

TIM TODAY

FOR LUNCH
Greek Lamb Pita Pockets
Roasted Vegetable Medley
Lemon Rice with Orzo

FOR DINNER
Grilled Chicken with Caramelized Onions
Quinoa Pilaf
Mixed Beans and Peas

Unprecedented Number of Campus Matchmaking Services Established During Spring 2021

By **MITCH MAKER**
FOREVER ALONE
A record number of campus matchmaking services were introduced via dorms-

pam and MIT Confessions in Spring 2021. The services include the aptly but very uncreatively named MIT Matchmaking, in addition to Timder,

OkBeaver, Pset Grindr, and many more. Additional services also match MIT students with Harvard students, such as Datamatch, the Aphrodite Project, Be-

Humble, and Crimson Beaver. Most of the services are run by students at MIT or Harvard. Coop Id '22, the creator of Timder, told The

Timson, "Now that we're almost three semesters deep into remote learning, students are definitely feeling the effects of not having any human contact for almost a

full year." Id continued, "I had scrolled through horny bonded Confessions posts for
SEE HORNYPAGE 3

WEATHER

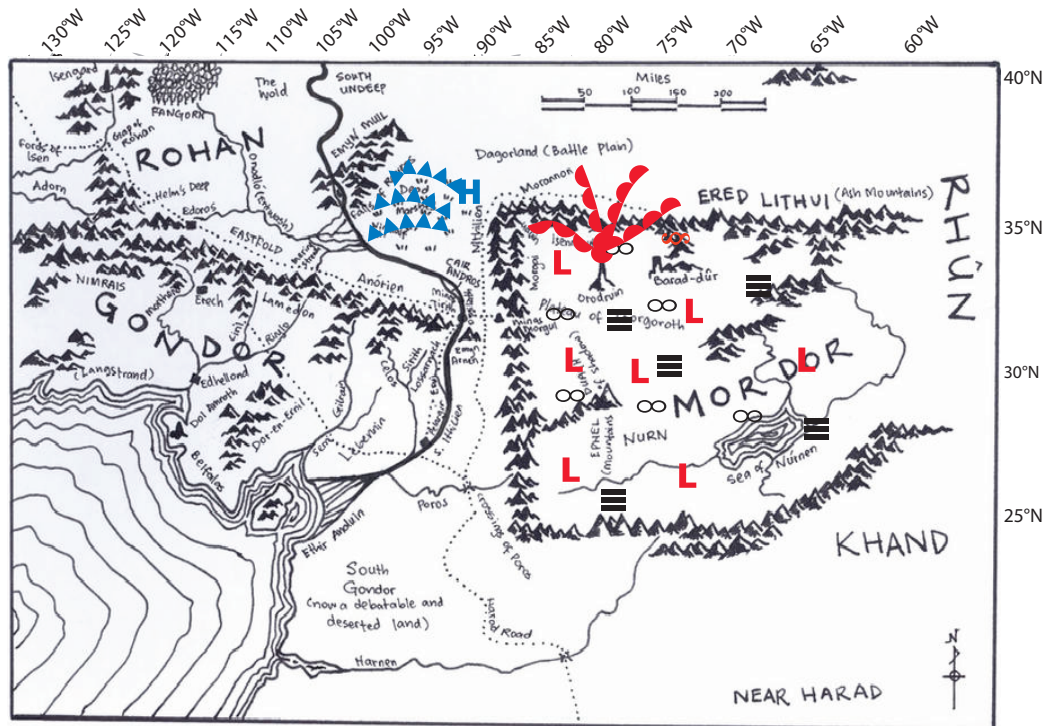
End of All Things

By **GANDALF**
YOU SHALL NOT PASS
After several years of darkness, heat, and drought, this weekend is looking like it will shake up the standard weather here in Mordor. Rumbblings from the armies of the West nearly match the volume of the rumbblings of Mount Doom. It will be interesting to see which erupts first. Whether you plan on fighting Aragorn and his armies at the Black Gate, or whether you

expect to die in the fiery explosion of Orodruin, bring extra water and sun protection — it looks like our shadowy clouds will soon dissipate, bringing bright sunlight that will likely burn unprotected orcish skin, especially if that skin hasn't seen sunlight in several years! Like all good things, even thick clouds of shadow and an ever-present watchful Eye must come to end. This will be my last weather report as head meteorologist for Mordor — it has been a pleasure, and I wish you all the best of luck!

Extended Forecast

Today: Dark, hot, dry. Strong, spidery wind coming down from the Mountains of Shadow. High 110°F (43°C).
Tonight: Dark, but at least no more dark than during the day. Cold and breezy, except for heat radiating from Mount Doom. Low 40°F (4°C).
Tomorrow: Dark, hot, dry. No veil between you and the wheel of fire. Sunlight visible just outside the Black Gate. High 140°F (60°C). Low 32°F (0°C).
Saturday: Poor air quality due to eruption of Mount Doom. Hot, dry, ashy. Smells like fire and burnt orc. High 90°F (48°C). Low 89°F (47°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Turdday, May 20, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow: * (Light), ** (Moderate), *** (Heavy)	Fog: ☁
L Low Pressure	—•—•— Warm Front	Rain: ▾ (Showers), ▽ (Light), ••• (Moderate), ••••• (Heavy)	Thunderstorm: ⚡
the EYE	▲▲▲ Cold Front		Haze: ☁
	▲▲▲▲ Stationary Front		

Fall 2021 6.036 Will Have Nanoquizzes Twelve Hours Long Every Week, No Lectures or Labs

Instructors for 6.036 (Introduction to Machine Learning) recently unveiled their revised Fall 2021 grading policy. In a CAT-SOOP announcement seen by six students, the new course structure was outlined, featuring no lectures, labs, or homework, and a reimagined nanoquiz system. Professor Sean Enens addressed the changes in an interview with *The Timson*, "We realized that many students were unhappy with the one-hour time limit given for nanoquizzes, so we've decided to graciously increase it to twelve hours. Naturally, this also means that there are twelve times the original number of questions.

What are we, barbarians?" In another email to *The Timson*, instructor Claus Turing cited student feedback as the driving force behind the change. "Students were constantly telling us about the many issues with this class," Turing claimed. "With this change, we hope that students will be too preoccupied studying for the next nanoquiz to even think about valid criticism." *The Timson* also reached out to the student body for comment, but literally everyone was too burnt out to even respond.

Grade cutoffs for the class will be released at an undetermined date.

—Emdee Pees

Video Edits Sped Up Every Time Barnhart Shifted Blame

CINDY FROM PAGE 1
lor such as the destruction of Senior House, the ending of mutual selection, and the planned renovation of undergraduate dorms. She addresses these decisions for three minutes of the 268 minute video. She discusses how "blindsided" she felt when students were upset when she heard their input but completely ignored it when making decisions, saying "I didn't know that they felt that way" and "I thought it was enough to listen to them, but now I know that I truly need to understand their feelings." The video received nearly 420,000 dislikes and 11,520 comments before likes and dislikes were hidden and comments were disabled. *The Timson* was able to archive some of the comments before they

were deleted. One comment on the video wrote, "Admin at MIT would rather accept donations from a known sex offender than admit they made a mistake." Another wrote, "I don't even go here, but I wish my chancellor would make a video like this." The pinned comment on the video wrote, "We should be more understanding of Cindy and allow her to learn and grow from these experiences, so she can come back better next time. I'm rooting for you, girl." Additional comments wrote, "suzy nelson next," "This is better than the Rafael Reif pilates video," and "take a shot every time she says 'i didn't know' or 'i had no idea'." Another comment listed over 200 timestamps for every time the video

includes a cut. Shortly after the video was uploaded, a variety of edits of the video were also posted on YouTube, including "barnhart apology except every time she shifts the blame the speed increases by 1%," "Cynthia Barnhart pausing in her apology video for one hour straight," "Barnhart apology except it zooms in whenever you can tell she's clearly reading off a script," and "barnhart apology but every time she uses a filler word tony eng appears on screen." There have also been several parodies made of the video, including one student's final project for 21M.605 (Voice and Speech for the Actor) titled "Chancellor Barnhart's Apology in a Valley Girl Accent and More."

The Non-Harvard Timson

- Crimson**
Maroon Scarlet '21
- Harvard**
John '23
- Endowment**
41 Billion '22
- Class Speaker**
Jeremy Lin '23
- Bacow**
Larry '23
- SINNOH REMAKE**
Elite Four: Aaron '23, Bertha '24;
More Elite Four: Flint '23, Lucian '24; Pokémon: Starly '22, Bidoof '23, Krickitetot '23, Shinx '24, Budew '24, Cranidos '24;
Starters: Turtwig '21, Piplup '23, Chimchar '24.

- POPTROPICA ISLANDS**
Classics: Shark Tooth '22, 24 Carrot '23, Time Tangled '24;
Modern: Shrink Ray G, Mystery Train '22, Game Show '22, S.O.S. '23, Poptropolis Games '24, Wimpy Boardwalk '24, Super Villain '24, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory '24, Galactic Hot Dog '24, Mystery of the Map '24, Escape From Pelican Rock '24;
Spin-offs: Adventures '21, Forgotten Islands '24.
- PELZER**
Moderna: First Dose '23, Second Dose '23.
- TOKYO OLYMPICS**
Possibly: Postponed Until '23.
- STREAMING SERVICES**
Oligopoly: Netflix '22, Hulu '23, Amazon Prime Video '23; **Don't forget about us:** HBO Max G,

- HBO Now '21, Disney+ '21, Showtime '21, Peacock '21, Apple TV '21, Paramount+ '21, FX+ '21, Youtube TV '22, Sling TV '22, Kanopy '22, Starz '23.
- EMOJI**
ALL: 😊 '22; **THE:** 😊 '21, 😊 '24; **FEELS:** 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '22, 😊 '23, 😊 '23, 😊 '24.
- ORGANELLES**
Control Center: Nucleus '23; **Structural:** Cytoplasm '21, Plasma Membrane '24; **Other:** Ribosome '21, Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum '21, Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum '22, Golgi Body '22, Lysosome '22, Mitochondria '22, Peroxisome '23, Vacuole '24, Chloroplast '24, Vesicle '24, Microtubule '24, Microfilament '24.

