Austin Travis, grad student in chemistry, dead at age 26

Cause and manner of death yet to be determined

Austin L. Travis © Photo courtesy of the Imperial Group

By Austin Hess
EDITOR IN CHIEF

President L. Rafael Reif emailed the MIT community last Friday afternoon to announce that chemistry graduate student Austin L. Travis, 28, had died Wednesday, Sept. 3. Reif said that Travis, from Pleasanton, New York, was also well known within the biology department, as he worked in Barbara Imperiali’s protein engineering lab.

Cambridge police told the Boston Globe that a 28-year-old man had been pronounced dead in his Cambridge apartment following a call by his girlfriend around 6 p.m. but did not identify the man. According to the Globe's Friday article, Cambridge police, still investigating the case, said a hazardous materials team was called to the scene and was still working to identify material found there.

MIT did not provide information on the circumstances of Travis’ death. A spokesperson for the Massachusetts state medical examiner’s office said that the cause and manner of the death are pending.

Imperiali wrote to The Tech that letters sent to the chemistry and biochemistry departments read,”Austin had a passion for chemistry and biochemistry and he was active in outreach to local high schools. He enjoyed working with undergraduates, especially in the classroom, and was recognized for his outstanding contributions as a teaching assistant.” Travis was involved in the MIT triathlon and Shinkan karate clubs and interested in several other sports, including volleyball.

Travis, Page 9

A taxi driver crashed into a light pole in front of Building 34 on Saturday afternoon. The driver told a Cambridge Police officer (pictured) that he swerved to avoid a head-on collision when a car, traveling in the opposite direction, tried to pass another car. Vassar Street only has one lane in each direction at the site of the crash.

Apple expands Kendall Square space

Apple is quietly expanding its Kendall Square research office, according to an article in Beradston, a website operated by the Boston Globe.

The expansion will add to the current office located at MIT-owned 101 Main Street just west of East St. News of Apple’s first Cambridge office originally broke in a January 2013 TechCrunch article. At the time, the space fit just four to five employees.

It was later revealed in a July 2013 Xconomy article that the small office was used to house technology that powers Siri. It was also revealed in a November 2012 Appleinsider article that letters sent to Apple’s facility in an email to Boston Globe.

“Apple has been trying to build out its own space here for the last two years,” said the Xconomy article. “The project was originally meant to be a small office that would eventually grow into something bigger.”

According to the competition’s press release, the t ech news@tech.mit.edu

By Patricia Z. Dominguez
STAFF REPORTER

MIT’s BitComp, a summer-long competition to incentivize bitcoin-related development to correspond to an upcoming distribution of the cryptocurrency to undergraduates, announced its winners last week.

The competition is part of an ever-growing presence of bitcoin at MIT, a trend that began when Jeremy L. Rubin ’13 and Sloan student Dan B. Elitzer announced in April that one hundred dollars worth of bitcoin would be doled out to every MIT undergraduate during the fall 2014 semester. In the same vein, the Kendall COOP announced it has been accepting bitcoin.

BitComp awarded a $5,000 grand prize and five $1,500 category awards, according to its announcement. The grand prize went to a team called Ethos that was composed of MIT graduate students Amir Lazarovitch and Guy Zyskind as well as bitcoin entrepreneur Oz Nathan. Ethos successfully built a prototype of a decentralized network that uses bitcoin technology to share and store personal data, according to the competition’s press release.

“Hopefully in a few years, the paradigm for personal data storage will be different,” Lazavrov wrote in an email to The Tech. “Instead of online companies storing our personal data in monotonous ways, people will use Ethos to control their online identity.”

BitComp’s Engineering Award was given to Brandon A. Miranda ’15 for his project, Comindus. This award was given to the application or service that featured “impressive engineering or that was effective in demonstrating the capabilities of bitcoin.” Comindus is a protocol that allows users of Bitcoin to safely “mix” their bitcoin with those of others by enhancing the users’ privacy.

