



A Look at Annette, Roland, and Joshua

By Charles Lin

Interviewing the associate housemasters, Roland Tang and Annette Kim, is harder than you might think. As much as you want to learn about them, they want to learn about you even more.

As Roland said, "I once tried to learn the name of every resident in Sid-Pac."

He had to give up eventually. Learning 700 or so names isn't exactly easy, especially with the annual turnover rate. Joshua (their son) has been giving it a solid effort as well; only for him certain people in the house get nicknames such as "Nuna and Nanna."

Trying to learn names is part of what Annette and Roland do here, but that's only the beginning. If you give them time, they'd love to learn more about you.

"We just really enjoy listening to students," Annette summarized.

When they first arrived a few years ago, the job description for associate housemaster wasn't exactly well defined so Annette and Roland went with what they thought best.

Their job, as they put it, is to get us residents out of our rooms. And Annette and Roland

are always trying to come up with new ways of getting residents to interact and form a sense of community. Roland is thinking about running a fitness program in SP for when it gets too cold to be outside. As for the impending cold months ahead, the best advice Annette and Roland can give is to "embrace it." If that doesn't work for you, Roland suggests, "buy flannel lined pants from L.L. Bean, always have a good hat, and try anything with down. Oh, and get a humidifier."

Both Annette and Roland are originally from California, which to put it obviously, does not have Massachusetts winters. Thus, it's been a slightly difficult adjustment for Annette and Roland. In fact, if anybody has any ideas for fun things to do during the winter, they'd welcome the input.

Winter might be looking too far ahead though. In the current season, you're more likely to find Roland watching the Cal game on TV (for his birthday a few weeks ago, Annette flew Roland out to Berkeley to catch a game live). Or you might find Annette, Roland, and Joshua at any of the SP community events, or "Party!" as Joshua (and Roland) love to say.

Lately they've been trying to

come up with creative ways for residents to interact. They suggest that, "Dining clubs are a good way for residents to get to know people in the house." They're also very aware of the challenges that MIT can pose, but at the same time acknowledge that this is a very special place.

"People who do well here are entrepreneurial. There are a ton of resources and not a lot of limitations, at the same time it can be stressful here," they pointed out.

Which brings us back to the original point that Annette brought up. Annette and Roland would love to get to know every resident in Sidney-Pacific. They like hearing about the corners of the world we come from and what makes us tick. They're always surprised at just how talented students are. And they understand the unique challenges that come with being an MIT student. Best of all, their door is always open to visitors (be warned, Annette and Roland will probably try to convince you to eat something delicious).

So if you haven't met them already, you should stop by. You'll get Roland one name closer to knowing everyone in the house.

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Picasso Imitator Misses Meaning

By **Monica Martinez-Bravo**

Seventy years ago, on the 26th of April 1937, my home country, Spain, suffered one of the most tragic episodes in our history: in the middle of a horrendous Civil War, the Nazi air-force bombed the town of Guernica, resulting in widespread destruction and many civilian deaths.

To denounce the atrocities of the Civil War, and in particular the bloody episode that happened in Guernica, Pablo Picasso painted a huge mural that was to become one of the most famous paintings of the artist internationally. It traveled to France, England, Italy, several Scandinavian countries and was exhibited at the MOMA in New York until 1981.

We had to wait several decades until the Guernica could be exhibited in Spain, since the will of Pablo Picasso explicitly stated that the painting would not return to Spain until public liberties and democratic institutions

were re-established in our country. Fortunately, today we enjoy both democratic liberties and the pride of having the Guernica painting among us to remember and to give tribute to all the victims of the Spanish Civil War.

Now you know what the painting of Guernica, reproduced above these lines, really represents. Those open mouths pointing towards the sky are demonstrations of panic and suffering. Maybe you already knew all this before reading about it here. Unfortunately, not everybody knows. There is somebody out there who had the time and ability to reproduce Picasso's Guernica to cover a whole wall, but has no idea of what the Guernica really means for millions of people.

That is what I wanted to believe when some weeks ago I entered an ice-cream shop in Washington DC and saw with my own eyes a huge reproduction of the Guernica, but the people in the painting instead of

screaming due to the horrors of the war were eating ice-cream! I just couldn't believe it. And after the shock, I started wondering whether that person was really unaware about the symbolism of the Guernica. Since I really want to believe that is the case, how can that person not have the interest to get informed about the real meaning of the painting?

Life is full of symbols: paintings, songs, flags, and even some words bring memories and mean a lot for certain groups of people. I just hope that through my life I will not be unaware, and I will not be indifferent about what my actions and my words could mean to other people.

Here is the address, if you ever want to check it out, but let me add that the ice-cream will disappoint you as much as the decoration of the place. Larry's Ice-Cream 1633 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20009.



Courtesy of M. Martinez-Bravo

First exhibited in July 1937, at the Paris International Exposition, Guernica was accompanied by a poem by Paul Eluard.

Upcoming Events

Brunch: 10/28

Masquerade Ball: 10/26

Halloween Party: 10/28

Yoga Classes: Every Tuesday

Coffee Hours: Every Wednesday, 9PM

Newsletter Contest

Submit your best cell phone pictures to sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu.

Next issue will feature the most exciting submissions.



