

MIT's Oldest and  
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com



**WEATHER, p. 2**

**THU: 91°F | 72°F**  
Sunny

**FRI: 84°F | 65°F**  
Mostly sunny

**SAT: 70°F | 62°F**  
Mostly sunny

Volume 141, Number 17

Thursday, August 26, 2021



FRANKIE SCHULTE—THE TECH

**First-year students gather inside Kresge** to get food at the FPOP kickoff Tuesday afternoon.

## Anna's Taqueria not reopening at student center this semester

*Three new vendors in Lobdell Dining expected to open Aug. 28, replacing Cafe Spice, Shawarma, Shinkansen*

**By Kristina Chen**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Anna's Taqueria previously located on the first floor of the Stratton Student Center has permanently closed.

Anna's opened on campus in February 2005 and closed at the student center in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic first closed MIT's campus.

Director of Campus Dining Mark Hayes wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the management at Anna's informed MIT that it would not be able to reopen their student center location this fall and could not provide a "firm timeline for resuming operations."

Betsy Kamio, owner of Anna's Taqueria, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that Anna's was unable to continue running a business in the

student center due to challenges relating to the "administration's new parameters" and challenges with the space.

Kamio added that "MIT has decided" the space "isn't a great fit for a restaurant" and instead "plans to turn the area into a student lounge."

Hayes wrote that it is possible that Anna's may return "at some

**Anna's, Page 2**

## New guidances announced relating to on-campus events, K-12 programs

*Event organizers should collect attendee contact information for contact tracing purposes and retain information for two weeks*

**By Kristina Chen**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT has revised its policies for on-campus events, allowing and welcoming both on and off campus events.

An update on MIT Now writes that internal events for departments, labs, centers, faculty, and student organizations may now be held on campus, as well as events by external groups sponsored by recognized student groups or faculty and staff with departmental approval.

Event organizers are required to collect contact information from all

event attendees, including name and phone number or email address. Organizers must obtain and retain this information for 14 days after the event for contact tracing purposes only.

Attendees to events on campus do not need to be on COVID Pass if they are escorted by a COVID Pass holder or if they check in at the event venue.

Attendees must wear face coverings if attending events held indoors, though a speaker may deliver a presentation unmasked if the audience is masked.

Additionally, face coverings are required in all MIT buildings and

shuttle buses except when individuals are alone in fully enclosed spaces, actively eating or drinking, alone in residential rooms or common areas, or speaking in a setting where all others present are masked. Face coverings are not required outdoors for vaccinated individuals.

Events with food and drink must reduce space capacity while attendees actively eat and drink. The Institute recommends that events limit group size, maintain additional distance, and limit time spent eating during dining periods.

**Events, Page 2**

## New at-home testing kits made available at various locations

*MIT to move from observed self-testing to unobserved self-testing*

**By Kristina Chen**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As of Aug. 16, MIT Medical's Johnson Athletics Center testing facility has moved to W35-199, beside the Zesiger Center lobby. Additionally, MIT is transitioning toward unobserved self-testing, offering at-home testing kits at various locations.

The new location has the same hours as the Johnson facility — 6 a.m.–6p.m. on weekdays. MIT plans to discontinue observed self-testing at the location starting Sept. 6 in order to allow for quick processing of a high volume of tests resulting from the full return of the MIT community to campus.

The new unobserved testing kits will be available at the W35-199 testing location, the MIT Medical atrium in Building E52, the Stata Center (near the MIT Ticket Office), Building E62 for Sloan School of Management community members only, and Lobby 7.

All locations will be staffed and kits can be picked up or dropped off on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional locations for drop off are expected to become available in the near future.

In order to partake in unobserved self-testing, community members must pick up a testing kit and access the MIT Medical section of the Atlas mobile app.

To take the test, community members must scan the barcode on the card or collection tube of the kit and swab as usual with the included swab before placing the collection tube into the provided biohazard bag, which can then be returned to one of the pick up/drop off locations.

Tests must be returned to the locations on the same day they are administered.

