

Seamless team members say misattribution unintentional

HackMIT organizers call incident ‘plagiarism’ but claim team members were not found ‘guilty’

By Kath Xu and Austin Hess
EDITORS

Since the publication of an article in *The Tech* about allegations of plagiarism against HackMIT contestants on the Seamless team, HackMIT organizers and two members of Seamless have stated that the videos they presented as output of their own code in the hackathon’s final presentation were actually published by Microsoft Research. Both these two contestants and the organizers said that the misattribution was unintentional, while a third member of the Seamless team has sought to publicly distance himself from the project.

HackMIT organizers have since stated that they do not stand by a HackMIT blog post’s initial

characterization of the incident as a “disqualification” of Seamless, who they said stepped down voluntarily.

Seamless, which had originally won second place at the hackathon, did not receive the \$3,000 prize last month after HackMIT investigated accusations that the videos the members showed in their final presentation were not their own results. Another top eight finalist, AgileAssault, was also “disqualified” for submitting a similar hack the week before to HackUMBC, according to the blog post.

Seamless was composed of three MIT sophomores: Kevin Kwok ’17, Nikhil Buduma ’17, and Guillermo Webster ’17.

The team was seen referring to the looping videos in question

as their own results during their final pitch. Webster introduced some of the videos, saying, “It’s a very difficult algorithm, and it was a big pain to implement... but here are some products of that.” Buduma refers to the process by which the videos were produced as “our algorithm” several times during the presentation.

In a written statement to *The Tech*, Webster said that in their final presentation, “failing to attribute the videos to Microsoft qualifies as plagiarism.” However, he said that the lack of proper attribution was unintentional.

Webster said that the team was trying to present their implementation of a Javascript-based viewing utility for looping videos,

HackMIT, Page 15



ALEXANDER C. BOST—THE TECH

Students pet Beethoven the therapy dog at the MIT Wellness Fair on Friday in the Z-Center main lobby. The Wellness Fair provided students with a chance to relax and get information about de-stressing and support groups as well as get a massage, have a snack, and win raffle prizes.

Petition launched after Mem Drive car accident

MIT Sailing staff was critically injured

By Sanjana Srivastava

After an MIT Sailing employee was critically injured by a car in early September while trying to cross Memorial Drive, Marjory Bravard ’02, an active sailor during and after her time at MIT, launched a petition imploring President Reif and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to “improve pedestrian safety along Memorial Drive.” The petition currently has over 2,000 signatures.

The MIT Sailing employee, Phil Gilbert, was struck while trying to cross the street between the Sailing Pavilion and Walker Memorial. According to an email sent out by MIT Sailing Master Fran Charles, Gilbert had just finished teaching one of the Sunday morning MIT Nautical Association sailing lessons. According to Charles, Gilbert is now “making a remarkable recovery” after spending more than two weeks in a deep coma with severe brain trauma.

Just two weeks before Gilbert was injured, another pedestrian, Mark C. Keiser, was struck and killed on Memorial Drive. According to his obituary, Keiser was on a morning walk along the Charles River when he was hit by a car.

Accidents at the crosswalk and along all of Memorial Drive are considered to be due to insufficient traffic regulations, unsafe driving, and jaywalking by those launching the petition.

In light of the most recent accidents, the MIT administration “has had meetings to outline possible solutions” and is currently working with the Cambridge City Council, said Charles. Furthermore, he said that MIT is willing to cover all of the improvement costs.

Alexander J. Mieloszyk, a graduate student, was a witness and responder in Gilbert’s injury. He “heard a thud like a car hitting a traffic cone... [the

Petition, Page 8

Two retired MIT professors win Presidential Medal of Freedom

Earlier this week, Institute Professors Mildred Dresselhaus and Robert Solow were announced winners of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation’s highest civilian honor and recognizes “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors,” according to the executive order that first created the award.

The White House referred to Dresselhaus as “one of the most prominent physicists, materials scientists, and electrical engineers of her generation” for her work with carbon and research in condensed matter systems. Dresselhaus was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1990. In addition, she has previously served as the president of the American Physical Society as

well as treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences.

Solow, who also won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1987, was credited for creating the foundation for much of modern economics and “demonstrating how smart investments, especially in new technology, can build broad-based prosperity” in addition to his continued participation “in contemporary debates about inequality and economic growth.”

Dresselhaus and Solow will receive their awards on Nov. 24, along with 17 other Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients.

Other notable winners this year include Ethel Kennedy, Isabel Allende, Tom Brokaw, Meryl Streep, and Stevie Wonder.

—Amy Wang

IN SHORT

It’s On Us Campaign Kick-Off is having its last day today to promote sexual assault awareness. Stop by Lobby 10 to show your support and also receive free swag!

Drop Date is next Wednesday, Nov. 19. Cancel or switch a class from Credit to Listener status at <http://studentformsandpetitions.mit.edu> by 11:59 p.m. that night.

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

Smoot legacy continues on Harvard Bridge

An anonymous donor has given the Charles River Conservancy 2.5 million dollars to install new lighting along the Harvard Bridge, with one condition: that the new lights be installed every 30 Smoots.

According to the Boston Globe, the design for the new lighting “utilizes energy-efficient bulbs on both the roadway and pedestrian path, adding lighting at a lower level to make the bridge both more attractive and safer.”

The request pays tribute to the 1958 prank by the MIT Lambda Chi Alpha (LCA) fraternity. Overnight, a group of LCA members measured and marked the length of the Harvard Bridge using Oliver R. Smoot ’62, then 5 foot 7, as a unit of measurement. They found the bridge to be 364.4 Smoots — plus or minus an ear.

Since then, the markers — repainted regularly by MIT students — have become a well-known landmark.

The Smoot markers were recently repainted by MIT LCA alumni. On Monday, “twelve alums of the Lambda Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha gathered at the chapter house to launch the Smoot painting task,” according to a LCA press release.

MIT’s LCA chapter was recently suspended by its national organization, closing the building for at least five years. Steven Pettinato ’80, president of the fraternity’s alumni corporation, referred to the markers as “an important tradition that transcends the issues facing the current local chapter.”

—Jennifer F. Switzer



TRISTAN HONSCHIED—THE TECH

On Tuesday morning, alumni of Lambda Chi Alpha continued their 56-year-old tradition of repainting the Smoot markers on the Harvard Bridge. This year, the 179th Smoot included a tribute to MIT Officer Sean Collier.

SHUTTING DOWN NEWBURY

Racism is not dead, but discussion is.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 13

TAKE A STAND

Sign MIT’s Bystander Pledge.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12

STARTUP DIARIES

A speech to Ireland’s future leaders.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12



