



JOANNA LIN — THE TECH

Astronautics professor Dava Newman was named the first woman director of the Media Lab December 2020.

Professor Newman named new Media Lab director

Newman is the first female Media Lab director and succeeds Ito, who resigned in 2019

By Grace Song
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Apollo Program Professor of Astronautics Dava Newman SM '89, SM '89, PhD '92 was named director of the MIT Media Lab Dec. 22. The selection was made by the MIT Media Lab Director Search Committee following the resignation of former director Joi Ito 15 months ago, with

the appointment effective July 1, 2021.

Newman is a faculty member in the MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Department and the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology. Her research focuses on the intersection of biomedical and aerospace engineering, specifically human performance across the spectrum

of gravity. Previously, she served as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Deputy Administrator from 2015 to 2017 and has directed various programs at MIT, including the Technology and Policy Program.

The Tech spoke with Newman over a Zoom call to discuss her new role, as well as her past contributions to the MIT community. This

interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The Tech: What most excites you about leading the Media Lab? Did you have any reservations about taking on the role during the selection process?

Dava Newman: Leading the legendary Media Lab — that's a dream job, I think, for anyone. So I actually just consider myself very, very for-

unate. I think it's the most creative place: to have the melting pot at MIT, to bring together work from science and engineering, arts and design. That's always been my passion.

All the interactions I've had with the students, staff, and the faculty at the Media Lab create an environment that helps me be better: what

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IN SHORT

Students returning to campus should sign their **Housing License Agreements** as soon as possible.

Students returning to campus should complete their **student departure plan** by Jan. 15.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an Institute holiday, is Jan. 18.

Pre-registration for spring classes will continue until Jan. 29.

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Ad hoc faculty committees release reports

Reif creates ad hoc advisory group to implement committee recommendations

By Srinidhi Narayanan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Ad Hoc Faculty Committees on Guidelines for Outside Engagements and Review of MIT Gift Processes submitted final reports, Chair of the Faculty Rick Danheiser and Provost Martin Schmidt PhD '88 wrote in an email to the MIT community Jan. 11.

Danheiser convened the Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements Fall 2019 in response to revelations concerning the involvement of Jeffrey Epstein; Schmidt convened the Committee on Gift Processes around the same time. Both committees began work immediately on recom-

mending new guidelines for the Institute's relationships with funding sources.

The committees released draft reports last September, along with an open invitation to the MIT community to submit comments.

The report from the Committee on Guidelines for Outside Engagements describes the drafting and revision process with an emphasis on community engagement. The committee collected an initial round of feedback Fall 2019 via "campus conversations, white papers, office hours, and emails," organizing 15 campus conversations for faculty, staff, students, and alumni and 12 hours of office hours.

The committee held a community forum following the release of the draft report and set up an email address to receive comments. The comments were "largely positive, thanking the committees for their work," with "feedback, where appropriate and relevant" integrated into the report.

The report outlines nine core values that form the basis of the guidelines for decision-making and describes the guidelines and "tools," or accompanying infrastructure, for enacting these guidelines in detail.

The report from the Committee on Gift Processes describes a similar value system and decision making process while underscor-

ing specific "tool" questions addressing violations of national security or law, attempts to restrict academic freedom, conflicts with MIT's core values, and transparency about gift acceptance decisions.

The report recommends instituting a Gift Acceptance Committee to advise MIT leadership regarding gift acceptance and naming and to record recommendations to create precedents for future decisions.

President Reif "created an ad hoc group to advise him as MIT determines how best to implement the committees' recommendations, with a particular focus on

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CAPITOL RIOT

What we must learn from Trump's presidency. **OPINION, p. 4**

FOOD INSECURITY

How COVID-19 exacerbated the food and health inequities already prevalent in the U.S. and how local organizations responded. **OPINION, p. 5**

