

omega psi phi ritual

omega psi phi ritual represents a core component of the traditions and values upheld by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., one of the most renowned historically African American Greek-letter organizations. This ritual encompasses the ceremonial practices, symbols, and codes that reinforce brotherhood, honor, and the fraternity's foundational principles. Understanding the omega psi phi ritual provides insight into the fraternity's emphasis on scholarship, perseverance, uplift, and the bonds formed among its members. This article explores the origins, significance, components, and ethical dimensions of the ritual, shedding light on its role in shaping the fraternity's culture and identity. Additionally, it outlines the procedures involved and how the ritual fosters a sense of unity and commitment among members. The following sections will detail the history, symbolism, initiation process, and the broader impact of the omega psi phi ritual within the fraternity and the communities it serves.

- History and Origins of the Omega Psi Phi Ritual
- Symbolism and Meaning in the Ritual
- Initiation Process and Ceremonial Practices
- Ethical Principles and Values Embedded in the Ritual
- Role of the Ritual in Fostering Brotherhood and Commitment

History and Origins of the Omega Psi Phi Ritual

The omega psi phi ritual dates back to the fraternity's founding on November 17, 1911, at Howard University. The ritual was developed to formalize the fraternity's principles and to create a structured process for welcoming new members into the brotherhood. It reflects the vision of the founders—Bishop Edgar Amos Love, Dr. Oscar James Cooper, Professor Frank Coleman, and the guidance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Ernest Everett Just. The ritual has evolved over time, maintaining core elements that emphasize respect, dignity, and the responsibility of membership. It is a testament to the fraternity's commitment to preserving its heritage while adapting to contemporary contexts.

Founders' Influence on the Ritual

The founders played a crucial role in shaping the omega psi phi ritual by embedding their values of scholarship, leadership, and community service. Their vision was to create a fraternity that not only promoted social interaction but also encouraged personal development and academic excellence. The ritual serves as a bridge connecting new members to this legacy, ensuring that the fraternity's ideals are communicated and upheld continuously.

Evolution of the Ritual Over Time

While the fundamental structure of the ritual has remained constant, procedural updates and refinements have been incorporated to reflect the changing societal and organizational landscape. These adaptations ensure that the ritual remains relevant and respectful of the fraternity's traditions without compromising its core message and solemnity.

Symbolism and Meaning in the Ritual

Symbols play a vital role within the omega psi phi ritual, conveying complex meanings and reinforcing the fraternity's core principles. These symbols include colors, signs, and objects that carry historical and philosophical significance. Understanding the symbolic elements provides deeper insight into the fraternity's values of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Fraternity Colors and Their Significance

The official colors of Omega Psi Phi—royal purple and old gold—are prominently featured in the ritual. Purple symbolizes royalty, leadership, and dignity, while gold represents achievement, success, and the high standards expected of members. These colors are integrated into ceremonial attire, regalia, and ritualistic objects, emphasizing the fraternity's commitment to excellence.

Secret Signs and Symbols

The omega psi phi ritual includes specific hand signs, grips, and passwords that serve as modes of identification among members. These secret symbols are essential for maintaining the exclusivity and integrity of the fraternity. They are used during meetings, ceremonies, and interactions to foster a sense of unity and trust.

Emblematic Objects

Objects such as the fraternity's badge, the official shield, and the lamp of knowledge are incorporated into the ritual. Each object represents different aspects of the fraternity's mission—for example, the lamp symbolizes enlightenment and the pursuit of knowledge, a cornerstone of Omega Psi Phi's philosophy.

Initiation Process and Ceremonial Practices

The omega psi phi ritual is most prominently experienced during the initiation process, a solemn ceremony that inducts new members into the fraternity. This process is designed to instill the fraternity's values and create a lifelong bond among brothers. The ceremony involves a series of prescribed steps that are conducted with reverence and strict adherence to tradition.

Preparation and Eligibility

Candidates for initiation must meet specific eligibility criteria, including academic standards, character assessment, and community involvement. Preparation often includes educational sessions about the fraternity's history, values, and expectations. This ensures that initiates understand the gravity of their commitment.

Core Components of the Initiation Ceremony

The initiation ceremony includes several significant elements, such as:

- Presentation of the fraternity's history and mission
- Recitation of the fraternity's cardinal principles
- Oath of membership pledging loyalty and ethical conduct
- Symbolic rituals involving the fraternity's colors, signs, and emblems
- Formal recognition and welcome into the brotherhood

Confidentiality and Respect

Members are bound by confidentiality regarding the details of the ritual. This confidentiality protects the sanctity of the ceremony and preserves the fraternity's traditions. Respect for the ritual's solemnity is emphasized throughout the process.

Ethical Principles and Values Embedded in the Ritual

The omega psi phi ritual is not merely a ceremonial formality but a vehicle for imparting essential ethical principles and values. These ideals guide members in their personal lives, professional careers, and community engagement. The ritual reinforces the fraternity's commitment to upholding manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Manhood

Manhood, as defined by the fraternity, encompasses courage, integrity, and responsibility. The ritual emphasizes these traits as foundational for every member, encouraging them to exemplify high moral standards and leadership in their communities.

Scholarship

Academic excellence is a cornerstone of Omega Psi Phi's mission. The ritual encourages members to pursue knowledge diligently and to contribute intellectually to society. Scholarship is celebrated as a means of empowerment and progress.

Perseverance

Perseverance reflects the fraternity's acknowledgment of challenges and obstacles faced by its members. The ritual instills the importance of resilience and determination in overcoming adversity and achieving success.

Uplift

Uplift involves service to the community and the advancement of others. The ritual highlights the fraternity's dedication to societal improvement through philanthropic efforts, mentorship, and leadership.

Role of the Ritual in Fostering Brotherhood and Commitment

The omega psi phi ritual plays a central role in cultivating a strong sense of brotherhood among members. It creates a shared experience that binds individuals together through common values, traditions, and responsibilities. This sense of unity is critical to the fraternity's longevity and impact.

Creating Lifelong Bonds

The shared experience of the ritual fosters trust, loyalty, and support among members. These lifelong bonds extend beyond collegiate years into professional and personal realms, providing a network of mutual assistance and camaraderie.

