thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2 Mostly sunny. SAT: 69°F | 51°F

Volume 142, Number 19 Thursday, September 22, 2022

# Dance party held Sept. 17 to mark end of Reif's presidency

Over 10,000 community members attended the event, which took place at three different venues

By Kristina Chen PUBLISHER

"Let's Dance," a party event organized by MIT Institute Events to celebrate the conclusion of President L. Rafael Reif's 10 years of presidency at MIT took place Sept. 17. Reif announced last spring that he would step down at the end of 2022.

Ted Johnson, director of Institute Events, wrote in an email to The Tech that the event was organized at the request of Reif and was the president's thank-you and appreciation event for faculty, staff, and students.'

The event, which lasted from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, saw more than 10,000 community members attend with their friends and families, according to Johnson. Community members were allowed to bring one adult guest and any accompanying children to the event. Attendees were admitted via wristbands picked up at Killian Court and near Kresge.

Johnson wrote that hundreds of staff contributed to the planning and production of the party's events and that "planning came together over the summer, during which we sought musical talent

from Cambridge and greater Boston." Additionally, Institute Events "developed activities that would provide entertainment for guests of all ages who have a wide range of

The party took place in several locations, including the Johnson Athletic Center Ice Rink, the Rockwell Cage, the Kresge Oval, and Killian Court.

The night began with a "Community Cafe" event from 6:30-8 p.m., which served buffet supper in the Johnson Ice Rink and Kresge Oval;

Reif Rave, Page 2



MIT community members celebrate at the MIT Dance Party that President Reif hosted prior to concluding his time as MIT president,

MIT: REGRESSIONS, a feature-length documentary created by MIT students Luke Igel '22 and Wesley Block '22, premiers in 26-100 Sunday Sept. 18. The documentary follows the history of the Institute, spanning from World War 2 to COVID-19; the screening was presented by MIT Lecture Series Committee (LSC)



Students browse through the items for purchase at the UA's Trash to Treasure event in Lobby 10, Sunday.

### **IN SHORT**

Career fair will take place in person Sept. 23, which is also a student holiday.

The finals exam schedule is available at *finalexams.mit.edu*.

Undergraduate registration opens for second quarter Physical Education & Wellness classes 8 a.m. on

Add Date is Oct. 7.

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Send news and tips to news@tech.

# Plan for belonging, achievement, and composition released Sept. 1

The plan will be implemented over a 'foundation year' during which local units will adapt to recommendations

By Srinidhi Narayanan NEWS EDITOR

President L. Rafael Reif released the MIT Strategic Action Plan for Belonging, Achievement, and Composition in an email to the MIT community Sept. 1. Reif called the plan "a critical step in the Institute's longstanding efforts to cultivate a community in which all of us can do our best work and thrive."

Reif noted that a draft of the plan was released March 2021; at that time, the plan was titled "MIT Strategic Action Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." While emphasizing that diversity, equity, and inclusion were still priorities for the Institute and "remain front and center in the final version," Reif wrote that the steering team shifted the focus to belonging, achievement, and composition because they believe "those words better reflect how we think about our community and its values."

Reif concluded the email with a roadmap for what lies ahead: Institute Community and Equity Officer (ICEO) John Dozier and staff will reach out to "local units" across the Institute to "offer guidance and support as they begin to develop or refine their own plans for action."

The discussions in these local units will take place over what the plan calls a "foundation year." The foundation year "provides an opportunity to experiment" and for the units to align their efforts with the recommendations of the strategic action plan.

The email directs readers to a website that breaks down and details the plan. The site features sections for the components of the plan — belonging, achievement,

and composition - as well as a high-level executive summary of the plan, a directory of the faculty and students involved in writing and refining the plan, a pdf copy of the plan in full, and page with slightly more detailed summaries of the sections of the plan.

The belonging, achievement, and composition pages of the site each include a set of commitments, proposed actions, and clear indicators of "owners" of the actions; owners are the administrators or offices directly responsible for the management and implementation of said actions.

