



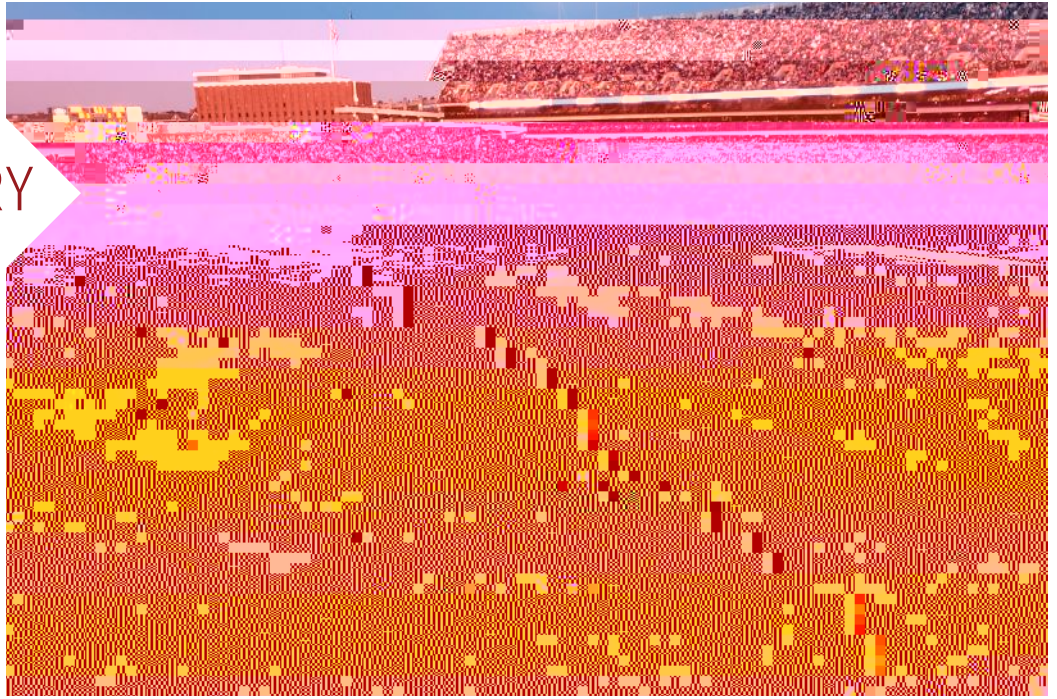
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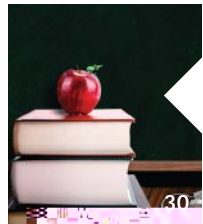
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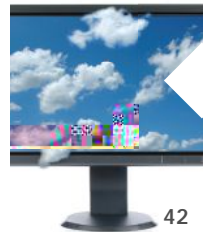
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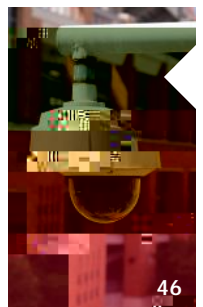
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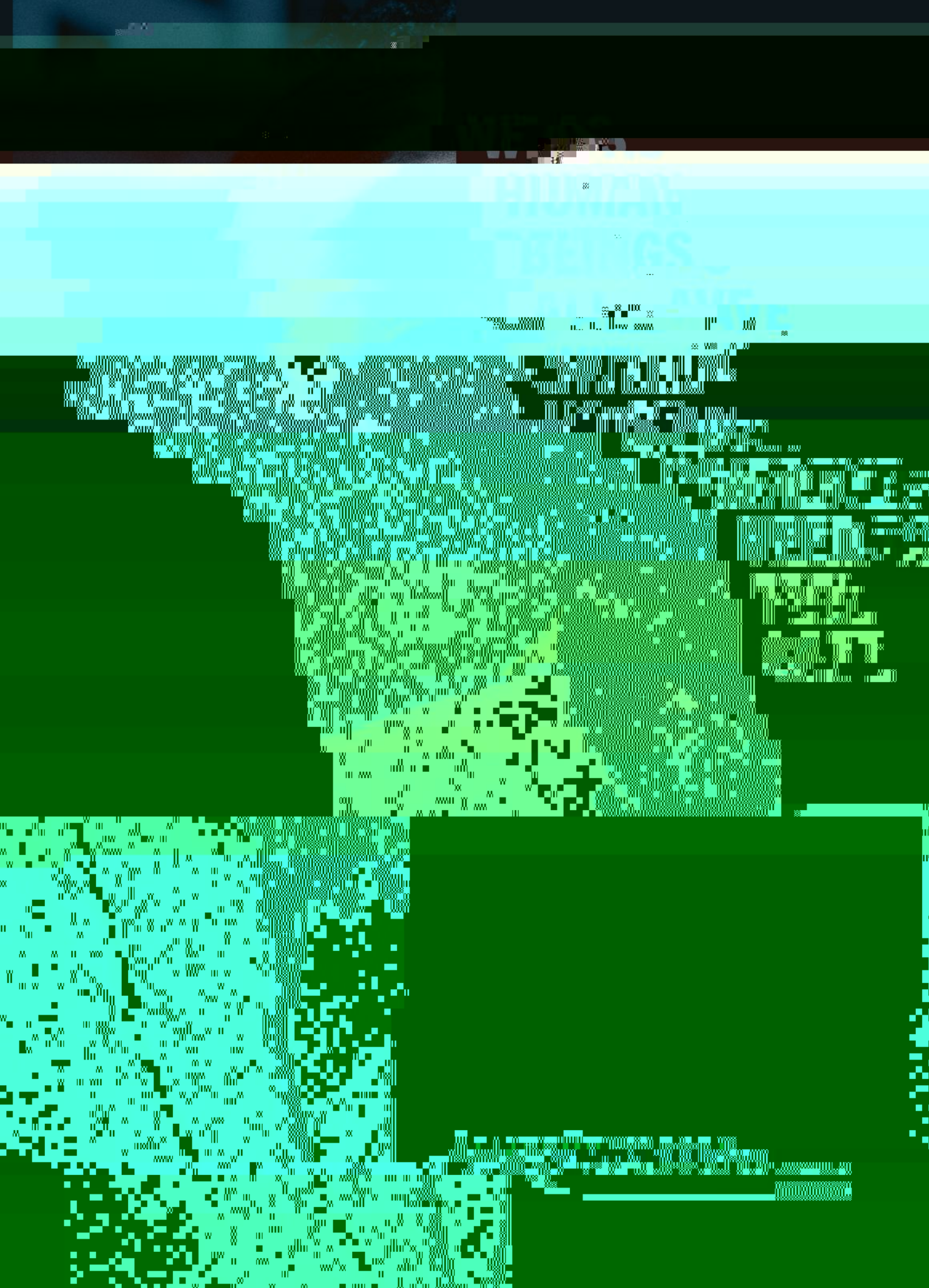
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COVID-19 has exposed emergency management and response weaknesses across all of academia

