Two house managers leave MIT employment, interim managers chosen by administration

Next house manager will not be returning after three-week absence

By Drew B Brent

MIT lost two dorm house managers this month and has begun the process of replacing them. A campus official said that housemasters, housekeepers, and students will be involved.

Random Hall's house manager, Julie Gagnon, said in an email last month that she was making a personal decision to leave MIT. Residents at Next House also learned through email that area director and house manager, Jason Doucette, would not be returning after a three-week leave of absence. Director of Housing Dan Roderick, who sent the email on Feb. 6, did not disclose why.

Gagnon's leave came after and a half years at Random and 15 years he's been at MIT. "Given how long he's been here, he's definitely built up a relationship with a lot of our organizations." Chin worked with Doucette on a variety dorm activities, including from specific fraternities and dorms.

"He was a keystone leader in the house team, which includes the housemaster and area director." Looking back, students in Next spoke favorably of their interactions with Doucette. "I was definitely sad that he was not going to be here," said Staly Chin '15, who has lived in Next all four years he's been at MIT. "Given how long he's been here, he's definitely brought up a relationship with a lot of our organizations".

MIT battles lawsuit 2011 suicide trial to continue in front of a jury

By Sanjana Srivastava

Sloan graduate student Han Nguyen committed suicide by throwing himself off the roof of Building E19 on June 2, 2009. Minutes earlier, Nguyen had gotten off the phone with Sloan professor Birger Wernerfelt. Wernerfelt had "read him the riot act" in regards to a presumptuous email Nguyen had sent to Trey Hedden, his summer research assistant, to court filings.

In 2011, Nguyen's father Dunz Nguyen filed a wrongful death law- suit against MIT, Wernerfelt, and two others. According to Dunz Nguyen, Wernerfelt's admonishment pushed Han Nguyen "quite literally over the edge." Judge Bruce R. Henry ruled earlier this year that the suit will continue in front of a jury. MIT and the other defendants tried unsuccessfully to have the case throw out on a technicality in November 2014. They argued that because Han Nguyen had a summer research assistant position and wasn't taking classes as he did during the school year, he should be considered an employee and not a student. Since the three men be- ing sued were all employees, the court ruled in their favor.

Diversity Summit at MIT

Summit addresses diversity-related issues on campus

By Sanjana Srivastava

Student involvement is crucial to improving MIT's diversity and equality, says Edmund Bertschinger, the Institute Community and Equity Officer and former physics department head. The 2015 Institute Diverse- summit, titled "Advancing a Respectful and Caring Community," featured a series of workshops ad- vancing this message.

The annual diversity summit fo- cuses on promoting demographic diversity, including diversity of race, gender, and ethnicity. It aims to gather ideas from community mem- bers about steps individuals and MIT as a whole can take to promote cultural understanding. This year's summit occurred on Jan. 29 and Feb. 12, with three films about social in- justices showcased in between. Like previous summits, it included key- notes, speeches, and workshops.

Bertschinger released a report with the same title on Feb. 12 con- cerning both these demographic subcultures and subcultures specif- ic to MIT's academics, such as those of undergraduates, faculty, and staff.

Bertschinger said that this year's summit did not focus much on aca- demic cultures, but they are some- thing to emphasize in future years. He hopes that the "equity commit- tee" recommendations he issued will advance the summit's ideals in every major reporting line at MIT and include representatives of all communities they may interact with.

Beyond social justice, the Insti- tute Community and Equity Office

Established 1881

Volume 135, Number 4

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Diversity, Page 11

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 27° F

Partly sunny

FRI: 58° F

Partly sunny

SAT: 27° F

Partly sunny

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 27° F

Partly sunny

FRI: 58° F

Partly sunny

SAT: 27° F

Partly sunny

Partly sunny

Partly sunny
I don’t know about the rest of The Tech’s readership, but this meteorologist is ready to pack up and move to Florida! So far this winter, Logan Airport has received an incredible 96.3 inches of snow (244.6 cm), 90.8 inches (230.6 cm) of which has fallen since Jan. 21. Currently, Boston is only 11.3 inches (28.7 cm) away from tying the all-time total seasonal snowfall record of 107.6 inches (273.5 cm) set in the winter of 1995-1996 — a record that could very well be broken before the end of the month.