THE TECH @ NEXT HAUNT

Spoiler alert: we got eaten by the zombies.
PHOTO, p. 11

YOU LOOK CUTE TODAY

Where do you get your compliments from?
FUN, p. 5

SECTIONS

Weather2
Opinion4
Fun Pages5
Campus Life12
Sports20

WEATHER

Watch for a hint of winter this weekend

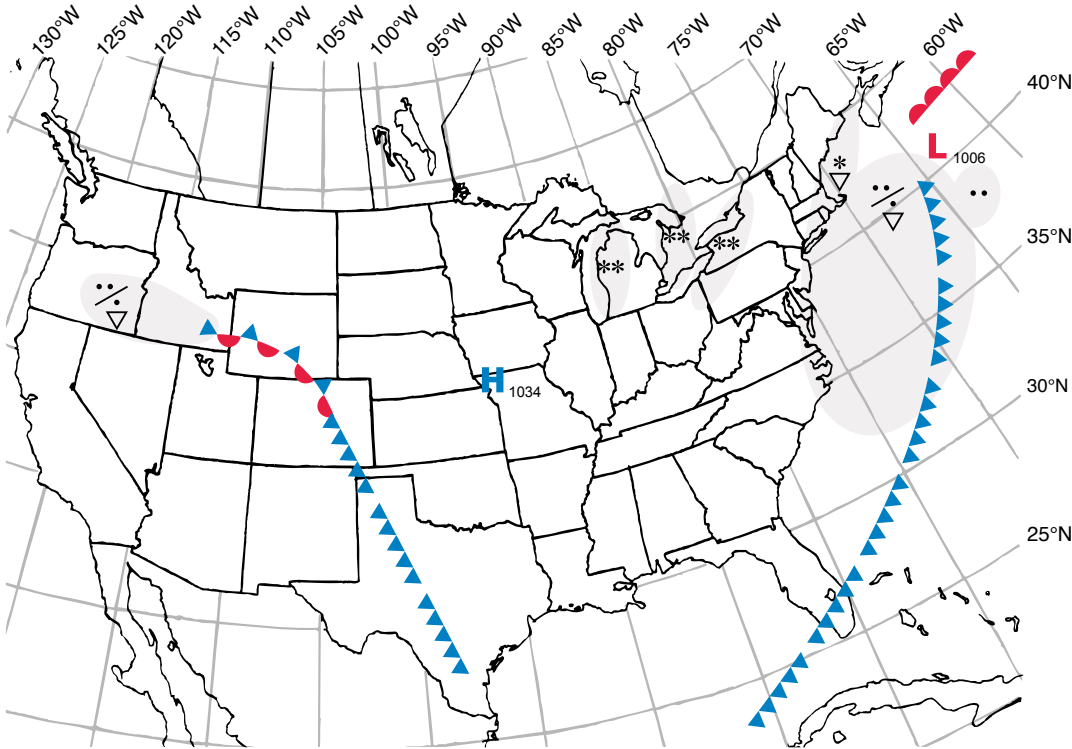
By Colin Thackray
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

For most of the country, the last week has been exceptionally cold as a frigid Canadian air mass left many of the states between the Great Lakes and the Rockies with snow cover and a reminder that colder weather is approaching. The Great Lakes region could see some lake-effect snow today as Northwestern winds blow cold air over the relatively warm lake water. The signs of winter will also be apparent in the Cambridge area as it is likely to snow in the early morning today and temperatures will dip below

freezing tonight and tomorrow night. The highs this weekend aren't likely to get much higher than 40°F, and the moderate Northwestern winds will make it feel colder still. It's time to get used to these temperatures, as next week doesn't project to be much warmer. Beyond next week, what will the winter look like for our area? If you like 200-year-old superstition, the Old Farmer's Almanac says that this winter will be colder than most. Their competitor, the Farmers' Almanac, forecasts that this year the Northeast will experience a winter that is "wintery". That sounds reasonably likely.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy, with a high of 42°F. Winds NW at 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy, with a low of 27°F. Winds NW at 5-10 mph.
Tomorrow: Clear skies, high of 40°F. Winds W at 5-10 mph.
Sunday: Partly cloudy, high of 45°F.
Monday: Chance of rain, high in mid-40s (°F)



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Friday, November 14, 2014

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	* Showers	• Rain	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	⬆ Warm Front	▽ Light	• Moderate	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	⬆ Cold Front	** Heavy	•• Heavy	∞ Haze
	⬆ Stationary Front	⬆ Heavy	•• Heavy	

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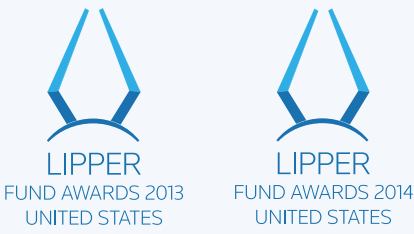
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KENSHO

Fall 2014 Wulff Lecture

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Tuesday, November 18, 2014
4:00–5:00 pm
Room 10-250
Reception immediately following

Hey, Atoms:
What Have You Done For Me
Lately?

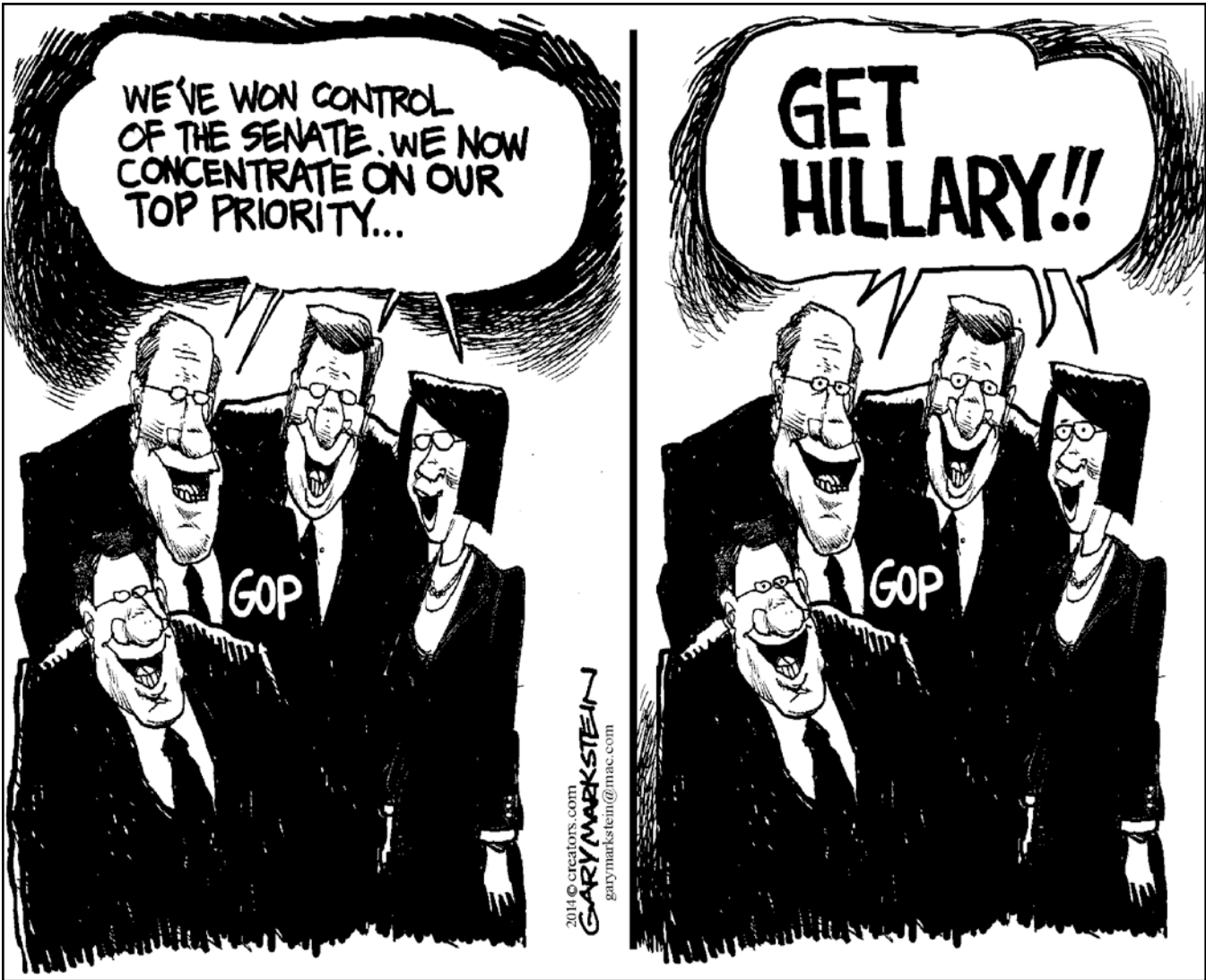
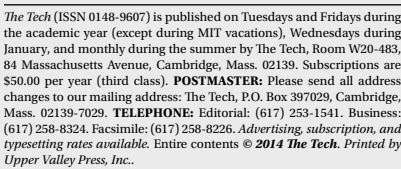
The age of materials design and how it will change the energy world