#### **Belonging**

On the "Belonging" page, there are commitments to "critically engage with and empower the MIT community on the value of inclusion and belonging as drivers of Institute effectiveness;" "reinforce positive interactions among members of the MIT community to foster and promote an enduring sense of belonging;" and "support academic research, scholarship, and administrative collaborations regarding diversity, equity, inclusion. social justice, and related topics."

The page features proposed metrics for evaluating progress on the commitment: for example, the extent of "participation of leadership, students, postdocs, staff, and faculty in inclusive leadership programs and engagement opportunities" (as a metric for the first commitment).

A suggested metric for evaluating the commitment to reinforce positive interactions among community members is responses from the Quality of Life Survey - such as percentage of community members who report a favorable sense of belonging, or number of members who report receiving mentoring.

A proposed metric for the third commitment is volume of research projects and teaching focused on systemic racism.

Among the proposed actions are "broadly disseminate the MIT values statement" (owner: President); "recognize individuals who participate in specific, projectbased roles related to advancing Institute goals for belonging, achievement, and composition that fall outside of their job descriptions" (owners: Chancellor, Provoost, VP for Human Resources, VP for Research); and "make new investments of \$1 million in research to achieve progress on racial justice and equality" (owner: President).

There are 25 proposed actions on the "Belonging" page altogether. Achievement

The "Achievement" page includes five commitments:

- To "advance excellence in all forms among underrepresented undergraduate students" with proposed metrics like firstto second-year retention, fourand six-year graduation and participation in experiential learning programs.
- To "advance excellence among underrepresented graduate students" with metrics like qualifying exam pass rates and postgraduation outcomes.
- To "advance excellence among underrepresented postdocs," which would be evaluated by considering postdoc placements after completion of their MIT appointments.
- To "advance excellence among underrepresented staff," to be evaluated by considering pro-

Action Plan, Page 2



#### **LET'S DANCE!**

Celebrating Reif's retirement after 10 years of his presidency! PHOTO, p. 4



## **CATCH-22 GALORE**

I don't know why I got myself into this labyrinth of two visas, one Massachusetts ID, and several out-of-state trips. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6

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**WEATHER** 

## Falling into the firehose

By Katherine Pan

Possible thunderstorms and heavy rain early today will clear up soon as a strong cold front advances towards Cambridge. Expect a cool and dry second day of fall on Friday as clouds give way to sunny skies extending into early next week. Though it certainly won't be pouring buckets this weekend, light showers are likely to occur on Sunday, so it's good to keep that umbrella with you just in case.

While conditions seem ideal for a pleasant stroll, avoid surfing or other coastal activities during the 3-day weekend as Hurricane Fiona causes seas to build beyond 7 ft on Massachusetts and Rhode Island beaches. Though it's not expected that Fiona will touch down near Boston, the storm has already caused devastation upon making landfall in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic last week and early this week.

#### **Extended Forecast**

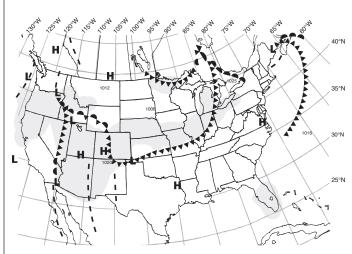
Today: Heavy rain. High around 73°F (23°C). Southwest wind around 11 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low around 49°F (10°C). Northwest winds 8-14 mph.

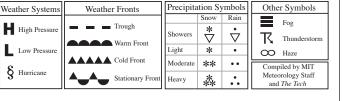
**Tomorrow**: Mostly sunny. High around 60°F (16°C) and low around 45°F (7°C). Northwest winds 15-22 mph.

