

# The Cornerstone

**Tau Beta Pi  
Michigan Gamma**

Volume 9, Issue 1  
January 10, 2012

## First Actives

By Justine Kunz

Welcome back Tau Beta Pi! Now that we have begun a new year it is time to get new officers and brand new electees! There is a lot of new potential with Tau Beta Pi this term, and with your help we can make it even better. While 2012 brings a lot of unknown, (especially with the whole Mayan Apocalypse thing) with the unknown comes the drive and curiosity that makes us great engineers.

As we say goodbye to 2011 and our relaxing winter breaks, it is important to keep one thing in mind and that is the number of days until spring break. Syllabus week will try and blind you into believing that you have enrolled in an easy semester, but do not be fooled by the façade! Give it two weeks and you will already be contemplating all-nighters, addicted to energy drinks and over stressed like any good engineering student (except for our friends in IOEasy). My point being, get those spring break plans finalized now while you have time and a clear mind.

You are probably asking yourself, “Wow, Justine must have the greatest spring break plans since she is talking about it this early and because she is ridiculously cool!” Well, you would be correct on both counts. I was graciously offered to stay in a condo located only in the most beautiful part of Florida, Key Largo. However, two days after I heard this amazing news I went to the dentist for my usual cleaning where I was informed, “[my] wisdom teeth must come out over spring break”.

So this is a message for you all, make awesome plans for the upcoming break! Do not get stuck staying at your parents’ house recovering from minor oral surgery! Go out, explore the world, and find solace from the winter (if that ever really comes). And, as always, go TBP! ◇

## Write Stuff, Get Service Hours!

By Ryan Chen

Did you know that you can get a service hour for each article that you write for the Cornerstone? Did you know that I’ve been writing verses of variable length at the end of this past semester’s announcements with the same information? In any case, the benefits are clear and substantial. So just do it. ◇

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### Special points of interest:

- First Comity—1/17
- Submit your resumes to Mike Hand for the career fair resume CD—see announcements for more details
- Congrats to Chris McMullen for completing another successful TBP Book Swap despite several technical difficulties



## Sports

### Area Brunette Girl Key to Michigan Sugar Bowl Victory

By Ryan Chen  
7 January 2012

**BULLPEN**— As you all know, Michigan kicker Brendan Gibbons is one of the team's heroes in their victory in the 2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl. At the postgame press conference, Gibbons explained that he thought of brunette girls as he lined up for the kick. In an unexpected twist, TBP news services have discovered that a local brunette girl may have had more of a role than Gibbons had let on; for the past two years, Gibbons has been receiving coaching and advice from a brunette female student at the University of Michigan. She came forward with her story shortly after the game but has asked to remain anonymous. The following is an excerpt of our interview with her.

**Cornerstone:** So, as we understand your story, you've been Brendan Gibbons' kicking coach on the side for the past two years now.

**Brunette Girl:** Yes. Brendan first sought my help after a particularly tough practice when then-coach Rich Rodriguez set a personal record for consecutive expletives directed at someone other than Tate Forcier.

**Cornerstone:** What are some of the things that you helped Gibbons with? Whatever it may be, it's evidently been hugely successful, with his game-winning kick in the Sugar Bowl and his overall performance throughout this season.

**Brunette Girl:** Well, when he first came to me, he couldn't get his balls up. His performance left me so frustrated and unsatisfied that I saw why Coach Rodriguez had been left similarly disappointed. A lot of my work with Brendan focused on visualizing putting his balls through. I often kicked his balls to demonstrate proper form and technique. After a few weeks, we saw some signs of improvement; he was finally putting his balls in the right place. However, his issues during the 2010-2011 season weren't with strength or accuracy, but actually with stamina. One obvious symptom of this problem was the high frequency of his balls getting blocked.

