

The Official Newsletter of the Ashdown Community

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers,

Welcome to Spring! (As I'm writing this in April, it is officially spring, but from the weather we've been having it might as well still be February.) March has been a crazy month for me, but it ended well as I did some more traveling around Europe. While in England, the last stop of my journey, I saw the Queen Elizabeth II Tower (the clock tower that houses Big Ben, the bell), the Tower of London, and the Olympic Park from the Games last year. They are now shrinking it from its 17,000 capacity down to 3,000 so it can be used as a public athletic complex. During our tour, they had just put a statue up of William Lund, a former triathlete and big donor to the renovations. He and his wife, Bridget, owned a lot of the marshy land that got bought up by the IOC, and want to make sure that much of the open space becomes inhabitable again for the ducks and swans that got relocated. To honor their request and their donations, a statue of Lund, his wife, and several waterfowl were commissioned. However, during our visit a crane knocked over one of the birds, causing one little girl to shout, "Lund and Bridget's fowl is down!"

Just a reminder that if you have any ideas for stuff you'd like to see in the newsletter, send it in! If you attend or organize an Ashdown event you liked, write about it! **Remember, unsolicited article submissions qualify for a \$10 gift card to Amazon!** Also, I've run out of questions to ask the Roman kids, so send any questions my way so I can ask them!

In this issue, we have the ninth installment of the Puzzler Twins (romantic Singing Haddock?), a call to arms from the Thirsty Ear Executive Committee (does one have a drinking problem if they drink through their ears?), the first interview with the new AHEC (Thanks AHEC 2012-2013!), and more Helpful Information from Kristin at the Front Desk (tips on disposal at your disposal).

Wow, that last 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 – #9

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 **April 20, 2013** 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.)

“Hello, Ash.”

“Hey, Dad, what’s up?”

“Thanks for sending me a scan of your receipts.”

“Yeah, sorry the originals got damaged.”

“That’s okay. I do have a few questions about your recent purchases. You bought a lot of things on February 14.”

“Oh, I had a date with Misty. I might have gone a little overboard preparing for her.”

“What happened on your date?”

“I gave her some flowers and a gift, then we had dinner. Then we decided to do a lot of baking, especially fruit pies. It was more expensive than I thought, but as long as it adds up to romance, I don’t care.”

“And why did you buy a shiv?”

“Haha, that’s not ‘shiv,’ it’s a ‘Singing Haddock Instant Valentine.’ It was supposed to be like a Singing Bass, but it was off-key and wouldn’t shut up. There’s a difference between romance and how the evening summed up. Anyway, golf this weekend?”

“Yes, I will text you later about it, but I think our tee time will be at nine.”

Ash’s Purchases: 2/14

Bag	\$ 2.24
Bouquet	unreadable
Card	\$ 22.73
Cream	unreadable
Dinner	unreadable
Eggs	unreadable
Flour	unreadable
Fruit	unreadable
Giftbox	unreadable
Jams	\$ 52.67
Milk	unreadable
SHIV	\$ 74.48
Sugar	unreadable
Tins	\$ 84.67
Wine	\$ 94.63

What’s the **SECRET CODE WORD**? (Puzzle designed by Angela Liu & Sakul Ratanaalert)

January 2013 Issue Winners: **Alan Benson, Brandon Luders, and Aaron Mazel-Gee** (out of seven correct solutions) won the lottery for submitting “CAMEL” 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!

Write for the 3am!

Get \$10 for Amazon!

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!*

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.



Join the Thirsty Ear Executive Committee!



The Thirsty Ear Executive Committee (TEEC) is an ASA recognized, MIT funded student organization dedicated to building community around and providing student leadership for our favorite campus pub, the Thirsty Ear.

TEEC is responsible for all the programming at the Pub:

- Thursday is our weekly Karaoke Night when students take the mic to their favorite songs. A student host prepares the bar for a night of music, accepts song requests from aspiring stars, and manages the audiovisual system for the evening.
- Wednesday is our weekly Trivia Night. Teams of 4-8 students answer six rounds of questions in categories such as sports, TV/movies, culture, music, history, science, and even MIT in a fun and relaxed environment. A student trivia host creates questions and serves as MC for the evening.
- Monday is our weekly Sports Night with discounted wings: 10 for \$2! TEEC schedules welcoming, educational introductions to sports as seasons begin and selects events to be shown each evening. Sports Night is sponsored by the Graduate Student Life Grants and GradRat.
- At our monthly Comedy Night, TEEC arranges entertainment by local improv groups, student standup comics, and professional comedians. Comedy Night is sponsored by the Peter de Florez '38 Fund for Humor, the GSC Funding Board, and GradRat.
- At our monthly Flight Night, TEEC members select flights of premium beer samples with paired foods for purchase.
- At our interdepartmental mixers, TEEC plays matchmaker with department groups, who meet at the Pub for a night of socialization and networking. Mixers are sponsored by the Graduate Student Life Grants and GradRat.