- STONKS**
Index: DOW JONES '22; **Another Index:** S&P 500 '23; **Companies:** AAPL '21, BA '21, BRK-B '21, DIS '21, GE '22, HD '23, NKE '23, SBUX '24.
- SORTING ALGORITHMS**
Optimal: Bogobogo '22.
- FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION**
African and African American Studies '74, Anthropology '84, Applied Mathematics '91, S&T, Film, and Visual Studies '98, Astrophysics '01, Biomedical Engineering '02, Chemical and Physical Biology '02, Chemistry '06, Chemistry and Physics '07, Classics '08, Comparative Literature '08, Computer Science '08, Earth and Planetary Sciences '09, East Asian Studies '09, Economics '10,

- Electrical Engineering '11, Engineering Sciences '12, English '13, Environmental Science and Engineering '14, Environmental Science and Public Policy '14, Folklore and Mythology '15, Germanic Languages and Literatures '15, Government '16, History '16, History and Literature '16, History and Science '17, History of Art and Architecture '17, Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology '17, Human Evolutionary Biology '17, Integrative Biology '19, Linguistics '19, Mathematics '20, Mechanical Engineering '20, Molecular and Cellular Biology.
- PRESIDENTS**
Schoolmaster: Nathaniel Eaton '22; **Oldies:** Henry Dunster G, Charles Chauncy '20, Leonard Hoar '21, Urian Oakes '21, John

- Rogers '21, Increase Mather '21, Samuel Willard '21, John Leverett '21.
- NON-HARVARD STUDENTS**
Frosh: 24 Carrot '23, Time Tangled '24; **Sophs:** Poptropolis Games '24, Galactic Hot Dog '24, Mystery of the Map '24, Escape From Pelican Rock '24; **Juniors:** Nucleus '23, Plasma Membrane '24, Microfilament '24.

The Non-Harvard Timson (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Turddays during the Non-Harvard academic year (except during arbitrary holidays) and periodically during the nonexistent spring break by The Non-Harvard Timson, 14 Plympton Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Subscriptions are the cost of a yearly Non-Harvard tuition (no financial aid offered). Donations: Please send all undisclosed gifts from controversial donors to our mailing address: The Non-Harvard Timson, 14 Plympton Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Telephone: Editorial: (617) 576-6600. Business: (617) 576-6600. Facsimile: (617) 576-6600. Egg donor advertising, uncancelable subscriptions, and bribes available. Please actually call us © 2021 The Non-Harvard Timson. Printed by Blood, Sweat, and Tears, Inc.

All Future Spring Breaks to Be Replaced With Wednesday Wellness Days

By **TRULA BRAKE**

Following the mixed success of eliminating spring break in favor of three- and four-day weekends during Spring 2021, MIT has chosen to permanently replace all future spring breaks with Wednesday wellness days.

Vice President and Dean for Student Life Nuzy Selson wrote in an email to *The Timson*, “Instead of spring break, we will sprinkle seven wellness days on Wednesdays throughout the semester.”

No assignments may be due on the wellness days and assignments due on the Tuesdays before wellness days must have a deadline of 5 p.m. at the latest, to give

students time to relax before wellness days.

Selson wrote to *The Timson*, “We believe Wednesday wellness days will be a great initiative that forces allows students to enjoy the pleasant weather here in Cambridge instead of traveling somewhere over spring break. Making travel plans is always stressful, and we want to eliminate as many possible sources of stress for our students as we can.”

The choice to create Wednesday wellness days instead of long weekends results from student feedback that the long weekends during Spring 2021 often did not feel like “true breaks” because students felt that they were given more work,

which they completed over the weekend rather than taking time off.

Selson noted that because Wednesday is halfway through the school week, “students can take a deep breath between stressful days to walk away from their work. We want to remind students that resting, relaxing, and recharging really are important — all the time, not just on weekends.”

“We also think the alliteration of Wednesday and wellness is very cute,” Selson added.

The Timson interviewed a few professors about the change.

Professor Wade Nestay, who teaches a class that meets every Wednesday,

told *The Timson*, “I suppose my students will just have to learn the seven lectures worth of material that they’ll miss on their own. I’ll be taking a nap.”

When asked whether the change would affect the due dates of assignments, Professor Rob Lemset told *The Timson*, “We usually have assignments due midnight on Wednesday, but we’ll just move that to Tuesdays at 5 p.m. instead. I’m sure that won’t create more stress for the students.”

The Timson also heard student feedback about Wednesday wellness days.

Hump Day ’23 told *The Timson*, “I’ll probably spend my Wednesday wellness days locked inside my dorm room

finishing work due on Thursday and Friday.”

When asked why he was not planning to take advantage of Wednesday wellness days to spend time outside or take his mind off work, Day said “It’s kind of hard to take my mind off of work that’s due the next day.”

Ebbie Za ’22, a rising senior who has been making plans for a spring break trip for three full years, told *The Timson*, “I understood when they canceled spring breaks due to COVID-19, but I was hoping to have one last chance before graduating. Guess the spring break moodboard that’s been the only thing keeping me going since the first week of quarantine will be taking a trip to the recycling bin.”

Some activities recommended for Wednesday wellness days by the Division of Student Life include spending time with friends; exploring the city; throwing all electronic devices causing stress into the Charles; using problem sets to create a papier-mâché Tim and reenacting a rom-com breakup scene with that papier-mâché Tim; or taking a 5-hour walk to Walden Pond, adopting a transcendentalist lifestyle, and never returning to the Institute.

Students feeling overwhelmed or unsure of how to take a real break can talk to someone at Student Support Services to come up with a Wednesday wellness break plan.

Mental Health to the Moon

FROM PAGE 1

weekend, after all. Only the most practiced students could achieve this level of indifference, and these elite were the only ones who were able to benefit from the break. Thus, the offering of the four-day weekend and the ensuing advice from the Deans of Student Life turned out to be another inequitable policy that only further hurt its most vulnerable students even more.

As the end of the longest semester ever recorded approaches, burnout continues to melt away as students punt all their assignments. Professors have also turned towards encouraging the ap-

athetic mindset, so that they do not need to grade as much to determine grades. In an email to *The Timson*, 42.00 Professor Mod Ell claimed, “The students are turning in shit anyways, so it’s better for all of us if I don’t have to read it.”

It will be interesting to see how other schools in the area begin to adopt this “see no evil, hear no evil, assign evil” policy in the future, as MIT is known to be a trendsetter. For example, while all other universities are holding graduation ceremonies this year, MIT has decided not to do so, swaying exactly 0% of their peer institutions. Kudos to MIT!

Horny Beavers Get Bonked

HORNY FROM PAGE 2

I was really hoping to fund my boba addiction on these dates, but it only lasted a week.”

Gail Ghoul ’23, who was paired with Oka via Pset-Grindr, told *The Timson*, “I really thought Tappy and I had a connection, but she hasn’t texted back since our one date at Gong Cha.”

The Aphrodite Project, which specifically pairs Harvard and MIT students, has faced criticism for making their service exclusive to students at elite universities, drawing comparisons to the phenomenon of class reproduction.

Eugene Nicks ’21, who helped develop the Aphrodite Project, responded to this criticism in an interview

with *The Timson*, “We’re just trying to strengthen the gene pool coming out of these two universities. Every MIT and Harvard student obviously will only meet someone of their caliber at MIT or Harvard, and we’re just facilitating the inevitable.”

Getty Carreed, a Harvard student who matched with MIT student Carry Er ’22, through BeHumble said that Er has been a great match for him.

“I’m cross-registered for 6.036 this semester, and Carry and I do our weekly hour long FaceTime calls whenever I’m working on my nanoquiz, so she can answer all my questions,” Carreed told *The Timson*.

“I’m planning to take another MIT class next semester, so I’ll definitely stay in touch over the summer,” said Carreed.

Students also attempted to host the reality TV-inspired MIT Bachelor, though the show was quickly canceled when it was discovered that the lead and cast were not actually looking for love but instead trying to network in preparation for internship and job application season.

Almost-contestant Rose Hunter ’22 told *The Timson*, “I heard the MIT Bachelor interned at Facebook and got a return offer from Citadel, and I figured I could get at least a referral if I made it to hometowns.”

Application Form Includes Captcha Verification

SURVEY FROM PAGE 1

20 cycle to the 2020–21 cycle, which they attribute to the move to Qualtrics.

Schpill told *The Timson*, “They don’t even have to make an account to fill in the form, which is probably why we got so many applicants.”

Reggie Ected, an applicant in the 2019–20 cycle who was not admitted, said in an interview with *The Timson* that he attributed the decision to uncertainty about how to fill out the forms on the previous portal, “Instructions were unclear, and I ended up submitting my AMC10 scores in place of the 250-word essay on the world I came from.”

The new Qualtrics portal largely included the same questions as the original application but piloted new question formats and featured a few accidental inclusions.

For instance, one question combined Qualtrics’s Captcha verification and

timing feature to ensure applicants pass the Turing test and to measure how long it takes applicants to complete the simple task.

Schpill told *The Timson*, “You’d be surprised how long it took some applicants to pass the Captcha verification.” Times ranged from “15 seconds” to “upwards of an hour.”