Saturday: Sunny. High around 69°F (20°C) and low around 51°F (11°C). Northwest winds 6-14 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. High around 73°F (23°C) and low around 60°F (16°C). Southwest winds 7-10 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, September 22, 2022



# Dancing and music enlivened Kresge and Killian tents

Reif Rave, from Page 1

the supper menu consisted of salmon, chicken and tofu skewers, potato salad, kale and quinoa salad, breadsticks, chocolate bread pudding, and peach cobbler.

An a cappella showcase was held in the ice rink at 7 p.m., featuring student a cappella groups the Chorallaries, Syncopasian, the Ohms, the Muses, Resonance, and the Logarhythms. Johnson wrote to *The Tech* that Reif and Professor Raúl Radovitzky "personally invited the a cappella groups to collaborate on the showcase."

In an email to *The Tech*, Tiffany Trinh '22 described the atmosphere of the ice rink as "lively and colorful" but found the food aside from the dessert "dry and disappointing."

Following the a cappella performances, Reif greeted the audience before leading a conga line out of the ice rink.

Beginning at 8 p.m., the dance party started across campus, with live music or DJs playing from 8 or 9 p.m. to midnight at three venues. The venues were tents erected at the "World of Music Pavilion" on Kresge Oval, the "Swing into Salsa Club" at the

Johnson Ice Rink, and the "Campus Night Club and Lounge" on Killian Court.

Mamadou, a Sengalese African band, and Arabic Band featuring Ahmaed Kayssi performed live at the Kresge tent until 11 p.m., after which a DJ played music from various countries, including Bollywood, Kpop, hip-hop, and Israeli club music.

Miguel Talamantez '25 wrote in an email to *The Tech* that The Mood Swingers Jazz Orchestra that played in the ice rink salsa club was "absolutely incredible" and that "there were many amazing dancers in the audience." The salsa club also featured Los Sugar Kings who performed Afro-Cuban Son, Salsa, and Rumba-Flamenca music.

The night club and lounge on Killian included two tents, one where dancing took place featuring Groove Boston with DJ Bobby D and another where refreshments were served.

Sandra Tang '23 wrote that the dancing in the tents "was really fun and felt like a real concert you'd go to downtown," though the area was "very crowded, especially up towards the front, complete with the lots of pushing and shoving that is typical of many concerts."

Trinh expressed that the dancing in the Kresge and Killian tents was "the most enjoyable part of the night, with good beats and vibes alike." Trinh also appreciated that the dancing took place in an "open and well-ventilated area with free food and drinks," adding that it "certainly surpassed every frat or dorm party" she had attended.

Event attendees aged 21 and older were able to enjoy complimentary alcoholic beverages during supper and at each of the venues. Each of the three venues also continued to serve non-alcoholic beverages and food throughout the night, including nachos, pizza, waffle fries, chicken wings, cupcakes, cookies, and macarons.

Additionally, throughout the entire event, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, a "Boardwalk Arcade" was set up in Rockwell Cage. Community members enjoyed music from the '60s, '70s, and '80s while also playing games such as foosball, boardwalk basketball, air hockey, carnival games, and arcade games. Lemonade, lime rickeys, popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones were also served at the arcade.

The party was received well by student attendees. Tang wrote that she attended the event with people from other schools and that "it gave them a really good impression of MIT (although not entirely accurate of typical life at the Institute)."

Apart from "excruciating" wait times for wristbands, refreshments, and food, Trinh — who graduated in May and traveled from another state to attend the party — wrote that the party was "definitely worth the trip" and that a highlight for her was "seeing the whole MIT community come together and have a good time."

Talamantez echoed this sentiment, writing that MIT "should absolutely do this more often" and that the party "really brought together the MIT community like no other event has."

On the Monday following the party, Reif sent a thank you email to the MIT community, writing that he and his wife Chris visited each of the party's venues and expressing his gratitude toward all of the event's attendees and organizers.

"I could not have asked for a more delightful memory of the people of MIT," Reif wrote.

# Plan includes actions meant to increase representation

Action Plan, from Page 1

motion and retention rates, and average salaries within job classifications/bands.

