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# MIT Live Confessions: Harnessing AI to Foster Community and Entertainment

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## Abstract

This paper presents an innovative fusion of artificial intelligence (AI) technology and community engagement, as will be showcased in the upcoming "MIT Live Confessions" event, scheduled for **13th May 2023 at 12 pm** in room **32-155** at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The event provides a unique platform for participants to submit their own posts for humor assessment by a GPT-3 model, which evaluates and classifies the submissions based on their comedic content. The AI model supplements these user-generated posts with its own humorous creations, crafting a distinctive mix of real and AI-produced comedy. During the event, a text-to-speech model will read aloud these posts, and attendees are invited to participate in a dynamic game of distinguishing user-generated posts from those created by the AI. This initiative exemplifies the potential of AI tools in generating unique, engaging experiences that not only stimulate community interaction and enjoyment but also foster a sense of camaraderie and belonging among students.

## 1 Introduction

MIT fosters an active, diverse, and inclusive atmosphere, where students across a broad range of disciplines can engage with each other through a plethora of social, cultural, and educational activities. A notable example is the monthly brunches hosted by Ashdown House and Sidney-Pacific Graduate Residence, which serve as platforms for students to interact, share ideas, and build connections.

Investing heavily in the quality of student life, MIT allocates substantial resources annually, with approximately 15 million dollars dedicated to event food alone. This significant expenditure has catalyzed the formation of unique underground movements, such as the MIT free food culture. In this unique culture, the frequent sight of familiar faces at events, all drawn together by the promise of free food, fosters a bond of a distinctive kind, rarely observed in other top universities.

To cater to the diverse palate of its student body, MIT regularly hosts cultural food nights at locations like the 70 Amherst dorm. These events, along with affordable high-quality concerts at the Kresge auditorium, provide opportunities for students with limited budgets to experience rich cultural exchanges and enjoy memorable nights out.

At MIT, students can pursue their unique passions through a wide array of clubs and groups. These organizations offer platforms where students feel seen, understood, and connected, creating a sense of belonging, which is especially important for those far from home or from different cultural backgrounds. Top researchers at MIT have identified community as a critical factor for well-being and consequently, academic success. Drawing from the spirit of the beaver, MIT's industrious

mascot, the institute strives to implement science-backed strategies to foster a vibrant and supportive community.

This paper introduces a novel event that aims to further enrich the student life at MIT through the application of AI technologies. The event, named "MIT Live Confessions," engages the community in a fun and interactive manner while showcasing the potential of AI to create unique and engaging experiences.

## 2 Related Work

MIT, the world-renowned center of science and technology, also prides itself in being a hub of clubs and societies, each with its unique offerings. However, some of these organizations, despite their earnest intentions, occasionally end up as a classic case of "judge a book by its cover", or rather "misjudge a club by its name".

Take, for example, the MIT Pokemon League, a club you might imagine to be a peaceful gathering of Pikachu-loving, Jigglypuff-singing enthusiasts. In reality, the club members are fierce battlers, engaged in ruthless Pokemon showdowns, with nary a peaceful lullaby from Jigglypuff to be heard.

Similarly, the MIT Ultimate might conjure up images of a supercharged gaming club, where enthusiasts spend hours mastering the finer points of Smash Ultimate. Alas, in reality, it is a sports club dedicated to the game of Ultimate Frisbee. While we do not deny the thrilling energy of a well-thrown frisbee, the lack of anticipated Super Smash Bros showdowns might leave some aspiring gamers a bit deflated.

On the other side of the spectrum, we have the dorm events and speaker sessions that lure students with the irresistible siren song of free food, only to watch as their attendees vanish post-sustenance. Such events, although well-intentioned, often struggle to maintain participation once the free pizza boxes are emptied.

In this era of post-pandemic social distancing, MIT's demographic of students has started to resemble a collection of 'anti-social social club' members. Consequently, despite the plethora of events, we often see the same faces, establishing a sense of community in a way, but not quite reaching new audiences.

With this paper, we aim to bring a comedic twist to this scenario. Our proposed event, "MIT Live Confessions", involves AI-generated humor and invites participants to submit their own humorous posts. By using a text-to-speech model to read out the posts, we add another layer of entertainment. This novel blend of AI, humor, and community engagement seeks to offer a fresh and appealing event format that extends beyond the usual pizza-luring tactics.

## 3 Methods

The "MIT Live Confessions" event is an innovative experiment intertwining AI technologies and human creativity to create a unique, engaging experience. The primary data source for the event is the MIT Confessions Facebook page, from which we extract posts that serve as the basis for our GPT-3 model analysis.

The GPT-3 model then proceeds to read these posts, with its primary objective being to determine the level of interest they might incite. The criteria for "interestingness" involve a combination of factors such as content novelty, narrative intrigue, and the presence of unique perspectives. Posts deemed sufficiently interesting, along with their most engaging comments, are subsequently compiled into a dynamic database.

However, the GPT-3 model's role extends beyond merely sorting existing posts. It is also tasked with generating new, AI-crafted posts that parallel the level of interest found in the real posts. The model creates a variety of these intriguing artificial posts and comments, which are then integrated into the event's content.

These real and AI-generated posts are then collated into a slide deck, forming the basis for an engaging quiz. Attendees are challenged to differentiate between the authentic posts and those produced by the AI, creating a lively and interactive game for the participants.

To further enhance the experience, a text-to-speech model is employed to read the posts aloud during the event, adding an auditory element to the experience and ensuring its accessibility to all attendees. Through this unique blend of AI technologies and human interaction, "MIT Live Confessions" aims to offer a distinctive and engaging event that goes beyond conventional event formats.

The code and project files used for this event can be found on our Github page<sup>1</sup>.

## 4 Conclusions

This paper introduces the novel concept of "MIT Live Confessions", an event designed to leverage the potential of AI technologies in creating engaging experiences for the student community. The unique blend of AI-generated content and human interaction, along with the thrilling challenge of distinguishing real from AI-crafted posts, presents an exciting new avenue for community engagement and entertainment.

While AI tools have been instrumental in the design and execution of this event, their potential impact on enhancing the participants' experience remains to be seen and will be evaluated during the event. The success of this approach could potentially pave the way for future events that harness AI capabilities for community engagement.

Participants are encouraged to attend the event for a live demonstration of the fascinating interplay between AI and human creativity. The "MIT Live Confessions" event is not just about guessing real from fake posts, but also about learning, making new friends, and appreciating the innovative use of AI in creating unique experiences.

Attendees will have the chance to provide feedback on their experience, offering valuable insights into the event's impact and the potential of AI in future community activities. It is hoped that this innovative approach to community engagement will serve as an inspiration for future events, further strengthening the vibrant MIT community.

## 5 Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the MIT Association of Student Activities (ASA) and the Division of Student Life (DSL) for their support in making the "MIT Live Confessions" event possible. Their dedication to fostering a vibrant student community and promoting innovative ideas has been invaluable in bringing this event to life.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to 70 Amherst, the best dorm (according to authors), for providing a welcoming environment that encourages creativity and collaboration among its residents. Their commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie has been integral to the development of this project.

Finally, we are grateful to MIT for providing a stimulating hackerspace where cutting-edge AI models, such as the GPT-3 and GPT-4, can be explored and utilized to their fullest potential. The institute's support for novel and ambitious ideas has been instrumental in our endeavor to harness AI tools for enhancing student life and fostering a vibrant community.

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<sup>1</sup>Live Confessions Project: [https://github.com/russchua/Live\\_Confessions](https://github.com/russchua/Live_Confessions)