

The Official Newsletter of the Ashdown Community

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers,

Phew, the heat wave has finally broken! Now I have one less excuse for why I haven't been enjoying the great summer weather, rats. Some of you may be wondering what happened to the "June 2013" issue, but no, I haven't skipped a month. I just changed what month the issues were named after, since I've changed when in the month I release the issue. This way is a bit more intuitive, but I wanted to wait to correct this until after a full year's worth of issues had come out, for continuity purposes. Wow! I've been Newsletter Officer for more than a year now! As they say, "Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana."

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 thirteenth installment of the Puzzler Twins (or is it?), an article on the Ashdown Fourth of July Barbecue from the Event Correspondent's Desk (I Dig it!), the Kids' Corner (ask them questions please!), and a new section to Choose Your Own Adventure (tell me what Annie Boddy is up to!).

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
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Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #13

*Ash and Dawn are MIT second-year graduate students, and reside in 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 **August 25, 2013** to enter the **Puzzle Raffle**. **Three** will be **randomly chosen** to win a **prize**. **FIND THE SECRET CODE WORD AND WIN!!** (The **SECRET CODE WORD** can be found on Dictionary.com. No anagramming is necessary unless otherwise stated.)*

Apologies from the Editor:

Hey Puzzler fans! I'm really sorry, but I haven't had the time to create a puzzle for this month. Being a graduate student is hard work! Hopefully I will get back on track for the next issue, and you will hear more about Ash and Dawn in a few weeks. But in the meantime, this is a good opportunity to bring this up.

Have you ever wanted to create a puzzle for the newsletter? Given that I'm so busy, I could really use the help! If you are interested, e-mail me and we can talk specifics, like what the story surrounding the puzzle will be, the mechanics (a.k.a. the "tricks" of the puzzle), and the **SECRET CODE WORD**. (As you may have noticed from the previous issue, I do a lot of planning for these puzzles. Except this issue. Yes, I did not plan anything for this issue. Sorry to have failed you!)

Also in the world of fictional Ashdown residents, there is a new section of the Newsletter, "Choose Your Owl Adventure"! It details the story of Annie Boldy, and each issue readers can get to select what happens next, by popular vote. Please go check it out!

Anyway, that's all I wanted to say. Sorry again for not having a puzzle this issue. Oh, and ignore the "What's the **SECRET CODE WORD**!" stuff below. That is embedded in the template and I am too lazy to get rid of it. Have a great day!

Sincerely, a tired Editor.

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

*May 2013 Issue Winners: **Aarthy Adityan, Megan Fuller, and David Wilson** (out of four correct solutions) won the lottery for submitting "MAGNIFICENT" 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.



The Scoop from A. Dig: Ashdown's 4th of July

A. Dig is the first Event Correspondent for the 3am! He bravely ventured out to get us the scoop on what happened during: Ashdown's Fourth of July Barbecue!

Ashdown Hosts Community-Wide 4th of July BBQ

by A. Dig

On July 4th this year, Ashdown hosted an impressive Independence Day BBQ for all members of the MIT community. Despite the 4th being exceptionally hot this year, with temperatures over 90 degrees for most of the day, the BBQ was very well-attended with more than 200 people in attendance. The BBQ started at 4pm and within an hour, the main courtyard was full and people were trickling into the second courtyard to find a shaded spot on the grass or on the many benches that dot the periphery of the courtyard. Most students could be seen socializing with each other, their plates stacked with the delicious BBQ food, while some others enjoyed games of Frisbee on the lawn. There was an extraordinary spread of food, ranging from hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers to all kinds of cakes, pies and dessert items to refreshing fresh fruit including watermelon, cantaloupes and grapes.



Midway through the BBQ, Jordan Romvary, a member of the Ashdown House Executive Committee, did a spectacular reading of the entire Declaration of Independence. The crowds booed at every indictment that was read, finally erupting in loud cheer at the final declaration. This reading was followed by a trivia contest about the American Revolutionary War; over 20 mini American flags were given out to winners who answered questions correctly. By 8pm, the BBQ wrapped up, with most folks heading up to the river to catch the fireworks display. *(cont. on next page...)*





Photos courtesy of Aarthy Adityan.

This event was sponsored by the Graduate Student Council (GSC), the Large Event Fund (LEF), and Ashdown House. The event was planned and executed by the Ashdown Social Committee and the Ashdown Cultural Committee .



Event Correspondents Wanted

Are you going to an event (for **FREE FOOD** or whatever)? Do you like to earn **AWARDS**? Try being an

EVENT CORRESPONDENT!

Before an **Ashdown event**, e-mail me saying you are interested in being a reporter for the event. Then, after the event (say, a week or two), e-mail me a small report of what happened at the event! **IT'S SO EASY!** And you'll be rewarded for your efforts (which just involves changing observations to words)!

They don't all even have to be your words! Feel free to get quotes from other attendees about what they think of the event! Take some pictures if you want to add 1000 words to your submission! (Though at least 100 non-picture words would be nice.)

So, if you were planning to attend an event anyway (or now you feel inspired to), spend a few minutes to write a summary and see it in the next issue of the **3AM!**

Why did the graduate student read this at 3am?

Because he is pulling all-nighters writing a draft for a paper! Okay, that probably wasn't very funny, but hopefully the rest of this page is more entertaining:

Q: How are a dog and a marine biologist alike?

Q: Where does bad light end up?

A: One wags a tail and the other tags a whale.

A: In a prism.

Kids' Corner (aka Ask the Roman Kids Stuff)



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

Choose Your Own Adventure

In an effort to generate more feedback and hear from you readers, this new section will let you choose what happens to Annie Boddy, a graduate student at MIT living in Ashdown. After a little bit of story, there will be four options, one of which is Other. E-mail the Editor to pick what happens next by popular vote!

Story starts on the next page...

Annie woke up one Tuesday morning with the sun on her face, feeling extremely refreshed. She went to go brush her teeth and as she gargled, she nearly choked. She muttered aloud, "Sun on my face? I can't see the sun through my window until... the afternoon!" Annie dashed to her clock and realized she overslept by five hours! She madly ran about to get ready. She couldn't be late for...

- a) her dentist appointment
- b) her first day as a Teaching Assistant
- c) the end of the experiment she had been running for days
- d) Something else! Suggest something!

Solution to Puzzle #12 (May 2013 Edition)

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

The name of the zoo had 11 letters, and the puzzle mentioned 11 exhibited animals. There should have been 12, but the one that was named after "May" was omitted, and they had been waiting since June 2012 for this.

This puzzle's difficulty depended on how closely you followed the past 11 puzzles. Since the first issue in June 2012, the puzzle answers have been animals. The postcard (at right) depicted an IMPALA labeled "October", which was indeed the solution for the October 2012 puzzle. This twelfth puzzle was for the May issue, so May did not have an animal associated with it. Listing the animals in order of their appearance:

June: Manatee, July: Anemone, Aug: Gorilla,
Sept: Narwhal, Oct: Impala, Nov: Fish, Dec:
Ibis, Jan: Camel, Feb: Eagle, March: Newt, and April: Tarantulas.

Following the "heads" of each animal (the first letter, emphasized above), since those were the only parts on display, we get "MAGNIFICENT". SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.



Contact the Editor

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