Welcome to Fall 2012, Tau Bates!

As sad as it is to bid farewell to the lackadaisical season of summer, hopefully, most of us feel some sense of satisfaction in returning to the vigor of the main school year. (Or at least, eagerness to get some of the most stressful classes done.)

This looks to be a semester full of opportunities—a big one being this night’s Chrysler recruiting event. Here’s to a good supply of internships and jobs!

This is only our first GBM, so try to relax, catch up with your fellow Tau Bates, and enjoy dinner (courtesy of Chrysler) before we dive into our usual chapter proceedings.

After the meeting, Michigan Epsilon will be playing laser tag at Laser Edge in Clinton Township. Can’t wait to see you there!

(You will be there, right?)
Officer E-mail Addresses, Hooray!

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Before mailing to these lists, please exercise good judgment. No one likes spam, so take a moment to make sure you’ve written everything you wanted to say in a clear manner, read for spelling, grammar and typos, and included a relevant subject.

Thank You to All Members Who Provided this Local Bent’s Content!

This Local Bent could not have been created without your submissions. To anyone interested in having their work featured in the Local Bent, (appropriate) content is always welcome! This could include (but is not limited to):

- Countdowns
- Sports columns
- Cultural features
- Reviews
- Jokes

Send it in! (Please.)
“That’s one small step for a man; one giant leap for mankind.”

On July 20, 1969, Mr. Neil Armstrong spoke those powerful words and changed the course of American (and world) history as he took the first steps on the Moon. From that day forward, Armstrong became an international hero and role model. He has been an inspiration to us all, and his accomplishments will be remembered for many generations to come. Upon the passing of this great man, it is necessary to take a moment and reflect on the life and accomplishments of Mr. Neil Armstrong.

Armstrong was born in the small town of Wapakoneta, Ohio, where he grew up on a farm. Prior to his career at NASA, Armstrong received a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and served his country as a naval aviator in the Korean War. When NACA (the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics...now known as NASA) held an open call for an astronaut core, Armstrong applied. After surviving some of the most brutal physical and mental tests, Armstrong became an astronaut in 1962. Armstrong only flew into space twice, but those two times marked two huge milestones. The first was as command pilot for Gemini 8, when he performed the first man docking of two spacecraft. More notably, Armstrong was the commander of Apollo 11, by which he led fellow astronauts, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, and lunar module, Eagle, to the surface of the Moon for the first time. After his time flying in space, Armstrong became a leader for the entire agency—he served for some time as the Deputy Associate Administrator and led a team towards many great accomplishments under his supervision.

Armstrong eventually retired from NASA in pursuit of a teaching position in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Armstrong has received many special honors from not only the US but also 17 other countries. One of his most important awards he received when he became a member of Tau Beta Pi as an Eminent Professor of the Ohio Beta Chapter. Every Tau Bate should be proud to be in the company of such a great, influential person. Even after winning all of his impressive awards and changing world history, Armstrong never wanted the “Hollywood fame.” Modest man that he was, he claimed that his
success in landing on the Moon was not his success. He insisted that it was the success for “all mankind” - from the engineers and scientists who built and maintained the rocket that got him to the Moon, to the future astronauts. This is a true hero that everyone should admire.

After suffering complications from cardiovascular procedures, Armstrong left us on August 25, 2012. Much of the world’s population still mourns in his death and remembers the greatness that he has impacted the world with. On September 13, 2012, a final farewell to this American hero will take place at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Tune in to the farewell via NASA Television on satellite or at www.nasa.gov/ntv, and join us as we say goodbye to Mr. Neil A. Armstrong, the first man on the Moon.
RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL? NOT IN SPORTS, APPARENTLY.
BY SEAN LECHKUN

For years, cycling has been rife with accusations of doping and surrendered victories for confessions. Since 1999, allegations of illegal doping and EPO usage have dogged Lance Armstrong despite hundreds of passed drug tests throughout 7 Tour de France victories, 1 bronze medal, and millions of dollars raised for Livestrong. And now, after his refusal to participate in a pseudo-trial, the world as a whole does not know what to believe about what Armstrong has done.

After a two year investigation by the Department of Justice, the federal investigation into Armstrong’s EPO usage came to an end when the DOJ found that there was not enough evidence to support the claims that Armstrong had doped. In complete disregard to Armstrong’s constitutional rights, the United States Anti-Doping Association (USADA) has reopened the case with what it claims is new evidence of Armstrong’s doping. This new evidence includes the testimony of ten unnamed witnesses of Armstrong’s supposed drug usage. In a ploy to appear fair, the USADA offers arbitration held by the USADA to judge Armstrong’s innocence. In a “courtroom” dominated by the USADA’s CEO Travis Tygart, who both plays the judge and selects the jury, Armstrong is doomed to a trial without the slightest chance of a fair hearing.