In order to access campus, community members must test twice a week and can choose to follow a

**Testing, Page 2**



ARUN WONGPROMMOON—THE TECH

**Las Palmas is one of the new restaurants** offered at the Stratton Student Center's Lobdell Dining Hall.

### IN SHORT

**The deadline for students to pre-register** is Aug. 26 at 5 p.m.

**First year move-in** is Aug. 28.

**Residence Exploration (REX)** will take place Aug. 28–Sept. 1.

**First Year Resident Exchange applications** open Aug. 28 and close Sept. 1.

**First-year and graduate student orientation** begin Aug. 29.

**Move-in for sophomores** participating in REX and S'more is Aug. 29–30.

**Registration opens** Aug. 30.

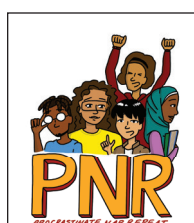
**Convocation** will take place Aug. 30.

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**Send news and tips to** [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

### ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Emails and calls for kindness are not enough. How can students influence change at MIT? **OPINION, p. 4**



### PNR

Tim In Space.  
**FUN, p. 5**

### FIRST YEAR ADVICE

Words to keep in mind for new students at the 'tute.  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7**

### SECTIONS

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WEATHER

Sunny weather greets the incoming freshmen!

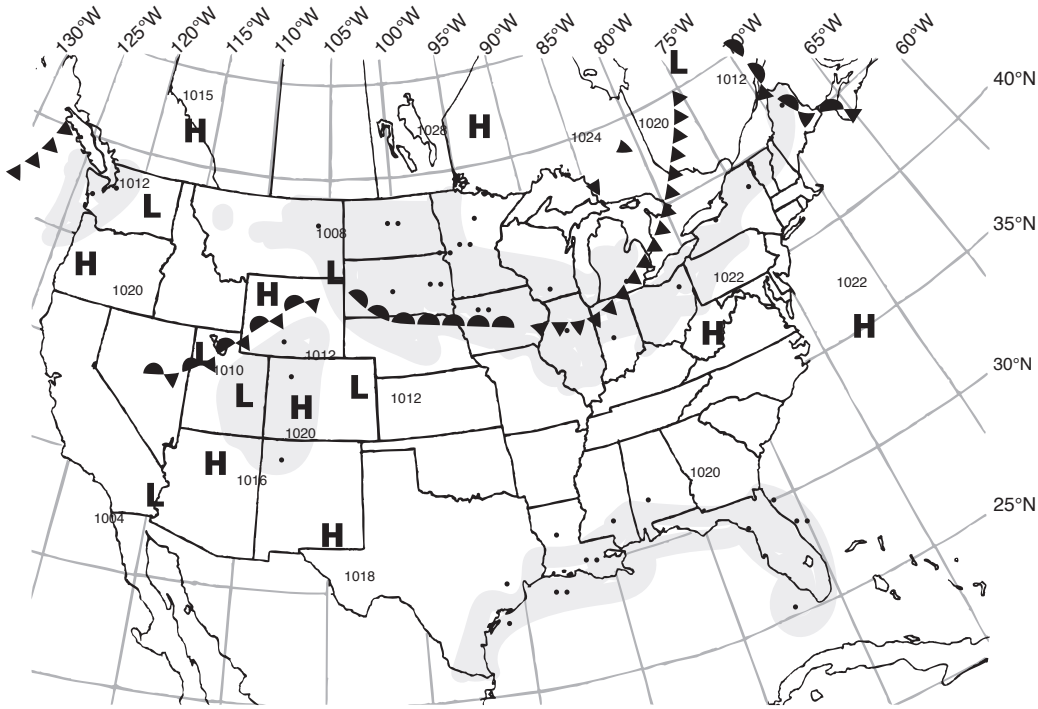
By Phoebe Lin  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As they say, Boston has two seasons: August and winter. As freshmen arrive on campus for pre-orientation, the hot, humid weather is greeting our early returners with a heat wave mixed with occasional showers. Hopefully, everyone is remembering to stay cool and hydrated with lots of ice cream, iced water, and popsicles!