 To "advance excellence among underrepresented faculty," to be evaluated by considering promotion and tenure rates, and salary increases.

Among the proposed actions are expanding the fifth-week flag system to a more structured alert system across all four years (to address the goal of advancing excellence among underrepresented undergraduates); and reviewing and evaluating existing tenure and promotion

criteria and revising them to incentivize service contributions that include belonging, achievement, and composition (to address the goal of advancing excellence among underrepresented faculty).

There are a total of nine proposed actions on the "Achievement" page.

Composition

The "Composition" page makes five commitments as well, and is structured similarly to the "Achievement page." In particular, four of the commitments are to improving representation of underrepresented populations: graduate students, postdocs and research staff, staff, and faculty.

The final commitment is to "assess and strengthen recruitment of underrepresented undergraduate students."

Among the proposed metrics for these commitments are applicant yield rates and graduate student diversity, postdoc diversity, diversity of managers and non-faculty academic staff, number of faculty participating in trainings about effective practices for search committees, and number and diversity of high school students participating in MIT-sponsored pipeline programs.

There are 18 proposed actions, among which are "catalog each department, lab, and cen-

ter's hiring practices for postdocs and establish Institute-wide best practices, processes, and standards" and "create a certification process focused on the relationships between diversity, community, and excellence for all faculty participating in faculty hiring

decisions."

The resources page includes additional information about aspects of the plan; there is a link to more information about the foundation year, a guide to "how to read the action plan," steps to creating a local plan (for the "local units" to apply as they adapt to the overarching plan), and signups for weekly open office hours with the ICEO.

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## Reif

Solution, page 7

5			9	2		6		
		3	1				9	
	7				6			<b>5</b>
			7		9	8		6
		7		8		9		
9		2	6		4			
9			6 4				7	
	9				1	3		
		6		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.

# Rave

Solution, page 7

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

> 15 18

> > 24

21

59

23

52

# Going Up And Down by Doug Peterson

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Room just under the roof 6 What police officers enforce 10 Swelled heads
- 14 Safari beast with a nose horn
- 15 Highway off-ramp
- 16 "As I \_\_ and breathe!"
- 17 Desert animal with humps
- 18 Notorious Roman emperor 19 Smooth out
- 20 Ceiling painter's climbing
- aid
- 22 Penny
- 23 Soft metal in pewter 24 Money owed
- 26 Campground vans, for
- short 29 Frozen waffle brand
- 32 Kentucky \_\_ (annual horse
- race)
- 35 Ooh and \_\_
- 36 Countless years
- 38 Didn't feel too well 40 Circular path to an upper
- floor 44 Sharpened, as a razor

- 45 Mustache or beard 46 Meditative Buddhist sect
- 47 Back-to-health program, for short
- 49 Make a strategy
- 51 Double-curve letter
- 52 Flightless Aussie birds
- 54 Professors' helpers: Abbr.
- 56 Elegant party
- 59 Apartment building's way down in an emergency
- 65 Reader of a tech manual 66 Overturn, as pancakes on
- a grill
- 67 Chocolaty winter beverage
- 68 Tells untruths
- 69 Otherwise
- 70 Knight's metal suit 71 Counterfeit thing
- 72 Little boy
- 73 Underwater coral ridges

#### DOWN

- 1 Curved lines
- 2 "You can say \_\_ again!"
- 3 Stopwatch reading
- 4 Without any skill

- 5 Dog breed that Lassie is
  - 6 Provide temporarily 7 Chopped down with a
  - hatchet
  - 8 Connected to household current
  - 9 Kept for later
  - 10 Needing to be plugged in to work
  - 11 Donate
  - 12 Appliance for roasting
  - 13 Mailed out
  - 21 Heavenly one with a halo
  - 25 Beast seen by Goldilocks
  - 26 Reaction to poison ivy
  - 27 Water \_\_ (steam)
  - 28 Sparkle, as shoes
  - 30 "Golly!"
  - 31 Served from a keg
  - 33 Bright fire
  - 34 Positive replies
  - 37 Go by ship
  - 39 Family rooms
  - 41 Practice before a performance
  - 42 Cain's father
  - 43 Furious
- 66 68 69