In an email to The Tech, MIT’s BitComp projects aim to encourage students to spend their bitcoin

Apps developed for competition try to increase cryptocurrency’s accessibility
General Mills to buy Annie's for $820 million in cash

Annie's Homestyle, the organic food company known for its mac and cheese and earthy vibe, is joining the General Mills empire.

General Mills, whose stable of brands includes Pillsbury, Cheerios, Haagen-Dasz and Nature Valley, said on Monday that it will pay about $820 million in cash, in a bet on shoppers’ continued demand for natural and organic foods.

The price of a $46 share is a 51 percent premium over Annie’s 30-day average closing price as of Friday, Annie’s said. General Mills is offering $46 a share. Analysts had speculated that this summer that Annie’s could be acquired.

Shares of Annie’s shot up about 37 percent in trading after the news. Shares of General Mills were unchanged at $53.88.

“Consumers know and trust Annie’s purpose-driven culture and authentic brands,” Jeff Harmening, the chief operating officer for General Mills United States retail business, said in a statement. “We believe that combining the Annie’s product portfolio and culture with the wealth of resources and support from General Mills will create a stronger, more competitive Annie’s.”

Annie’s emphasis is that it would stay true to its values of healthy food and an environmentally conscious business. And it said it would continue to be based in Berkeley, California.

Home Depot confirms hack

Home Depot confirmed Monday that hackers broke into its store payment systems, in what could be the largest known breach of a retail company's computer network.

Roughly the equivalent of customers affected was still not clear. But a person briefed on the investigation said the total number of credit card stolen at Home Depot could top 60 million.

By comparison, the breach last year at Target, the largest known attack to date, affected 40 million credit cardholders.

The Home Depot intrusion may have affected any customer at Home Depot stores in the United States and Canada from April to early last week, said Paula Drake, a company spokeswoman. Customers at Home Depot's Mexico stores were not affected, nor were online shoppers at HomeDepot.com.

Debit card personal identification numbers were not taken, she said.

Home Depot has not yet confirmed details of the breach, Drake said.

Security experts anticipate the Home Depot episode could eclipse the retail hack at Target last year.

But security experts anticipate the Home Depot episode could eclipse the retail hack at Target last year.

By Eric Schmitt, Michael R. Gordon and Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is preparing to carry out a campaign against the Islamic State that may take three years to complete — requiring a sustained effort that could last until after President Barack Obama has left office, according to senior administration officials.

The first phase, an air campaign with nearly 145 airstrikes in the past month, is already under way to protect ethnic and religious minorities and U.S. diplomatic, intelligence and military personnel, and their facilities, as well as to begin rolling back Islamic State gains in northern and western Iraq.

The next phase, which would begin sometime after Iraq forms a more inclusive government, scheduled for this week, is expected to involve an intensified effort to protect Iraq’s Shi’ite and Kurdish fighters and possibly members of Sunni tribes.

The political challenge of the operation — destroying the terrorist army in its sanctuaries inside Syria — might not be completed until the next administration.

Indeed, some Pentagon planners envision a military campaign lasting at least 30 months.

Obama will use the speech to the nation Wednesday to make his case for launching a U.S.-led offensive against Sunni militants gaining ground in the Middle East, seeking to rally support for a broad multinational mission while reassuring the public he is not planning U.S. forces into another Iraqi War.

"What I want people to understand," Obama said in an interview with NBC’s "Meet the Press" that was broadcast Sunday, "is that over the course of months, we are going to be able to not just blunt the momentum of the militants. We are going to systematically de-grade their capabilities; we’re going to shrink the territory that they control, and, ultimately, we’re going to defeat them," he added.

The military campaign Obama is preparing has no obvious prece-dent.

By By Anne Barnard

BEIRUT — Raids by Syrian warplanes killed at least 25 people, most of them civilians crowding into a bakery, in the northeastern province of Raqqa on Saturday as government forces continued air attacks on territory controlled by the Islamic State, the extremist Sunni militant group.

The strikes come as the United States weighs to augment its recent strikes against the Islamic State in Syria, in which it has apparently not deployed many of the conventional strike assets, though the government assault there still does not appear to equal the intensity of air campaigns against Syrian-led insurgents in the northern city of Raqqa, which has been under the control of Islamic State and its allies since mid-June.

