



Cornerstone

Elections!

Here we are...elections. I hope everyone is as blisteringly loaded with excitement as I am for this great day. Coming off the tail of a major National election, I hope this Tau Beta Pi elections meeting serves to be equally contentious, and if we're very lucky, controversial. Nothing beats a little controversy in the daily cycle of Tau Beta Pi events, and I believe the elections meeting is the optimal time and place for controversy to arise. I want to see if we can find some way to make this meeting extend to over 3 hours, all chock full of arguing and debate. If I had my way, each election would be run via a series of 10 minute debates between the candidates, with the conclusion to the debate being some form of physical gauntlet, a la Guts or even Double Dare. Then, and only then, would these elections truly show us who is the best.

By now, hopefully you have met many of the officers. Even more hopefully, by this point you have some sort of idea of what exactly it is that the officers do. So, with all this in mind, how about running for an officer position? You have the sheet with all the officer descriptions on it, you know what

you enjoy doing, so go ahead and put your name up on the board. See what happens. There is no better opportunity to get further involved with the biggest Honors Society on campus: Tau Beta Pi.

For example, I have to say being Newsletter Chair is quite possibly the greatest job I have ever had. Not only have I gotten to be involved in major Tau Beta Pi officer decisions, I have also gotten the opportunity to write about whatever I want! Did you catch the article last week about walking around with my fly down? Or how about the fact that I've now written 3 articles on letters of the alphabet? All in all, it's been a terrific time, and I would highly encourage you to give Newsletter Chair a try if you are at all interested in making people listen to you

But that's only one officer position. There are plenty of other, though obviously less significant, officer roles. If you can't handle newsletter chair, there's always those much less impressive roles of President, Vice President, External VP, Service Chair... the list goes on and on, and I'm sure you can read it for yourself. I would highly encourage you to do so.

So go ahead and get involved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
Elections	RIGHT NOW!	RIGHT NOW!
TG II	11/27/2006	8:00 p.m.
Misc. Service Events	Ongoing	Various
E/A III	11/28/2006	6:30 p.m.
Initiation/Banquet	12/2/06	Starting at 4:00 p.m.

Griffin Dixon Elections *Electee Focus*

Sometimes referred to as “Griffy,” this electee has one of the coolest names on record for Tau Beta Pi electees in the history of Michigan Gamma. The Griffinator is studying biomedical engineering, and comes to Michigan from Rockford, MI.



Practicing to avoid awkward dance moves at the upcoming initiation afterparty.

We’re also proud to report that Griffy McGriff shares a spot in the prestigious ‘31E scholarship program with Julia Samorezov, another of our electees.

Last time, we focused on an electee that had an incredible aptitude for sleeping. This week, we notice that G-riff also shares in the activity. In particular, he maintains membership in the Facebook group, “If Napping Were A Professional Sport, I’d Have a Title Belt The Size of a Continent.”

Eric Mastria Elections *Electee Focus*

Investigating the propensity for sleeping further led Cornerstone editors directly to Eric Mastria, who also self-identifies himself as a wishful world napping champion. What’s the deal with TBP electees showing off their sleeping skills? For now, this remains an unsolved mystery.

From Fort Gratiot, Eric Mastria is a force to be reckoned with in Bowling. During his second TBP group meeting at Colonial Lanes, Eric scored something like almost 200 points.

Eric is excited to be nearly finished with his TBP election requirements, so that he can return to spending weekends sleeping with his calculator.



Oatmeal: a key to amazing bowling abilities?



