Ashdown house 3am

The Official Newsletter of the Ashdown Community

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers,

It's Sakul again, long time no see! I hope the end of your semester wasn't as crazy as mine was! This is the last issue of 2012 (even though the next issue will be December 2012…), which reminds me of a story about Edward Scissorhands. He went to buy Kim a present at the Bouncy Beast Boutique, a shop where they sold rubber animal figurines. Edward found a particularly beautiful swan, but he sliced it in half before he made it to the register. He then selected an elephant, but that hopped out of his grasp out the window. Soon, he sliced up the entire inventory, except for a small gnu. Being very careful not to damage it, he paid for the gnu (and the rest of the store) and left. But as he was leaving, he sneezed, and shredded the gift to pieces, all but one of which bounced away. When Kim was handed the tiny rubber piece, she asked what it was. Edward replied, "Half a hoppy gnu ear!"

In this double issue, we have the fifth and sixth installments of the Puzzler Twins (there can be six winners! Also, see the new rules for prizes), the beginnings of Ashdown's New Garden (it's not just a pile of dirt!), the details of the Art Lottery (I see some really great pictures and pictures of those pictures in Ashdown's Photo Gallery), the fruits of labor of Ashdown's pumpkin artistes (how many ways can you carve a gourd?), a piece on the Thanksgiving Dinner (yum, tryptophan), the Kid's Corner ("What are publications, Mama Llama?"), and more Helpful Information from Kristin at the Front Desk (twice the info, twice the fun!).

Wow, that second paragraph was one long sentence. TL;DR is below. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, complaints, or constructive suggestions, I'd love to hear them, so please e-mail me!

Happy reading!
Sakul Ratanalert
Ashdown Newsletter Officer (ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu)
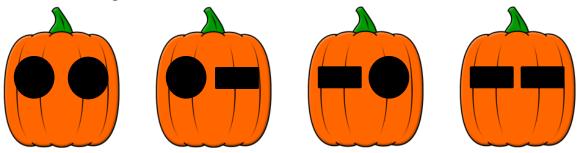
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Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #5

*Ash and Dawn are MIT first-year graduate students, and recently moved into Ashdown. Their stories will be chronicled in the upcoming issues. Each story has a **SECRET CODE WORD**. E-mail the Editor (at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu, not his personal one) the correct **SECRET CODE WORD** by **December 31, 2012** to enter the **Puzzle Raffle**. **Three** will be **randomly chosen** to win a **$10 gift card to Amazon**. FIND THE **SECRET CODE WORD** AND **WIN!!** (The SECRET CODE WORD can be found on Dictionary.com. No anagramming is necessary unless otherwise stated.)*

Dawn volunteered to decorate a haunted house, and enlisted Ash to carve some scary faces according to her simplistic designs. Ash carved eight pumpkins, with four different faces: Surprised, Winking, Stink-Eye, and Sleepy (in order, below). But, he didn't make two of each kind, he just haphazardly carved and ended up with 2 Surprised, 4 Winking, and one each of the other two.

Dawn just sighed, and told Ash to put the pumpkins in the six boxes, glued together as shown below. (Two of the boxes can hold two pumpkins each, while the rest can only hold one.) Just to make Ash pay for making her change her original design plans, Dawn gave her new orders in the form of a logic puzzle. Ash knew that if he didn't get the arrangement exactly right, zombies wouldn't be the only dead thing around.

dear Ash,

the pumpkins that are always shocked,
in bins of diff'rent size,
can see between them, neatly stocked,
five pumpkins as a prize.

the winking pumpkins love the left
of any box they're in.
symmetric pumpkins, very deft,
take first and second bin.

Make sure that you arrange these right,
Or else you'll be quite dead.
Remember that one fateful night?
So scared, you wet the…
Entire front row of the horror film
    screening when you screamed and
    spilled soda on everyone?

yeah, I'll tell everyone that story again
if you mess up!
-- your loving sister, Dawn

What's the SECRET CODE WORD? (Puzzle designed by Sakul Ratanalert)

Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #6

*Ash and Dawn are MIT first-year graduate students, and recently moved into Ashdown. Their stories will be chronicled in the upcoming issues. Each story has a **SECRET CODE WORD**. E-mail the Editor (at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu, not his personal one) the correct **SECRET CODE WORD** by **December 31, 2012** to enter the **Puzzle Raffle**. **Three** will be **randomly chosen** to win a **$10 gift card to Amazon**. FIND THE **SECRET CODE WORD** AND **WIN!!** (The SECRET CODE WORD can be found on Dictionary.com. No anagramming is necessary unless otherwise stated.)*

Ash and Dawn decided to host a Thanksgiving party for their old high school friends, inviting Dawn's roommate May (they've made up since the Seating Debacle in August) and her younger brother Max. The other guests included Brock, a park ranger; Gary, a party planner; Joy, a podiatrist; Tracey, a freelance artist specializing in advertising; and Misty, a graduate student at another university studying marine biology (and Ash's longtime secret crush).

Dawn also wanted Ash and Misty to get together, since she knew that Ash was in love with her for almost 15 years now. So, she set the seating arrangement as shown on right (the other edge of the table was against a wall). She also put a secret note under Misty's placemat asking her to take the wishbone after dinner. (Misty's seat is special.)

After the delicious meal, May pulled out her guitar to play some music while Max taught his new friend Gary some basic boxing moves. Misty found the card under her placemat and then pulled out the wishbone from the turkey. She offered one end to Ash, and asked him to make a wish. Dawn hoped that with all of Ash's friends around they could help make his wish become true. How will they do it?

Ash
Misty
Max
Gary
Joy
May
Tracey
Brock
Dawn

W	I	S	H
T	R	U	E

What's the SECRET CODE WORD? (Puzzle designed by Sakul Ratanalert)

September 2012 Issue Winner: **David Wilson** *for being the only one to correctly submit the secret code word "NARWHAL" to last month's puzzle (Solution on last page of this publication). Congratulations! Please e-mail the Editor to receive your gift card. And thanks to everyone who submitted!*

Ashdown's New Garden

by Carl Schoellhammer

As green as Ashdown is, it will be getting even greener. This spring, a new garden will be ready for residents to work in. The plot is located in the west courtyard, just outside the gym.

With help from Daniel Caterino from MIT facilities, the area was fenced in with two latching gates. Also, base boards were added around the perimeter to hold back the soil.

Finally, chicken wire was placed to keep the critters out. With the help of student volunteers (pictured) the soil, also donated by facilities, was moved to the center of the garden and will be spread. With that, the garden will be put-to-bed for winter and come spring, will be ready for all of the green-thumbed residents.

Any resident who would like to grow anything and everything can get a plot. It is expected that residents will take care of their own plots. Come next fall, there will be a harvest party to celebrate everyone's hard work!

Are you interested in having a plot?
Contact ashdown-living@mit.edu
for more information.

Photo courtesy of Carl Schoellhammer.
Stock photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

Ashdown Reviews

*This column, Ashdown Reviews, aims to provide 3AM readers a chance to read what other readers have thought about restaurants and other places around Cambridge and Boston. **You can contribute too!** Submit a review of a restaurant or other recommended locale you have been to recently (pictures would be nice, too), and if it is selected you will be rewarded with **a $10 gift card to Amazon**. Let Ashdown know where they should go when they have (gasp) free time!*

Art Lottery Brightens Residents' Rooms

by Amanda Wachtel

At the beginning of October, Ashdown held an art lottery for the residents. This event has been held a few times in the past with much success. Ashdown has a great little collection of artwork that can be lent out to students. Pieces include paintings, prints, pictures of areas around Cambridge and Boston, and even an enlarged photograph donated by a current Ashdown resident. With a great variety in styles, there is definitely a piece to meet anyone's interests/décor!

The art lottery was held during Coffee Hour and 42 residents entered to win their favorite piece of artwork from the 12 pieces being lent out. Those who won the lottery will be allowed to borrow the artwork until the end of the school year, when everything will be collected and prepared for next year's lottery!

MIT also offers a school-wide art lottery through MIT LIST Visual Arts Center. Ashdown's art lottery is a nice complement to MIT's program as it provides additional artwork and allows students who may not have received a piece through the LIST lottery to still borrow artwork for the year.

For students who are constantly studying and working on projects, it's great to have a comfortable environment to work in. Artwork can dramatically alter the atmosphere of a room and help improve otherwise bleak surroundings!

Photos courtesy of Aarthy Adityan.

