

The Official Newsletter of the Ashdown Community

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers,

I hope the semester has been treating you well so far! I for one have been pretty stressed; I'm near the end of my rope. Speaking of which, there was a rodeo in Boston a few weeks ago, and all these cowboys were doing tricks with lassos and horses. There was even a float with a puppet show for kids. Cowboy Puppet was looking for a rope so he could learn to lasso, but he needed the kids' help to identify what a rope was. When he got to a tangled mess of worn twine, the kids chanted "Are you a rope?" The Twine Puppet replied, "Sorry, I'm afraid not."

One bit of news: we are changing the prize structure here, because I unfortunately can no longer offer gift cards as prizes. Instead, **all unsolicited article submissions will receive new Ashdown 3AM Merchandise**. Also, all puzzle solvers with correct solutions (not just the first three) will be entered into a **Semester Puzzle Raffle**, and three names will be drawn to receive Merchandise as well. I'm still in the process of designing the Merchandise with other Ashdown Officers, but I believe it will be worth your effort to try to get some. (Hint, hint: please write!)

In this issue, we have the fifteenth installment of the Puzzler Twins (An eye for an eye), a new column about Ashdown's history ("Is Ashdown named such because it once burned down to ashes?"), an introduction to *another* new column by one Ben Berinsky (let him interview you!), the Kids' Corner (learn about the new kids on the block!), and the next chance to Choose Your Own Adventure (things are heating up!).

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)

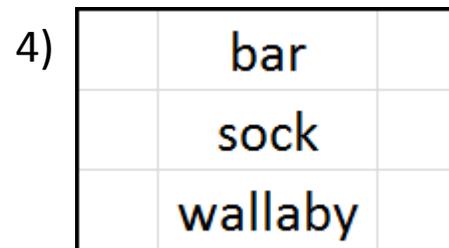
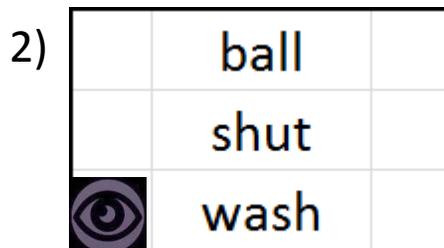
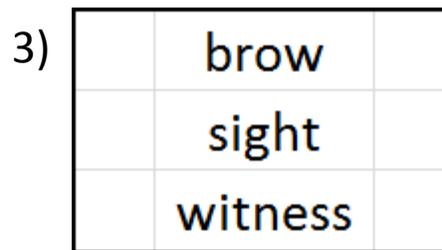
In This Issue

- ❖ Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #15
- ❖ Kids' Corner (a.k.a. Ask the Kids Stuff)
- ❖ A History of Ashdown
- ❖ Choose Your Own Adventure, Part 3
- ❖ Ben's Corner (a.k.a. A Kid Asks Stuff!)

Ash and Dawn, the Puzzler Twins – #15

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 **October 25, 2013**. **ALL CORRECT SOLUTIONS** will be entered into the **SEMESTER PUZZLE RAFFLE**. **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 recently went to the optometrist to get a new prescription for her contact lenses. In the waiting room, a boy was doing some spelling worksheets and his younger sister was busy putting stickers she got from the doctor all over his flash cards. The girl noticed that Dawn was watching, so she invited Dawn to play with her.



“The Homework Kingdom has eye pox,” the girl explained. “These eyes appear and stare at you so you do your homework correctly.”

“Do the eyes appear everywhere?” Dawn asked, amazed at her imagination.

“No, the eye pox fairy only lets the eyes appear in certain places. Don’t mess up or you’ll go blind!” She slapped a sticker onto Dawn’s fingers. “Can you finish for me?”

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

August 2013 Issue Winner: David Wilson (the only correct solution) for submitting “FANCIES” to last month’s puzzle (Solution on last page of this publication). Congratulations! You are now in the semester Puzzle Lottery! And thanks to everyone who submitted!

A History of Ashdown

Our Photographer and History Officer, Aarthy Adityan, has dug up some interesting tidbits of Ashdown's rich history to share with us in this new column. Today, find out:

Did Ashdown burn down in ashes?