As if the historic snowfall wasn’t enough, Boston has also endured near-record setting cold. So far this February, the average temperature has been a bone-chilling 18.1°F (-7.7°C), only 0.6°F (0.4°C) warmer than the all-time coldest average February temperature of 17.5°F (-8.1°C) set back in February of 1934.

If you were hoping for springtime warmth any time soon, I have bad news for you: the active pattern that has brought us so much cold and snow over the past few weeks shows no sign of abating. Today, there is a chance of snow showers through this afternoon as a low pressure system passes offshore. As the low moves up and away from our region, strong northwesterly winds will usher in bitterly cold Arctic air tonight and tomorrow. Bundle up, because wind chills tomorrow morning will approach -20°F (-29°C).

Looking toward the weekend, a long-duration mixed precipitation event looks likely Saturday night into Sunday. Should the storm take a more westerly track, Boston would be in a region of relatively warm southerly winds, which would make for a rainier event, followed by a shot of cold air early next week. If the storm were to take a more easterly, colder track, Boston would experience snow followed by a period of freezing rain. Whatever the outcome, one thing is for certain — Old Man Winter is not done with us yet!

Extended Forecast
- **Today:** A chance of snow showers, with a high of 27°F (-3°C). Winds from the west at 10-15 mph.
- **Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low of around 1°F (-17°C). Winds from the west at 15-20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.
- **Tomorrow:** Partly sunny, with a high in the upper 20s°F (-3°C). Winds from the west at 10-15 mph, with gusts up to 30 mph.
- **Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high in the upper 20s°F (-3°C).
- **Sunday:** Overcast, with a high in the upper 30s°F (4°C). Snow followed by a period of freezing rain likely.
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CIRCLE
UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

I can't believe there's just one semester before we're finally gonna be done!

It's gonna go by fast. Blame it on Friday, you'll miss it.

On tear? How many times should I blush to show up at commencement?

Sup, anyone who's ready to graduate?

Chill, dude! I'm just staring at the window.

Well, you really smacked him.

If you understand this comic, apply to MIT Arts Scholar.

[1486] Vacuum

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language
by Randall Munroe
Stormy Sudoku
Solution, page 14

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.

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Snowy Sudoku
Solution, page 14

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.

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Tamed Techdoku
Solution, page 14

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

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Tasty Techdoku
Solution, page 14

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.

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The Three Beers by Fred Piscop
Solution, page 14

ACROSS
1 ___ yet (so far) 44 Prime-time hour
5 In-box fillers 45 Auto named for a physicist
10 High wind 47 Took charge
14 Nutillus skipper 48 South America's "spine"
16 "___ at the office" 49 Actress Menders
16 Tinted 51 High ___ kite
17 Term of affection 52 Sitcom sound effect
18 One without roots 60 Poet of old Rome
19 Upper hand 61 Shugger's comment
20 Pro team's amateur pick 62 It's east of Nevada
23 Way of King Kong 64 Source of salt
24 Lab-maze runner 65 Have leftovers, perhaps
25 Edgar who painted dancers 66 Relay or marathon
28 Juda equipment 67 Scent
31 McDowall of Planet of the Apes 68 In need of cleaning
35 Rescue op 69 Moose relatives
36 Deere's Illinois home DOWn
38 Prime-time ender
39 Causes of an outburst, perhaps
42 President after Harry
43 Prime-time ender

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59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67
68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76
77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85

51 Deep distress 56 Aardvark's meal
52 How, to Hernando 57 Workbook segment
53 All fired up 58 Bibliography abbr.
54 Justice Scalia nickname 59 Spice-jar holder
55 Party with poi 60 "For ___ a jolly good fellow"
Human Capital is an Italian drama with an air of mystery. The film revolves around two families of very different social statuses as their lives are thrown together and torn apart by a fateful tragic accident. While the film certainly has the thrill and suspense of a whodunit mystery, make no mistake: this film is a socio-economic commentary through and through.