20

35

40

44

26 | 27 | 28

56 57 58

- 72
  - 48 "All you can eat" meal 50 Auto racing organization
- 53 Inane
- 55 Cross home plate \_ of Mexico (water south
- of Louisiana)
- 57 Japan's continent
- 62 63 64 70 73

19

22

UNFUNFUNFUNFUN **FUN**FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFU

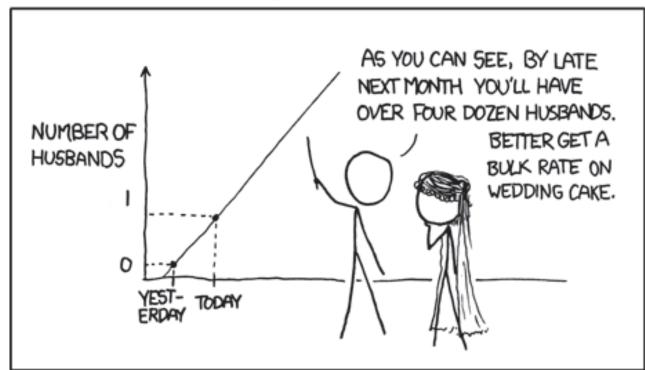
UNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

- 58 Onionlike vegetable
- 60 Take a chance with
- 61 Olympic sword
- 62 Apex
- 63 "It disappeared!" sound 64 Servings of corn on the
- cob

# [605] Extrapolating

MY HOBBY: EXTRAPOLATING





By the third trimester, there will be hundreds of babies inside you.

4 THE TECH
THURSDAY, SEPTEME

# REIF RETIRE MIT community members celebrate Reif hosted prior to concluding hi













THE TECH 5 BER 22, 2022

# MENT RAGER

e at the MIT Dance Party that President

s time as MIT president, Saturday.















## **ARUN'S ADVENTURES**

# **Passport**

Why is it so hard

By Arun Wongprommoon

"England Trip?? Spring break"

"If we do decide to go to Europe/ UK, let me know a bit early! I will have to get a visa:')))"

Around mid-February, after our initial thoughts of going to England, my friends and I looked up other potential travel destinations and decided we'd rather go to Canada, as it was cheaper. That was when the Catch-22 started. By the time we planned out an itinerary for the Canada trip, ambitious to visit Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec, as opposed to just one city, it was already too late. It was still a month away from spring break, but in the timeframe of visas, this was nothing.

Some people have been surprised to learn that I need a visa to visit the neighbor up north for spring break. At this point, I just assume I need a visa for every country I think of visiting, except for Southeast Asian and East Asian countries. A Thai passport just isn't powerful enough to spontaneously visit another country, and this is what I'll have to live with for the rest of my life.

Initially, feeling hopeful, I thought I might be able to obtain a visa to Canada within one month. I filled out the application, which was eight pages long and similar to a tax form. It wasn't extremely difficult, but I needed to tediously dig up a lot of random information about my life. I gathered documents, including the required detailed itinerary (which was why I couldn't have applied earlier), a history of countries I've been in the past ten years, my bank statements for the past three months, and documentation certifying that I'm residing in the U.S. legally with my student visa. Isn't that quite a pain? Why does a country's government need so much personal information about my life just for me to visit for a few days? I was about to send all of that in and pay the \$185 fee, but went first to check the wait time for a Canadian tourist visa for a person applying from the United States.

124 days.

That was a whole four months, way past spring break. Simply put, it was impossible for me to get a visa to Canada in time. As such, we had to change our destination for spring break.

