

The Cornerstone

**Tau Beta Pi
Michigan Gamma**

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The Other 1%

Or Why I've Never Wanted to Have a "Regular" Spring Break

By Mike Hand

Back when I was a freshman, I was told that one of the best experiences I would have in college was in going on Alternative Spring Break. Being the young impressionable freshman I was, I decided to go. That first year I went on an amazing trip to Cranks Creek, KY. I was able to help out people in an area that society had largely forgotten about. Moreover they were able to help me. Their openness and welcoming attitude were inspiring and helped to better inform my view of their culture and of the poverty in the area. Over the next few years I was able to participate in great trips to Flint, MI and Chicago, IL. Each of these trips was a very special experience for me, and helped to shape my experience as a college student. The trip I undertook this semester, however, was particularly special. I traveled with 12 other participants to the Dominican Republic to assist with medical clinics near the border with Haiti, with taking care of malnourished children who had been taken in, and with organizing and assembling materials in a new nutrition center. During our trip we experienced much material and financial poverty alongside extreme affluence of spirit. Put another way, despite encountering some of the poorest of the poor, we were struck by the incredible attitude of welcome and kindness that we encountered during our trip.

As a manner of introduction to the work I did on this trip, let me give a brief run-through of the events of the first two days. Having arrived at El Llano (indicated by the star in Figure 1) the previous day, we set out on Monday to sort supplies and assemble cribs at the nutrition center which is under construction. In assembling the cribs, we had to overcome missing pieces, inadequate tools, and still make the crib stable enough to hold children. This experience helped force me outside my comfort zone. My mindset going in was that there was an exact right way to assemble the cribs. After struggling for a couple hours and determining that it simply was not possible to assemble the cribs in the manner they were originally designed, I had to adapt. There was a brief moment of clarity when we asked our coordinator, "How jury-rigged is too jury-rigged?" in reference to the crib construction. Her response was "you're in a third-world country; there's no such thing." This adaptability, or flexibility, was an integral virtue for the trip, and the crib-building experience helped me to be more open to that. Despite the building challenges we faced, we were able to assemble two cribs.

For the second day, we got up in the morning, piled into the back of pickup trucks,



Figure 1: Dominican Republic

Inside this issue:

<i>The Other 1% Or Why I've Never Wanted to Have a "Regular" Spring Break (cont'd)</i>	2
<i>Susie Chung's Pet Peeves</i>	3
<i>Concert Recommendations</i>	4-5
<i>Youtube Video of the Week: Dating Advice From Kids with Dave and Ethan</i>	5
<i>Puzzles</i>	6

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday Night Game Night—3/14
- IM Volleyball Game 2—3/15
- Grad Happy Hour—3/16
- MindSET 2: Chemical Engineering—3/17
- Adopt-a-Highway—3/17
- North Campus Diag Cleanup—3/18
- IM Inner Tube Water Polo Game 3—3/19
- Sequoia Plave IV—3/21
- Tutoring every Wednesday and Sunday

More information online at
<http://tinyurl.com/7bjplpo>

Please sign up online.

IM Roster sign up

umich.athleague.com/



The Other 1% (cont'd)

and headed up into the mountain village of Rosa de la Piedra to help out with a medical clinic. During the clinic, I sat in on consultations to assist when necessary and helped to take blood pressures for the people who attended the clinic. Seeing the issues that were troubling the people coming to the clinic and the difficulty in treating them was an eye-opening experience for me. Many people came in suffering from hypertension, vitamin and nutrient deficiency, infection, or many other issues. The hardest cases to witness, however, were those that affected children. During the clinic, we worked with 6 severely malnourished children, 3 of whom were bad enough that they needed to be taken in to recuperate. One of these children, named Pepito, had sores and infections and appeared to be in near constant pain. Nelson, shown in Figure 2, was one of the children brought in. With the addition of these three children, we were then responsible for taking care of 14 children at the house in which we were staying. Interestingly, one of the cribs we had just assembled the day before ended up being used for the new children.

In addition to the more conventional service work, the trip had many smaller bits of work that were incredibly meaningful. One in particular that stands out to me was doing laundry manually with Marisol, one of the women we were working with. Courtney, one of the other participants, and I had no experience at manual laundry, and probably contributed more to the amount of water spilled on the patio than to the completion of the laundry. Nevertheless, seeing Marisol's happiness with us helping out, and especially her willingness to show us what we were doing, helped us to see the patient, welcoming culture we had found. Another "small bit" of service work was feeding the children every day, especially the three new ones we had brought in. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this was seeing Pepito start to accept food and to even ask for water, and seeing Nelson start to feed himself.

There are many aspects of the trip that are easy to sell as positive experiences: warm weather, great food, international travel, etc. Many of the most worthwhile aspects however, are much more difficult to describe. For instance, using a syringe to administer fluids and medications to the malnourished children may not seem like a particularly enjoyable experience, nor would dealing with some of the common travelling illnesses seem like something that would bring a group closer together. Nevertheless, it was these small experiences that helped me to see the humanity of the individuals we were serving, that helped me to appreciate the many, many blessings I take for granted every day, and that helped take a group of 13 acquaintances and transform it into a group of incredibly close friends. ◇



Figure 2: Nelson was brought into the house suffering from severe malnutrition



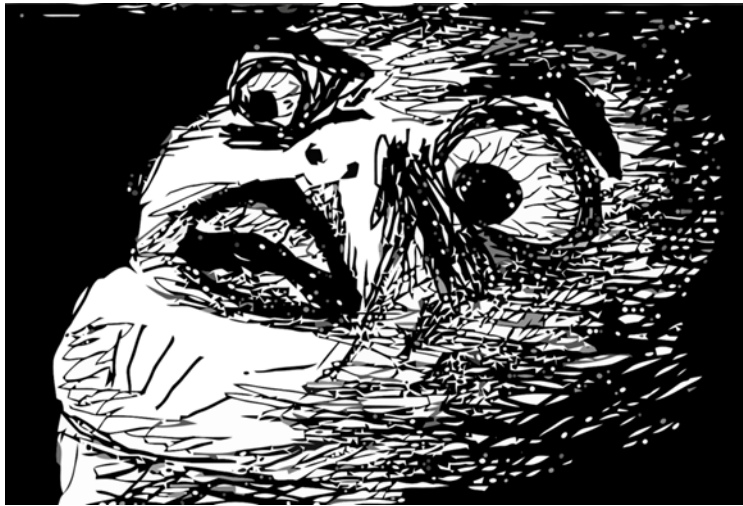
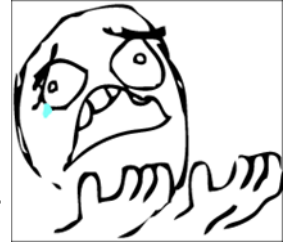


Susie's Pet Peeves

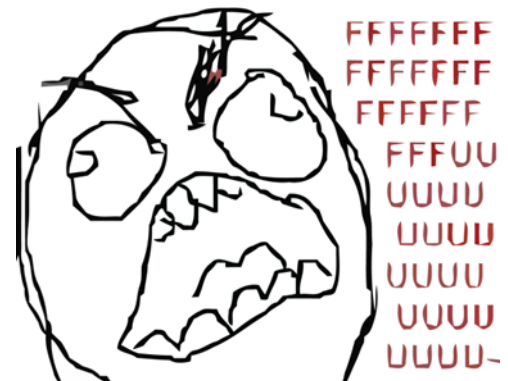
By Susie Chung

Susie Chung will now commence to list some of her pet peeves. Note that if these offend you, let me know—I will apologize profusely and pray we can still be friends! Also trust me, I've probably done all of these at some point. But in case you agree...then we're in the same boat and we strive to avoid committing these ridiculously minor crimes.

- 1) When a friend says "I know a secret" then does not proceed to tell you.
- 2) When people ask you "Did you read (insert book title in a popular series), the one where (LARGEST SPOILER POSSIBLE)?" WHAT? Well now I don't have to, BECAUSE YOU JUST TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED. This totally happened to me with *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, where (LARGEST SPOILER POSSIBLE).
- 3) When someone in a class asks a professor a question, then five minutes later a different student asks the exact same question.
- 4) When someone takes the milk out and forgets to put it away!!!