The nonlinear format of the movie is immediately intriguing. The narrative is divided into three distinct, yet intersecting, chapters each focusing on a specific character's point of view. Each of the three chapters switches between past, present, and future events though it is always clear which we are viewing. Furthermore, the three storylines interweave as the characters interact. This is a particular strength of this narrative technique as we are able to view the same group of important events through the lenses of three separate characters. Through the eyes of Dino (Fabrizio Bentivoglio), Carla (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi), and Serena (Matilde Gioli), the viewer discovers the finer details of the dynamics between characters and each of their roles in the overall scheme of the film.

The commentary on class is introduced in the first five minutes of the film. The first character we see is a hardworking laborer clearing dirty dishes after a party. The evening takes a devastating turn for the man as he bikes home from work and is run over by an SUV. The connection between this horrible event and the narratives of the three characters is revealed as the plot unfolds. Intertwined throughout this whodunit is a story of loves and hopes both gained and lost and strong themes of familial discord — experiences that seem to transcend social and economic boundaries.

The first chapter of the film introduces us to Dino Ossola, a middle class real estate agent with clear aspirations for wealth and power. The film does an excellent job of showing rather than telling. Dino's get-rich-quick plan dawns on us just as it dawns upon him. Dino's daughter, Serena, is dating Massimiliano — the son of a powerful hedge fund manager. Dino meets Giovanni as he is dropping Serena off at the Bernaschi residence, and at fate is about to rise up for Dino. Dino osso
dicated further when Massimiliano gets dangerously drunk at a party after a tense evening with his father. Dino discovers that Massimiliano is guilty, as a poor and ostracized orphan with a rap sheet, his incredibly wealthy parents will find it difficult to buy the son's innocence as Dino is to recover his initial investment and the respect of his family. Carla is as desperate for her son's innocence as Dino is to recover his initial investment along with the returns he promised. They strike a deal. Dino discovers a foreclosed theater and insists that it be restored. She cajoles her husband into buying it and her entire outlook on life improves. Carla finally has something to live for — perhaps she can start a crumbling building in a way that she cannot restore her crumbling family. But her dreams are quickly demolished by her husband's businesslike indifference. Her financial advisors convince him to replace the theater with apartments. Carla is devastated and we can tell through her actions that she has hit rock bottom. He is unlikable and abusive to Serena while Luca, Dino's son, is a ho-hitter.
Drawing Apart

Exhibit Review

Blurring the line between observation and perception

By Ray Wang

Beykjarok artist Katrin Sigurdardottir’s exhibit on display at the MIT List Visual Arts Center, entitled Drawing Apart, is powerful and agitating, a true treat for MIT’s artistic community.

The opening reception for Sigurdardottir’s two exhibits was held last Thursday night, with the veteran artist herself in attendance. Sigurdardottir’s first exhibit, Elhofs, is an abstraction of her childhood home. Eleven miniatures, ranging up to a few feet in height, are widely spaced and scattered on the stone floor of the gallery, “Balcony” (2014). “Bedroom, Study” (2005), “Stairway, Hallway” (2012) — they’re all just simple white plaster on frames of basswood, constructed with exquisite detail. You almost think it’s architecture, not sculpture. But the exhibit as a whole evokes a ghastly sensation of memory and nostalgia, and you might, for a moment, cross the line between observation and perception, between vision and experience. The anonymity of each piece contributes to the conceptual nature of the work. Each sculpture is non-descriptive; making each fragment almost float in your consciousness.

