Sit-in for divestment by president’s office hits one-week mark
Rare MIT student protest follows release of Institute’s climate plan

By Katherine Nazemi

Established 1881

Members of student group Fossil Free MIT are staging a sit-in outside of President L. Rafael Reif’s office in protest of what they see as inadequacies in MIT’s climate action plan.

The sit-in has been ongoing since Oct. 22, the day after MIT’s “Plan for Action on Climate Change” was made public, and two to 12 students have been present outside 3-208 around the clock.

On Monday, members of Fossil Free MIT (FFMIT) met to discuss the goals of their sit-in. Prior to the strategy meeting, the group had still been formulating its demands.

The main objectives of FFMIT’s protest include divesting from coal and tar sands companies, establishing an ethics advisory committee, and committing to achieve carbon neutrality on campus by 2040, the latest.

“We are sitting in to urge MIT’s administration to raise their ambitions,” the group wrote in a letter published in this issue of The Tech.

Outside Reif’s office, students participating in the sit-in have been working on problem sets, listening to music, and working on problem sets, listening to music, and working on problem sets, listening to music, and working on problem sets, listening to music, and working on problem sets.

The student group re-

FOSSIL FREE mIT

Cancer research partnership between Harvard and MIT gets $20 million gift

In the hope of moving more results from cancer research labs into the clinical setting, the Commonwealth Foundation for Cancer Research announced yesterday a $20 million donation to the Bridge Project, a collaboration between the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center.

Funding will be distributed over five years and will create grants that enable new research teams to tackle these very important problems in cancer research and care. The project funds cross-institutional research teams that study a wide variety of cancers. Past Bridge project recipients included teams researching the development of a vaccine for lung cancer treatment and targeting chemoresistant disease in leukemia.

“We're looking for the best people, regardless of where they are, to tackle these very important problems,” Tyler Jacks, director of the Koch Institute, told the Boston Globe. The $20 million donation comes after an initial $4.5 million pledge from the foundation in 2012.

Most students searching for class materials or grades have encountered a new interface this semester. MIT IS&T is progressively phasing out Stellar in favor of a new modular learning management system, which will be fully released next year.

There have been mixed opinions regarding the release of the new learning management system. Some students think it is slow, while others prefer Stellar.

“The UI is definitely better and more modern,” Donald M. Little ’16 said. However, Little also said that the system was released too early, and that it still has “plenty of bugs.”

Muneeza S. Patel G said that some aspects of the system could be made more intuitive, especially for graders. Students also commented that the mobile site was difficult to use.

According to a report authored by Daniel Hastings, director of the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology, and Dean for Graduate Education Christine Ortiz, Stellar has been MIT’s course management system since 2008 and supported 972 classes, 1,244 faculty users and 8,864 students in Spring 2013.

But over the last few years, Stellar’s rigid architecture has made it difficult to extend and adapt to changing requirements such as the need for more collaborative features, the report said.

The new system’s framework addresses these issues by offering modularity and API integration.

In an email sent to Stellar administrators, instructors, and TAs in June 2015, IS&T explained that each module is a fully supported standalone web service that can be used independently or in conjunction with other modules. This means that instructors can choose which of the modules — which include “materials,” “grades,” “calendar,” and others — to activate on their course pages. In addition to a revamped course guide and student portal, the Learning Modules platform provides a unified web interface for managing all modules.

Course instructors and administrators are offered the option to use the new modular learning management system instead of Stellar for the current academic year.

—Henry Nassif

FOSSIL FREE MIT

The student group responds to MIT’s climate plan. Spoiler alert: the activists aren’t happy.

OPINION, p. 5

 THERE AND BACK AGAIN

On leaving and coming back to the Institute CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3

BOSTON BALLET

The 2015-2016 season opens with a work by John Neumeier ARTS, p. 8

 BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

A critique of Dana-guhnt’s Room ARTS, p. 9

IN SHORT

Celebrate Halloween early with Spooky Skate at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Head to Johnson Ice Rink for skating, cookies, and costumes.

The annual Pumpkin Drop will be take place at 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 in front of the Green Building.

The MIT Museum is hosting a 21+ only pre-Halloween party this Friday from 7-9 p.m. Advance ticket purchase required.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

IN SHORT

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WEATHER, p. 4

THU: Partly sunny, high 65°
SAT: Partly cloudy, high 70°
SUN: Chance of rain, high 60°
SUNNY

WEATHER, p. 4

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SAT: Partly cloudy, high 70°
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SUNNY

Published in this issue of The Tech

Established 1881

The cardboard buffet ended the night with a laughing audience after its show last Friday.

The Roadkill Buffet ended the night with a laughing audience after its show last Friday.
MIT Press, in partnership with the MIT Libraries and MIT CSAIL, celebrates the publication of the Press’ 8,000th unique title.