MYSTERY HUNT

The average human has between one and two of them. **FUN, p. 7**

SECTIONS

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WEATHER

Winter welcomes IAP

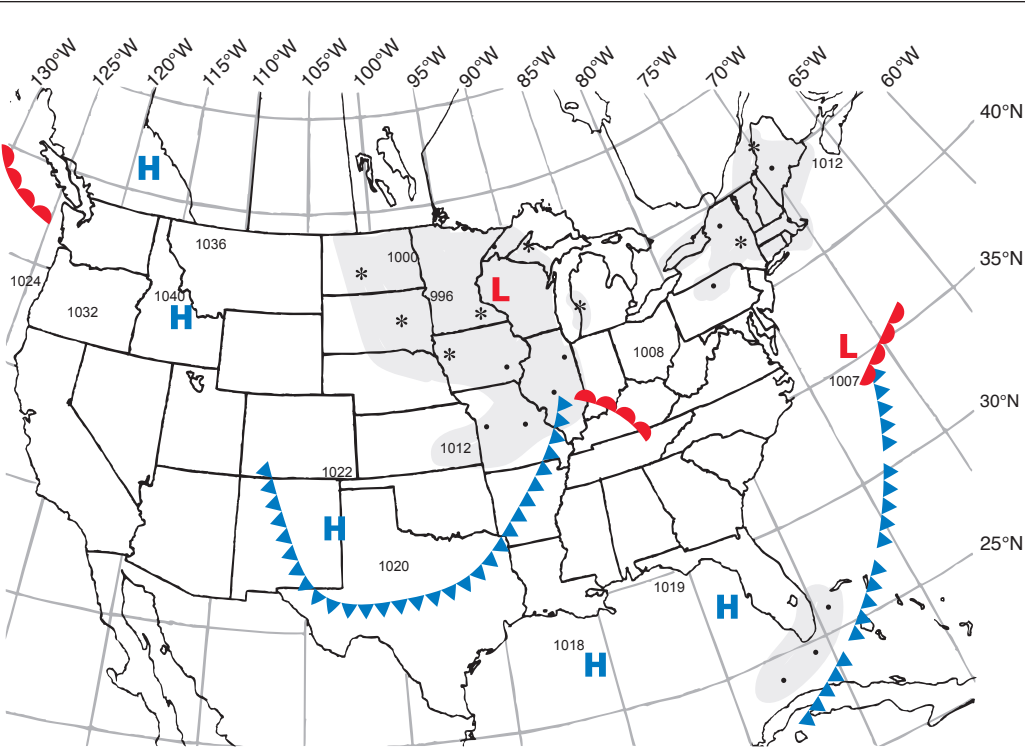
By Trinity Manuelito

Boston’s weather started the new year with a consistent (and boring) pattern of chilly, dry days. Temperatures have been fairly cold, but we have not yet experienced a day with temperatures below the climatological average for this time of year. With the weekend ahead bringing warm rain, it is unlikely that temperatures will drop below average before next week. For those of you hoping for another

big snowstorm like we saw at the end of last semester, the long wait continues. Elsewhere in the United States, there are lots of clear skies and warmer weather. If you’re somewhere in the west, like Arizona for instance, you should make time to head outdoors. Some possible outdoor activities include walking your dog or going for a leisurely run. No matter where you may be, make sure you are prepared for whatever the weather may bring your way!

Extended Forecast

Today: Slight chance of snow then showers. High around 40°F (4°C). Southwest wind around 5-8 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low around 30°F (-1°C). North wind around 6-9 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny, with chance showers overnight. High around 41°F (5°C) and low around 38°F (3°C). North, becoming east wind around 8-14 mph.
Saturday: Showers. High around 47°F (8°C) and low around 33°F (1°C). Southeast wind around 10-15 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny. High around 42°F (6°C). West winds around 15-18 mph with gusts up to 28 mph



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, January 14, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Newman created personal motto after becoming MacVicar Faculty Fellow

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are those big, crazy ideas? Just about every conversation you have is also very optimistic: what can we invent; what technologies, what experiences can we give people? It’s really embedded in them to have an impact on society. There was a great news article from MIT News on the Media Lab’s new Center for Constructive Communication. It couldn’t be better timing.

So no, no reservations, no misgivings. A lot of work to do? Absolutely. But I just can’t think of a better community to be able to join and help lead.

TT: Most of your educational background is related to aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering, and technology policy. Did your interest in art and design originate elsewhere, or was it a natural consequence of your research interests?

Newman: It was kind of serendipitous in terms of the fact that I have always been an admirer of the arts and of all kinds, from music to painting. Of course, it hasn’t been my career. But being a teacher, I was thinking, how can I teach? How can I communicate the best to my students?

When you teach, you want to capture students’ imaginations, right? You need to be completely active. You need to have great storytelling. You need to have demonstrations and teach engineering, life support, and leadership. I like to teach seminars where I’m facilitating more than lectures where I’m up in front filling boards and boards with chalk. I give a lot of responsibility to students to do the reading ahead and to do the material. It’s more a kind of coaching studio, where we design and build things,

from my freshman classes all the way up to graduate work.

It’s fun for me to have more of that studio project-based design courses — that part was very natural. I was really trying to think about how to become the best educator that I could, and I think you have to do it across the disciplines. The arts and design are so important to my technical engineering work. That’s the only way I could really, I think, convey that message to my students.