Jack-O'-Lanterns of Ashdown

by Cole Shaw

On October 25th, Coffee Hour and Cultural Committee co-hosted the Housemaster's Annual Pumpkin Carving event at Ashdown. Terry Orlando, our beloved Housemaster, and Yuriy Román, Associate Housemaster, were on hand to oversee the festivities. This year we had some of the BIGGEST pumpkins ever! The only downside of ginormous pumpkins? All the goop that had to get scooped out!

With less than one hour to carve and using only plastic carving tools smaller than their fingers, the sixteen teams were under real pressure to perform. Teams all showed off their creative sides, such as the two talented Ashdowners who carved a 3-D Jack-O'-Lantern (Jack-O'-Lantern == carved pumpkin). It showed a man sitting on a ledge (coming *out* of the pumpkin!!), next to a portrait of Cinderella—amazing!

After dimming the lights and lighting some (LED) candles, the public voted for their favorite Jack-O'-Lanterns with their applause. This being MIT, we used a decibel-meter app to determine the winners! The top three teams (all measuring over 90 dB) walked off with some Amazon gift cards, just in time for the holiday shopping season.

Photos courtesy of Aarthy Adityan.

This event was the latest in a series of activities put on by Coffee Hour and Cultural Committees. Coffee Hour has been experimenting with new formats and food every week, recently adding our Lucky Words (make sure to pick yours up from the food table—you might get lucky and find a pass to the front of the ice cream line!), making fresh guacamole, and mixing up some hot milk chocolate. We hope you visit sometime to chat with and meet your fellow residents.

Ashdown Thanksgiving Dinner

On November 20, Ashdown's Housemasters hosted their annual Thanksgiving Dinner, inviting all Ashdown residents to enjoy the lavish feast with them.

I am glad I was able to attend, because the food was phenomenal, and it was a nice break to the exhausting semester I'm sure we've all been having. The turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, etc. were all deliciously prepared by the wonderful caterers that Housemasters Terry and Ann Orlando selected for this event.

Also, this was a great chance for people to meet fellow Ashdowners they hadn't yet been acquainted with, and also staff and other less-public officers, like myself. I was very happy to hear so many people read the newsletters and enjoy the puzzles.*

In addition to dinner, Yuriy Roman, Assistant Housemaster, and Terry announced the three recipients of the Avery Ashdown Leadership award, given to those whose efforts significantly improved the life of all Ashdown residents.

The recipents were Erioseto Hendranata, Ashdown Publicity Officer; Edbert Jarvis Sie, Ashdown First Floor Officer; and myself. Of course, this Newsletter isn't just my work alone, so I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter in any way, and the Housemasters, again, for giving me this honor.

Photos courtesy of Aarthy Adityan.

* And for those who asked, yes, I actually create all the puzzles myself, but I'm not very good at explaining how I do it (nor, as you have seen, am I good at judging the difficulty level). The simplest answer I can give is that I think about all the ways I can hide information in plain sight. This type of puzzle isn't of my own creation, though. There are other similar competitions, such as the *Microsoft College Puzzle Challenge* and the *Washington Post Hunt*, that I sometimes draw inspiration from. But, other times it's as simple as staring at a keyboard in your office for far too long, or putting my interests in word games or other things to good use for encrypting puzzles.

Why did the graduate student read this at 3am?

Because she was catching an extremely early flight home for the holidays! Okay, that probably wasn't very funny, but hopefully the rest of this page is more entertaining:

Q: What do you call a wisdom tooth in a glass of water?
A: One molar solution.

Q: If H_2O is water, what is H_2O_4?
A: Drinking, bathing, swimming, etc.

Kids' Corner (aka Ask the Roman Kids Stuff)

11. What does your dad do for a living?
Dante: Clean up the living room. And play soccer. Cleaning up.
Max: He is a Chemical Engineer. He does experiments, like an explosion or an experiment of a volcano.

12. What does your mom do for a living?
Dante: Cleaning up.
Max: She goes to Bentley and does her class work. And to take care of Apolo or Dante or me when we get very sick.

13. When is your bed time?
Dante: Ummm...right now? Because it's already the night.
Max: I think it's a little later, after this movie. Or maybe after we eat, use the toilet, brush the teeth, and put on our PJs. And then it's bedtime.

