

# VIEWPOINT

## Black Fraternity members speak on Greek life

By **DEBRA HARRIS**  
Staff Writer

"I would like to see the Black Greeks on this campus come together and strive for the same goal — the betterment of mankind," said Bert Piggott, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

This seems to be the goal of all the predominantly Black fraternities and sororities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There are six of these organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The Black Greek organizations at UNC participate in many projects both on and off the university campus. They lend helping hands to the young and to the senior citizens, to students and to families.

Their projects include tutoring secondary school students and visiting day care centers and rest homes. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity has participated in blood drives and helped needy families with holiday meals.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity sponsors a scholarship as one of its projects, and an annual canned food drive for the needy families is one of projects of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

The members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority donated blankets to migrant workers as one of their projects. This project was coordinated through the Campus-Y. Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority organized a carnival for children at the Hargraves Community Center and the sisters of Zeta Phi Beta sorority made weekly visits to a nursing home.

Most of the organizations also make contributions to organizations such as the Na-

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Negro College Fund, as well as diabetes and sickle-cell anemia and heart funds.

Although Black Greeks perform these services for the community, many people outside the organizations do not see this side. All many people see the Greek as, is a party-giver.

Black Greeks are thought of as "socially minded and getting high," said Phillip Woods, a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He also said, "Non-Greeks don't know about many of the service and academic-related activities."

Stella Jones, a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, agreed with Woods that "most see us as more socially oriented than we really are."

Yet, others see black Greeks as prestigious organizations. David Dickerson, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity said, "There is a lot of prestige involv-

ed . . . that's why a lot of people pledge.

Rita Brackeen, now a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, said when she was a freshman she "looked up at Greeks as 'those people.'" She thought of them as an elite group.

But, Sandra Wilson, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority summed up the organization. She said that Greek organizations "give Blacks a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood — forming black unity."

Although the members of these organizations are from different backgrounds, they have found through their sorority or fraternity, people who have goals and interests similar to their own.

One interest that they all appear to have is summed up by Woods. He describes Black Greeks as "meeting the needs" of Black people.

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