

MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 84°F | 69°F
Mostly sunny.

FRI: 82°F | 70°F
Chance showers.

SAT: 76°F | 65°F
Partly cloudy.

Volume 142, Number 16

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Institute to continue restricting access to campus for Fall 2022

Decision announcement generates response from MIT community; open letter reaches 1,800 signatures

By Shelley Choi
NEWS EDITOR

MIT announced that restrictions on campus access, initially established in 2019 due to COVID-19, will remain in place during a MIT community update call Aug. 8. Provost Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 and Executive Vice President and Treasurer Glen Shor reiterated that MIT would proceed with the plan with minor modifications in an Aug. 19 email.

Changes for MIT members

Building access for MIT community members (students, faculty, staff, and affiliates) remains largely unchanged, as long as they are compliant with current vaccination and COVID Pass requirements. They can continue to "access campus buildings through access points with their MIT IDs." Cross-registered students, research affiliates, and contractors and service providers must be entered into COVID Pass.

Changes for visitors

All visitors must follow MIT's COVID-19 policies "while on campus," but are "not required to have a negative" test before coming to campus.

Escorted visitors, if "accompanied by an MIT ID holder" already in COVID Pass, may enter "non-residential campus buildings from any access point." COVID Pass us-

Campus Access, Page 2



COURTESY OF SUNDEEP CHAKLADAR

Recently arrived prefrush have fun with a skateboard during the Discover Emergency Operations FPOP.



COURTESY OF SUNDEEP CHAKLADAR

Prefrsh students watch demonstrations during the Discover Emergency Operations FPOP, Wednesday.

Tea-Do to open on ground floor of Student Center within two weeks

Students can also expect improved dining hall experience with new Culinary Director, chefs, and registered dietician

By Kristina Chen
PUBLISHER

Tea-Do, a contemporary tea house serving drinks, smoothies, and Asian snacks, will be opening on the ground floor of the Stratton Student Center in the next two weeks, according to an email to *The Tech* from Director of MIT Dining Mark Hayes.

Tea-Do will be open seven days a week, with service from 11 a.m.-9

p.m. Sunday to Thursday and from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Additionally, the Commonwealth Kitchen Launchpad vendors on the second floor — BibimBox, Carolicious, and Las Palmas — will remain open in the fall, Monday through Friday. Bibimbox's hours will be 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Carolicious and Las Palmas will be open from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

The Dunkin' on the first floor will also be open Monday to Friday

from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Its hours have been extended to include Saturday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Students may use Dining Dollars and TechCash as payment methods for all student center vendors and for all campus dining locations.

Several improvements have also been made to residential dining halls. "Most notably, Bon Ap-

Tea-Do, Page 2

IN SHORT

First year pre-orientation programs are taking place Aug. 23-27.

Aug. 25 is the preregistration deadline for continuing students.

First year move-in begins Aug. 27. Orientation events will take place from Aug. 28-Sept. 2.

Residence Exploration (REX) is Aug. 28-31.

Registration opens for all students Aug. 29.

First year residence exchange (FYRE) applications are open from noon Aug. 27 to 2 a.m. on Aug. 31. FYRE results will be released by 5 p.m. Aug. 31 and moving will take place Sept. 1.

Interested in joining *The Tech*? Email join@tech.mit.edu.

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

Banana Lounge reopens to students after 'back and forth' with the MIT Division of Student Life

Banana Lounge team: access from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. alone 'not quite what we wanted'

By Srinidhi Narayanan
NEWS EDITOR

The Banana Lounge (26-110) is open to students again, according to an email from the Banana Lounge team to the MIT Community Aug. 2. Students can expect the Lounge to be stocked with bananas and drinks regularly beginning Sept. 2.

Located in Building 26, the Banana Lounge is a student social space dedicated to "stress relief, collaboration, and community," according to the Undergraduate Association (UA) website.

In the email, the team wrote that the MIT Administration "agreed to grant student access" 7 a.m.-11 p.m, but also noted that this alone was "not quite what [the team] wanted."

Banana Lounge Logistics Lead Megan Lim '24 elaborated in an email to *The Tech*, stating that "for the last year, the Lounge has been unavailable to students via tap access between the hours of 2 and 6

a.m." Previously, the Banana Lounge had been open 24/7 from its launch in April 2018 until a DSL policy change in Fall 2021.