So my spring break trip to Puerto Rico was fun. But I still felt bad that after planning and being all hyped up for Canada, I, and the bureaucracy required to move this person across a border, was the bottleneck for where my friends could travel. I felt a bit existential - we're all just flesh and bones, but somehow, this particular body is not permitted to cross a border. It let me down for a while. I complained. I sighed.

"You guys are lucky to be born in this country and not have to deal with this bullshit."

Then it was April. I got my hopes up again with a new plan to go to Europe at the end of the summer. Surely half a year is enough to go through this bureaucracy,

Right?

The United Kingdom is not part of the Schengen Area, a conglomerate of countries in Europe that allow free travel between them, and as such, my plans to go visit my brother in Scotland and then hop to mainland Europe required two visas. The U.K. visa is kinder in that it doesn't require a detailed itinerary to apply, and it allows for multiple visits as long as they're within six months. But I had a pretty bad experience with the U.K. visa system when I tried to attend my brother's graduation three years ago, so I set my expectations incredibly low. Given my prior experience, I knew I had to start early.

I started my application mid-April, filled in the 14-pages, and booked an in-person appointment for late May in Pittsburgh, because that was where I could get the earliest appointment. There weren't any more Boston dates left for the rest of the semester, so I had to take off during a work day in the first week of my internship. A lot of people don't realize you have to appear in person for an appointment to get a visa - they usually assume it's an online application that magically works out, but this isn't the case. The visa application process includes going to a DMV-ish office (sometimes the DMV itself) to get my fingerprints and photo taken. I'm lucky that I found an office within the same city that I was going to be living in for the summer. Some states have a single office to handle this.

- So, after
- \$135 for the U.K. visa application,
- bank statements,
- my student visa to prove I'm here legitimately,
- and \$120 more, apparently for this third party company VFS Global, to assist me with sending my documents to the U.K. Embassy in New York and back to

I dropped off my passport at a UPS store in Pittsburgh right after my biometric appointment in late May, and off it went. One ding of a notification from VFS Global came after Memorial Day weekend, to tell me my documents were now at U.K. Visas and Immigration.

And that was the last time I heard from VFS Global.

See, the visa application process is incredibly opaque and untrackable, even with these companies advertising trackability. Why can't I see any queue or updates regarding my most precious possession, my passport? Even concert tickets have this figured out way better — this is 2022, right?! This was the most information I had about how long the process was going to take:

Standard visitor visa applications are currently taking on average 6 weeks to process. We are working hard to process applications to get back to the 3-week service standard.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks once you attend your appointment at the visa application

I read this and was filled with anger. I wish it wasn't so hard to move this person that longs to travel from one place to another. After calming down, I told myself:

At least it isn't 124 days.

What could I do other than praying that my passport would come back soon, just so that I could repeat this whole process for the Schengen visa? There was no time to waste, though — I started my application for the Schengen visa right after I sent off my passport, before my passport came back to me, and booked an appointment, playing with the risk that I might not have my passport in time for the appointment. The Schengen Area visa has to be applied for through the main country of destination, so I filled out Switzerland's four page application, paid 80 euros...

For a Schengen visa, the entire U.S. has four offices to handle biometrics.

So, I had to go from Pittsburgh York so that I could put my fingers on this funky machine, just to turn around and go

The New York consulate's first available date for the Switzerland visa was ... September 1. That would be after the start of my trip. And I had already paid 80 euros just to see that I couldn't do it. What kind of terrible user interface is this — where I couldn't even see available appointment dates until after I paid for the application?!

"Contingency plan: search up every fucking country in the EU's application process and appointment dates for New York... Manually... Sorry I'm spamming, I'm fuming"

Indeed I was. I actually did consider going instead to San Francisco ... or Washing-



ARUN WONGPROMMOON—THE TECH

Auctioning off my passport for months at a time is very anxiety-inducing.

ton, D.C. ... or even Atlanta ... but because I couldn't see available appointment dates unless I paid for the application (which doesn't transfer between the countries' offices, by the way). I didn't want to risk throwing my money down the drain. I looked at Danish embassies instead, which allowed me to see appointment dates before applying (see, it isn't too hard to not suck) and found out that there were availabilities for July 1 in Washington DC and July 15 in New York. Because I couldn't be sure that my passport was going to come back to me on July 1, four weeks after I sent in my passport, I went for the New York one instead. I paid 80 euros a second time.