A DISCUSSION WITH FINN BRUNTON AND HELEN NISSENBAUM

RESPONDENTS: STUART MADNICK AND URS GASSER

MODERATED BY ALEX (SANDY) PENTLAND

11/2/15
MIT Stata Center
Kirsch Auditorium, 32-123
4:00 pm

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

mit.edu/mitst/singapore.html

Law library to make resources available to the public online

Harvard library sacrifices its own collection so that it can be scanned

By Erik Eckholm
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Shelves of law books are an august symbol of legal practice, and no place, save the Library of Congress, can match the collection at Harvard’s Law School Library. Its trove includes nearly every state, federal, territorial and tribal judicial decision since colonial times—a priceless potential resource for everyone from legal scholars to defense lawyers trying to challenge a criminal conviction.

Now, in a digital-age sacrifice intended to serve grand intentions, the Harvard librarians are slicing off the spines of all but the rarest volumes and feeding some 40 million pages through a high-speed scanner. They are taking this once unthinkable step to create a complete, searchable database of American case law that will be offered free on the Internet, allowing instant retrieval of vital records that usually must be paid for.

“Improving access to justice is a priority,” said Martha Minow, dean of Harvard Law School, explaining why Harvard has embarked on the project. “We feel an obligation and an opportunity here to open up our resources to the public.”

For many years now, bookcases of legal tomes in law offices have been mostly for show. Rather than spending days poring over book indexes and footnoted citations, as law clerks and associates did in earlier times, researchers find what they need on the Internet in minutes. But that nearly always comes at a price.

“Though the primary documents are formally in the public domain, many are not put online in a convenient format, if at all. Many states even rely on commercial services to post court briefs and decisions, which then provide them to paying subscribers.”

Legal groups spend anywhere from thousands of dollars a year, for a small office, to millions, for a giant firm, using commercial services like Westlaw and LexisNexis to find cases and trace doctrinal strands.

While Harvard’s “Free the Law” Library, Page 6

Solution to Swimming
from page 12

Solution to Ice Skating
from page 12

Solution to Basketball
from page 12

Solution to Baseball
from page 12

Do you want to be like Sherlock Holmes?
The Tech is looking for investigative reporters.

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Coming back to TFP
When the world is not enough
By Harry Bleyan

It was somewhere along the Pacific Coast Highway, I thought to myself, 120 miles away from the setting sun by a row of tall palm trees on both sides, a refreshing headwind wrapping itself around my motorcycle helmet, when it suddenly occurred to me that I’d found what I was looking for. I’d spent the past several months away from school, searching, scouring the vast world outside and within for some elusive purpose, a gem of insight that would justify the profusion of pain and doubt that volled my time in college up to that point.

And now, surrounded by seemingly perfect tranquility, a paradise of sorts, I finally reflected upon the utter absurdity and futility of my endeavor. I was in a land far, far away from home, a land filled with beautiful sights, sunsets, mountains and forests, but, regardless of all this outward beauty, I suddenly felt the most intense longing for my home back in Cambridge, my little corner of the universe called MIT. Why did I ever leave my home?

Ironically, I had Truly Found Paradise by being away from it, and the realization was truly disconcerting. My search had come to an abrupt end, and from that moment on I knew all I wanted to do was to come back.

When I returned, not much seemed to have changed at first. Other than the strange requirement to wear helmets while cycling and my newly acquired ability to see Mars from Mass. Ave. over the smoldering ruins of Berkeley Hall, MIT went on buzzing with its usual hypnotizing activity. Classes began, schedules filled up, sleep mysteriously evanesced into oblivion, and dreams to research problems began popping up in my morning cereals. But beneath the layer of familiar patterns and routines, I experienced a fundamental shift in how I related to MIT and what sort of role it began to play in my life.

For the first time since early freshman year, I actively wanted to be here, to engage with all facets of life at MIT, to feel and experience and learn and immerse myself in the rivers of wonder that permeate its halls. There appeared a joyous quality to my everyday experience, a thrill that originated from my exposure to the amazing environment of MIT, a burning happiness that grew and pulsated with each new challenge I engaged with. It was true.

I was so excited by my sudden discovery of this spark that, upon return, I joined the Returning Students Group to connect to more people who’ve gone through similar experiences, and asked them to share some of their reasons for coming back and the consequential changes they have perceived in their day-to-day lives. I was expecting a homogeneity to their responses.

None ensued.

In fact, the different answers I received were so unexpected that it felt to me it is necessary to write this piece. I was surprised to find that the only thing the returning students all had in common was the fact that we all decided to come back beyond. By that, everyone had a different reason for coming back up with the frequent rides around the struggle. Some had no reasons and did it out of habit. Some loved it here, some tolerated it, some had a personal vendetta against it.

Some fought, some took the punches. Some saw, and some sank.

I now realize that the lack of a common denominator among all the students here is what makes MIT what it is. Our unique culture is a byproduct, a side effect that naturally arises when amazingly diverse people come together to engage in pure discovery, to probe and explore and fail and attempts again, to triumph in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

The outside grandioses façade of MIT comes as a result of the vibrancy, the drive, the sheer momentum and imaginizing force of the inside of this place, all support and perpetuated by the beautiful and brilliant people here — by you and me.

