

The Official Newsletter of the Ashdown Community

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers,

Hi there, Sakul here! I hope you're having a good IAP so far! By the time you read this, I will probably be on a plane or traveling around Europe. Woo! This spring semester I am participating in a program for Course 10 graduate students called Chemical Engineering Practice School. I will be working sort of like an intern for two companies, the first of which is Novartis, stationed in Basel, Switzerland. I am still holding my position as Newsletter Officer, but with my being across the Atlantic this job will be slightly more difficult. First, yes, I will still have puzzles each issue. I won't be able to respond as readily to submitted solutions, though, and more importantly, submissions must be to ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu, not my personal e-mail. This way Andy Wright, of AHEC fame, will be able to distribute the prizes while I'm gone.

Second, I won't have as much time to devote to other areas of the newsletter, like event coverage or other articles. It would be AWESOME if I could have an article or two submitted to me for each edition. I can still edit, but my pestering abilities will be compromised. So, 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'm running low on questions to ask the Roman kids, so send any questions my way so I can ask them!

Finally, a good story from my adventures in Logan Airport. There is this restaurant here that serves exotic seafood dishes. The restaurant claims it can make a delectable plate out of any sea animal, and I believed then when I saw the "Sea Horse in Orange Sauce". The waitress told me that the other day, a billionaire archeologist/adventurer named Indiana Sommer came to eat in the restaurant, requesting a dish be made with his latest catch, a female specimen of Sea Sheep. It was so delicious and became so popular with all the customers, they named it after him. So, next time you're around, try the "Sea Ewe Indy Sommer"!

In this issue, we have the seventh installment of the Puzzler Twins (ever heard of Time Rods?), the Kids' Corner (find out about the working lives of Max and Dante!), and more Helpful Information from Kristin at the Front Desk (helpful even if you're not new to Ashdown).

Wow, that last paragraph was one... not-so-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 Ratanaalert, Ashdown Newsletter Officer (ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu)

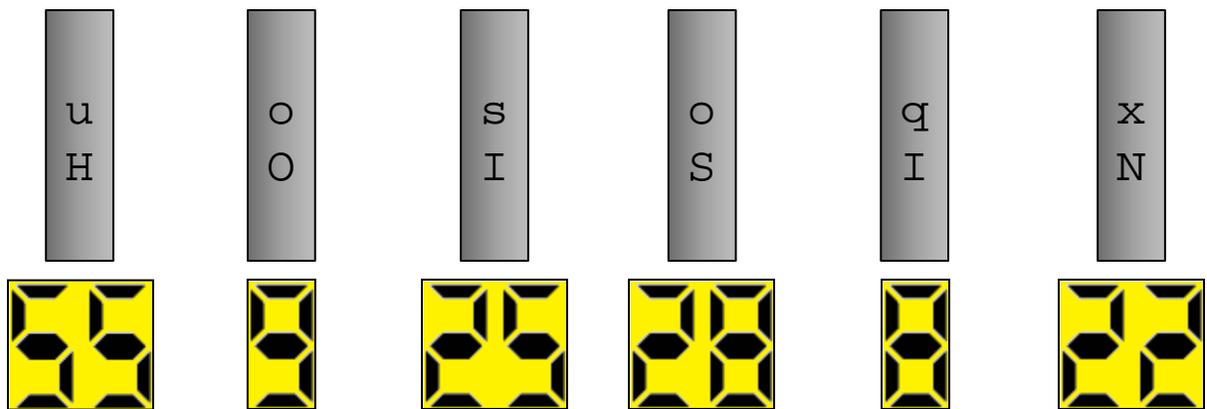
In This Issue

- ❖ Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #7
- ❖ Kids' Corner (a.k.a. Ask the Roman Kids Stuff)
- ❖ Helpful Info for New Residents, Part 5

Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #7

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 **January 31, 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.)

Ash wanted to ring in the New Year with his own miniature replica of the Times Square ball drop. But with the end of the semester so busy, he didn't have time to go to the hardware store until most of the supplies were gone. He managed to buy enough materials for a tiny crystal ball and six Time Rods (not drawn to scale, below). These rods, fueled by multiplying bosons, are able to accurately slide the ball along its length for the indicated number of seconds. These Time Rods were the only ones left in the store; the store owner flipped the "Junk Parts" box over the counter and laughed at Ash for being so late to purchase this commodity. Ash wants to combine them to make a full 60 second countdown.



Which Time Rods can he assemble, with the number of seconds increasing from top to bottom, to make the replica ball drop last for exactly one minute?

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

*October/November 2012 Issue Winners: **Aarthy Adityan, Brandon Luders, and David Wilson** (out of five correct solutions) won the lottery for submitting "IMPALA" to Puzzle #5. **Andrea Dubin, Brandon Luders, and Amanda Zangari** (out of four correct solutions) won the lottery for submitting "FISH" to Puzzle #6. (Solution on last page of this publication). Congratulations! Please e-mail the Editor at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu 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.



