Northwest Safety Survey

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## Background

- General safety concerns raised by Daily Beast Report on College Safety
  - #1 – Tufts; #3 – Harvard, #13 – MIT
- Concerns over Northwest safety arose due to a string of robberies from 10/15 until 11/03:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2010</td>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>110 Pacific Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20/2010</td>
<td>Stabbing</td>
<td>MIT W20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Broadway and Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Albany Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Main Street (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>Kirkland and Irving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1/2010</td>
<td>Robbery and Stabbing</td>
<td>Scott and Bryant St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2/2010</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>MIT NW35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3/2010</td>
<td>Suspect</td>
<td>Apprehended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Response

• Councilor Cheung from the City of Cambridge called a hearing which brought together various police agencies and university representatives

• GSC HCA holds meetings with
  – MIT Police
  – MIT Community and Government Relations
  – Dorm leaders of Northwest

• Safety survey created by Northwest leaders in conjunction with HCA and MIT Police.
Purpose of Survey

• Gauge perception of safety
  – Reconcile perception of safety with actual crime statistics to recommend best path forward
  – Measure changes in perception of safety with previous studies

• Determine best paths forward
  – Survey student opinion on potential options for improving safety

• Understand best modes of rapid communication
### Response Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House (Beds)</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashdown (483)</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>37.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgerton House (184)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>31.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney-Pacific (688)</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>47.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Warehouse (120)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>602</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.81%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where in the Northwest Campus do you currently live?**

- **The Warehouse**: 53.1%
- **Sidney-Pacific**: 29.1%
- **Edgerton House**: 9.4%
- **Off Campus in Northwest Area**: 6.2%
- **None of the above**: 1.3%
- **The Warehouse**: 1.0%

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![MIT Logo](MIT.jpg)
### Demographics

**What is your age?**

- 18 - 20 years old: 38.1%
- 21 - 23 years old: 33.1%
- 24 - 26 years old: 17.2%
- 27 - 30 years old: 10.3%
- > 30 years old: 0.0%

**How many years have you been a student at MIT?**
- < 1 year: 9.5%
- 1 - 2 years: 12.4%
- 2 - 3 years: 18.6%
- 3 - 4 years: 37.6%
- 4 - 5 years: 10.3%
- > 5 years: 11.6%

**What is your gender?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*answered question 580*
2. On average, what time do you return to your home?
Methods of Transportation

3. By what means do you travel home? You may choose a combination of methods if needed.

- Walk: 534
- Bike: 124
- Drive: 15
- EZRide: 153
- Saferide: 130
- Subway: 29
- Other (please specify): 10
Path Home

4. Which path best describes your route home?

- Walk/Bike down Vassar, cut across railroad tracks: 3.7%
- Walk/Bike down Albany: 17.6%
- Walk/Bike down Landsdowne: 16.5%
- Other Route (please specify): 62.1%
5. On average, how many other individuals do you usually return home with?

- 88.4% return alone
- 10.4% return with 1 other
- 1.2% return with 2 others
- 0% return with 3 others
- 0% return with 4 others
- 0% return with 5 or more others
Overall Feeling of Safety

6. How safe do you feel during your commute?

- Very Safe: 8.7%
- Reasonably Safe: 47.8%
- Somewhat Unsafe: 29.6%
- Unsafe: 11.8%
- I've never really thought about it: 2.1%
Perception of Safety vs. Return Time

Very Safe  | Reasonably Safe  | Somewhat Safe  | Unsafe  | I've never really thought about it

6-7 PM  | 7-8PM  | 8-9 PM  | 9-10 PM  | 10PM or later

0  | 60  | 40  | 20  | 10

0  | 60  | 40  | 20  | 10
Compared to 2004 Graduate Student Survey

Note:
- The 2004 survey contains responses from all graduate students and was collected prior to the construction of Ashdown.
- Note: The data from this survey also included a fifth option which garnered a 2.1% response.
7. Please rank the following potential improvements in order of how they would increase safety, with one being the greatest contributor and five contributing the least.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better lighting along Albany Street</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More evening buses running from campus</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian crossing along railroad tracks</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased visible police presence</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus escort program</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 584
9. What is the first source that alerts you of criminal or unsafe activity?

- Housemaster, House Manager, or House Government: 47.3%
- Department or Lab Administrator: 10.5%
- Friends and Colleagues: 36.8%
- Institute-wide emails: 2.6%
- Website or smartphone applications: 0.9%
- I don’t receive alerts: 0.7%
- Other Source (please specify): 1.2%
10. How much time generally elapses between a crime and your notification?

- Less than 12 hours: 25.8%
- 12 hours to 1 day: 46.3%
- 1 - 2 days: 25.0%
- 3+ days: 2.2%
- I’ve never received notifications: 0.7%
11. What is the best method for alerting you about safety issues?

- E-mail: 83.6%
- Text Message: 13.9%
- Website Updates: 0.2%
- Smartphone Applications: 1.7%
- Other (please specify): 0.5%
Conclusions

• Approximately half of NW graduate students return home after 8:00 PM...
  – ...generally walking alone
  – ...and most frequently along Albany street
• Most students are alerted to criminal activity
  – ...12 -24 hours after the crime
  – ...through emails from the institute or house government
• Email is the most effective means of communicating safety information.
Recommendations

• Install additional lighting and more visible call boxes along Albany street
  – Discuss possibility of installation along buildings as opposed to city property
  – Issue has been added to HSG agenda (Feb 15)

• Increase visible police presence along Albany street after 8 PM

• Reconcile numbers with actual crime statistics from MIT Police to recommend best path forward