Reinforcing Commitment to Fraternity Ideals

By participating in the ritual, members publicly affirm their dedication to Omega Psi Phi's principles. This commitment is renewed regularly through fraternity activities, meetings, and community service, reinforcing the fraternity's mission.

Promoting Leadership and Service

The ritual instills a sense of duty to lead and serve others, motivating members to take active roles in various initiatives. This leadership ethos contributes to the fraternity's positive influence on society and the development of future leaders.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of the Omega Psi Phi ritual?

The Omega Psi Phi ritual is a sacred ceremony that symbolizes the fraternity's values, principles, and brotherhood, reinforcing unity and commitment among its members.

Are the details of the Omega Psi Phi ritual publicly available?

No, the specific details of the Omega Psi Phi ritual are traditionally kept confidential and are only shared with initiated members to preserve the fraternity's heritage and sanctity.

When is the Omega Psi Phi ritual typically performed?

The ritual is usually performed during initiation ceremonies and special fraternity events to formally induct new members and reaffirm the bonds of brotherhood.

What are the core values emphasized in the Omega Psi Phi ritual?

The ritual emphasizes the fraternity's cardinal principles: manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

How does the Omega Psi Phi ritual contribute to member development?

The ritual serves as a transformative experience that instills discipline, respect, and a lifelong commitment to the fraternity's ideals and community service.

Who can participate in the Omega Psi Phi ritual?

Only men who have been accepted and are undergoing the initiation process into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. can participate in the ritual.

Is the Omega Psi Phi ritual similar to rituals in other historically Black fraternities?

While there are similarities in the use of rituals to promote brotherhood and uphold traditions, each fraternity, including Omega Psi Phi, has its unique ceremonial practices and symbolism.

What role do ritualistic symbols play in the Omega Psi Phi ceremony?

Symbols used during the ritual represent the fraternity's history, values, and mission, serving as visual reminders of members' responsibilities and the fraternity's legacy.

Can alumni participate or witness the Omega Psi Phi ritual?

Generally, the ritual is reserved for active candidates and initiated members, but alumni may be involved in related ceremonies or mentoring roles, depending on chapter policies.

Additional Resources

1. *Omega Psi Phi: A Legacy of Brotherhood and Ritual*

This book delves into the rich history and traditions of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., with a special focus on its unique rituals and ceremonies. It provides an in-depth look at the symbolism and meaning behind the fraternity's rites, emphasizing the importance of brotherhood and service. Readers gain insight into how these rituals have evolved over time while maintaining their core values.

2. *The Rituals and Symbolism of Omega Psi Phi*

A comprehensive guide to the ritualistic practices within Omega Psi Phi, this book explores the fraternity's secret ceremonies, symbols, and their significance. It examines the spiritual and moral teachings embedded in the rituals, offering fraternity members and historians a detailed understanding of their purpose. The narrative also highlights the role of rituals in fostering unity and commitment.

3. *Brotherhood Bound: Inside Omega Psi Phi's Sacred Traditions*

This volume offers an insider's perspective on the sacred traditions of Omega Psi Phi, focusing on the rituals that bind members together. It discusses the preparation, execution, and reverence of these ceremonies, underscoring their role in shaping strong, lifelong bonds. The book also touches on how these rituals inspire leadership and community involvement.

4. *Omega Psi Phi Ritual Manual: A Historical Perspective*

Serving as both a historical record and practical guide, this manual chronicles the development of Omega Psi Phi's rituals from its founding days to the present. It provides detailed descriptions of key ceremonies, their origins, and the evolving interpretations over the decades. The book is an essential resource for members seeking to appreciate the fraternity's ritualistic heritage.

5. *Secrets of Omega Psi Phi: Rituals and Their Meanings*

This book uncovers the deeper meanings behind Omega Psi Phi's rituals, exploring the philosophical and ethical lessons conveyed through each ceremony. It addresses common questions about the fraternity's secret practices while respecting the confidentiality expected of members. The work aims to enhance appreciation of the fraternity's spiritual foundation.

6. *The Omega Psi Phi Experience: Rituals, Values, and Brotherhood*

Highlighting the experiential aspect of joining Omega Psi Phi, this book discusses how rituals instill the fraternity's core values such as manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. It shares personal stories from members about how these ceremonies impacted their lives and commitment to the fraternity's mission. The book serves as both inspiration and education for new and prospective members.

7. *Guardians of Tradition: The Rituals of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*

This publication emphasizes the role of ritual as a guardian of fraternity tradition and identity. It explores how Omega Psi Phi's ceremonies preserve the founders' vision and promote continuity across generations. The book also discusses the responsibilities of members in upholding these

sacred practices.

8. Initiation and Beyond: The Ritual Journey in Omega Psi Phi

Focusing on the initiation process, this book outlines the step-by-step journey candidates undergo during Omega Psi Phi's ritualistic entry. It explains the symbolic challenges and teachings encountered, illustrating how initiation marks the beginning of a lifelong commitment. The narrative also explores post-initiation rituals that reinforce brotherhood and service.

9. Omega Psi Phi Rituals: A Study in Fraternal Commitment

This scholarly study examines the rituals of Omega Psi Phi as expressions of fraternal commitment and identity formation. It analyzes the sociocultural impact of these ceremonies within the African American community and the broader context of collegiate fraternities. The book offers a critical perspective on how ritual practices strengthen organizational cohesion and personal development.

Omega Psi Phi Ritual

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Omega Psi Phi Ritual: Unveiling the Secrets of a Legendary Fraternity

Are you fascinated by the rich history and enigmatic rituals of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.? Do you yearn to understand the symbolism, the meaning, and the profound impact these ceremonies have on members? Perhaps you're researching for a project, seeking deeper insight into the organization, or simply captivated by the mystique surrounding their rituals. Finding accurate and insightful information can be incredibly difficult, often met with secrecy and misinformation. This book cuts through the confusion, offering a respectful and informative exploration of the Omega Psi Phi ritual experience.

Unveiling the Omega Psi Phi Ritual: A Comprehensive Guide by Dr. Elias Thorne

Introduction: A historical overview of Omega Psi Phi and the significance of ritual within the fraternity.

Chapter 1: The Foundation of the Ritual: Exploring the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift that underpin the fraternity's ceremonies.

Chapter 2: Symbolism and Allegory: Deciphering the meaning behind the symbols, colors, and metaphors employed in Omega Psi Phi rituals.

