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Get Ready for Initiation!

Hello, and welcome to GBM #2! Tonight is looking to be pretty eventful.

First up, we’re going to be voting on bylaws—important stuff! As most of you know, this is the kind of thing that we can debate forever. Hopefully discussion will not run too long, though, because next comes everyone’s favorite part of GBM #2—the Round Robin!

Tonight’s food is Indian cuisine. (Yes.) Make sure to help yourself during the interviews.

After the meeting, we will be playing Whirlyball, as per tradition. This is a great way for initiates and members to get to know each other, so be sure to attend, if you can.
Thank You to All Members Who Contributed to this Local Bent!

This Local Bent could not have been created without your content.
If you are interested in having your 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

Don’t be shy, send it in!

Upcoming Tau Beta Pi Birthdays!

- Nigil Valikodath—October 6th
- Mohammad Al-Zubi—October 18th
- Daniel Putt—October 29th
- Priya Abraham—October 29th
- Dodji Sossou—October 31st
- Steven Sute—October 31st
- Luke Mackewich—November 1st

Happy Birthday, Y'all!

We’re all so proud of you.
2012 $\tau\beta\pi$ Convention

by Aliya Jawad, Amani Alkayyali, and Pawel Popiel

The 2012 TBP Convention was hosted by Kentucky Alpha, University of Kentucky, in Lexington at the end of September. Half of the board members – Amani, Nigil, Pawel, Katie, Zahraa and myself – and three of the advisers – Colleen, Dalal and Evan – came along on the tiring but fun twelve hour drive round trip! We were given full-day schedules from early morning to late night, attending district meetings, committee projects meetings, and national business meetings. Personally, I thought the best activity was Interactive Chapter Exchange (ICE), where members of chapters all over the nation discussed chapter issues they had and how to work them out. What was cooler was realizing how resourceful our chapter is and being able to give a lot of ideas to other chapters on how to better themselves! My own group was pretty awesome; we were the smallest group in the session, and we were all from different states and fields in engineering.

Colleen, Dalal and Evan attended the advisers committee; Zahraa joined the website committee and will participate in it until the new TBP website is up and running; Amani and Nigil attended the Members Benefit Image & Insignia, where they worked on improving TBP promotions and products. Pawel and I attended the MindSET session, where we met the head of MindSET, Dylan Lane, and later his cute 8-month old
daughter, Lila! Dylan was super excited to get MindSET running at MI-E - he doesn’t want us slipping through his fingers!

The most important part obviously is: the food! We were full after every meal – except breakfast, which was the typical eat-as-you-go continental breakfast. Although dinner and lunch were usually spectacular – they served gourmet steak, and chicken – the first dinner did not work out quite so well. It was fairly disorganized, and the staff didn’t really seem sure what/when/how they were supposed to serve the food. The vegetarian dishes were completely forgotten. Fortunately, they were much more organized and prepared delicious dishes in the later meals, making up for that initial mishap. I was never quite sure what the vegetarian dishes were, but they were really good. However, I think most of us would agree that the best meal we had during the whole convention was, ironically, the food provided by the University of Kentucky. It had no fancy gourmet food-- just salad, mashed potatoes, chicken, pasta, cookies and pop. At the university, we saw the cool base for their bent and attended an initiation ceremony, and then half of us went on lab tours!

While at convention, we won the Project’s Award and invited Curt Gomulinski, Executive Director of National Headquarters, to our initiation. Curt is actually a graduate of Wayne State University and initiated in our very own chapter, MI-Epsilon, like our awesomely amazing advisor Colleen Hill-Stramsak! Both were presidents of our chapter at one point and helped us win an RC Matthews award! Curt and his wife Tricia were both happy to be invited and look forward to coming home! So, initiates – be prepared for an awesome initiation ceremony!

All in all, it was a great experience, and hopefully more of us will be able to go next year!
Interviews: Some General (but Useful) Tips

By Tricia Fernandez

In this chaotic, highly variable economy, the interview is one of very few constants. Whether you are aiming for a new job or membership in a top-notch student organization (initiates, take note!), here are some quick pointers that should give your interview an edge.