If you're getting confused about the whole process so far, I'd like to say you're not alone. I was confused at first too, before complaining, giving up, then following along and untangling all the logistics. I interlaced two visa application processes together because I just didn't have enough time: a few months is still a few months short for this extreme bureaucracy. If you'd like guidance on the process and see more illustratively why it got me frustrated, see the simplified timeline in the form of a Candy Land board accompanying this article.

Without my passport, I couldn't travel by plane. This meant, assuming first and foremost that I got my passport back before July 15, either I would take the train from New York on the way back, or, to solve this problem in the long run, apply to get a Massachusetts state ID so I could fly back, which would require travel to Boston. Possibly by train because of this mess. So I did the reasonable thing ... and booked both flights and trains to Boston, juggling my PTO days for this feat of logistics.

By late June, my anxiety was rising. Time was ticking. Where was my passport?

"idk why i got myself into this labyrinth of two visas, one mass id and several out-of-state trips;-;"

Miraculously, on the 23rd, a mysterious UPS delivery notice appeared on my front door. It was truly amazing news, despite the fact that I had to wait another day to catch the UPS driver! All my trains could now be canceled. June 30, Boston, for the Mass ID. It took two weeks for the ID to arrive, leaving three days to spare before I had to fly to New York for the Denmark biometrics appointment. Again: four pages of application, recently taken photos, my U.S. student visa for legitimacy, three months of bank statements, proof of enrollment in MIT, detailed itinerary, hotel and flight bookings, and travel insurance certificate of coverage. That was a mouthful — the Schengen

asked for so much. As you may notice, there's another Catch-22 situation here: hotel and flight bookings are needed to apply for a visa, and the visa is needed before you can fly to the country and sleep in a hotel. Ridiculous, right?! For this, one can either purchase cancelable flights and hotels, or go use a sketchy dummy ticket service that costs a hundred dollars and "guarantees acceptance by Schengen visa.

Oh, VFS Global "assists" the Denmark visa application process as well. My Denmark biometric appointment was at VFS headquarters, where employees also went through my documents and sent them to the Danish consulate for me. \$65 for a one way delivery of my passport back to Pittsburgh, since I went all the way to New York myself already. What's the grand total now? Four hundred and eighty dollars. One ding of a notification from VFS, and my passport went away into the unknown again.

Almost three weeks later, August 4, is the date this article was written. My anxiety has risen, yet again, because my passport has essentially gone missing for all this time. Yesterday, the Danish consulate called me to ask for additional documents, because I missed some.

"bruh. BRUH. I NEED TO SEND MORE DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE NEXT 2-3 DAYS, ONE OF WHICH I BROUGHT TO NEW YORK BUT SOME WORKER SAID I DON'T NEED TO SEND IT IN. I'M LIKE. UGH"