Professor Jeffrey C. Grossman
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Understanding, inventing, and engineering mechanisms and materials for production, storage, and transport of energy are among the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Materials-driven advances are key to technologies that counter the deleterious environmental and political impacts of the world’s long-standing reliance on fossil fuels. Current renewable energy conversion and storage technologies are either too expensive or too inefficient or both. Materials science and engineering is at the core of the energy challenge: many key mechanisms that convert and store energy are dominated by the intrinsic properties of the active materials involved. Our imperative is to predict, identify, and manufacture new materials as comprehensively and rapidly as possible to enable game-changing forward leaps rather than our current path of incremental advances. This lecture will discuss the impact of materials design on the energy world.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general audience, entertaining lecture that aims to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who conceived of a new approach to teaching general chemistry and inaugurated the popular freshman subject, 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

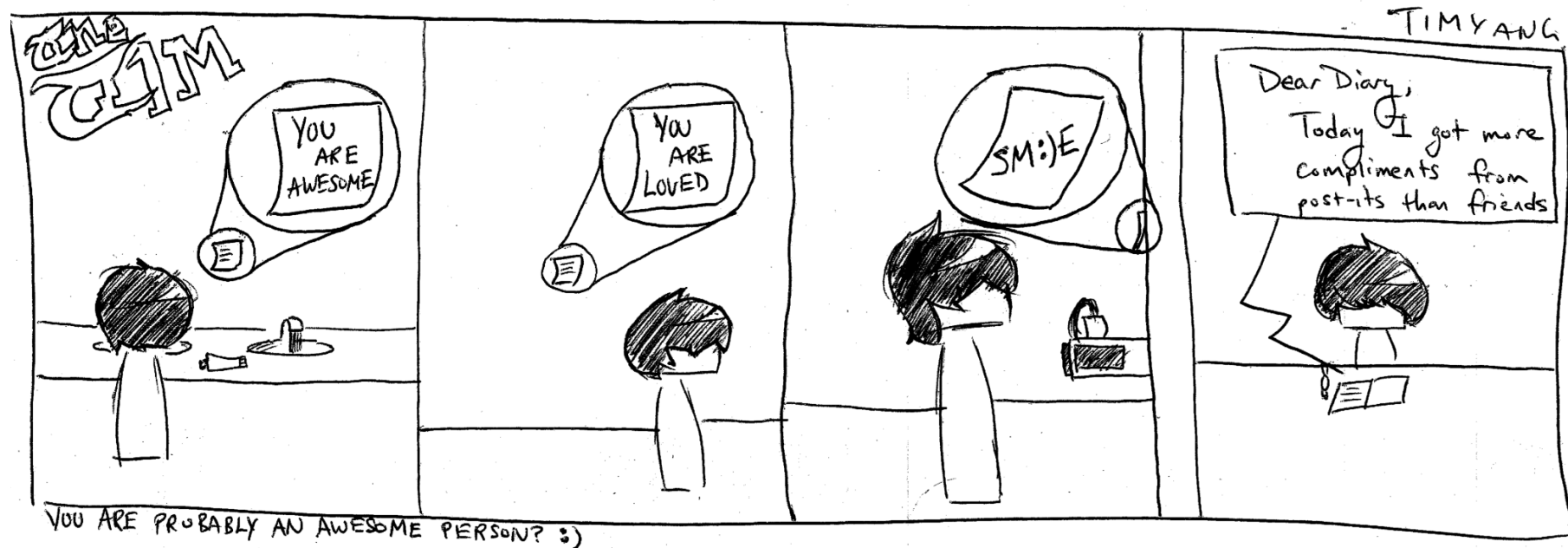
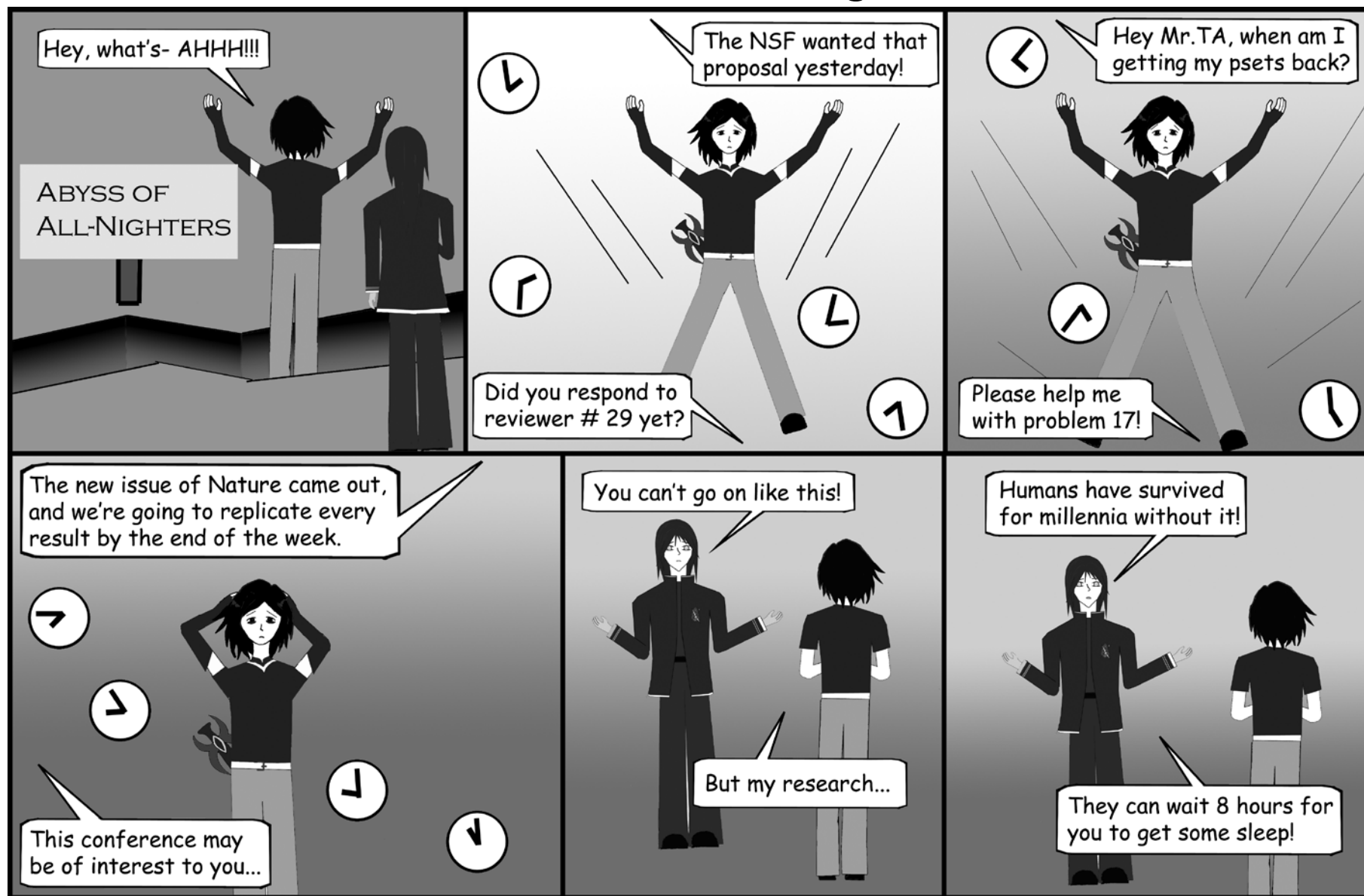




The HackMIT article in the Friday, Nov. 7 issue incorrectly referred to the class year of HackMIT organizer Richard Z. Ni '15 as a '16.

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tech.mit.edu>.

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



Sudoku I

Solution, page 14

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

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.

Techdoku I

Solution, page 14

6x	12x		48x		5
	6x			30x	
4		3-		6÷	
18+			19+		
	24x			6x	
	5			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.

I THOUGHT AUTHOR RATIONALE VALUE IS SOCIAL EST.

#A&%, I'M NEXT. COME ON, YOU CAN FAKE IT. NO ONE WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

INSIGHTFUL COMMENTS! LET'S HEAR FROM ANOTHER STUDENT!

