

Election 2004: Time for Greeks to Hit the Polls

by Kevin O'Neill, Associate of Patton Boggs, LLP, and initiate of Lambda Chi Fraternity

Today's Greek students have calendars for everything from their academics to chapter events, intramurals and work schedules. Take your calendar out and open it to Tuesday, November 2, 2004. What's on tap that day? Does your calendar show that it's Election Day and that you need to vote?

This year, all fraternities and sororities are working together in an exciting new program for Greek students nationwide called **GO VOTE 04**. **GO VOTE 04** stands for **G**reeks **O**rganizing **V**oting **O**pportunities **T**ransportation and **E**ducation in **2004**. Your national headquarters has copies of the **GO VOTE 04 booklets** that will help you identify ways to act alone or in concert with your fellow Greeks to be good citizens and get involved in the upcoming elections. The **GO VOTE 04** booklet can help you determine how to register to vote in your state, and help you and your chapter conduct voter registration drives on campus or in the community. The booklet provides links to voting sites on the Internet that focus on issues college students care about and it offers a wealth of ideas for how you can get involved in campaigns at the federal, state or local level.

In 1971, the 26th Amendment was ratified, giving 18-year-olds nationwide the opportunity to vote. Chances are your parents were among the first generation of college students who proudly exercised their right to vote and be involved in the political process. But in recent years, students have become more apathetic and youth voting rates dropped by one-third in the elections held since 1992.

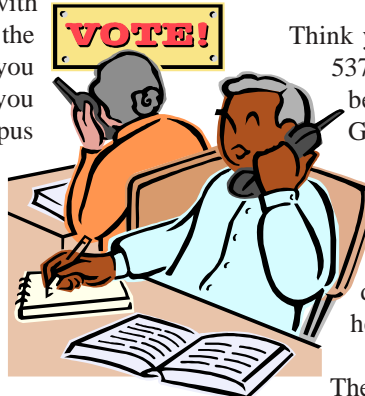
This year can be different, but we need Greek students to use **GO VOTE 04** and get the college community to the polls on Election Day. A recently released Harvard study shows that 62% of all college students plan on voting in this year's elections, a large increase over the 50% of students who voted in 2000.

As American citizens and as Greeks, we have an obligation to improve our communities through daily acts of good citizenship. Voting is the foundation of democracy and the most fundamental act of good citizenship. Now is the time for you to use **GO VOTE 04** to get involved in the November 2 election through three simple steps.

Your first act of good citizenship is to vote on November 2 for the candidates of your choice. Start with registering to vote in your hometown – do it soon so you are ready well in advance of Election

Day. Make an effort to get your friends on campus to register to vote as well. You may also need to make arrangements to vote by absentee ballot if you won't be home on Election Day. Registering to vote is just the first step.

Your second act of good citizenship is to remember that friends don't let friends vote alone. Take some friends with you to the polls on Election Day, especially your fellow fraternity members and campus friends. Americans aged 18 to 25 have the lowest voting participation rate of any demographic age group, and a large number of people who choose to stay home are your friends on campus. You can't have a role in shaping America's future unless you get to the polls in November and cast a vote.



Think your vote doesn't matter? Remember, the 537 vote differential in the 2000 Florida election between Vice President Al Gore and then-Governor George Bush is about the size of some Greek systems combined fall pledge classes at large universities or the size of the entire Greek system at some smaller schools. Your vote, and every other vote, does matter so don't miss an opportunity to help others vote on Election Day.

The third and final step of good citizenship is to educate yourself about the issues and get involved as a volunteer. Your energy and enthusiasm is welcome at any campaign headquarters where there are a number of important roles you can fill. More importantly, the skills you use as a fraternity member everyday – skills such as recruitment, education and chapter management – are all skills that can be key assets to a campaign. Your involvement as a volunteer is another great chance for you to get involved in improving your community and learn some lessons that will serve you well later in life.

Membership in a college fraternity or sorority is a privilege that carries with it a responsibility to improve our campuses and communities in a number of ways. Participate in the American democratic process by educating yourself about the issues, getting involved in the campaign of your choice, and voting for the candidates of your choice while helping others turn out to vote. Your effort, your involvement, **YOUR VOTE**, does make a difference.

Be sure you call your national headquarters to get your **GO VOTE 04** materials and get involved now to make a difference on Election Day.

2004 Risk Management College – Resources and Values

By Duane Wimer

FRMT Ltd, Risk Management Chairman

Dave Westol, Executive Director of Theta Chi Fraternity had attendees buzzing with his 2004 rendition of “Hazing on Trial”.

Dave took us through the events that led to the hazing death of a pledge and the resulting trial. More importantly he took us into the chapter house. Why does hazing happen?



What replaces it? How do we get from hazing to meaningful activity? All of these questions were addressed with clarity.

“That was awesome!”, “Wow!”, “I wish I could do that at one of my chapters”, were just a few of the comments afterwards. Fortunately attendees will be able to bring Dave’s passion, wit, and wisdom to their respective chapters since each College participant will receive a DVD and facilitation guide for the session.

“The Risk Management College has become a key component of our annual staff training efforts,” said Jim Russell, Executive Vice President of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. “I like the resources for consultants on the road.”

The College was designed to promote a “higher bar” and strong base level of programming among its members. In 2004, it has grown from a program for FRMT, Ltd. Members to an event with 200+ attendees including 61 from 22 guest organizations. Resources were provided for every session that can be used locally with undergraduate chapters, at regional conferences, and other venues. Examples of resources cited by participants as particularly useful included:

- “The Ladder of Risk” – This session presented by Dr. Lori Hart Ebert, Director of Alcohol Education for Pi Kappa Phi and Campuspeak, Inc. delved into the F.I.P.G. Risk Management policies in a fun and thought provoking manner.

- “Back to Basics” – Dr. Lori Hart Ebert and Rich Jungman, Manager – Client Services & Claims HRH/Kirklin & Company and member of Phi Sigma Kappa led this resource filled session. The old saying “if you haven’t told them lately you haven’t

told them” was driven home here. Frequency and timing of the message are vital to any meaningful risk reduction strategy.

- “Alcohol Skills Training Program” – Jason Kilmer, Ph.D. spent an entire day with those attending this accredited program. The session provided attending professional staff a knowledge base and specific tools to better prepare for and deal with questions of alcohol abuse while “on the road”.

Other topics included dealing with the media, fire sprinkler safety, litigation management, and current insurance market conditions, just to name a few.

Much of the program provided resources on “how do we reduce risk”. As anyone working with students knows, just as important is the question “why”?

The College dealt with the “why”, as well. Fortunately the answer to why is easy to find. We look to our Creeds and our Rituals. We extract the core values and purpose of our founders. These concepts are very powerful with our members and it is important to bring our core values into focus at every opportunity. This helps our members “raise the bar” and self-govern behavior!

We must also give our young leaders the training and tools to comfortably lead from a core set of values as a consistent part of chapter operations. Ginny Carroll, President of inGiNuity & Dr. Lori Hart Ebert led a wonderful break-out session entitled “Values Based Confrontation”. Durward Owen, Past Executive of Pi Kappa Phi & Past President of FEA, and Southern Gentleman extraordinaire led “Values: Building Blocks of Good Behavior”. Lessons learned include:

- Working from a set of values clarifies and speeds decision making.
- Questions like “What are you doing that reflects a commitment to the values and purpose espoused in our ritual?” are sure-fire conversation starters.

We appreciate the 2004 FRMT Risk Management College attendees’ efforts to improve their skills and thank them for their service to their respective organizations and the Greek community.

“Hazing on Trial” Educational DVD Available

by Richard Jungman - Manager - Client Services & Claims & Initiate of Phi Sigma Kappa

Dave Westol’s presentation “Hazing on Trial” has been an integral part of the curriculum of the FRMT Risk Management College for a number of years and has always been one of the most popular sessions. Fraternity and sorority staff commented about their desire to replicate the presentation at the local level where it would have the most impact. With that in mind, FRMT made the decision to develop presentations on DVD to assist chapter advisors and involved alumnus introduces simple risk management strategies to local undergraduate chapters. The first part of this series is “Hazing on Trial”.

For those of you who have not seen it, Dave, Executive Director of Theta Chi, does an outstanding job of keeping the attention of his audience with his wit and wisdom while still having an impact to encourage change in chapters engaged in hazing “traditions”. In the video, Dave will take you through the events leading to the hazing death of a pledge. He does this by taking you inside the chapter house and introducing you to the players involved in the incident. The next step is clarifying why hazing happens and, most importantly, what replaces it.

To order a copy of the DVD, you can download an order form at www.kirklin.com or send a written request with a check made payable to HRH/Kirklin & Co. in the amount of \$12.00 for each DVD ordered to:

HRH/Kirklin & Co., LLC
Amber Scardina
PO Box 540673
Omaha, NE 68154

Please provide the following information to ensure timely delivery:

Name of Organization
Contact Name and Mailing Address
Telephone Number and E-mail Address
Number of DVDs Requested

As the timing of risk management messages is critical, FRMT recommends it is presented prior to the commencement of pre-initiation education programs each semester. For convenience and to ensure it is always available, the facilitator’s guide is included on the DVD as stop and go sections throughout the video.

In Memory of My Beloved Son, Chuck Stenzel

by Eileen Stevens, retired founder of C.H.U.C.K.

On the 25th anniversary of my son Chuck's death, I want to tell you about him.