14. When do you actually go to sleep?
Dante: Max knows.
Max: I want to tell the number from a clock but I forgot what it is.
Dante: You mean 8:00?
Max: No. You can't guess. I forgot the numbers, so let's move on to the next one.

15. What games do you like to play with your parents?
Dante: Chess. And Trash. And Candy Land.
Max: Trash. Chess.

16. What is the most recent book you have read?
Dante: Ummm...The Grinch.
Max: Star Wars.

17. Do you have any publications?
Max: What are publications, Mama? What are publications, Mama? What are publications, Mama? What are publications, Mama Llama? Tell me. (Yuriy explains.) I wrote a story about a ghost at my school.
Dante: I have a publication about drawing and making fancy stuff.

Got questions you want to ask Max and Dante? Forward them to the Editor at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu and we'll see what they say!

Citizen's Corner: Submission Guidelines

Do you have a flair for writing?

Do you have an experience you would love to share? A cause you want to speak out for? An event you would like publicized and reported?

The ears of Ashdown are thirsting to hear your story!

The "Citizen's Corner" is a section of "3am" aimed at reflecting the lives and perspectives of Ashdown residents. All Ashdown residents are invited to contribute, and all kinds of material are welcome. In the past, we have received everything from overseas exchange program stories to essays about environmentalism. We are especially keen on the views of international students comparing the way of life (in terms of culture, atmosphere, education system etc.) here to the ones they were used to.

If your contribution is selected, you will be rewarded with **a $10 gift card to Amazon**.

Guidelines in a nutshell:
• Submissions should be between 100 and 1500 words.
• No politically sensitive, religiously sensitive, or pornographic material.
• Pictures to accompany text are welcome.
• Email Sakul Ratanalert at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu.

Helpful Info for New Residents, Part 4

Kristin O'Halloran is one of the faces you see at the Ashdown Front Desk. She has prepared some helpful information for new residents (and returning, just in case you need the reminder). While this will be in parts, you can find the full list of information on the Ashdown Website.

Parking Permit
The MIT Parking office (ph. 617-258-6510) is located in the Stratton Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave, Bldg W20, Room 022 in the basement. **Hours:** 8:30am-4:30am. You need an MIT sticker in order to do so, but Ashdown residents park at the Sidney-Pacific dorm's lot (entry is on Sidney St.). You can start the process of applying for an MIT Parking Permit by visiting their website at: http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/parking/index.html

You must have already begun the permit application process, but until the time you have your MIT permit, the House Manager, Denise Lanfranchi, will provide a temporary pass so you can begin parking at Sidney-Pacific's lot. You can pick this pass up at the front desk of Ashdown.

Albany Street/Metered Parking
The meters cost $0.25 for 15 minutes. They accept quarters only. The timeframe to pay for metered parking in the Ashdown area is M-F, 8am-6pm. Saturday and Sunday are free street parking around Ashdown. In Cambridge, these rules change in different areas, look for a posted street sign by the curb to ensure you are abiding by the rules of the area in which you are. Cambridge has been known to ticket cars that have paid but have stayed in the same spot for more than two hours. If you can, you may want to move your car every two hours as well.

Issue/Problem with Room
During regular work hours (Weekdays M-F), if you have a problem with your room (meaning a light is out, problem with the toilet, garbage disposal,...etc), you must complete an on-line form to request the help of the House Mechanic. The link is:

http://web.mit.edu/sapweb/PS1/facilities_home.shtml
1) Select "Residence Halls"
2) Complete Form *****Enter "Ashdown" as your location, not NW35*****
3) Select "Submit"

If you have an emergency issue during off-hours (Evenings/Night/Weekends), please call Facilities at "FIXIT" 617-253-4948 or 617-253-1500 (or x31500 from one of Ashdown's hall/wall-mounted phones). Please provide your Room Number and a Description of the Problem.

Internet Access
All of Ashdown House is configured for wireless access to the internet. If you want to use a cable connection, each new MIT student is allotted a single cable for internet access which can be requested by going to the IT office located at 400 Main St (Building E19).

In order to connect to the secure MIT network, residents should use their Kerberos username and password. However, if this does not provide access when you first arrive, it likely means IT has not completed the configuration process. In that case, you can sign on as an "MIT Guest".

For any problems with internet connectivity, you may call 617-258-9444 (x89444 from an Ashdown hall/wall-mounted phone).