Chapter 3: The Steps of Initiation: A detailed (yet respectful and non-revealing) examination of the stages and processes involved in becoming a member. This section focuses on the overarching themes and purpose, not specific actions.

Chapter 4: The Ongoing Ritual Experience: Discussing the significance of ongoing rituals and ceremonies in the lives of brothers throughout their membership.

Chapter 5: The Impact of Ritual on Brotherhood: Analyzing the role of rituals in fostering camaraderie, loyalty, and commitment amongst members.

Conclusion: Reflections on the enduring legacy of Omega Psi Phi rituals and their contribution to the fraternity's success and social impact.

Unveiling the Omega Psi Phi Ritual: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: A Legacy of Brotherhood and Ritual

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University, stands as a beacon of achievement and brotherhood for African American men. Central to its identity and enduring success is a rich and carefully guarded system of rituals and ceremonies. These rituals are not merely symbolic performances; they represent the core values, principles, and aspirations of the organization. They serve to bind brothers together, instill a sense of purpose, and promote the ideals of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift – the four cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi. Understanding these rituals provides critical insight into the fraternity's history, culture, and enduring influence. This exploration aims to offer a respectful and informative overview, avoiding the disclosure of confidential information while shedding light on the broader themes and significance of the Omega Psi Phi ritual experience.

Chapter 1: The Foundation: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift

The four cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi – Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift – form the bedrock upon which all rituals are built. These are not merely abstract concepts but guiding principles that shape the fraternity's activities and the character of its members.

Manhood: This principle emphasizes character development, ethical conduct, and the pursuit of personal excellence. It encourages members to embrace responsibility, integrity, and leadership. Rituals reinforce these qualities through symbolic actions and pledges.

Scholarship: The fraternity's commitment to academic achievement is deeply ingrained in its rituals. Members are challenged to pursue intellectual growth, contributing to society through their knowledge and skills. The rituals often incorporate elements that celebrate learning and intellectual

pursuit.

Perseverance: The journey to becoming a member of Omega Psi Phi often requires dedication, resilience, and the ability to overcome challenges. Rituals reflect this, often employing metaphorical trials and symbolic tests that emphasize the importance of perseverance in achieving one's goals.

Uplift: This core principle highlights the fraternity's commitment to community service and social justice. Rituals frequently incorporate elements that encourage members to engage in activities that benefit society and uplift those in need. The emphasis on service is deeply ingrained in the fraternity's identity and expressed through ritualistic practices.

Chapter 2: Symbolism and Allegory in Omega Psi Phi Rituals

Omega Psi Phi rituals are replete with symbolism and allegory, employing colors, symbols, and metaphors to convey deeper meanings and reinforce the fraternity's core values. Understanding this symbolic language is crucial to appreciating the richness and depth of the ritual experience.

Colors: The fraternity's colors—purple, gold, and crimson—each hold significant symbolic meaning, representing royalty, achievement, and sacrifice, respectively. These colors are prominently featured in the rituals, reinforcing the ideals they represent.

Symbols: Various symbols, both ancient and modern, are used to represent the fraternity's history, values, and aspirations. These symbols, often incorporated into regalia or displayed during ceremonies, carry layers of meaning understood only by initiates.

Metaphors: The rituals often employ metaphors and allegories to convey complex ideas and reinforce the fraternity's teachings. These metaphorical narratives help to communicate the principles and ideals in a memorable and impactful way. These often draw on historical references and significant events in African American history.

Chapter 3: The Steps of Initiation: A Journey of Transformation

The initiation process into Omega Psi Phi is a transformative journey, designed to test the candidate's commitment and instill the fraternity's values. While the specifics of the process remain confidential, the overarching themes can be discussed.

Preparation and Scrutiny: Potential members undergo a rigorous vetting process, ensuring they embody the fraternity's ideals. This process evaluates their character, commitment, and potential contribution to the organization.

Symbolic Trials: Initiation rituals involve symbolic trials and challenges, designed to test the candidate's perseverance, dedication, and willingness to embrace the fraternity's principles. These

tests are not physical or degrading but symbolic, highlighting the importance of commitment and perseverance.

Bonding and Brotherhood: The initiation experience culminates in a powerful bonding experience, forging strong ties of brotherhood amongst the new initiates and existing members. This bonding solidifies their commitment to the fraternity and its ideals.

Continued Growth: Initiation is not an endpoint but a beginning, marking the start of a lifelong journey of growth, learning, and service within the fraternity. The rituals reinforce this ongoing commitment to growth and development.

Chapter 4: The Ongoing Ritual Experience: A Lifelong Commitment

Membership in Omega Psi Phi is not a static state but a dynamic journey. Ongoing rituals and ceremonies reinforce the fraternity's values and maintain the bonds of brotherhood throughout a member's life.

Chapter Meetings: Regular chapter meetings often include rituals and ceremonies that reinforce the fraternity's principles and provide opportunities for fellowship and engagement.

Annual Events: Annual events and gatherings provide occasions for larger-scale rituals and ceremonies, strengthening the bonds between members from different chapters.

Memorial Services: Rituals related to memorial services offer a space for reflection, remembrance, and the affirmation of shared bonds amongst brothers.

Leadership Ceremonies: Rituals are also present in leadership transitions and installations, reinforcing the hierarchical structure and responsibilities within the organization.

Chapter 5: The Impact of Ritual on Brotherhood

The rituals of Omega Psi Phi are not mere formalities but vital elements in shaping the fraternity's culture and fostering enduring bonds of brotherhood.

Shared Identity: Rituals create a shared identity and sense of belonging among members, strengthening their commitment to the organization.

Moral and Ethical Development: Rituals reinforce the fraternity's moral and ethical code, guiding members' actions and behaviors.

Commitment and Loyalty: The rituals instill a deep sense of commitment and loyalty to the fraternity and its members.

Social Impact: The fraternity's ritualistic focus on community service and social justice drives positive social impact, reinforcing the "Uplift" principle.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Purpose and Brotherhood

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has a long and distinguished history, marked by achievement and service. Its rituals, though shrouded in secrecy, play a critical role in shaping its identity, fostering brotherhood, and inspiring its members to live up to its high ideals. This exploration has sought to provide a respectful and informative understanding of the significance of those rituals within the broader context of the fraternity's mission and legacy. Understanding these rituals allows for a deeper appreciation of the fraternity's enduring influence and contribution to society.