I, UH, AGREE WITH WHAT EMILY JUST SAID. AND I ALSO FOUND THAT MANY OF THE, UH, AUTHOR'S POINTS RELATE TO MY EVERYDAY LIFE. ESPECIALLY THE STUFF IN CHAPTER THREE, WHICH YOU'LL NOTICE I HAVE BOOKMARKED EVEN THOUGH I DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY READ THE WHOLE THING.

GLAD YOU FOUND IT RELEVANT. WHAT DID EVERYONE ELSE THINK OF CHAPTER THREE?

WHEW!

PST. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU READ SOMETHING FOR CLASS?

THAT'S A RISK I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE.

5TH GRADE BOOK REPORT ON "WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS." SCARR'D ME FOR LIFE.

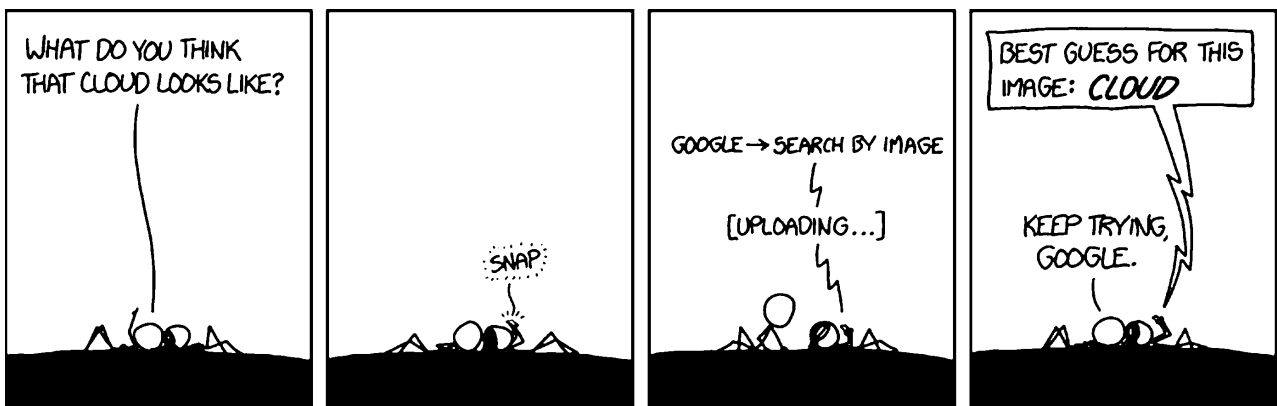
AND YOU KNOW THERE'S ALMOST NO CHANCE ANY DOGS WILL DIE IN OUR 'CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL STUDIES' READINGS?

STEVE SULLIVAN NOV. 2018



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SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE**
by Randall Munroe



Cloud computing has a ways to go.

Solution, page 14

1 Princes of India
6 Rugged vehicle
10 Crude cartel
14 On the nose
15 Roman statesman
16 Suitor
17 They can't decide
20 Shirtmaker's measurement
21 Moves on a screen
22 Compote ingredients
25 Writer Rand
26 Expenditure
29 Lei Day feasts
31 Apparel
35 Ancient Mexican
37 Guys
39 Hua predecessor
40 With 42 Across, coastal
storm mitigators
42 See 40 Across
44 Profound respect
45 Stock up on
47 Mythical master of Sirius
48 Ordinances
50 Erstwhile anesthetic

53 Slip up
55 Forced absence
57 Garden lattice
61 Robin Hood's hangout
65 NYSE members
68 Gawk at
69 Gas co., for one
70 Base-running term
71 Palm reader
72 Lost altitude
73 Tough travels

- 1 Some whistle blowers
- 2 Rink leap
- 3 One of Agatha's sleuths
- 4 Oscar winner's stand-in
- 5 Either of the Apple
founders
- 6 Meeting of rds.
- 7 Melodic sense
- 8 Frat letters
- 9 Audio downloads
- 10 Shaped like gelcaps
- 11 Cocktail garnish

13 "Stubborn" guy
18 Official symbol
19 Moistureless
23 Toddler, so to speak
24 Letters on motor-oil cans
26 Scheming group
27 Former Boston Symphony leader
28 Toss about
30 Suitable for all
32 Obstetric test, for short
33 Heaviest noble gas
34 Petty officers, for short
36 Jason Bourne employer
38 Road-sign warning
41 Certain retiree's title
43 Main, as a route
46 "Sea shells" miss of rhyme
49 "Sea shells" miss of rhyme
51 Falling-out
54 Monogram of Jekyll's creator
56 Some art studios

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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65							66	67						
68					69					70				
71					72					73				

57 Rarely seen bills
58 Throw a tantrum
59 Glamour competitor
60 Abbr. like Mlle.
62 Conclusion preceder,

perhaps
63 Far beyond confident
64 Sextet in a fl. oz.
66 German article
67 Rockies grazer

Petition brings focus to Mem Drive deaths, injuries

MIT Sailing dockstaff struck while trying to cross Memorial Drive from sailing pavilion

Petition, from Page 1

employee] was on his side and was slipping in and out of consciousness, and he was bleeding pretty decently.” Mieloszyk attributes the problem to the fact that the employee crossed outside of the crosswalk. However, he added that the high speeds and lack of speed limit enforcement were the real problem, as drivers are not ready to stop when they see pedestrians.

Members of the MIT Sailing community place the blame on the crosswalks on Memorial Drive, many of which consist only of painted stripes called “zebra stripes.” David Larson ’16, an MIT Sailing captain, told *The Tech*, “a number of times I’ve seen someone in front of me... crossing the street as they should, and a car doesn’t want to stop or doesn’t see

them and there’s... potential for an accident.”

“It can be really hard for people to see you,” Bravard said, particularly at night due to the lack of lighting.

MIT Dockmaster Stewart Craig notes that he has to stand and wait for a while for cars to stop, and has seen many accidents “where someone stopped for a pedestrian to go across the crosswalk, and then people hit them from behind” because, he said, even if one driver is careful, most are not.

Still, Craig and Mieloszyk feel that drivers cannot be expected to slow down when there is no regulation.

“The way that the flow is engineered just doesn’t give enough incentive for drivers to stop,” said Larson.

Bravard added, “It’s really unfair

to ask a driver to come out of a dark tunnel going 50 mph and have very little space to see someone crossing and make a decision.”

In many cases, the status of the crosswalk isn’t clear even to those who regulate it. According to Craig, an MIT Police officer was under the impression that Memorial Drive was a highway until talking to the state police, who clarified that it is not.

Bravard and Craig suggest reflective flashers, walk lights, and indicators to improve drivers’ awareness of pedestrian presence. Charles also recommends “a dedicated pedestrian walking light where it stops the traffic” or a motion-activated light, which he said has been successfully implemented on Binney Street. Charles wants the focus to be on forcing cars to stop, as he often sees cars speed-

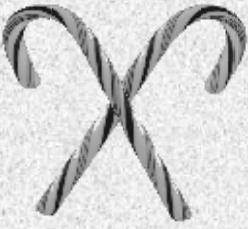
ing up to threaten pedestrians into not crossing. Larson recommends speed bumps or a similar physical speed deterrent.

All interviewees encouraged students to be watchful, make eye contact with drivers, and confirm that they are ready to stop. Bravard believes that “people need to be ultra careful, but even the ultra careful can get hit here.” She also encouraged the MIT community to sign the petition, which currently has 2,167 signatures and is aiming for 3,000. The MIT administration has begun updating her on their progress regarding Memorial Drive safety, which she considers to be a positive sign.

Several pedestrians both in and beyond the MIT community have been seriously injured or killed along Memorial Drive in the past. An MIT student, Michele Miche-

letti ’00, died in 1997 when she tried to cross Memorial Drive behind New House. After her death, a campaign was led by Ceani Guevara ’99 to improve pedestrian safety. However, since most of the resulting changes were unlit crosswalks, Guevara worried that pedestrians would develop a false sense of security, according to the MIT News Office.

In 2000, many zebra crossings were painted and traffic lights put in for the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive, significantly decreasing accidents, according to Ovadia R. Simha ’57, a faculty member in the Urban Planning department and former Director of Planning for MIT. Simha added that \$20 million for safety and other improvements on Memorial Drive was approved recently by the state.