Why did the graduate student read this at 3am?

Because he is in Europe for an internship! Okay, that probably wasn't very funny, but hopefully the rest of this page is more entertaining:

Q: What was 007 when he visited Santa?

A: Bond. Polar Bond.

Q: Hey physicist, what's new?

A: C over lambda.

Kids' Corner (aka Ask the Roman Kids Stuff)

18. When did you start here at MIT?

Max: A long, long time ago like 1 year ago, or 1 and a half years ago.

Dante: When I moved here from California.

19. How long do you spend in the lab each week?

Max: What? I don't go to the lab. What are you talking about? I play. I play Trash with my brother all day and all night. And I go to school.

Dante: I don't know.



20. When do you hope to graduate?

Dante: In about 4 minutes.

Max: Never. I want to stay here at MIT.

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!

Helpful Info for New Residents, Part 5

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.

Nearest Food/Coffee

A) Supermarket- Star Market/Shaw's (Hours: 7 Days, 7am-12am). Directions are:

- Head out front door of Ashdown, take Left. You will come to Lansdowne St., take Right. Go up ~ 3 blocks and you will come to a garage on your left. Enter garage and go to the 2nd Floor. The entry to Shaw's is on that floor

B) Pacific Street Café (Hours: M-F, 7am-6pm). Directions are:

- Head out front door of Ashdown, take left. On next corner, you will find the Pacific Street Café

C) Thirsty Ear Pub- Ashdown House, 1st Fl, Building 5

- For menu/hours, see their website: <http://thirsty-ear.mit.edu/>

D) Coffee Machine (Ashdown House)

- In Ashdown's main corridor as you enter building from the lobby, there is a coffee machine for resident's use. You are encouraged to bring your own mug. A cup is \$0.50 (all coins accepted) and specialty drinks are \$1.00.

Department Stores for Home Goods (bedding, kitchen,...etc.)

1) Cambridgeside Galleria Mall- One Cambridgeside Pl, Cambridge, MA

At the mall, there is a Sears and a Macy's that would carry bedroom and kitchen items. Sears would be less expensive. Directions:

Mon-Fri, you can catch the shuttle right in front of Ashdown House and take that to Kendall Square.

Once at Kendall Sq, you will cross the street to catch the Cambridgeside Galleria shuttle in front of the Legal Sea Foods. This will take you directly to the mall.

2) Target- 180 Somerville Ave, Somerville, MA

Probably less expensive than the mall, but further away and more difficult to get to via public transportation is Target. You can also get there via a cab which will cost ~\$13.00 each way.

On the MBTA website, you can enter certain criteria to find out exactly which bus(es) you must catch in order to reach your destination (starting address, destination address and time you will be leaving).

The website is: <http://www.mbta.com/>

Bus Info - Campus

The bus stops directly in front of Ashdown House. There is no weekend service.

Here is the link to the Easyride (shuttle) schedule:

<http://www.charlesrivertma.org/documents/EZRSch1-10-11.pdf>

Here is a link to NextBus, if you log on here and enter the correct information (i.e. time of day, stop), it will tell you the time of the next bus leaving Ashdown:

<http://www.nextbus.com/predictor/stopSelector.jsp?a=charles-river>

(continued in Part 6, next issue)

Solution to Puzzle #5 (Oct 2012 Edition)

(See Oct/Nov Edition for the Puzzle Statement, designed by Sakul Ratanaalert.)

The best place to start is to solve the logic puzzle, which yields (ignoring the pumpkins and just focusing on the eyes) the following layout :



The circles and rectangles can be interpreted to be dots and dashes, respectively, which is the “alphabet” of Morse code. The divisions between boxes can be the separations between letters. Using this decryption method, we get:

“• •” = I, “- -” = M, “• - - •” = P, “• -” = A, “• - • •” = L, “• -” = A

Following the letters, the word “IMPALA” appears. SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.

Solution to Puzzle #6 (Nov 2012 Edition)

(See Oct/Nov Edition for the Puzzle Statement, designed by Sakul Ratanaalert.)

To make Ash’s “wish” become “true”, the grid on the table must be completed as a word ladder, in which one letter is changed at a time to go from one word to the next. The professions or hobbies of the guests provide the clues for which word goes in each row.

Once the ladder is completed (shown on right), the (maybe too) obvious hint that “Misty’s seat is special” indicates that her word, “FISH”, might be the secret code word. Sure enough, SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.

Ash
Misty
Max
Gary
Joy
May
Tracey
Brock
Dawn

W	I	S	H
F	I	S	H
F	I	S	T
F	E	S	T
F	E	E	T
F	R	E	T
F	R	E	E
T	R	E	E
T	R	U	E

Contact the Editor

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