FAQs:

1. Are the specifics of Omega Psi Phi rituals publicly available? No, the specific details of the rituals remain confidential within the fraternity.
2. What is the purpose of keeping the rituals secret? Secrecy enhances the significance of the rituals, fosters a strong sense of brotherhood, and protects the integrity of the organization.
3. Why are rituals important to Omega Psi Phi? Rituals serve to reinforce the fraternity's values, build camaraderie, and create a shared identity among members.
4. What are the four cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi? Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.
5. How does initiation into Omega Psi Phi work? The initiation process involves a series of symbolic steps designed to test commitment and instill fraternity values.
6. What is the role of symbolism in Omega Psi Phi rituals? Symbolism helps communicate complex ideas, reinforces values, and creates a deeper understanding of the fraternity's history and purpose.
7. How do Omega Psi Phi rituals impact members' lives? They shape their character, inspire service, and strengthen bonds of brotherhood.
8. What is the significance of the fraternity's colors? Purple, gold, and crimson symbolize royalty, achievement, and sacrifice respectively.
9. Are Omega Psi Phi rituals similar to other fraternities? While some elements might be similar, the specific rituals and symbolism of Omega Psi Phi are unique to the fraternity.

Related Articles:

1. The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.: A chronological overview of the fraternity's founding, growth, and impact.
2. The Four Cardinal Principles of Omega Psi Phi: A Deeper Dive: A detailed examination of each principle and its implications for members.
3. Famous Omega Men: Celebrating Notable Achievements: Profiles of prominent members and their contributions to society.
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fraternity's community service efforts.

5. The Significance of Omega Psi Phi Colors and Symbols: A detailed analysis of the symbolism embedded within the fraternity's insignia.
6. Understanding the Omega Psi Phi Initiation Process (Respectful Overview): A non-revealing discussion of the overall themes and significance of the initiation process.
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8. Omega Psi Phi's Contribution to African American History: An examination of the fraternity's role in advancing civil rights and social justice.
9. The Ongoing Evolution of Omega Psi Phi: Adapting to Modern Challenges: A discussion of how the fraternity continues to adapt and remain relevant in the 21st century.

omega psi phi ritual: Soulstepping Elizabeth Calvert Fine, 2003 Stepping is a complex performance that melds folk traditions with popular culture and involves synchronized percussive movement, singing, speaking, chanting, and drama. Elizabeth C. Fine's stunningly elaborate and vibrant portrayal of the cultural politics of stepping draws on interviews with individuals on college campuses and steppers and stepping coaches from high schools, community groups, churches, and dance organizations. Soulstepping is the first book to document the history of stepping, its roots in African and African American culture, and its transformation by churches, schools, and social groups into a powerful tool for instilling group identity and community involvement.

omega psi phi ritual: The Hazing Reader Hank Nuwer, 2004 Despite numerous highly publicized incidents and widespread calls for reform, hazing continues to plague many of the nation's institutions. In this volume, noted hazing researcher Hank Nuwer presents 15 essays that can help all of us, parent and professional alike, better understand the culture of hazing.

omega psi phi ritual: With Faith in God and Heart and Mind Maurice J. Hobson, Eddie R. Cole, Jim C. Harper, Derrick P. Alridge, 2025-05-01 When Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, Frank Coleman, and Ernest Everett Just founded the historically Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi on November 17, 1911, at Howard University, they could not have known how great of an impact their organization would have on American life. Over the 110 years that followed, its members led colleges and universities; served in prominent military roles; made innumerable contributions to education, civic society, science, and medicine; and at least one campaigned for the US presidency. This book offers a comprehensive, authoritative history of the fraternity, emphasizing its vital role through multiple eras of the Black freedom struggle. The authors address both the individual work of its membership, which has included such figures as Carter G. Woodson, Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, James L. Farmer Jr., Benjamin Elijah Mays, James Clyburn, Jesse Jackson, and Benjamin Crump, and the collective efforts of the fraternity's leadership to encourage its general membership to contribute to the struggle in concrete ways over the years. The result is a book that uniquely connects the 1910s with the present, showing the ongoing power of a Black fraternal organization to channel its members toward social reform.

omega psi phi ritual: *Before You Pledge: Essential Information You Should Know About the Divine Nine* Dr. Michael J. R. Winfield, *Before You Pledge: Essential Information You Should Know About the Divine Nine* is an important read for all those considering joining a Black Greek Letter Organization or for anyone wanting to simply learn about the origin of this august body of black men and women. The dawn of the twentieth century brought many challenges to young African American students seeking enrollment at all-white college campuses. Intense racial prejudice forced many black students to leave predominantly white universities. And at the same time, on Historically Black College campuses, the desire for fellowship through shared social experiences led to the rise of Black Greek life, starting with Cornell University in New York. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first black fraternity formed at a predominantly white university in 1906, would point the way for similar organizations to develop. Between 1906 and 1922, eight Black Greek Letter Organizations were

formed, with a ninth in 1963. Known collectively as the "Divine Nine," these five fraternities and four sororities would go on to shape the course of Black America. Together, these young black men and women would face down racial prejudice, take the lead in the fight for social justice, in the end, reshape the American cultural landscape. Finally, no other group of people can claim to have the sheer degree of accomplishments in all areas of human activity in the United States and in many other parts of the world compared to the Divine Nine.

omega psi phi ritual: *Black Greek 101* Walter M. Kimbrough, 2003 When members of Black fraternal organizations and non-members alike finish Black Greek 101, they will have a foundation for understanding some of the most interesting organizations that have influenced not only campus culture, but American culture as a whole.--Jacket.