More haunting is the artist’s second exhibit, Unbuilt Residences in Reykjavik (1925-1980). Sigurdardottir takes nearly century-old unrealized house plans from city archives and constructs miniature models with various materials like lacquered concrete, papier-mache, wood. She then destroys them by fire or the force of gravity, and reconstructs the remains over a fragile wooden frame. Of “Unbuilt It is — Demi-te Hallar Hallsson Residences,” there’s almost nothing left: a few ragged, ash-covered pieces of burnt paper, the survivors, cover patches of the intricate frame. The destruction and decay is fascinating and disturbing, evoking unease in every observer.

Sigurdardottir is no newcomer to these architectural and cartographic works of art. A native of Reykjarok, she’s had solo exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadel-phia as well as permanent large-scale works at The Reykjavik Art Museum. She plays with your perception of scale and form, combining the symmetry of conventional architecture and her characteristic jagged style. Occasionally her large-scale works will incorporate the viewers, who, upon interacting with the sculpture, become part of the object on view.

Drawing Apart is on display at the List Center until April 12, and Sigurdardottir’s next solo exhibition will be at the Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art in London.

Indie Fix

What We Do In The Shadows: Twilight meets The Real World (in a good way)

A Kickstarter-funded vampire mockumentary that’ll keep you laughing

Taika Waititi stars as Viago, 317 year old vampire, in What We Do In The Shadows.

By Karleigh Moore

I don’t generally go out of my way to see comedy flicks, but having grown up through an era of reality television and teenage vampire romances, I couldn’t resist. You know a movie is going to be interesting when “hipster vampire” appears in the description. But fear not: “Each of our crew members wore a crucifix and was granted protection by the subjects of the film,” so no humans were harmed in the making of this documentary, well, except for each course of dinner guests.

What We Do In The Shadows is a mockumentary set in Wellington, New Zealand. A documentary crew captures the daily lives (and antics) of vampires living in an apartment together as they gear up for an annual super natural ball. The effects are cheesy, but that only adds to the sketch comedy nature of every scene. There is no clear plotline, but what drives the movie is the excellent chemistry between the vampire flatmates: Viago (Taika Waititi), Deacon (Jonathan Brugh), Vlad (Jemaine Clement), Petyr (Ben Fransham), and later, Nick (Cori Gonzalez-Macuer) and their human friend Stu (Smart Rutherford). Viago and Vlad chide Deacon for having neglected his dishwashing duties for five years and Petyr for not clearing away the skeletons of his victims. Apparently typical flatmate issues arise even among vampires. Petyr is over 8,000 years old, so he prefers to stay at home while the rest of the crew explores Wellington’s nightlife. This is difficult of course because vampires cannot enter a building unless they are invited, and since they tend to wear 18th-century attire, bouncers often turn them away.

What We Do In The Shadows is a clear statement about the current vampire media landscape — it is completely absurd. According to the Kickstarter project page, the directors want to set the record straight for vampires: in a modern world, a vampire’s life is not a teenage fantasy romance. They would have a hard time integrating into society, and for them, there is no happy ending. The flatmates obviously struggle to keep up with the times: they dress in outdated clothing and express disbelief when Stu introduces them to cellphones, Google, and eBay (where they can do their dark bidding).

As I’ve mentioned previously in this column, finding funding for indie films is hard. In my interview with John Lyons Murphy [producer of Broken Kingdom and King- don Come], he mentioned the potential of crowdfunding “by [themselves], without a studio distributor, so that [they] could share [their] film with you, the audience, di rectly.” This sense of personal connection between artist and audience is what makes viewing an indie production a more sincere experience than your typical studio movie.
Tuesday’s snowfall left a fresh layer of snow on The Hexagons, a sculpture outside of Building 18. The flurry was the latest addition to what is now Boston’s third snowiest winter on record.

students climb what has affectionately been called “Mountain Simmons” on Tuesday. Later that evening, trucks and construction vehicles began scooping snow away from the base of the pile.