- Our beloved dormitory, which turned 80 on October 9, was not always called the Ashdown House; neither was it always at 235 Albany Street. The first graduate dormitory in MIT and only the second in the United States (the first being in Princeton), it was simply known as The Graduate House when it was started in 1933 at 70 Amherst Street.

- In 1933, MIT President Karl Compton, a Princeton graduate, initiated the conversion of three undergraduate dormitories for the use of graduate students. They included the Holman, Nichols and Crafts Halls of what is now Senior House, where the graduates had complete porter service. The Crafts Lounge was originally in the Crafts Hall, named aft-



70 Amherst St., the first location of the Graduate House.

Photos courtesy of Aarthy Adityan.

er MIT President James Mason Crafts, and had a well-stocked library. An anonymous donation of \$1000 (which would be equivalent to about \$18,000 today) was made to this library just for buying books!



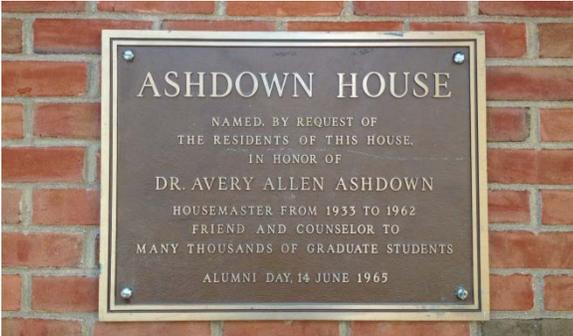
305 Memorial Dr., the home of Graduate / Ashdown House for 75 years

- Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Avery Allen Ashdown was appointed as "Master" of the Graduate House. He handpicked the first graduate residents - 77 in all - and was instrumental to the success of the new dormitory. In 1937, MIT bought the Riverbank Court Hotel at 305 Memorial Drive. It was renovated to serve as the new location of The Graduate House, and accommodated 400 students. Built in 1900, the W1 building as it is designated, was the home of Ashdown residents for 75 years and now serves as the undergraduate dorm Maseeh Hall.

- "Doc" Ashdown served as Housemaster of the Graduate House for 29 years until mandatory retirement in 1962. At the request of the residents, the House was renamed in his honor as the Ashdown House on June 14, 1965. Doc continued to attend AHEC meeting till a few months before he passed away in 1971.

(continued on next page...)

- Ashdown House certainly did not burn down at any time in its long history. There was a minor fire in 1936, but as a resident reported to the firefighters, "We had no trouble except in keeping the fire going 'til you came." More recently, in 1995, the fish tank caused an electrical fire!



Avery Ashdown at renaming of Graduate House to "Ashdown House".



ary Will
mes Watt,
is Inventor
pton, Dr. Durand,
k Will Speak
ercises

Minor Blaze Brings Six Fire Companies To Graduate House

Will Be Dismissed
A two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of James Watt, of Mechanical Engineering, will be celebrated with a program of exercises on Monday, at 10 o'clock in Room 3-106. T. Compton, Dr. Durand, and Professor Pratt will speak at the program. The program is under the

Registration Material Due By 1 O'Clock Next Friday

Registration material must be returned to Room 3-106 before 1 o'clock Friday, January 17, the Records Office emphasized today. Failure to do so will result in a five dollar fine. The material may be returned directly to Room 3-106, or dropped into any Institute mailbox. Upperclassmen who have

Runkle Basement Scene Of Troublesome Outbreak

Shorted Telephone Wires Bring Notice Of Fire To Dorm Office

Negligible Damages Reported; Worthless Papers Only Loss Incurred

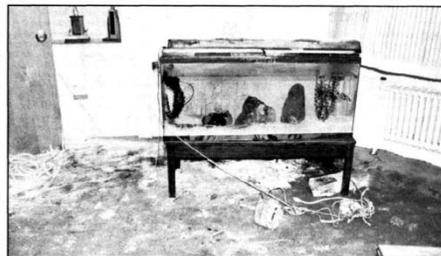
Above: *The Tech*, January 14, 1936

Below: *The Tech*, March 21, 1995

Fish Tank Electrical Fire Forces Evacuation of Ashdown

By Hung Lu
Staff Writer
An electrical fire in the Ashdown House lounge at 7:30 p.m. last night forced an evacuation of the graduate dormitory, according to a Campus Police officer at the scene.
An electrical component in a fish tank ignited, setting fire to pieces of paper scattered underneath the tank as well as to the wooden frame supporting it, according to Ashdown desk worker Alain Carondeau G.
The fish in the tank were not injured by the fire, according to Judy Chen G, who was working Ashdown desk at the time of the fire.
Firefighters from the Cambridge Fire Department entered the building with water hoses, but did not need to use them because the fire was partially extinguished when they arrived, according to the officer.