The world outside of these walls is dull and slow. Here, however, there prevails a selfless pursuit of awe-inspiring, intricate things that changes and opens you up to new dimensions of possibility and wonder, that makes you aware and appreciative of things you never even knew were possible. This was what I found on that breezy day on the motorcycle.

Ever since I came back, life here has become one of choice, not one of unchangeable circumstances — I love it. Because I want to be here, because every morning I wake up and choose to power through the challenges I face and emerge victorious. It occurred to me that MIT is not a separate something that “happens” to you, because every morning you are not separate from it. Remember that you are a part of MIT, you shape and affect, you are “happening” to it.

You are MIT.

Every day I encounter people who are passionate and genuine, and I learned that such an environment is not a given. This place is magic, and to continue being magic it needs magical people interested in magical things. People like you and me.

You are at the top of the world, and you are able to do great, amazing things. Take pride in that. Marvel at the improbability and nuance hidden in that. Keep doing magic, my friend. You are a part of my experience and my story, and I am extremely grateful to you for that.

Harry Bleyan is one happy camper.


MIT APPLICATION ESSAYS THAT WORKED
At heart, I am Chinese

This is a part of a series of MIT application essays submitted by students who were later admitted to the Institute. The following essays are from the 2014-15 admissions season.

Prompt
Describe the world you come from; for example, your family, clubs, school, community, city, or town. How has that world shaped your dreams and aspirations? (200-250)

Response
I am completely Chinese. My parents are Chinese and I was born in China. However, as first generation immigrants, my family and I have been immersed in the French Canadian culture of Montreal and the American culture of Kansas City. I spent a measly five months in China after my birth, a seemingly short eight years in my French Canadian like my background, but my childhood is colored by French influences and my adolescence is completely painted with the exuberant American character. As a result, a lot of my life has been categorized by my three countries and cultures: the languages I speak, the habits I have, and the aspirations I have.

My college track, as of right now, is to double major in economics and mathematics while also minoring in French, but my ultimate goal is to make a positive and memorable impact on the world. Every subject field has a direct lineation and memorable impact on the world. But my ultimate goal is to make a positive and memorable impact on the world.

The world outside of these walls is dull and slow. Here, however, there prevails a selfless pursuit of awe-inspiring, intricate things that changes and opens you up to new dimensions of possibility and wonder, that makes you aware and appreciative of things you never even knew were possible. This was what I found on that breezy day on the motorcycle.

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Every day I encounter people who are passionate and genuine, and I learned that such an environment is not a given. This place is magic, and to continue being magic it needs magical people interested in magical things. People like you and me.

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Harry Bleyan is one happy camper.


The Tech is collecting successful police academy post-
project cannot put the lone defense lawyer or citizen on an equal footing with a deep-pocketed law firm, legal experts say, it can at least guarantee a floor of essential information. The project will also offer some sophisticated techniques for visualizing relations among cases and searching for themes.

Complete state results will become publicly available this fall for California and New York, and the entire library will be online in 2017, said Daniel Lewis, chief executive and co-founder of Ravel Law, a commercial startup in California that has teamed up with Harvard Law for the project. The cases will be available at www.ravellaw.com. Ravel is paying millions of dollars to support the scanning. The cases will be accessible in a searchable format and, along with the texts, they will be presented with visual maps developed by the company, which graphically show the evolution through cases of a judicial concept and how each key decision is cited in others.

On Ravel sites currently available to the public, for example, a lawyer planning to challenge the 2010 Citizens United decision, which permitted corporations to make independent political expenditures, can enter “campaign finance” and see in schematic form the major cases at the district, appellate and Supreme Court levels that led up to the 2010 decision and the subsequent cases that cite it.

Enter “separate but equal” and the strands from the 1896 decision justifying school segregation to the landmark 1954 decision declaring it unconstitutional are displayed, along with the dozens of related federal and state decisions ever since.

The company hopes to make money by offering, for a fee, more advanced analytical tools it is developing, like allowing a lawyer to see how a particular judge has responded to certain kinds of motions in the past, Lewis said.

Under the agreement with Harvard, the entire underlying database, not just limited search results, will be shared with nonprofit organizations and scholars that wish to develop specialized applications. Ravel and Harvard will withhold the database from other commercial groups for eight years. After that, it will be available to anyone for any purpose, said Jonathan L. Zittrain, a Harvard Law professor and director of the law library.

In Cambridge, the huge task of slicing and scanning volumes is about one-fourth completed, Zittrain said.

“You can imagine the way your heart skips a small beat when you put a book under a chopper like that,” he said. After the volumes are scanned, workers reattach the spine to the pages, encase the book in shrink-wrap and, he said, “put it back in the depository for the apocalypse.”

The Harvard project comes at a time when the history of American law is being freshened up by the law school’s library.

Library, from Page 2

Johnny Gandelsman / J.S. Bach Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin

First Annual Terry and Rick Stone Concert

Free with MIT ID arts.mit.edu/sounding
Free legal reference may reduce costs for lawyers
Existing for-profit references are not anticipating a major impact on their business

No matter how wonderful your ideas, most great achievements require the ability to persuade others.

Learn the science of negotiation and influence.

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- no prerequisite
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Now, we could diversify. I find President Reif’s explanation for the decision to remain invested that, “divestment and its political implications detract from the positive steps that MIT can take. They are not the only ways to address the climate change problem. To instead put a low funding barrier for participation seems like a good start, but what’s needed are financial incentives that can only be put in place with proper government policies. Sure, one could argue that if we find the technology to make green energy economically favorable to fossil fuels we wouldn’t need to seek the support of the political system. This entails waiting an unspecified length of time and hoping for a breakthrough. Why not be realistic and do what we can now?”

MIT has promised to put $5 million towards seeding new environmentally directed research. That’s about the tuition of 25 undergraduates.

Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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By Fossil Free MIT

We write from the office doorstep of MIT’s President, where on October 22, we began our journey in response to the recent announcement of MIT’s Plan for Action on Climate Change (the Plan). As President Reif acknowledged, the Plan originally “emerged in response to” Fossil Free MIT’s ongoing call, since April 2013, for MIT to divest its now $13.5 billion endowment from fossil fuel companies. Here, we share our take on MIT’s Plan and explain why it has left us no choice but to respect fully plant ourselves, around-the-clock, strategically and (iii) it is insufficient, incommensurate with limiting warming to 2°C, while orchestrating campaigns to publicly attack climate science and obstruct political action.

In sum, MIT’s Plan is incommensurate with holding warming below 2°C. Our administration is playing catch-up, reducing campus emissions, is failing to align MIT’s investments with its mission and morals, and is seemingly afraid to speak out against companies undermining our own efforts.

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In summary, MIT’s Plan is incommensurate with holding warming below 2°C. Our administration is playing catch-up, reducing campus emissions, is failing to align MIT’s investments with its mission and morals, and is seemingly afraid to speak out against companies undermining our own efforts. The Plan reflects an unrealistic belief that through an undefined course of engagement, MIT can convince the fossil fuel industry to leave its future profits underground. For all these reasons, we are sitting in to urge MIT’s administration to raise their ambitions, starting by: 1. Committing to divest from coal and tar sands companies. 2. Addressing climate science disinformation by establishing an Ethics Advisory Committee, whose assessments can lead to disinformation-based divestment. 3. Committing to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 at the latest, and striving to achieve this target as far ahead of schedule as possible.

Fossil Free MIT is a student group that advocates for the divestment of MIT’s endowment from the fossil fuel industry.
Fired up, dumbed down? William F. Buckley and the decline of political discourse

Professor Heather Hendershot on her forthcoming book

By Josh Cowls

Lamenting the state of American political discourse is a popular refrain at present, and it’s not hard to see why. At a time when offensive statements from the likes of Donald Trump and Ben Carson serve not as campaign-ending gaffes but as anorexic steroids for the presidential horse-race, when bombastic cable news anchors generate much heat but little light on the issues of the hour, and when social media has opened up a whole new realm for shocking anger and abuse, the desire to tune out of political speech altogether and only pay attention biennially and briefly has never been stronger. MIT Professor Heather Hendershot’s forthcoming book, From Firing Line to the O’Reilly Factor—which she introduced at an Oct. 22 colloquium—could not be more timely, with its simple central question: how, exactly, did it come to this?

Hendershot’s entree is William F. Buckley, whose weekly Firing Line debate show ran from 1966 to 1999, clocking up literally thousands of episodes. Buckley is a curious, paradoxical anti-hero for the story, the sort of unconstrained country conservative who at first glance seems hopelessly passé, until one considers the contemporary popularity of Kevin Spacey’s genteel-tarheel Machiavel on House of Cards. Buckley’s screen presence in the role of host of Firing Line doesn’t feel entirely mammalian: his facial features are frequently contorted with sardonic disdain, and the unerringly lizard-like lick of his lips suggests a hearty appetite for rhetorical combat.

Buckley’s guest list reads like a who’s who of pioneering American thinkers of the era, from Noam Chomsky and Norman Mailer to Germaine Greer and Allen Ginsberg. As this list suggests, many of Buckley’s interlocutors were radicals of the American left, and herein lies the rub. Buckley was not, at root, a television “personality” or a television “debater” and (more than) able to debate and defend his own conservative thought in the face of the best that post-60s American liberalism had to throw at him.

