

DTaylor memories: 1960s' Secret Society

Beth - The mobile diners were tractor trailers converted - one was called Haven Brothers and the other Mike's Diner. We gave it the name of Cafe Michele. Both were known for franks and beans. Not much in the way of good eating in Brown in those days. Almost no foodservice on the Hill. DT

-----Original Message-----

From: Taylor, Elizabeth <elizabeth_taylor@brown.edu>

To: staylor431 <staylor431@aol.com>

Sent: Fri, Feb 28, 2014 9:39 am

Subject: Re: Owl and Ring and Chain and Mace

This is wonderful, David! Send more memories! And: May I place it in your file in the vets archive? Beth

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, <staylor431@aol.com> wrote:

You have sort of dredged up things I had forgotten about, but I wonder if these organizations still exist. I belonged to one "Owl and Ring". We secretly referred to ourselves as "Hooters" and had a little code when you saw one of your fellow associates and gave them a little cooing sound like an owl might make. Both were allegedly secret societies that had been around for over 100 years so we were told although I think the history was not written and there were no buildings that were owned. We gathered once a week in the outskirts of Providence usually in a bar and did God knows what. Things like setting glasses of brandy of fire and pour flaming hookers down ones throat. Pretty mature stuff. For induction we were essentially kidnapped and blindfolded and taken to the "Elysian Fields" after having been plied with a significant amount of liquor and harrassed. We were further humiliated and finally inducted into the organization. We wore purple hooded robes and were pretty scary, mostly to ourselves. i recall having been detained one evening, once again by police one the way home from a meeting. Fortunately I did not have a car and was not driving but was merely a passenger. The evening usually ended at 2 PM down by the big hotel in one of the mobile diners. Strange things with everyone with their purple robes. One night someone jumped off the garage rood and put their foot and leg through the Haven Bros. mobile diner. Peter Voss 1967 (now a Fellow of the University) was an Owl and Ring (O and R). Of you have any interest, check with him to verify my story and see if the organizations still exist. I would suspect it would be like Tailhook Conventions in the US Navy. Those days are gone. So much for history. Those selected to the organizations usually had some sort of reputation at the University, usually not for academics, but some sort of a bad boy aura.

David T