Lim wrote that the team had been working with the Division of Student Life (DSL) for "over a year now" trying to return to the original 24/7 student access to the Lounge. She shared that the team dormspammed a poll March 18 asking students if they wanted 24/7 access to the Lounge, to which 97.9% of respondents (592 out of 605) indicated yes.

Lim also wrote about the process of working with the DSL on reopening the Lounge after the end of the semester, pointing out that the Lounge is designed as a space for students, a significant number of whom participate in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program on campus during the summer. She noted that "with most dorms closed, available social spaces are at a minimum," and that the Lounge has been open in past summers, providing students

a space to "hang out, get some work done, meet with friends, and escape the heat."

The team brought up a request to keep the Lounge open over the summer with the DSL on May 27; the request was denied, and opening the Lounge for the summer would "take another month and a half of back and forth."

The team sent out a survey to the student community June 2, asking "Do you want Banana Lounge to be open via tap access during the summer?" The survey also gave respondents the chance to leave their Kerberos username, hoping to use the Kerberos "as petition signatures."

Respondents answered similarly to the March survey, with 96% (177 out of 184) indicating yes.

Lim wrote that the team again requested admin to open the Lounge to students "mid-June," citing "the substantial student interest and support from UA President David Spicer and Vice President Shruti

Ravikumar." The DSL again denied the request, while granting access for "a few team members, and only for limited hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m.)."

The DSL would finally agree to open the Lounge for all students in "early July," with Banana Lounge team members agreeing to close it temporarily for any summer maintenance and renovations. The team would then send out an email notifying the student body of their access in early August. Lim commented on the delay in notifying the student body, writing that the team "wanted to organize the room a bit more before announcing" and that "it took longer than expected to coordinate and work on the space."

Upon securing access for all students, the team is now looking forward, planning to discuss the 24/7 access issue "and more" with the DSL. The team encourages students to stay engaged and to share their thoughts by reaching out to bananalounge@mit.edu.

FORTRESS MIT

To lock off our campus sends the wrong message to our own community, suggesting we need to be insulated from those around us, to protect ourselves through isolation rather than connection.

OPINION, p. 4

SECURITY TECH

Democracy needs MIT students.
OPINION, p. 5

SECTIONS

Opinion 4
Fun Pages 6

WEATHER

Freshmen bringing high potential energy

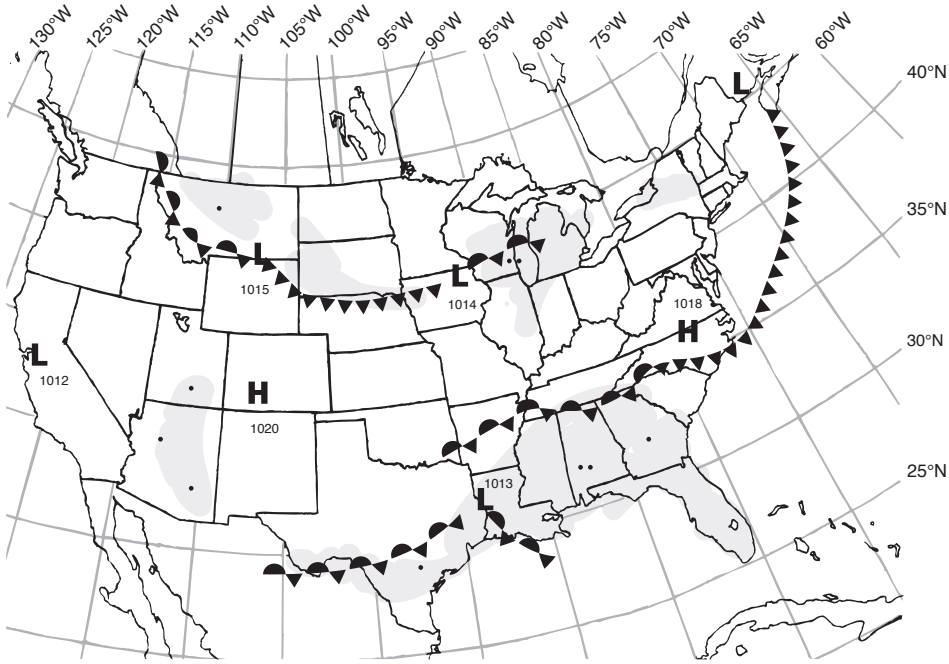
By Phoebe Lin
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

