

Sine of the imes

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September 2005

2005 Convention Recap

This past summer Kyle Whitenack, Brice Jiamachello, and I attended the Triangle National Convention in Naperville. It was definitely a unique experience especially with the addition of the Phi Sigma Rho sorority National Convention at the same time.

I learned a lot while attending Convention, especially in terms of leadership, recruitment, and I learned how to see things from the perspective of the national organization. But I probably learned the most outside of the educational and legislative sessions, like how exactly to turn your hotel room bath tub into a fridge, and how not to leave your pin and badge sitting on the night stand.

The biggest thing that I learned was an extension of Leadership School, which is how great the connection of Brotherhood is even with people that you are meeting for the first time. When I met a few of the Brothers, I felt like I had known them for years, not minutes. I feel that the environment that National Convention and Leadership School provides should be experienced by every Brother, since you can't find them anywhere else.

David Scott tsu04



The Anti-Article

This article is about how not to write an article. Or more precisely, what I did to put it off.

Studying the effects of napping on the emotional state of happiness and well being is one of my ongoing interests. I find that the more napping I do, the better I feel and thus the happier I am. It is only bad when I have odd dreams. For example, I went to visit my friend that I have not talked to in a while. When I arrive at his place of residence, he tells me that he has something cool to show me. We walk to his backyard and I see before me his pickup truck that he has put tank treads on. For some reason there are propane tanks in the back that are used for an air ride control system. I know its propane because I can smell one tank leaking, which is odd because it is a dream. What is even weirder is that he is living at his Mother's house, but it is his now. And it seems that there is a post-apocalyptic tinge to the dream, it is dreary and lifeless. The only thing I can figure is that I should not eat right before studying for happiness.

My other excellent diversion to writing is Counter Strike. For those unfamiliar with this new sport of kings, look no further for an explanation. It is merely a good guys versus bad guys game with realistic weapons and physics. The total time for the map is broken down into rounds wherein the bad guys must demolish a target or keep the good

See **Brice's Brain** on page 3

Nate's Raving Sidebar

My summer involved packing up to move down the street to a one-level ranch style house because my Mom feels she'll end up in a wheel chair because she has MS. I was unaware of how many things I actually have until I had to make it all fit in these blue plastic tubs my family are fond of using instead of boxes. I really don't know what we are going to do with all these blue tubs when we are done.

My summer job was being a bartender, which isn't so bad because my Mom owns the bar. It's the schedule I have to keep, because I'm the person who bartends when no one else can make it. People call in ten minutes before a shift and say, "I can't work because I *have* to go to (insert stupid social engagement here.)" And all these years I thought your JOB came first. Shouldn't you be saying to the people at your social engagement "O wait I have to work, I'm sorry I can't come" Or give a week's notice or something so someone who *wanted* to work could be scheduled or the person could switch with someone. Instead of "Well, it doesn't matter because I know Nate will cover for me anyways." It sucks being the most reliable and probably *best* person at your job. Of course I only say that because I've heard my Mom yell at every bartender about *every possible* thing, so now I know what *not* to do.

In conclusion, I came back about five days before classes started and I was bored out of my mind until I wandered down to the house. Then I realized I actually wasn't alone on campus with my RA. I was much happier to be back "home."



Nate Willey tsu04

Enter Pledge Chris Boswell

I am Pledge Chris Boswell. I am from Greencastle, Indiana and an Environmental Science Major. I am a student athlete; I play on the soccer team as a midfield/forward. I am very athletic and competitive. I love to be outdoors, and enjoy many outdoor activities like camping, hiking, fishing, etc.

I am a simple person that likes to have the same basic interactions as anybody else. I like to be in the company of others and am very social. I grew up in a card playing family so I know how to, and do play, many card games. I am proud to be pledging Triangle and hope this is the start to a good school year.

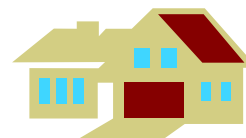


Pledge Chris Boswell

Bliss in Zanesville

Over the past summer back in Zanesville Ohio, I was overwhelmed with excitement to know that I would be able to put siding on my parent's house without payment. It was a good experience for me, but I think I would have rather had one of my testicles cut off slowly with a butter knife.

On a lighter note, I worked hard over the summer to acquire my Master Mason degree in the Blue Lodge. It was a good experience and it made my family, more specifically grandparents, proud. Other than that, not much happened. I kept my job with Pictures Plus as I could shoot pictures at weddings on the weekends. Hope all of you had a wonderful summer.



Testicle-less,
Scott Crawford tsu05

Brice's Brain *continued from page 1*

guys from rescuing the hostages. The good guys must neutralize the bad guys or rescue hostages. I have started a clan called the GNRMNTS, in honor of my favorite candy, Junior Mints. So far only John Smith and I are members, but we will be recruiting more members that enjoy the mintalicious treat that is a Junior Mint.

I cannot think of anymore reasons why this article has not been written, so now there is an article that was written, but not.



Brice Jiamachello tsu02

Mike's Awesome Summer Job

This summer I had the good fortune to land an internship at Bil-Jax Inc. in Archbold, Oh. They make scaffolding, trailers and construction lifts. This summer they started an official research and development department. This allowed for me to do a lot of hands on work. I was able to hand fabricate parts for the new lifts as well as fabricate simple wiring devices. I also got to work with the hydraulic systems quite extensively as well as fabricate and route a hydraulic hose system.

It was an excellent experience for me to see a lot of hands on design work as well as see how the parts are designed and how they all work together to make a functional lift. This was the best summer I have had in a while, how many jobs do they let you hand fabricate parts and get dirty every day. Also to test the designs and troubleshoot problems, this is surely my type of job (part mechanic and part engineer) doesn't get much better.

Michael Foster tsu05



My Name is Jeffrey Elliott...

I am a mechanical engineering major at TSU. This past summer I worked as an intern at Jayco Recreational Vehicles' Engineering department. My responsibilities ranged from material testing to design and development of new product accessories. I enjoy spending time with the Triangle Fraternity brothers, and going out on the lake when not doing school work.



Pledge Jeffrey Elliott

Board Update

In the coming year, we will see many changes and some much needed updating to parts of our House. First, the driveway and basement are both scheduled to receive facelifts. Next, the House will be adding exit signs near the doors of the house to comply with insurance regulations...and to ensure no person gets lost once inside. Finally, after working with the actives, we have decided to make the House Manager office a paid position in an attempt to boost the morale and efficiency of that position. Additionally, the actives have entered our House into a contest for the Most Improved House on campus. Look for the results in the coming weeks.

Josh Sefcheck tsu01, Alumni President

Homecoming – October 8, 2005

Join us at Tri-State for Homecoming on Saturday, October 8th. Here's the agenda:

- Alumni Luncheon, 11:00 – 12:30 on campus, Park Street
- Kickoff against Albion College, 12:30pm at Shive Field
- Socializing at the Triangle house after the game

For more details on homecoming weekend, see <http://tsu.trianglefraternity.org/pages/homecomingbrochureweb2.pdf>

See you there!

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Announcements

Congratulations to:

- Matt (tsu90) and Deanna Gault on the birth of their son, Logan Matthew, on February 20, 2005.
- Chip (tsu00) and Jennifer Porter on the birth of their daughter, Hattie Adele, on April 15, 2005.
- Jim Shields (tsu93) on his new job with Weihe Engineers as a project manager / team leader for the company's residential site development section.
- Ben Duerk (tsu02) on his recent engagement to Lauren Crawford.
- Tom Kehres (tsu02) and Aaron Rupp (tsu02) on their graduation from TSU – welcome to the alumni organization!

If you have an announcement to share – wedding, baby, new job, promotion, relocation, retirement – let us know by sending a message to tsutriangle@yahoo.com. Announcements sent to this address will be reprinted in the next issue of the *Sine of the Times*.

Top Honors

Here are the actives who earned a 3.0 or better GPA for the spring 2005 semester.

- Kyle Whitenack 4.000
- Thomas Kehres 3.656
- John Smith 3.300
- Ryan McCulley 3.206
- Nate Willey 3.200

Nice job guys!