"We have the ability to destroy ISIS," Secretary of State John Kerry said last week at the NATO summit meeting in Wales, using an alternative name for the militant group. "It may take a year, may take two years, but we’re determined it has to happen."

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ISIS fighters continue to receive support from Iran and Iraq, and called for increased military and financial support from Sunni states in the region, which have been reluctant to aid the Western-backed government.

The military campaign Obama is preparing to carry out a campaign against the Islamic State that may take three years to complete — requiring a sustained effort that could last until after President Barack Obama has left office, according to senior administration officials.

By Anne Barnard

The Islamic State has a broader goal, to remake the Middle East and establish an Islamic caliphate.

Islamic State targets in Iraq.

On Friday and Saturday, the U.S. military continued striking Islamic State targets inside Iraq, according to a Central Command statement issued on Sunday.

The airstrikes destroyed four Humvees, presumably U.S.-made vehicles captured by militants from Iraqi security forces, one armored personnel carrier, and two trucks, one mounted with a heavy machine gun, the statement said.

In all, the U.S. military has now carried out a series of air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq.

Islamic State militants have been beheaded two American journalists in recent weeks.

By Vince Agard

The beginning of September has seen abnormally scorching temperatures at the Institute this year. Three days (September 1-3) have contributed to September be- ing the warmest month of the year so far in Boston. However, the cold front that sent a series of severe thunderstorms to New England, not uncommon for this time of year, will not provide any sort of confidence that Home Depot can solve the problem going forward," he said.

By By Anne Barnard

The Islamic State is preparing to expand its territory; and, ultimately, we’re going to defeat them," he added.

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The military campaign Obama is preparing has no obvious prece-dent.
Princeton faculty to vote on sexual misconduct policies

By Ariel Kaminer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Princeton University may soon make a significant change in how it handles allegations of sexual misconduct, as a new policy requires findings of guilt to be narrowed from the standards required to find someone guilty in its disciplinary proceedings. Many universities have been under pressure to make additional changes to their sexual misconduct policies, in response to federal and concern over America’s unmatched technology dominance.

By Ariana S. Eisele
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Google is target of European backlash on US tech dominance

By Danny Hakim
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Google, with its high reach, is arguably facing the most pressure to make additional changes to its secret sauce, the search algorithm. When Google initially settled with regulators in February, it emerged largely unsnagged, agreeing to make modest adjustments to its search formula and avoiding a fine. Now, the deal is in jeopardy.

North Korea says American will face trial on Sunday

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said on Sunday that it would put Matthew Todd Miller, one of three Americans known to be in its custody, on trial on charges of subversion and espionage. Miller will be tried at the North’s Supreme Court on Sept. 14, the state news agency KCNA said. Miller had reportedly agreed that his trial will be a one-day event with no appeals allowed. North Korea had earlier said Miller had “shredded his tourist visa and donnéd to the state all the secret documents given to him of unruly behavior, the North had said it would indict him on charges of “hostile acts”.

Another American, Jeffrey Edward Fowle, also faced trial for a “hostile act” last year, an American missionary, Kenneth Bae, was sentenced to 15 years in a North Korean labor camp in 2013. The U.S. government has been pressuring North Korea to release the two Americans and two other South Korean officials, a newspaper in Pyongyang to represent the interests of its citizens.

North Korea previously used charges of “hostile acts” to sentence Americans to long prison terms as a means of securing visits from high-profile Americans, like former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Washington has advised Americans against traveling to North Korea.

India and Pakistan strain as flooding kills hundreds

NEW DELHI — Relief operations struggled on Monday in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir and in parts of Pakistan where six days of rain and flooding have left hundreds of people dead.

On the Pakistani side of the border, Abdul Karim, a spokesman for the Ministry of Disaster Management, said that more than 75 other colleges are under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct, and that federal funds — requires the lower body that oversees a wide array of campus infractions. In addition, the committee recommended permitting involved parties to be accompanied by a lawyer, something that was previously forbidden, and allowing the right to appeal not only the findings of guilt but also the White House accusers.