VFS Global assists the Denmark visa application process

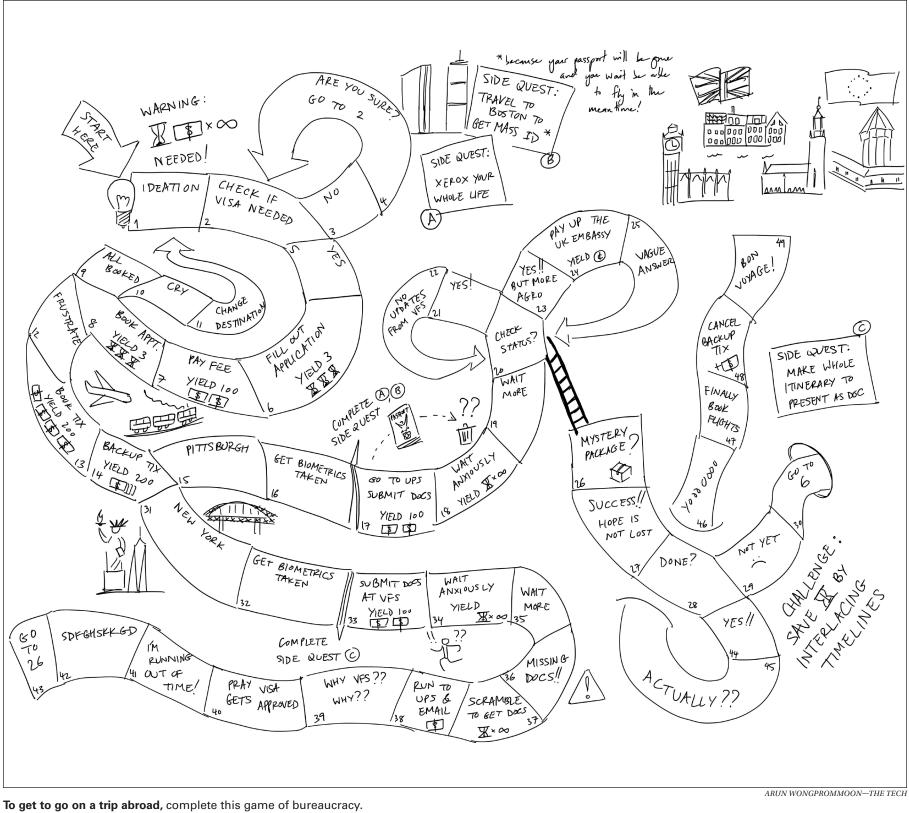
I scrambled, during work, to regather additional documents, get a FedEx shipping label, go home for one original document, and go to FedEx before it closed at 7 nm. I was not successful, so I bussed to the main FedEx ship center of Pittsburgh, which closed at 8:30 p.m. Success. Small win. My documents were delivered this morning, and the Danish consulate sent me an email:

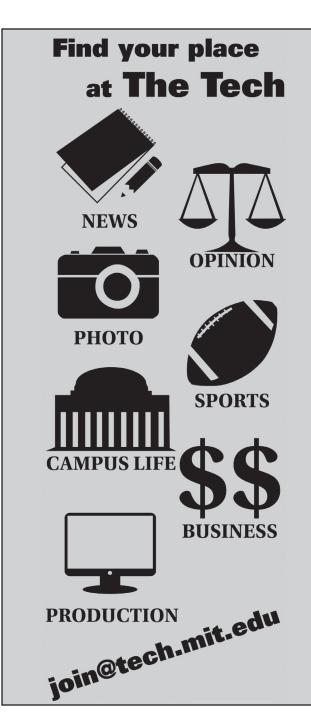
The documents were received by email and by Fedex. There are no other requests for further information at this time. The application will continue processing.

I have one week left in Pittsburgh before I go on the trip I started planning half a year ago, and I'm still waiting for my passport. This whole trip can still fall through. Last Catch-22, for those wondering if I could start earlier: I'm close to hitting the limit for the earliest time to apply for a visa. Most countries only allow visa applications for trips three or six months in advance.

Take your guess if I made it to the U.K. and Europe.

Thursday, September 22, 2022 THE TECH 7

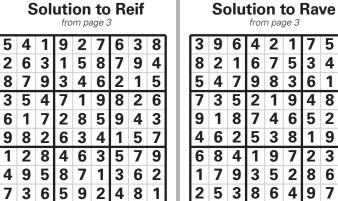




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8 THE TECH
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

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When they came for the trade unionists,

I did not speak out;

I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews,

I did not speak out;

I was not a Jew.

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- Rev Friedrich Gustav Martin Niemöller

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