

Title - ????

▪ Title: F
▪ Introduction: B-
▪ Purpose & Objectives: A
▪ Methodology: B
▪ Results: B+
▪ Discussion/Conclusions/Recommendations: A-
▪ Quality of Writing: C-
▪ Instrumentation: A+
Overall Grade: 80%

NAMES REMOVED TO PRESENRE ANANONYMITY

Introduction

If you visit any university or college campus you will see that there is some form of a spirit organization. At Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas the oldest spirit organization in Texas can be found. The original spirit organization was known as the Ten Tarleton Peppers (TTP) and Ten Tarleton Sisters (TTS). These spirit organizations for men and women formed in 1921 and 1923 respectively. The identity of the members where kept a secret until their senior year when they were revealed in the yearbooks. The TTS and TTP are the predecessors for the modern day Purple Poo. The Purple Poo like the TTS and TTP are still a secret spirit organization.

The Purple Poo are still very secretive to this day. They only allow twenty active members at any given time, ten guys and ten girls, whose identity remains a secret until they graduate from Tarleton State University. The Purple Poo disguise how they walk and talk. They dress in an assortment of clothes topped off with a mask and a big purple robe bearing the letters TTS or TTP in order to keep their identity a secret.

One of, if not the most important job of the Purple Poo is to raise the spirit of "Oscar P." Oscar P. was John Tarleton's, founder of Tarleton State University, pet duck. Oscar P. went everywhere with John Tarleton. It is rumored that Oscar P. is buried somewhere on campus, **whish** is why students are not allowed to walk on the grass. The Purple Poo are part of a very rich and deep history at Tarleton State University. **Introduction does not effectively set-up why the study should be conducted, nor does it provide importance for collegiate spirit groups.**

Objectives – **GOOD JOB!**

The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of Tarleton State University student body of the Purple Poo. The objectives of the study were to:

1. Determine the demographic characteristics of Tarleton State University student body;
2. Determine the student body's perception of the Purple Poo visibility around campus and sporting events; and
3. Determine the how effective the Purple Poo are at disguising themselves to keep their true identity a secret.

Methodology

This descriptive study used as its population the student body of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas (N=7589). The suggested sample size for a population of this size according to Krejcie and Morgan (1970) is 367. **What was your response rate?**

The survey was created using a four-point Likert scale (1= Strongly Agree to 4=Strongly Disagree). It was developed in a program called WebSurveyor so that it would be easy to send out through email. The survey consisted of ten questions covering the many aspects of the Purple Poo and their role as a secret spirit organization. The validity was tested by a panel of Graduate Students at Tarleton State University. The reliability of the sample survey scored a Cronbach's Alpha score of .621. After taking into consideration the suggestions of the panel of Graduate students' questions were modified before sending the final survey out to the student body. **What was the alpha after the modifications?**

The survey was sent to the student body through a link in an email. The survey was sent out on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 and were due Monday, October 24, 2005. Once the student submitted the survey the results were analyzed in the WebSurveyor program. Once all the data had been collected a statistical software program for Windows, SPSS was used to analyze the responses.

Results

The Purple Poo is a well known organization on campus. Students are taught about the Purple Poo from the moment they arrive at Tarleton. Of the people surveyed 33% of the returned surveys were from males while the remaining 67% were females. Also of those returned 32.2% were freshman, 22.3 % were sophomores, 18.4% being juniors, 21.5% of them were seniors, and the remaining 5.6% being graduate students. All of these students are attending Tarleton State University.

The following table summarizes the student body perceptions of the Purple Poo. Table 1 represents a different question asked by the survey.

Table 1: Mean and SD of each question on survey (n=1114)

Survey Question	Mean	Standard Deviation
The Purple Poo do a good job raising the spirit of Oscar P.	1.59	.811
The Purple Poo are seen around campus a lot.	2.15	.885
The Purple Poo are friendly to people on campus.	1.67	.801
The Purple Poo are within good standing of the University.	1.69	.828
The Purple Poo are seen at all sporting events.	1.55	.769
The Purple Poo cover themselves so you cannot tell their true identity.	1.44	.707
The Purple Poo do a good job disguising themselves (walking & talking).	1.55	.763
The Purple Poo represent the school well.	1.69	.874
There are more than 4 Purple Poo seen at one time around campus or at Tarleton sponsored events.	1.97	.852
The Purple Poo are seen more at the first of the semester than at the end of the school semester.	2.17	.776

Table 1 summarizes the student body's perception of the Purple Poo. **Describe** in the table are the mean and standard deviation for each question on the survey. From the responses it was discovered that 89.8% of the student body who responded agreed or strongly agreed that the Purple Poo do a good job of raising the spirit of Oscar P. For the question concerning the Purple Poo being seen at all sporting events 95.8% **disagree** with the statement. From the responses it was discovered that the student body feel that the Purple Poo do a good job of disguising themselves in the way they dress, walk and talk to keep their true identity a secret (93.1%). Only 85.8% agreed that the Purple Poo represent the school well. The students **disagreed** (95.5%) with the question that stated more than four Purple Poo are seen at one time around campus or Tarleton sponsored events.

Conclusions/ Recommendations

The responses from the Purple Poo survey ranged in age and classification which represented a good portion of Tarleton's student body. Of the responses, 33% were male and 67% female. A majority of the responses were from underclassmen, freshmen and sophomores (54.5%).

Tarleton's student body feels that the Purple Poo represent the school well and do a good job of raising the spirit of Oscar P. According to the responses they also Strongly Agree (48.6%) or Agree (39.3%) that they Purple Poo cover their bodies up in clothing and disguise they way they walk and talk so that their true identity cannot be revealed to other students on campus who are not in the organization.

There are areas that they feel the Purple Poo could improve such as staying active until the end of the school semester and not dying out. **NOT TRUE** They also feel they could have more people out in mask at one time. The student body feels like the Purple Poo do not send out that many people when they go out.

The survey was also submitted during homecoming week in which the Purple Poo are very active on campus and more of the active members tend to go out in mask. However, the student body feels that they do excellent jobs in some areas. All in all it seems that the Purple Poo are doing a good job at what their purpose is on campus. Even though there are a few small areas that could be improved the student body is pleased with their actions and is proud that they represent the school.

Our recommendations are to repeat the study at a time other than Tarleton State University's Homecoming. We also recommend sharing this information with the Purple Poo so that they might improve the areas that the student body thinks they are lacking. **Does the student body really believe them to be lacking according to the questions you asked?**