There's plenty of energy in the air, and it's coming not only from the incoming freshmen who've arrived on campus! Abundant moisture and instability are present in the atmosphere, causing persistent cloudy conditions and high dew-points that are expected to continue for the coming week. Enjoy the

end-of-summer weather, but be sure to stay aware of any possible thunderstorms coming your way. We can expect more temperatures in the mid to high 80's through the rest of pre-orientation. If you have lots of outdoor activities planned, especially if you're going on any hikes or building any outdoor roller coasters, make sure to stay heat conscious and hydrated!

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High around 84°F (29°C). Northwest winds around 7–10 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low around 69°F (21°C). Southeast winds around 7–10 mph.
Friday: Chance showers. High around 82°F (28°C) and low around 70°F (21°C). South winds around 10–15 mph.
Saturday: Partly cloudy. High around 76°F (24°C) and low around 65°F (18°C). North winds around 7–12 mph.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High around 75°F (24°C) and low around 65°F (18°C). East winds around 5–7 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, August 25, 2022

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * Rain: ∇	Fog: ☁
L Low Pressure	⌒ Warm Front	Light: * Moderate: ** Heavy: ***	Thunderstorm: ⚡
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front		Haze: ∅
	⌒ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

GSC President AJ Miller ‘surprised’ by decision to maintain closed campus

Campus Access, from Page 1

ers are responsible for their visitors during the visit. Escorted visitors are “strongly encouraged to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations.” Unescorted visitors and event attendees must use Tim Tickets, MIT’s visitor pass system. Visitors can register for a Tim Ticket after accepting “MIT guidelines for building access,” agreeing to “adhere to MIT rules and protocols,” and providing personal information, vaccination status, and symptom status. Visitors under the age of 18 “not accompanied by a parent or guardian” are generally not allowed.

Changes for the general public

The public is welcome in “outdoor spaces” and several buildings during stated daytime hours. The buildings include MIT Medical (Building E23), the MIT Welcome Center’s first floor (Building E38), the Stratton Student Center’s first floor and basement (Building W20), the Zesiger Center Sports and Fitness Center (Building W35), and the List Visual Arts Center (Building E15).

MIT planned to announce the addition of the Ray and Maria Stata Center’s first floor (Building 32), Koch Institute for Cancer Research’s café and first floor (Building 76), and the MIT Atrium (Building E25) separately on Aug. 22, according to the presentation during the Aug. 8 call.

Unescorted public group tours are “allowed inside select campus buildings during posted days and times.”

The doors to Lobby 7 will remain unlocked during weekdays from 9 a.m to 5 p.m., but will be locked past 5 p.m. and during weekends. Those who wish to access will have to tap in at the door with an MIT ID or Tim Ticket.

Behind the plan

Associate Provost Krystyn Van Vliet PhD ’02 led the Aug. 8 call, noting that the decision was guided by five main principles: “ease of access”; supporting the “health, safety, and security” of the community; creating a “welcoming environment” for “invited visitors participating” in MIT events; “clarity regarding for visitors from the wider Cambridge/Boston community” and “the global general public”; and retaining “elements of modified access that worked well for the MIT community during the pandemic.”

Van Vliet noted that “MIT conversations informed” the campus access plan. The planning team was composed of the Office of the Provost for “campus access and space planning oversight”; the MIT police for “safety and security considerations”; Information Systems & Technology for “technical and systems considerations and implementation”; Campus Services & Stewardship for “campus planning and design and management of physical plant”; Campus Planning for “design and planning considerations”; and Facilities for “physical operations and implementations” such as “impacts on staff working 24/7 on campus.” Van Vliet said the team sought further input from the MIT Undergraduate Association (UA), Graduate Student Council (GSC), and Faculty Policy Committee.

Chief of MIT Police John DiFava also discussed some non-pandemic advantages of having more control over campus access, such as safety, security, and greater control over large volumes of tourists and visitors.