**Cornerstone:** This is all fascinating stuff. Well, I think the Michigan fan base will be very happy that you came forward with your story and that you're now getting the proper credit you deserve for Gibbons' marked improvement in kicking this season. However.... Are you sure this isn't just innuendo? ◇



## Comic of the Week

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:  
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC)





## Celebrity/Officer Gossip

### Decision 2012 Update: Dan Kiefer Rolls in Iowa Despite Iowa Being Iowa

By Ryan Chen

7 January 2012

**BULLPEN**—On January 3rd, Iowa Republicans flocked to the polls to support their candidates of choice. Surprisingly, Dan Kiefer and his not sucking led all candidates and collected 30% of caucus votes despite Iowa's propensity for choosing candidates who suck (Mike Huckabee, George W. Bush, Bob Dole, etc.). Mitt Romney finished with 23% of votes, Rick Santorum 20%, Ron Paul 12%, Rick Perry 6%, Newt Gingrich 5%, and Michele Bachmann 4%, with the remaining candidates picking up only as many votes as they could by bribing voters outside polling places. We gathered reactions from some of the candidates about their respective finishes in the Iowa caucuses:

**Kiefer:** "I think the results show that Iowans have really come to respect the quality of not sucking. Faced with the monumental sucking of the other candidates, I was unsure about investing campaign resources in Iowa. But, my team and I decided to take the gamble and were very pleasantly surprised."

**Romney:** "Well, I can't say I'm too surprised with the results. I pretty much will always get 23% of votes. So often, in fact, that should be my new slogan: 'We are the 23%!'"

**Paul:** "I'm pretty happy with the way things turned out. Of course, the larger percentage of votes I get, the more people will dig into my past and find blatantly racist stances, so let's not get too excited."

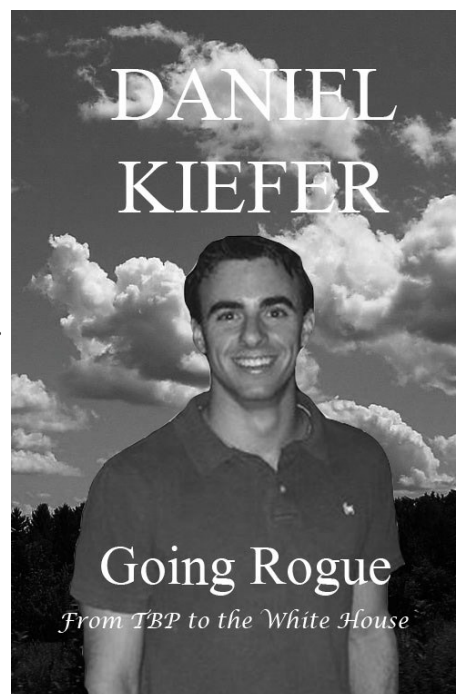
**Perry:** "I think I need to, uh, go back to Texas and think about things. God and I are gonna have a long talk about why he didn't give me more votes in Iowa. I guess I really was the Tim Tebow of the Iowa caucuses."

**Gingrich:** "I must say I'm pretty disappointed. I mean, I'm a modern-day Socrates, as significant to politics as Einstein was to physics. 5% is pretty bad, but I'll do better in New Hampshire, where the voters don't have an affinity for candidates who suck, since I clearly don't."

**Bachmann:** "This is just one more thing we can blame on Obama. How else could I finish with only 4% of votes?"

Meanwhile, Kiefer will continue his campaign in New Hampshire, where the burgeoning population of upper-class white rappers will demand him to perform "Granite State of Mind"

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX7nQrCgALM>) while reciting statements like: "'Live Free or Die' is a lifestyle in the Granite State, not a motto." ◇



*Facing peer pressure from other candidates using their campaigns to sell their books, Kiefer has written his own autobiography filled with tales of 3-hour TBP meetings and Bullpen gossip.*



## “You’re Belgium?!”

By Philippe Kirschen

Given how many times people have blurted “You’re Belgium?!” with a degree of surprise, when what they actually meant to say was “You’re Belgian?! [... that’s pretty cool] ”, I feel that it is my civic duty as one of the least Belgian citizens of Belgium that you’ll ever find to provide some pointless but perhaps interesting trivia from said tiny, passive European nation.

