

Dear Seeker,

In the coming weeks before orientation, and in the coming years at the University of Chicago, you will likely witness some strange happenings. We would like to invite you to participate in this strangeness with us. We are P.S., a “so-called” secret society that has existed in various forms at the University since 1896. Unlike other secret societies, however, we are constantly reinventing our organization to avoid entrenched hierarchies and power dynamics. Sometimes this involves methods that are quite unconventional.

We can’t tell you everything we know until the time is right. But we *can* tell you now that there are places on campus that feel different, places filled with unusual objects and strange feelings. We protect these places, this Room. It has appeared every 11 years since 1896. 2017 is its 121st birthday. Ordinarily we would rely on our traditional Initiation process, but we are preparing for a major event and need your help. Our time as a collective organization may be coming to an end, unless we can reinvent ourselves once again. You, and others like you, are the key to that transformation.

Many of your comrades have already started to help us put our plan in motion—in one way or another—but you have a unique role to play. We ask that you keep this invitation to yourself for now, though you are welcome to take part in any other way you see fit. If you would like to accept our invitation, and move on to the next phase of seeker-hood, please write back to the following email address: p.s.parasite@gmail.com

We will also accept ordinary mail sent to the address on the outside envelope. Along with your acceptance, please note any personal information you deem relevant (examples from previous member applications include your ideal dinosaur, directions for turning yourself into a craft project, or a manifesto for running international kindergarten programs). In your message, please include a code-phrase that we can use to signal you in public communications. Make it something you will recognize, but a word that can be woven into ordinary conversation.

If you choose to join us, we can promise you knowledge, excitement, chaos, and all the benefits of membership in the society that practically built the University. If you choose not to now, we cannot guarantee another such invitation.

Signed,

P.S. Write back with our 11 favorite songs, and your 11 favorite songs.