MIT community’s response

An open letter drafted by Ari Ofsevit ’19 began circulating in the MIT community Aug. 11. As of Aug. 21, the letter has received 1,800 signatures from signees who are in “strong” disagreement with

the “recent decision to maintain a closed campus at MIT going forward.” The letter adds that “closing MIT’s campus will diminish the openness which makes MIT the vibrant, collaborative, forward-thinking place that it is.”

In an email to *The Tech*, Ofsevit wrote that as an MIT alum, he “cannot conceive of any reasonable reason” the administration would “give for closing the campus access.” He noted that the response to the letter has been “quite impressive” considering that “students aren’t back on campus” and he’s only done “some outreach on Twitter and to friends.” More than 80% of the responses are from “current or former students.”

After opening the ground for suggestions, Ofsevit wrote that he plans to “invite people who want to help shape the letter to Zoom editing sessions” to make sure “everyone’s voice is heard.” There have been many comments regarding the “struggles facing students’ groups” that “draw from the community.” He hopes that the administration will “explain why” they made this decision and realize “this is a broad issue that hits home with a lot of people.”

Tesla Wells G took an active part in circulating the letter. In an email Aug. 11, they noted MIT’s relationship with Cambridge/Boston and with the global public/tourists as the main reasons for objecting to campus restriction. They wrote that MIT was able to “empower a local arts scene” by giving them “free space” and offered “basic amenities” to the public like study group space, lecture halls, or restrooms. It is “important” for the public to be able to “wander through the halls and see posters on chemical engineering, transit designs, and cancer research” in a time when the public’s “relationship to science and institutions of higher learning is fraught.”

Wells wrote to *The Tech* that they signed the petition after completing a “large housing project” during their junior year at MIT, studying “how MIT has contributed to gentrification in the greater Cambridge area.”

Wells wrote that Van Vliet’s report showed that the “committee that workshopped” the proposal were mostly “people in security and facility maintenance roles.” There was a lack of “community input from MIT or the Cambridge Community,” and the MIT Office of Government and Community Relations, Disability Services, Admissions, or Alumni Association were not consulted. Wells wrote they are “deeply worried that marginal safety increase is coming at a large but unmeasured and unexpressed cost.”

GSC President Adam Joseph Miller G wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the GSC Executive Committee “met with the administration in late Spring” to “advocate for a relaxation of the access policy.” The Committee was “not a part of the decision or any conversations afterward” and “found out about the decision by public announcement.”

Miller himself was “surprised by the announcement” because “it didn’t align with where [he] thought the conversation was with the administration.” He “doesn’t think closed access is the right trade-off for our community,” and said the GSC would “advocate for a more open policy.”

Dormitory Council President Zawad Chowdhury ’23 wrote to *The Tech* that they and other executive members also signed the open letter as part of “organizations and community members affected by the change.”

Cambridge City Councilor Burhan Azeem ’19 was also active in advocating against campus restriction, writing that “having an ungated campus is critical to

MIT’s commitment to interdisciplinary work and culture of openness” in an email to *The Tech*. He added that this “allows many community members to benefit from MIT spaces for arts and other activities.”

Administration’s second response

Barnhart and Shor wrote to the MIT community with an update Aug. 19, noting that the administration’s decision “spurred conversation” in “recent days.”

Barnhart and Shor wrote that MIT “took steps to manage the flow of people” coming into the facilities in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the “pandemic has evolved,” a “planning team sought input from the community” to balance “two MIT values” of a “commitment to openness and to each other’s well-being.”

Barnhart and Shor added that they “appreciate the input from the MIT community.” While “a great many people ... care deeply about access to MIT,” there are also “many who worry about safety in fully open buildings.” MIT will “continue to gladly welcome visitors to open events” and “guests who are registered” or “escorted.”

Barnhart and Shor also wrote that MIT would “open some additional spaces to the public” as a result of the conversation, including the “first floors of the Stata Center and the Koch Institute, and the E25 atrium.” Barnhart’s statement comes after the three buildings were already planned to be added (according to the presentation in the Aug. 8 call, which wrote that the additions would be announced Aug. 22).

The plan is to “proceed with the described approach for the fall semester” and “continue the conversation” about balancing building access and community safety for the “spring semester and beyond.”