TT: Your motto — “Love, Act, Discover, Innovate” —how do you interpret and implement this as an educator and mentor, in the classroom and out?

Newman: I formulated that motto when I became a MacVicar Faculty Fellow, which was a while ago, but it was one of my proudest achievements at MIT because it’s all about impacting undergraduate education.

First, love. I think we don’t talk about love enough: love of people and of each other; having that human element in my teaching, research, leadership — anything I’m involved in now. Let’s just meet and have some compassion and some love. I think that’s the basic starting point.

Action. I’m a very action-oriented person. This definitely relates to the Media Lab too: we want to act, we want to be those visionaries of the future.

D can be for discovery or design. It’s the hands-on making element.

Then, innovation. Let’s not do the same thing we’ve always done. No incremental design, if you will. What haven’t we thought of? I think a lot of innovation comes from asking, “How else could we attack this problem?” How can we innovate everyday and come to work or school with our A-game, asking “What’s

really important? What could be we working on together?”

To me it goes full circle, because it’s always going to go back to the people. As a technologist and designer myself, what am I doing to impact society? Sure, the philosophy of engineering is to create technologies and experiences, but we have to be very grounded in doing that for societal benefit.

TT: It is July 1, 2021. What’s on your immediate ‘Media Lab Director To-do List’? How about for the next sixth months? Next two years?

Newman: That’s a great question. Right now, I’m listening. I call it sense-making: getting a lot of briefings and updates, and of course, meeting people as personally and safely as we can.

July 1 is a kind of official launch. Hopefully, I’ll really be up to speed and won’t be the one asking all the questions. Then it’s just hitting the ground running. There are wonderful things in July. There’ll be focus and thinking, working with the members of the consortium, celebrating the research that everyone’s doing — it’s going to be incredible. I’ll be there as the cheerleader and then learning as well.

There will be a new graduate student cohort that will be coming in September. We’ll be welcoming a whole bunch of undergraduates too, because the Media Lab has so many UROPs. It’s going to be awesome welcoming everyone, celebrating what we’re doing, and then planning for the future the next few years.

The mission and vision of the Media Lab is grounded in these breakthrough technologies and experiences, and we want to make sure it is for the people. As I mentioned, the new Center for Constructive Communication is com-

ing out today. There’s also the Schwarzmann College of Computing and MIT’s Climate Initiative. We’re working in those spaces and are really excited about these future opportunities.

TT: I snooped around the Media Lab website and found an incredible number of groups working on space research, from the Space Enabled Research Group to the Space Exploration Initiative. Could you expand on these initiatives, as well as any future opportunities for collaboration between the Media Lab and MIT AeroAstro?

Newman: That’s right. There’s the Space Exploration Initiative, of which I’ve been an advising faculty member. As director, I’ll have my eye on everything. The space initiative has gained a lot of traction and it’s uniquely the Media Lab bringing in the arts and the design with the technologies and experiences. That brings in a whole other community, which is amazing.

We say everyone has a place in space and helps us envision the future. It’s really nice being housed in the Media Lab but having connections with the AeroAstro department and with the Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences Department. There’s the Sloan School with some of the ‘astro-preneurs’ as we call them. Students and faculty from any of the five schools are always invited and welcome to participate in the Space Exploration Initiative. In March, there’s usually a space week, which is an outreach event where, again, all students are invited to participate. There’s great speakers and astronaut friends and colleagues, and even some MIT alums.

TT: How did your experience serving as NASA Deputy Administrator shape your values on leadership and STEM education?

Newman: [Serving as Deputy] was a phenomenal experience — a dream job. I definitely learned a lot about leadership because NASA is close to an 18,000 person organization. When you’re the number two in charge, I also learned a lot about teamwork.

Of course, it’s about people. It’s about teaming and about trust. Some of my main responsibilities at NASA were envisioning and articulating our human exploration plans to Mars and the moon, as well as a framework for innovation and assets. It’s an amazing portfolio; you really learn how to multitask, because a lot of it was interacting with the White House and Congress. It was policy, it was leadership, it was budgets.

STEM education was actually one of the main things for myself and administrator Charles Bolden. We say that we’re a \$20 billion agency for STEM. NASA is such a great brand for all girls and boys around the world. We really were champions for STEM because we wanted everyone out there watching any launch and watching any of our speeches. Anything that we did and said, we wanted every girl and boy out there to think, “Hey, [NASA] needs you.” The world needs you.

