Officer Elections!

Welcome, members, old and new, to GBM #4! This time, officer positions are up for grabs. These positions are a great way to get involved in the organization and the college, so if you are at all inclined, don’t be shy—go for it!

Today’s food will be Chinese takeout! Yum! Now I really regret not being able to make it.

After we are done voting on our officer board, we will be bowling at the Garden Bowl. If you have time, go on and knock some pins down; it should be a good way to de-stress before finals hit.

Have fun!
Thank You to All Contributors!

I could not have made this all happen without your hard work. If you would like to send something (appropriate) in to be featured, the Local Bent, is always open to it! This could include (but is not limited to):

- Tech News
- Sports columns
- Cultural features
- Reviews
- Jokes

Go on, send it in!

Tau Beta Pi Birthdays!

Nathan Couture—December 15th
Kurt Krueger—December 17th
Radovan Dimovski—December 23rd (HA! Whose birthday is it NOW?)
Kartikay Chaudhry—December 24th

Happy Birthday, Folks!

This photograph expresses what I cannot possibly convey with mere words.
Officer Positions: A What’s What

By Tricia Fernandez

Today, Tau Beta Pi chooses its leadership positions for the upcoming semester. Before you run (or decide against doing so), make sure you know what you’re in for (or what you’re passing up).

Of the following, the only two positions not on the table are President and Treasurer, as these are year-round positions. Our organization often votes new members into office (sometimes, into big positions!), so don’t be deterred just because you are new to the organization.

President
This is it; the big “Kahuna”. The president oversees all activities of the organization and makes sure that officers are doing their jobs. Unless we are in for a coup d’état, this position is securely filled for next semester.

Vice President
The VP is the professional leader of the organization, responsible for handling events such as industry recruitment visits and Engineering Futures. The VP also orders the food for the GBMs, so it helps to have good culinary taste here.

Membership Vice President
You all know the MVP. This guy/gal serves as helper and guide to new initiates, working with them throughout the month-long initiation process. It’s not an easy job-- it requires a lot of flexibility and time-- but I am sure it will be very rewarding when a batch of new members enters under your supervision!

Corresponding Secretary
The Corr Sec is our connection to Headquarters, ensuring that all paperwork gets submitted soundly and on time. Like all chapters of Tau Beta Pi, Michigan Epsilon must answer to higher levels of management before certain actions, such as initiating new members, are taken. It is very important that the Corr Sec be able to handle this communication effectively.

Treasurer
Money, money, money, money, money. As to be expected, if it involves finances, the Treasurer will be involved in some way. The Treasurer manages all “money-making” activities, including stocking the store in the Tau Beta Pi room and holding the Poker Fundraiser. He or she must also submit a good deal of paperwork to Nationals in the summer and handle issues such as hardware orders and reimbursements. Due to new Chapter Bylaws, the Treasurer is now a year-round position and will thus be exempt from our voting procedures tonight.
Recording Secretary
The Rec Sec (that’s me!) takes minutes at both the monthly GBMs and the weekly officer meetings. In addition, he or she puts together the Local Bent to inform and entertain (I hope?) members during what can often be long and tiring General Body Meetings. Any Rec Sec must be ready and willing to attend meetings regularly, so make sure that your schedule is open enough for the role!

Historian
The Historian collects Project Reports and attendance lists for all TBP events...if only it were that easy. Unfortunately, it often takes a lot of pestering before officers submit these, but by golly, pester you will, until every last one of them is in! Every summer, the Historians for the past Fall and Winter semesters collaborate to create a book recording the year’s exploits for future generations.

Cataloger
Not to freak you out or anything, but the “Cataloger” knows you, man. He or she manages your contact information (especially your inclusion in those suspicious email-alias-list-things) and keeps tabs on your meeting attendance and membership status (through strategically-placed “sign-in sheets”). And if your activities are not up to par... the “Cataloger” has the power to ban you. Shh—no need to attract undue attention, but... I also hear that this “Cataloger” person jealously guards the ancient secrets of the legendary paper catalog cards. Be on the lookout... and you didn’t hear this from me, okay?

Community Service Coordinator
Giving back! The Community Service Coordinator is in charge of organizing and recruiting for all, well, community service events. This position is now also in charge of the new and exciting MindSET Program, a mentoring/tutoring project meant to introduce grade-schoolers to the world of science, mathematics, and engineering.

Tutoring Coordinator
In addition to holding three to four hours a week of “open” (walk-in) tutoring, the Tutoring Coordinator must be able to arrange for members and initiates to tutor subjects outside his or her scope and/or time limitations. This position can be pretty time-consuming, but if you are the teaching type (you know who you are), it is extremely satisfying.

Social/Publicity Coordinator
The Social/Publicity Coordinator organizes social events, such as tonight’s bowling, as well as Tau Beta Pi’s contribution to college-wide social gatherings and parties. A social coordinator should be good at working with entertainment venues and have a good sense of fun.
Room/ Technology Coordinator

Last, but certainly not least, Room/Tech is a great example of a position with a lot of hidden potential. On the surface, the Room/Tech is responsible for keeping the room clean and maintaining the organization computers and website. However, for members with a special vision for the spaces (both physical and digital) that we work in, Room/Tech can be a very open-ended and creative role.

Initiate Jokes!

Y'all are some funny people.

Thanks to our initiates for sending these in, and to Cataloger Kurt Krueger for collecting them!

