Party Themes: Just Fun or Offensive?

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Party Themes

Just Fun or Offensive?

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works.bepress.com/ldlong/47
The content of this presentation might be offensive
What are common party themes your chapter organizes?
Party Themes

What are common party themes your chapter organizes?

It’s just for fun, right?
Party Themes

Inappropriate Themes:

- Pimps and Ho’s
- Golf Pros and Tennis Ho’s
- South of the Border Party
- Cowboys and Indians
- Other themes that are sexist or mock or stereotype a culture
Party Themes

“South of the Border” and Cinco de Mayo parties

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Party Themes

Tarleton State University
Lambda Chi Alpha
Martin Luther King, Jr. Party

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Party Themes

Auburn University

Beta Theta Pi
Members dress as Omega Psi Phi members (historically black fraternity)

Delta Sigma Phi
Members dress in KKK attire. One member is shown in blackface with a noose around his neck.
Party Themes

Ole Miss
Alpha Tau Omega
A member dressed in blackface and posed picking cotton. Another member posing as a police officer held a toy gun to the head of the person in blackface.
Party Themes

Golf Pros and Tennis Ho’s

Pimps and Ho’s

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Party Themes

Sigma Alpha Epsilon & Beta Theta Pi
Michigan

Sigma Nu
South Carolina

White Trash Bash theme
Party Themes

What do these themes say about people’s perception of:

- Race/Ethnicity
- Gender Roles
- Class

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T-SHIRTS

See Dick.
See Dick Rush TKE.

Girls like Dick.
RUSH TKE.

Cutting it close
since 1913!
Themes and Designs

Themes and designs that mock or stereotype a group of people should not be used

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Reflect on the culture within your chapter. Can you think of situations where stereotypes are reinforced?
Definitions

Mock (verb)
1. to attack or treat with ridicule, contempt, or derision.
2. to ridicule by mimicry of action or speech; mimic derisively.
3. to mimic, imitate, or counterfeit.

Hate speech (noun)
Speech that attacks a person or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
Creating a Community of Support

- Make your house a welcoming environment
  - Don’t display sexist images on your walls
  - Monitor your language and confront your peers
- Don’t allow your chapter to organize parties with inappropriate themes
- Understand your own biases and perceptions
Creating a Community of Support

- Have the courage to confront your peers
  - Jokes based on race, national origin, gender, etc.
  - Gender Roles
  - “That’s so gay”

- Serve as an ally for your brothers and sisters

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Resources

Ohio University’s “We’re a Culture not a Costume” campaign

- [http://www.ohio.edu/orgs/stars/Home.html](http://www.ohio.edu/orgs/stars/Home.html)
- Provides information on the negative effects of stereotyping

Restorative Justice

- [http://studentlife.msu.edu/sccr/conflict-resolution-services/restorative-justice](http://studentlife.msu.edu/sccr/conflict-resolution-services/restorative-justice)
- A conflict resolution tool that might help heal the harm caused by incidents of bias

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Resources

Stop the Hate
  ◦ http://www.stophate.org/

Speak Up
  ◦ Resource on bystander intervention

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Your Challenge

- Write down one thing you will begin doing to make your chapter more welcoming and inclusive