The new policies will be put to a faculty vote Sept. 15. If adopted, they would constitute a major change in the university’s sexual misconduct policies. But Professor Christopher L. Eisgruber, the president of Princeton, said that in conversations with faculty members and others, there was “greater confidence that we need to modify our sexual misconduct policies and procedures to become fully compliant with current Title IX requirements, and to achieve a greater amount of fairness to all members of our community engaged in these cases.” He said the changes “are coming as promptly as possible.”

The backlash in Europe extends from London to Madrid have demon- strated that Google has hired political insiders, and has bolstered its own staff of seven regulatory lobbyists, records show.

The changes at the university, said that in conversations with Princeton’s executive officers, “it became clear that we need to modify our sexual misconduct policies and procedures to become fully compliant with current Title IX requirements, and to achieve a greater amount of fairness to all members of our community engaged in these cases.” He said the changes “are coming as promptly as possible.”

The New York Times

Many analysts say it is Qatar’s support for the Muslim Brotherhood— that has drawn accusations of terrorism and corruption that has charged that Qatar is funding terror- ism in Syria and elsewhere.

“Qatar is a tiny, petroleum-rich, harsh state,” the president told the Associated Press, the three Americans admitted to being guilty and beseeched Washington to send a high-level envoy to negotiate their freedom. The United States has repeatedly pressed North Korea to release the two U.S. citizens and two other South Korean officials, a newspaper in Pyongyang to represent the interests of its citizens.

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Bike lanes on campus in need of redesign

Safers options are feasible

By Foras Saad

used by students, staff, and faculty to shuttle around campus, cycling has be come an integral part of MIT’s transpor tation network. While bike racks are necessary, stations, and lanes are very common, there remain key issues which must be brought to the attention of the Office of Campus Planning and the greater cycling community to improve the safety and efficiency of bicycling.

Consider the west portion of Vassar Street stretching from Westgate to the in tersection at Mass. Ave. In theory, the cur rent setup combining the bike lane and pedestrian pavement should work without problems. The Briggs side and Simon’s side bike lanes would be used correctly as directed one-way lanes to travel toward and away from campus, with pedestrians walking only on their portion of the pavement and keeping a watchful eye for bikes zooming by.

In reality, cyclists often use the directed, narrow bike lanes for two-way travel cut ting a dangerous head-on situation with no on purpose on which each bike rider should move to avoid a collision. And rather than stay off the bike lane, pedestrians (often wearing headphones) walk in rows of six, occupy the entire pavement, and rarely re spond to shouts or bells to move out of the bike lane.

This issue is further complicated by new changes to Vassar Street over the past year. These changes include the relocation of the Tech Shuttle stop at Simmons, where a biker happening on off the pavement slows the bicycle traffic to a complete stop during the morning rush, and the Koch Childcare Center, where little children often wander away from their par ents and stumble right onto the bike path, creating a potentially disastrous situation.

On the other side of campus, it seems incredible that Memorial Drive offers no safe way for bikes to travel from the Mass. Ave. intersection all the way to the Sloan. The road itself contains no striped lanes or shared lane markings, meaning that cy cling is not allowed to ride near the cars. And at seven feet wide, the pavement is too narrow to handle both pedestrians and two-way bike traffic. I once received a verbal battering by an old man for almost colliding him as he emerged from Killian Court; to avoid the collision I swearred my bike and ended up swimming in the bushes.

So what can be done? In June 2014, the City of Cambridge Toole Design Group released a paper called Cycle Tracks: A Technical Review of Safety, Design, and Research, which con tains a thoughtful survey of bike lanes, and a new model for bike lanes to exist in har mony with cars and people. Ideas raised in the paper, which I encourage the Office of Campus Planning to consider, is that they haven’t already, can be incorporated to al leviate the challenges mentioned above.

Regarding Vassar Street, one plausible solution is to keep the bike lane on the pavement, but move the trees to create a physical barrier between the bike and pedestrian lanes. An alternate solu tion would be to narrow the bike lane to discourage cyclists from riding the wrong direction, and to smal lcones that pre vent people from wandering in the way of bikes. Lastly, the road can be widened to incorporate a traditional striped bike lane, which would have the advantage of being parked and protected on the Simon’s side and allowing bikes to overtake the shuttle at the bus stop on the Briggs side.

