

New housemaster welcomed by dorm

Senior House chose housemaster with help of Barnhart, Colombo

By Karia Dibert and Jennifer F. Switzer
STAFF REPORTERS

Professor Jay Scheib, newly appointed housemaster of Senior House, said he's excited to become part of what he calls a "really special place." Registration Day found him and half the house residents eating Chinese takeout on the floor of his then-unfurnished apartment. As per Scheib's request, most were sporting "creative cocktail attire."

"We were going to try to cook for the whole house, which is a very big task, but the snows came, so we ordered Chinese food," said Scheib. He hopes to try cooking for everyone again sometime in the near future.

Scheib's talents extend far beyond the kitchen, however. Author of such plays as *Untitled Mars* and 2012 Off-Broadway Theater Award winner *World of Wires*, he now serves as a professor of Music and Theater Arts and as director of the Program in Theater Arts at MIT.

In his capacity as a director and professor, Scheib interacts daily with many Senior House students, who were instrumental in his de-

cision to apply for the position of housemaster.

"Having been asked by students in the past to apply, that's really what got me thinking about it," said Scheib. "I love the students here at MIT and working in the arts means that I have engagements with the students that last beyond the classroom."

Scheib felt a connection with Senior House early on, even before becoming housemaster. Many of the dorm's residents are his students, and he is friends with many Senior House alumni. "I've always heard about Senior House and I've always felt really close to it," Scheib said.

The housemaster application process included interviews with Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, and a housemaster search committee that included other housemasters and members of the Senior House student government.

After being selected as one of three final candidates, Scheib was interviewed by Senior House residents. He estimates that about 40 students were in attendance. "They all had so

Housemaster, Page 10

Mayor of London visits Boston



SHERRY REN—THE TECH

London Mayor Boris Johnson gave a public lecture on innovation at the British Consulate General in Boston on Monday, Feb. 9. At the event, organized by MIT Innovation Initiative, Johnson spoke about the importance of technological advances and his vision to make London a hub of innovation.

Enrollment figures released for most popular classes

A look at this semester's course enrollment statistics reveals that eight of the 19 undergraduate courses with more than 200 students are in Course 6, MIT's largest undergraduate major. Only two GIRs (the introductory biology class 7.013 and the electromagnetism class 8.02) had that many students.

The largest HASS class, Introduction to Psychological Science, was one of three HASS classes to have more than 200 students. The largest class offering CI-H credit was 21W.789, Communication with Mobile Technology — one of just two such courses with more than fifty students.

—William Navarre

The ten biggest undergrad classes

#	Subject	Title	Students Enrolled
1	8.02	Physics II	643
2	18.03	Differential Equations	544
3	6.01	Introduction to EECS I	408
4	6.033	Computer System Eng.	334
5	6.006	Intro to Algorithms	331
6	6.036	Intro to Machine Learning	321
7	7.013	Introductory Biology	297
8	9.00	Intro to Psych. Science	289
9	18.06	Linear Algebra	279
10	6.005	Software Construction	272

INFOGRAPHIC BY LENNY MARTINEZ

Many, not all, schools closed Tues.

At MIT, excused lateness seen as alternative to shutdown

By Drew Bent and Ray Wang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS

Just over six feet of snow have fallen in Boston these past 18 days, setting new records in terms of both depth and speed, according to Weather.com. MIT was among the many institutions that shut down Monday and Tuesday due to the snowstorm that led Governor Charlie Baker to declare a state of emergency Monday night.

The MIT Student Center (W20) was also closed for all of Tuesday, which is rare for the building, which is normally open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Phillip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex, attributed the move to the "unprecedented weather" and the challenges staff would face getting to work.

As *The Tech* reported last year, the decision to close the Institute in cases of severe weather like this

week's starts with the director of campus services, John DiFava. At least three other MIT officials must agree on the decision before it can take effect.

MIT reopened on Wednesday with an excused lateness policy in effect, ensuring that employees are paid their full wages even if they arrive late. This is often considered an alternative to shutting down the

Snow, Page 9

IN SHORT

The spring meal plan change period ends today, Thursday, Feb. 12. To change your plan, go to: <https://odysseyhms-web.mit.edu/hmswebstudent/>.

No classes will be held on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 16. Tuesday will run on a Monday schedule.

The deadline to submit Minor Completion forms is Friday, Feb. 20 for final-term seniors.

The Class of 2017 Ring Premier will be held in Kresge Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 13. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Students attempt to bury the sculpture "Transparent Horizon" in snow on Tuesday following a record-breaking period of snowfall.

