He pointed to the suspension of Prahlad Iyengar for his involvement in pro-Palestine movements, along with the role of Canary Mission in threatening pro-Palestine activists.

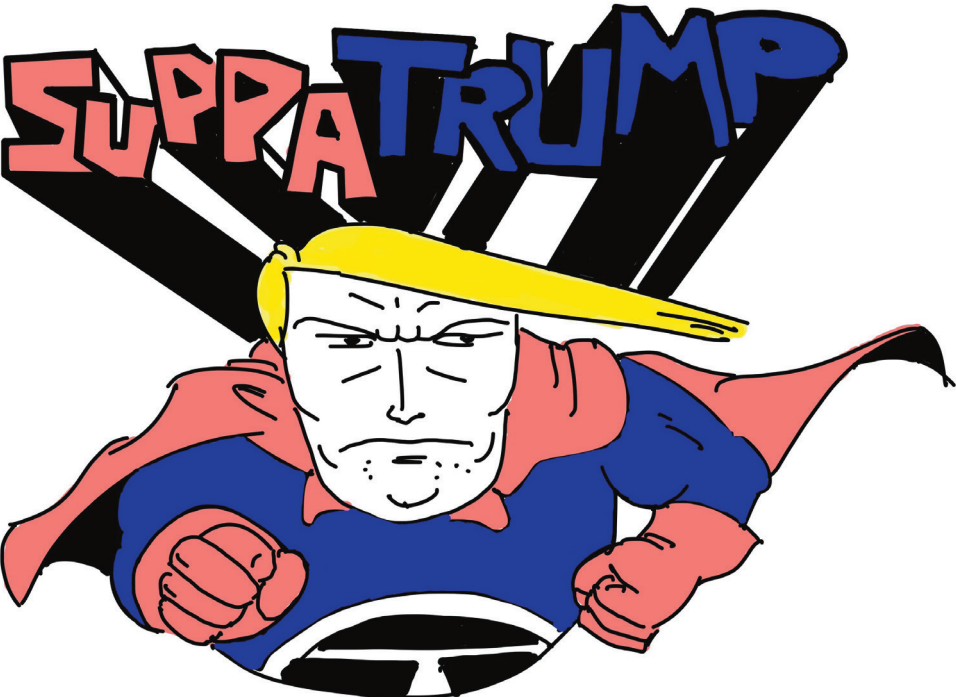
Contrary to Doe's accusations of discrimination, MIT spokesperson Kimberly Allen stated that the plaintiff's allegations "omit critical details" about MIT's "significant outreach and support." However, the details of this support are not publicly available due to the plaintiff's anonymity. Allen further underscored MIT's "rights to answer and litigate" Doe's claims over the course of the upcoming trial.

As of this publication, plaintiffs Alon and Sussman have yet to respond to *The Tech's* request for comment.



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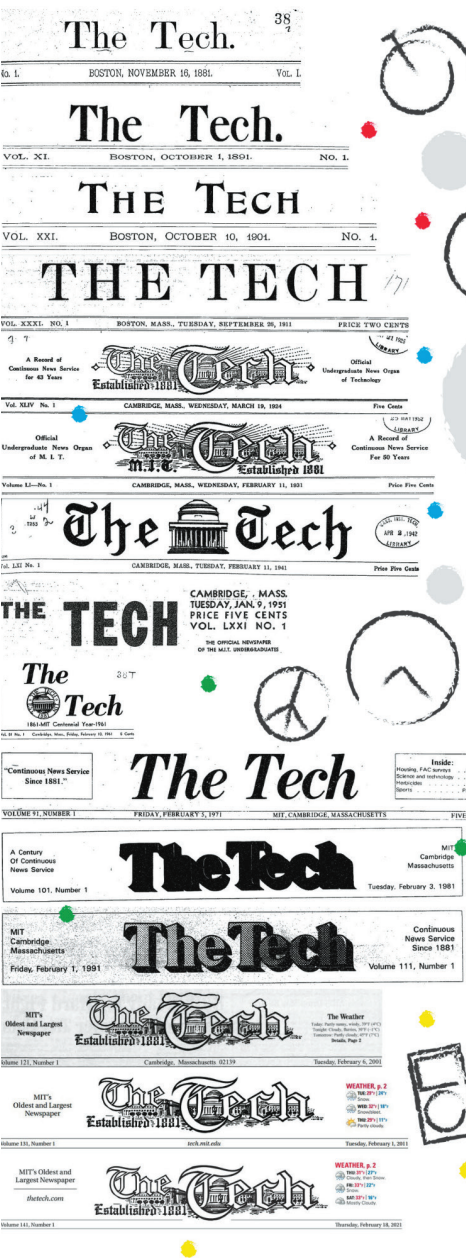
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