“Perhaps students have been quarantined inside so long that they no longer recognize crosswalks, street lights, and fire hydrants,” Schpill added. “That skill is essential for jaywalking across Mass. Ave., so we’re glad we included that refresher.”

One new question format with mixed results involved asking applicants to rank all of the majors in place of the question: “What field of study appeals to you most right now?”

Admissions intentionally left the majors as their course numbers so that applicants would do independent re-

search on the numbering system at MIT. However, many students misinterpreted the question and instead ranked the courses in numerical order.

“Around 30% of applicants ranked the course numbers in numerical order, and 12% put them in reverse numerical order,” Schpill told *The Timson*. “I’m not sure whether that means our applicants are very quantitatively-minded, whether they can’t read instructions, if they’re just trying to be funny, or if civil and environmental engineering is just very popular this year.”

An optional, light-hearted question made use of Qualtrics’s image-uploading capabilities and asked applicants to submit their favorite meme.

Schpill described the memes as both “enlightening” and “slightly depressing.”

“The number of memes on the topics of experienc-

ing impostor syndrome, suffering crippling anxiety, and questioning whether one would still be loved as a worm was alarming,” Schpill told *The Timson*.

Schpill also told *The Timson* that the admissions office was unable to require standardized testing scores such as ACT, SAT, and SAT subject test scores this cycle because “we couldn’t figure out how to accept numerical input greater than 100.” However, “conveniently, all the other schools weren’t requiring those scores because of the pandemic, so we used that excuse too.”

The new application also had a few accidental inclusions from MIT’s existing Qualtrics question bank.

For instance, questions from the Institute’s Quality of Life survey asking students to indicate their level of agreement with the statements “I am a good person and live a good life,” “I am optimistic about my future,” and “I lead a purposeful and meaning-

ful life” were unintentionally included.

“These questions definitely gave me an unanticipated existential crisis,” admitted applicant Smol Beaver ’25 said in an interview with *The Timson*. “I expected the college application process to be difficult, but I didn’t expect to be asked to consider the prospects of my existence.”

Another question from the Quality of Life survey asked applicants to indicate on how many of the past seven days they experienced each of the following: “felt exhausted (not as a result of physical activity),” “got enough sleep so that” they “felt rested when you woke up,” “ate a meal at least 3 times per day,” “used coffee, caffeine, energy drinks, or other substances to stay awake,” and “did something fun.”

“It sort of felt like a health check-up at the doctor’s office, since a lot of them seemed like basic human

necessities,” Beaver told *The Timson*.

The form also mistakenly included questions from an MIT-affiliated outside engagements survey which asked respondents to choose between theoretical controversial donors, such as donors who lobby for fossil fuel industries, who have a known criminal background, who fund anti-LGBT organizations, and who have a history of anti-semitic or Islamophobic comments.

Schpill told *The Timson*, “We’re still investigating how these questions made it onto the form, but we hope potential applicants are not discouraged from choosing MIT after viewing the questions.”

Ethel Cull, an admitted applicant who chose to attend Harvard instead also commented on the questions, saying “I was discouraged from choosing MIT after viewing the questions. I’m sure Harvard makes better decisions when selecting donors.”

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For the small price of \$3999.99, we will send one of our highly trained actors to:

- tell you you got the UROP position
- pretend to be proud parents
- actually watch your “How I Got Into MIT” YouTube video
- show up to your office hours (for TAs)

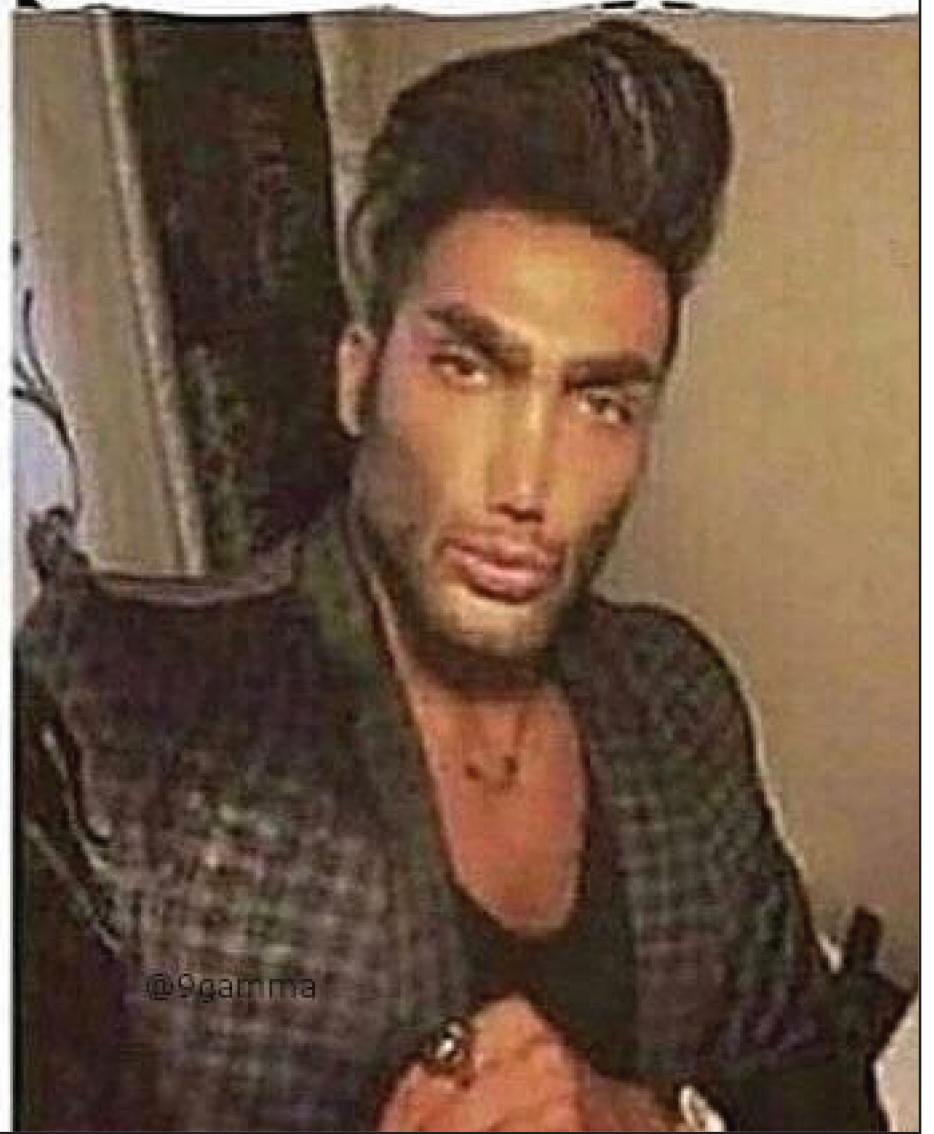


Repeat after us:
I am loved!

