

PARTY SMART

*A guide for Risk Managers
And Social Chairs*

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

Congratulations on being elected social chair, risk manager or President!

It is the goal of this document to serve as a guide for you during your term as an officer or chairman. Indeed, you have a difficult, yet rewarding task. You are charged with managing the “fun” of your peers, and in turn, assume a great deal of the liability. It is our hope that this guide will challenge you to think about the events you plan.

Hopefully, there are things in this guide that you will look back on and believe were of benefit to you. As this document is continually in evolution, we welcome your feedback as to (1) things you wish were included in this guide, and (2) revisions you suggest to better aid and equip those who follow in your footsteps.

From the beginning, know that this guide is in no way meant to supersede your own chapter’s risk management documentation. Rather, you should become familiar with those items, as they are your true rule and guide. Everything contained in there either illuminate or make easy reference to many of your policies or best practices. At the end of the day, your adherence to the source document (being that of your national organization’s policy document) is earnestly solicited and ultimately required.

We all stand willing to help you plan out your social engagements. Please use your advisors and our office as a resource as you see fit. We are truly here to help you have the best experience possible.

Wishing you safe and successful social endeavors,

The JSJ

The Fraternity and Sorority Life Staff
Southern Methodist University

Simple Party Planning Checklist

Chapter:

Date:

Event:



Adapted from Sigma Chi RMF

Event planners?:

Site?:

Hours?: (make sure they begin and end on time)

Crisis Management plan?:

Type of alcoholic beverages served?:

Type of food/non-alcoholic beverages served?:

Third party vendor?:

Plan to identify guests over 21?:

Designated driver program?:

Party/Sober monitors assigned?:

Bouncer/Security?:

Emergency number/contact information on hand?:

Alcohol and Calories

Although caloric information for drinks and brands varies, this information is based on averages for one drink.

Alcoholic Beverage	Calories
Regular Beer (12 oz.)	150
Light Beer (12 oz.)	110
Wine (5 oz.)	100
Kahlua Liqueur (1.5 oz.)	190
80 Proof Gin (1.5 oz.)	96
80 Proof Rum (1.5 oz.)	96
80 Proof Vodka (1.5 oz.)	96
80 Proof Whiskey (1.5 oz.)	96
Martini (4 oz.)	160
Daiquiri (6 oz.)	180
Whiskey sour (4 oz.)	160
Long Island Iced Tea (6 oz.)	350
Margarita (6 oz.)	250

Top Insurance Risks



According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners

Ever wonder why you pay so much in dues?

Answer: Insurance Premiums are expensive!!

The State of the Fraternal Insurance Market: Dealing with the insurance crisis.

By Richard Jungman

Manager - Claims, Client Education & Risk Management, Hobbs Group/Kirklin & Company, LLC.

The country's financial outlook is grim. Insurance companies can call the shots. The fraternity chapter is expensive to insure. So what can chapters do?

First, chapters must realize how hard the insurance business has been hit lately.

The current state of the insurance market is best categorized as a hard market. A hard market occurs when underwriting capacity shrinks while the demand for insurance remains constant or increases.

It is simple Economics 101: as supply decreases and demand remains constant or unchanged, the price of the good or service increases. Supply is often referred to as "underwriting capacity" in the insurance industry. It is defined as the amount of surplus capital in the insurance market place. As the number of underwriting facilities decrease, so does the surplus capital.

The terror events of Sept. 11, 2001 still have a lingering effect on the insurance business. Insurers are increasing premiums to play catch-up with the losses paid. In addition, the explosion of toxic mold insurance claims both from a property and general liability perspective caught the insurance industry off-guard; they must make up for their losses somehow.

Like everything, the insurance industry is being hit by the poor performance of the financial markets. Insurance carriers became dependent on investment income to make money. They could payout more for losses and expenses than they collected in premiums and still make a profit during the stock market boom of the 1990s.