Whether Armstrong doped or not is something that may never be known; the only person who can clear the controversy is Armstrong himself, and while few believe him when he says he never doped, he will never admit to it himself. The facts, however, are this: throughout his 7 Tour de France victories, Armstrong was subject to hundreds of urine and blood tests and passed each one; his teammates, however, affirm that Armstrong has doped. Now, bloods tests are notoriously easy to beat, as the research behind cheaters is constantly ahead of the tests race administrators use. That said, Armstrong is notoriously conceited and has made many enemies among his teammates; this mixed with the immunity promised for testimony leaves the witnesses unreliable. A clear answer is far from attainable through these methods.

What is clear is what the controversy is doing to both the sport of cycling and sports universally. It reveals that despite officially endorsed testing and thousands of hours of hard work, blood, sweat, and tears, an athlete can lose all that he or she has achieved because of the testimony of “witnesses”. If Armstrong had failed one urine or blood test yet had the support of multiple teammates claiming they were with him 24 hours a day and he had not cheated, would that negate the failed drug test? No, it adamantly would not. Judgments cannot go only one way. If testimony can negate scientific testing to obtain a guilty verdict, it should do the same for an innocence verdict. This case as a
whole is eroding the basis of sport and hard work. The sports arbitration system is painfully and detrimentally flawed, and it would place the yellow jersey from Armstrong’s wins in the hands of self-confessed dopers because of one man’s need to kill a hero. International sports arbitration is a sham: in 2010 it stripped Alberto Contador of his Tour de France win because his blood tested positive from trace amounts of growth hormone, despite the testimony of many physicians that the amounts found in his blood could be due to ingestion of tainted meat. The decision was supposedly based on the fact that there was no reason to believe he was innocent. However, the USADA is American and thus should be held to higher esteem when the burden of proof is on the prosecution and the citizen is entitled to his rights. This is clearly not the case.

If sports arbitration continues on this course, where the testimony of few can overpower developed science, then hard work and dedication will no longer be valued. Travis Tygart believes he is helping cycling and sports worldwide by combating the “win at all costs” attitude, but he is doing nothing more than showing millions that no matter how hard one works, no victory is safe. Lance Armstrong is a true hero, having raised millions for cancer sufferers everywhere, and serves as an inspiration to the world to keep pushing no matter what. Every cyclist who raced in the Tour de France between 1999 and 2005 knows that Lance Armstrong won those races.

And now, to lighten the mood… animal assassins!
I'm breaking up with movie trailers.
By: Alex Murrell

Spoilers may follow for those who have not seen the films (or more specifically, the trailers) of the Avengers, The Dark Knight Rises, Cabin in the Woods, and Source Code.

There have been two movies in recent history that I've avoided trailers for at all costs: Source Code, and Cabin in the Woods. I really do mean "at all costs". My parents and girlfriend can attest to the fact that when a commercial for one of these movies would come on TV, I would either (a) run out of the room or (b) close my eyes, plug my ears, and hum just to be sure to not hear anything. Experiencing the movie as a whole for the first time in both cases was incredibly enriching on a level that most people don't get to enjoy. However, the marketing machines within movie studios take the big blockbuster moments or the quirky ideas behind these movies and plaster them all over billboards to make people who are otherwise uninterested realize there's something going on in these films that they'll want to see.

Fair enough. Successful trailers mean the filmmakers and movies that I love will make more money... I suppose that's a "noble" cause of some sort. However, I can't help but feel that those are special moments that get ruined. These movie trailers are not for me... I already know that I'm going to see these movies. For example, let's take a look at the Avengers. What if I hadn't watched every trailer that came out? What would've blown my mind if I hadn't seen it before seeing the movie? I've got a list (of only some of the moments) for you:

- Thor atop the Chrysler Building calling down lightning to destroy the aliens
- Iron Man's climb up the energy beam destroying countless aliens
- Thor landing on the Quinjet mid-flight
- Tony walking the Iron Man armor off as he enters Stark tower

And perhaps the two biggest offenders that certainly would've set off the goosebumps in theaters:

- The circle shot of the Avengers assembled on the street in New York
- The Hulk catching Iron Man as he falls from the sky

That last point literally crossed my mind as Tony took the nuke to the space-hole. I thought to myself "Oh man, maybe Tony's gonna die... Oh wait, he can't because the Hulk hasn't caught him yet. Clearly this is where that will happen." The stakes would've been even higher if I hadn't seen the trailers, and although I got momentary satisfaction while watching them due to the fact that I had months (or even a year) to wait to see the film, I can't help but think about how amazing the movie experience would have been if I hadn't seen these things.