The fire fighters did check the floor for structural integrity before allowing residents back into the building, the officer said.
"The whole thing was smoky, but nobody was hurt," the officer said.
Todd S. Anderson G was the first to notice the fire. He and David W. Pratt G alerted the desk workers. They couldn't find a fire extinguisher in the area, so they had to go to the second floor to get a fire extinguisher.
Carondeau entered the lounge and unplugged the cord.
Pratt then "brought in a fire extinguisher, but there was so much smoke that I called the police," Chen said.
Anderson and Pratt worked to extinguish the fire.
Christopher L. Falling contributed to the reporting of this story.



An electrical component in this fish tank started a fire that forced the evacuation of Ashdown House.

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!**

Ben's Corner (a.k.a. A Kid Asks Stuff!)



Hi, I'm Ben Berinsky. I'm writing a new column for the 3 a.m. Newsletter. Each month, I will go up to a random Ashdown resident and ask a few questions. If you would like to volunteer to be interviewed, please email me at ben.berinsky@gmail.com or the Editor at ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu. Thank you!

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 **Ashdown 3AM Merchandise**. 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 **Ashdown 3AM Merchandise**.

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 has a messed up sleep schedule! Okay, that probably wasn't very funny, but hopefully the rest is more entertaining:

Q: What does a subatomic duck say?

A: "Quark!"

Kids' Corner (a.k.a. Ask the Kids Stuff)



Ben and Lila, how do you like Ashdown so far?

Ben: Ashdown is great. I like that there is a foosball table and a bar.

Lila: I liked it when all the students came over for the Orientation dinners.



Did you two participate in any of the Orientation events? How were they?

Ben: I liked casino night because it was like a real casino. [Adam's Note: Lest people worry, he has never been to a real casino.]

Lila: I liked dessert night and making brigadiers.

Also, check out Ben's new column! (On previous page)

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

Choose Your Own Adventure, Part 3

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!

Story continues on the next page...

Annie finally reached the lab door only to discover a **weird smell emanating from the other side**. As she slid in the lab key, it heated up to high temperatures and she let go with a yelp. Using two pens to turn the red-hot key, the plastic melting over the key head, Annie unlocked the door and kicked it open. To her shock and horror, ...

- a) her experiment was on fire
- b) the Make-A-Sun Club was sitting at her lab bench
- c) a vandal was holding a Bunsen burner up against the door
- d) Something else! Suggest something!

Solution to Puzzle #14 (August 2013 Edition)

(See the August Edition for the Puzzle Statement, designed by Brandon Luders.)

Ash's itinerary (the given image) gave clues to specific cities around the world. Dawn hated them so much that she wanted to go to the places at the exact opposite point on the globe (their antipodes). These places luckily were on land in a country. The six countries are given below:

ARRIVAL DATE	LOCATION
-----	-----
28-DEC-2013	TOP OF THE HOUR? IF IT IS IN NEPAL, IT IS HERE Chatham Islands, New Zealand Antipode: France
2-JAN-2014	HOME OF FORBES 2013 MOST VALUABLE SPORTS TEAM Madrid, Spain Antipode: New Zealand
4-JAN-2014	SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCE CAPITAL OF '08 OLYMPICS HOST COUNTRY Haikou, Hainan, China Antipode: Chile
7-JAN-2014	NORTHERNMOST STATE CAPITAL OF '16 OLYMPICS HOST COUNTRY Boa Vista, Roraima, Brazil Antipode: Indonesia
9-JAN-2014	HOME OF WORLD'S LONGEST ELEVATED SWIMMING POOL Singapore, Singapore Antipode: Ecuador
11-JAN-2014	LARGEST CITY OF COUNTRY WHERE TRIP STARTED Auckland, New Zealand Antipode: Spain

The first letter of each antipodal country, including Argentina in the January 1st slot, reveals "FANCIES". SECRET CODE WORD FOUND.

Contact the Editor

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