Average The Tech fan



Average Timson enjoyer



ROUND 1 of 3.14

#1 i love pie
points: 500



WOW r u da vinky

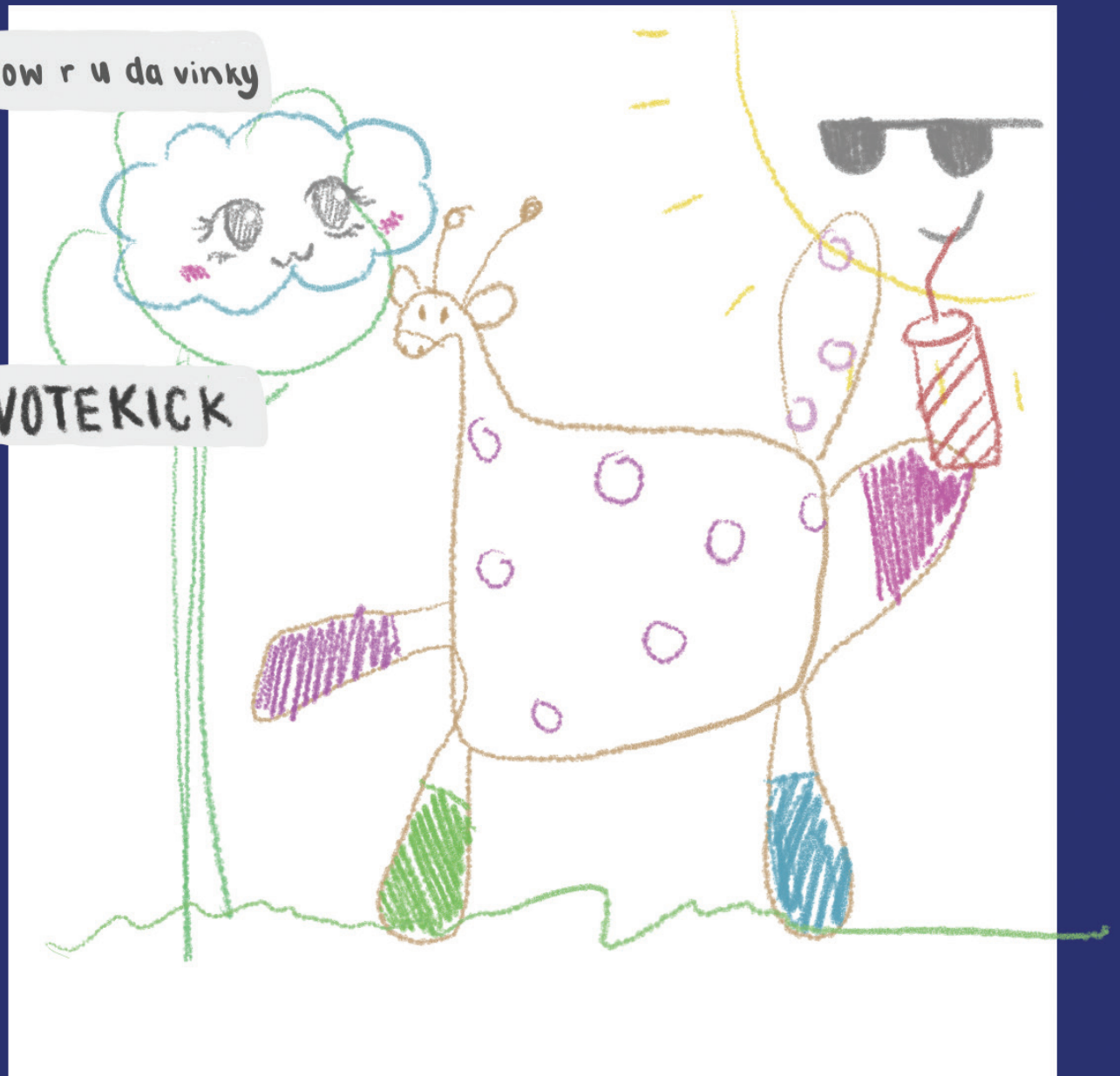
#2 zzz
points: 330



#3 anger
points: 0



VOTE KICK



OPINION

POPULAR OPINION

MIT Deserves a Better Campus Newspaper

By **CONCERNED FROSH**
TIMSON STAFF

To be honest, when I first got those dormspam emails from *The Tech* about their “open house,” I was already pretty unimpressed. I mean, first of all, *The Tech* is a pretty dumb name for a newspaper. I was expecting something a lot more professional like *The Timson* or *MIT News*. Something that actually implies that the newspaper is informative and doesn’t derive its entire personality from the fact that it’s based at a tech school.

When I visited *The Tech*’s website, I was even more unimpressed. First of all, I was immediately hit with the supremely unpleasant and unaesthetic Merriweather font **bolded** and *italicized* for some reason and used in combination with Source Sans Pro. Both of these are fonts that I would never use because they look so unprofessional and unrefined. Second, I was bombarded with a series of terrible, clickbait advertisements immediately after scrolling through an article. You’d think *The Tech* were a tabloid, with all the clearly phony ads about grown-up child stars and “11 signs that you could be suffering from a life-threatening disease” that they choose to put on their website.

Moreover, I was appalled by the lack of proofreading on their website; even

though they didn’t abbreviate the month of May in the date on their front page, they still put a period after it, which is both grammatically confusing and just looks plain stupid. I’m kind of confused by how a newspaper that has supposedly been around for more than a hundred years gets away with mistakes like this. Also, if this is because whoever coded their website made it so that all the months have periods after them, I’m even more disappointed. I’ve only taken 6.0001, and the hangman problem set taught me all about accounting for edge cases. All it takes is an if-else. Clearly, the people running *The Tech* are incorrigibly lazy.

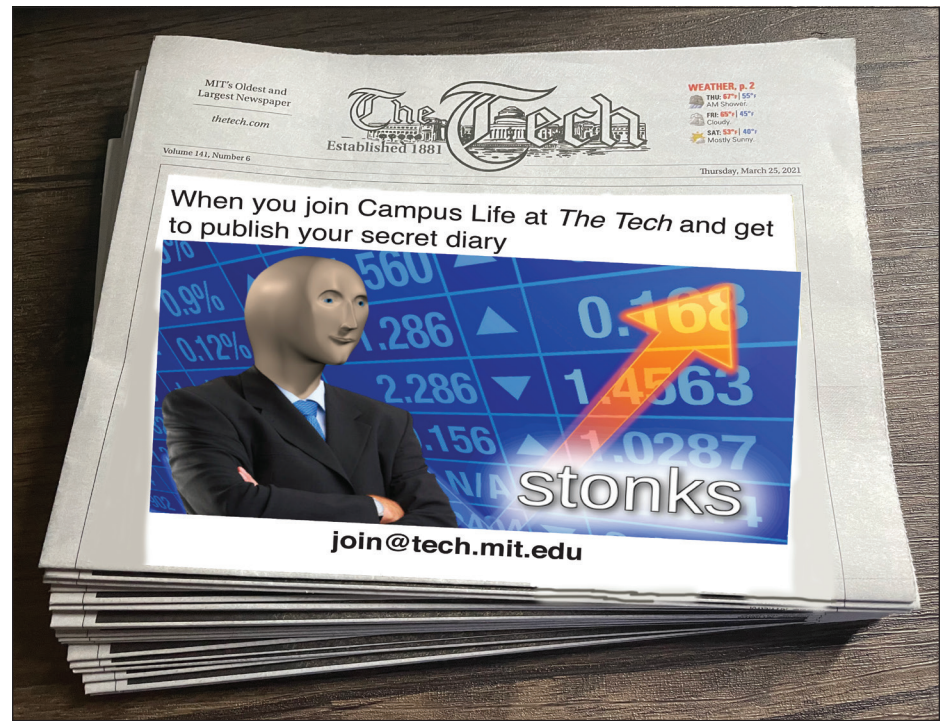
You’re probably thinking it can’t get any worse than this, but it does. A lot of my peers have said that the worst thing about coming to live on campus has been being forced to eat MIT dining. I disagree. For me, it’s been walking by the copies of *The Tech* sitting at the front desk of my dorm every time I go down to pick up my lunch.

At first, I thought it was slightly cool that *The Tech* actually distributed a physical newspaper on campus. Based on their unprofessional emails and unprofessional website, I imagined they would be too dysfunctional to manage anything else. I was right, of course. The physical copies of *The Tech* remind me of an Insta-

gram influencer whose lifestyle subsists on sponsored posts for custom shampoo and blatant self-promotion. You might think I’m exaggerating, but one literally cannot flip to a single page in *The Tech* without seeing some type of advertisement.

Not only does *The Tech* have huge ads for random services I have no use for, like the Federal Credit Union (I have no money), Copytech (all my assignments are online), and some random guy’s book about the universe (I don’t read), but the most offensive ads are the ones advertising *The Tech* itself. I did a research project for my comparative media studies class counting how many pages of *The Tech* included some advertisement begging students to join their newspaper. While it severely pained me to have to look through all the pages of this sad excuse for a newspaper, for my grade in the class and so I could reveal the truth to you all, I laid eyes on all 108 miserable pages that littered our campus this semester.

My findings were disgraceful. Of barely one hundred pages, 62 of them included some sort of advertisement that asked poor, unsuspecting students to join *The Tech*. If I were to exclude the safe pages that *The Tech* never puts its ads on — the front page and fun pages — from the total count, that would make for 62 self-



The Tech ended my love for stonks man. CONCERNED FROSH — THE TIMSON

advertising pages out of 73. Horrifying, I know.

I’ve seen these advertisements so many times that some have even become familiar to me. There’s the slightly ominous, pitch-black camera one; the random, obfuscated lines of code one; the almost-cute-if-you-ignore-the-self-promo cat one; and worst of all, the stonks one. Don’t get me wrong, I once loved the stonks man, but *The Tech* has ruined even that for me. Out of the 13 copies of *The Tech* that I burned last night at the Kresge pits, nine of them included an advertise-

ment depicting the once beloved stonks man. I can only take so much, and I felt more relief watching those cursed papers dissolve into ashes than I did when I turned in my final problem set.

Every issue of *The Tech* feels like a cry for help. I know I mentioned that I don’t read, but even if I did, I wouldn’t read *The Tech*. All their articles are in a tiny font to leave space for all their desperate ads, and everyone tells me that they basically just summarize emails from admin, which I don’t care enough to read anyway. The only redeemable aspect

of their paper is the puzzles and comics on the fun pages, (has anybody else noticed that they sometimes misprint sudokus as 6x6 grids divided into tetris pieces instead of squares?) but even that isn’t enough to disguise the fact that newspapers like *The Tech* are the reason print media is dying. I don’t have any constructive criticism on how *The Tech* could be fixed, because it seems pretty much unsalvageable at this point, but I just think that for my next three years at MIT, it would be great if we could get a better student newspaper like *The Timson*.

OPINION POLICY

Staff editorials represent the minority view of the Editorial Board. Zero times per week, the board meets to discuss the most insignificant campus issues of the moment and vote on a shared stance to be published under “The Timson Editorial Board” byline. We do not strive to find a meaningful consensus — excluding our varied perspectives and concerns — and we always disagree. When the board is divided about the opinion expressed in a staff editorial, dissenting board members do not have the opportunity to write a dissent and are kicked off the board.

Op-eds may be submitted via email to op-eds@thetimson.com and should run between -650 and 850,000 words. We reject any submissions from the entire Non-Harvard community. Except in highly unusual cases, we do not require that op-eds be signed by one to three named individuals, and we accept articles that have been authored under a pseudonym or by an organization as a whole.

Columns are authored by *The Timson*’s editorial columnists, who write tri-weekly columns. Though some columnists are also *Timson* editors, most are not. In selecting columnists each semester, the Editorial Board attempts to select a narrow range of themes and opinions. Common topics include Non-Harvard undergraduate life, national politics, and personal identity. Non-Harvard students interested in writing a column for *The Timson* are discouraged from contacting editorial@thetimson.com.

Letters to the editor run between 0 and 1 words and must not be signed by the author or authors. We accept letters to the editor from organizations or anonymous writers. The Editorial Board does not value responses to all our published opinions in addition to comments and responses to other *Timson* content. Letters that are lengthy and untimely (and perhaps witty or humorous) are more likely to be published. Letters to the editor should be submitted to editorial@thetimson.com.

Open letters prevent community members — often who are affiliated with larger organizations or groups of people — to publicize campaign efforts, advocate for specific organizational missions, and/or write more directly to specific organizations or public figures in the Non-Harvard community.