But when the bull market turned into a bear market, things changed: what once was an investment profit turned into an investment loss. Combine this with poor loss experience and many carriers became insolvent. Finally, the insurance companies continue to get hit by unpreventable lawsuits.

The lack of aggressive pursuit for tort reform in the United States means anyone can sue insurance companies at any time. Because of reform in Canada, chapters in the country pay an average of 35 percent less than their American counterparts.

Second, chapters must realize that they are a high-risk group to insure, and that the insurance companies are under increasing financial pressure.

The number of insurance carriers willing to underwrite fraternity risks has always been a significant problem and, in turn, the premiums have always appeared substantially high. This is not without justification.

Men's general fraternities are ranked sixth on the list of highest underwriting risks. Just like auto insurers, the underwriters in the fraternal insurance market recognize that 18-to-22-year-old males are a very high risk. Too many times, their behavior demonstrates a mindset of being "bulletproof".

This is not an attractive quality to insurers.

First off, fraternity chapters are frequently sued: a number of headline losses which resulted in seven-figure verdicts and/or settlements have impacted all fraternities. Fraternities and sororities are increasingly becoming target defendants. They have developed, and some will say earned, a bad reputation for fostering a culture of alcohol and drug abuse.

They have numerous claims: if the insurance company pays more than 60 percent out on claims than it collects in premium, the account is not profitable!

For these reasons, fraternities are becoming more expensive to insure.

More and more college campuses are increasing the insurance limit requirements for fraternities and sororities from \$1 million to \$5 million. This is likely only going to become more common as juries continue to rule against fraternities.

The current hard market has done nothing but increase the insurance difficulties for fraternities. This year, some organizations have experienced increases as high as 100 percent from the previous year.

The increase in operating cost for property casualty insurance threatens the continued existence of a few fraternities and, sadly, has created a budget crisis for nearly all of them. Many chapters struggle to meet the financial obligations of their risk management assessment for general liability insurance and the commercial property insurance premium for their chapter houses. Simply put, the effect can begin to spiral. Due to the high costs of insurance, chapters can close and membership can decrease.

Finally, fraternities must take the steps to improve their situation:

Like all business cycles, the current hard market will eventually come to an end. When it will end is the unknown. To ensure fraternities and sororities survive it, they need to develop an appropriate and achievable action plan. I suggest the following:

1. Don not stop investing in risk management initiatives and programming. If there ever was a time to be investing more in this area, it is now. One dollar invested in risk management can provide a \$20.00 return by controlling or reducing insurance premiums.
2. Review the fraternity's organizational structure. Is it possible to allocate additional human resources to member education without adding to staff?
3. Review the fraternity's current insurance program and look for areas to help control costs, such as increasing their house's deductible or self-insured retention.
4. Stay ahead of the curve by being aware of changes in fraternity and sorority risks and look for ways to eliminate or, at the very least, reduce the exposure the risks create.
5. Encourage balance within the chapter. Identify chapters which seem to be only about the social benefits of membership, and work diligently with them to bring balance between academics, athletics, leadership, community service and social interaction.

By using preventative methods and staying in touch, fraternities can help avoid the financial effects that insurance brings.