TT: Is that a picture of you in Antarctica on your personal website?

Newman: Absolutely. That was on the bucket list. The first week we flew over Western Antarctica to measure the rate of glaciers melting. Those were more for earth science missions and climate-related work. Then, I got to go with the National Science Foundation to the McMurdo base and also to the South Pole. I could talk for another whole hour about the amazing science I learned on the South Pole.

Advisory group to meet in a few months’ time for review

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the charge to a new Gift Acceptance Committee,” according to the email. The advisory group will

meet several times this month to converge on an implementation plan and will meet in a few months’ time to review the committee’s early efforts.

```
from new_skills import *  
  
def learnMarketableJobSkills():  
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP  
  
if self.interest == True:  
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```

When you join Campus Life at *The Tech* and get to publish your secret diary

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Solution to Pokerbots <i>from page 7</i>						Solution to Battlecode <i>from page 7</i>						Solution to web.lab <i>from page 8</i>					
5	1	6	3	4	2	1	6	9	5	7	4	3	2	8	7	6	3
1	3	2	5	6	4	3	4	8	9	2	1	6	7	5	2	1	8
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						5	7	4	8	1	3	2	6	9	4	3	6
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A close-up photograph of a ginger and white cat with its eyes closed, licking its face with its pink tongue. The cat has long white whiskers and is set against a teal background. The image is used as a background for a recruitment advertisement.

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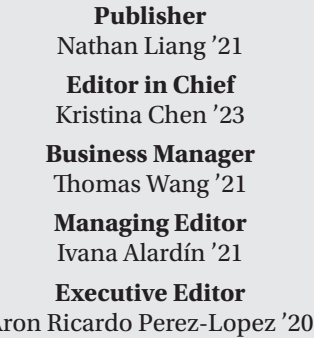
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A hand holding a smartphone, displaying a grid of various application icons on the screen. The icons include Adobe Acrobat, Alamy, Aparat, Behance, Business, CamScanner, Chomikuj.pl, Chrome, Currents, Dysk, Earth, Evernote, Facebook, and feedly. The phone is held at an angle, and the background is a blurred, light-colored surface.



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GUEST COLUMN

Lessons from the Capitol riot

By Charles Theuer

The 2020 Olympics may have been postponed, but that hasn't stopped the mental gymnastics of many former Trump-backers as they bend backwards to save their reputations from sinking along with the now-disgraced administration.

I've heard at least one former Team Trump member wonder if the president's violence-inciting rhetoric reflected some form of post-COVID dementia, as if Trump's exhortations to his followers to march "to the Capitol" and "fight like hell" were aberrations of an otherwise ordinary administration.

A discussion of restricting free speech in the U.S. would be unnecessary if Americans were less susceptible to demagoguery.

No. We aren't seeing some "stable genius" laid low by Long COVID. This Trump-led assault on our democracy was apparent to everyone whose ears were attuned to the president's dog-whistle politics these past four years. Remember when the Nazis of Charlottesville were "good people"? Even those people without high regard for the president were aghast. "It's racist, far-right violence, and that requires determined and forceful resistance no matter where in the world it appears," cautioned German Chancellor Angela Merkel. However, by the November 2020 presidential election, many Americans apparently didn't heed Chancellor Merkel's admonition.

The Germans know a thing or two about the consequences of extremism. Unlike

President Trump, Hitler was successful in subverting his country's democratic government once in power. However, like the president, he achieved the Chancellorship through legal and democratic means. A significant proportion of Germans voted for him. Like many Trump voters, the Hitler voters shared feelings of disillusionment caused by wounded national pride and economic depression that, in the case of Germany, followed their World War I defeat.

When Allied soldiers liberated German concentration camps near the end of World War II, one great service U.S. forces did for the German population was to force them to view atrocities committed and sanctioned by their elected government at camps such as Auschwitz, Dachau, and Bergen-Belsen. Notably, 75 years later Germany is the leading democracy in Europe whose chancellor is a scientist.

Not to say Germany is a utopia. Abundant fringe Nazi parties exist in Germany today, but they are managed with the knowledge of the dire consequences that can befall a country if fascist doctrines are accepted. Germany strictly limits speech and expression when it comes to right-wing extremism. It is illegal to produce, distribute, or display symbols of the Nazi era, and incitement to hatred is prohibited. In contrast, while incitement to riot is illegal in the U.S. and may be the basis for prosecuting President Trump following the Capitol riot, free speech is largely constitutionally protected in the United States. Despite that, American social media companies increasingly censor inflammatory comments and individuals, including President Trump since the Capitol riot.