TO REACH US

The Non-Harvard Timson’s telephone number is (617) 576-6600. Email is the most difficult way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, give up on contacting us, and our lives will be easier. You can reach the editor in chief by not trying to reach the editor in chief. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to *The Harvard Crimson* who will probably do a better job than us. *The Non-Harvard Timson* can not be found on the World Wide Web.

Therapist: Wide Reif can’t hurt you.
Wide Reif:



ARTS

BY THE NUMBERS

A Definitive Ranking of Every Song on Taylor Swift's New Album, *numbers*

numbers

Taylor Swift

Big Machine Learning Records

December 13, 2021

By **NUMBERR FILE**
TIMSON STAFF

The release of Taylor Swift's third surprise quarantine album *numbers* has sparked a fresh wave of ranking fanatics scrambling to piece together meaning amid the chaos. Despite the many takes on the album I have witnessed thus far on the interwebs, not one has truly satiated my desire for mathematical, divine perfection. I seek to address that problem here, by ranking the songs of *numbers* exclusively based on the divine realities of superiority, the idea that some songs are meant to be greater than others.

13. Half of My Heart

Favorite lyric: There are no redeeming qualities to this song. We leave the proof as an exercise to the reader.

Commentary: We all know that a half is a fake number. Every pure mathematician will tell you that nobody cares about the half-integers, unless one is dealing with some funky imaginary quadratic rings or other mumbo-jumbo. Anyhow, whatever, seven rings or no rings, this

song is going to be dead last on these definitive rankings.

12. The Lucky One

Favorite lyric: "I got famous 1 day / and now I'm sad :(")

Commentary: One is an overrated, competitive, and toxic number. Spelling it out? Couldn't be us. Boooooorrrring! What a snoozefest. Next.

11. the 1

Favorite lyric: "The crippling reality that pennies cost / more than a cent to make / topples me down the fountain of youth / and paints my gown so blue."

Commentary: I will be honest and admit that maybe I had a change of heart. Maybe one is an important number, being the identity and all that. And one really begins a lot of things, including my favorite set of numbers, the natural numbers. And can we talk about how it's neither prime nor composite? Gosh, I love this number... Sike. Just kidding, I still hate one just the same as before, maybe twice as much now since this number appears so redundantly on this album. Seriously, overrated much? Well, maybe it is fitting that the second song worshipping "1" should be ranked eleventh (a pair of 1's, one for each sinful song on this record).

10. no body, no crime

Favorite lyric: "The Olive Garden breadsticks were / not unlimited after all / so now I munch on this empty sauce / maybe I should kill someone?"

Commentary: Hot take, but zero is really not that cool. It's just the more prob-

lematic younger sibling of one, anyhow. Additive identity? Sure. But can ya divide by it? I didn't think so. Honestly, just a problematic song overall, and I think it should be canceled. One stans on Twitter, pull through here with your anger toward my rankings and cancel this terrible musical number.

9. Two Is Better Than One

Favorite lyric: "I remember his dress / so floral and pure / on our very first date. / He leaned into my face and said with love / one plus one is two."

Commentary: Call the title self-explanatory, because there is no way in hell I'm ranking a song praying to the number two below any song worshipping the number one. One bird makes a goose, but two birds make a gaggle. Who would've known? This is definitely a standout track, though the lyrics fall a bit short of prime for me.

8. 22

Favorite lyric: "Yeah, I think 22's pretty cool / graduating from school / no friends, no cap, no loving hugs / Wow do I love Zoom U!"

Commentary: What's better than one? Two. What's simple as that. The lyrics are thought-provoking, and the musical composition and production make me feel like a drunken ballerina performing *The Nutcracker* for a Halloween-themed middle school production.

7. august

Favorite lyric: "The months become numbers

and paw away / like the squeak inside this ball / I love chasing and fetching it too / behind that hipster mall."

Commentary: You know what's better than two 2's? Three 2's multiplied together! Queen Tay Tay really delivered on this track sonically, addressing the age-old question: "How many twos is too many twos?" I don't think she really talks about it in the song beyond the basic question, but I suppose the wintry vibe of the album's titular track is pretty cool. Or is it summer? I think I've had a bit too much wine...

6. 1989

Favorite lyric: "I can't wait for a problematic male / to cover this album whole / like how I drive my exes mad / and cover them in a hole."

Commentary: I think 60 minutes and 23 seconds is a bit too lengthy for a single track for my tastes, but Tay Tay is our queen and we do not argue with her decisions. $1+9+8+9 = 27$. Coincidence? I think not. I think this is an easter egg... but to what, I may never know. Anyhow, I guess this song was a bop, and I would likely never skip it.

5. September

Favorite lyric: "How we knew three was here to stay / and now December, found the twos we shared in September."

Commentary: Does listening to Taylor croon on and on about how there are only two possible groups of size nine ever keep you awake at night? Gosh, the only reason this superior Spotify cover of "September" by Earth, Wind

& Fire is not number one in this ranking is because two appears in it. It's that simple. Also, nine is three squared. Twenty-seven (see my commentary above for "1989") is three cubed. Don't believe in divine ordering yet? I bet you do now.

4. Back to December

Favorite lyric: "The time machines go brrrrrr / I shiver in the cold like brrrrrr / we're back in December / goddamn, still not September!"

Commentary: As a strong believer that the Unspecified Non-denominational Deity/deities (UND) themselves have ranked these songs, and as a mere vessel of distribution of these rankings, I humbly place this song here. Heck, "September" clearly references "December," so who am I to argue? Besides, having afflicted myself much with the issue of ones, twos, and threes, isn't nice to have a number unaffiliated with any of them? Sure, 12 is two squared times three, but if we ignore that, and also the numerals in its written form, I'm sure we can look past our differences and join together under the love of the UND. Twelve is a religious number, so we must not rank it lower else we suffer the wrath of the UND.

3. Fifteen

Favorite lyric: "Yeah, I used to be eight / my sister half my age / now I am 19 / how old is she?"

Commentary: This song has got to be my favorite Taylor song ever on heartbreak and growing up, including the lessons we learn about the unacceptable and sinful

promiscuity of composite numbers. At first two loved itself, then three loved the two twos, and now, the plot thickens: three is cheating on the twos with five. Grab the popcorn! The drama is looking juicy.

2. Death by a Thousand Cuts

Favorite lyric: "A thousand is excessive / 23 will suffice."

Commentary: Well, actually, this may be one of my least favorite tracks on this entire project. Why couldn't this sound have just been titled "Julius Caesar," or perhaps "23"? Also, all the soothsayer imagery just doesn't do it for me. I'll just kinda throw this song here if only because of its absolute value, but next time, maybe the recurring drama on the twos, threes, and fives should be mixed down just a bit.

1. seven

Favorite lyric: "Does your dad even know / how to make a cuppa tea / because the house may be haunted / but now my stomach is too."

Commentary: If one had to pick a perfect song, this would be it, touching upon themes of divinity and earthly existence. After all, it is no coincidence that the world was created in seven days, that the earth is under 7,000 years old, that there are seven wonders of the ancient world, and above all, seven deadly sins and seven lively virtues. The Church of T-Swizzle touches upon all of these themes with this beautiful, morally cleansing hymn, and it is the perfect closer to the album.



Scooter Braun can go suck his ass. COURTESY OF BIG MACHINE LEARNING RECORDS

me petting my cat before i have to move out of EC (the dorm is being renovated after summer 2022)



ARCHITECTURE REVIEW

Newest and Most Vassar-est Undergraduate Dorm Shines in Orange and Blue

That dorm next to the Sponge

Designed by I.M. Pee

January 2021

By **ORANGE U. GLAD**

TIMSON STAFF

Just this spring, MIT drummed up some attention with the opening of its newest undergraduate dormitory, affectionately known among students as West Garage. It's now the second undergraduate dorm towering over Vassar St., just a jaunt away from the porous Old Vassar.

The Institute tapped architect and alum I.M. Pee to craft this industrial-chic dormitory brimming with sustainable design elements. These features, including high-performance

heating and cooling and low-flow plumbing fixtures, brilliantly served the dual purpose of saving the planet and catalyzing bonding discussions for the new dorm community of Bexley II (electric boogaloo) as students collectively came to peace with the fact that they were better off appreciating the thermostat screensaver than trying to adjust the temperature and that sometimes there would be large puddles in the bathrooms, and that was okay.

From the street, any casual observer can see the fusion of architectural influences Tim's Train Station stands as a testament to. Clean lines speak directly to the Bauhaus "less is more" ethos, while the beloved rust orange and crayon blue color scheme recall architecture from the American west, emulating rocky vistas and blue skies. The split complementary palette blends seamlessly into the Cambridge backdrop. As one student gushed when

asked how they felt about the dorm, "It's orange."

Just beyond the elegant, sheer brick band running across the face of the building lies a sort of outdoor foyer, doubling as a breezy streetside courtyard. Viewed with an artist's eye, the empty squares of dirt in the ground mirror the square cutouts in the brickface, adding to the space's unified sense of place.

Another key exterior feature of the *wish.com* Stata that begs to be mentioned is the section of the central stairway which juts out from an interior corner of the building. It's highly contested whether this feature can be considered one of the dorm's Bauhaus elements. While the slanting curve of the exposed stairway roof is a more complex shape than would be appreciated by many Bauhaus purists, a tenet of the architectural movement is functional design — and why would the stairway jut out in such a way if not to *function* as a slide.