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

When can atrocities of the past be laid to rest?
OPINION, p. 2

THREE YEARS LATER

Registration meetings, then and now.
COMICS, p. 4

A RECORD-BREAKING WINTER

And it's still not over yet.
WEATHER, p. 7



THAT'S AN OSCAR

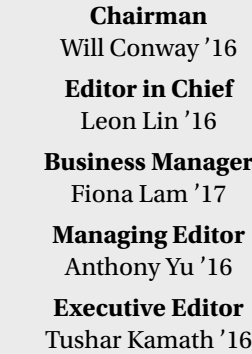
Julianne Moore shines in *Still Alice*. ARTS, p. 6

INTUITIVELY OBVIOUS

A black student gets into MIT.
COMICS, p. 3

SECTIONS

Opinion2
Fun Pages3
Arts6
Weather7
Sports12



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By Suri Bandler

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi concentration camp. In honor of its liberation, Jan. 27 has historically served as International Holocaust Memorial Day. On that day this year, the BBC's *Big Questions* segment posed the following: "Is the time coming to lay the Holocaust to rest?"

I was alarmed to hear this. On a visit to Poland, I personally saw the horrors that were once Auschwitz-Birkenau along with other concentration camps. I grew up with the stories of survivors and was continuously reminded that we must not forget, especially since we are members of the last generation that will personally hear survivors' stories. Most importantly, I learned that remembering is necessary to ensure that anything like the Holocaust cannot and will not ever happen again. This segment on the BBC, however, made me realize that while I was taught about the Holocaust in a proactive sense, many others may have learned about it as a historical event that only pertains to the past.

This train of thought had me contemplating what it would really mean to lay any historical tragedy to rest. Perhaps it would entail moving on from the event and no longer discussing or commemorating it in an official setting. When it comes to the Holocaust, it is troublingly already the case that educational efforts are absent in some parts of the world. According to an international report by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cul-

tural Organization, for example, this is true in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, New Zealand, Iceland, and many other countries.

Some might argue that by now it is time to forgive and cautiously forget — perhaps to ensure that the Holocaust and other historical tragedies do not distract the public from current atrocities. But this is exactly why these historical tragedies should never be laid to rest. With the massive influx of information in today's culture, people's attention spans are short-lived and inevitably jump from one outrage to another. It becomes difficult to process all of the information available, let alone analyze and respond to each event. But focusing on history together with current events creates a lens through which we can process what is going on around us both locally and globally. This is why the past, rather than distracting us from the present, gives us a means through which to both understand what is happening in our world today and to actively affect it.

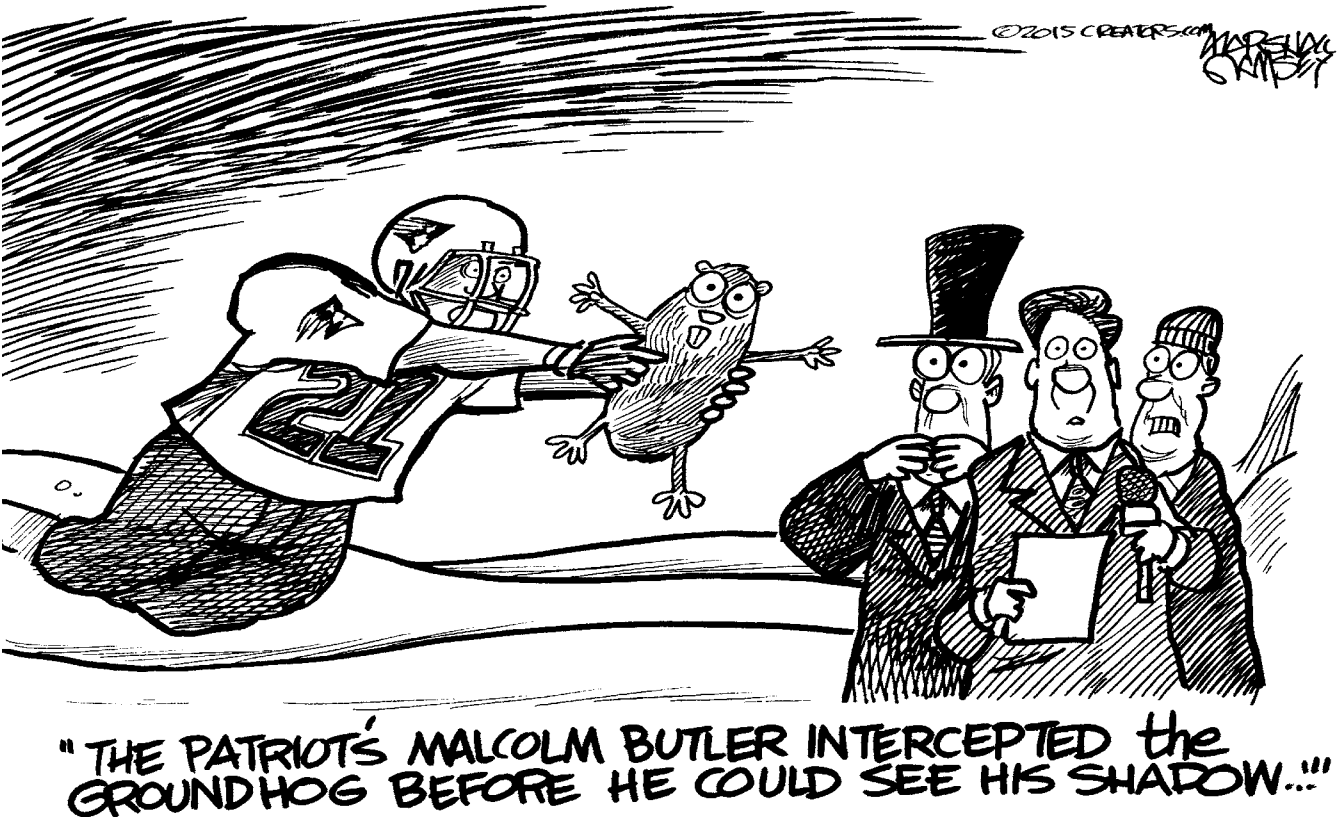
Why, then, is history class not enough? Why should society bother with actively commemorating the past through international days of commemoration, ceremonies, and projects? Most educational researchers agree that the best way to both learn and remember is by combining “seeing, doing, and discussing.” It is the *discussion* of the connection between past, present, and future that will allow us to remember and apply history to our daily lives. It is *seeing* our government officials and local leaders actively participating in ceremonies that will set an example. And it is *doing* projects in