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hol and shouting when the designs were revealed. The members from previous year’s Ring Committees that did attend this year were seated in the audience, but in an area isolated from the ‘17s. In an email to The Tech, Ring Committee Chair Anthony J. Occidentale ’17 said that he still received “comments from my classmates about how the past committees were ‘rude’ and ‘obnoxious’ and ‘shouldn’t have been here.’”

The commencement of Ring Premiere was met with thunderous applause and incomprehensible chants from the audience. Members of the Ring Committee proceeded to explain the details of the ring design. Following tradition, the ring contained many hidden details that were symbolic to the Class of 2017.

The Boston and Cambridge skylines appear on the ring; the Cambridge skyline even includes an outline of the roller coaster built by East Campus in their courtyard this past REX. Also, the traditional “Hacker’s Map” inscribed on the inside of the ring, showing the underground interconnectedness of the buildings, uniquely omits Building 12 due to the ongoing construction of the MIT.nano Building.

The MIT seal is also customized, including flames from the lamp in the shape of the number 17. The replacement of the traditional male mason by a craftswoman received applause.

On the class shank, there is a bitcoin commemorating the $100 in bitcoins that we all had the opportunity to receive last semester, as well as a security camera positioned next to the great dome, representing the enhanced security measures in dormitories these couple of years.

The Ring Committee went on to reveal a bezel design including a participant in the ALS Bucket Challenge, which went viral over the summer, as well as a beaver riding a tank. These ridiculous additions to the bezel made it clear that this design was a joke.

The real bezel design features a beaver, as per tradition, with the Charles River, Boston, and MIT in the background. Etched subtly into the beaver’s tale are the letters IHTFP, which the audience showed its approval of with cheers and laughter.

The roof of Kresge auditorium is designed to look like a football to commemorate the historic success of MIT’s football team this past season. The bezel features other iconic symbols such as the Prudential Center, the Citgo sign and Fenway Park, a Tech Dinghy, and the great dome.

Between descriptions of each face of the ring, members of the Ring Committee raffled off subsides ranging from $50 to $100. Recipients went up to the stage, some leaping onto it after running up the aisle, to receive their subsidy.

The newly revealed brass ring has been a frequent conversation topic among my fellow ‘17s in the days following premiere, as many students anticipate ring delivery, where they will receive their very own Brass Rats.
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Diversity, from Page 1

sees the diversity summit as pro-
moting a more efficient Institute. Joshua Gonzales, Simmons Hall's area director, said that to study the world, as we aim to do at MIT, we have to understand it. By en-
couraging more perspectives, problems can be solved more effectively.

Social scientists at MIT show that when an organization considers itself a meritocracy, [and] the same has been seen in companies,” said Bertschinger. He noted that in the 1990s, there were very few female faculty at MIT, and there were signific-
antly fewer women in engineer-
ing departments. Those who were employed at MIT were underpaid and undervalued.

Now, MIT’s gender payment gap is far smaller, and in 2011 at MIT’s 150th anniversary celebra-
tion, a symposium celebrating MIT’s gender equality history fea-
tured a panel of women in STEM that, according to Bertschinger, featured a “who’s who of scient-
ists and engineers.”

Bertschinger’s colleagues said that all of MIT stands to gain from paying attention to social justice and collectivism. Bertschinger considers the idea of meritocracy to be an ideal that “we’ll always be striving toward,” and cited a study by Sloan professor Emilio Castilla that showed that when an organi-
zation considers itself a meritoc-
ocracy, it is less aware of its biases.

Castilla found that in such or-
ganizations, managers inadver-
tently make biased assumptions and “typically favor men over women.” Because they believe they are part of a meritocracy, these managers may forget to be cognizant of those biases.