Meal Plan Working Group’s proposals to be fully implemented Fall 2024

Tea-Do, from Page 1

petit brought on Culinary Director Akeisha Hayde and five new chefs who have a wealth of experience in higher education, hotel, and restaurant food service,” Hayes wrote.

Hayde previously worked as the Executive Chef of Residential Dining at Harvard University for seven years, in addition to former executive chef positions at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston Medical Center.

Bon Appetit has also added a registered dietician who will work with students in residential dining to manage food allergies. Hayes wrote that a “newly added world-bowl station adjacent to the Oasis in Maseeh’s Howard Dining Hall” would expand MIT Dining’s allergy-friendly options by excluding gluten and nuts. Additionally, a new Student Allergy Advisory Group will assist MIT Dining in improving allergy-friendly menu options.

The late-night menu at Simmons Hall will be expanded to include hot items from the grill station.

Finally, vending machines have been added on the first floor of the student center and in Building 16 selling both hot and cold caffeinated Japanese beverages, including coffees and milk teas.

Hayes explained that the enhancements are “founded on broad-based efforts to upgrade house dining.” Hayes mentioned that to “set the stage for steady,

targeted improvements like these,” the Meal Plan Working Group launched in 2019 had proposed a new structure with updated meal plan amounts in March 2020. The working group’s plan will be fully implemented in Fall 2024.

Despite disruptions due to the pandemic, MIT Dining has been “optimizing plan value and flexibility, encouraging the use of meals, and ensuring the dining program’s long-term financial sustainability.”

Students may email foodstuff@mit.edu

mit.edu or complete MIT Dining’s feedback survey, which is co-sponsored by the Undergraduate Association and the Dormitory Council, with their questions or suggestions on house or retail dining. Hayes wrote that feedback from students has “shaped enhancements such as adding halal entrees in every house, the house sushi program, and more robust made-to-order action stations.” To view menus and hours for MIT’s dining halls, students should check mit.cafebonappetit.com.

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Solution to ACE
from page 6

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

Solution to DAD
from page 6

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

Solution to DEAPS
from page 7

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

Solution to FOP
from page 8

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

Solution to At the Door
from page 6

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

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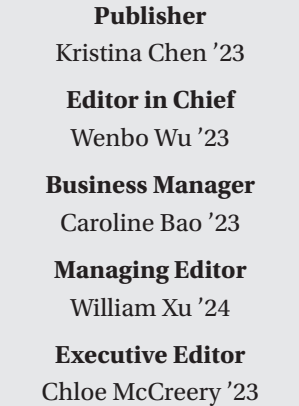
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“When I went to college, suddenly there were some folks who didn’t think at all like me... And sometimes their views would be infuriating to me... I’ve heard of some college campuses where they don’t want to have a guest speaker who, you know, is too conservative, or they don’t want to read a book that has language that is offensive to African-Americans, or somehow sends a demeaning signal towards women. And you know, I’ve got to tell you, I don’t agree with that either. **I don’t agree that you, when you become students at colleges, have to be coddled and protected from different points of view.**”

- Barack Obama, 2015

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*Restricting access weakens our community, insults our neighbors,
and betrays our values*

As someone who has spent the better part of five decades in and around of MIT, I feel the need to express my concerns — and really, my sadness and disappointment — over the administration's recent tendency to lock down, control, and shut off access to our campus. Despite public statements and public relations campaigns proclaiming the importance of community, openness, and caring, the reality on the ground demonstrates just the opposite: increasingly, the university is closing itself off from our neighbors.

This trend began long before the current pandemic. I first noticed it when sections of Building 6 were closed, even to MIT ID holders, presumably because the newly renovated lobby spaces had become too nice to allow random riffraff to enjoy. Over the past two years, this trend has accelerated to the point where all entries to campus are now locked behind ID scanners. And now, just when it seems possible that we may be returning to some semblance of pre-pandemic life, the installation of new scanners to replace the “temporary” gates at the main entrance of Building 7 signals a chilling new normal: Fortress MIT.