For Memorial Drive, between the pavement and road lies around eight feet of dirt, serving no purpose whatsoever. This area can be used to introduce the Cycle Track model, which archially serves as a road for bikes separated by a striped yellow line. A small barrier could be introduced between the walking and biking sections, with ex its and entries at key locations like Killian Court and Hayden Library. As an immedi ate measure, the pavement should be des ignated as a no-bike zone given the high risk and frequency of accidents.

As an inexpensive, healthy, and envi ronmentally friendly mode of transport, the cycling network should continue to be supported by campus planners for years to come. In addition to the previous problems, there are problematic spots all over campus, such as dorm row, where bikes often interfere with the Tech Shuttle and delivery vans parked halfway on the bike lane. A compromise between both parties at MIT would ensure a safer and more ef ficient experience for all commuters in our community.
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Sudoku
Solution, page 9

Techdoku
Solution, page 9

Saturday Stumper by S.N.
Solution, page 9
The days of the week are Monday, Arctic, Wellesley, Green, Electra, Synergize, and the Seventh Seal.

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[1417] Seven

CAN YOU NAME ALL THE DWARFS FROM SNOW WHITE?

SURE, THERE’S UM...

SNOOPY, PHLEUM, EUROPE, SLOTH, CUNANGOLE, DARTH, LINK, COLossus, OP RIDDLES

I HAVE THIS PROBLEM WHERE ALL SETS OF SEVEN THINGS ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE TO ME.

The days of the week are Monday, Arctic, Wellesley, Electra, Sevenum, and the Seventh Seal.
This past weekend saw the Boston Calling music festival return to City Hall Plaza for the second time in 2014. The event ran from Friday to Sunday and featured artists such as Nas, The Roots, Lorde, and Sky Ferreira.

1. Concertgoers rocked to Nas at the 2014 Boston Calling music festival on Sunday night.
2. Following a delay for severe weather, Lorde played a shortened fifty-minute set on Saturday evening.
3. Sky Ferreira performed Saturday afternoon at Boston Calling, held in City Hall Plaza.
4. Childish Gambino closed out the Saturday lineup of the festival, also playing a shortened set due to the severe weather delay.
5. Nas co-headlined the festival with The Roots and played the closing slot on Sunday evening.
Overview: The document contains a calendar of events for September 9 to 15. The events include a variety of academic and cultural activities, such as movies, presentations, and forums. The document also promotes the relocation of the Global Education office to Kendall Square.

Key Points:
1. The document lists events from Tuesday, September 9, to Thursday, September 11, includingials, presentations, and cultural events.
2. The last event listed is on Saturday, September 13, with a mention of Vassar College's list of committed students.
3. The document promotes the Global Education office's move to Kendall Square and provides a website for more information.

Access to elite colleges varies

Vassar tops list, committed to helping poor students

Universities, from Page 1

reached record levels. Yet for many low-income children — even many who get As in high school and do well on the SAT — college remains out of reach. So wonder that upward mobility is less common in the United States than in many other rich countries.

To see which selective colleges are doing the most, and the least, to change the situation, The Upshot has analyzed data for every college with four-year graduation rate of at least 75 percent. We combined data on enrollment and tuition costs to measure how hard each college is trying to attract and graduate poor and middle-class students. The result is our College Access Index.

Vassar, the once all-female college in the Hudson River Valley, tops our index, with Grinnell placing second. About 23 percent of Vassar’s freshmen in recent years have received Federal Pell grants (which mean they come from roughly the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution), up from 12 percent in 2007. After taking scholarships into account, the average annual cost of attending Vassar for lower-income students is about $6,000. Students cover much of that cost through campus jobs and loans.

The biggest theme to emerge from our analysis is that otherwise similar colleges often have very different levels of commitment to economic diversity. In this area, endowment is not destiny, and prestige is not destiny.