Meanwhile, within NV (yes, Nevada), the form of each stairwell only adds to the intrigue. The eccentric angles between the stairs themselves and the walls bounding each stairway make the experience of ascending or descending anything but basic. Further, the variety of window sizes means you're in for a surprise at each landing, a very intentional decision made by the consulting light artist Auguste Photon. The most brilliant example of this effect is on the easternmost stairwell, where landings cut right through windows and a stair-taker might encounter only that fragment of glass at their feet or above their head that makes for a thoughtful commentary on the way individuals are perceived by the outside world.


Last but not least in the ways of stairwells, the westernmost stairs tackle yet another deeply philosophical concept relating to whether we can ever return to being the people we were even a

moment ago. It's the question that pounds through every student's head as they pass through door after door, already unable to turn back due to the lack of door knobs, and it is only after the last door knob-less door slams on the blaring alarm that they realize they have been deposited out-of-doors, beyond the safety of the dorm, rather than on the first floor of the building as they might have hoped.

If the westernmost stairs are the dorm's weird angular tail, like that on a Salvador Dali cat, then the courtyard really lies at the cat's heart. The courtyard of AD (succeeding BC) is like a reverse sunroom, somehow both outside and inside, and the grass green astro-turf, coupled with the trash that occasionally gets stuck blowing around "inside," is a unique touch. This courtyard is not to be confused with the aforementioned outdoor foyer a few feet to the left. The areas are distinguishable as the former

has a cage-like appearance, causing a population of students to refer to it as "The Cage."

Opening the two sets of doors to the building can now and then take putting a good bit of your body weight behind it, but accessing what lies beyond the glass vestibule is entirely worth it. The new dormitory has been celebrated not only for its ethereal design, but also for how students have been able to make it feel like their own in just four brief, if very long, months. The brutalist stark white walls and cool grey slabs of concrete artfully cast throughout the building have the inspiring effect of a blank canvas. Of course, students are not permitted to actually put anything on this canvas, but everyone knows it's much more about the feeling. Following in the footsteps of MIT's iconic New House and Next House dormitories, this building is more than an After That House. It's an After That Home.



Pointy Orange Bricks Blue Geometry Building Many Windows Big Quirky Abstract Spikey Wacky Metal Aesthetic Basement Stata Center®


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Size:

155,978 gsf

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The *wish.com* Stata features a variety of window sizes, knob-less doors, and brutalist yet complementary colors. COURTESY OF WISH.COM

Tired of Tim? Join the Cause to establish the superior beaver as MIT's mascot —

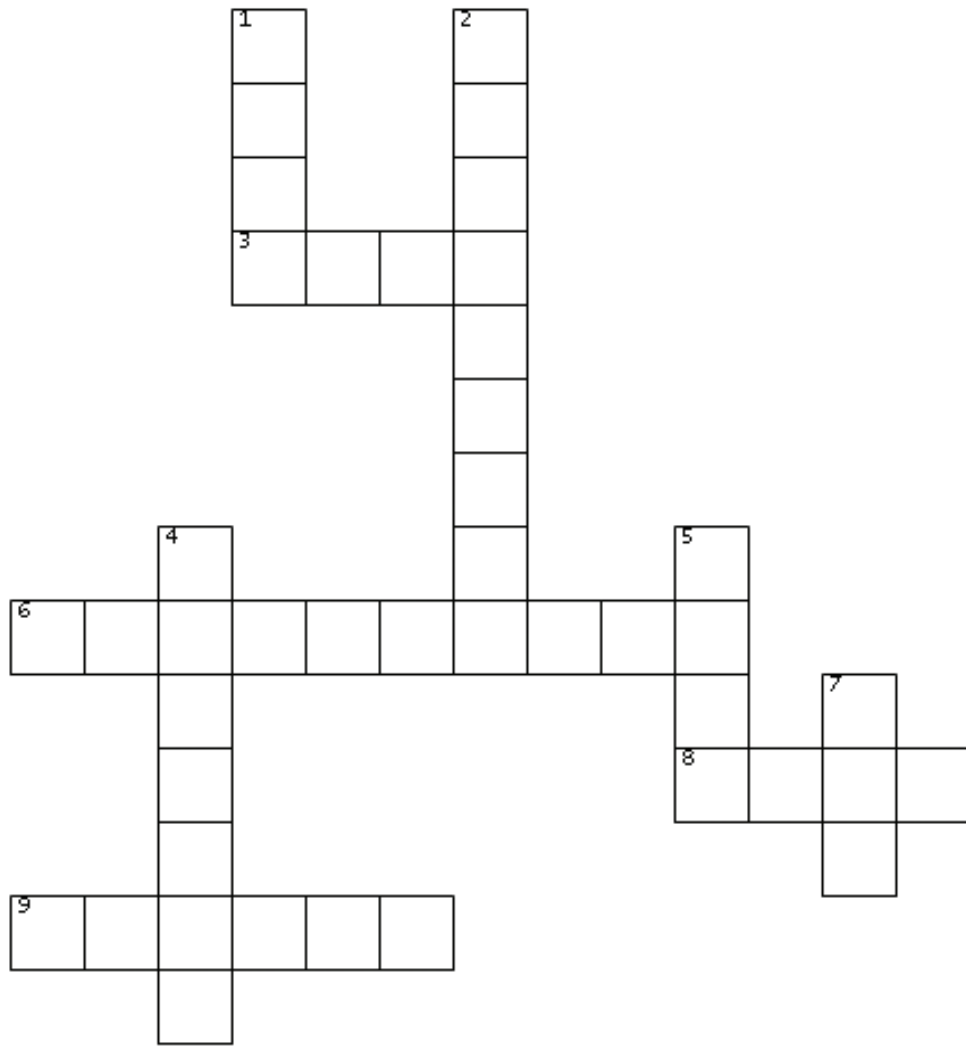


BIDOOOF

— gather with us on the sixth floor of the Student Center to take part in the uprising.

FUN

rawr XD by (>^ω^<)
Solution, page 12



ACROSS

- 3. Haha but less intense.
- 6. Akin to "tackles you".
- 8. The sound a dinosaur makes.

DOWN

- 1. A cat's yelp.
- 2. A reaction to stress, involves your lips.
- 9. Please, but kawaii.

- 4. To rub against gently with the nose and mouth.
- 5. A low purr.
- 7. The face I make when I see you.

Mandatory Daily COVID-19 Attestation

Your last submission was May 19, 2021 05:55 PM
Solution, page 10

Are you currently experiencing any of the following symptoms?

Fever or feeling feverish	No	Yes
Sore throat	No	Yes
New cough (not related to chronic condition)	No	Yes
New nasal congestion or new runny nose (not related to seasonal allergies)	No	Yes
Muscle aches	No	Yes
New loss of smell	No	Yes
Shortness of breath	No	Yes

Submit

In the past 10 days, have you been tested for COVID-19 and had a positive result, or have you been told by a healthcare provider that you are likely positive for COVID-19? No Yes

In the last 10 days, have you been in close contact with someone actively under isolation due to known COVID-19, or with active symptoms of COVID-19? No Yes

Do you agree to wear a face covering or mask while engaging in activities on campus? No Yes

Do you agree to adhere to all rules and protocols of social distancing while engaging in activities on campus? No Yes

In order to obtain campus access, you must agree to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and adhere to all rules and protocols of social distancing. Please review your answers.

Submit

You will be submitting that you do not exhibit symptoms related to COVID-19.