As Hendershot argues, from a political-philosophical standpoint there is plenty of virtue to be viewed on Firing Line: Open, rigorous, intellectual combat is the root of informed decision-making in the public at large, and it’s easy to feel that the drift towards today’s dogmatic, soundbite-heavy landscape has depended on a fundamental lack of thoughtful, coherent debate. One need only note retroymic terms like “longform,” “think-piece,” and “explainer” now used to denote what were, until recently, relatively standard forms of news and opinion to share Hendershot’s sense that standards have decidedly slipped.

Hendershot is careful not to slip into nostalgia about halcyon days-gone-by: after all, the era Buckley’s show covered was replete with seismic strife and division, from the riots in Chicago at the 1968 Democratic Convention, through Watergate in the 70s and Iran-Contra in the 80s. Yet it is hard to dispute the significance Hendershot attributes to Firing Line as a platform for sober debate, no matter what the political weather.

Nonetheless, the wider role of the eminently Buckelian American political discourse offers some cause for pause. Though learned and largely respectful, Buckley was nonetheless an intellectual, one of the great architects of the resurgence of American conservatism, which rose from the ashes of Barry Goldwater’s landslide defeat in 1964 to power Ronald Reagan’s revolution in 1980. Of course, far from diminishing its impact, Buckley’s right-wing iconoclasm was what gave his show an edge.

Yet even if, as Hendershot argues, a revival of the long-form rigor of Firing Line would serve as an antidote to today’s lightweight, soundbite-heavy political culture, it’s nonetheless possible to see in Buckley some of the seeds of that. The right-wing revival that Buckley helped bring about can trace it as one of its ideological successors.

By Carolyn Fu

Men balancing on each other like surfboards, women perching precariously on their partners’ noses, a human truss forming from a line of dancers—these were some of the radical visual treats greeting the audience in this season’s opener at the Boston Opera House yesterday. The movements, dancers are clad in minimalist leotards, are shifting their weight in ways that detract from simple geometry into a story about the maturation of mankind instead.

The piece is one of several by Neumeier which correspond to different stages of life such as love and loss. Neumeier demonstrates an incredibly broad vocabulary in posing and permutations of human form, in styles ranging from classical to avant-garde. The movements (the lone dancer that traverses all in posing and permutating human form, the corps appeared to falter between each movement). Where Thursday’s Lasha Men balancing on each other like surfboards, women perching precariously on their partners’ noses, a human truss forming from a line of dancers—these were some of the radical visual treats greeting the audience in this season’s opener at the Boston Opera House yesterday. The movements, dancers are clad in minimalist leotards, are shifting their weight in ways that detract from simple geometry into a story about the maturation of mankind instead.

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From Firing Line to The O’Reilly Factor
Heather Hendershot
CMS/W Colloquium Series
October 22, 2015

John Neumeier’s Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler
Boston Ballet
Boston Opera House
October 22 & 24, 2015

Arts Hamburg Ballet in John Neumeier’s Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler.

Hamburg Ballet
Told from the perspective of 5-year-old Jack (Jacob Tremblay), Room, a 2010 novel by Emma Donoghue, is a captivating tale about Jack and his mother, Ma, who are confined to a small room with no exposure to the outside world. Except for the occasional nighttime visit from their captor, Old Nick (Sean Bridgers), Jack and Ma (Brie Larson) spend all of their time with each other, playing games, watching TV, and reading books. Ma knows what lies beyond the walls, but as far as Jack knows, the room is his entire world.

After I read the book in high school, it immediately became one of my favorite novels, so I was thrilled that Room was going to be adapted into a film with a screenplay also written by Donoghue. It was surreal watching Donoghue’s characters come to life on screen, and during an interview with The Tech, Donoghue revealed how she chose which aspects of the book to include in the movie. “So in the book, the first, maybe thirty pages is the reader gradually figuring out from the little hints Jack drops [about] what kind of situation we’re in,” Donoghue explained. “But in a film, the camera turns once, and you know where we are. So it struck me that the plot should get going much faster. But the first half [of the film] was really easy, because there was that unstoppable momentum even at the microlevel of what Jack knows and the increasing tension between Ma and Old Nick. The tricky bit was the second half: because the world is wider, so you have to choose what to show. And the second half of the book is quite episodic: in that Jack is in a variety of settings, so I really had to strip away a lot of that for the film, and try and stay focused on the Ma and Jack story.”

Since the first-person narrative in the novel is integral to the reader’s understanding of Jack and Ma’s situation, I was curious how director Lenny Abrahamson would approach the film’s point of view. Thankfully, while the film is not told solely through the eyes of Jack, the plot still retains its original suspense and focuses on his powerful mother-son relationship with Ma. Tremblay does a phenomenal job playing the sheltered yet infinitely curious 5 year-old, and he brought me to tears with his incredible range of emotion which varied from frustrated rage to utter sadness.