Operation Christmas Child





Packing Party

Sat. Nov. 16. 5-9 pm
W20-3XX (Mezz Lounge)

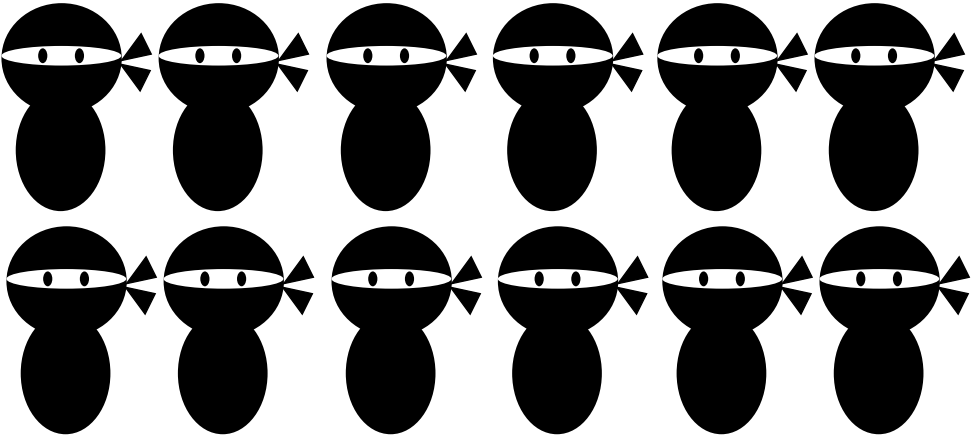
Booth

Nov. 3, 5, 12, 14
Lobby 10

More info:
bsf-occ@mit.edu



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Phone scammers target MIT community

Dozens of members of the MIT community reported being victims of phone scams last week, in which they received seemingly legitimate calls from local police departments demanding money.

The scammers often impersonated law enforcement officers from the State Police or the Lexington Police Department and verbally intimidated recipients to pay back taxes, although MIT police say that none of the victims seem to have handed over money. It is suspected that the callers obtained the names and contact information of community members through the MIT online directory, which is publicly available.

The fraudulent callers used a technique known as “caller ID spoofing,” which can easily be done through service providers or with online software. Caller ID spoofing is illegal in most cases except when used by law enforcement and authorized by the court.

These cases are not confined to MIT’s campus. According to the MIT News Office, IS&T employees have identified several other institutions where similar scams are occurring. In Worcester County last month, at least two victims of an Internal Revenue Service phone spoof paid out more than \$10,000.

—Ray Wang



ALEXANDER C. BOST—THE TECH

The Harvard South Asian Dance Company performs during Tamasha, a cultural showcase presented by the MIT South Asian Association of Students, on Friday night in Lobdell. The show also included dance performances by MIT Bhangra, MIT Natya, and MIT Chamak and a vocal performance by the MIT Ohms.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

A young girl learns how to DJ at the sound technology exhibit at Girls Day on Saturday at the MIT Museum. The event featured nine hands-on exhibits geared toward young women interested in careers in science and engineering.



KENTO MASUYAMA—THE TECH

Comedian Michael Somerville performs in front of an audience at 10-250 on Saturday. The event, which featured teasing jabs at MIT as well as humorous remarks about his relationships with women, was hosted by the de Florez Fund for Humor and the Mechanical Engineering Naval Construction & Engineering Program.



What: Company Presentation
When: November 19th , 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Room: 3-133
Pizza & Beverages will be served

Founded:
1851
Headquarters:
Corning, New York
Employees:
34,000 worldwide
2014 Sales:
On track for \$10B
Fortune 500 Rank (2013): 343

Shape Your Future

Wednesday November 19th at 6:00 pm in room 3-133

Speakers
David Morse - MIT Alum – Chief Technology Officer
Jeffrey Evenson – MIT Alum - Sr. V.P & Operations Chief of Staff

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Next Haunt

The Next House Escape the Room Challenge

For two weekends starting on Halloween, 52 teams of up to six people attempted to beat the Next Haunt puzzle challenge/haunted house located on the first floor of Next House. Teams were given 20 minutes to progress through three rooms and escape the two-story house before being eaten by zombies. Of the 52 teams, only 15 were able to successfully solve the puzzles and escape the house before their 20 minutes were up.

- 1. The ceiling of the second room of the haunted house, where teams had to unlock a zombie-filled cabinet in order to get to the next room.
- 2. The control room where Next Haunt operators monitored the status of teams as they went through the house via infrared camera.
- 3. A team celebrates successfully making it out of the haunted house.
- 4. A blood-stained zombie watches the progress of a team through the haunted house.



FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Newbury Street shutdown

Starting a discussion on race at MIT

By Alyssa Napier

Where Newbury Street becomes the Boston Public Gardens, a large crowd of people of various ethnicities, genders, nationalities, colors, and ages began to march. To the brunch-eaters who paused mid-bite of quiche to try to make out what we were chanting; to the annoyed trio of girls whose path to Urban Outfitters we blocked with the incessant stream of bodies; to the tourists trapped between a fence and our anger with no choice but to hear our message: I do not apologize.

Since August 9, when a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri killed an unarmed teenager, I have argued with people who use the marijuana in his system, the angle of the bullets in his body, and the bagginess of his pants as justifications for why Michael Brown deserved to die. I have no idea how to convey what seems like an obvious point to me: regardless of the picayune details, a child was murdered. Eventually, I stopped trying to have conversations about this issue, because having to constantly prove that his life matters only says to me that by default his life *does not* matter. To know that the dehumanization of Michael Brown in the media may cause people to think that his killer was justified in his actions makes me want to cry. To avoid tears of frustration, I kept silent.

Until Saturday. On Saturday, I was able to scream until my voice was hoarse. On signs thrust into the air by the crowd surrounding and supporting me were words that I had previously only been able to say to my journal: “WHITE SILENCE = POLICE VIOLENCE. DON’T FIRE BULLETS, FIRE DARREN WILSON. STOP KILLING US.”

The organizers of the Newbury Street Shutdown, from a group called Black Lives Matter Boston, planted the seeds of inspiring chants among the group. I shouted, “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” I roared, “They think it’s a game; they think it’s a joke.” I declared, “We want freedom!” Because in this system, where a Black life can be lost, besmirched, then forgotten, we do not have freedom. With me were a hundred other voices in agreement that what happened in Ferguson is indicative of a society that does not care about Black lives.

This narrative of police brutality against innocent Black lives is not new. A little over two years ago, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was chased through the streets by a neighborhood watchman. He did not make it home. On August 5 of this year, police officers, called to the scene by shoppers, shot 22-year-old John Crawford in a Wal-Mart. He looked threatening because he was carrying a gun, which turned out to be just a toy. His last words were “It’s not real.”

Last year, 24-year-old Jonathan Ferrell sought help at a nearby home after a car accident. The police were called and immediately began firing. Ten bullet wounds killed him. His hands were up, but he was still seen as a threat. In a similar situation, Renisha McBride, 19, knocked on the door of a home in Detroit after an accident only to be killed by a single shot through the screen door. The judge who sentenced McBride’s killer said, “I do not believe... that this case had anything to do with race. I do believe that you acted out of fear, but an unjustified fear has never been an excuse for taking someone’s life.”

The problem with that statement is that the “fear” the judge mentioned has everything to do with race. In this segregated country where the

majority can go decades without interacting with people of color except through media caricatures, Black people are not individuals. We are an oversexualized, less-intelligent, lazy, and *dangerous* stereotype. When Black people, feared and suspicious, are seen by reflex as the enemy, it is very easy for defense to become offense.

And when a Black life is taken, the media makes sure its audience understands that a *Black* life was taken. A thug who earlier in the day stole from a convenience store, who had marijuana in his system, who was physically abusive to the police officer, who could have just allowed the police officer to stop him and avoided this whole mess if he had been smart and cooperative enough, who may have been going to college next year, but it was only a community college.

By slanting their portrayal of the facts this way, the media and the police force in Ferguson, Missouri want you to get lost in irrelevant details so that you are assuaged into thinking that a child’s life was a life worth losing. When you hear “Black male,” you think “Black stereotype,” you think, “He was probably doing something wrong,” and the status quo can continue. When I hear “Black male,” I think, “my brothers,” and I’m scared because I can’t protect them from those who dehumanize them.

My frustration comes from the fact that I don’t know how to convey what seems so intuitively obvious. I can see the humanity of people regardless of the statistical truths of their situation, but others use their statistical truths to explain why they deserved to die. I don’t know what makes a life worthy, if it is not that they are human.

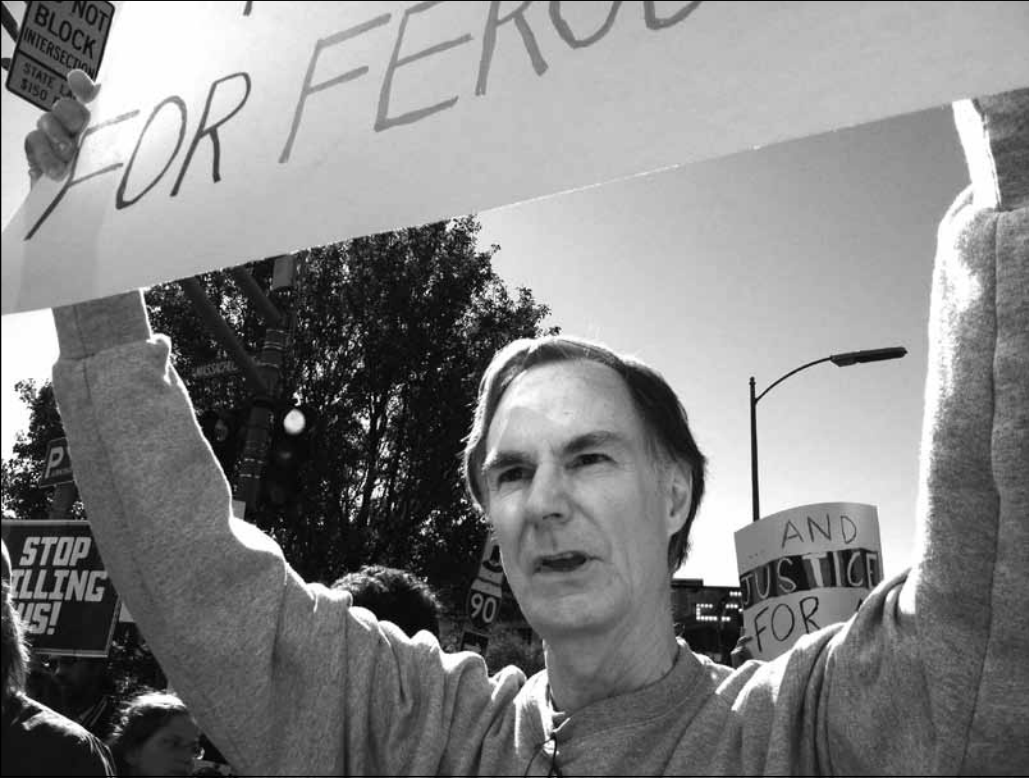
So I withdraw to places and groups where I do not have to prove my and Michael Brown’s worth as an individual. On Saturday, a large group of members of the MIT community, including students, professors, and alumni, gathered in the Black Students’ Union (BSU) Lounge to travel to the march together. There, we were able to have a healthy discussion about the role that race plays in our lives. Our experiences ranged from micro-aggressions, to blatant racial slurs, to subtle systematic and institutional racism.

In the BSU Lounge, I can talk about race both with people of color and with White people without our being in opposition with each other. MIT as a whole, however, is not a safe place for this discussion. MIT is silent about race because we like to perceive ourselves as a complete meritocracy that is above discrimination.

This ignorance suffocates me when I can’t talk about how it feels to be Black because very few people are comfortable having this conversation. My feelings are dismissed as being as outdated as the Emancipation Proclamation, and my experiences are chalked up to “always making things about race.” These injustices build up within me, until I find outlets in BSU events or public demonstrations held by people who are just as fed up.

So on Saturday morning, I unapologetically pressed my sign against the windows of restaurants. I chanted to the rhythm of the band that accompanied us. And I will continue to make noise until I am no longer afraid of seeking help because an ingrained fear of my race prevents empathy for me as an individual.

As we held hands in a circle at the end of the march, we cried out: “It is our duty to fight for freedom. It is our duty to win. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”



ALYSSA NAPIER

Institute Community and Equity Officer and physics professor Edmund Bertschinger was part of the Newbury Street Shutdown march on Oct. 25.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON REFLECTIONS

The universe in a nutshell

Disclaimer: read with a robust sense of humor

By Minh-Tue Vo

To be or not to be, that is the question.
The question is not the question. The gate is not the gate.

To find the way, one must not look.
To see, one’s eyes must close.
To hear, one must observe in silence.

To see inward, one looks outward.
To see outward, one looks inside.

The mirror on the wall speaks the truth.
It is only falsehood that you hear.

To understand the world, one must abandon understanding.
To be free, one must be disciplined.
To be disciplined, one must be joyful.
To be joyful, one must abandon disciplines.

There are ten thousand ways; there is only one way.
The wisest man knows nothing.
The stupid man knows everything.

Mahatma was neither a fool nor a saint.
He was a seasoned politician.

A penny saved is a penny not lost.
Save a life, save the world entire.

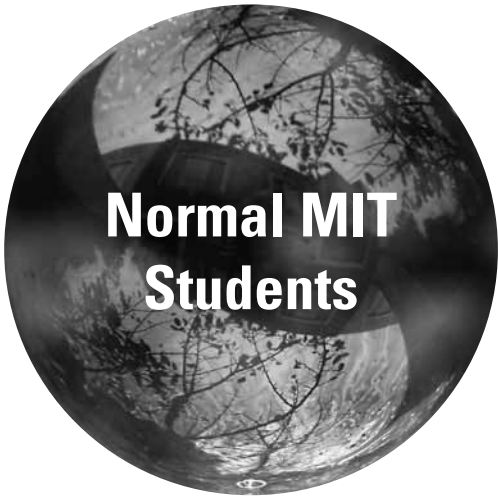
You have an infinity of time.
But there is only the now.

This is the best of time, this is the worst of time.
This is the epoch of darkness. This is the age of enlightenment.

There is a universe in a mustard seed.
Inside the mustard seed, there is only emptiness.

He who writes this attempts to confuse you with dichotomy.
Whoever reads this creates understanding for themselves.

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Solution to Border Crossings

from page 6

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FENCE	STRADD	RLERS
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	PEARS	AYN
COST	LUAUS	GARB
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BARRIER	ISLANDS	
AWE	AMASS	ORION
LAWS	ETHER	TONS
	ERR	EXILE
TRELLIS	FOREST	
WALLSTREET	FIRMS	
OGLE	UTIL	TAGUP
SEER	SANK	SLOGS

Solution to Double Change

from page 7

PANDA	PHIL	AMFM
ONEAM	RUDE	LORE
STAMP	COLLECTION	
HERS	EBAY	PESTS
	FOES	MARTHA
LATTES	PASSE	
AWAIT	PAUL	NBA
MAKEA	CONNECTION	
EYE	ARTS	RUNIN
	ALIST	JUGGLE
MARACA	COAX	
ELITE	BIGD	UMPS
SIGHT	CORRECTION	
ACHE	ONCE	BALSA
SETS	PEAS	SHEEP

Solution to Sudoku I

from page 5

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

Solution to Techdoku I

from page 5

2	1	3	6	4	5
3	2	4	1	5	6
4	3	5	2	6	1
1	6	2	5	3	4
5	4	6	3	1	2
6	5	1	4	2	3

Solution to Sudoku II

from page 7

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

Solution to Techdoku II

from page 7

5	1	6	4	2	3
2	4	3	1	5	6
1	3	2	6	4	5
4	6	5	3	1	2
3	5	4	2	6	1
6	2	1	5	3	4

Solution to Sudoku III

from page 7

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

Solution to Techdoku III

from page 7

6	1	3	4	5	2
3	4	6	1	2	5
1	2	4	5	6	3
4	5	1	2	3	6
5	6	2	3	4	1
2	3	5	6	1	4

A sampling of people you'll meet during a typical dinner at The Tech:

Derek, Course 1

Kath, Course 2

Esme, Course 3

Dohyun, Course 4

Vivian, Course 5

Austin, Course 6

Kali, Course 7

Will, Course 8

Jess, Course 9

Joyce, Course 10

Vince, Course 12

Anthony, Course 14

Maggie, Course 15

Chris, Course 16

Anne, Course 17

Leon, Course 18

Jack, Course 19

Tushar, Course 20

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Keith, Course 22

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Members of Seamless speak out about presentation

Buduma claims limited involvement in project; HackMIT says team not found ‘guilty’

HackMIT, from Page 1

which could take videos processed with Microsoft Research’s algorithm and selectively render certain parts of them. He said an iOS gallery of Microsoft Research’s videos was also part of the presentation.