Meanwhile, heat advisories are in place for much of the southern plains and northeast, and critical fire weather threats continue to be in place for the central Rockies and CA. As we live through this historic summer, I urge you to check in with your friends and family for their safety, and especially your parents! Remember to call home to check in, even as we try to get (re)acquainted with the firehose of campus life.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny. High around 91°F (33°C), humidity around 56%. Winds at about 6 mph, turning southeast in the afternoon.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a slight chance of showers after midnight. Low around 72°F (22°C). Winds around 7 mph in the southwest.  
**Tomorrow:** Sunny, then partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. High around 84°F (29°C) and low around 65°F (18°C). Winds 7-9 mph in the north.  
**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, then mostly cloudy with chance showers. High around 70°F (21°C), low around 62°F (17°C). East winds around 5-10 mph.  
**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high around 72°F (22°C). Southeast winds 6-8 mph, turning south in the evening



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, August 26, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow: * Rain: ▽	≡ Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front:	Light: * Moderate: ** Heavy: ***	⚡ Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front:		∞ Haze
	Stationary Front:		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Testing two times a week will be required

Testing, from Page 1

Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday testing schedule. Students arriving on campus must test on the

first, fourth, and seventh days that they are on campus. MIT Medical has administered a total of 7,062 COVID-19 tests since Aug. 23 and recorded 4 posi-

tive cases. Community members will still be able to access observed self-testing at the MIT Medical trailer testing location.

Dunkin', TechMart, and LaVerde's now open

Anna's, from Page 1

point in the future," but MIT will begin discussing "both temporary and permanent alternatives," including potential non-food service uses, for Anna's space. Kamio wrote that "it stings to have to close," but that the student center location was always Anna's "top-performing with breakfast sales" and that Anna's "loved being able to stay open after-hours during finals for late night study snacks." She added that Anna's would "love to be able to reopen" in the student center "with a reasonable lease and proper space to cook

onsite." In the meantime, Anna's six other locations will continue to operate as usual. In addition to Anna's, Cafe Spice, Shawarma Shack, and Shinkansen Bullet Train — all previously located in Lobdell Food Court on the second floor of the student center — will not reopen in the fall due to their contracts with MIT expiring during the pandemic. The three restaurants will be replaced with vendors chosen through MIT's Commonwealth Kitchen Launchpad and voted on by students in May 2021: Bibim Box, Carolicious, and Las Palmas. Bibim Box will serve Korean food

in a \$10.00–13.00 price range, Las Palmas will serve Caribbean-American food in a \$11.00–14.00 price range, and Carolicious will serve Venezuelan arepas in \$7.50–12.00 price range. Hayes wrote to *The Tech* that MIT aims for a "soft opening" of the Lobdell vendors Aug. 28. Students will be able to eat at the retail locations, although table capacity will be reduced and indoor eating guidelines will be enforced. Additionally, Dunkin', TechMart, and LaVerde's are currently open in the student center, with Cambridge Grill expected to open later in the semester.

On-campus tours expected to resume soon

Events, from Page 1

In general, MIT has lifted COVID-era limits on building occupancy and outdoor spaces, though capacity should be reduced during active dining to allow for greater physical distancing. MIT has also announced that department-sponsored programs serving K-12 students and minors are permitted to operate on and off campus, though in-person K-12 programs sponsored by students or student organizations are paused until

further notice. The pause will be re-evaluated at the end of September. For on-campus K-12 programs, minors eligible for vaccination must be vaccinated unless exempted if the program is more than three days in duration or involves an overnight stay in MIT residences. Authorized K-12 visitors are also expected to follow MIT's face covering policy, and program sponsors may impose additional restrictions such as attestation and group size limits but cannot impose additional vaccination requirements.

MIT also expects to resume in-person campus tours for prospective undergraduate students this fall after the opening of its new MIT Welcome Center. Visitors to campus may access MIT either through a COVID Pass holder escort or if checking into an MIT event or campus tour, though unescorted visitors may visit outdoor and public campus spaces. Visitors are expected to comply with MIT's COVID-19 policies and may be asked to provide contact information for contact tracing.