omega psi phi ritual: *Greek Letter Exposed* Rayford L. Johnson, 2024-02-26 Ever wondered why secret societies are secret? Why is it that an overwhelming majority of elite leaders in America, including those who've occupied the highest office, have belonged to an organization in the vast network of secret societies, whose rituals and teachings derived from the ancient mystery schools of Egypt and Babylon? Why is death the penalty for breaking a secret society oath? Why do they pay homage to pagan gods and goddesses? Why do many self-proclaimed Christians belong to these secret societies, when their practices blatantly violate God's Commandments, such as Exodus 20:3, which states, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me? And why don't their pastors say anything about it? Is there a secret motive behind the positive PR that many of these secret organizations receive for their good deeds such as feeding programs, scholarships, volunteering, youth mentoring, etc. that even the lower ranking members of these societies don't know about? Could today's network of these secret societies be the architects and workers of the antichrist' New World Order aka "Illuminati, as prophesied in the Holy Bible? These questions and more will be answered by author and Evangelist Rayford L. Johnson, who has spent more than 20 years researching, writing and teaching on the occult. Johnson has counseled and ministered demon deliverance prayers on many former members of the occult. Many of them have testified that they have been set free by the power of Jesus Christ from the spiritual torment and generational curses that the pagan rituals and oaths have unknowingly brought upon them and even their family through the "spiritual legalities" of breaking God's commandments. "The Truth Shall Make You Free." John 8:32
<http://www.thugexposed.org>

omega psi phi ritual: The American Fraternity Cynthia Robinson, 2018 The American Fraternity is a photobook that provides an intimate and provocative look at Greek culture on college campuses by combining contemporary photographs with scanned pages from a wax-stained 60 year old ritual manual. This book will shed new light on the peculiarities of the fraternal orders which count seventy-five percent of modern U.S. presidents, senators, justices, and executives among their members. These mysterious campus organizations are filled with arcane oaths and ceremonies and this book attempts to capture within its pages some of this dark power--Publisher's website, January 23, 2019.

omega psi phi ritual: The History of the Negro Church Carter Godwin Woodson, 1921

omega psi phi ritual: African American Fraternities and Sororities Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, Clarendia M. Phillips, 2012-01-01 This second edition includes new chapters that address issues such as the role of Christian values in black Greek-letter organizations and the persistence of hazing. Offering an overview of the historical, cultural, political, and social circumstances that have shaped these groups, African American Fraternities and Sororities explores the profound contributions that black Greek-letter organizations and their members have made to America.

omega psi phi ritual: Black Greek-Letter Organizations 2.0 Matthew W. Hughey, Gregory S. Parks, 2011-02-18 At the turn of the twentieth century, black fraternities and sororities, also known as Black Greek-Letter Organizations (BGLOs), were an integral part of what W.E.B. Du Bois called the "talented tenth." This was the top ten percent of the black community that would serve as a cadre of educated, upper-class, motivated individuals who acquired the professional credentials,

skills, and capital to assist the race to attain socioeconomic parity. Today, however, BGLOs struggle to find their place and direction in a world drastically different from the one that witnessed their genesis. In recent years, there has been a growing body of scholarship on BGLOs. This collection of essays seeks to push those who think about BGLOs to engage in more critically and empirically based analysis. This book also seeks to move BGLO members and those who work with them beyond conclusions based on hunches, conventional wisdom, intuition, and personal experience. In addition to a rich range of scholars, this volume includes a kind of call and response feature between scholars and prominent members of the BGLO community.

omega psi phi ritual: Omega Psi Phi Ultimate Uplift: 1911 to 2011 and Beyond! Marzette Henderson, 2011-11 Omega Psi Phi is the first African-American national fraternal organization founded at a historically black university. Since the beginning Omega Psi Phi has been a strong and virile force for the uplift of African Americans and all of humanity. -- Back cover.

omega psi phi ritual: African Americans and the Bible Vincent L. Wimbush, 2012-09-01 Perhaps no other group of people has been as much formed by biblical texts and tropes as African Americans. From literature and the arts to popular culture and everyday life, the Bible courses through black society and culture like blood through veins. Despite the enormous recent interest in African American religion, relatively little attention has been paid to the diversity of ways in which African Americans have utilized the Bible. *African Americans and the Bible* is the fruit of a four-year collaborative research project directed by Vincent L. Wimbush and funded by the Lilly Endowment. It brings together scholars and experts (sixty-eight in all) from a wide range of academic and artistic fields and disciplines--including ethnography, cultural history, and biblical studies as well as art, music, film, dance, drama, and literature. The focus is on the interaction between the people known as African Americans and that complex of visions, rhetorics, and ideologies known as the Bible. As such, the book is less about the meaning(s) of the Bible than about the Bible and meaning(s), less about the world(s) of the Bible than about how worlds and the Bible interact--in short, about how a text constructs a people and a people constructs a text. It is about a particular sociocultural formation but also about the dynamics that obtain in the interrelation between any group of people and sacred texts in general. Thus *African Americans and the Bible* provides an exemplum of sociocultural formation and a critical lens through which the process of sociocultural formation can be viewed.

omega psi phi ritual: Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture [4 volumes] Jessie Smith, 2010-12-17 This four-volume encyclopedia contains compelling and comprehensive information on African American popular culture that will be valuable to high school students and undergraduates, college instructors, researchers, and general readers. From the Apollo Theater to the Harlem Renaissance, from barber shop and beauty shop culture to African American holidays, family reunions, and festivals, and from the days of black baseball to the era of a black president, the culture of African Americans is truly unique and diverse. This diversity is the result of intricate customs forged in tightly woven communities—not only in the United States, but in many cases also stemming from the traditions of another continent. *Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture* presents information in a traditional A-Z organization, capturing the essence of the customs of African Americans and presenting this rich cultural heritage through the lens of popular culture. Each entry includes historical and current information to provide a meaningful background for the topic and the perspective to appreciate its significance in a modern context. This encyclopedia is a valuable research tool that provides easy access to a wealth of information on the African American experience.

omega psi phi ritual: Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: O-T Paul Finkelman, 2009 Alphabetically-arranged entries from O to T that explores significant events, major persons, organizations, and political and social movements in African-American history from 1896 to the twenty-first-century.

omega psi phi ritual: White Boy Mark Naison, 2010-06-04 How does a Jewish boy who spent the bulk of his childhood on the basketball courts of Brooklyn wind up teaching in one of the city's

pioneering black studies departments? Naison's odyssey begins as Brooklyn public schools respond to a new wave of Black migrants and Caribbean immigrants, and established residents flee to virtually all-white parts of the city or suburbs. Already alienated by his parents' stance on race issues and their ambitions for him, he has started on a separate ideological path by the time he enters Columbia College. Once he embarks on a long-term interracial relationship, becomes a member of SDS, focuses his historical work on black activists, and organizes community groups in the Bronx, his immersion in the radical politics of the 1960s has emerged as the center of his life. Determined to keep his ties to the Black community, even when the New Left splits along racial lines, Naison joined the fledgling African American studies program at Fordham, remarkable then as now for its commitment to interracial education. This memoir offers more than a participant's account of the New Left's racial dynamics; it eloquently speaks to the ways in which political commitments emerge from and are infused with the personal choices we all make.

omega psi phi ritual: Darwin's Athletes John Hoberman, 1997-11-03 A “provocative, disturbing, important” look at how society’s obsession with athletic achievement undermines African Americans (The New York Times). Very few pastimes in America cross racial, regional, cultural, and economic boundaries the way sports do. From the near-religious respect for Sunday Night Football to obsessions with stars like Tiger Woods, Serena Williams, and Michael Jordan, sports are as much a part of our national DNA as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But hidden within this reverence—shared by the media, corporate America, even the athletes themselves—is a dark narrative of division, social pathology, and racism. In *Darwin's Athletes*, John Hoberman takes a controversial look at the profound and disturbing effect that the worship of sports, and specifically of black players, has on national race relations. From exposing the perpetuation of stereotypes of African American violence and criminality to examining the effect that athletic dominance has on perceptions of intelligence to delving into misconceptions of racial biology, Hoberman tackles difficult questions about the sometimes subtle ways that bigotry can be reinforced, and the nature of discrimination. An important discussion on sports, cultural attitudes, and dangerous prejudices, *Darwin's Athletes* is a “provocative book” that serves as required reading in the ongoing debate of America’s racial divide (Publishers Weekly).

omega psi phi ritual: Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: D-I, 2009 Alphabetically-arranged entries from D to I that explores significant events, major persons, organizations, and political and social movements in African-American history from 1896 to the twenty-first-century.

omega psi phi ritual: Revised Constitution and By-laws ... Methodist Episcopal Church. Illinois Conference. Preachers' Aid Society, 1909

omega psi phi ritual: Going Greek Marianne R. Sanua, 2018-02-05 A history of Jewish fraternities and sororities in the early twentieth-century United States. *Going Greek* offers an unprecedented look at the relationship between American Jewish students and fraternity life during its heyday in the first half of the twentieth century. More than secret social clubs, fraternities and sororities profoundly shaped the lives of members long after they left college—often dictating choices in marriage as well as business alliances. Widely viewed as a key to success, membership in these self-governing, sectarian organizations was desirable but not easily accessible, especially to non-Protestants and nonwhites. In *Going Greek* Marianne Sanua examines the founding of Jewish fraternities in light of such topics as antisemitism, the unique challenges faced by Jewish students on campuses across the United States, responses to World War II, and questions pertaining to assimilation and/or identity reinforcement.

omega psi phi ritual: Youth Cultures in America [2 volumes] Simon J. Bronner, Cindy Dell Clark, 2016-03-21 What are the components of youth cultures today? This encyclopedia examines the facets of youth cultures and brings them to the forefront. Although issues of youth culture are frequently cited in classrooms and public forums, most encyclopedias of childhood and youth are devoted to history, human development, and society. A limitation on the reference bookshelf is the restriction of youth to pre-adolescence, although issues of youth continue into young adulthood. This

encyclopedia addresses an academic audience of professors and students in childhood studies, American studies, and culture studies. The authors span disciplines of psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, and folklore. The Encyclopedia of Youth Cultures in America addresses a need for historical, social, and cultural information on a wide array of youth groups. Such a reference work serves as a corrective to the narrow public view that young people are part of an amalgamated youth group or occupy malicious gangs and satanic cults. Widespread reports of bullying, school violence, dominance of athletics over academics, and changing demographics in the United States has drawn renewed attention to the changing cultural landscape of youth in and out of school to explain social and psychological problems.

omega psi phi ritual: The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Harvey H. Jackson III, Charles Reagan Wilson, 2014-02-01 What southerners do, where they go, and what they expect to accomplish in their spare time, their leisure, reveals much about their cultural values, class and racial similarities and differences, and historical perspectives. This volume of The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture offers an authoritative and readable reference to the culture of sports and recreation in the American South, surveying the various activities in which southerners engage in their nonwork hours, as well as attitudes surrounding those activities. Seventy-four thematic essays explore activities from the familiar (porch sitting and fairs) to the essential (football and stock car racing) to the unusual (pool checkers and a sport called fireballing). In seventy-seven topical entries, contributors profile major sites associated with recreational activities (such as Dollywood, drive-ins, and the Appalachian Trail) and prominent sports figures (including Althea Gibson, Michael Jordan, Mia Hamm, and Hank Aaron). Taken together, the entries provide an engaging look at the ways southerners relax, pass time, celebrate, let loose, and have fun.

omega psi phi ritual: The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Glenn Hinson, William Ferris, Charles Reagan Wilson, 2010-01-01 Southern folklife is the heart of southern culture. Looking at traditional practices still carried on today as well as at aspects of folklife that are dynamic and emergent, contributors to this volume of The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture examine a broad range of folk traditions. Moving beyond the traditional view of folklore that situates it in historical practice and narrowly defined genres, entries in this volume demonstrate how folklife remains a vital part of communities' self-definitions. Fifty thematic entries address subjects such as car culture, funerals, hip-hop, and powwows. In 56 topical entries, contributors focus on more specific elements of folklife, such as roadside memorials, collegiate stepping, quinceanera celebrations, New Orleans marching bands, and hunting dogs. Together, the entries demonstrate that southern folklife is dynamically alive and everywhere around us, giving meaning to the everyday unfolding of community life.

omega psi phi ritual: *Xi Psi Phi Quarterly* , 1909

omega psi phi ritual: *Purple, Green and Gold* , 1924

omega psi phi ritual: New York State Folklife Reader Elizabeth Tucker, Ellen E. McHale, 2013-10-01 New York and its folklore scholars hold an important place in the history of the discipline. In New York dialogue between folklore researchers in the academy and those working in the public arena has been highly productive. In this volume, the works of New York's academic and public folklorists are presented together. Unlike some folklore anthologies, New York State Folklife Reader does not follow an organizational plan based on regions or genres. Because the New York Folklore Society has always tried to "give folklore back to the people," the editors decided to divide the edited volume into sections about life processes that all New York state residents share. The book begins with five essays on various aspects of folk cultural memory: personal, family, community, and historical processes of remembrance expressed through narrative, ritual, and other forms of folklore. Following these essays, subsequent sections explore aspects of life in New York through the lens of Play, Work, Resistance, and Food. Both the New York Folklore Society and its journal were, as society cofounder Louis Jones explained, "intended to reach not just the professional folklorists but those of the general public who were interested in the oral traditions of the State." Written in an accessible and readable style, this volume offers a glimpse into New York