I was equally impressed with Larson’s performance as Ma, and Donoghue also had nothing but praise for Larson’s portrayal. “As soon as I saw Brie’s audition tapes, I was blown away by her because I had the impression that she was talking to a real child!” Donoghue exclaimed. “I asked Lenny, ‘Was there a child sitting there that she was talking to?’ And he said, ‘No, no, that was me on the floor!’ And so I thought that if she could conjure up a child out of nowhere in her audition tapes even, I knew that she was going to have an amazing rapport once we had a real child actor.”

While the basis of the movie is unnerving, the film is not meant to be a psychological thriller. “The premise of this film scares people so much, and many people assume that it’s going to be horrifying just because of the background of the story,” Donoghue explained. “And so I think that A24 [production] realized that they needed to do a lot of reassuring people, both with the poster, which is really upbeat, and with the trailer.” Ultimately, the film’s focus is on Jack, his unbreakable relationship with Ma, and his fascinating interpretation of the world around him after growing up in captivity for five years. With an extraordinary cast, and an equally incredible plot, the film is guaranteed to tug at your heartstrings, regardless of whether you have read the novel.

Room
Directed by Lenny Abrahamson
Starring Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay
Based on the novel by Emma Donoghue
Rated R
Now Playing
Saturday November 7 2015

@Lobdell, 2nd Floor Student Center, 6pm

Cultural Night+Dinner+After Party:$12 (Non-MIT:$15)
After Party Only:$5

We wear many hats at The Tech

Which will you choose?
FFMIT claims plan does too little to cut carbon emissions

Student group, administration differ on the role of industry collaboration in tackling climate change

Protest, from Page 1

ing to music, and speaking with passers-by. During an interview, a Bertucci's delivery man showed up with pizza and rolls.

Different participants in the sit-in highlighted different goals for MIT’s climate plan.

Jeremy Poindexter, a graduate student at the sit-in, hoped that MIT would take on a role of “viable leader-ship.” Another student wanted to see a “better climate action plan,” arguing that the current one “misses the obstacles to implementa-tion” of existing technologies to mitigate climate change.

“I have a free moment, I’m here,” Daniel Mascoop said. “It’s a stu-dent participating in the sit-in, said “If I’m doing work and it’s on a laptop, or if I have an hour break between classes, I’m here.”

Nina Lytton ’14, an alumnus from the Sloan School, also participated in the sit-in. Lytton said the short-falls of the plan were the results of “a failure of understanding be-tween well-meaning people.”

MIT’s climate action plan rejected divestment. The plan also described divestment as a form of public shaming.

Stressing the importance of col-laboration, she said that negotiat-ing a better climate plan should be “like interfaith work,” and that to be successful, you have to “Know the people and understand what they value.”

Different assumptions, different outcomes

According to FFMIT’s letter, the “bottleneck to effective climate mitigation is no longer technologi-cal capability or policy know-how, but political will.” Division makes sense, then, as it would “cre-ate political breathing room” for politicians to enact legislation to limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

The letter also pointed to the need for “strategic research with leading universities around the world.”

FFMIT’s letter points to this re-port to make the claim that MIT’s partnership with ExxonMobil has not led to the company’s increased engagement with climate issues, and instead has been used “as an excuse for inaction and to dis-tract from its record of deliberate dis-information.”

In contrast, MIT’s climate action plan cites the recent announce-ment by 10 fossil fuel companies — six of which are members of the MIT Energy Initiative — to com-mit to meeting the 2-degree C tar-get as evidence that engagement is productive.

But an FFMIT member at the protest said that announcements without action were not enough.

On the issue of campus carbon neutrality, FFMIT’s letter said that a 32 percent reduction in emissions by 2030 would not be commensu-rate with the goal of meeting a 2-degrees Celsius target.

“Clearly doubleable,” Mascoop said. “We need to get to net-zero emissions in the future.”

Nickerson noted that the 32 percent figure came from the U.S. federal government’s Clean Power Plan and that MIT hopes to reduce emissions even further.

FFMIT’s letter, on the other hand, says their simulations pre-dict a 3.4-degree C rise by 2100, as-suming all developed nations only reduce emissions by 32 percent.

Ultimately, the letter con-cludes, “the Plan reflects an un-warranted belief that through an underdefined course of engagement, MIT can convince the fossil fuel industry to leave its future profits underground.”

“We have to shine our dis-satisfaction,” Mascoop said. “This does not represent what the com-munity requested.”

The protesters did not say how they would sit-in would continue.

"The business model of these companies needs to be to eliminate themselves," Mascoop said.