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Solution to S'more  
from page 6

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

Solution to FPOPs  
from page 5

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

# Solution to Farewells

from page 5

S	H	R	E	W	C	H	U	G	S	T	E	P		
C	A	I	R	O	R	O	S	E	T	A	D	A		
A	S	T	I	R	A	B	E	L	O	X	E	N		
T	H	A	N	K	S	F	O	R	C	O	M	I	N	G
					E	A	T		A	P	P			
A	B	S	O	R	B	N	O	P	E	A	S	P		
D	R	I	P		L	E	A	N		R	U	N	T	O
D	O	N	T	B	E	A	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R
L	O	U	S	E		R	A	V	E	I	S	N	T	
E	D	S		L	O	L		M	O	T	T	O	S	
					C	O	M		F	I	R			
T	I	L	L	W	E	M	E	E	T	A	G	A	I	N
A	R	E	A		L	O	R	E		T	E	N	S	E
T	O	N	S		E	V	I	L		E	N	T	E	R
A	N	T	S		T	E	E	S		S	T	E	E	D

Solution to REX  
from page 5

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

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# The issue with preaching kindness: a response to Institute-wide communications

*Is MIT capable of real change?*

of “differences in power, status, culture and education.”

**These calls towards a more inclusive and mindful environment are disingenuous.**

The Institute frequently tells us that advancement is primarily a matter of good intention. We are told that we are the future's leaders. We are the trailblazers. We are the visionaries. We have a "higher purpose for our talents." We "can make important contributions in this existential struggle, in time to make a difference." However, this belief that progress is inevitable as long as we act a bit more "mindfully" is not only inadequate, but also obscures the root issues that MIT has a responsibility to address.

**We must think critically  
about the status  
quo and question  
MIT's assumption of  
inevitable progress.**

The assault my friend and I experienced was not primarily due to a lack of “decency, integrity, humility, respect, kindness and appreciation.” It was a symptom of poverty, which takes away the opportunity to lead lives of dignity from working people, and gentrification, which produces hostility between elite students and the people who are being pushed out. MIT obscures that it and its students hold a larger role in and responsibility to problems of poverty and gentrification in Cambridge (see MIT’s Kendall Square Initiative). We need to go beyond “deliberat[ing] how we treat each other” and internalize the urgency of our responsibility to address the foundational

On the surface, there seems to be nothing immoral in a call for kindness; what wrong is there in an appeal to treat our neighbors with a bit more compassion, especially in a time of such “hate and brutality in our society”? However, MIT, an institution which is supposed to serve as a beacon of education and ideas for the leadership of American society, has a larger responsibility to address society’s greatest contradictions. These calls towards a more inclusive and mindful environment are disingenuous because they obscure the real causes of crime and the psychological crises of American people, which are poverty and imperialism. Most importantly, they conceal MIT’s role in misleadingly convincing students that they are true agents of change and preventing them from developing a genuine, moral path forward.

We must think critically about the status quo and question MIT's assumption of inevitable progress. Being a member of the MIT community does not make us the default leaders of the world. If we are serious about our commitment to progress, we must have the courage to go beyond investing in MIT as an agent of change and understand that the institution's interest in maintaining its power through wealth will always defeat its interest in people. We must wholly engage ourselves as leaders in the struggle for ideological clarity, challenge the ideas of MIT which uphold imperialism, and dispute the assumption that progress inevitably arrives with good intention. As revolutionary activist Grace Lee Boggs said, "We are the leaders we've been looking for."



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REX

Solution, page 3

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

FPOPs

Solution, page 3

6x	8+		15+		3
		8x		20x	
30x	24x		6x	6x	
		2-		1-	
4			10+		7+
30x			4		

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.

Host’s Farewells by Sally R. Stein

Solution, page 3

ACROSS

- 1 Shakespeare’s The Taming of the \_\_
- 6 Locomotive sound
- 10 Rung of a ladder
- 14 Capital of Egypt
- 15 Flower with thorns
- 16 “Look what I did!”
- 17 Out of bed
- 18 Eve’s second son
- 19 Plow-pulling bovines
- 20 “Glad you could make it!”
- 23 Have some food
- 24 Smartphone program, for short
- 25 Soak up like a sponge
- 29 Informal refusal
- 31 Nile snake
- 34 Sound of a leaky faucet
- 35 Tilt to one side
- 37 Approach quickly
- 39 “Hope you’ll return soon!”
- 42 Scoundrel
- 43 Rant and \_\_ (show anger)
- 44 Does not exist

