



By Art Jahnke
ILLUSTRATIONS *by*
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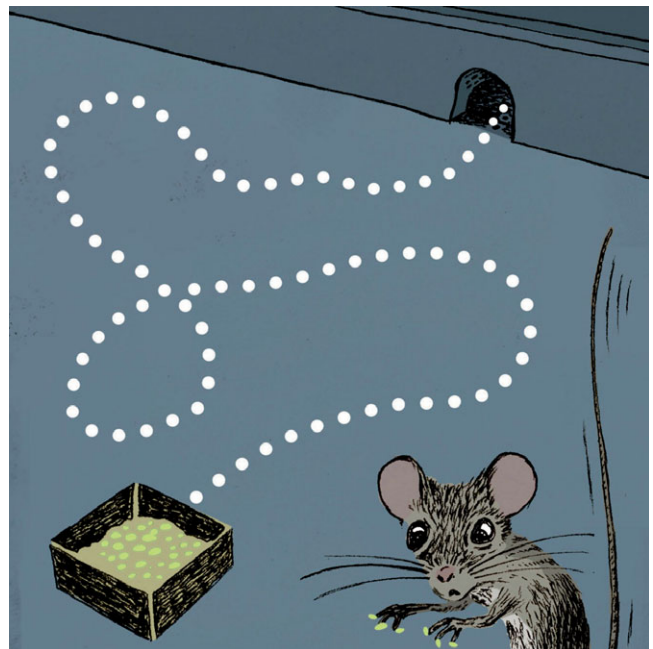
Pre- Conceptions

Boston University has long been a wellspring of great ideas, from life-saving medical breakthroughs like a bionic pancreas to better ways to predict potentially devastating solar storms to reimagining the social structures of ancient civilizations. But there is another kind of idea, less awe-inspiring but far more handy for people who want to save a few bucks on footwear, tell time without looking at a watch, or keep pesky rodents outside, where they belong. Those ideas are born each fall in the College of Engineering course Product Design and Invention: Technology Creation, Protection, and Commercialization, taught by Dan Cole, an ENG associate professor of mechanical engineering. * *Bostonia* asked Cole to share a few of his favorite ideas for inventions by students in the classes he has taught since 1999.

FIVE GREAT
INVENTIONS THAT
DIDN'T GET OFF THE
DRAWING BOARD (YET)



BOSTONIA
Winter-Spring
2016



A Better Mousetrap

David Jennings (ENG'02)

Bait is placed in the center of a container of absorbent granules soaked in invisible ink. Seen in a black light, a mouse's dusty trail to a room's exit/entry point is luminescent. The homeowner seals the entry point.

PROPOSED PRICE: \$10



Credit Card Guard

Bill Di Bianca (ENG'03), Kevin Dickert (ENG'05), Mike McCullough (ENG'03), James Rudy (ENG'03)

A leather wallet has a smart sensor that detects the presence of credit cards. If a card is removed and not replaced within three minutes, a buzzer vibrates, reminding the user that the plastic is missing.

PROPOSED PRICE: \$37.95

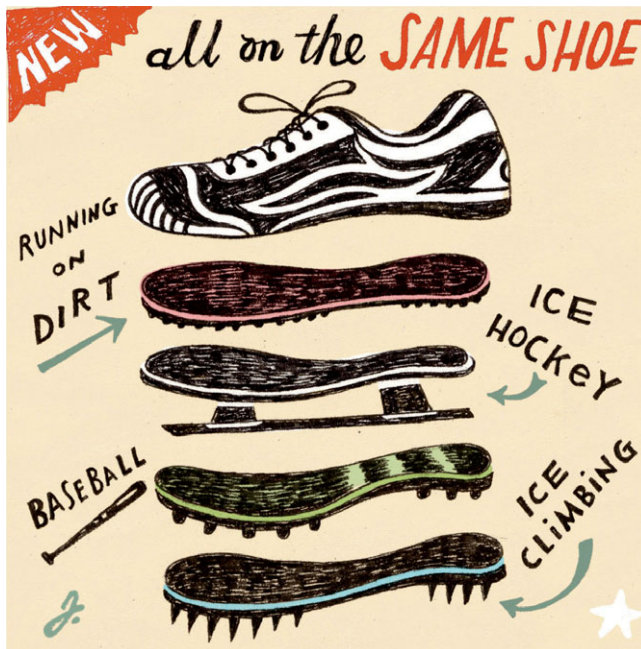


Flexicam Inflatable Rock Climbing Aid

Chelsea Heveran (ENG'13), Dylan Neidorff (ENG'09, MET'12), Daniel Stewart (ENG'13), Lauren Wang (ENG'13)

The device is a lighter, cheaper, more versatile alternative to metal spring-loaded climbing cams. It expands to conform to the size and shape of the crack in a rock wall.

PROPOSED PRICE: \$20 TO \$40

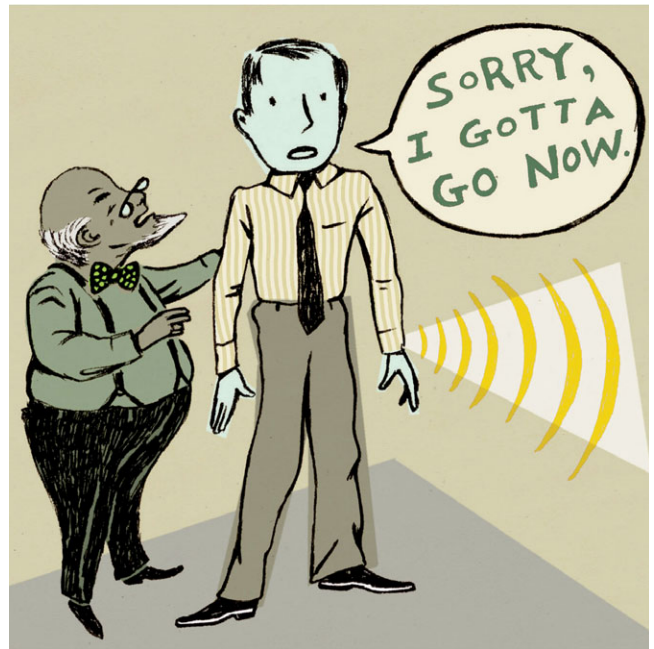


Zuela Shoe of Many Sports

Ana Pelucarte (ENG'11), Ali Hassan (ENG'11,'12), Max Konig (ENG'11)

Detachable soles allow the shoe to be used for several sports, which require different cleats or sole materials.

PROPOSED PRICE: \$49.99 FOR SHOES, \$19.99 FOR ADDITIONAL SOLES



Tactile Watch

Glendon Coburn (ENG'02,'05), Molly Hickey (ENG'01,'02,'05)

The watch has a moving array of bars (for hours) and points (for minutes). The changing pattern of contact points presses lightly against the skin on the wrist of the wearer, allowing her to feel what time it is.

PRICE: TO BE DETERMINED