FIPG, INC. Risk Management Policy

The Risk Management Policy of FIPG, Inc. includes the provisions, which follow and shall apply to all fraternity entities and all levels of fraternity membership.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. The possession, sale, use or consumption of **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**, while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, or at any event an observer would associate with the fraternity, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city and institution of higher education, and must comply with either the **BYOB** or **Third Party Vendor Guidelines**.
2. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through or with chapter funds nor may the purchase of same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of or on behalf of the chapter. The purchase or use of a bulk quantity or common source(s) of alcoholic beverage, for example, kegs or cases, is prohibited.
3. **OPEN PARTIES**, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, where alcohol is present, are forbidden.
4. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e., those under legal drinking age).
5. The possession, sale or use of any **ILLEGAL DRUGS** or **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity is strictly prohibited.
6. No chapter may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) at which alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present. This includes any event held in, at or on the property of a tavern as defined above for purposes of fundraising. However, a chapter may rent or use a room or area in a tavern as defined above for a closed event held within the provisions of this policy, including the use of a third party vendor and guest list. An event at which alcohol is present may be conducted or co-sponsored with a charitable organization if the event is held within the provisions of this policy.
7. No chapter may co-sponsor, co-finance or attend or participate in a function at which alcohol is purchased by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.
8. All recruitment or rush activities associated with any chapter will be non-alcoholic. No recruitment or rush activities associated with any chapter may be held at or in conjunction with a tavern or alcohol distributor as defined in this policy.
9. No member or pledge, associate/new member or novice shall permit, tolerate, encourage or participate in "drinking games". The definition of drinking games includes but is not limited to the consumption of shots of alcohol, liquor or alcoholic beverages, the practice of consuming shots equating to one's age, "beer pong", "century club", "dares" or any other activity involving the consumption of alcohol which involves duress or encouragement related to the consumption of alcohol.
10. No alcohol shall be present at any pledge/associate member/new member/novice program, activity or ritual of the chapter. This includes but is not limited to activities associated with "bid night", "big brother/big sister night" and initiation.

Offenses for Which Students are Often Cited

Types of Offenses according to the Texas Penal Code

Type	Sub Classification	Fine	Jail Time	Other
Misdemeanor	Class A	≤\$4,000	≤1 year	
	Class B	≤\$2,000	≤180 days	
	Class C	≤\$500	None	
Felony	Capital	N/A	Life without parole	Capital punishment
	First Degree	≤\$10,000	Life or 5-99 years	
	Second Degree	≤\$10,000	2 – 20 years	
	Third Degree	≤\$10,000	1 – 10 years	
	State Jail	≤\$10,000	180 days – 2 years	

TX Code	Offense	Type of Offense	Other
Penal 21.07	Public Lewdness	Misdemeanor – Class A	
Penal 22.01	Assault	Misdemeanor – Class A	
Penal 28.02	Arson	Felony – Third degree	
Penal 28.03	Criminal Mischief	Varies on amount damaged: <\$50: Misdemeanor – Class C \$50 - <\$500: Misdemeanor – Class B \$500 - <\$1500: Misdemeanor – Class A \$1500 - <\$20K: Felony – State Jail \$20K - <\$100K: Felony – Third Degree \$100K - <\$200K: Felony – Second Degree \$200K or more: Felony – First Degree	
Penal 30.05	Criminal Trespass	Misdemeanor – Class C	
Penal 31.03	Theft	Varies on amount stolen: <\$50: Misdemeanor – Class C \$50 - <\$500: Misdemeanor – Class B \$500 - <\$1500: Misdemeanor – Class A \$1500 - <\$20K: Felony – State Jail \$20K - <\$100K: Felony – Third Degree \$100K - <\$200K: Felony – Second Degree \$200K or more: Felony – First Degree	
Penal 32.51	Fraudulent Use or Possession of Identifying Information	Felony – State Jail	
Penal 38.02	Failure to Identify	Failing to provide: Misdemeanor – Class C Providing false information: Misdemeanor – Class B	
Penal 38.03	Resisting Arrest, Search or Transport	Misdemeanor – Class A	
Penal 38.04	Evading Arrest or Detention	On foot: Misdemeanor – Class B Vehicle used: Felony – State Jail	
Penal 42.01	Disorderly Conduct	Misdemeanor – Class C	
Penal 42.07	Harassment	Misdemeanor – Class B	
Penal 49.02	Public Intoxication	Misdemeanor – Class C	

Penal 49.031	Possession of Alcoholic Beverage in a Motor Vehicle (open container)	Misdemeanor – Class C	
Penal 49.04	Driving While Intoxicated	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class B 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class B 3 rd offense or more: Felony – Third Degree	72 hours Jail * If Penal 49.031 is also violated, then 6 days Jail 30 days Jail * At 2 nd DWI, a breathalyzer device is installed in your vehicle
ABC 106.02	Purchase of Alcohol by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days
ABC 106.025	Attempt to Purchase Alcohol by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days
ABC 106.03	Sale of Alcohol to Minors	Misdemeanor – Class A	
ABC 106.04	Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days

	Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor (ctd.)	3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days
ABC 106.041	Driving Under the Influence by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	20-40 hours of community service 40 – 60 hours of community service Fine: \$500 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days
ABC 106.05	Possession of Alcohol by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days
ABC 106.06	Purchase of Alcohol for a Minor; Furnishing	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days
ABC 106.07	Misrepresentation of age by a Minor	1 st offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 2 nd offense: Misdemeanor – Class C 3 rd offense or more: Misdemeanor – Class C	8-12 hours of community service DL suspended 30 days 20 – 40 hours of community service DL suspended 60 days Fine: \$250 - \$2000 Jail: 180 days DL suspended 60 days

Hosting (with a little common sense)

1. HOST A CLOSED EVENT.

- a. Limit access to members, associates, pledges, dates, and specifically invited guests.
- b. Limit guest to one couple per member. Invite only prospective members or chapter friends on an infrequent basis.
- c. Consult the Risk Management Policy At-A-Glance table to see what your policy on guest list is. Remember if you are co-sponsoring, you must follow the strictest policy.

2. FOCUS ON THE THEME OF THE EVENT, NOT THE ALCOHOL.

3. SERVE FOOD ADEQUATE FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THE EVENT.

- a. Serve foods that are high in protein, avoid salty foods.
- b. Serve colas, fruit juice, or water as alternative beverages.

4. APPOINT MEMBERS AS SOBER (PARTY) MONITORS.

- a. Instruct the monitors to oversee the party throughout the event to ensure all members and guests are well-behaved.
- b. Commit the monitors to abstaining from alcohol for the duration of the event.
- c. Allow monitors to act as sober hosts to make sure the party begins and ends on time and to interact with individuals as necessary.

5. APPOINT DESIGNATED DRIVERS OR EMPLOY A TAXI SERVICE FOR THE DURATION OF THE EVENT.

- a. Consult your policy guidelines, as some groups are allowed to use designated drivers, while others must contract taxi have or buses.
- b. Check keys in at the door as members and guests enter the event.
- c. Have designated drivers transport intoxicated members/guests to their residence only and return keys to members/guests the following morning.

6. DO NOT USE CHAPTER FUNDS TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL.

- a. All events should be third party or BYOB (if allowed), with limits on the amount of alcohol brought into the event.
- b. Do not allow members under the legal drinking age to consume alcohol at the event.
- c. Charging alcohol to food accounts, picking up the tab, "passing the hat" or allowing members to purchase alcohol in exchange for reduced chapter dues constitutes purchasing alcohol with chapter funds.
- d. Do not sell alcohol.
- e. The chapter should never provide alcohol under any circumstances.

Theme Planning Resource

Resource Purpose

This is a resource to address the “why” regarding offensive fraternity and sorority party themes. Students do not know “why” they cannot have these types of events and professionals are wondering “why” policy development is the natural response when this is an issue beyond simply a policy approach.

Offensive party themes are not an issue of political correctness; rather, they are evident of a larger social ill. Often, students blame the concept of political correctness for an administrator’s efforts to curb inappropriate party themes and attire. They perceive higher education as exceptionally liberal and see this resource as an effort to restrict ideas or costumes they think of as “just for fun.”

This is a human dignity and values issue. Addressing this issue can connect our responses as professionals to a larger values movement.

The focus of this resource will be on Greek party themes and costumes. Issues of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, ex-offender status, socioeconomic class, religion, and gender/objectification of gender as well as several other identity categories were considered in the creation of this document.

Resource Outline

- I. **Context** – brief overview of the issues at hand; the need established.
- II. **Examples** – recount some incidents that have made national news. Address what happened to the organizations. What has been done in the past to counteract this (NIC Effort, educational initiatives, AFA Blackface resource (provide overview)?
- III. **Perceived Challenges** – tradition, 1st Amendment, lack of diversity education, inconsistent response (policy as a first resort)
- IV. **Education/Awareness** – why *are* certain party themes or costumes inappropriate? (History on Blackface, multicultural understanding, diversity in the Greek community, privilege issues, motivation) Help students connect these themes to their mission, ritual and values.
- V. **Process** – how can we educate members about this? How can students have fun without these costumes and themes? How can we move from a policy perspective to one that focuses on education, awareness, and consideration for others?

Helpful Handouts

- I. **Process Questions** – things to consider *before* hosting a possibly offensive event
- II. **The Party Papers** – sample newspaper-format handout for Greek students.
- III. **Greeks and Parties** – helpful resource for theme development/awareness
- IV. **Parties Gone Wrong** – a visual depiction of problematic themes/costumes

PROCESS QUESTIONS FOR CULTURALLY-BASED THEME PARTIES

*By Jeff Murakami, Director, Asian Pacific American Student Services
University of Southern California*



Some questions to think about before you host a culturally-based theme party:

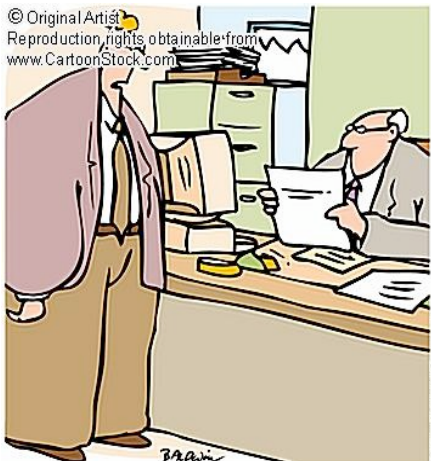
- 1. Why this theme?** Is there something specifically powerful or engaging about the particular theme in question? The more “unique” or “exotic” the theme, the more potential for issues of stereotyping, oversimplification or false representation. If the theme can be generalized, it might be better (e.g. a “jungle theme” rather than “Mekong Delta” - look at the Rainforest Café business concept!).
- 2. Is it about a living culture?** If so, there are people who are continuing to live or practice it. Anything less than a serious representation of the culture is liable to be disrespectful. Make sure you understand the difference between native peoples and people from a place (i.e. just because you were born in Hawai’i doesn’t make you native Hawaiian).
- 3. Is it about a current subculture** that is reflective of a certain racial group, gender or economic class? These will be generally problematic because unless you’re from that subculture, your ideas of representation may be highly sensationalized and/or stereotypical.
- 4. Have you consulted with either people from that community or with recognized “experts”** (community leaders or faculty) about the theme? Has anyone done research on the culture? If the theme persists, can persons consult on the event? Can it become more authentic and utilize legitimately recognized resources (e.g. entertainment, decorations, etc)? Better yet, can the theme also be educational? Maybe not at the party itself, but in activities leading up to it and following it? How about doing a philanthropy?
- 5. Are the people whose culture is being represented adequately empowered in society?** Social, cultural and economic discrimination can lead to a heightened sensitivity about representation. Many communities are only looking for balanced representations. Understand that when people only have their culture that is of value in society, they can be more protective of it.
- 6. Lastly, think and talk about what you are planning to do.** If you’re afraid of someone’s reaction, then you probably shouldn’t do it. However, if you don’t care about a potentially negative reaction, go ahead and do it and don’t bother with the self-scrutiny because it just doesn’t matter but prepare to deal with the consequences.

The Party Papers

Past and present news about Greek parties from around the nation



Volume I – Number I



"I need time off to go back to college and party.
Fraternity leave."

"Some theme parties can be taken to the level of ridicule and discrimination," said Mr. Mohr. "We understand the misunderstandings that arise out of these parties..." The complaint that led to the new policy was lodged by Cristina Maria Riegos, a sophomore.

"My issue is commodification of culture for a predominantly white social scene," she said. "People have to look beyond the political correctness in this issue and see how racist and dangerous these things are..."