Let's take a look at what's been spoiled for The Dark Knight Rises:
• Gordon gets seriously injured at some point and is put in the hospital
• Bruce needs a cane for some reason
• Selina Kyle steals Mrs. Wayne's pearls
• Bane lets all of the inmates out of Blackgate
• Bane knows Bruce is Batman
• Bane infiltrates the Gotham Stock Exchange
• Bane destroys almost all of the bridges to/from Gotham
• Batman and Catwoman work together
• Bane gets his hands on Wayne Enterprises Applied Science tech

And once again, the most egregious spoilers from the trailers:

• The absolutely chilling image of Bane dropping the broken cowl
• Bane destroying an entire football stadium while it's being utilized
• The police v. inmates war in the third act of the film
• That "the Bat" even exists in the first place

So I'll bring up a few points. First, in order to glean a lot the details above, one would have to view the trailers many times... which I am completely guilty of doing, and I fully acknowledge that fact. Second, knowing these things did not completely ruin my experience in the theater. But they still lessened the experience by a noticeable amount. I spent a bit of both the Avengers and The Dark Knight Rises thinking, "Yeah, I've already seen this part. What comes next?" which is sad; viewing these trailers clearly pulled me out of the experience in some fashion. Finally, some of these details are further informed by the fact that I now watch film news sites more than ever before, so I heard about the first sighting of "The Bat" and saw photos of Bane atop a sand-camo tumbler ripping photos of Harvey Dent. But I've done that for a lot of films I've seen lately, and none of them have been as detrimentally affected by my film-gossip knowledge as they have by my viewing of the trailers.

Now, what am I going to do about it? It's going to take a lot of control for me to not watch trailers. I know that one exists for Paul Thomas Anderson's The Master that I haven't viewed yet. I really want to, but now I won't. I've recently found I have more will power than I've ever expected, so maybe this will work out. I may give myself the leniency of watching teaser trailers only. The teasers for both The Dark Knight Rises and the Avengers didn't spoil much. Although, looking at the Man of Steel teaser, that final shot of Superman flying could've been something well worth saving for the theater. Finally, I may seriously consider reserving my seat well before the movie and then subsequently leaving for 10 minutes just to not see trailers.

My experiences with both Cabin in the Woods and Source Code felt so fresh. It feels quite fantastic going into a film knowing virtually NOTHING about it. I can only imagine how the previously discussed films would have felt if I had known almost nothing.

I realize that I am someone who cares a great deal about spoilers, and that there is a good chance that I'm in the minority on this issue. So if you read this and think I'm being ridiculous, well, go about your day, I suppose. But if at any point you have viewed a film
and gotten bored during the trailer... if at any point you’ve viewed a trailer and not felt a reason to see the movie (I’m looking at you, Brothers), then take the main points of this article and think about whether or not your moviegoing experience would be enhanced by the fact that you’re no longer being pandered to or desperately begged into seeing a film.

You’re fun, you’re flashy, and you feel so right when I see you. But you leave me with little to be excited about when I finally get to see the film in all of its glory. Movie trailers... I’m breaking up with you.

(Recent and Upcoming) Tau Beta Pi Birthdays!

(Now, maybe everyone will stop bugging me about mine…)

Elizabeth Barrios—August 12th
Arpith Abraham—August 25th
Aliya Jawad—August 31st
Amani Alkayyali—September 6th
Farooq Sheikh—September 26th
Jason Harris—September 26th

Happy Birthday, Everyone!

A slice of sugary engineering cake for the lot of you.
Laser Tag at Laser Edge!

http://www.laseredge-usa.com/

5050 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48201

1. Head northwest on Anthony Wayne Dr toward Merrick St
   About 1 min
   go 0.3 mi total 0.3 mi
2. Continue onto W Palmer Ave
   About 4 mins
   go 0.6 mi total 0.9 mi
3. Turn left onto Brush St
   About 49 secs
   go 0.1 mi total 1.0 mi
4. Turn right onto E Edsel Ford Fwy
   go 0.1 mi total 1.2 mi
5. Take the I-94 E ramp on the left
   go 0.1 mi total 1.3 mi
6. Merge onto Interstate 94 E
   About 17 mins
   go 14.9 mi total 19.2 mi
7. Take exit 231 on the left to merge onto M-3 N/Gratiot Ave
   About 8 mins
   go 3.0 mi total 19.4 mi
8. Make a U-turn
   Destination will be on the right
   About 2 mins
   go 0.2 mi total 19.4 mi

Laser Edge Laser Tag
35335 South Gratiot Avenue, Clinton Twp, MI 48035