I've worked here for 15 years and have been a resident of the neighborhood for nearly my entire life. I have always been impressed and proud of the Institute's commitment to open access, both intellectual and physical. Over this time, despite the challenges of maintaining our research labs and keeping our students safe, we have continually nurtured a generally friendly and open campus environment, where everyone (student, faculty, staff, visitor, neighborhood resident, or even tourist) was made to feel welcome and included. Our libraries allowed

locals to browse, sit, read, and learn; our classrooms and lecture halls welcomed the neighborhood for public talks and performances; our hallways, lobbies, bathrooms, and water fountains served everyone, regardless of ID or status, at any time of day or night; surplus food was put out for the taking, feeding the hungry and preventing waste; and our doors were open, allowing everyone to navigate through the maze of campus as they needed, without unnecessary barriers, suspicion, or surveillance.

I know that the recent pandemic created concerns over the need to “secure” campus (although my own sense is that many of those concerns were overplayed). But to allow this unfortunate moment to be used as an opportunity to *permanently* install card scanners and locks on every exterior access point (and even some interior ones — bathrooms, classrooms, and special study spaces) is truly disheartening, and more than a little disingenuous as well. Take a moment to ponder the Orwellian irony of the new “Dynamic Engagement Node” on the Restricted Infinite Corridor: how much dynamism or engagement do we expect to happen, locked behind not one but two card scanners?

COVID-19 alone does not provide a justification for these changes — and you'll of course note that nearly all of our students and faculty regularly leave campus and visit neighboring restaurants and other buildings, which are open to the public.

To lock off our campus sends the wrong message to our own community, suggesting we need to be insulated from those around us, to protect ourselves through isolation rather than connection. It's also inconvenient and patently silly to boot: other than causing confusion and delay, do we really think that non-cardholders can't figure out

how to get through this absurdly ineffective security system? But worst of all, it serves as an insulting slap in the face to our host communities, which (to be honest) have much more to fear from us than we have to fear from them, between institutional expansion and displacement, disruptive parties and events, nuclear and biotech hazards, or even campus visits from influential individuals of questionable character.

I'd love to learn that my fears of a permanent MIT security state are overblown, and am eager to hear of plans to return to the "old normal" as soon as possible. At the very least, it would be good to learn that the administration is making these changes in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including students and staff as well as neighbors and community partners. In the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP), we teach this as basic "Community Planning 101." Unfortunately, from what I can tell, there hasn't been much open discussion to date. (And for those inclined to skepticism, it's worth noting that the installation of the new Lobby 7 scanner during the dead of summer suggests a less-than-open process.)

We know that the work of hands and minds need not be cut off from the wisdom, love, commitment, and bravery we find in our hearts. Sadly, students in the senior Class of 2023 now represent the only remaining undergraduates who may remember the unfettered magic of the “pre-scanner” campus, an MIT that represented this spirit of open learning, free and generous sharing, and a broader, unselfish caring.

Before these last embers of community and inclusion are extinguished, let's remember these feelings and act on them. Let's re-open our minds, our hearts, and our doors.

Ezra Haber Glenn is a lecturer in DUSP.



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GUEST COLUMN

Defense tech: social impact ... or just warheads on foreheads?

It's time for MIT students to disrupt the defense innovation paradigm

By Damien Lewke and Austin Gray

What is the purpose of your business? Does it have one aside from making money? Does your investing or your product make the world better for anyone besides shareholders, customers, and employees? We ask because we want jobs through which we can make the world a better place, just like you. We need financial security, but we want a sense of purpose too.

We also ask because the set of companies we traditionally see labeled as “social impact” never includes the security tech companies we get excited about. Most firms with the social impact label serve disempowered groups, such as families priced out of affordable education in their community, or help correct broader negative market externalities, such as climate change. The impact of these mission-oriented social impact companies is incredible. We are thankful for them every day because the problems they tackle head-on are urgent.

These companies are just like security technology companies. A for-profit construction company with a mandate to build affordable, green homes delivers so-

cial impact in the same way as a for-profit drone manufacturer with a mandate to help democracies defend themselves. The perception of defense tech as warheads on foreheads is not inaccurate. However, it is neither (1) holistic nor (2) disqualifying from the label of social impact.