Three engineers walk into a bar. You'd think one of them would have ducked.

A physicist, a mathematician and an engineer walk into a bar. The bar tender looks up and asks "is this a joke?"

New engineer: "How do you estimate how long a project will take?"
Seasoned engineer: "I add up the time required for each task, then multiply the sum by pi."
New engineer: "Why pi?"
Seasoned engineer: "It ensures that all my budgets are irrational."

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."
The man below replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 42 degrees north latitude and between 58 and 60 degrees west longitude."
"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.
"I am," replied the man, "but how did you know?"
"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost."
The man below responded, "You must be a manager."
"I am," replied the balloonist, "how did you know?"
"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are exactly in the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

Who's That... Tau Bate!

By Nigil Valikodath
We would like to interrupt this publication for a friendly Public Service Announcement

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT OUR TREASURER PAWEL POPIEL IS CURRENTLY POSSESSED BY A BEING CALLED AN “ACHINKWA.” THIS BEING IS BOTH SENTIENT AND SELF-AWARE, AND WHILE IT POSSESSES A PERSON, IT SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO SIMULTANEOUSLY IMITATE THE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS OF A HUMAN WHILE MAINTAINING ITS OWN IDENTITY. DURING POSSESSION, THE HOST BEING IS CONSIDERED ASLEEP. THE ACHINKWA’S INTENTIONS ARE UNKNOWN, SO IT MUST BE TREATED WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

Symptoms:

- If you note yourself feeling particularly well-rested, beware. This is not a normal condition for a college student.
- Gaps in memory are also suspect. These may be mistakenly attributed to sleep-deprivation, but it is not so.
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Thank you for your attention.
Signed, Radhika Rastogi
Which Modern Era NBA Player Belongs Among The Greatest of All Time? Part 2

By Anonymous Tau Bate

In the last issue of The Local Bent, I discussed the five players whom I consider the greatest of all time: Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Larry Bird. I also posed the question: what current NBA superstar belongs among them? In this issue, I will attempt to answer this forever-controversial question.

First, let’s address the man of the hour, LeBron James. Many fans, blinded by his ability to do seemingly anything on the basketball court, forget what he hasn’t done, which is win multiple NBA championships. The numbers LeBron puts up speak for themselves: last season he averaged an insane 27.6 points on 48% field goal shooting, along with 7.2 rebounds, 6.9 assists, 1.6 steals, and a block for good measure. He even put to rest the arguments from his biggest naysayers with his performances in the 2012 playoffs: 45 points against the stingy Boston Celtics when the Heat were down 2 – 3 in the Eastern Conference Finals; or Game Four against the Indiana Pacers, down 1 – 2, with star teammate Chris Bosh injured, when LeBron scored 40 to go with 18 boards and 9 dimes. LeBron capped off his dream season with an Olympic gold medal, to add to his NBA championship and MVP award. The only two other players to ever have won all three of these in the same year? Michael Jordan and Bill Russell, both on my top five of all-time list. However, since LeBron has yet to win even two championships, he cannot yet be placed among the absolute greatest, although I believe in time he will emerge to do just that.

Kobe Bryant is a name that frequently comes up in this debate, and for good reason. He is a five-time NBA champion, and 2008 league MVP. He is currently sitting at number six in all time scoring, the highest of any active player. His nickname, The Black Mamba, derived from his killer instinct; his ability to hit clutch shots precedes him. However, if we examine the actual statistics, this legend can be shown to actually be a myth. For one, in playoff games Kobe is a surprising 25.9%, making only 7 of 25 potential game-winning shots over his career. To give some contrast, LeBron James is 5 of 12, or 41.7%. Additionally, Kobe’s high scoring is a direct result of his high-volume style of play. For example, in 06 -07, when he was the scoring champ, Kobe attempted 1,757 shots. Contrast this again to LeBron, who won the same award in 07 – 08 taking only 1,642 shots. One major flaw in Kobe’s accomplishments is the fact that he only have two finals’ MVP awards, despite winning five championships. This is because three of his championships came alongside a certain Shaquille O'Neal in his prime. Because of his inefficiencies and lack of being the alpha dog on the majority of his championship teams, Kobe should not be considered among the greatest either. Tim Duncan is often brushed under the mat because of his less flashy style of play. Even in his prime, he never had the awe-inspiring athleticism of LeBron, or the ability to score 81 points in a single game that Kobe has displayed. He is however, the owner of one of the most impressive resumes in the league today: four-time NBA champion and one of only 12 players in history to have been the League MVP multiple times. He is among the top 20 all-time in career points, rebounds, and blocks (and those numbers are still going up!), basically the three key stats for measuring a big man’s worth. No power forward has ever dominated both ends of the floor quite like The Big Fundamental has for years. More importantly, on all four championship teams, Duncan was the bona fide leader of each one (as evidenced by his three finals MVP awards… and anybody who knows basketball knows about the infamous 2007 fluke award given to Tony Parker). These are the two key ingredients that put Tim Duncan on the list with the greatest of all time: his absolute dominance in every facet of the game coupled with his historical ability to win when it matters most. Where LeBron has not yet cemented his legacy, and Kobe has exposed himself as a somewhat overrated player, Tim Duncan quietly steps in and seizes the title for best NBA superstar in the post-Jordan era.
Garden Bowl!
IT’S...