Though Webster said they also tried to make an end-to-end implementation of the Microsoft Research algorithm capable of making short videos into seamless loops, both he and Kwok indicated to *The Tech* that they did not successfully generate such loops using their own code during the hackathon.

“Backstage, I voiced concern about correctly attributing everything, and we decided as a team that we would do so, but in this regard the presentation went very poorly,” Webster wrote.

“When we presented, we were just going to be like, ‘And this is what it might look like if your photos were moving,’ but I guess it morphed from an explanation into graph cuts to an explanation of the algorithm,” Webster said. “And then on stage, [it turned into] ‘this was our algorithm...’”

Webster said, “If we had really wanted to be cheaters, we could have just produced our own videos with the implementation that is freely downloadable from the website. Again, we weren’t trying to say that we made those.”

“I guess it’s probably a bad assumption for us to have made — an assumption that we made is that ‘isn’t it obvious that we didn’t make that?’” Webster added, referring to the looping videos.

There are two rounds of judging at HackMIT before the final round. Webster said that the pitches he made in the initial rounds of judging were very different from the final presentation and said he had made clear at that time that the videos were not produced by Seamless.

TechX associate director Ankush M. Gupta ’16 said he was among the judges who judged Seamless in one of the two rounds before final judging. “Their presentation from the initial round of judging and the final round of judging was actually quite different. In the initial round of judging, Kevin and Guillermo were the two people presenting it. They presented... here is a sample input, here is what the output would be. They cited the Microsoft paper,” and then demonstrated the web-based component of the project, he said.

During the final presentation, Buduma spoke the most, while Webster and Kwok contributed only minor explanations about their project.

“During our actual presentation, I was mostly oblivious,” Kwok wrote in a statement to *The Tech*. “We had mentioned the [Microsoft Research] paper, but failed to clearly articulate that their example data was simply used to showcase the video loop viewers.”

According to Kwok, during the final presentation, “There were phrases which seemed to be liable to misinterpretation, but I felt they were all within the bounds of true. It wasn’t until afterward, talking to Guillermo, that I began to realize the misleadingness of the sum of it all, and I began to feel uncomfortable with what we had done.”

Webster said that he realized

that the audience overestimated the extent of Seamless’ contribution immediately after the presentation, when a judge implied that she thought the team had implemented a system to add motion to still images. “The first question we were asked by the judges made it clear that we were not being judged for what we accomplished,” he said. “[The first judge] clearly thought that not only were the videos ours, but that the algorithm was ours, and that it could work magic.”

Webster said the pitches made in the initial rounds were different from the final presentation.

However, in response to the first judge’s question, Buduma said, “Let’s say you were at Disneyland taking a picture with your family and people are moving past you or behind you. This algorithm would actually operate on that and remove the person in the first place. So here’s an example... if you look at the result of our algorithm, [the dancing person] gets removed,” while referring to a looping video displayed on-screen.

According to Gupta, the members of Seamless “did not explicitly come forward to HackMIT as an organization” after their presentation. “Personally, I felt bad enough that I had planned on donating the money to charity when I got it,” Webster said.

Kwok wrote, “To be honest, it felt like good closure when we agreed to step down from second place. Even though it was all an honest misunderstanding, the fact that our descriptions were ambiguous enough to leave that up to interpretation was unacceptable, and for that I am personally sorry.”

None of the members of Seamless commented for the initial article in *The Tech* about the matter. Webster said the team members initially decided to ignore interview requests in the hopes that “maybe if we ignore it, it’ll go away.” Many comments were left on the original *Tech* article, some proclaiming the presentation to be completely faultless while others accusing the members of intentional deception.

Seamless Member Roles

After the first *Tech* article was published, Buduma sent in a statement distancing himself from his teammates, saying that he had no involvement in the team’s attempt to implement Microsoft Research’s algorithm. He also posted similar statements on a public Facebook page and in a named comment on the original *Tech* article, adding that he felt the original article “framed [him] as complicit” and that he experienced “harassment” and “blackmail” when asked for comment by a reporter for *The Tech*.

In his statement, he wrote, “I had zero involvement in building the ‘magical’ back-end of project (which could be easily confirmed by the HackMIT team by taking a look at the Git repository and revision history) and... I was not involved in any misconduct that might have occurred.”

The team’s Git repository indicates that Buduma did commit back-end code as part of the team’s attempt to implement Microsoft’s algorithm, which seemed at odds with his statement that he only worked on a front-end interface for the videos.

“As can be verified in the Git logs, Nikhil did commit at least once to the MATLAB code, of which the C++ code is a direct port,” said Webster. “He wrote the function spatula, which is the spatial energy function,” he said, referring to an aspect of the video processing algorithm the team attempted to implement.

Kwok said, “For the first few hours of the hackathon, Guillermo and Nikhil worked on porting the energy functions specified in the paper into MATLAB, as we had found bindings for a graph cut optimization library.”

Buduma also stated, “[Webster and Kwok] just needed me to do a bit of front-end work and help them pitch.” In an interview with *The Tech*, however, Webster expressed some concerns with Buduma’s account.

“I personally didn’t ask for help with pitching the project at the beginning of HackMIT, and it was my impression that we had recruited Nikhil to help with the project in general, especially given that we had started working on the algorithm together,” said Webster. “I’m not sure what interactions Kevin and Nikhil had without my knowledge.” Kwok had pitched a HackMIT project himself the previous year with Webster, now called Project Naptha, and won second.

Buduma wrote, “If I had known that there was something fishy about their work, I would have never agreed to be a part of it.”

Webster said all of the team members knew that the videos were taken from Microsoft’s page. In the video of their final presentation, Buduma refers to the Microsoft videos as the results of “our algorithm” multiple times.

The HackMIT organizers said they did not know what information Buduma had or did not have about the team’s project during the competition and therefore couldn’t confirm or deny his claim that he knew less about the internal workings of the project than his teammates.

HackMIT responds

The Tech had previously reported that HackMIT organizers had conducted a hearing with members of Seamless. Siegel had previously stated that they had decided to step down without being “incriminated or found guilty of anything.”

When asked why Seamless didn’t demonstrate the functionality of their implementation in the hearing, Gupta said, “It is a multiple-hour-long process to generate the videos, which is part of the reason they explained for why they had to use Microsoft’s videos instead of their own.”

HackMIT co-director Katie Siegel ’16 said that during the hearing with herself and Gupta, Seamless team members demonstrated the functionality of parts of their code. “They did implement, and we saw that they implemented... all the parts of the algorithm that were necessary to generate the output,”

she said.

But Siegel also said that she had not seen an end-to-end run of Seamless’s code, i.e. a non-looping video processed and turned into a looping video.

Webster said that he had never successfully run the code end-to-end until he modified the code from the hackathon recently. He said that this past weekend, “I changed some stuff, fixed some errors,” adding that with the modifications “it worked and it took 8 hours.”