Snow By Chris Muhich

These past few days, weeks, hell months have seen way to much crappy weather, and lets face it, it’s Michigan so there’s a lot more to come. But it’s looking up, finally it’s getting cold enough to snow instead of the incessant rain that has been living here. Now I’m not a big fan of the cold, in fact I’m all most always cold or wrapped up in a hoodie and knit hat to keep warm, but the prospect of snow instead of rain really makes me happy. It’s quite ironic but I find that I’m much warmer and happier when it snows at 30 or 25 degrees than rains 35 or 40 degrees. Not only do you get a much more pleasant sight when it’s snowing, but you stay so much dryer and hence warmer. Plus who doesn’t like a good snow ball fight, snow creations (human form like or more than likely in a different form) or going trying, things you just can’t do with rain. So don’t get up set at the dropping mercury level, just enjoy wonders of winter’s snow and the end of rain

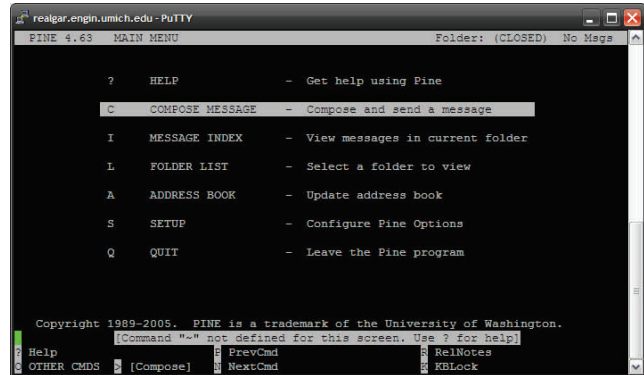




Pine Tips: Part 2

By Josh Bartlett

Now that everybody has seen the light and is using Pine (if you're not, review Pine Tips from the First Comity newsletter) there's still that pesky problem of leaving your mail open on a community computer. How many times have you logged into your mail only to see a message from yourself that you didn't send? Well, we've all had it happen and there's not a lot you can do other than just remember not to leave sessions open around an office or dorm room. However, you can speed up the process of getting back into your mail by not actually logging out but still keeping your mail safe. From anywhere within Pine, except a mail message, just hit 'm' to take you back to the main menu and then 'k' to lock the keyboard. It will ask you for a password and once entered nobody will be able to access your Pine session without the password but the computer will still be usable. When you return simply enter the password and type 'i' to return to the place you left off at. If you're in a message and need to leave simply hit '^o' (ctrl + 'o') to postpone it and then at any point in the future you can simply hit 'c' to compose a message and it will give you the option of continuing your message where you left off.



Main Menu of Pine 4.63

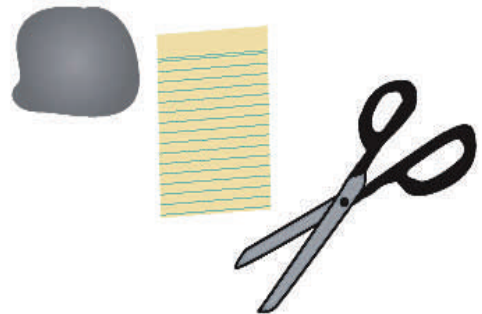
EXTREME ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