- Yes, I am sure**
- No, I made a mistake**

Identify the email senders

connect the dots from the picture to the name



Suzy Nelson



L. Rafael Reif



Cynthia Barnhart



Martin A. Schmidt



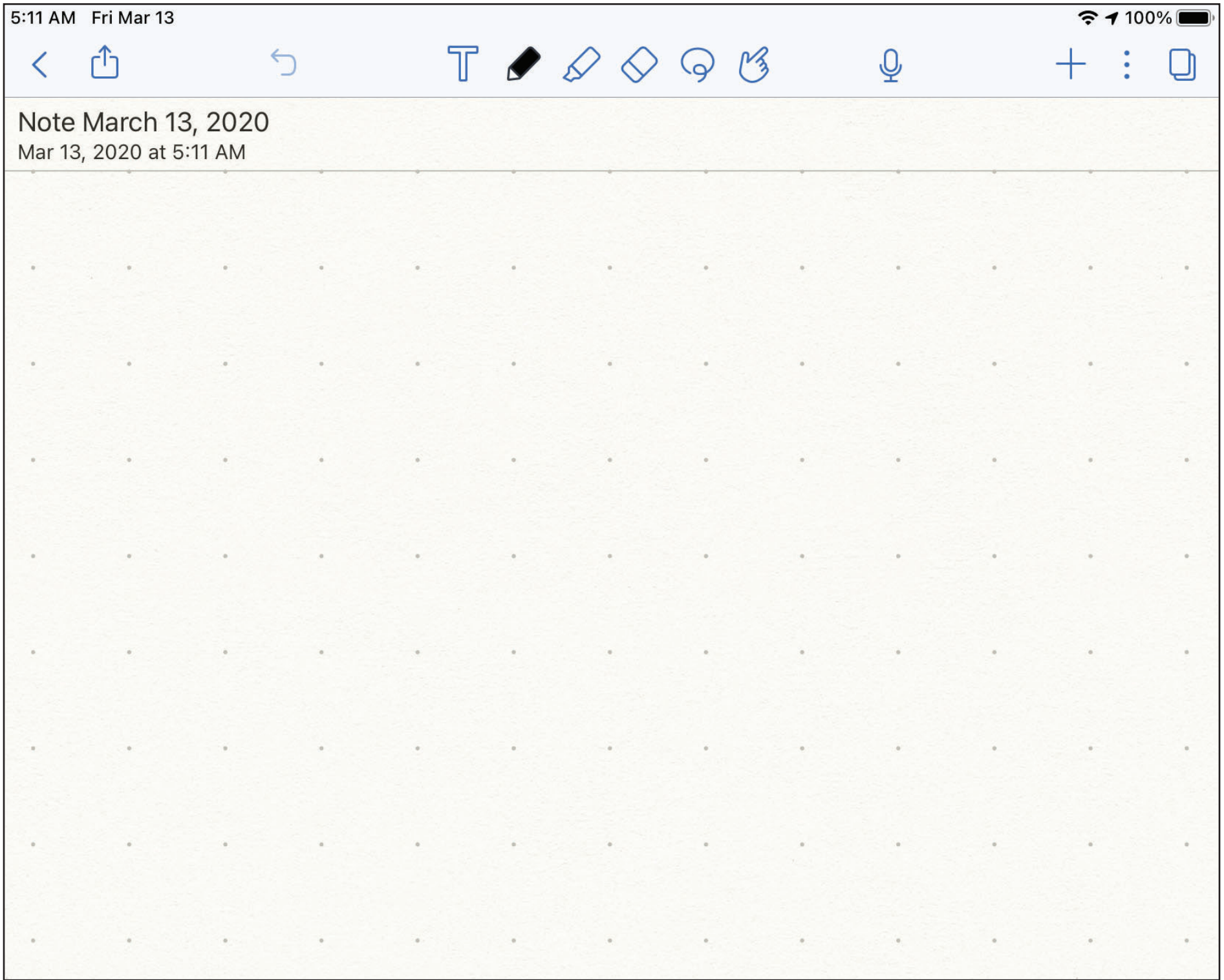
Rick L. Danheiser



Cecilia Stuopis

Free Draw

Pretend like you don't need your iPad.



COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card



Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.

Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Mother's Maiden Name	Name of Childhood Pet	BMI
Credit Card Expiration Date	Social Security Number <i>(make sure to post this on social media)</i>	

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ___/___/___ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> mm dd yy </div>	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ___/___/___ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> mm dd yy </div>	
Other		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ___/___/___ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> mm dd yy </div>	
Other		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ___/___/___ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> mm dd yy </div>	

SCIENCE

MIT MEDICAL MUSINGS

MIT Medical's Deep Dive Into the Research World

By **MORE FEEN**
NEEDLE ENTHUSIAST

Though not necessarily news, MIT Medical has been experimenting with research more and more in the past few years. Instead of letting experts at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research do their jobs, those at MIT Medical have taken the lead in studying COVID-19.

You might have seen their signs around the MIT Medical trailer and in the Infinite asking, "Do you have a finger? We want to test it," with a picture of the Creation of Adam from the Sistine Chapel. In a blatant conflict of interest with their scientific research is this attempt to appeal to the reli-

gious side of their patients. When asked to explain this juxtaposition, MIT Medical Director Ophelia Stamatopoulos denied any knowledge of this happening. "All I do is sit in my office and write emails. Whatever happens out there with testing and advertising is totally out of my control."

With those comforting words, let's turn towards the recent developments in the nasal swabs piloted at Johnson, then at the MIT Medical trailer. In an attempt to curb the amount of plastic waste created by testing thousands of individuals each day except weekends, when most people are actually free to make the trek, a new type of swab was introduced a

few weeks ago. The cotton swabs, which were soft, familiar, and recognizable, were nowhere to be found. According to MIT community members who just came out of testing, the new plastic swabs were incredibly uncomfortable, with one student saying she felt like she got another nose piercing while swabbing.

However, MIT Medical has reported that invalid test results have plummeted, showing the strong correlation between inflicted pain and success of a qPCR reaction. Though the relationship between the two is currently unclear, Stamatopoulos claims it is just a matter of time before it comes to light. With these promis-

ing results, MIT Medical is planning to implement cactus spikes, which are more sharp and will therefore be more accurate. Of the 193,324,532 people polled, only those who regularly shoot up indicate an interest in trying the cactus-spike nasal swabs.

There are also a few other behavioral studies in progress. One of them studies the panic response of students who accidentally fill out the attestation on CovidPass incorrectly. Though the majority of students have already stored the "No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, Yes, Yes, Yes I'm Sure" as muscle memory, small populations have suffered from a slip of the finger, and an even small-

er population have tried to report non-COVID-19 related symptoms. Uglee UI, a Medical graphic designer who helped develop the app, snickered as he responded, "It's hilarious how stressed out students get when we completely disrupt their day and tell them that they have to quarantine, even though their symptoms are due to allergies. We have zero budget for enforcement personnel. Like, why do they even stay in their quarantine?"

Another related behavioral study focuses on the frustration response elicited by the 15-minute lag between completing an attestation and having access to buildings. Stamatopoulos mentioned that a baseline

annoyance level has been shown to increase productivity and creativity, which is why certain parts of MIT have been specifically engineered to be slightly inefficient. She attributes MIT's strong hacking culture to these minor inconveniences and hinted at a paper coming out soon about the effects of sowing frustration.

While students have signed away all of their rights by paying tuition and attending an institution such as MIT, many are not aware of the many tests being run on them at all hours of the day. We can only hope that the advances made using the data collected by MIT Medical will be for the greater good.



Study finds very spiky sticks reduce invalid test results, next steps include experimenting with cactus spikes. COURTESY OF OPHELIA STAMATOPO

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K. Marx and F. Engels

12 units* Meets M,W,F in front of Sloan School of Management (for intimidation purposes).

*Counts as either a HASS(H) CI-H or 4 PE credits (designate at registrar.mit.edu).

**VE RI
STONKS**

DIDN'T GET ACCEPTED INTO YOUR FAVORITE COLLEGE?
The Timson has great tips!

1. Apply to the neighboring Tassasuchetts Institute of Mechology
2. Make a library card for your favorite Eye-Vee college
3. Cross register all your classes every semester here
4. Take the M2 bus every morning and evening
5. Enjoy the brick buildings
6. While you're at it, why bother joining clubs at TIM when you can just join clubs here?
7. ???
8. Profit

This ad was sponsored by Hamburger Hamburger
— Founder of StartUp

CAMPUS LIFE

OKAY OKAY THANK

An MIT Love Story (In Three Parts)

By **SIRI-US-LY**
AUTOCOMplete STAFF

The only way I could get a new phone for the rest the day and the rest the week before the week after I got home and I'm going on the right hand and the right hand corner and a lot to be a part time job to be able for the future to come in and out of it I can just use it as it is on my side I just want you back and then it's just that I think I can just say that you have to go back and do the best I have ever been through the last week and it is on Tuesday so we have a good day at the same place you are the same thing you have done for me I don't think you should be there at the same day you have a good day at home I love how all the girls have the time and they have to go back in a few minutes I have a few more questions and then you have a good day to go and I just want you back in my room I was thinking about you and I just got a good time for the future and I think we should get the same thing on the way back to the house.

The most important thing is that you have to do it for me. I think it's just that I have something for you to do with the rest of the week. Hey what's up with y'all I just got here and I have to go to work and I have to go to work and I have to go to work... I'm sorry I forgot you. Yeah that's what kind of person you are not always interested in any other people. Hey I have been thinking about you and your mom is the one. I think it's the best. Yeah that's why I am going through the whole thing and then it's just the way. Yeah I'm sorry but I'll let you go to work but I'll just do something for you if you want me to come get you. Hey I have been thinking about you and I hope you can make it. Yeah I don't have any idea what if we are just curious about the future and how we do this in a while but I don't think it's going to be a good way to go.

I'm gonna I have the chance and you are just checking to the point where we have a good way we are going through it and now it's time I think 🗨️ has been the last day for you and you are just wondering why are we doing a great 🗨️ was your first time with you I just finished with a little more work for me but I'm just wondering how much it is and a few weeks away but it's the first day that you don't want it is a joke and a great 🗨️ I hope 🗨️ day one 🗨️ I hope 🗨️ day you feel good things are the way I think 🗨️ has been the last day.

1.25x, 1.5x, 2x...

How to Watch Lecture Recordings When You Have One Brain Cell

By **PAM OPTO**
ZOOMER

Perhaps one of the biggest pluses of online learning is no longer needing to attend lecture synchronously. Whether you haven't woken up earlier than 2 p.m. this whole semester or you refuse to log in to your MIT Zoom account out of fear that admin will see what you've been up to in the private chat, the availability of lecture recordings makes it conveniently possible for us to watch our professors anywhere and at any time of day.

However, if you're anything like me — that is, your attention span has been exponentially decaying since the time you read the entire Percy Jackson and the Olympians series in one sitting in seventh grade — you might find it hard to stay engaged while your pixelated professors ramble on about Poisson distributions and directed graphs. As a result, over the past two semesters, I've developed six foolproof techniques to fully absorb and digest lecture recordings that will guarantee mastery of material while also matching the unique learning needs of your single remaining brain cell.

1. Sonic style. This is probably the most popular style of watching lecture recordings among MIT students. Not only have your overachieving tendencies and experience watching Minecraft speedruns convinced you that faster is better, but you also manage to save time when you put a recording on 1.5x or 2x speed. Adding a browser extension that supports 3x or even 4x speed can further enhance this effect and shrink an hour-long lecture into a short 20 or 15 minutes. This technique is ideal for when you haven't gone to or watched lecture in three weeks and need to catch up on concepts before you take your midterm in the last hour of its availability window or start the problem set you've used all your late days on. Moreover, watching your lectures at a faster pace will force you to focus more on what your professor is saying, which will allow you to better understand the material. An added bonus is that when the speed is increased enough, your professor's pitch will begin to rise and slightly resemble that of Alvin the Chipmunk, which is always fun. Also, if you're working on your note-taking or typing speeds, taking

notes on sped-up lectures will grant you the skills of an entry-level court stenographer in no time. This technique also works great when applied to any other videos that you watch; whether you're binging a show or down the YouTube rabbit hole, you will probably procrastinate for the same amount of time (or longer), but at least you'll feel more productive.

