Fire Up the Grills: 3-North July BBQ a Sizzling Success

By: Brian Spatocco, 3-North Hall Councilor & George Lan, 3-South Hall Councilor

According to the trustworthy source Wikipedia, the origins of the barbecue (BBQ) are quite obscure, both in name and in practice. It is thought that “barbecue” originally derives from barabicu, a word common to both indigenous Floridians and Caribbeans. In spite of the assertions by many scientists and practitioners that the BBQ is generally an exercise in masculinity stemming from well-ingrained cultural dispositions[1], I find this conclusion to be absolutely absurd and thought there was no better way to provide contradictory evidence than to run our own little controlled experiment with 3-North.

As the grills fired up, we were greeted by some co-carnivores from the Canada Club, who explained that they had hoped to use the grills likewise for their Canada Day celebrations. As an American, it came as no surprise how well we were able to share the vast North American cooking resources, considering how Canadians are some of the best neighbors any country could ask for. Needless to say, our experiment went along smoothly, unimpeded by equipment failure or personnel disputes.

As the evening lazily ambled along I did begin to take note of some of the unexpected data being collected. Specifically, our 3N group, radically more diverse in terms of nationality as well as cultural background than the Canadian party, was markedly more lively in terms of conversation, more communal with respect to food, and on average had a longer BBQ longevity. Although my lack of quantification may be troublesome, I take it as early empirical evidence of a hypothesis I’ve long held since arriving here at Sidney-Pacific:

The most enriching experiences don’t come from being around those like oneself, but from venturing outside the comfort zone and enjoying our diversity, even if it is just one door over.

As for the assertion that masculinity is best displayed over hot coals and raw meat... the jury is still out. Let’s adjourn the court on that one until the August 5th Hall Councilor BBQ.


SP residents enjoy a wonderful BBQ in SP courtyard on Thursday, July 1st.
How do you experience the culture of fourteen different nationalities without setting foot off the MIT campus? SP residents and members of the MIT community at large found out when they came to the annual Sidney Pacific Cultural Festival on Saturday June 26.

The afternoon began with guests enjoying a smorgasbord of Nigerian, Indian, Lebanese, Iranian, Japanese, Indonesian, Australian and Chinese cuisines. All of this food was prepared or organized by MIT national student groups, some of whom looked particularly fantastic serving their foods in national dress.

The food was delicious and, as seems to be the norm at events with free food, the tables were well and truly emptied before the afternoon was out.

While enjoying their meal, guests were entertained by a wide variety of dance and musical performers. The line-up opened with performances by three external dance troupes – the Aftaab Persian dancers, Bulgarian dancers and Brazilian Capoeira performers. The costumes and energy of the former two groups were striking, and capoeira was a new and interesting art for many guests to see. This was followed by a musical item by the Persian Students’ Association, and then a series of performances by MIT dancers: Radhika performed a beautiful solo traditional Indian dance; the MIT Ballroom Team danced to their usual high standard, the MIT Asian Dance Team wowed the audience with their traditional and ribbon dancing, and the duo from the MIT Tango Club introduced the audience to Argentine Tango dancing. The afternoon was rounded out with a high energy performance by the Hellenic Students’ Association, and their invitation for the audience to join in for the finale left everyone in high spirits.

This event couldn’t have happened without the support of the GSC’s ARCADE funding, and we look forward to more of these events throughout the summer. Special thanks must also go to Tim Palmer, our AV chair, who staged a marathon performance of his own in coordinating music and microphones for each of the acts.

If you missed this event or are craving some more international experiences, stay tuned for cultural coffee hours and other events coming up throughout the summer and the fall semester!
The Aftaab Persian Dance Troupe open the performances with traditional Iranian dancing.

Vivian Lee, of the MIT Asian Dance Team, wows the audience with her ribbon dancing.

Upcoming Events!

Don’t miss them!!

7/24: BBQ Event
8/4: Coffee Hour
8/5: BBQ and Auction Night
8/6: High Five Friday
8/10: Hall Council Meeting
8/15: Brunch
8/18: Cultural Coffee Hour
8/28: Open Doors Night

Sudoku? Sudoku!

How to Play: Fill the empty squares with digits from 1 to 9 so that each row, column, and 3x3 square features each digit exactly once.
Residents Indulge Sweets Tooth at Scooper Bowl

By Chelsea He
Photos by George Tucker

The Hall Council kicked off the beginning of summer with a joint-hall outing to the Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl®, an all-you-can-eat ice cream festival that took place June 8-10 at Boston City Hall Plaza. Residents from several S-P halls took part by braving the rain to eat ice cream for a good cause (many halls even subsidized the entry fee!). The 28th annual Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® was presented by FedEx and raised more than $300,000 for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The event drew ice cream vendors such as Baskin Robbins, Ben & Jerry’s, Breyer’s, Brigham’s, Edy’s, Häagen-Dazs, HP Hood, Garelick Farms, and Gifford’s. Participants had the opportunity to sample more than 30 flavors, such as Key Lime Graham Gelato, Chocolate Cookies and Cream Collision, and Maine Lobster Tracks, though Fenway Fudge was voted as the S-P favorite. By the end of the day, empty ice cream bowls had accumulated by the dozen, and a good time was had by all. We would love to see you at a future joint-hall event – just look out for announcements from your hall councilor.

Something you do not want??

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