Computer (Athena) Use and Print Capability within Ashdown
There are three spots within Ashdown where an Athena computer(s) is available:
1) The Athena Cluster with print capability is located on the 1st Floor, Building 3. If you are standing in the second courtyard back from the main entry and are facing the rear of the building (where U-shaped driveway is), Building 3 is the building on your right.
2) There is a single computer with printer located on the 2nd Floor, Building 2. If you enter the main corridor from the lobby and take the stairs facing you, you would take a left at the top and then a quick right and head straight down that hallway and you will come upon the equipment (underneath a staircase that connects floors 2 and 3 only).
3) There is a single computer with no print capability located in the lobby.

Printing Info- You will need your MIT card in order to print (must swipe card). *At this time*, the situation is that there is no charge levied to your MIT ID card and there is a 3,000 page per academic year limit on the number of pages you can print,…**PLEASE NOTE**, these stipulations could change throughout the year, to avoid any surprises, refer to the following website for the most up-to-date information regarding cost and/or print limitations: **http://mit.edu/printing/pharos**

Proof of Residency
If you need proof of residency for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), you should go to the Graduate Housing Office (ph. 617-253-5148), 201 Vassar St, Bldg W59 Room 200 (2nd Fl). They will be able to provide a letter for you on MIT letterhead. You may want to ask them to include your date of birth as well.

To walk there: Go out front lobby door, cross street at cross-walk (towards The Warehouse, 230 Albany St), head down alley between The Warehouse and the loading dock facing you, walk across train tracks (with care!), through the parking lot facing you, take a right when you reach the next street (Vassar St.) and Housing is just there on your right.   **Hours:** M-F, 9am-5pm

Notary Public
Normally, any bank can help you. You can go to the Bank of America in the Stratton Student Center (W20, 84 Mass Ave, 1st Floor). You do not need an account in order to be helped. **Hours:** M-F, 9am-4pm, closed on Saturday and Sunday

Cell Phone
If you have a cell phone number, please provide your number to the front desk. If not, when you do have one, please provide to the front desk.

All of the following carriers can be found at the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall (see "Department Stores" for directions):

AT &T, Verizon, T-Mobile, Metro PCS

Phone in Room

MIT does not provide phones or any phone service to residents. You can arrange a VOIP (voice over internet protocol) service with Vonage on your own accord. Their website is:
http://www.vonage.com/

(continued in Part 4, next issue)

Solution to Puzzle #4 (Sept 2012 Edition)

(See September Edition for the Puzzle Statement, designed by Sakul Ratanalert.)

This puzzle takes a bit of wandering before stumbling upon the correct path. The first thing to notice is that capitals have corresponding states, and both states and elements have two-letter abbreviations. The statement mentioned something about "seven letters, two at a time", so we need to figure out what is seven letters, and what "two at a time" means. The homepage (which may signal a place to start) has a cursor pointing to a "No U-Turn" sign, which has seven letters, and the statement also mentions "replacing" vendors. Perhaps we need to replace the letters in "No U-Turn" two at a time, in the order specified by the shipment list.

Another clue to this is that the first element, Nobelium (No) appears in "No U-Turn", so blindly trying this seems like a good start. Also, some may have seen that the letters in "No U-Turn" appear in the two-letter abbreviations, again signaling some sort of link.

Trying this "replacing letters two at a time", we get the following:

1. Nobelium (No) shipment to Sacramento (CA): NOUTURN → CAUTURN
2. Gold (Au) shipment to Boston (MA): CAUTURN → CMATURN
3. Astatine (At) shipment to Tallahassee (FL): CMATURN → CMFLURN
4. Lutetium (Lu) shipment to Madison (WI): CMFLURN → CMFWIRN
5. Iridium (Ir) shipment to Honolulu (HI): CMFWIRN → CMFWHIN
6. Indium (In) shipment to Montgomery (AL): CMFWHIN → CMFWHAL
7. Curium (Cm) shipment to Concord (NH): CMFWHAL → NHFWHAL
8. Hafnium (Hf) shipment to Little Rock (AR): NHFWHAL → NARWHAL

Magically, the word "NARWHAL" appears. SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.

Contact the Editor

Please direct any comments or queries about "3am" to Sakul Ratanalert at
ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu