



THE FRATERNITIES OF  
OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

1969 SUPPLEMENT



TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

COVER DESIGN BY  
W.D. KISSINGER

THE PRESIDENT



1. Why did you join a fraternity?

To get more out of college life.  
 For the social life and also for the close friends that are made.  
 To obtain a better-rounded campus life.  
 To have a good social life.  
 For the social life and brotherhood.  
 For a better social life and to make more friends.  
 Friendship--social activity.  
 To make new friends, have a social life, to better my education.  
 To become more socially-oriented.  
 To gain a sense of belonging to the school and to a group; to gain friends with a common goal; to have an active social life.  
 For the social life not given by the school.  
 To better myself, my grades, and my social connections.  
 To be a leader of men, social life.  
 Because I wanted to belong to a great group of guys and party with them.  
 For social reasons.  
 Because I am from out of state and I didn't know any people at school, also I wanted to play sports and fraternity gives me a chance to do this, also I wanted to balance study with social life.  
 Brotherhood, friendship, parties.  
 In order to become more active socially.  
 To meet new friends and to be able to have active social life.  
 Liked majority of people; brotherhood.  
 Because at O.D.U. the only means of social life at this institution is the fraternity system. At the time I joined 3 years ago it was also the only means by which politically oriented students could express themselves.  
 Group belonging.

2. Do you think the fraternities serve a useful purpose? Yes--23

3. Which of the following areas does your fraternity emphasize the most: Brotherhood, Leadership, Scholarship, Social, Service, Athletics, Honor?

- No. 1 Brotherhood
- 2 Social
- 3 Honor
- 4 Athletics
- 5 Leadership
- 6 Service
- 7 Service

✓ (Scholarship ran a poor second in seventh place.)

4. Do you sponsor any yearly social events? Carnation Ball, Midsummer Happening. Weekly events? Happy hours and parties. Service projects? Tidewater Veneral Club, Underprivileged kids project, March of Dimes. Weekly athletic events? Intramurals.

5. In what frequency do you attend those social events your fraternity sponsors?

Always--12      Most of the time--7      Unanswered--4



6. What do you consider as the most attractive feature of your organization?

Brotherhood. (5)  
Brotherhood, social events.  
Social events.  
Brotherhood, real friendship.  
Carnation Ball.  
Brotherhood is close.  
Many types of people getting along well together with a common purpose of bettering each other and therefore the organization.  
Friendship.  
A close friendship.  
All brothers seem to be bonded together as a unit.  
Our brotherhood, and willingness to work with each other.  
Brotherhood, social activities, athletics.  
It's ability to integrate personalities and leave room for individuality.  
The individualness of the members--everyone does his "own thing".  
FRIENDLINESS OF THE BROTHERS, GOOD HEALTHY CLEAN TIME.  
Parties.  
/unanswered--3/

8. Do you feel that enough young men are currently interested in the fraternities at O.D.U.? Yes--6 No--17

10. When you are considering Rushees for membership what things do you look for, if any?

General attitude--22  
Good Personality--21  
Appearance--16  
Scholarship ability--17  
Athletic ability--18  
Social attributes--17

11. Do you feel that a Rushee who drinks is more likely to be admitted and accepted as a member than one who doesn't? Yes--5 No--18

12. Do you feel that a Rushee who is good in athletics is more likely to be admitted and accepted as a member than one who doesn't? Yes--9 No--14

13. What are the obligations of a pledge?

To attend meetings, projects, make a paddle, show good attitude.  
To respect the members, learn about the workings of the fraternity.  
To make his grades, show up to meetings, work with his pledge brothers.  
Attendance, dues, desire to be member,  
Good academic grade; to be honest.  
Maintain a 2.00 Q.P.A.  
To be below the brothers in the respect that they are trying to become brothers.  
Desire of becoming a brother in the fraternity.  
12 week pledge period.

14. Approximately how many weeks elapse from the time a Pledge enters until he becomes a member? 12.

15. Financial requirements--

Pledge fee-- \$10.00      Initiation Fee-- \$75.00      Monthly Dues--\$13.00



16. Do you approve of hazing? Yes--6 No--16
17. Do you feel that a little hazing during an initiation is:  
 Necessary--3  
 Unnecessary--4  
 More of a tradition than anything else--11
18. Does your fraternity have a set number of members? No.
19. What is the average Q.P.A. of your members? 2.3
20. Most fraternity members consider themselves to be of the:  
 Upper class--2  
 Middle class--19  
 /unanswered--2/
- 20a. Too much emphasis in a fraternity is placed on the social and not enough on the academic aspects. Yes--5 No--5 Sometimes--13
- 20b. Too much emphasis in a fraternity is placed on the athletic aspects and not enough on the academic aspects. Yes--6 No--8 Sometimes--8
- 20c. Most fraternities are drinking clubs. Yes--2 No--21
- 20d. Most fraternity members tend to be extrovert in nature. Yes--12 No--11
- 20e. Most fraternity brothers have a certain amount of bias toward the non-Greek. Yes--11 No--12
- 20f. Most fraternities have lost sight of the purposes set down in their charters. Yes--9 No--14
- 20g. Most non-Greeks view a fraternity with a certain amount of disapproval. Yes--15 No--8
- 20h. Most fraternity members are "hell raisers." Yes--4 No--6 Sometimes--13
- 20i. Most fraternities will downgrade another fraternity in Rush. Yes--2 No--14  
 Sometimes--7
- 20j. Most in-coming freshmen feel that fraternities are no longer important. Yes--10 No--12 /Unanswered--1/
21. Do you approve of integrating a fraternity? Yes--16 No--6
22. Do you feel that the number of fraternities on campus should be:  
 Increased--13 Stay the same--10  
 Do you feel that the number of sororities on campus should be:  
 Increased--16 Stay the same--7
23. Do you think that all the fraternities and sororities should be located in one central area? Yes--17 No--6
24. Do you think that all the fraternities and sororities should be located in one building complex? Yes--1 No--22



- 25a. Do you feel that the I.F.C. does a reasonably good job of:  
 co-ordination between the fraternities? Yes--6 No--17  
 b. strengthening and promoting the fraternity on campus? Yes--9 No--14
26. Name one way you would improve the image of the fraternity on campus:

New house.  
 More co-operation between frats.  
 Strengthen the academic part, change the attitude of non-Greek.  
 By having a stronger brotherhood between the different Frat. through more united projects and less back stabbing.  
 Try to stress social and service objectives and keep out of campus politics as a group but promote more independent political activity.  
 Do more than just have drinking parties.  
 Stress brotherhood as well as scholastic achievement.  
 Allowing for individuality by stressing a fraternity can do to help the rushee not what he should do to fit in the image of the frat.  
 Bigger social events.  
 Better scholarship.  
 If campus had fraternity Row I feel the image of the fraternities in general would improve image of all fraternities.  
 By letting each member be an individual and not a sterotype.  
 Continue to be friendly even toward non-Greeks.  
 To have more interaction between the non-Greeks and Greeks in order to have better communication and understanding.  
 Frats. integrate and become more liberal.  
 I would try to make the non-Greeks realize that fraternities are good and can help one enjoy school more.  
 Push for administration backing of organization of social calanders.  
 Stress the individual aspect of a fraternity. There are no stereotypes.  
 It's perfect now.

28. Name one way in which you would like to improve your campus:

Tear down Social Studies Building.  
 By having more activities that would draw not just the Greeks as most do, but have the entire student body respond to something.  
 Let some organizations sponsor more social events.  
 Make the administration more responsive to students. Try to get better housing so fewer students would be commuters.  
 A football team would gain more campus spirit.  
 Fraternity row.  
 Taking over the cafeteria in the S.U. with its high prices and inferior food.  
 Plant more trees.  
 More school spirit.  
 A football team!!!!  
 Continue its growth.  
 Have more students become interested in campus functions.  
 Make the school spirit better.  
 Increase graduate programs.  
 There is too much wrong with it to help it now.

39. Social life at O.D.U. not fraternity sponsored is:

Good-- 1 Fair--5 Poor--14



Tulane Factors of Liberalism-----Conservatism.  
Developed by Willard A. Kerr, Tulane University.

Sample--6

Findings:

I. Political

Liberal--3  
Center--1  
Radical--2

II. Economics

Liberal--2  
Center--4

III. Religious

Liberal--3  
Center--3

IV. Social

Liberal--4  
Radical--2

V. Aesthetic

Liberal--2  
Center--4

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THE SAMPLE

Total--23

Religions-----Protestant--13  
Catholic--4  
Jewish--1  
Atheist--1  
None--1  
/unanswered--3/

Political affiliation-----  
Republican--7  
Democrat--2  
Independent--11  
/unanswered--3/



Statistical Surveys  
From Across the Country

The following groups of facts were taken from several surveys run for the purpose of collecting information on the Greek system of fraternities. All of the items mentioned are fully documented; any item that was found to be only partially supported was deleted from this listing.

Jim R. Hughes  
Researcher for Stat. Surveys

I. attributes sought in pledges:

- 1.) high grades
- 2.) social skill potential
- 3.) one of the following:
  - a.) ability and inclination to "fit" into the common denominator ideas of the fraternity house (i.e., athletics, social, politics, wealthy background, etc.)
  - OR
  - b.) wide range of inclinations (in this case, the fraternity's influence would be felt over most of the campus)
- 4.) organizations tend to recruit new members with values similar to those of the old members

II. facts about pledges:

- 1.) the initial values of freshmen determine whether or not they will pledge a Greek organization
- 2.) people pledge for one or more of three basic reasons:
  - a.) make friends
  - b.) personal status
  - c.) self-development (social, political, etc.)
- 3.) approximately fifty percent of entering freshmen enter college with the explicit intent not to pledge
- 4.) major reasons why students do not pledge:
  - a.) fear of being rejected (applies mainly to entering freshman)
  - b.) lack of money
  - c.) do not have time; have other things to do; have specialized activities and hobbies that do not require the fraternity's organizational support
  - d.) do not want to conform to a particular value set held by the fraternity
  - e.) poor reputation from bad publicity (accounted for the banning of the national fraternities at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and at the Virginia Military Institute)
- 5.) after a period of a year, the new fraternity member has decreased his values in academic achievement and religiousness, and has increased his values in independence



III. internal membership maintenance:

- 1.) anti-allegiance mechanisms
  - a.) anti-fraternity feelings from:
    - 1.) independent students
    - 2.) certain respected faculty elements
  - b.) as a fraternity member gains academic seniority, his social support outside of the fraternity increases
- 2.) pro-allegiance mechanisms
  - a.) recruitment of new members that are predisposed toward group "togetherness"
  - b.) secret meetings lend "class" to the organization
  - c.) intra-house rivalry suppressed in favor of inter-house rivalry for dates, athletics, etc.
  - d.) fraternity activities conducted as a total group (i.e., blood donations, community projects, etc.)
- 3.) attractiveness of membership in a voluntary organization is higher in the early stages than in the late stages of member affiliation
- 4.) attractiveness of membership is correlated with a person's status within the organization
- 5.) the most satisfied members are those whose values are compatible with the dominant group functions

IV. facts about fraternity members:

- 1.) membership is linked with an above average economic status
- 2.) fraternity members excel above the independent students in extracurricular activities, dating, drinking, dancing, and high social functions
- 3.) members claim to have a better time in college than the independents claim for themselves
- 4.) fraternity members have lower grade averages when compared to the independent students (this idea can also be applied to other organizations: i.e., ROTC unit members at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute average lower grades than the civilian students)

V. reasons for attrition in the local chapter of a fraternity:

- 1.) graduation from school
- 2.) suspension from school for failure to maintain grades or dropped by committee action
- 3.) members who maintain (or develop) values that are deviant from the group norm tend to become alienated and leave the fraternity
- 4.) attrition among value deviants is most pronounced in organizations that have high group cohesiveness
- 5.) attrition among new members is highest in organizations where selection processes have resulted in the poorest value match with old members



Statistical Surveys (con't.)

VI. symptoms of internal decay in a fraternity:

- 1.) the precondition for decay in the fraternity is organizational maturity (i.e., where the organization ceases to grow in scope of activity and goals)
- 2.) develops a bureaucracy with vested interests in maintaining the status quo
- 3.) success in the organization provides incentive to maintain the status quo and creates defense mechanisms within the leadership structure (i.e., bureaucracy) of the fraternity
- 4.) the goals of the organization fail to keep pace with the changing goals of the college or conditions of external environment
- 5.) non-selectivity in membership (i.e., vast increases in the membership of a fraternity for the reason of increased financial funding)
- 6.) the difference between the organizational goals/requirements and the individuals' needs (difference brought about partly because of non-selectivity in membership) result in frustration and egocentric behavior on the part of the individuals in the organization
- 7.) individual frustration affects the group norms in such a manner as to generate activity that is oriented toward the maintenance of the subgroups within the organization rather than the goals of the organization itself

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## LONG - TERM CONSEQUENCES

Let us now pause a moment to reflect and draw some conclusions. It is now readily apparent that there are several areas of influence of the fraternity upon its membership: scholarship, social development, high ideals, training for democracy, need for belonging, service to society, housing needs, strengthening the spirit, and providing campus spirit. The fraternities are apparently providing for these needs of its members.

Among the readers who have read thus far, the entering freshman who suspects that he ought to seek an oasis in the desert of the curriculum should know in his heart whether he wishes to place faith in the college fraternity. Our report cannot avoid saying that the poor fraternity chapter is as much a reality as the good fraternity chapter. It is ignorance of this very matter which leads to lack of faith. On one hand, a counselor may tell the freshman, "The fraternity system is dying." The statement is true: the poor fraternity system is dying. It has died every year. It will die next year. On the other hand, a counselor may tell him, "The fraternity system grows stronger every year." This statement is also true; it merely appears to be in conflict with the first statement but actually is not. The fact is that college brotherhood (which excludes the poor type of fraternity experience) is a robust commodity which continues to grow in value when the circumstances in which it is produced are equipped with the proper character-building factors. The process is conscientiously fostered along high guiding principles. Shall the young man of whom I have been speaking have faith in fraternity? It is up to the young man himself to answer the question. Professor Leslie J. Nason of the University of Southern California has said, "Choose your fraternity as carefully as it chooses you."

Tomorrow's fraternity in the changing environment will be the fraternity that was built on a solid foundation yesterday. It will perpetuate the sound traditions of the past. It will grasp every opportunity to exemplify brotherhood--indeed, to continue to teach brotherhood more effectively than ever--for the good of the member himself, his fellow man, and his nation and the world.

### Bibliography--

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