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The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater who served the country for 36 years as a senator and statesman, including 50 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of this program is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

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November 18, 2015

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http://www.act.org/goldwater/ or http://web.mit.edu/engineering/goldwater.html

School of Engineering contact: Tammy Abkof, x-3293, abkof@mit.edu
School of Science contact: Tom Fishel, x-8900, abkof@mit.edu
Saturday Stumper by Doug Peterson

Solution, page 10

ACROSS
1 Heat source
11 Cruise amenities
15 Typical traffic report time
16 Green
17 Quince quality
18 Battle delivery
19 Approves, as an act
20 "Terrible"
22 Resident, e.g.
26 Quote the raven
27 Central Herzegovina
28 __ football
29 Hayman
32 Setting on high
34 Aid in choosing sides
35 Got more mileage out of
36 One of Mickey's dates in Love Finds Andy Hardy
38 Elment obtained only from ar
39 Composer who went to Eton
41 __
42 Tennessee called her "the greatest living actress"
43 Create a margin for
44 One of Darwin's "imps of darkness"
45 Put to work, as a sub
46 __ football
47 Notable span
48 Sets for some TV dramas
49 Throwing-it-open inquiry
50 First rap group on MTV
52 Refueling spot Earhart never reached
54 Conflagration masked driver/valet
55 Special relativity limit
56 Clear plate
57 Elongated vessel
58 "From noon to dewy __": Milton
61 Measured dose
62 Kicks around
63 Clear plate
64 Certain security experts

DOWN
1 Secret sharer, slangly
2 Fish __
3 Product add-on
4 Liszt's __ Preludes
5 Upright
6 Just So Stories subject
7 Curling area
8 Rock-band discoveries
9 Drawing preventers, briefly
10 First song parodied by Weird Al
11 Dog neighbor, perhaps
12 Stewards' superior
13 Bagel flavor
14 Stay behind
21 Got behind
22 One way to properly address Queen Elizabeth
23 City facing Presque Isle Bay
24 Nebraska Oscar nominee
25 Television array
26 Mustang competitor
28 What to expect from Elvis in concert
30 Brand sold in Cinnamon and Assorted Fruit flavors
31 Creole staple
32 Setting on high
33 Ready to tilt
34 Liszt's __ Preludes
35 Got more mileage out of
36 One of Mickey's dates in Love Finds Andy Hardy
38 Elment obtained only from ar
39 Composer who went to Eton
41 __
42 Tennessee called her "the greatest living actress"
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56 Clear plate
57 Elongated vessel
58 "From noon to dewy __": Milton
61 Measured dose
62 Kicks around
63 Clear plate
64 Certain security experts

Basketball
Solution, page 2

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

Baseball
Solution, page 2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Volleyball
Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Astronauts’ agcy.
5 “Spoiled” kid
9 Physique
13 Slender
14 Lion sound
15 Agenda listings
17 “Level with me!”
20 Toy on a string
21 Couch or bench
22 Bit of sunshine
23 Shade trees
26 Flower stalk
28 Major sheet-metal company
31 Comparable (with)
35 Cpl. or sgt.
36 Nose, slangily
39 Stubborn animal
40 “Level with me!”
44 One of the Great Lakes
45 __ and crossbones (pirate flag)
46 Coffee alternative
47 Grade-school break
50 Blues tune, for example

DOWN
1 To the __ degree
2 Sailor’s “Hello!”
3 Grain-storage building
4 “Level with me”
5 Sis’ sibling
6 Go bad, as food
7 Dohs and __
8 Makes an effort
9 Midwest college sports group
10 Local wagering center, for short
11 “__ Sir or Madam . . .”
12 Local swimming center, for short
13 Clouds’ place
14 __ than (at a minimum)
15 Western defense org.
16 Diner listing
17 Pops (through)
18 Papa’s partner
19 Below
20 Cross the goal line
21 __ boom (aircraft sound)
22 __ work (hire)
23 Flying-saucer pilot
24 Diner listing
25 Plods (through)
26 Violin container
27 Suffix for luncheon
28 Below
29 ___ boy!” (“Way to go!”)
30 Any carbonated soft drink
31 Mystical gathering
32 __ boom (aircraft sound)
33 Rivermouth formation
34 Put a new price on
35 Tree with acorns
36 Have faith in
37 Tree with acorns
38 Give comfort to
39 Tree with acorns
40 Put a new price on
41 Abound (with)
42 Pottery material
43 Seasoned player
44 “Level with me!”
45 __ and crossbones (pirate flag)
46 Coffee alternative

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1-9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
The women's volleyball team has an enviable 26-2 record so far this season as it seeks a second straight New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) regular-season title and a chance to host the playoff tournament. A big reason for its dominance is star outside-hitter Megan E. Gebhard '17. Gebhard, who made the NEWMAC all-conference first team last year, leads the team in kills, averaging above 4 per set. The Tech's player of the month for October told us about team spirit, this year's goals, and beach volleyball at Google.

The Tech: Thanks for talking to us. The women's volleyball team is 26-2 on the season — what makes this team so good?

Megan Gebhard: I think everyone is determined and motivated. We went to regionals last year and the team had this experience. We are all committed to volleyball and enjoy playing together a lot. We have a great team culture and our coaches are excellent. Head coach Paul Dill pushes us to be the best players and the best team we can be.

MG: You came very close to winning the NEWMAC tournament last year — how confident are you of winning the championship this year?