Sidney Pacific Speaker

Newsletter Chair
Matthew Walker

The Speaker is published on a monthly basis to serve the needs of the Sidney Pacific Graduate Community. Submissions of articles, photos, events, and other items of interest can be sent to: sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu



A Look at Cambridge Life Through Poetry

By **Shamim Nemati**

Evenings in the 9th floor

Ticktock, ticktock, ticktock; it's 11 o'clock
Sitting in my room; in view is the Boston city block .
The music is on; listening to Johann Sebastian Bach
My ad-lib solution to the homework seems rather ad-hoc!
I want to throw a rock at this city of fog
Then I change my mind and start singing a song:
The Belgian sheep and the Eskimo dog chasing round my coffee mug!
I take a moment off and write a quick note on my blog;
Oftentimes writing is the right drug in the absence of kisses and a hug!

A Random juxtapose

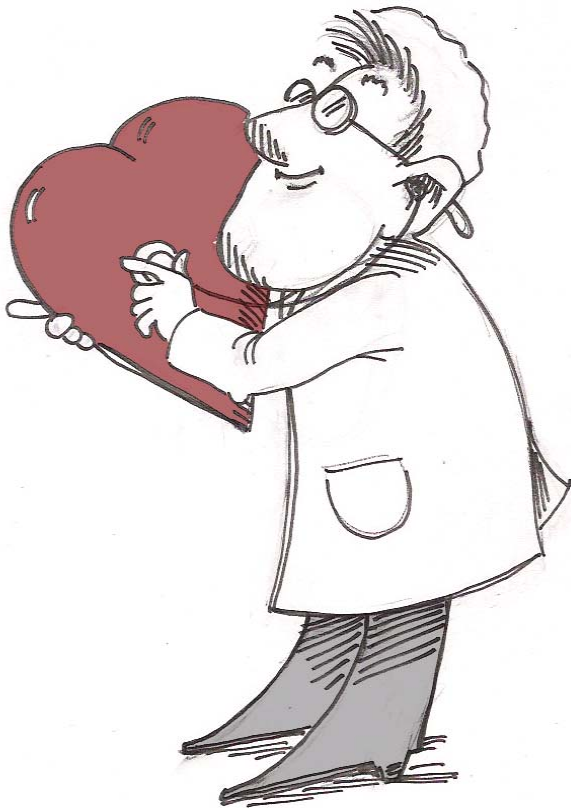
The parking garage where he parked his car
The hallways where he walked and talked
The water fountains where he quenched his thirst
The back roads where he durst and traversed
The food courts where he bought his lunch
And the bars where he got her a punch

And the sweet fragrant of that rose,
that multiplied in beauty under her nose!
That gorgeous babe with a sexy pose,
in that bathing suit that made her overexposed!
That sunset that he watched from within her toes,
And that smile that was so genuine; he supposed!

And the evening small-talks in a Cambridge park,
And the near sundown chase of hawks and larks,
And the quiet nights interrupted by occasional barks,
And the usual insomnia assisted by random thoughts,
And the endless doses of soporifics that worthed naught!
And the every day dreams that he pursued in doubt
And the usual snarls that he so laboriously puzzled out!

Made up the contingencies of his life
A random juxtapose of lust and trifling strives!

Dating Doctor Offers Advice For Lonely Males: Confidence is Key



By Dating Doctor

This is the first article in a series by your very own in-house dating doctor. He can be contacted at sp-hitch@mit.edu.

Gentlemen of Sidney-Pacific: Ever feel like you don't know the answer to the above question? Relax. You're in good company. Sigmund Freud, after studying people for 30 years, said that that there was one question left that he did not have the answer to... "What do women want?"

In my vast experience with women (6 girlfriends, of which at least 5 were imaginary), I have come to the definitive conclusion that most women want at least one thing: a man who is in control. (FYI: I'm not talking about S&M

here) I mean a man who is in control of the situation, in control of his emotional state, in control of their entire shared orbital space. I'm also not talking about being domineering or pushy, just being confident enough to make a decision or suggest an idea.

Ever asked a girl out on a date and said these magic words: "Where would you like to go?" Here's a little secret just between you and me – most women HATE being asked this question. If a woman likes you, she DOES NOT CARE what you do on a date (assuming it is legal and

within reason). She would much rather that you take control of the situation and suggest something i.e. "I know this great little bar/Italian restaurant/ice creamery/coffee shop." If you suggest something, unless she really hates it or has some dietary issue, she will be ok with it (Bonus secret: don't ever take a vegetarian to a steakhouse on a date; trust me on this one). Just in case, have a backup date idea, it won't hurt. While you're at it, go ahead and suggest a day and time as well if you haven't already got that sorted out.

Women are observing you to see if you are in control of yourself. They will do it either consciously or subconsciously. They will watch how you interact with them and

with other people. In most cases, you won't ever realize that this is all happening. Is this mean and unfair? Is it manipulative? Is it evil? Nope, nope and nope. Why? Let's think about it rationally. Most women get hit on regularly. They do not have the time to go on dates with all these guys (newsflash: they're trying to get through grad school too). So they need to quickly screen out the guys that are not in control of themselves.

Let's think an example of staying in control of a situation, of yourself, and of your emotional state. Any guesses? Here ya go: Borrow an old school James Bond movie from the front desk. You will rarely, if ever, see Bond lose his composure. The world may be about to explode, or he may be about to be beaten to a pulp but have you ever seen him look like he is not in control? Watch him interact with women. Does he look nervous or not in control? Now I'm not saying you should start acting like Bond, but draw some inspiration from his character.

Don't believe any of this? Go ask a female to read this. Watch her nod her head and smile. And then, if you think she's cute, ask her out. Remember: you're in control.

In the November newsletter – What you didn't know about how women think.

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