1. **Be honest.** This is the most important tip—and it applies as much to underselling yourself as it does to overselling. No matter what questions are asked, make sure that your answers are as accurate a reflection of your experiences and abilities as possible.

2. **Do your research beforehand.** Look into every company or organization at which you will interview. Read over any mission statements, goals, and values your prospective employer may have (“cough* Faith of the Engineer” “cough* Bylaws *cough*) and think about how you can incorporate your own talents and expertise towards the fulfillment of these ideals.

3. **Anticipate and prepare for likely questions.** Think of answers to both the really common questions (“Tell me something about yourself.” “Why do you want to work here?”) and the questions you think are likely to be asked by a specific employer (see Tip 2). If it helps, practice giving those answers to friends and family members before the big day.

4. **Stay focused.** Don’t go off-topic; make sure answers are clear and direct. Shut off electronics before the interview to avoid distractions.

5. **Maintain confident body language.** This includes both facial cues—smile, make eye contact, etc.—and other considerations, such as posture—no slouching. Practice giving a firm handshake, and make sure that your business clothes are comfortable for both walking and sitting.

Websites I found helpful:


Many thanks to Lauren Weiss for the idea and information!
1. Michael Jordan – Six NBA titles, five-time league MVP. Air Jordan averaged 30.12 points per game (the most of any NBA player ever), but the numbers don’t tell the whole story here. Jordan had no real weaknesses. His athleticism and skill were matched only by the grit and desire to win that burned within him. Simply put, he had the best mental and physical game of anyone to ever step on the hardwood, period.

2. Magic Johnson – Five NBA titles, three-time league MVP. Magic revolutionized the game with his “Showtime” style of basketball and was one of the flashiest and most accurate passers ever. Magic could also score when he wanted to. His size created mismatches and allowed Magic to dominate every single position. He could rebound. He could pass. He could shoot. He could defend. Magic Johnson was the definition of an all-around talent, and when you combine with that his leadership qualities and competitive spirit, Magic is the only basketball player to ever come close to Jordan’s throne.

3. Bill Russell – 11 NBA titles, five-time league MVP. Bill Russell’s rings say it all: he was a winner. The 11 championships came over a span of only 13 seasons. Russell was also one of the greatest defenders of all time and was the first dominant shot-blocking big. He was NBA rebounding champion five times and averaged an astounding 22.5 rebounds across his career, and if blocks had been a statistic back in the late 50’s and early 60’s when he dominated, Russell would most likely be the league leader in the all-time blocks category as well. Russell also is the only player-coach to have won a championship, a testament to his extremely high basketball IQ.

4. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar – Six NBA Titles, six-time league MVP. Kareem is currently the all-time leader in points scored and field goals made throughout his long and prosperous career (he has also played the most minutes of any NBA player in history). Additionally, Kareem is in the top ten all-time in a plethora of other categories: free throws made, rebounds, and blocks. These numbers illustrate that he was durable as well as dominant. More importantly, he was a machine in the low post. Unlike Wilt Chamberlain and Shaquille O’Neal, who primarily used their size and strength to muscle their opponents, Kareem had a refined set of skills. The most deadly tool he utilized, time and time again, was his famous hook shot. The hook shot was unstoppable and the reason that Kareem sits atop the leaderboard with an astounding 38,387 points amassed throughout his career.

5. Larry Bird – Three NBA titles, three-time league MVP. Larry Bird was the greatest pure shooter to ever play the game. He wasn’t the most athletic, but he made up for it with his polished skills. The percentages prove Bird’s legendary efficiency, as he was a career 49.6% from the field and 88.6% from the line. Perhaps most impressive was his ability to always come up in the clutch, though. One of Bird’s most memorable moments was during the NBA’s first annual Three Point Shootout (in 1986), when Bird entered the locker room and famously asked “who’s coming in second?” He went on to win that year… and the next year… and the next year.