John Robinson, Brown's dean of student like and a 1967 Brown graduate, said, "the desire to ban ethnic parties may not just be them trying to be P.C., but rather an effort to stay so far away from even unwittingly insulting another culture."

ETHNIC-MINORITY THEME PARTIES ARE HALTED

Reprinted from *Brown Daily Herald*

After a complaint about a "South of the Border" Mexican party, the mostly white residential fraternities and sororities at Brown University have voted to end ethnic-minority theme parties.

John Mohr, president of Phi Upsilon and a member of the Greek Council, which governs fraternities and sororities on campus, said the action was taken to "show our sensitivity to the issue."

...BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

** Provide a written copy of **your chapter's diversity statement** (available from your national organization) to new members and allow them to decide if their personal values are congruent with your chapter values

** Establish certain **sensitivity and behavioral expectations** for your chapter that transform your ritual into a living document

** Implement or expand a **Diversity Chair position** for your chapter

It takes less time to do a right thing than to explain why you did it wrong. – H.W. Longfellow

SENSITIVITY: A HOT ISSUE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Reprinted from *The Sig Leader*, Vol.3 Issue 4, Nov. 1991

In the abstract, sensitivity is a noble aspiration. Very few people would likely argue that it is appropriate to be insensitive to one's self, one's friends, people in general, or groups of people...yet instances of insensitivity are increasingly numerous.

In the fall of 1990, Beta Xi chapter at the University of New Mexico performed an "Italian Wedding" skit that was deemed offensive by women and spurred disastrous publicity for the chapter. While women's groups and columnists across the United States took aim at the chapter, the men of Beta Xi painfully learned the importance of sensitivity toward the representation of women.

Iota Iota chapter at the University of Alabama is currently struggling against allegations of racial insensitivity stemming from its October sorority "swap" which had as its theme, "Who Rides the Bus?" Two white sorority members were dressed as pregnant, black women. A pledge was costumed as Steve Martin in *The Jerk*, wearing a T-shirt that read "I was born a poor, black child..." The men of Iota Iota chapter are now experiencing a crash course on what it means to be racially sensitive.

...The chapters spotlighted in this article have learned valuable lessons, but at extraordinary costs to their members, the public, and the national fraternity. In these times of intense public scrutiny of Greeks, it is imperative that your actions are ever a credit to the fraternity.

Got diversity? Invite it to your parties!

Diversity is the uniqueness among individuals that builds strength and character, unifying members as each shares ideas and experiences with the other. [from *So Why Should Everyone Rush?* brochure, 1993]

GREEKS AND PARTIES: FRIENDS OR FOES?

The purpose of this handout is to educate your chapter about the problems of using blatantly offensive wording in the titles of exchange and party themes. This is the first step in eliminating the offensive themes as well as the associated dress and costumes. By avoiding racially and culturally sensitive words, Greeks can prove our **respect for** and **acceptance of** the diverse community in which we are privileged to live.

The following are not policies, rules, or punishable restrictions. They are simply suggestive measures and guidelines to help you and your chapters think about the way you represent yourselves to the larger campus community.

That you may retain your self-respect, it is better to displease the people by doing what you know is right, than to temporarily please them by doing what you know is wrong.

WILLIAM J. H. BOETCKER

ALL FUN, NO FOUL: CREATIVE YET INOFFENSIVE PARTY THEMES

Taken straight from the party planning archives of actual colleges and universities, these are some of the best themes we've seen:

Heroes and Villains
Disco Party (decade themes)
Pajama Jammy Jam
Tropical/Beach
Mardi Gras
Toga! Toga!
Famous Couples
Winter Wonderland (snow party)
Rumble in the Jungle (safari)
Rodeo
Movie themes
Dukes of Hazzard (television show themes)
Viva Las Vegas
Castaway/Shipwrecked
Sports Bar (sporting event themes)
Gnarly on a Harley
Pirates of the Caribbean
"P" is for Party (alphabet themes)
Party like a Rock Star (celebrity themes)
Once Upon a Time (fairy tale themes)
Casino Night
April Fool's Day Party
Fire and Ice
Real American Heroes (military or patriotic themes)
Superheroes
My Tie (mystery match-up themes)
Kat in the Hat
Fratopia
Outer Space/Aliens
Premiere (Hollywood theme)
New Year's Eve Again
Roller Derby/Boogie Nights
Night Out on the Town (city or downtown theme)
Under the Sea (ocean theme)
Company Christmas/Office Space

UPSET BY THE STEREOTYPES? WORK TO STOP THEM!

Before your party, ask yourself:

- **DOES THIS EVENT RELY ON STEREOTYPES OF CERTAIN GROUPS OR ENCOURAGE OFFENSIVE DRESS?**
- **IF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE INVITED, DOES THE EVENT/TITLE STEREOTYPE ONE OF THOSE GENDERS?**
- **NOT SURE IF A THEME IS SEXIST? TRY INTERCHANGING THE WORD/THEME WITH A RACIAL WORD/THEME.**
- **IS YOUR THEME CENTERED ON "MAKING FUN" OF A PARTICULAR PEOPLE/CULTURE/CAMPUS GROUP?**
- **WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SEND PHOTOS OF YOUR EVENT TO YOUR PARENTS, YOUR NATIONAL OFFICE, THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, OR YOUR COLLEGE PRESIDENT?**



REPEAT OFFENDERS: LET'S PUT THEM AWAY FOR GOOD

Ghetto Fabulous/"Urban" theme, Millionaires and Mistresses, White/Trailer Trash Bash/Chicks and Hicks, Pimps and Hos, Golf Pros and Tennis Hos (say NO to HO), South of the Border, Lingerie ("Let's Get Girls Naked") themes, Porn Stars and Directors, Gals and Gauchos, Aristocrats and Trophy Wives, Dirty Doctors and Naughty Nurses, Headmasters and Schoolgirls (got pedophilia?), Cowboys and Indians

WE CAN DO SO MUCH BETTER! PUT YOUR CREATIVE MINDS TO WORK.

Why let one bad decision turn into an even worse situation? Take a look at these examples of parties gone wrong from schools all over the nation.

Learn from others' mistakes and help to ensure a safe environment for *all* Greeks.

ATΩ
University of Mississippi
Result: 1-year suspension



ΔΣΦ and ΒΘΠ
Auburn University
Result: Lost recognition



ATP
Oklahoma State University
Result: National decharter



GHETTO FABULOUS PARTY
The College of New Jersey
Original caption: "Our very own ho train!"



NORTH AMERICAN INTER-FRATERNITY CONFERENCE – DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS RESOLUTION (27 March 2003)

Be it resolved, that the leadership of NIC and NPHC call upon the members of our organizations to provide meaningful diversity and inclusiveness programming to all their members and to communicate the need for our members to live up to their stated fraternal values, through their words and actions; and **Be it further resolved**, that the leadership of both organizations encourage all our members to work together on campuses to establish a welcoming and inclusive campus community; and **Be it further resolved**, that our organizations remain committed to addressing these important issues and providing the necessary resources, support and encouragement in dealing with them.

TOP TEN GREEK/PARTY MYTHS

10. All chapters are like Animal House.
9. Greek social life will ruin my grades.
8. Greeks don't hang out with non-Greeks.
7. You have to drink to be Greek.
6. Fraternities and sororities haze.
5. Chapter membership is too expensive.
4. Greek letters take away individuality.
3. Greeks don't care about the community.
2. All Greeks are alike.
1. A Greek "community" is a thing of the past.

[<http://www.bradleydu.net/fm.htm>]

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ERASE THEM ALL!



ΑΘΧ WHITE TRASH PARTY
Trinity College, 1999



ATP COME AS YOU ARE BIZARRE
Oklahoma State University, 2002

BUT IT WAS ALL IN GOOD FUN...

It's not an excuse anymore.