Everyone knows the sad circumstances—that he died needlessly in a fraternity hazing gone awry at Alfred University all those years ago. That alcohol poisoning and exposure to the cold killed him while locked in a car trunk with two others—for only God knows how long.

We know the story was reported countless times—as our family waited and waited for our questions to be answered. We waited as an anti-hazing law was introduced—but it kept getting stuck in committees despite enormous support—and it was finally vetoed by New York's then Governor Carey.

The bill was reintroduced—and finally passed—and though Chuck's story was being told and retold, we [his family] were coming to the realization that our questions would never be answered.

But, no one wrote about, or knew about the kid who was an altar boy for four years. No one knew the boy who delivered newspapers at 5 a.m.—then rode his bike to school. How he saved for an old Ford pick-up truck—made money clamming in Long Island's Great South Bay—in a clam boat he rebuilt himself. He also worked in Foshis's Gas Station in Sayville.

Chuck was an industrious young man—who seemed to make the honor roll—and yet find the time to play basketball, baseball and hockey with his kid brothers. He shoveled snow for neighbors—without pay—and dropped extra clams off to people as well (I never knew this until after he died).

Chuck had a sharp and classic wit and there was always a smile on his face. He lit up a room when he entered. His kid sister was the light of his life. Suzanne was 12 when he left us—and like all of his family and friends, she was devastated and brokenhearted.

How Chuck would love the seven nieces and nephews he will never know—Oh—but they know him!

Uncle Chuck is talked about a lot!—and he is remembered in their prayers each night. Two are his namesakes—both named Charles—one called Chuck—and one Chad. And his best friend from Sayville, Jim, named his son Cody-Charles.

My son Scott drives for UPS and still, to this day meets people who knew Chuck and who share stories about him.

If one kid knows about hazing because of Chuck, then he did not die in vain. He was an ordinary—yet extraordinary young man. He touched many lives though his own was cut short.

Chuck wanted to teach—he would have been a wonderful teacher!! He had a thirst for knowledge—and he had so many plans.

Sadly, cruelly, his plans—his dreams were shattered because he chose to join Klan Alpine—a now unrecognized fraternity at Alfred.

I consider myself blessed to have been a part of the efforts to eliminate hazing. Many states [43 as of 2003] have outlawed hazing. Programs are in place to raise awareness, educate and deter the dangerous practice that was ignored—even accepted—for too long. I only wish I could say we have it under control.

That, sadly, is not the case—but, I say to those that fight the fight—God Speed—and because of you I have hope and the comfort that Chuck did not die in vain.

On February 24—we will have a quiet family gathering. My son Steven will light a candle in the church near his NYC apartment where my parents were married. A family friend Father Bill Logan will offer a mass. My grandchildren will visit Chuck's grave—we will be thankful for each other—and reflect—and the day will pass.

But our hearts will be heavy and ache for the young promising life that was lost without warning. The blonde, blue-eyed strapping boy,—who will forever be 20—is gone but will always be in our hearts.

Please know I will be forever grateful to all of you who strive to make our campuses safer. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eileen Stevens
(Source: http://www.stophazing.org/fraternity_hazing/eileen-chuck-25years.htm)

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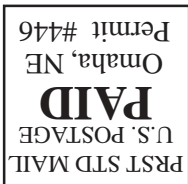
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THE CARE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK

By Jason Kilmer, Ph.D.

When people party with their friends on campus, many students are generally responsible about their alcohol use and problems do not develop for them. However, some students may get very drunk, and an alcohol-related emergency can arise.

Here are some basic actions you can follow in a situation where someone is drunk:

- Stay calm and don't communicate any feelings of anxiety.
- Before approaching or touching the person, explain what you intend to do in a direct and reassuring manner.
- Keep the person still and comfortable. Don't let them walk or drive unattended.
- Do not administer any food, drink, or medication, including aspirin or vitamins, which may cause stomach distress.
- Check for signs of trouble including irregular breathing or weak pulse.
- Do not let the person sleep on his or her back. Vomiting in this position can cause suffocation or serious infections. Place



the person on their side with one arm extended above the head. Place a pillow behind the back or prop them against a wall.

- Be prepared to give artificial respiration if breathing stops.
- Remember that only time will help to sober up a person who is intoxicated. Walking, exercise, black coffee, and a cold shower will not help. The best remedy is time, resting, and nursing a tender stomach.
- Continue to check breathing and pulse rate for at least two hours until the person is out of danger.
- Don't hesitate to call for help if:
 - the person is unconscious or has trouble breathing
 - the person becomes violent
 - you suspect that alcohol has been combined with other drugs.

When you call for help: Identify yourself, state clearly that you need help, and give the exact location.

The following information was compiled from materials provided by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs at the University of South Carolina and the Addictive Behaviors Research Center at the University of Washington.