Alumni Profiles



Andy Florence

(pictured with the OSU cheerleaders)

Email:

andrew.florence@sbcglobal.net

City/State: Mission, TX

Degree from TSU: BSAE

Graduation Year: 1991

Other schooling since TSU: MBA from U of Texas Pan American; Defensive Driving School

Professional Memberships: [ASQ](#); McAllen Men's Wine Association

Current employer: [Alps Automotive / Alcom Electronicos de Mexico](#)

Current position/title: Sr. Quality Engineer

Areas of expertise: Customer BS

Family information: Wife Rosie, daughters Megan (6) & Payton (2)

Personal Interests: I enjoy working on the house & landscaping (particularly petunias)

Favorite fraternity memories: Initiations, Unit E parties

What I've been up to lately:

I spend a lot of time with my family in my daughters' activities or just out enjoying a good time. It seems that I'm still going to parties on the weekends but they're all for little kids. We just bought a condo at South Padre Island so I'm sure that we will be spending a lot of time there.

I was the Supplier Quality Engineer for Alcom in Reynosa, Mexico for about 4 years, then I was the Molding Quality Manager for the last 3 years. I was recently promoted to Sr. QE for Mexican customers so I find myself traveling quite a bit throughout Mexico (and paying off Mexican cops!).

I still keep in shape running with my brother-in-law and every once in a while we're able to get out and do some camping and hiking. We enjoy traveling to the San Antonio and Austin areas or visiting Monterey, Mexico on weekends.



Jim Emerson

Email:

Jim.Emerson@us.bosch.com

City/State: Commerce Township, MI

Degree from TSU: BSME

Graduation Year: 1994

Professional Memberships: [SAE](#)

Current employer: [Robert Bosch Corporation](#)

Current position/title: ABS Engineering Manager

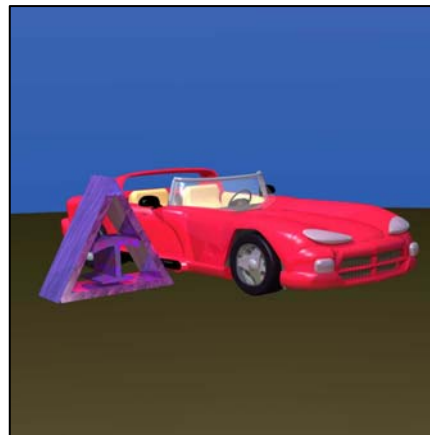
Areas of expertise: Vehicle Safety Systems in Braking- Anti-Locking Brakes (ABS), Traction Control (TC), and Stability Control (ESC or ESP)

Family information: Wife Karen, daughters Hannah (8) and Brooke (5)

Personal Interests: Karting (a given), soccer with the girls (head coach), running (sometimes), hanging out with my family, and ice hockey.

Favorite fraternity memories: The road trips to NIU and U of M and being with my pledge Brothers till graduation.

What I've been up to lately: Karting and Soccer 6 days a week.



State Employees

This summer, I was able to get an internship with the Ohio Department of Health. I was really excited at first because of the things I was told I would be doing. Some of those included updating a database for all of the WIC clinics, helping people adjust to the new computer system, and basic data entry and manipulation for the other people in my department. Plus, I was going to be making \$13 an hour, so I couldn't wait to get started.

I started working the first week I was back home from school, and could already tell it wasn't what I was promised. The first day they started me out on what I will now call, Lazy State Employee Project 1. There were these 150,000 yellow cardstock pamphlets they had printed out for their clinics, but did not realize an error on them until every single one of them was finished. So my job was to run every single one of these pamphlets through a laser printer just to print a little black bar over the mistake they were too dumb to catch. Not to mention, I also had to fold them back into a pamphlet when they were done. I could only do about 3000 a day before I was absolutely sick of them. I worked there every day for 3.5 months, and still did not finish them all. I didn't care though, \$13 an hour just to print stuff out was fine with me.