A discussion of restricting free speech in the U.S. would be unnecessary if Americans were less susceptible to demagoguery. More than 74 million Americans voted for Trump, and that number contains only a minority of self-identifying racists. As Dr.

Martin Luther King lamented from his Birmingham jail cell in 1963 following his incarceration for peacefully protesting for civil rights, "I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate.... Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." It was easier for Dr. King to understand those who hate than to decipher why those who didn't hate essentially promulgated the views of the fringe element.

The first step in solving any problem is its recognition and certainly many of President Trump's supporters in Congress have taken an about-face, which is encouraging.

While the burning of the Reichstag didn't prevent the ascension of Hitler, perhaps the insurrection that defamed the Capitol will mark a turning point for America. The first step in solving any problem is its recognition and certainly many of President Trump's supporters in Congress have taken an about-face, which is encouraging. But that recognition was needlessly delayed. With President Trump, the writing has been on the wall for many years. Rather than a convenient absolution of recent events as reflecting a post-COVID dementia, an understanding that "when you dance with the evil, you don't pick the tune" should be the lasting lesson.

Charles Theuer is a member of the MIT Class of 1985.

OPINION POLICY

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Reporting on rising food insecurity, unemployment, and infection: local organizations confront American maladies

Chicago nonprofit organizations and residents speak on shifting circumstances amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

By Alana Chandler

Quotes have been lightly edited for clarity and length.

Forced to move off campus in light of the spreading virus back in March 2020, I was sad. Sad to say goodbye to friends, to no longer be able to run alongside the Charles River, to not be able to go in to lab. But a part of me was also happy to be able to return home to Chicago. I was particularly excited for the warm meal of crispy karaage atop rice that awaited me, steaming clouds of comfort.

Such mundane emotions in the midst of a pandemic reflect privilege. Fear was not something I had yet felt, despite a virus creeping its way into the U.S. I had a full refrigerator and a cozy home to return to, while tens of thousands of people across our nation faced the exact opposite. The privilege of food and shelter — what should be a human right — has become even more pronounced during this pandemic.

The disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the inequities already present in our society, reflected in the disproportionately large mortality rates within Black and Brown populations. A plethora of factors lead to these statistics: an overrepresentation of Black and Brown people in front-line jobs, lack of access to and racial bias within the healthcare system, stress induced by racial discrimination, and a host of obesity-related diseases which increase COVID-19 fatality risk. Ultimately, all these factors and many more are rooted in America's systemic racism.

The disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the inequities already present in our society, reflected in the disproportionately large mortality rates within Black and Brown populations.

Obesity-related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, are intimately tied to a lack of access to affordable, nutritious food, as evident in food apartheid. From the pre-pandemic era to today, grassroots organizations have led the fight for food justice. Community gardens, collecting donated food to create free meals, and providing education on nutritious cooking are just a handful of examples of what these organizations do to promote food justice.

With insufficient government support to those food insecure, the work of alleviating hunger and nutrition deficits has fallen heavily on local organizations. How have nonprofit entities and the people they work with been faring in the pandemic? I spoke with the following Chicago nonprofits to learn about how the pandemic has affected their work: Breakthrough, Brave Space Alliance (BSA), Chicago Lights (CL), Inspiration Corporation, Plant Chicago, and Urban Growers Collective.

1. Job loss during the pandemic