by Stephen Aborn

The global pandemic rapidly upended the way we work and live our daily lives. As the government identified security and public safety as part of the essential workforce, our universe has been front and center for the sweeping shift taking place with policies and procedures to minimize the effect of the virus. On so many levels, COVID-19 has changed the higher education sector and the post-pandemic world will feature colleges and universities that have reinvented themselves to thrive in a post-COVID world.

As the majority of institutions of higher education opted to shift from on-campus to online education from March 2020 through May 2021, the regulatory environment (Clery Act, Title IX, etc.) remained intact and enforceable on campus, even in the absence of a present student body. In many cases, higher education institutions represent large real estate holdings with continuing premises-related liability. Hence, there was a continued need to secure property from damage, trespass and reportable incidents.

What Does Normal Look Like?

So, as colleges nationwide plan for a 'more normal' year in 2021-22, the effects of the past year will linger. The vast majority of college classes will be in-person, and more classrooms will operate at or near their normal capacity, barring unexpected developments with emerging variants of the virus. Some colleges will continue to require mask-wearing, in accordance with public health guidelines. Many colleges are also planning for laboratories and other research facilities to operate in-person and at or near t yenear t yenea.022 Tw(il)-(3il)-3 linge)2(rhfr

to use screening methods for elevated body temperatures, understand the signs and symptoms of heat stress, how to identify mental health issue indicators, handling slips, trips and falls, workplace fire safety, workplace violence and active shooter, dealing with difficult situations and people, emergency response and disaster planning, hazardous materials and best practices for stadiums and amphitheatres.



As standard practice, security supervisors implement a plan that includes a network of people, processes and technology to deter and mitigate threats. Law enforcement is a partner with physical security and may ask to access video footage. Today's access control includes biometrics with video analytics with facial recognition. Video analytics is also able to measure and gauge behavior, social distancing, detect suspicious packages, and instantly alert security and law enforcement so that pre-emptive action can be deployed. Social media platforms are monitored using specific keyword analytics to assess if there are any potential issues that are happening.

Campus security professionals together with local, state and federal law enforcement are able to work together to leverage multiple technologies and share information to mitigate potential threats. Ultimately, it is important to determine the policies and procedures that are in place that allow security personnel, law enforcement and other entities to effectively work together as a blended team.

The transition to in-person operating status will be

Most colleges will mandate distancing requirements and food-service-specific COVID-19 protocol in dining halls based on the latest public health guidelines. Campus life, including club meetings, intercollegiate and club sports are expected to resume at most schools.

As much of the nation's classroom, student support and research activities return to an in-person experience, most administrative operations that support these functions will also return to the in-person status in the Fall. Moving to remote and hybrid work enabled the continuity of university operations at colleges nationwide.