Next, along with the pamphlet project, I was assigned another tedious job. This was far worse than Lazy State Employee Project 1 though. I now had to tear off the little perforation things that are used to feed paper through a dot matrix printer. I thought no one used those dinosaurs anymore, but apparently the state likes to use outdated technology since all the old ladies there don't like to change anything. I had to do a box of 3000 of those about once every 2 weeks.

Finally, I only actually got to use my computer 2 or 3 times for something actually related to work. It wasn't anything hard though, just fixing up peoples formatting mistakes in Excel. It amazed me how these people got their jobs without knowing how to use Excel or Word. It would be something as simple as making the document fit on one page and they would send it to me, expecting it to take the whole day to finish. Well when I sent it back to them in 5-10 minutes, they were just amazed that I did it so fast. I didn't mind the compliments though.

Looking back, I am happy I was able to at least get a job this summer. No matter how boring or tedious it was, I was able to make enough money to help me through this year. Even though I was absolutely bored the whole summer, I'll probably still go back and do it again next summer.

John Smith tsu04



Whitenack's Informer Corner

This summer, I was blessed with the opportunity to once again participate in one of those things that we as human beings have made into something of a complicated art form, up there with the likes of the works of Picasso or Monet. No Brothers, I'm not talking about tail chasing, but, at least for us guys, something that's a close second - buying a car. We've all done it. So, why am I writing about it in "The Sine of the Times"? Well, let me continue...over the course of test driving, checking, and bargaining with salesmen over used vehicles, I've compiled a short list of tips that I have discovered during my adventures. Most of the following is directed toward buying from a dealer; however, I have personally used many of these guidelines with both private seller and dealer purchases.

1. **LISTEN, LOOK, SMELL:** If the vehicle makes a noise, doesn't look quite right, or emits a smell that you cannot easily identify, have it checked out by a dealership or mechanic you trust, but DON'T buy it otherwise. You could wind up paying big bucks. Look at tire wear, check fluid levels, and grime buildup under the hood. Get out the vehicle while it's running and listen to the exhaust and engine. Make sure you look at symmetry lines in the car—that the doors close flush, that there are no bulges, dips, or imprints in the lower panels, and that everything looks proportional and matches. Check the frame; make sure there are no out-of-place welds or any signs of stress (cracked undercoat that forms straight lines of missing paint) or bends. These are all signs that you're probably about to buy a wrecked car that a private owner fixed themselves. Just because there are no accidents listed in a Carfax report or the title is non-salvage, DOES NOT mean that the car has not been wrecked or seriously damaged in its earlier years.

2. **TEST THE LIMITS:** Drive the vehicle slowly to listen for any noises, but also push the limits. Test hard acceleration and hard breaking, but drive SAFELY. Drive the vehicle how you will be driving it if you should choose to purchase it. Take it on the interstate and put the pedal to the floor.

3. **BE DIRECT, ASK:** If the dealer can't answer to your satisfaction all the questions you have dealing with a vehicle's past, or doesn't provide you with a Carfax report free-of-charge, don't waste your time.

4. **BE SMART:** Just because a manual won't shift, or a car is prone to overheating, doesn't mean it's going to cost big bucks to fix. Look for problems that ordinary people, or the uninformed dealer that is too busy to properly diagnose a problem, would quickly overestimate as an expensive fix, but that you, being the conscientious buyer, know will actually save you big bucks—even after paying a mechanic to fix the vehicle versus buying a similar vehicle in pristine condition.

5. **GET QUOTES:** Get other quotes from nearby dealers and Kelly Blue Book Online for your trade-in. Promote the greater of the two values. Car salesmen, especially one that is in close proximity to a competitor, pay attention when you talk about cars of the similar make and model that you are "very interested in" at the seller down the road. If they can't give you at least the same trade-in value as their competitor, they know they probably won't make a sale.

6. **LOOK AT PAYMENT OPTIONS:** If you plan on getting a loan for the vehicle, have the dealer do all the work. Even if you plan on paying cash or writing a check, still have them show you the options. I think it is still a good experience, especially if you haven't bought on loan before, or even just once. It also keeps you up-to-date on current financing rates.



Sincerely,
Brother "40" Whitenack tsu03