Last year, Chicago resident Sara Ramos was receiving public assistance while facing a host of personal obstacles: a breakup, domestic issues, and living in between apartments. “I was all over the place, so I’m so thankful that I came across them,” she recounts over our phone conversation. By “them,” Ramos is referencing Inspiration Corporation, a local nonprofit that supported her through those difficult times. Along with providing free meals at their 50-seat diner-style cafe and arranging permanent supportive housing services to people experiencing homelessness, Inspiration Corporation offers free culinary vocational training.

Ramos came across Inspiration Corpo-

ration when her public assistant was helping her find a job training program that fit her interests: she's a passionate chef at heart. "I'm Puerto Rican, so I make a lot of Hispanic food, more savory foods than anything else," like tacos, flautas, tostadas, and nachos.

As millions of Americans and immigrants lose their jobs, the population of housing and food insecure people also skyrockets.

From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ramos began a 12-week journey to obtain her culinary license and eventually landed a job at the Art Institute of Chicago in October 2019. From the friendly staff to the freedom to experiment, she felt at home at her new job. That is, until the lockdown orders in response to the pandemic forced the closure of restaurants across the city.

"It came to a total halt. March 13th was my last day of work. I remember that because it was Friday the 13th." She was told that she would be off work until further notice — no end to the uncertainty in sight. While Ramos hopes to stay in the culinary industry, she realizes that it might not be an option with the virus-stained question mark that looms over the future. Anticipating that her unemployment assistance will be winding down soon, she is preparing herself to get back to the drawing board.

Throughout the lockdown, Ramos has kept in touch with Inspiration Corporation. "I don't have family here, so Inspiration Corporation is my biggest support system." The organization continues to send her links to job opportunities in the ever-competitive market of the pandemic-distraught battleground. "It's tough; everything's just so different now."

Like Ramos, two-thirds of restaurant employees nationwide have lost their jobs due to the pandemic — over eight million people. As millions of Americans and immigrants lose their jobs, the population of housing and food insecure people also skyrockets. Workers of color, who are often paid lower wages than their white counterparts, face additional financial difficulty.

2. Increasing need for food aid

These organizations observed a significant increase in demand for food. At Inspiration Corporation, they served more food in the period from April through June 2020 than they had planned on serving in the entire year, a 300% increase. It was the pandemic that spurred the BSA to start their Crisis Pantry, where they deliver food to the doors of Black and Brown queer and trans folks. At Breakthrough, full-time staff pivoted to work in their food pantry, the only source of fresh produce in East Garfield Park, when the usual group of 30 volunteers was no longer allowed to come to the facilities.

Because shelters were concerned about the transmissibility of the virus through handling packages, many organizations could not accept the donated food, leading to food shortages within some of the organizations, all the while as colossal amounts of food waste also materialized during the pandemic.

3. Effects of social distancing measures

COVID-19 also forced pauses to in-person programming, with virtual replacements receiving much lower turnout. Manual labor-focused job trainings like that of the CL urban farm couldn't virtualize their programs at all.

Although social distancing and virtualization have proven to decrease the spread of the virus, such measures have also had negative consequences for those experi-

encing food insecurity. Evan Cauble-Johnson, chief development officer at Inspiration Corporation, said in an interview, "There also used to be a shadow economy of do-gooders, church groups, and other people who would go through tent encampments and drop off supplies and food for people experiencing homelessness. Much of that has stopped because people don't feel safe visiting large gatherings of people. Especially in downtown, there aren't many people coming in to work, so there's no one to ask for money from. Folks are more isolated and have fewer resources than they even did before, which was already a challenge." There is also an inherent risk in traveling to get free meals from shelters and food kitchens, coming in contact with more people when commuting on public transit and awaiting a meal.

4. Government support, or lack thereof