According to Bertschinger, emphasis on diversity both of demographics and of MIT-spe-
cific cultures can promote true meritocracy. Quoting Claremont Graduate University professor Peter Drucker, he said that “cul-
ture eats strategy for breakfast.”

According to Office Program Director Julian Green, this is why student involvement is so impor-
tant: everyone has to pay atten-
tion to diversity for change to take place.

This year’s diversity summit was held both at the end of IAP and in the spring semester to en-
courage student participation, Green said. Many workshops were attended primarily by staff, fewer faculty and students showed. Many staff members noted that this was typical.

A particularly productive workshop called “Reimagining Our Culture” encouraged attend-
ees to write down concrete ideas for bettering MIT. The workshop was led by students, and many ideas focused on how to get stu-
dents and faculty to care more about overcoming prejudices.

Throughout the workshop, the same idea kept rising to the sur-
face: for diversity to spread, peo-
p in every sphere have to work towards that goal.

In the past, diversity sum-
mits have sparked discussions on challenging topics, Bertschinger said. The 2012 summit led to a series of Tech guest opinion col-
umns on affirmative action.

UA President wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship

For Shrun Sharma ’15, whose exploits include lead-
ing landmine-clearing ini-
tiatives in Venezuela and developing prosthetics, win-
ning the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is an opportunity to continue her pursuit of im-
proving the lives of those with disabilities through advance-
ments in materials science and medical devices.

The scholarship, which factors candidates’ commit-
ments to “greater good” in their selection, will cover tuition, costs, and a stipend for Sharma to pursue a doc-
toral degree at the Caven-
dish Laboratories’ Centre for Nano-
science at Cambridge University.

Working at the laborato-
ries—which have programs that align with her interests in prosthetics, materials sci-
ence, and 3D printing—has been a lifelong dream for Sharma. “The fabrication, the customizability of it… it’s definitely something I want to pursue and spend my career in,” she said. The scholarship will allow her to do just that, without having to pay a tu-
ition of over 20,000 pounds.

A materials science and engineering major, Sharma has spent much of her time in college performing research that uses 3D printing technol-
gen. She has also researched composite structures at Har-
vard and worked on prosthet-
ics in Prof. Hugh Herr’s Bio-
mechantronics Lab. Sharma said she’s been motivated to improve the lives of amputees since she was a young child interacting with land mine victims being treated by her uncle in India. “Still in India to this day there are people using sticks for prosthetics,” she said. “Here we’re developing the next big thing,” said Sharma.

This drive to help those who need it most has led her to simultaneously pursue op-
opportunities in advocacy and policy, interests that she also pursues here at MIT as the president of the Undergradu-
ate Association.

Though Sharma consid-
ers herself “really lucky,” she emphasized that the MIT community and alumni were “central” in supporting her through the nomination pro-
cess, from panels set up by the MIT Distinguished Fellow-
ships office with faculty and other notable figures, to making connections with for-
mer MIT Gates Scholars that had gone through the process before. “I owe a lot to them,” Sharma said.

—Bruno B. F. Faviero
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Was MIT at fault in student’s suicide? Jury to decide case
At issue is Han Nguyen's employee status at MIT; judge is uncertain

Trial, from Page 1

defendants argued that the suicide should fall under the Workers’ Compensation Act (WCA).

The WCA “bars common law actions against employers” when an employee is injured due to their job. The defendants said that if Dzung Nguyen’s claims were true and Han Nguyen did kill himself because of MIT’s negligence and Wernerfelt’s phone call, his suicide was a personal injury caused by his employment and the WCA protected them from this lawsuit.

The defendants recommended Dzung Nguyen simply claim the monetary compensations called for by the WCA instead of pursuing “an amount that the [jury] deems fair and just, plus costs, interest and the reasonable funeral and burial expenses incurred” as demanded in the original filing.

Dzung Nguyen argued the opposite. He and his lawyer, Jeffrey Beeler, presented several reasons why Han Nguyen’s death does not fit the scenarios illustrated by the WCA. They pointed out that in the past, MIT had argued that graduate students of any private institution were not employees, citing a past case that found that Brown University graduate students were not employees and thus could not unionize.