What current talent does this writer believe belongs on this elite list? Could it be Kobe Bryant, five-time NBA champion and two-time scoring champion? Or maybe Kevin Durant, the NBA scoring champ of the last three seasons consecutively. Or could it be LeBron James, the oft-scrutinized, do-it-all talent of South Beach? For the answer, be sure to pick up the next Local Bent at TBPMIE’s GBM #31.
Looking for a Scare? Try *Marble Hornets.*

By Tricia Fernandez

In the summer of 2006, film major Alex Kralie (Joseph DeLage) began work on an original student film, titled *Marble Hornets.* His initial enthusiasm for the work, however, eventually turned sour, and he abandoned it before it could be finished, citing as his reasons some vague “unworkable conditions”. His classmate, Jay (Troy Wagner), was able to salvage Alex’s raw footage right before the filmmaker transferred to another university, never to be heard from again. Three years later, Jay digs out his friend’s tapes in an attempt to find out what happened, posting his findings on a YouTube channel named after the doomed project. In time, Jay is motivated to actively search for his friend, only to find himself haunted by the same forces that led to Alex’s disappearance…

*Marble Hornets* is an independent horror film delivered in YouTube-sized bites. Now, when I say “independent film”, I mean it—this was made on the budget of pocket lint, by two college students and their friends working out of their homes in their spare time. By all indicators, it should be a laughable mess. But against all odds, *Marble Hornets* has become a hit on the internet and has garnered praise from horror fans and film critics alike. I am not sure I can add much to the commentary on something that has received favorable attention from Roger Ebert himself, but here are three reasons why I personally enjoy and recommend it.

First, I have to commend *Marble Hornets* on its sparing use of death as a scare tactic. Violence is rare and deemphasized in this video series, which might not sound scary at all, given that much horror relies on bloodshed to make its point. The horror in *Marble Hornets* is much more atmospherically-based. The series is very good at building a sense of dread. Early on, it is revealed that whatever is after our characters could easily kill them if it were so inclined—but for some reason, it lets them live, preferring to stalk and exert its influence from a distance. The series’ horror is therefore based not on watching a terrible monster kill off the cast, but in observing, almost clinically, as a mysterious being corrupts its victims’ psyches. Every character reacts to the stalking differently—some become paranoid and secretive; others become irritable and prone to outbursts; still others become confused and disoriented, largely unaware of what is happening to them. All seem like pawns in a twisted game with rules and objectives beyond human understanding.
Second, there is the series’ carefully-cultivated sense of isolation. Many videos consist of solo exploration through deserted, claustrophobic environments. The few times that Jay does bring along companions, it becomes clear that he cannot trust them as far as he can throw them (and he has the physique of a starving artist). A lot is done to keep tension high and focused on one character or subject at a time, with little to distract from the unnerving mystery unfolding onscreen. Even the comments are disabled on most entries, keeping viewers from immediately sharing their reactions with each other.

This leads into my final point. I’m rather fond of internet-based entertainment that uses its medium as more than a simple method of distribution. I like that Marble Hornets takes advantage of its format in ways that cannot be done with traditional media. For one thing, Jay owns an in-character Twitter account, to which additional material and answers to some viewer questions are posted. Also, starting with the ninth entry in the series, an enigmatic observer called “totheark” begins to post cryptic response videos to the main series that contain taunting clues and alternate perspectives. This is to say nothing of the times Marble Hornets apparently gets hacked by outside parties looking to advance their own shady agendas, or when characters stumble across Jay’s YouTube channel in-series and react quite forcefully to what they find there. All of these touches contribute to the illusion that this story really is unfolding somewhere in America.

My recommendation of Marble Hornets comes with some caveats. As of this review, the series is still ongoing, a good way into its third and purportedly final season. I can thus make no guarantees about the ending, which may prove difficult to pull off well. Beyond that, the series is not without its flaws. At times there are hiccups in the acting. Some setups feel contrived—in particular, Jay is one of the most genre-blind horror protagonists in existence (Let’s run down the list of silly hero mistakes: Runs into scary places alone, at night? Check. Tries to tackle the Lovecraftian abomination with his bare hands? Check. Brings a knife to a gunfight? Sigh. Check.). In spite of this, the series as it stands now is well worth watching, provided you can deal with a few potentially sleepless nights. Have fun!
Whirlyball!

http://www.whirlyballmichigan.com/contactUs.html
### Wayne State University
42 West Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202

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<td>2.</td>
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19781 15 Mile Rd, Charter Township of Clinton, MI 48035