At the end of the day, with finite resources, these organizations that work tirelessly with their communities cannot serve everyone in the city. What, then, should be the government's role in all of this? *"All men are created equal." "The unalienable rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." "For the people, by the people."* These are the epochal statements of the American patriarchs. The irony that figures who wrote these words included slave owners and white supremacists does not go unnoticed, and the dissonance between the lofty ideals of a democratically constituted America and government action, or rather inaction, remains today. With millions of residents hungry and sick today, how does the government live up to the nation's founding promise? Solving the complex issues surrounding hunger is no simple task; would enforcing the federal funding of these nonprofits be an ethically sound and effective step in the right direction?

Ben Jaffe, the associate director of farm operations and workforce development at CL, wishes that there was more subsidization of nonprofits' programming and green spaces "built into the infrastructure of how public money is distributed," while recognizing that "budgets are tight and everybody wants a slice of the pie." He says that this does not mean to say that the city of Chicago does nothing, "but they could definitely do more."

With millions of residents hungry and sick today, how does the government live up to the nation's founding promise?

Cauble-Johnson shared a similar sentiment regarding additional structural support as a part of government funding. As much as the nonprofit appreciates large donations, the massive redistribution elucidates the problem in and of itself. “This sort of strange architecture that’s very unique to the United States, with many different 501(c)(3) organizations developing to attack the same social problems, is probably inefficient. It would be easier if we would all agree that this is something that’s valuable that we should do, and then develop the tax base to fund a more consistent and centrally applied solution. But that’s bordering on socialism. Americans like to have their little independent laboratories. If one finds a solution, shouldn’t the government then be funding that as a nationwide strategy? What’s the point of the laboratory if we don’t use any of the results of the experiments?”

One such centrally applied solution has been the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), which has a demonstrated record of reducing food insecurity. Howev-

er, it has also proven to be insufficient. On average, individual SNAP recipients only receive \$1.40 per meal. With roughly 23% of the country in a state of food insecurity today (having increased from 11% in 2018), it is clear that additional and immediate actions are necessary to alleviate the hunger and malnutrition that endanger millions of Americans today. “There are so many fall-outs that are going to hit the people who are always hit hardest, even harder,” says Cauble-Johnson.

Although the pandemic has shifted some of the work of these organizations, these difficulties and calls for change are not novel; they are demands that have echoed in the chambers of the Oval Office for decades, if not centuries. “In general, COVID-19 has exposed a lot of the inequities that we already knew existed in our neighborhood. Things like affordable housing or unemployment that we’re experiencing at magnitude as a country are things that have been happening in East Garfield park for many, many years. The reality is that Breakthrough has been responding for 30 years. We’re directly addressing a lot of the symptoms of racism in our neighborhood,” says Alexandra Cesario, director of development and communications at Breakthrough.

5. American privileges that should be human rights

As has been the case throughout American history, and now put into the forefront of the public eye, the disenfranchisement of Black and Brown communities has been endemic to America's architecture.

“Food is political, water is political, healthcare is political. The fact that these things aren’t accessible to every living, breathing human being as basic human rights is absolute bullshit. All of these things are political because those in the select few determine who is deserving of basically living a life that sustains them,” says Brittney Thomas, the director of programs at the BSA, the first Black-led, trans-led LG-BTQ+ center on the South Side of Chicago. As has been the case throughout American history, and now put into the forefront of the public eye, the disenfranchisement of Black and Brown communities has been endemic to America’s architecture. “This is going to continue to cascade as long as we allow the virus to flourish unchecked. The chickens have come home to roost here,” says Cauble-Johnson.

Despite the physical barriers that the pandemic has resurrected, these organizations take immense measures to continue to support and listen to their clients and communities. Perhaps these organizations can serve as a model for our larger society to engender local collaboration and mutual aid in the face of unprecedented challenges. These organizations rely heavily on the hands of volunteers and donations; this is an avenue where students like myself can take a step beyond the comfort of our homes to help form more equitable outcomes in our cities.