Although the defendants argued that Han Nguyen’s summer funding didn’t come from his financial aid and thus could be considered a wage, Dzung Nguyen and Beeler responded that the Brown University case decided research funding isn’t a wage, regardless of where it comes from, because graduate research and teaching aren’t a service to the university, but rather an opportunity for graduate students to learn. Dzung Nguyen further argued that because Han Nguyen’s conversation was with Wernerfelt and not with Hedden, his suicide didn’t result from his summer position.

This year Judge Henry said that these issues — including that of whether Han Nguyen was an MIT employee — were uncertain or unclear, and granted Dzung Nguyen’s request to “refuse to let MIT have it both ways,” recommending that the trial continue in front of a jury.

Along with MIT and Wernerfelt, Dzung Nguyen sued Sloan professor DreZen Prelec and MIT Student Support Services Dean David W. Randall. The original court filing indicated that they and several others, including psychiatrists at Massachusetts General Hospital, had prior concerns about Han Nguyen’s mental health. Dzung Nguyen argued that while they had tried to help him and be accommodating, their actions that immediately preceded his death were negligent and punitive.

Trial, from Page 1

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Two dorm house managers depart from Institute

Next House’s Jason Doucette praised by residents; MIT begins replacement process

Managers, from Page 1

ing Next Haunt, Next Act, and Next Big Thing. He found Doucette to be “really chill” and responsive whenever they needed help with the facilities.

Antonio Moreno ’15, another Next resident, remembers once mentioning to Doucette that the bathrooms didn’t have trashcans. Three days later, there was a trashcan in every bathroom.

“He was very helpful and personable,” Moreno wrote in an email to The Tech. “In our opinion, he was a great house manager.”

Students were surprised to hear that Doucette would not be returning after his unexplained leave. They received the news at the same time as their housema-
ter and area director, according to Moreno.

To cover the house manager roles in Next and Random, MIT has chosen other dorms’ house managers to fill in. Nika Hollingworth from Simmons Hall is helping cover Next, and Jon Nolan, who currently splits his time between Baker and McCormick, is adding Random to his list.

When choosing interim house managers, MIT administrators have to consider several factors, including the buildings’ sizes, their locations relative to the manager’s current house, and the “professional development opportunities” for the managers, according to Peter Cummings, director of administration in the Division of Student Life.

Summons and Next, for example, are dorms in good condition with mostly routine issues to han-
dle. “They just kind of hum along,” Cummings said. “We think Nika (Hollingworth) is in a great posi-
tion to take this on and do a real bang of a job of it.

Whenever a house manager needs to be replaced, Dan Roder-
ick, director of MIT Housing, leads the search for a new one. Along with Dean Henry J. Humphreys from the Division of Student Life, Roderick evaluates the feedback from the housemaster and staff to see if a full-time replacement is needed. At some point, input from the students in the dorm is considered as well, according to Cummings.

“It’s unclear if Next or Random will receive new house managers or keep their interim ones instead,” Roderick said.

In the past, house managers have not always been replaced with new hires. McCormick, for example, used to have their own house manager for Random as well. He’s expected to continue until at least this June.

Nolan has experience covering multiple dorms. In the past, he was manager until they switched to a larger dorm with its own dining hall, and possibly too big to be “co-
 handled” with its almost 350 resi-
dents. Random, on the other hand, has only 93 residents.

Cummings emphasized, how-
 ever, that it is too early to specu-
late. Roderick and others first have to collect feedback on the current situation.

The one thing that Moreno and Chin made clear, though, is that Next students hope MIT considers the current full-time manager for what they believe is a large dorm.

“I don’t think having a shared approach would be beneficial for either our dorm or the other dorm,” said Moreno. “We definitely need a full-time manager.”

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