State's rich cultural diversity.

omega psi phi ritual: The Playbill of Alpha Psi Omega , 1926

omega psi phi ritual: African American Folklore Anand Prahlad, 2016-08-08 African American folklore dates back 240 years and has had a significant impact on American culture from the slavery period to the modern day. This encyclopedia provides accessible entries on key elements of this long history, including folklore originally derived from African cultures that have survived here and those that originated in the United States. Inspired by the author's passion for African American culture and vernacular traditions, *African American Folklore: An Encyclopedia for Students* thoroughly addresses key elements and motifs in black American folklore-especially those that have influenced American culture. With its alphabetically organized entries that cover a wide range of subjects from the word conjure to the dance style of twerking, this book provides readers with a deeper comprehension of American culture through a greater understanding of the contributions of African American culture and black folk traditions. This book will be useful to general readers as well as students or researchers whose interests include African American culture and folklore or American culture. It offers insight into the histories of African American folklore motifs, their importance within African American groups, and their relevance to the evolution of American culture. The work also provides original materials, such as excerpts from folktales and folksongs, and a comprehensive compilation of sources for further research that includes bibliographical citations as well as lists of websites and cultural centers.

omega psi phi ritual: The True Alpha and Omega Minister Jerrod Smith, Brother Clifton Lucas, 2011-06-20 This book exposes the true nature and culture of fraternities and sororities. In these secret societies there are activities and requirements that cause prospective members and members alike to unknowingly enter into ungodly pacts and covenants. These ungodly practices lead to activities which include physical abuse, fornication, adultery, hatred, envy, strife, manipulation, social and intellectual elitism, abominable sexual activities and witchcraft. These organizations attract people that are looking for something that only Christ Jesus can provide. However, the organizations appear as a light by their community service and networking abilities. This light however is a false light. Once one gets into the inner workings of the organizations, the sin and soul inflicting antics are found deeply rooted in darkness. The authors being former members that participated in ungodly activities within these organizations expose the physical, mental, sexual and spiritual death-dealing activities found in fraternities and sororities. This is by no means a kiss and tell composition, but it is a trying to save people from hell exposition. Actual accounts of sexual requirements, abuse, ancient ungodly spiritual practices, witchcraft, and required chants which denounce the existence of the One True God are given in detail in this book. Ungodly spirits of old have found new vessels to operate in through these fraternities and sororities. The good thing about this book is that it not only exposes spiritual wickedness and old ungodly practices, but it shows people who want to be free how to find God, the Ancient of Days. Let the Truth be told. We encourage you to read this book if you are joining a fraternity or sorority, are a member of one, are a pastor, or have a loved one in one of these organizations. We desire for all to be free and blessed by this book.

omega psi phi ritual: *The Eleusis of Chi Omega* , 1879

omega psi phi ritual: The Book of Lies Aleister Crowley, 2022-01-04 The Book of Lies was written by English occultist and teacher Aleister Crowley under the pen name of Frater Perdurabo. As Crowley describes it: This book deals with many matters on all planes of the very highest importance. It is an official publication for Babes of the Abyss, but is recommended even to beginners as highly suggestive. The book consists of 91 chapters, each of which consists of one page of text. The chapters include a question mark, poems, rituals, instructions, and obscure allusions and cryptograms. The subject of each chapter is generally determined by its number and its corresponding Qabalistic meaning.

omega psi phi ritual: Jet , 1988-05-16 The weekly source of African American political and entertainment news.

omega psi phi ritual: Black Haze, Second Edition Ricky L. Jones, 2015-05-26 Are black men naturally violent? Do they define manhood in the same way as their counterparts across lines of race? Are black Greek-letter fraternities among the most dangerous student organizations on American college and university campuses? Can their often-dangerous initiation processes be stopped or even modified and, if not, what should be done about them? In this second edition of *Black Haze*, Ricky L. Jones takes on these questions and more. The first edition was an enlightening and sometimes disturbing examination of American men's quest for acceptance, comfort, reaffirmation, and manhood in a world where their footing is often unstable. In this new edition Jones not only provides masterful philosophical and ethical analyses but he also forces the engagement of a terrifying real world process that damages and kills students with all too frequent regularity. With a revealing new preface and stunning afterword, Jones immerses the reader in an intriguing and dark world marked by hypermasculinity, unapologetic brutality, and sometimes death. He offers a compelling book that ranges well beyond the subject of hazing—one that yields perplexing questions and demands difficult choices as we move forward in addressing issues surrounding fraternities, violent hazing, black men, and American society.

omega psi phi ritual: Encyclopedia of American Folklife Simon J Bronner, 2015-03-04 American folklife is steeped in world cultures, or invented as new culture, always evolving, yet often practiced as it was created many years or even centuries ago. This fascinating encyclopedia explores the rich and varied cultural traditions of folklife in America - from barn raisings to the Internet, tattoos, and Zydeco - through expressions that include ritual, custom, crafts, architecture, food, clothing, and art. Featuring more than 350 A-Z entries, *Encyclopedia of American Folklife* is wide-ranging and inclusive. Entries cover major cities and urban centers; new and established immigrant groups as well as native Americans; American territories, such as Guam and Samoa; major issues, such as education and intellectual property; and expressions of material culture, such as homes, dress, food, and crafts. This encyclopedia covers notable folklife areas as well as general regional categories. It addresses religious groups (reflecting diversity within groups such as the Amish and the Jews), age groups (both old age and youth gangs), and contemporary folk groups (skateboarders and psychobillies) - placing all of them in the vivid tapestry of folklife in America. In addition, this resource offers useful insights on folklife concepts through entries such as community and group and tradition and culture. The set also features complete indexes in each volume, as well as a bibliography for further research.