memory of such tragedies that will help us develop a society that is conscious of what is at stake when some do not respect the rights of others to exist. The truth is that in order to ensure that our history has a continual impact on our actions and decision-making processes, we can never allow the past to be laid to rest.

Today, as news spreads through social media and the Internet, more and more voices can be heard and acknowledged. People can be informed, outraged, and then triggered to respond to tragedies that happen throughout the world. All of this means that there is greater accessibility to lessons about developing our own societies and ways of life. Perhaps growth can accelerate, but this won't be possible without active commemoration. If we just "lay things to rest," the passage of time and overload of information may cause people to become desensitized to the horrors that have transpired in our past. They may no longer be able to stand up and prevent the same mistakes from happening again. If something as monumental as the Holocaust — the largest genocide of the 20th century, perpetrated by the leader of a nation that was viewed as the center of culture and advancement — can be laid to rest, what are the implications for smaller-scaled but deeply important events such as the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre?

After all, as George Santayana famously said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Suri Bandler is a member of the Class of 2017.



The headline on a Feb. 3 article in *The Tech* incorrectly stated that a climate action ‘plan’ would be submitted to President L. Rafael Reif by commencement. In fact, a ‘report’ is expected to be released to the community at that time.

Community feedback on the report will inform the creation of a 'plan.'

An article published Feb. 6 about early sophomore standing incorrectly stated that students need to have completed 96 units to be eligible, when in fact the process for determining eligibility takes into account more than just a defined number of units.

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Will Conway, Editor in Chief Leon Lin, Managing Editor Anthony Yu, Executive Editor Tushar Kamath, and Opinion Editor Claire Lazar.

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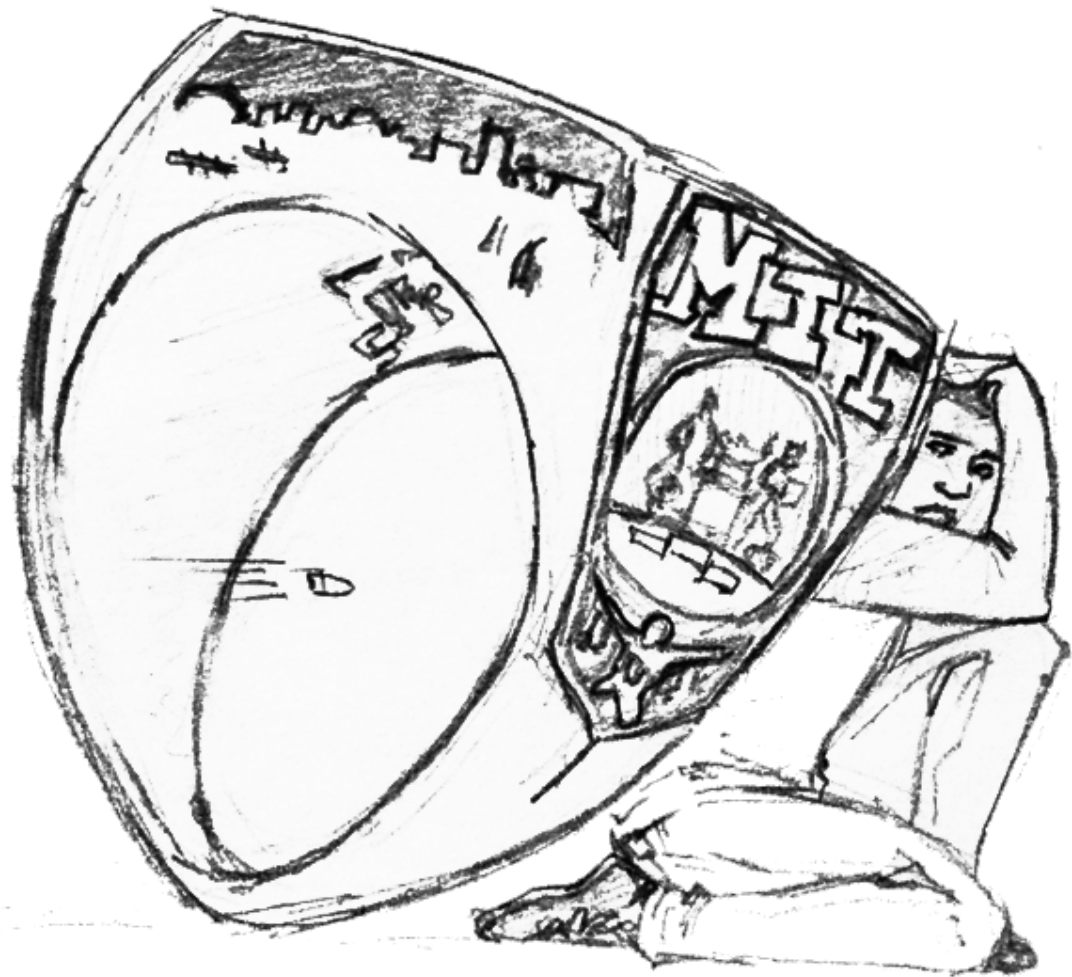
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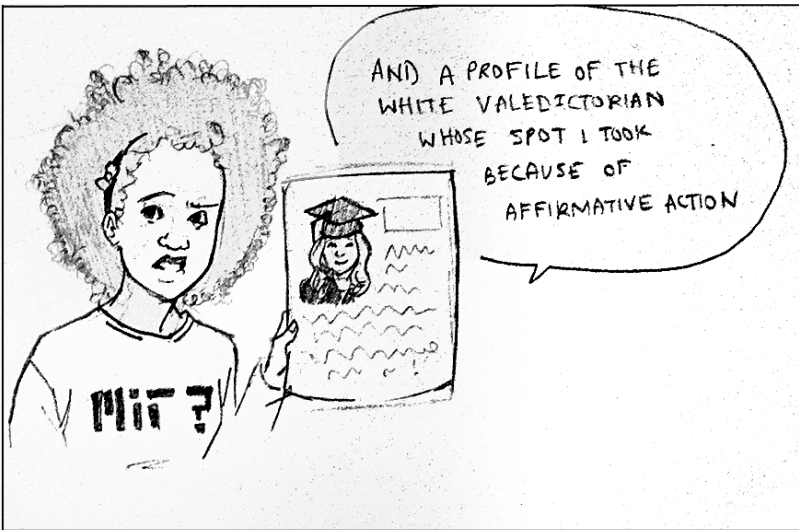
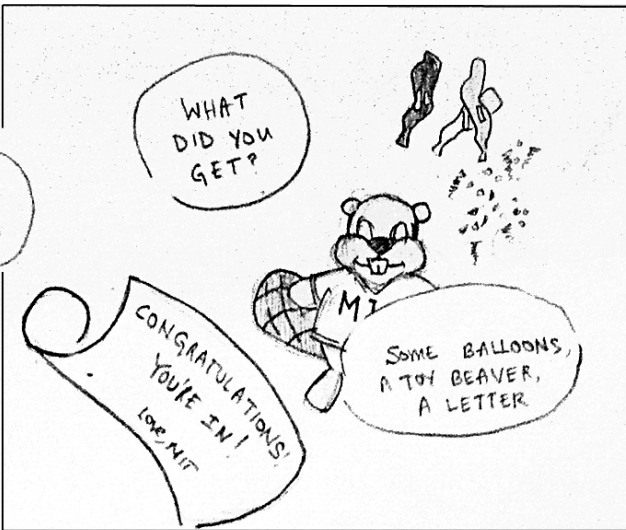
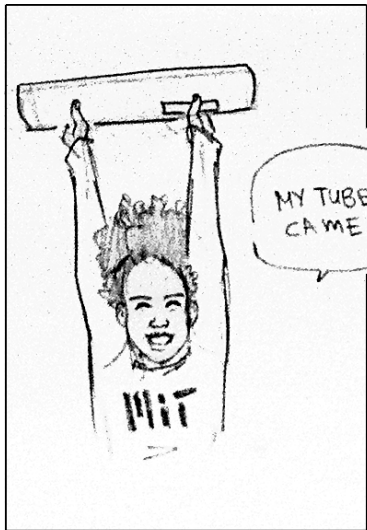
Brass Shield by Alyssa M. Napier



“Education is not a shield; bullets go right through it.”

—Professor Wesley Harris, MIT

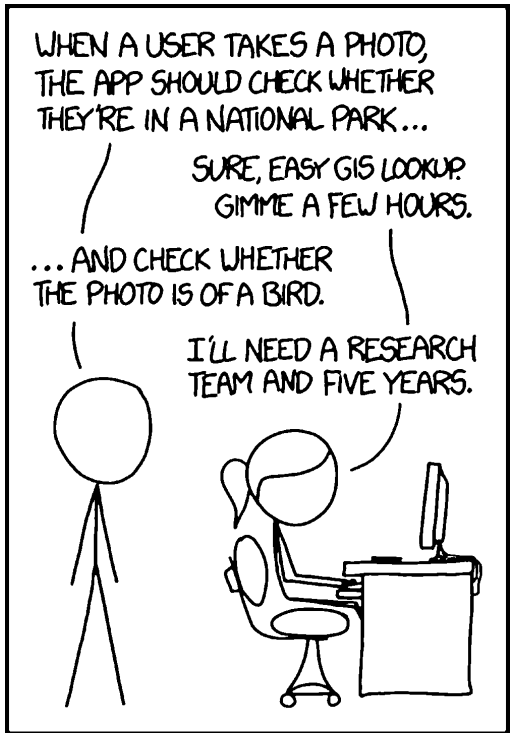
Imposter Syndrome by Alyssa M. Napier



In the 60s, Marvin Minsky assigned a couple of undergrads to spend the summer programming a computer to use a camera to identify objects in a scene. He figured they'd have the problem solved by the end of the summer. Half a century later, we're still working on it.

**A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE,
SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE**
by Randall Munroe

[1425] Tasks



IN CS, IT CAN BE HARD TO EXPLAIN
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EASY
AND THE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

High Spots by Bruce Venzke

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

- 1 They're charged in physics
- 5 Easy task
- 9 Stadium walkways
- 14 Bit of wit
- 15 Aesopian animal
- 16 Onetime At the Movies
cohost
- 17 Setting
- 18 Conclusion introducer
- 19 Conversation piece
- 20 Optimal shape
- 23 Tad
- 25 Opposite of da
- 26 Taste
- 27 Lobbying org.
- 28 Half-square shape
- 30 Vigor
- 32 Little Miss Sunshine Oscar
winner
- 34 Skeptical comment
- 37 Ultimate
- 41 Oral-care product turning 60
this year
- 44 Literary governess
- 45 Wraps up

- 46 Print-shop gadget
47 Massachusetts state tree
49 Babble
51 Gandalf portrayer's first
name
52 Prefix for school or screen
55 October birthstone
58 Resounding slaps
60 Presidential diplomacy
63 Roughly
64 Resurface, perhaps
65 Mailbox part
68 Line on a jacket
69 Tech-support client
70 Successor of the mark
71 Evince disdain
72 Ivy League school, for short
73 Chile con carne, for
instance

DOWN

- 1 Measures of brightness:
Abbr.
- 2 Alsace affirmative
- 3 Fussy fellow
- 4 Swiftmess

- 5 Israeli coin
6 Certain undercover cop
7 About 1 % of the atmosphere
8 Showy flower
9 Say from memory
10 Be beside
11 Have coming
12 Earlier offense
13 Unemotional
21 Deal maker
22 Profundity
23 Place to park
24 Bring together
29 Griffin, in part
31 Word following floor or
pension
33 "Say no more"
35 Physique, so to speak
36 Handicraft website
38 Inviting to dinner
39 Grilling candidate
40 Migratory birds
42 Tantalize
43 Swedish girl of kid lit
48 Mill around
50 Behind a Boeing

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71						72					73			

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 52 Exams for some juniors | 59 The longest range |
| 53 Clinton Treasury secretary | 61 Symbol of stubbornness |
| 54 Be overtheatrical | 62 All square |
| 56 Intensify | 66 Valuable rock |
| 57 Office equipment contract | 67 Ruckus |



by Steve Sullivan

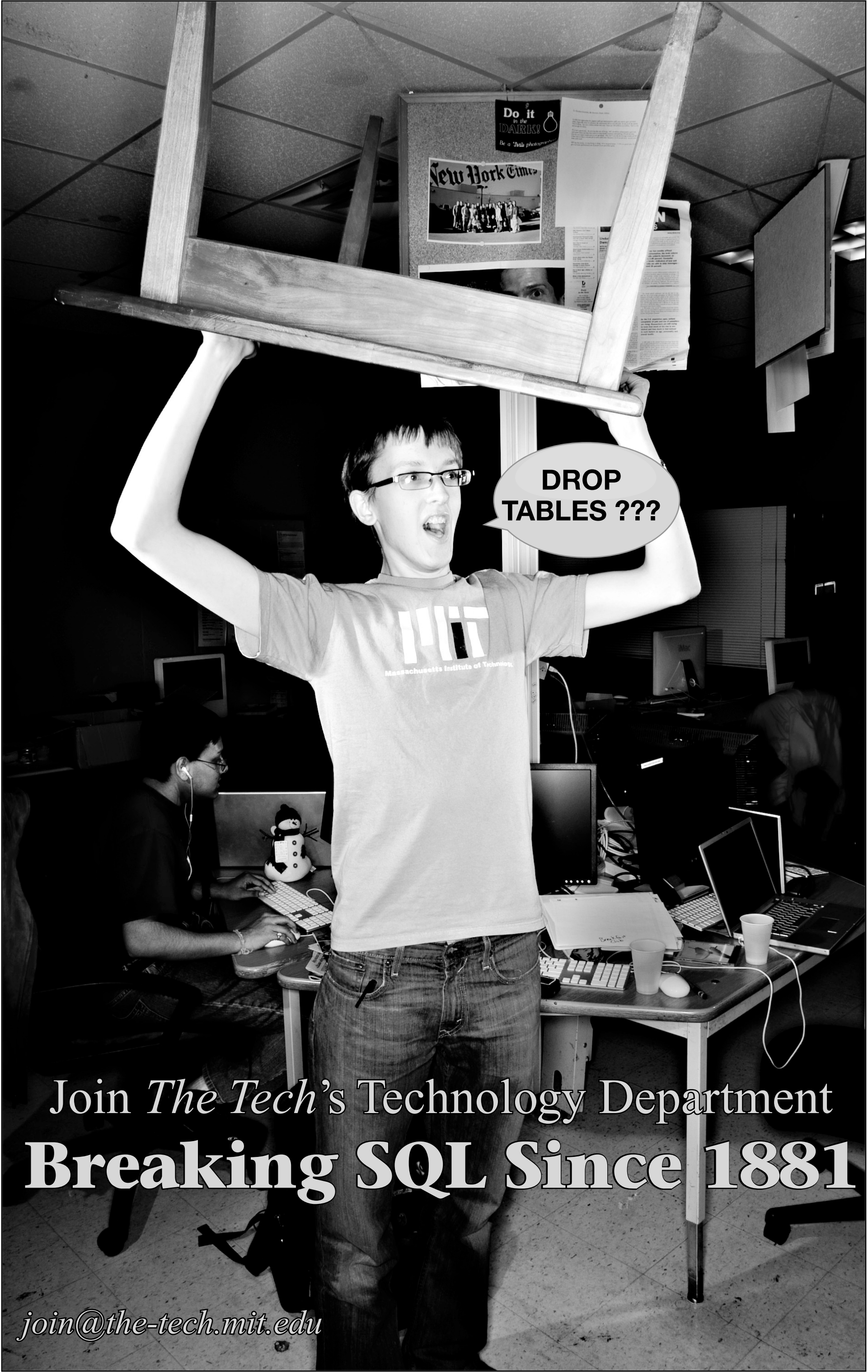


REGISTRATION MEETINGS, FRESHMAN YEAR



BY ERIKA TRENT





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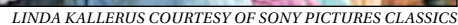
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Julianne Moore shines in *Still Alice*

By Ariel Schwartzman
STAFF WRITER

For the most part, Glatzer and Westmoreland's film is a fairly close adaptation of Lisa Genova's novel. The directors, who also wrote the screenplay, introduce some minor differences to their advantage. For instance, the book has Alice working at Harvard and living in Cambridge, as opposed to New York City where the film takes place. The novel is set in 2004, whereas the film takes place in the present. This allows Glatzer and Westmoreland to incorporate more technology into Alice's life. As the disease evolves, she becomes dependent on her phone and lap-

But the main performance of the film comes from Julianne Moore who shows, once more, that she is one of the best actresses of her generation. We see her progression from a confident and resourceful speaker to a mother who can barely find the words to express herself. Slowly, she becomes unable to do the things she once



Julianne Moore as the title character Alice in *Still Alice*.

Moore has already earned numerous recognitions for her performance. She's won every major award leading up to the BAFTAs and, after five nominations, she will likely take home the big statue come Oscar night.

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WEATHER

Historic snowfall will not abate

By Vince Agard
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The greater Boston area has experienced record-setting snow over the past three weeks, and snowfall will continue at least through the weekend.

The 2015 winter has seen Boston's snowiest 14-day and 30-day periods on record. Since Jan. 24, over 70 inches (180 cm) of snow have been recorded at Logan Airport. Nearly all of it is still on the ground. The storms of Jan. 27 and Feb. 9 yielded the sixth and seventh greatest snowfall totals in Boston's recorded history, with accumulations of 24.6 and 23.8 inches, respectively. It has snowed every day since Feb. 5, and it will likely continue to snow every day through Feb. 15, which would set a new record for the number of consecutive days with snowfall.

Light snow will fall across eastern Massachusetts this afternoon into tonight, as a low pressure system develops off the coast of New England. While only light accumulations are expected from this storm, it will set the stage for a potentially bigger storm on Saturday night and Sunday. There is still much uncertainty in the forecast regarding the latter storm, but models have been trending in the direction of moderate to heavy snow and very high winds in the Boston area.

Very cold temperatures near or below 0°F (-18°C) are expected on Friday night and again on Sunday night after the passage of the second storm. Things will remain clear and cold for Presidents' Day before yet another storm arrives on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Extended Forecast

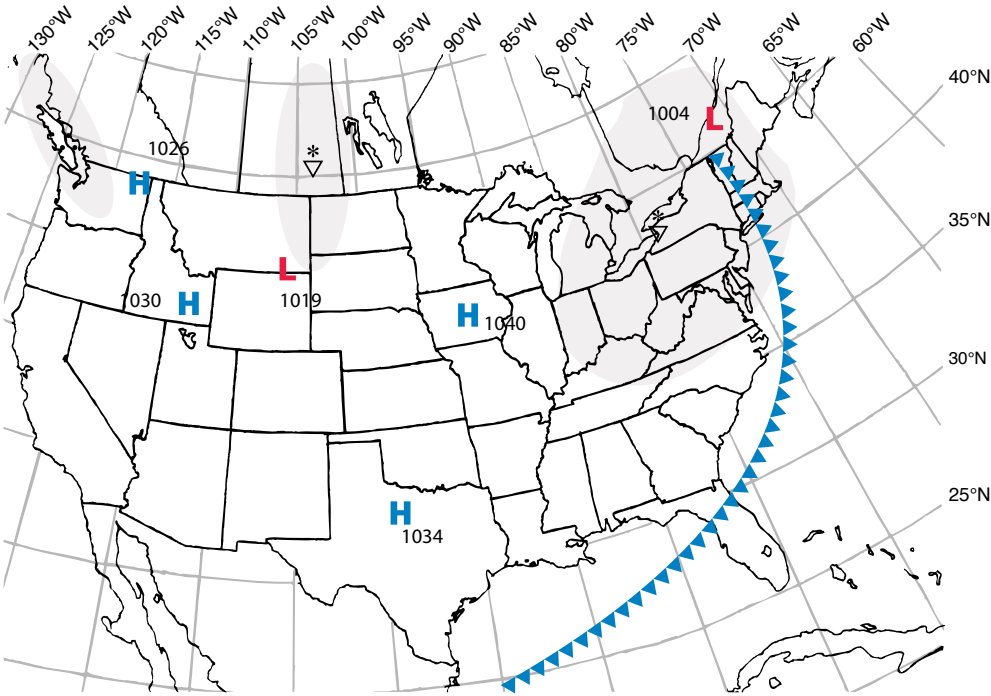
Today: Light snow beginning this afternoon, high 26°F (-3°C). Winds N at 5–10 mph.

Tonight: Light snow, low 9°F (–12°C). Becoming windy, with winds NW at 15–20 mph.

Tomorrow: Windy with a chance of snow showers, high 15°F (–9°C). Winds NW at 20–30 mph.

Saturday: Snow beginning in the afternoon or evening, highs in the upper teens °F (–7°C).

Sunday: Windy with possible moderate or heavy snow, highs in the low 20s °F (–6°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, February 11, 2015

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Shows Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light Snow	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate Snow	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy Snow	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

WEATHERWEATHERWEATHERWEATHERWEATHER

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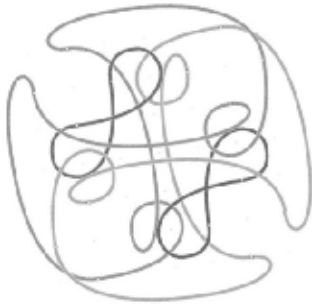
ROBERT RUSCH—THE TECH
Thom Wall attempts to stack six wine glasses on the edge of a dagger during the JuggleMIT show at Walker on Jan. 7.



ALEXANDER C. BOST—THE TECH
A pigeon found its way to the third floor railing of Lobby 7 on Wednesday evening. It was unclear how long the pigeon, rumored to be considering a position as a Course 16 instructor, had been in the building. The pigeon declined to comment.

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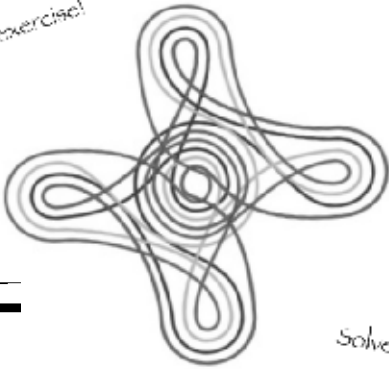


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Solution to High Spots

from page 3

I	O	N	S	S	N	A	P	R	A	M	P	S				
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Snow closes schools

MBTA shut down for defrosting

Snow, from Page 1

entire Institute. A Massachusetts state of emergency does not mean that businesses and schools are automatically closed, but Harvard, Northeastern, Suffolk, Tufts, and Boston University all chose to suspend classes, according to *The Boston Globe*. UMass Boston, Emerson, Simmons, and the Berklee College of Music also shut down.

The MBTA was shut down for all of Tuesday to allow crews to clear ice from switches and rails. Commuter rail, subway, and trolley service was restored with less frequent service Wednesday morning.

A few schools opened on Tuesday despite the state of emergency. Boston College, Babson College, Bentley University, and Brandeis University were open for most of the day, and Wellesley College remained open all day.