By Erin Thomas

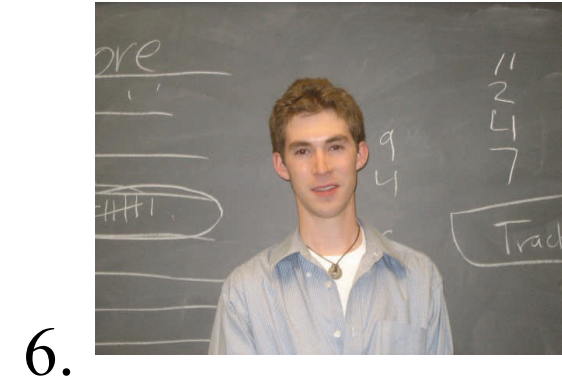
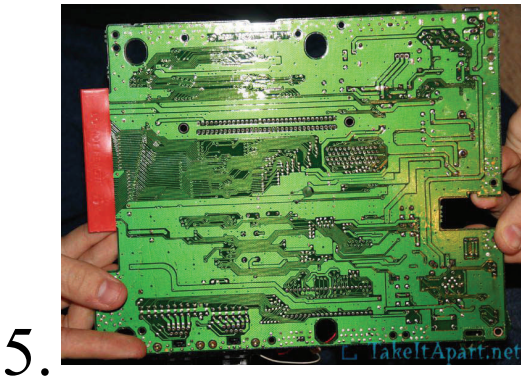
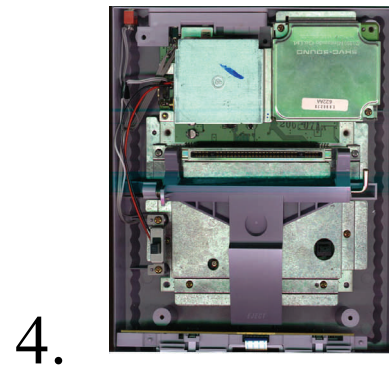
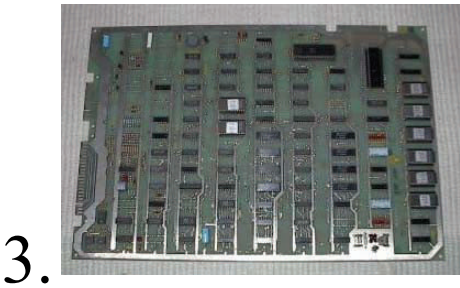
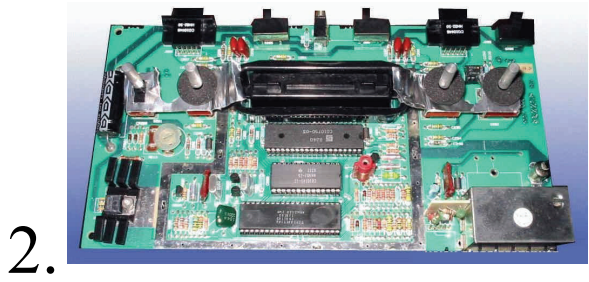
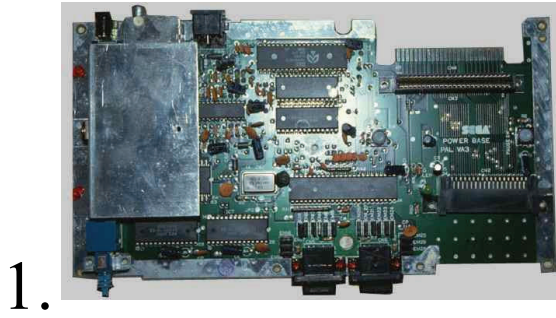
What do you get when you mix tag, red rover, an epic battle, and a traditional Rock, Paper, Scissors? Extreme Rock, Paper, Scissors of course! Now you might be wondering, how is this awesomely fun and totally mature game played? Well my friend, wonder no more and read on.

First designate two "safe zones" on either end of your playing field. Mark the start of each, as well as middle point between them. Next divide your group into two teams. This is traditionally done boys vs. girls, but if you are playing with a bunch of engineers you may want to split some other way to make the teams more even in numbers. Now each team retreats back to their safe zone to discuss their plan of action. Each team picks one, and only one, weapon to use (the choices are Rock, Paper, or Scissor in case you aren't following this whole theme yet). Once both teams have reached consensus, the teams line up in the center of the field facing one another. A referee counts to three then yells, "shoot!" and both teams respond at this time by forming a fist for Rock or forming a sideways peace sign for Scissors or laying their hands flat for Paper. As in traditional Rock, Paper, Scissors, Rock takes Scissors, Scissors take Paper, and Paper takes Rock. The losers then run as fast as they can back to their safe zone as the winners chase them. If a member of the losing team is tagged, they must join the other team. This is repeated until one team has all the players or until everyone is bored, whichever comes first.

This game is especially fun if you play on wet grass, bumpy terrain, or otherwise unsafe and painful locations. Lack of vision also enhances the fun; so playing at night or with the sun in your eyes is a great idea. I suggest the wave field... anyone with me?



Puzzle Time



Match the pictures with the correct video game devices.