Kwok told *The Tech*, “Toward the end of the hackathon, we managed to get C++ code to a state where a subset of the optimization could be run. We noticed that it was extremely slow, taking about a minute to run on a single candidate period, a task that needs to be run several hundred times before a single video loop can be generated.” He added, “On top of that, we weren’t even sure the data was formatted correctly.”

According to Gupta, the investigation concluded before the full functionality of that implementation could be determined. “Essentially our investigation concluded once we reached our mutual conclusion that the prize would not be awarded to them,” he said.

Webster said that all of the team members knew that the videos were taken from Microsoft’s page.

“We did not find them guilty through... verifying or not verifying that the code [worked],” Siegel said.

It was unclear from the organizers’ statements in the interview how the outcome of the hearing would have changed if Seamless had produced a fully functional implementation during the meeting. After their interview, the organizers emailed *The Tech* asserting that the state of the code’s functionality did not affect their decision to make Seamless ineligible for prizes.

Fellow HackMIT organizer Richard Z. Ni ’15, Gupta, and Siegel sought to draw a distinction between declaring the team “guilty” of “plagiarism” and allowing them to “step down” as a result of a “misrepresentation.” They further distanced themselves from a HackMIT blog post that said that they “disqualified” the hacks of two teams at the competition.

Ni said that Seamless not receiving the second place prize was part of a “mutual decision.” Siegel said that based on the hearing, “We decided that there was not enough evidence to find them guilty, and we talked about it a little bit more and they decided that instead of going on and digging further into the code... they were just going to step down because of the misrepresentation we discussed during the meeting that we had.”

While Ni said, “We technically didn’t disqualify them because they agreed to step down,” there is no such distinction in the HackMIT rules, nor any set procedure for dealing with alleged rule violations.

Of the blog post, Siegel said, “I don’t think at the time we thought

too closely about the exact word ‘disqualification,’” adding that it was written by a member of the development operations team rather than those involved in the hearing.

Siegel suggested that “disqualification” was referenced in the blog post because Seamless was “lumped in” with AgileAssault, another project that was made ineligible for prizes by the organizers and which she did say was “disqualified” by HackMIT. But from Siegel’s description of the process used to remove AgileAssault from competition, the difference between disqualification and stepping down remained unclear.

“We did not investigate thoroughly,” she said, in reference to AgileAssault. She said she approached the project’s creator with the information that organizers of another hackathon said that he had recently presented a very similar project at a previous hackathon, while HackMIT only allows projects created entirely during the competition. Though the creator agreed, he defended himself by saying that it was a re-implementation of a previous concept with new code. According to Siegel, she said, “I still think that the two projects were too similar and that we can’t give you the prize,’ and he said, ‘Ok, I accept that.”

The organizers also asserted that they did not find the Seamless team members “guilty” of any specific charge, citing a lack of evidence of malicious intent, although the HackMIT rules also do not reflect such a distinction.

Ni said that HackMIT had never described the incident as plagiarism, but after being read the MIT Academic Integrity Handbook definition of plagiarism, he said “I would think that it is plagiarism [by MIT’s] definition... If we didn’t think there was any plagiarism we wouldn’t even have talked to them [about stepping down].”

Siegel said, “The reason why we decided that what they showed us was not conclusive enough to find them guilty was because they didn’t [finish] the end-to-end [implementation]... to the point that they were able to present the change in the Microsoft videos.”

According to Ni, “Guilt’ implies a lot. It implies some sort of moral failure. And for us, we didn’t want to assign any sort of moral failure to their actions.” Gupta also said, “While we agree that they plagiarized, we have no evidence to attribute that to some sort of malicious intent or moral failure on their part. And that is why we... didn’t make a statement that would imply as such.”

Siegel said that only she and Gupta were involved in the investigation and that neither was friends with the members of Seamless. “In fact, all of the HackMIT team members who did know them took a big step away... when it came to reviewing this,” she said.

She also said that investigation was conducted internally because the HackMIT leadership was better positioned to make the decision than those outside the organization, who she said might be less familiar with the structure of the hackathon.

They said they had not made any decisions about whether members of Seamless would be allowed to enter HackMIT in future years.

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```
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DANIEL MIRNY—THE TECH

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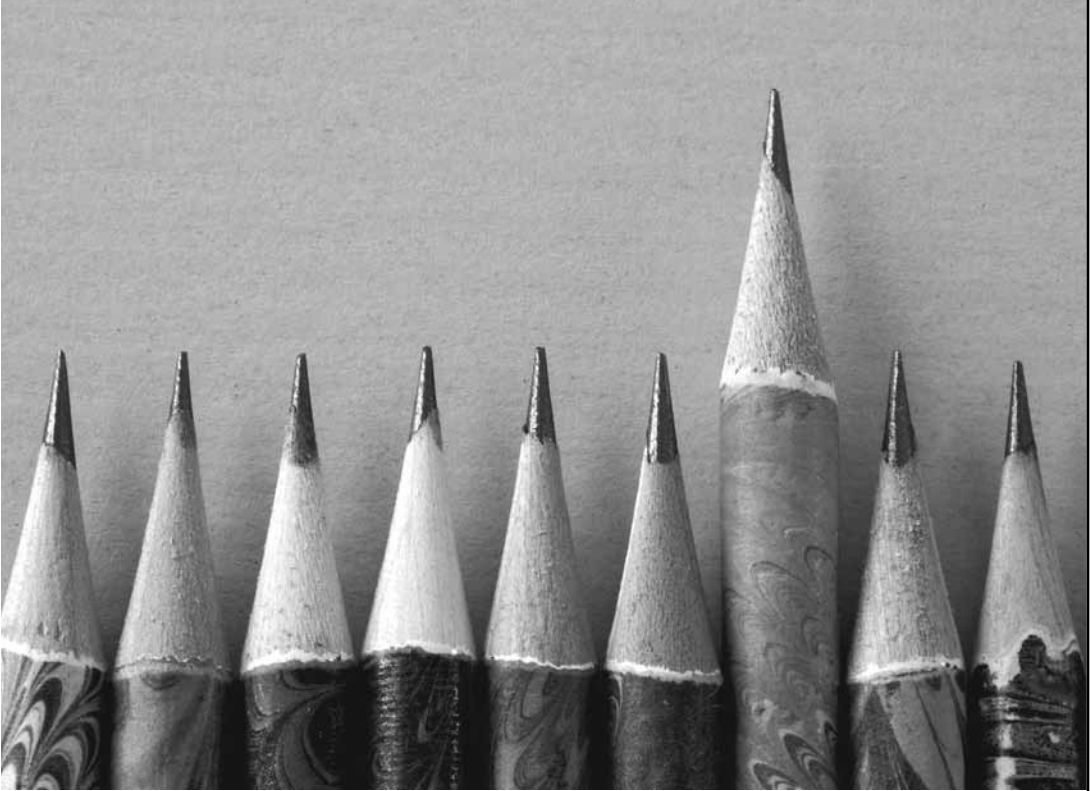
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2.00 Helium Games

Photos by Alexander C. Bost

2.00 students presented their first design project during “The Helium Games” in the first floor of Stata on Wednesday night. Three helium-filled balloons were placed 12’ off the ground inside a 20’ x 25’ zone, which team members could not enter. Teams constructed devices from a limited set of materials and were given five minutes to try and pop the three balloons.

- 1. Andrew R. Berta ‘16 tries to pop a balloon held in place by Morgan K. Moroi ‘16.
- 2. Meredith M. Benson ‘17 uses a makeshift crossbow to pop a balloon.
- 3. Thomas M. Burns ‘17, Emile M. Augustine ‘17, Kelly B. McGee ‘17, and June Kim ‘17 guide a balloon into their device shaped like the head of a beaver.
- 4. Zoe R. Sheinkopf ‘17, Zachary M. Mikaya ‘16, Diego A. Huyke ‘17 and Anna P. Zukowski ‘17 remove the remains of a balloon from their device, “The Viper.”
- 5. Kirsten M. Augdahl ‘16 and Anuj Khandelwal ‘17 prepare to pop a captured balloon.