MG: We have two more games of regular season to go against Emerson and Coast Guard. Our goal is to win those two games, which will give us the regular season title and the rights to host the NEWMAC tournament. I think we can definitely win the NEWMAC tournament this year.

NEWMAC is one of the toughest conferences in New England. Babson and Springfield are always very competitive.

MG: What is the experience like competing in the playoffs, playing against teams you have played previously during the regular season?

MG: I think the mentality is slightly different. There is a lot more on the line. It does not matter what happened in the regular season contest between the two teams. Home field advantage makes a huge difference. Everyone is on the lookout for the opportunity of playing in the regionals. We have a very loyal fan base, which includes the parents who are incredibly supportive.

MG: How long have you been playing competitive volleyball?

MG: I started playing volleyball when I was in seventh grade. I played in middle school and then joined a club team.

MG: Was volleyball part of the reason you chose to come to MIT?

MG: Yes, I was not going to suffer academically to pursue volleyball. If I did not get into MIT, my second choice would have been Michigan, and I would have probably joined a club team. I feel incredibly lucky that I get to study computer science at MIT while playing the sport I love.

MG: Off the court, you are a 3:4 major and have interned at Google. What was your experience like?

MG: It was a great experience. They are working on a number of really challenging problems.

One thing I especially appreciated was that they had beach volleyball courts. So I would play every day for two hours during lunch and then work late.

MG: What part of Course 6 excites you the most?

MG: This is a tough one to answer, as I have loved every class I have taken and enjoyed working with every team that I have worked with thus far. If I had to pick, I would say mobile technology.

As far as working professionally is concerned, I want to work for a company whose product I use and like. I also place a lot of importance in gelling with the members of the team I work with.

MG: What is your preferred social media app?

MG: Instagram. Our volleyball team has an Instagram account and I definitely recommend everyone check it out.

MG: You are involved with the Undergraduate Student Advisory Group in ECES (USAGE). What prompts you to be part of those organizations?

MG: I joined USAGE in my freshman year and made a lot of amazing friends. We organize programs for corporate and professional development. But, I feel I love working with the folks at USAGE and that’s what is most appealing to me.

I like USAGE as it gives me an opportunity to interact with the highly accomplished faculty and students. They are really passionate about computer science and work very hard to ensure the MIT Course 6 curriculum stays up-to-date, keeping pace with an ever-changing industry.

MG: Fun question! Halloween is coming up — what are you planning to be?

MG: A friend of mine and I saw something on Pinterest which was like a Rubik’s cube. It seemed like a really intense project, and I am not sure if I will have the time to make the costume, but I will give it a shot.

MG: Thanks for taking the time to talk to us, and all the best for the rest of the season.

MG: Thanks!

This transcript was lightly edited for clarity and length.
The Boston Celtics open their 2015-16 campaigns as they look to return to the playoffs for the second straight year. Although the Celtics were swept by the LeBron James-led Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round of playoffs, they managed to end the regular season on a high.

After acquiring Isaiah Thomas and other key rotation players at the trade deadline, the team went on a remarkable run that ended with a playoff berth this season. They picked up savvy veteran big men in David Lee and Amir Johnson. This addition of savvy veterans Johnson and Lee lends experience to roster and adds dimension to team.

Talented Celtics team to aim for playoff berth this season

Addition of savvy veterans Johnson and Lee lends experience to roster and adds dimension to team

By Zachary Collins

The ability to acquire a star player and the anticipated improvement of the Eastern Conference do not bode well for this team. However, it is important to note that they not only retained almost all of their players from last season, but they also added key veterans and rookies that will give them dimensions they previously lacked. They picked up savvy veteran big men in David Lee and Amir Johnson. Together, they should give the Celtics frontcourt a stronger presence in the paint.

They drafted Terry Rozier, Jordan Mickey, and RJ Hunter this past June. Although none of them may make a significant impact this season, they showed flashes of competence throughout the offseason and pre-season play. The Celtics’ success last season was due to the collective effort of the players. This season, the team has added several key players, including Isaiah Thomas, Amir Johnson, and David Lee. These players have significant experience and will help the team compete in one of the toughest conferences in the NBA. The Celtics have high hopes for their young players, and they have a talented roster that can compete with any team in the league.

The team has made some key acquisitions in the off-season, including the signing of Amir Johnson and David Lee. Johnson is a veteran big man who can provide size and experience in the frontcourt. Lee is a skilled scorer who can stretch the floor and create scoring opportunities for his teammates. The addition of these players should provide the team with more depth and versatility, allowing them to compete with the best teams in the league. The Celtics have a talented roster, and with the addition of these players, they have the potential to make a playoff run this season.

The Celtics have high hopes for their young players, including Marcus Smart, Avery Bradley, and Jordan Mickey. These players have showed promise in the past and have the potential to make significant contributions to the team. The Celtics have a talented roster, and with the addition of these players, they have the potential to make a playoff run this season. The team is looking to improve upon last season’s success and is ready to take on the challenges of the Eastern Conference.
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