- A. Atari VCS
- B. Nintendo NES
- C. Super Nintendo
- D. Arcade
- E. Sega Genesis
- F. Sega Master System
- G. Colecovision

Correct Answers
 1. F
 2. A
 3. D
 4. C
 5. E
 6. James Shuster

Say “No” to the Standing O

By Steve Vozar



At the end of the performance, the crowd applauded enthusiastically and stood up to acknowledge the magnificent talent they had just witnessed. Was this an emotionally stirring performance by a retiring maestro? Was it a brilliant portrayal of a complicated character by a master thespian? Was it a record-breaking feat by a professional athlete? No, this standing ovation came at the end of a mediocre high school choir concert.

So why did the people stand? Were they so deeply moved by the recital that they felt the need to stand and honor the performers? Doubtful. More likely, they stood up because everyone else stood up. They stood up because the standing ovation has become the norm. I absolutely hate the fact that the standing ovation has become commonplace. This does nothing but cheapen the gesture. Standing ovations should be reserved for truly spectacular performances only.

Whenever I go to a concert or a play, I look for the audience member who, at the end of the performance, will become my arch nemesis. This is the person who, when everyone is content to sit and clap politely, decides that he needs to stand. This then prompts two more people behind him to stand, and pretty soon I'm the only one firmly parked in my seat. I used to feel like a jerk for staying seated, but not anymore. I think of it as my sacred duty to restore the true meaning of the standing O.

The true standing O needs no instigator. At the end of a truly amazing performance, the audience will stand in unison spontaneously, because each person in the audience knows that he or she has witnessed a monumental event.

Don't get sucked into the faux-O (as I like to call it). Just because other people are standing up gradually around you doesn't mean you have to stand. Think about it: if you stand at a concert, you are requesting an encore. If you don't want an encore, don't stand. While plays don't have encores, I would still advise using similar discretion. Would you really want to sit through another vignette by the same pre-teen drama students? If the answer is no, stay seated.

Please help me save the standing O. Reserve it for honoring only the very best performances. Together we can restore the sanctity of the standing ovation.

TBP Community Service Really Makes a Difference

By Ryan Rindler



When out on a run late last week, I noticed something spectacular. It certainly wasn't my athletic performance and it definitely wasn't the weather. Rather, it was what wasn't there. Running on the stretch of Fuller Road between Geddes Park and North Campus, I was amazed how clean the road and trails were. Unlike many highly trafficked areas that are littered with... well, litter, I couldn't even find one piece of trash on the ground. And I was looking.

Now I don't usually focus on the cleanliness of my surroundings during my runs (usually some kind of cramp or dull pain monopolizes my attention), but this stretch of road holds a special place in my heart. The reason? It is just another piece of the Ann Arbor community that has been touched by TBP. This particular length of Fuller

Road was the site of this semester's Adopt-A-Highway service project. One mid-October afternoon, about a dozen Tau Bates (myself included) invested only a few hours in cleaning up this area. Of course it felt good to be engaged in improving our community, and at the end of the day, or stack of full garbage bags illustrated that we really made a difference. But that difference lasts long after we're gone, as I saw on my run. One of my favorite anecdotes is how TBP used to pick up trash at the adjacent nature preserve, but have since had to stop because it "stays too clean".

But this phenomenon is not limited to just Adopt-A-Highway; all of TBP's service events lead to similar results. Whether volunteering for bucket drive, Food Gatherers, Neutral Zone, or whatever event, the effects of our efforts last longer than we think. Investing in education, in the environment, and in the people of our community provides everlasting returns. No matter how small the project, no matter how trivial the contribution, we do make a difference. It is something we should be proud of, but more importantly, something that should inspire us to donate ourselves even more. I know that I am proud of TBP, and I know that I'm not alone.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" – Anne Frank