- 5) Last but certainly not least: when groups of people take up the entire space on a sidewalk, forcing you off of it into mud or puddles or worse, a muddy puddle. ◇





Concert Recommendations

Submitted by Ryan Chen

Bold = Events where I (Ryan Chen) am performing

Sunday, March 25, 8:30pm, First Congregational Church – Space Jam: Euphonium Recital (Ryan Chen and Chris Plaskota, euphoniums)

Along with Chris Plaskota, a good friend and colleague, we will be presenting a recital of music that we've been working on for the past year. This will most likely count for a social credit (pending). There will be ample amounts of gelato at the reception afterward. Your attendance and support is greatly appreciated! Otherwise, you're letting the Monstars win. - RDC

PROGRAM: Bach – Concerto for Two Violins; Cosma – Euphonium Concerto; Saint-Saens – The Swan; Selections by the BlueLine Brass Band

Wednesday, March 14, 8:00pm, Stamps Auditorium – American Music Concert

Free – no tickets required

Come celebrate our country's musical tradition with Phi Mu Alpha's annual American music concert, and see amazing and diverse performances by talented students of the UM School of Music.

Saturday, March 17, 4:00pm, Stamps Auditorium – UM Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble & Youth Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble Side by Side

Free – no tickets required

A “side-by-side” concert with the Ann Arbor Youth Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble, directed by senior Sean Benolken. The undergraduate and graduate euphonium/tuba quartets will also perform. **PROGRAM: Susato – Five Danses from La Dansereye; Chopin – Etude in E Major Op. 10, no. 3; Grant – Endgame; Gates – Tuba Quartet, Op. 59; Stevens – Benediction; Metallica – Enter Sandman; Tchaikovsky – Finale from Symphony No. 4, op. 36**

Wednesday, March 21, 8:00pm, Hill Auditorium – University Symphony Orchestra and University Philharmonia Orchestra

Free – no tickets required

The University Symphony Orchestra joins forces with members of the University Philharmonia Orchestra for this program of bold, unusual, and innovative music. Kenneth Kiesler, director of University Orchestras, conducts the world premiere of “Rain On It” by UM faculty composer Kristin Kuster, the rarely performed “Strictly Genteel” by Frank Zappa, and Gustav Mahler’s songful and exuberant Seventh Symphony. **PROGRAM: Kuster – Rain On It (world premiere); Zappa – Strictly Genteel; Mahler – Symphony No. 7**

Thursday, March 22 – Sunday, March 25 – San Francisco Symphony Residency



Concert Recommendations (cont'd)

Thursday, March 22, 7:30pm, Hill Auditorium – with Jeremy Denk (piano), Paul Jacobs (organ), Mason Bates (electronika), and the UM Chamber Choir

PROGRAM: Copland – Orchestral Variations; Cowell – Piano Concerto; Mason Bates – Mass Transmission; Harrison – Concerto for Organ with Percussion

Friday, March 23, 8:00pm, Hill Auditorium – with Joan La Barbara (vocalist), Meredith Monk (vocalist), Jessye Norman (soprano), St. Lawrence String Quartet, and Jesse Stiles (electronica)

PROGRAM: Cage – John Cage Songbooks; Cowell – Synchrony; Adams – Absolute Jest; Varese: Ameriques

Saturday, March 24, 8:00pm, Hill Auditorium – with Emanuel Ax, piano

PROGRAM: Ruggles – Sun-Treader; Feldman – Piano and Orchestra; Ives – A Concord Symphony

Sunday, March 25, 4:00pm, Rackham Auditorium – with Jeremy Denk (piano), Kiera Duffy (soprano), Joan La Barbara (vocalist), Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, and Jesse Stiles (electronica)

PROGRAM: Del Tredici – Syzygy; Foss – Echoi; Monk: Realm Variations; Subotnick – Jacob's Room: Monodrama ♦

YouTube Video of the Week

Dating Advice From Kids with Dave and Ethan



Get a fresh perspective on dating...from children.



Puzzles of the Week

Sudoku: Fill in the boxes such that each row, column, and larger box contain the numbers 1-9.

8	9	7		2	3	4	6	
2		3	6		1			
		4			9			
5		1	8					
	8						7	
					6	5		8
			3			6		
			2		7	1		3
	3	6	1	5		8	9	2

KenKen: Fill in the boxes such that each row and column contain the numbers 1-4 following the mathematical operations in the outlined box. (Hint: $8x \Rightarrow 2 \times 4 = 8$)

8x		4+	
10+		4x	
1			11+
3+			