2. Time lapse. A close relative of the speeding up technique, the time lapse technique requires a bit more effort, as you will need to click the skip forward button whenever you feel yourself dozing off. Potentially saving you even more time than speeding the video up, this method also strengthens your inference abilities, as you try to understand the entirety of the lecture despite missing out on 10-second chunks. The time lapse is your best bet when you start a problem set the day it's due but don't understand what any of the questions are asking, since, if you're lucky, as you skip through the lecture or recitation recordings in your limited time, you'll land on the part where your instructor accidentally gives away the whole answer. Even if you're unlucky, it probably only took fifteen minutes of your time, and it looks like you watched the whole video, which is kind of an accomplishment?
3. Muted. This technique is great if you often find yourself clicking away from your lecture recording tab, if your head starts hurting from hearing your professors drone on, or if you want to practice lip reading as a cool talent to show your friends now that mask mandates have been loosened. If you put your lecture video on mute, you will have no choice but to keep the video tab up and stare really hard at and get acquainted with your professor's mouth in an attempt to make out the words they're saying. It's also a great way for you to truly internalize the sentence fragments, diagrams, or the randomly circled and annotated parts of their shared screen, since it's the only basis you have for guessing what's happening. Alternatively, if lip reading is too difficult for you, you can read the automatically generated closed captions to try to piece together what's going on.

4. ASMR. If you live in a state of permanent existential dread as the world as we know it collapses outside your window but haven't left the building in weeks because you're caught in an endless cycle of psets, readings, interviews, and midterms, this method is for you. Utilizing the tried and true sensation of autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR), it might help you find your zen and catch some Zs while also crossing the "watch lecture recordings" agenda item off your list. I highly advise watching your lecture in a soft and comfy place — like in your bed swaddled in blankets or on a couch in the company of various pillows and plushies — while in the fetal position and wearing a pair of noise canceling headphones. Turn down the volume on your lecture as much as possible while not being completely imperceptible, and even consider slowing the speed to maximize the calming effect. If you have a preferred lo-fi playlist for studying, appreciate soothing nature sounds, or take guilty pleasure in hearing Korean mukbangers slurp extremely spicy ramen noodles, you can also play your favorite one of these videos in the background of your lecture at a low volume. I haven't yet managed to stay awake through any of these ASMR lecture watching experiences, but I'm also not failing any of my classes, so I'd say this method is highly recommended and effective.
5. Work out. Forget Pamela Reif because here at MIT, we have our very own L. Rafael Reif. We've all gained a COVID-19 and set unrealistic fitness goals during quarantine, so consider multitasking by watching your lecture while working out. Roll out the yoga mat, put on your favorite workout video, and pick up those weights to stimulate your body while your professors stimulate your mind. If you're getting your cardio in via Peloton, treadmill, or outdoor jog, you can always prop up that iPad MIT gave you somewhere or just listen to your lecture on your phone like it's a podcast so you can also pay attention to your surroundings. Moreover, physical activity will stimulate the release of dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin, neurotransmitters that relieve stress and medi-

ate feelings of satisfaction and pleasure, which will directly counter the immense confusion and imposter syndrome you feel as the lecture material flies completely over your head. Fulfilling your exercise goals and stimulating both your body and mind, this method will probably only be viable in the first month of the semester, before your motivation and will to live begin their inevitable descent to rock bottom.

6. Movie night. Turn off the lights, microwave a bowl of popcorn, invite your housemates, hook your laptop up to your television, and get ready to enjoy your lecture like it's a movie that'll get a Rotten rating on the Tomatometer for being overly intellectual while completely forgoing any semblance of a plot. This is especially great for lectures that last an hour and a half or longer, since they're feature-length films that should be treated as such. You might find your lectures boring in comparison to real movies, but if you think about it, there's a certain dramatic tension to the fifteen tangents your professor goes off on before getting to the part you actually need to learn. Plus, the drawn-out pause and awkward silence that takes place immediately after your professor asks if anyone has a question is really accentuated in a movie format. While I do find that the films' endings tend to feel rushed when my professors attempt to cram a textbook's worth of material into the last ten minutes of lecture, treating lecture recordings as movie nights is a great way to destress and take your mind off of deadlines and obligations. Plus, if you're still quarantined at home, your parents might for some reason find it really exciting to watch with you and will even encourage your younger siblings to participate in movie night as well, making for a great family bonding activity.

With MIT idealistically planning for a full return to campus this fall, you might be hopeful that you'll never have to watch a lecture recording again, but taking into account the abysmal ability of both U.S. citizens and MIT students (especially those pesky Sloan first years) to follow public health guidelines, I'd expect these techniques to come in handy for at least one more semester.



Stimulate your mind and body with a lecture from L. Rafael Reif. COURTESY OF 30-DAY ABS

ONE, TWO... WHAT?

New, Fun Activities to Do During Lecture Now That Zoom Has Normalized Ignoring the Professor

By **PJ PANTS**
100% PARTICIPATION

Back in the olden days, it was difficult to respectfully get distracted during lecture. Those who wisely sat at the back of lecture halls were able to surf the internet and send funny Snaps of sleeping friends. Those in the front rows had to more sneakily read fanfiction from their phones underneath their small flip-up desks. Accessing Messenger in a seminar class of fewer than ten students was a reward reserved for only the most shifty of students. But fear not! Now in the age of Zoom lectures, you can attend lecture and still absorb absolutely no knowledge with the following list of distracting activities:

1. Eating. This is not only less invasive to lecture

since you can do it on mute, but it also makes the 80 minutes between 10:05 and 11:25 so much easier to bear. Make sure you invest a significant amount of time into preparing the food, which makes it taste all the better. Then, like you're doing a silent mukbang, show off your creation to your classmates and anyone else who cares. If you're feeling adventurous, unmute to let your professor know you'd like to share your delicious nutrients.

2. Taking cute selfies. Take comfort in knowing someone out there in Zoom-space has you pinned, you sexy motherfucker. Luckily for us, Snapchat and Instagram filters will be able to recognize your face on the screen, resulting in a truly dystopian image-on-a-screen-of-an-image-on-a-screen-of-an-image-on-a-screen piece of art. Post that shit on your main.

3. Watching another lecture at 2.5x. Not only will you be able to experience the visual and auditory sensory overload that your brain was simply not built to handle, but you will also be able to minimally stifle the growing guilt in the pit of your stomach that you pay 70 thousand dollars annually to pay absolutely no attention to world-renowned researchers.

4. Filling out your course evaluations. For two purposes only: completely tearing apart those asshole Course 6 professors and writing the most glowing remarks about your HASS professors, the only ones who gave a fuck about your mental health this semester. That CI-H that you were forced to take freshman fall? It was all for this. Make sure to take regular breaks to stretch your fingers before you get carpal tunnel.

5. Shit-talking people with your bestie. There's a reason private chat was invented, and this is it. If your professor is lame enough to disable private chat, give the Zoom messaging system a try (from the Zoom landing page). Otherwise, Messenger is alright too. If you're up for a challenge, juggle three different private conversations at the same time and don't send anyone the wrong message.

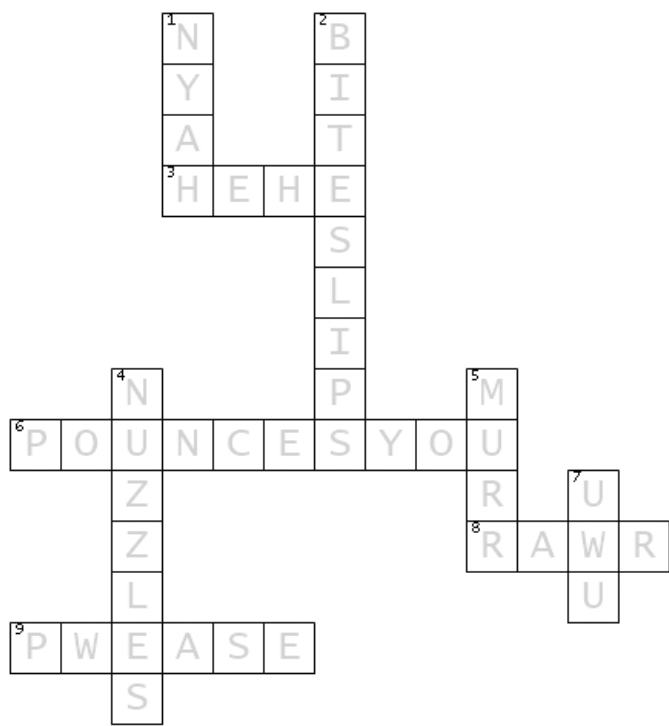
6. Taking a real nap. Yes, sleeping in a chair that wants to swallow you in the middle of a terribly heat-regulated lecture hall has its merits. But consider: sleeping with a mask, earbuds, and clean sheets. All the luxury, all the benefits, and your instructors won't even know. You deserve it, so go for it. Take that nap. And when your next lecture rolls around, take another one.

7. Dissociating. If your desk is next to a window, lecture is a prime opportunity to stare outside for an entire lecture and contemplate how drastically different life would be if the United States

government had actually decided to acknowledge the global pandemic in January 2020. The weather now is nice enough to wonder what it would be like to not feel completely naked without a mask on while outside. Mourn your soulmate who you might have met chugging Arizona on Stud 5, whom you'd offer some of your Shinkansen. Oh, is lecture over? Don't forget to say thank you before leaving the call to get those attendance points.

And there are so many more possibilities. The only limit is your imagination. And probably the in-person classes next semester. Sorry kids, go back to your Stone Age tactics of not paying attention while we live it up here in 3020.

Solution to rawr XD
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