TEEC also helps to improve Pub operations, adds to the ambiance of the Pub, helps student groups host events at the Pub, records the Pub's history, and connects with Thirsty Alumni.

To keep the Pub alive and well, we're always looking for new event volunteers, trivia hosts, karaoke jockeys, event coordinators, and officers. To find out more, please contact teec-officers@mit.edu. We hope you'll join us at our next meeting!

Many thanks to our sponsors:

Event sponsored by



Matt Haberland

Matt Haberland
Ashdown Resident and
Chair, Thirsty Ear Executive
Committee

Meet the New AHEC: Jonas Helfer

This is Part 1 of a series of interviews with AHEC 2013-2014. This issue we are introduced to Jonas Helfer, AHEC Chair:

1) What led you to become one of the Cherry Pie Officers?

I had several motivations for applying to become a Cherry Pie Officer. When I was an undergrad back in Switzerland, I was part of a student organization that organized summer schools on different topics. While I didn't always like the topics, I always had great discussions with the other attendants, who were all from different majors. I think that diversity made the discussions a lot more interesting, and I saw an opportunity in creating something similar at Ashdown with the Cherry Pie Society. Another motivation was simply to get involved in the community at Ashdown and to get to know my fellow residents.

2) What led you to run for AHEC?

Because of my position as Cherry Pie Officer, I found myself getting more and more involved and interested in everything else that was going on at Ashdown. While many things were going really well in my opinion, there were other things that I thought could use some improvement. Instead of waiting for others to do something, I decided to get involved myself and run for AHEC. I deeply care about our community and our living space here, and I see being on AHEC as a unique opportunity to serve our community and make everyone's experience at Ashdown even better.

3) What things do you want to make sure stay?

Personally, I always liked the housemaster dinners. While the coffee hours and brunches already provide great opportunities, I appreciate the housemaster dinners for their more intimate atmosphere that allows getting to know my fellow residents better. Until now Terry and Ann Orlando have done an incredible job of keeping up the tradition of housemaster dinners, but we don't know if the new housemasters will do the same. I will do my best to make sure the new housemasters will be as generous with the housemaster dinners as Terry and Ann have been.



4) What things do you want to change?

The common space in Ashdown is sadly not in a very good shape. We currently have a shortage of common space compared with other grad dorms and I feel that our common space does not compare very favorably with that of the other grad dorms. I'd like to improve the common space we currently have, make it cleaner (yes, I'm talking about the kitchens), and more comfortable. If possible, I would also want to get MIT housing to allocate more common space.

(continued on next page...)

Why did the graduate student read this at 3am?

Because he went on vacation for spring break and left all his work until now! Okay, that probably wasn't very funny, but hopefully the rest of this page is more entertaining:

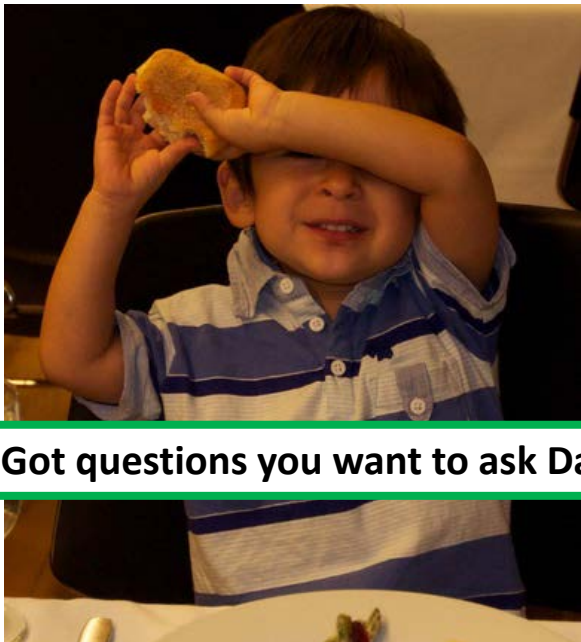
Q: What do you do with a sick chemist?

Q: Why are books on helium so good?

A: If you can't helium or curium, you barium.

A: You just can't put them down.

Kids' Corner (aka Ask the Roman Kids Stuff)



Got questions you want to ask Dante and Max? E-mail the Editor!

Meet the New AHEC: Jonas Helfer (cont.)

Another thing that I think needs attention here at Ashdown are the noise problems. I don't know what the engineers were thinking when they designed this building, but sometimes I have the impression that I'm living in a house made of cardboard. The Thirsty Ear and the music room are supposed to be soundproof, but they are clearly not. While enforcing quiet hours can be part of the solution, soundproofing clearly needs to be improved. As the new AHEC Chair, I plan to devote significant resources to identifying the extent of the problem and identifying and implementing possible solutions.

And last but not least, I would like to give Ashdown residents more opportunities to join in common activities and get to know their fellow residents. We have a unique community here with people from many different cultures, and I would like to see more interaction and exchange between them.

5) What do you do in your free time?