Arts and the Back Page

A Random Book Review

By Erin Thomas

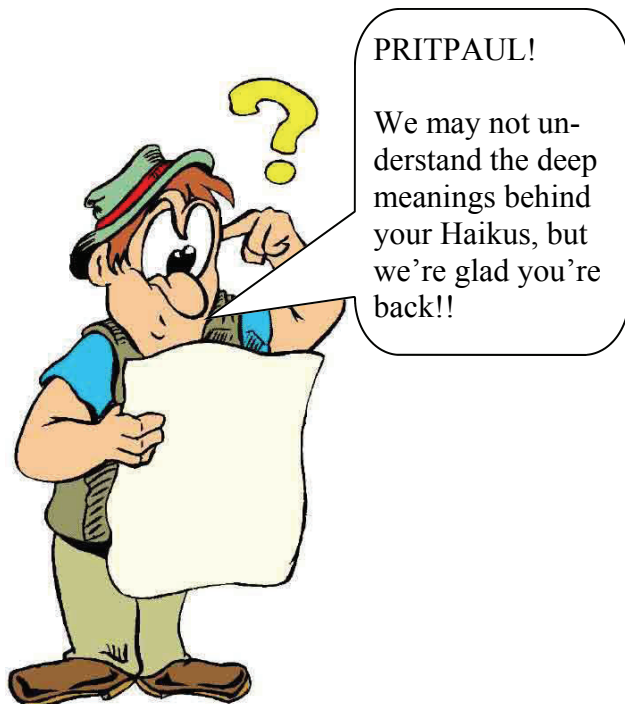
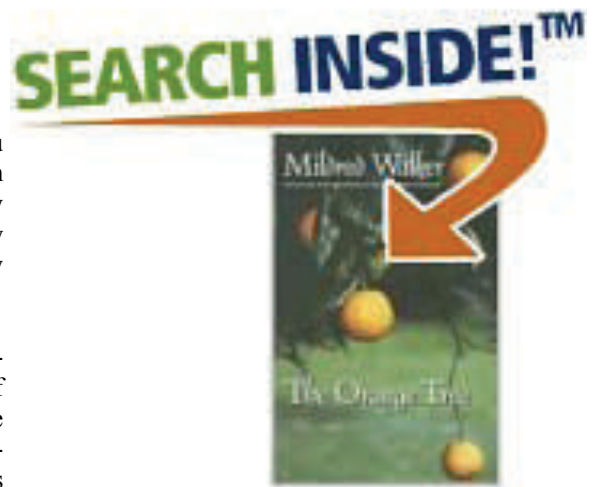
As an electee this semester I was required to interview some fellow Tau Bates. I discovered that not many of my classmates are reading novels on a regular basis. While I understand not having time to read (and many have said that they read during the summer) however, some said they hadn't read a book in years. So I decided that it is time to expose my peers to a novel that I recently finished.

The Orange Tree by Mildred Walker is a story roughly based on Chekhov's play *The Three Sisters*. I'm guessing many of you haven't heard of that play, I have to admit that I hadn't, but the similarities between the two are found in their underlining theme. Both are about a search for happiness and meaning in the typically mundane lives of the middle-class characters.

Now don't be fooled by this "unexciting" subject matter. The character development and events of this story really do grab you and keep you wondering what will happen next. I found myself in different aspects of each character, relating to them on a personal level. Often times I would stop and reflect on my life and decisions for a few moments before reading on.

The central characters are two couples living in Boston in the 1970s: an older couple Tiresa and Paulo Romano and newlyweds Olive and Ron Fifer. Their lives intermingle and unfold as the Romanos struggle with Tiresa's poor health and as Olive struggles with her feelings on her marriage. This book offers insight into friendship, death, and the every-day details of our lives. It also provides remarks on literature, writing, and education through Tiresa's career as an English professor. One of my favorite parts was a beautifully descriptive memory of Sicily, worked in to increase our understanding of the characters.

Go now! Read this book! (Especially if you are female, although I think males could get a lot out of this novel too.) You can even borrow it from me if you would like.



Pritpaul's Haiku Corner

Project deadlines here
Snow falling, cold air blowing
At least there's banquet

--Pritpaul