- Belgium has one of the lowest number of McDonald's restaurants per capita in the developed world (7x fewer than the US). This reflects the distinguished Belgian pallet and it would be fair to say that it also reflects a snobbish attitude but, hey, with the cuisine that the have, who can blame them.
- Belgium actually invented chips (what you lot [mistakenly] call french fries). As a result they also make the best chips [fries] in the world.
- On average Belgians drink 150 litres per person per year. Despite this mammoth consumption, they manage not to be moronic drunks. Frankly, I think that’s just as much of an achievement.
- There are over 800 kinds of beer made in Belgium. *[Editor’s Note: Elson highly recommends Trappist beers.]*
- Belgium is one of the only countries with compulsory education up to the age of 18
- The Belgian motorway system is the only man-made structure visible from the moon. Yeah, I didn’t believe it either....but it’s largely due to the density of the motorways as well as the extensive lighting that keeps every inch visible in the middle of the night.
- The tallest man in Europe is Belgian
- Belgium has 3 official languages: French, Flemish (a dialect of Dutch) and German. Only a very small minority in the east speak German, but otherwise the country is pretty evenly split between French and Flemish. The capital, Brussels, is largely francophone.
- Belgium has not had a government since 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010 due to a political deadlock. And you thought this country had messed up partisan issues...except guess what at least the Belgian government (, lack thereof) was able to agree on deficit reduction measures. ◇





## Actual News

### Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity at UC Berkeley

Submitted by Kevin Lance

#### Biology-on-a-Chip Internship Program (BioChIP)

Application Deadline: February 25, 2012

<http://biochip.berkeley.edu/>

Are you interested in creating new tools for biology and medical diagnostics? Do you want to learn how to build microfluidic devices and apply them to questions in biology? BioChIP may be a great program for you!

BioChIP is a hands-on 10-week program hosted by the UC Berkeley Bioengineering Department where undergraduates design, prototype, and test microfluidic devices aimed at addressing open-ended biological questions. BioChIP participants develop their project with two faculty mentors: one with expertise in engineering microdevices and one with expertise in biological/clinical science who has a need for a specific innovative experimental tool. The program is designed to prepare students for graduate studies at the interface of biology and engineering through a combination of hands-on laboratory training, classroom tutorials, and informal guest lectures from academic labs and biotech start-ups.

Eligible candidates must be US citizens and have at least junior standing by the start of the summer. Graduating seniors are not eligible. Diversity candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. ◇

## YouTube Video of the Week

### Cats Morph to Croissants



Watch in amazement as these cuddly companions morph into delicious French baked goods.

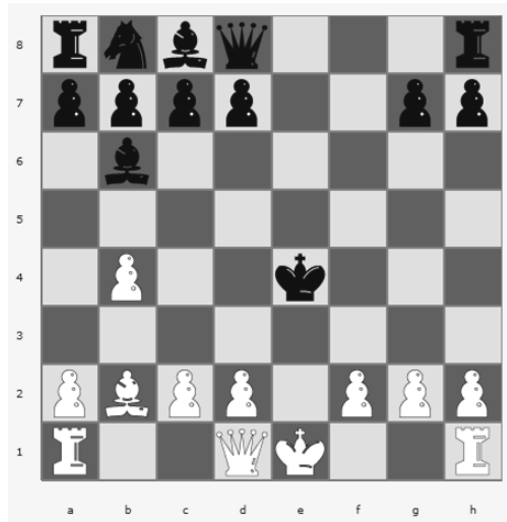


# Puzzles

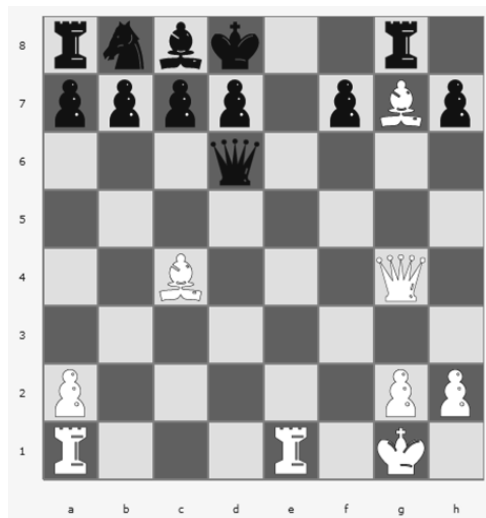
by Avi Wolf

Another episode of chess puzzles (this time sponsored by chesspuzzles.com) from your fellow Tau Bate. And if I may recommend: Chess with Friends is a great app. I get to play chess anytime, anywhere, anyhow! If only I had more friends ( you) on the app playing with me... Friend me on Facebook and use tha to request a game with me... I'll challenge you to that duel...

White to mate in one move:



White to mate in two moves:



- Answers to 1 and 2:
- 1. Queen to F3
- 2. Bishop to F6 (Black must respond by Qxf6)

Queen takes Rook on G8 [Qxg8], Checkmate!