I actually feel pretty free all the time, even when I'm working. I like the research that I am doing, I like the classes that I am taking, and I am very happy being actively involved here at Ashdown and in the GSC Activities Committee. When I'm not busy with the aforementioned, a few things that I like doing are: cooking with friends, playing the piano, Taekwondo, going to be dearly, meeting new people, writing postcards and letters, learning new languages...

Helpful Info for New Residents, Part 7

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.

On-Campus Bike Fix-it (Repair) Locations:

There are five locations that are equipped with bike pumps and some tools in order to repair your bike. There are located at the following buildings-

W35- Sloan Lab, 127 Massachusetts Ave

9- 105 Massachusetts Ave

32- Stata Center, 32 Vassar St

E15- Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St

E51- Tang Center, 70 Memorial Dr

Trash and Recycling

Trash: Trash is collected daily by the housekeeping staff. You may leave the trash outside your suite door in the main hallway. Staff will leave new trash bags. The main trash room, if you need to dispose of a lot of trash and want to do so, is located on the 1st Floor of Building 3. If your back is to the elevator #3, the trash room will be across from you, the door to the left. There are also recycle bins there for cardboard/paper. Boxes should be broken down prior to being placed here for recycle. There should be no peanuts or plastic bubble wrap box padding put with the recycling.

MIT's Single Stream Recycling: You may recycle the following materials together in the blue, recycle bin provided in your room. Please rinse out the items that contained liquid/food. The recycle bin should also be left outside your suite door in the hallway for pickup:

Plastic Bottles (# 1-7)

Glass Bottles and Jars

Milk and Juice Cartons

Paper, Brown Paper Bags, Cardboard, and Paperboard

Metal Cans and Aluminum

Plastic Bag / Techno / Battery Recycling at Ashdown:

Plastic Bag- There are two, green containers located just inside the main corridor where you can recycle plastic bags.

Techno- There is a silver container in the lobby where you can recycle the following:

CDs

DVDs

Floppy & Zip Disks

Keyboards & Mice

Cell Phones & Pagers

External Drives

Cables

Battery- There is a 5-gallon, white bin on the front desk where you can place any type of used batteries. Please tape the ends prior to recycling.

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Sink Disposal Use

To work your disposal, you need to locate the “key” which is a gadget with a handle that has a tubular bottom piece attached to it that has magnets on either of its ends. To operate the disposal, run cold water on-full, and gently place the “key” into the drain of the sink and maneuver it until the magnets catch and you can hear the disposal running. Keep the cold water running for approximately 30 seconds after the unit is shut off. To shut off, gently turn the “key” to break magnetic hold and pull up.

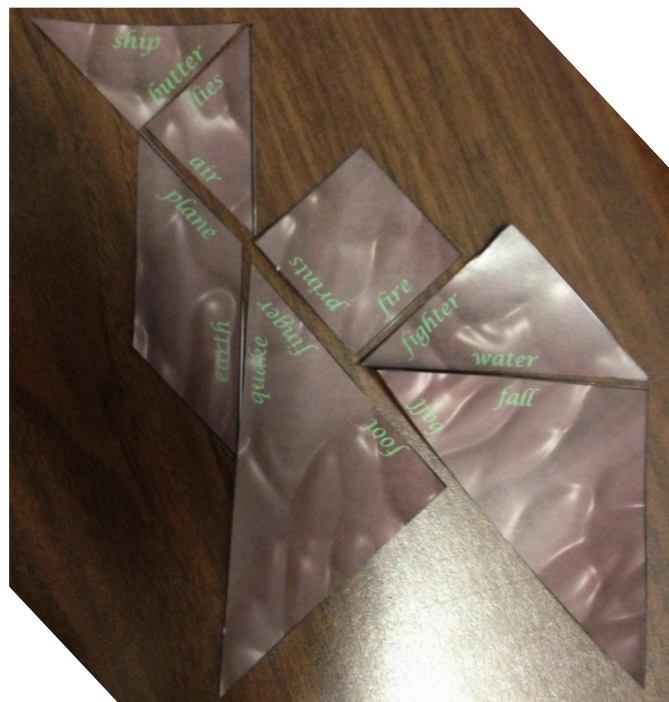
(continued in Part 8, next issue)

Solution to Puzzle #8 (Jan 2013 Edition)

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

For those who didn’t recognize the type of puzzle immediately, the “typo” of “tan grams of fat” hinted to the tessellation puzzle “tangrams.” The green frosting words seemed to be random, but the compound words “footprints” and “fireflies” appear. Upon closer analysis, all of the pieces can be aligned such that all words are paired as valid compound words. The unpaired word “ship” can be paired with “friend”, which appears in the puzzle text, to make “friendship”; this allows the orientation of the completed shape to be determined:

The final tangram’s identity was clear to some solvers, but other solvers were able to use online tangram databases to figure out what the shape was supposed to be if it wasn’t immediately obvious. Also, the plethora of hints and “typos” (five letters, “heat stroke”, “mirage”, “desert”, and “chocolate with reduced caramel hidden inside”) described something quite specific: “CAMEL”. SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.



(Photo courtesy of Brandon Luders.)

Contact the Editor

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