After Vassar, the top of the list includes some of the wealthiest colleges in the country, measured by endowment per student: Grinnell; Amherst College, in Massachusetts; Harvard; and Pomona, in Southern California. But other resource-rich colleges, including Swarthmore and the California Institute of Technology, have done substantially less.

Want to be Editor in Chief of The Tech? Most EICs start as news writers.

Unusual, from Page 1

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That is why it’s worrisome that so many students are falling through the cracks — and that the student body at many elite campuses remains largely affluent. But it may not always be so.
Students awarded for Bitcoin projects

Projects address understanding of currency and encourage its use

Austin Travis dead at age 26

Travis, from Page 1

Charles Wood told the Globe that his daughter and Travis were living together in Cambridge and planned to get married in about a year. He called Travis “a young man who had a lot to look forward to.”

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Solution to Crossword

Solution to Sudoku

Solution to Techdoku

Solution to Sudoku

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

Solution to Techdoku

1 2 4 3 5 6
2 3 5 4 6 1
3 4 6 5 1 2
4 5 1 6 2 3
6 1 3 2 4 5
5 6 2 1 3 4
The MIT CAST Symposium is funded by Philip S. Khoury, Associate Provost with responsibility for the arts; Deborah K. Fitzgerald, Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; and Adèle Naudé Santos, Dean Emerita of the School for Architecture and Planning, with additional support from the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT and the Council for the Arts at MIT.

Image: Soundwave of Alvin Lucier’s Music on a Long Thin Wire, colored with Tauba Auerbach’s CMYK and 14 billions (working title), 2010 © Studio Tomás Saraceno.

SEEING / SOUNDING / SENSING
A SYMPOSIUM PRESENTED BY THE MIT CENTER FOR ART, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2014 / MIT Media Lab

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Caroline Jones, Professor of the History of Art

Honorary Chair:
Lore Harp Mcgovern

PARTICIPANTS

Keynote Speaker:
Bruno Latour

Brain & Cognitive Sciences:
Bevil Conway
Josh McDermott
Tomaso Poggio
Josh Tenenbaum

Visual & Performing Arts:
Tauba Auerbach
Alvin Lucier
Tomás Saraceno

Humanities & Social Sciences:
Stefan Helmreich
Caroline Jones
David Kaiser
Brian Kane
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Mara Mills
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Natasha Schüll
Alma Steingart

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Image: Soundwave of Alvin Lucier’s Music on a Long Thin Wire, colored with Tauba Auerbach’s CMYK and 14 billions (working title), 2010 © Studio Tomás Saraceno.

Seeing / Sounding / Sensing is an intensive two-day event at MIT that invites creative artists to join with philosophers, brain and cognitive scientists, anthropologists, historians and scholars from a range of disciplines in an open-ended discussion about knowledge production. The goal is to challenge each domain’s conventional certainty about “what is known,” “how we know it,” or “how we can know more,” and to stimulate new issues for cross-disciplinary scholarship in the future.
**The good kid is going back to school**

Kendrick Lamar’s album *good kid mAAd city* is going to be the subject of a new college course.

By Nate Garcia

This past week, news circulated that Georgia Regents University Professor Adam Dietz had chosen rapper Kendrick Lamar’s album *good kid mAAd city* (2012) as the subject of his English class Good Kids, Mad Cities.

The course description available on the university website reads: “Taking its name from Kendrick Lamar, which I think he has rightfully earned, it strikes me as another reminder that so much of hip-hop is overlooked.”

If I were to give a title to the Union address for hip-hop I would not begin the way we usually hear our presidents start. I wouldn’t say hip-hop is strong. I wouldn’t say we are doing well. We are still recovering from the cultural amnesia that struck our community after the golden age in the nineties. While many hip-hop enthusiasts see our current times as a renaissance, the issues and problems created by the rise and commodification of the industry persist and are perhaps more firmly rooted than ever.

Too many people today think they are contributing to this supposed hip-hop renaissance by sharing the belief that Kendrick Lamar is a gifted artist, even if removed from the context of hip-hop. The problem with this erroneous belief is that it allows people to stop looking at hip-hop as a whole, and pushes more attention to a specific artist.

Given that a focus on Lamar’s album alone would exclude the context of hip-hop, it would be my sincerest hope that the class would also talk about NWA’s portrayal of Los Angeles in the late eighties with their album Straight Outta Compton (1988) or Nas’s masterpiece painting of life in Queensbridge housing projects with Illmatic (1994).

The cities we will be visiting, in our imaginations, are Dublin, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Assignments will include a substantial research paper, stemming from the topics inherent in our texts, students should also expect short papers and online discussions.

Research is going to be the focus of a new college course.

Kendrick Lamar himself admitted in countless interviews that his album was nothing new. He grew up listening to concept albums, projects that had a central theme, and felt that particular style was missing in hip-hop today. His goal was to reintroduce people to the power and presence to be achieved by centralizing and building cohesively.

Success in the hip-hop community isn’t something to be achieved overnight, or with a radio single, but through careful study and appreciation of the culture itself. Artists such as Kendrick Lamar grasp what so many of us let slip as we praise him: that to understand the music, you have to understand the culture and community.

As Nas has said, hip-hop is the music of the streets, an invaluable archaeological tool to understanding the communities and populations for which it speaks. Listening to hip-hop without understanding its context is like looking at half a painting. Sure, you can appreciate it, but you might be missing something that changes the entire perspective.

Congratulations to Mr. Lamar and to all those who decide to look deeper.

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Lone goal lifts MIT past Claremont-Mudd-Scripps
An early goal gives MIT’s nationally ranked women’s soccer team the desired win

By Matthew Noonan

For the third time this season, MIT’s women’s soccer team, ranked 25th in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll, earned a one-goal victory as the Engineers defeated Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 1-0, on Sunday morning at Roberts Field at Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers and Athenas’s were originally scheduled to face-off on Saturday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m., but the contest was moved to Sunday due to inclement weather the game was postponed to the morning of Sunday, September 7.

Sophomore Felicia R. Banzet ’16 scored the game’s lone goal at 8:26 in the opening period following a feed from Olivia M. Struckman ’17 outside the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps box. Struckman reverted direction while being defended outside her opponent’s box and located Banzet, who lofted a shot past goalkeeper Molly Freed into the top left corner of the Athenas’s goal.

Tech tried to extend its lead earlier in the session with attempts by Ambika M. Krishnamachar ’15 and Page Uriarte ’16, both shots sailed to the right of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps’ goal. MIT finished with six shots—four in the first half—to three shots on goal. Krishnamachar led the Engineers with two shots, but Claremont-Mudd-Scripps’ Lauren Laue paced all players with three shots.

Claremont-Mudd-Scripps concluded the game with 10 shots, seven attempts in the second half. Laue, and Darrah Struckman were the only Athenas’ players who had two shots on goal during the match, while nine stops, has pitched four consecutive clean sheets this season and eight in an Engineers uniform. 

MIT returns to action on Wednesday, September 10 when they travel to Tufts University for a 4 p.m. kickoff.

Win over Pomona-Pitzer gives football team 1-0 start to season

MIT manages to overcome early deficit and win 28-18

By Phil Hess

Hosting Pomona-Pitzer College in a return game from a year ago, the MIT football team erased an early lead by the Sagehens to take a 28-18 win in the 2014 season opener for both squads. Bradford L. Goldsberry ’15 scored a pair of touchdowns, one through the air and one on the ground, to help the Engineers win their season opener for a fifth straight year. After the two teams traded points to start the contest, MIT (1-0) looked to be driving for the first score of the game when Peter J. Williams ’15 saw his pass attempt intercepted by Don Swan, who lofted a shot past goalkeeper Molly Freed into the top left corner of the Athenas’s goal. MIT finished the session with attempts by Ambika M. Krishnamachar ’15 and Page Uriarte ’16, both shots sailed to the right of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps’ goal. MIT finished with six shots—four in the first half—to three shots on goal. Krishnamachar led the Engineers with two shots, but Claremont-Mudd-Scripps’ Lauren Laue paced all players with three shots.

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