1. **Security tech is much more than missiles and drones.** We can trace the origins of modern “defense tech” back to early aviation and MIT’s success developing technologies like RADAR. Cold War missile and space tech drove the industry through the 20th century, as did kit for the later war on terror, such as bomb-disarming robots. But the ecosystem is much broader. Most of the startups we follow today are using analytics or cyber or hardware solutions to solve problems for a broader array of stakeholders than just the Department of Defense. MIT security tech startups are helping first responders, election officials, intelligence agencies, energy companies, and the military.
2. **Making weapons does not disqualify a company from doing good for the world.** The same RADAR that was de-

veloped at MIT — not a weapon but an essential upgrade for the “kill chain” to combat bad guys — turned the tide early in World War II. Before that technology, U-boats ran amok in the Atlantic, sinking Allied ships indiscriminately, most of which were civilian cargo vessels. With RADAR, Allied planes could finally find and target U-Boats, ending their free reign. Without that defense tech, the Nazis could have starved out Britain. Many more allied sailors and civilians crossing the Atlantic would have died. Today, Boston Dynamics’s Spot robots assist police and military units across the world, aiding in rescue operations, hostage extractions and ordinance disposal to save lives.

In summary, the ecosystem or industry we’re talking about is not just lethal defense tech, but security tech more broadly. Moreover — especially with Ukraine under attack and tensions over Taiwan rising — the security challenges faced by global democracies are severe enough to make even kill chain tech, wielded appropriately, a social net-positive. As co-presidents of what was previously Sloan’s Defense Tech Club, we have

changed the name to the Global Security Tech Club.

We acknowledge the counterargument that any tech used to kill people or spy on people can be used for nefarious purposes. This counterargument is strong and viable in many cases. However, tech solutions can and must be used to strengthen our democracy. The Allied tech ecosystem must continue to overmatch Chinese and Russian militaries in technical warfighting to deter further encroachment on sovereign democracies. We must choose to shape technology to secure our intellectual property, our elections, our energy grid, our internet, and our way of life. To achieve this, we need innovative leaders in security technology. If these leaders are not at MIT, where would they be? Democracy needs MIT students thinking about the grave security challenges it faces and innovating on a mission to solve them. Democracy needs MIT students.

Damien Lewke is a Master’s student in System Design & Management.

Austin Gray is an MBA-MPA student at the Sloan School of Management and the Harvard Kennedy School.



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At the Door by Sally R. Stein

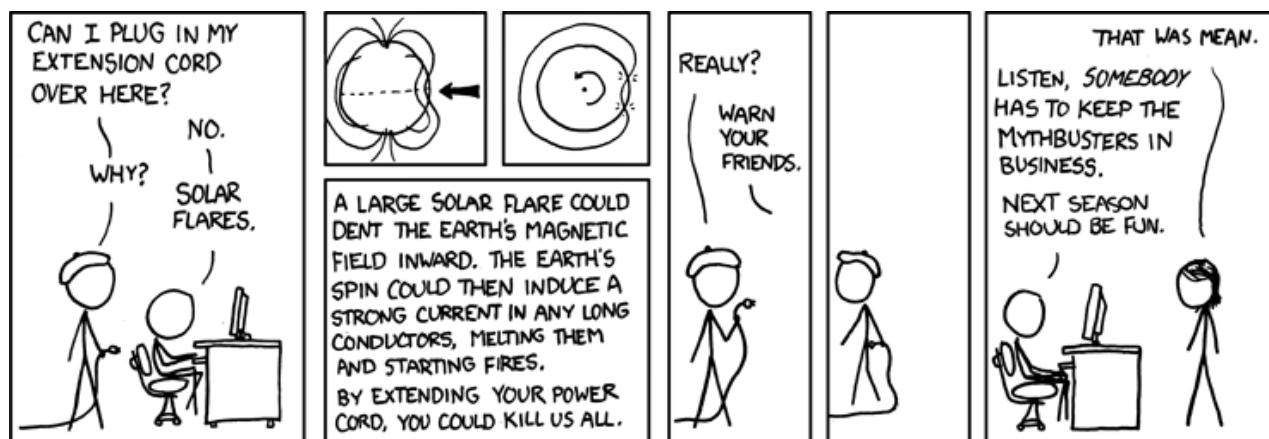
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58 Roof overhang
59 Dinner or breakfast
60 Vampire author Rice
61 Art on an arm, for short

[509] Induced Current



by Randall Munroe



The MythBusters need to tackle whether a black hole from the LHC could REALLY destroy the world.