Thank you to Sara Ramos, Brittney Thomas from the Brave Space Alliance, Evan Cauble-Johnson from Inspiration Corporation, Ben Jaffe from Chicago Lights, Alexandra Cesario from Breakthrough, Plant Chicago, and Urban Growers Collective for speaking with me. If you enjoyed reading this, please consider donating to their causes via their websites. Thank you also to Dr. Heather Paxson and Mel Isidor for additional guidance.

Capture the Moment



Join Photo
at The Tech
join@tech.mit.edu

Battlecode

Solution, page 3

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

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.

Pokerbots

Solution, page 3

1-		432x			8x
12x		40x			
	5		12x	12x	
	90x			3	
8x				25x	
3÷		5+			3

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.

Mystery Hunt

by Barbara Yew

ACROSS

- 1 Traveler in late December
6 Have a bad smell
10 Eighth of a two mile race, on most tracks
13 Similarly awful
14 EVO event that returned in 2013
15 Club that often hosts lectures by Course 18 profs.
16 Linguist who worked for many years in 62-Across
18 U.S. campaign group
19 Expressionist artist Paul
20 Second smallest Great Lake
21 A set of words that comes before “even” on the internet
23 Not leave the house to eat
25 Divisor of seven hundred and nine
26 The place where 62-Across’s trash can be your treasure
31 Hair accessories
35 Ether
36 Discrimination-fighting org.
37 Open the floodgates
40 Wielded, as power
42 North Italian dish, with Buco
43 One listening to My Chemical Romance, often
45 Not a good situation by any means

- 46 Educator who is the namesake of a “street” in 62-Across
50 Swimmer Thorpe
51 Describing the intestines
55 Opening to some bad news
58 Nod, Blynken, and Wynken, e.g.
59 Org. that added a P to its acronym in 2019
61 Take a penalty, in quiz bowl
62 Home of CSAIL and theme of this puzzle
65 Elon Musk, e.g.
66 Late-night lifesaver
67 Papal administration
68 You might see this org. selling shaved ice and zongzi in 62-Across
69 Oven-baked flatbread
70 Unending board game ending?

DOWN

- 1 Fell, in a way
2 Italian city where Robert Browning once lived
3 Wizard, e.g.
4 Subdued, as a lion
5 Mil. asst.
6 Jogs, in a way
7 Kind of clause

- 8 “It’s a mouse!”
9 Vandalizing a car, maybe
10 Foster mother for Remus and Romulus
11 “I Want ____” (Rodgers and Hart song)
12 Accord, e.g.
14 Home of the Balrog
17 What Bonnie Tyler needs, per a 1984 song
22 Word I had never heard before I read Kubla Khan
24 Subject of a 2013 film, not to be confused with 33-Down
25 Gem similar in composition to agate
27 Son of Greil, in Fire Emblem
28 Prefix in an oft-remixed Jack Black video
29 C or F, e.g.
30 African antelope
31 Gator alternative
32 Phil of the Dead
33 Faust in 2015 and 2018 films, not to be confused with 24-Down
34 Mainstream America, metonymically
38 As ____ on TV
39 Dashes?

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14						15		
16					17							18		
19					20					21	22			
	23				24				25					
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31	32	33	34				35				36			
37						38	39		40		41			
42						43			44		45			
46					47				48	49				
				50				51				52	53	54
55	56	57				58					59			60
61					62	63				64				
65					66					67				
68					69					70				

- 41 This, in Tegucigalpa
44 Political window
47 Chess master Bent
48 Important milestone in computing history
49 Conf. attended by many 62-Across occupants
52 Accrue
53 Famous dog

- 54 Trompe ____
55 Ancient Cusco inhabitant
56 The average human has between one and two of them
57 Freudian concepts
58 Exclamation of success
60 Type of fish that isn’t a fish
63 Chorus syllable
64 Green prefix

[2410] Apple Growers



A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe

AHEM

THE STATE APPLE-GROWERS’ ASSOCIATION HAS DECIDED TO FORMALLY CALL ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO RESIGN.

WEREN’T YOU MEETING TO UPDATE THE STANDARDS FOR NEW APPLE VARIETIES?

YES, BUT WE TALKED IT OVER AND THIS IS WHAT WE DECIDED. WE FEEL STRONGLY THIS IS IMPORTANT.

DID YOU DISCUSS ANYTHING ON YOUR ACTUAL AGENDA?

THANKS FOR THE QUESTION! WE DID NOT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY APPLE-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ALL?

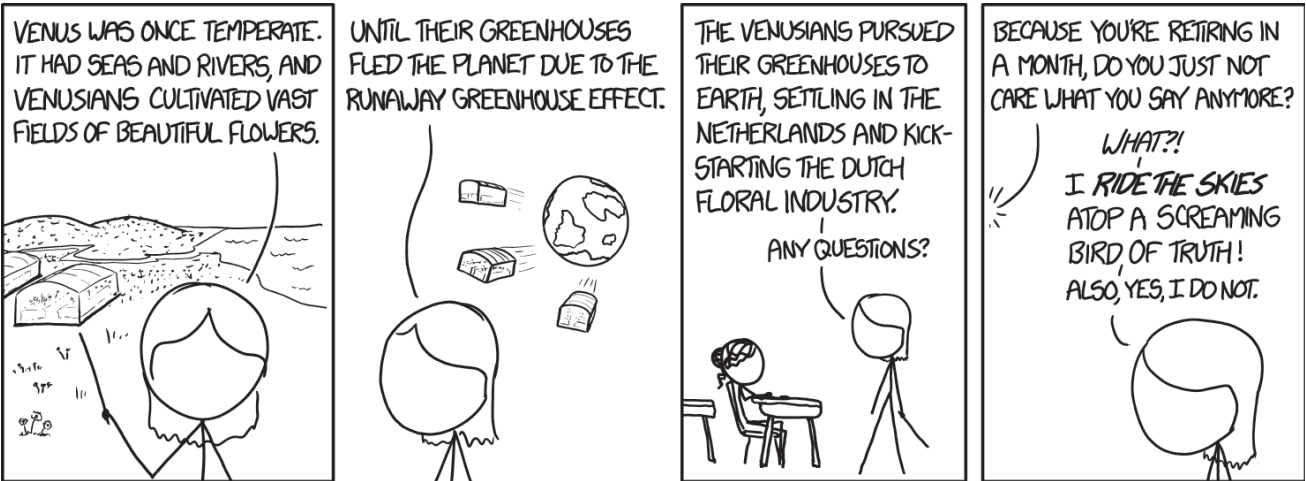
UH, APPLES ARE GREAT. BEST FRUIT. EVERYONE SHOULD BUY 1,000 OF THEM. WE’RE A LITTLE DISTRACTED RIGHT NOW, OKAY??

Cosmic Crisp. Hopefully in a couple of weeks we'll be able to resume our apple-focused updates, because we have SO MUCH to say about

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

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.

[1519] Venus



The sudden introduction of Venusian flowers led to an explosive growth of unusual Earth pollinators, which became known as the "butterfly effect."