DOWN

- 1 “Shoo!”
- 2 \_\_-browned potatoes
- 3 Actress Moreno or Hayworth
- 4 Nickname for Ireland
- 5 Employee
- 6 Ceramics or basketry
- 7 Rail-riding wanderer
- 8 \_\_-friendly software
- 9 Easy-to-swallow tablet
- 10 Jump heavily (on)
- 11 Car with a meter
- 12 Adam’s first home
- 13 Feeling of hunger
- 21 Weasel-like animal
- 22 Music with singing sopranos
- 25 Confuse
- 26 Group of hatchlings
- 27 Head-congestion locale
- 28 \_\_ out (unsubscribes)
- 29 Twangy-voiced
- 30 Being broadcast
- 31 State of nervousness
- 32 Shorthand expert
- 33 Cities with piers
- 36 \_\_ Grey tea
- 38 \_\_ of measure (gallon or mile)
- 40 Underneath
- 41 Send off payment
- 47 Egg-and-cheese breakfast
- 49 Gives a speech
- 50 Group being taught

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	26	27	28				29	30				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			

- 51 Has the opinion
- 52 “So long!”
- 53 Remove creases from
- 54 Donated temporarily
- 55 Go to a new home
- 56 One of the Great Lakes
- 57 Well-mannered guy
- 58 Initial poker payment
- 59 “That makes sense”
- 60 Single-minded expert

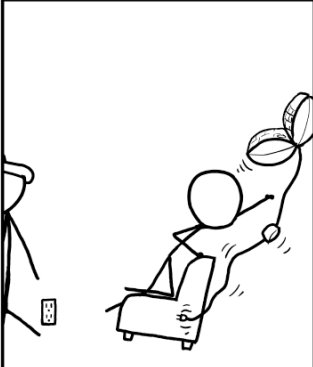


Tim In Space by Alina Sarmiento



Welcome to campus!





In this situation, `gzip /dev/inside` to deflate, then pipe the compressed air to `/dev/input` to clean your keyboard. Avert your eyes when you do.

Solution, page 3

8x			30+			378x	28x	3
15+		6+	12x	6x				9
26+							60x	1
1			20x		224x			2
90x		384x		22+				7
4						270x		
120x		25+		8				6
7			40x				24x	
30x			378x				2÷	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Advice for a first-year college student

Thoughts on academics, comparison, and careers from an alumnus

By Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74

This is the talk I wish someone had given me before my freshman year.

Yes, the year I entered MIT, 1970, is figuratively a million years ago. But everything statistical in this column is an indisputable fact.

You have been the best student in every academic class since kindergarten. At the very least, you were in the top 1%. I am going to tell you something you could easily figure out but aren't motivated to think about because you don't think it applies to you. It does. Even though MIT stopped publishing class rankings shortly before I arrived, you'll have a pretty good sense of where you stand relative to your peers.

If you go to a private university with a cohort of 1,100 students, the odds are one in 1,100 that you will be the top student in your class. There's about a 10% chance that you will be in the top 1%. It's a simple statistical fact. If your very identity is based on your be-

ing the best student (as mine was), you are in for a rude awakening. You have been a big fish in a small pond. You are now a small fish in a big pond.

This is likely to generate anxiety and perhaps even depression. You can and should seek help if you need to. Yes, you can motor through mild anxiety and depression by yourself or with the help of your friends. But they are not trained mental health professionals, and if either your anxiety or depression is severe, get free help from a counselor.

Here are several things I was told that made my MIT education go better and might smooth your college journey:

- "Statistically, someone has to be in the bottom percentile."
- "We wouldn't have admitted you if you couldn't do the work. You can do the work."
- "Do you know what they call the person who came in last in their class in medical school? Doctor."

This does not mean you should not work hard and strive for the best grades possible. You should. You will be amply rewarded if you graduate, no matter what your GPA. Admittedly, I never worked in science or engineering, where the situation is different, but I was never asked for my transcript until I applied to be a teacher. (Turns out you need a C average to be a teacher in California. I just made it.) Still, except for my job teaching eighth grade U.S. history, every job I ever had stemmed from the fact that I graduated from MIT.

While we're on the subject of jobs...

If you're lucky, you'll find your passion in college (or even earlier if you are really lucky). Your parents are good people and probably will support your career choice, no matter what your passion is — I hope.