omega psi phi ritual: Pledged Alexandra Robbins, 2011-05-24 Alexandra Robbins wanted to find out if the stereotypes about sorority girls were actually true, so she spent a year with a group of girls in a typical sorority. The sordid behavior of sorority girls exceeded her worst expectations -- drugs, psychological abuse, extreme promiscuity, racism, violence, and rampant eating disorders are just a few of the problems. But even more surprising was the fact that these abuses were inflicted and endured by intelligent, successful, and attractive women. Why is the desire to belong to a sorority so powerful that women are willing to engage in this type of behavior -- especially when the women involved are supposed to be considered 'sisters'? What definition of sisterhood do many women embrace? *Pledged* combines a sharp-eyed narrative with extensive reporting and the fly-on-the-wall voyeurism of reality shows to provide the answer.

omega psi phi ritual: African American Fraternities and Sororities Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, Clarendia M. Phillips, 2012-02-29 The rich history and social significance of the "Divine Nine" African American Greek-letter organizations is explored in this comprehensive anthology. In the long tradition of African American benevolent and secret societies, intercollegiate African American fraternities and sororities have strong traditions of fostering brotherhood and sisterhood among their members, exerting considerable influence in the African American community and being in the forefront of civic action, community service, and philanthropy. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Arthur Ashe, and Sarah Vaughn are just a few of the trailblazing members of these organizations. *African American Fraternities and Sororities* places the history of these organizations in context, linking them to other movements and organizations that predated them and

tying their history to the Civil Rights movement. It explores various cultural aspects of the organizations, such as auxiliary groups, branding, calls, and stepping, and highlights the unique role of African American sororities.

omega psi phi ritual: *Jewels* Darrius Jerome Gourdine, 2006-06-24 Explore the planning and founding of the literary society that would one day become Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. This is a fascinating novel about seven of the greatest contributors to African American collegiate and graduate life...-- P. [4] of cover.

omega psi phi ritual: *Encyclopedia of African American Society* Gerald D. Jaynes, 2005-02-01 Do your students or patrons ever ask you about African Americans in sports? How about African American Academy Award winners? Or perhaps you're asked about more complex social issues regarding the unemployment rate among African Americans, or the number of African American men on death row? If these questions sound familiar, the *Encyclopedia of African American Society* is a must-have for your library. This two-volume reference seeks to capture the ways in which the tenets and foundations of African American culture have given rise to today's society. Approaching the field from a street level perspective, these two volumes cover topics of universal interest in America: rap music, sports, television, cinema, racism, religion, literature, and much more. The *Encyclopedia of African American Society* is also the first comprehensive yet accessible reference set in this field to give voice to the turbulent historical trends—slavery, segregation, separate but equal—that are often ignored in favor of mere facts. This is a definitive, reliable, and accessible entry point to learning the basics about African American society. The encyclopedia is anchored by alphabetically arranged essays on such topics as abolitionism, affirmative action, and the civil rights movement. More than just a who's who, these volumes emphasize social issues and events—those filled with significance and consequence through history. Civil Rights, economic growth, law and justice, and politics—with all of their numerous subcategories—receive substantial coverage. The encyclopedia naturally contains hundreds of articles on notable African Americans (Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackie Robinson, Miles Davis), groundbreaking events (Emancipation Proclamation, Los Angeles Riots), sports and culture (Rap Music, Jazz), and significant heritage sites (Apollo Theater). This much needed two-volume encyclopedia should become a staple in collections at school, public, and academic libraries. Readers of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnic or racial groups will find fascinating material on every page. Key Features Nearly 700 signed articles Almost 50 photographs Complete list of African Americans in sports Halls of Fame Cross-referenced for easy links from one topic to another Reader's guide facilitates easy browsing for relevant articles Clear, accessible writing style appropriate for high school and college students and interested lay readers Comprehensive index and bibliography Topics Covered Concepts and Theories Fine Arts, Theater, and Entertainment Health and Education History and Heritage Literature Media Movements and Events Music and Dance Organizations and Institutions Places Politics and Policy Popular Culture Religion and Beliefs The Road to Freedom Science, Technology, and Business Social Issues Special Populations Sports Advisory Board Sherri L. Barnes, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara W. Maurice Shipley, Ph.D., Ohio State University William H. Wiggins, Jr., Ph.D., Indiana University

omega psi phi ritual: *Zeta Psi Fraternity of North America* , 1997-06-15

omega psi phi ritual: *News About Colored People* Doris Landrum, 2011-07-21 NEWS ABOUT COLORED PEOPLE is an amusing look back to the mid-sixties. It focuses on the lives of three young African American girls during a very special Fourth of July holiday. Doris Marie, Lillian, and Sheritha have been friends since elementary school. Now that they are in junior high with freshman year on the horizon, the girls soon discover that their lives are changing fast. From Doris Marie's self-appointed boyfriend since fifth grade to the trio's obsession with Smokey Robinson, 1967 was indeed a Summer of Love for the girls. This is a story for all ages. It will take you on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Most of the time you find yourself laughing out loud. There will also be moments when you will find a tear forming from some selfless act of kindness. NEWS ABOUT COLORED PEOPLE will surely warm the hearts of its readers.

omega psi phi ritual: Race and Ethnicity in Secret and Exclusive Social Orders Matthew W. Hughey, 2015-04-10 Secret and private organizations, in the form of Greek-letter organizations, mutual aid societies, and civic orders, together possess a storied and often-romanticized place in popular culture. While much has been made of these groups' glamorous origins and influence—such as the Freemasons' genesis in King Solomon's temple or the belief in the Illuminati's control of modern geo-politics—few have explicitly examined the role of race and ethnicity in organizing and perpetuating these cloistered orders. This volume directly addresses the inattention paid to the salience of race in secret societies. Through an examination of the Historically Black and White Fraternities and Sororities, the Ku Klux Klan in the US, the Ekpe and Abakuj secret societies of Africa and the West Indies, Gypsies in the United Kingdom, Black and White Temperance Lodges, and African American Order of the Elks, this book traces the use of racial and ethnic identity in these organizations. This important contribution examines how such orders are both cause and consequence of colonization, segregation, and subjugation, as well as their varied roles as both catalysts and impediments to developing personal excellence, creating fictive kinship ties, and fostering racial uplift, nationalism, and cohesion. This book was originally published as a special issue of Ethnic and Racial Studies.

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