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New housemaster had final interview with students

40 students showed up and asked questions about murals, cats, and preserving culture

Housemaster, from Page 1

many questions,” he said. According to Scheib, residents were primarily concerned with the preservation of their dorm culture, which Scheib is eager to uphold. Scheib said he believes that his role as housemaster is not to alter, but to contribute to, Senior House’s strongly established culture. While he hopes to be present in this culture, he strives not to interfere with the daily lives of students. “Every-

body’s an adult, so I prefer that everybody just acts like adults,” he said. Residents also asked several questions about Scheib’s views on dorm policies. “I’m not making policies,” he said. “My task is really to represent the students, it really is.” When asked about possible changes he might make as housemaster, Scheib responded that he was not interested in making any major changes. He does, however, hope to improve public spaces

around the house and ensure that students are provided with the resources they need for their artistic pursuits. Scheib also talked about his plans for social activities. Cooking is of course on his list, but he’s also considering inviting performance artist Adrienne Truscott, a controversial stand-up comedian. He answered residents’ questions about murals, cats, and other aspects of Senior House culture as well. Scheib’s interview allowed him

to further acquaint himself with Senior House culture. “I felt like there was a really great sense of mutual respect and openness,” he said. “The only thing that they don’t tolerate very well is intolerance. I find that pretty great.” After a final review by administrators, Scheib was selected to be Senior House’s next housemaster. He moved into his new apartment at the end of IAP, and was hosting dinner parties the next day. When asked whether he plans

to stay at Senior House long-term, Scheib responded, “You know what, I love it. I love it. So, sure. I think 20 years ... I mean it just sounds like such an amazing legacy.” Scheib’s next act as housemaster? Cracking down on ice cream thieves. “Recently there’s been a rash of people stealing food from the kitchens. I hope that stops. So whoever’s stealing the ice cream out there better watch out, because that’s just not okay.”

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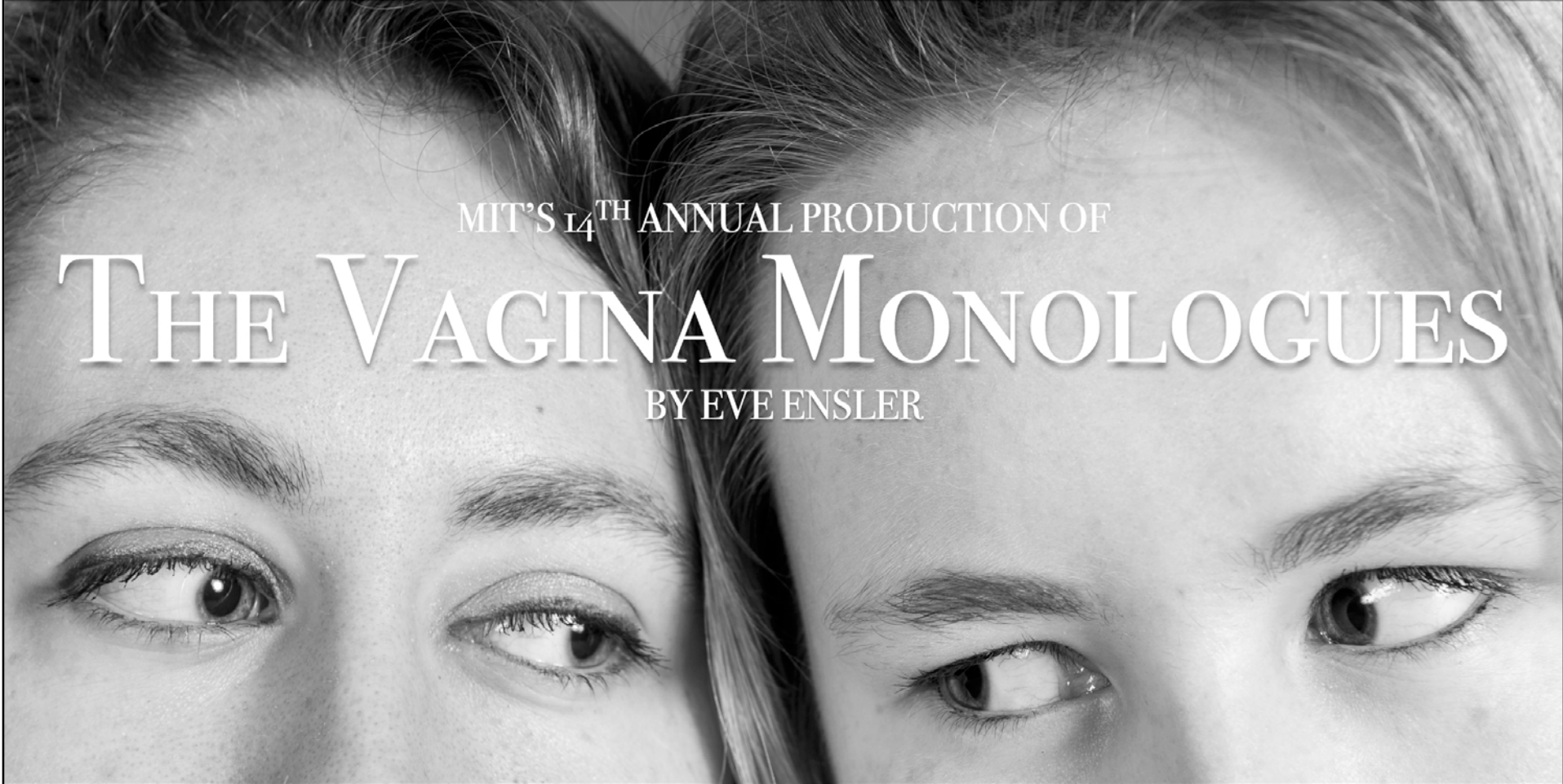


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