I am a first-generation "passion" job holder. My father literally woke up every day of his adult life hating his job. I literally woke up every day of my adult life anxious to start

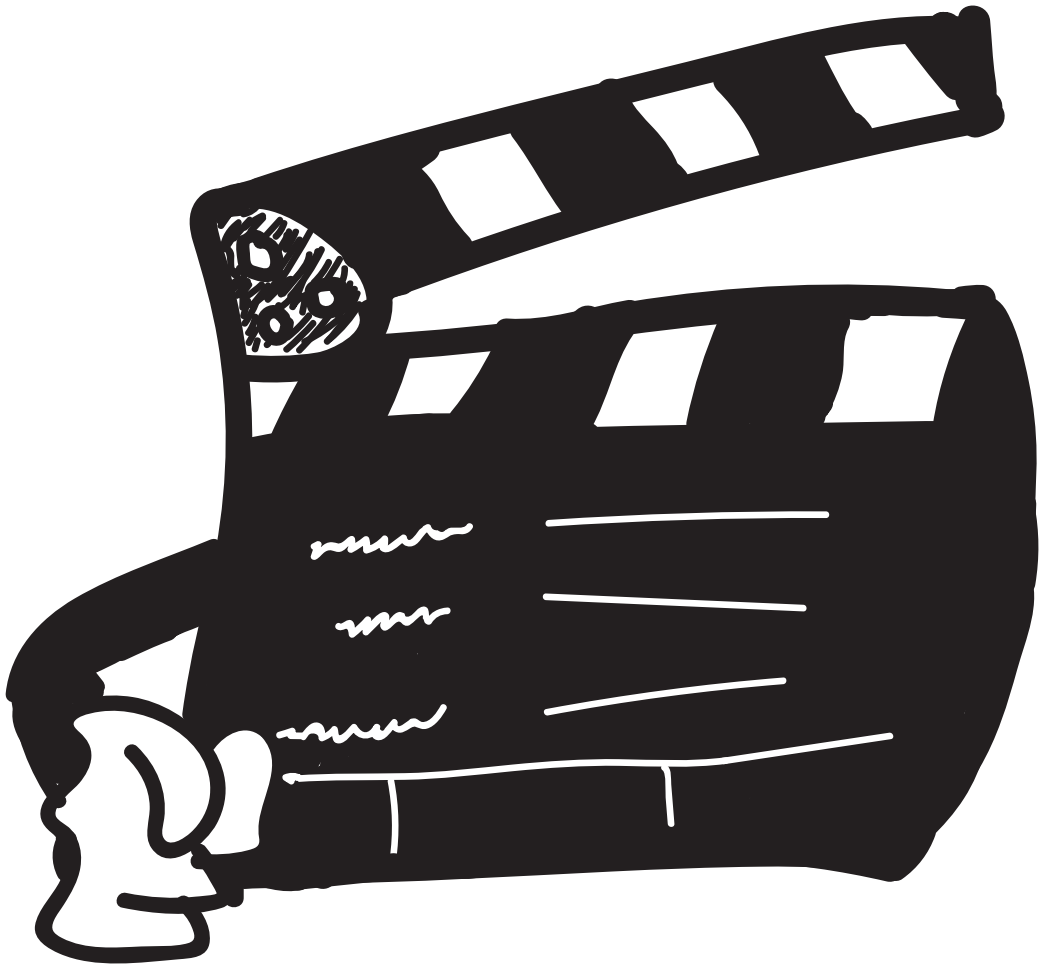
work because I loved my job.

Some parents will object if you pick a career in art, music, show business, or some other low-status career field (hopefully not your parents). My parents were concerned I'd never make any money as a journalist. Turns out my earnings peaked in 2000 at \$100,000 a year, which was big money back then.

Don't pick a career based on how much money you can make. Weird Al to the contrary notwithstanding, money can't even rent happiness. Do work you love, and you'll be happy your whole life.

In conclusion, let me say that my four years at the 'tute would have gone better had someone told me this all at once before I arrived, rather than dribbling it out over four years.

*Paul E. Schindler, Jr. earned a B.S. in Management in 1974, after serving a term as editor in chief of The Tech. He can be found at [www.schindler.org](http://www.schindler.org).*



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The Mind and Hand Book is the official guide to MIT's expectations of all undergraduate and graduate students, including the policies on academic integrity, alcohol, drugs, hazing, and sexual misconduct.

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[handbook.mit.edu](https://handbook.mit.edu)

