

BLACK SORORITIES STRENGTHEN BONDS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

By Mona Blackwell

Black sororities have often been scorned as irrelevant organizations. Many misinformed critics have tried to stress that sororities and social fellowships are only synonymous with socializing.

"Not so!"

On our campus, although they are divided into social fellowships, service sororities, and four national sororities, they all focus their skills on one common goal — serving the Black community. Most of the sororities feel the same way about their national projects. The involvement of sororities in large-scale national projects reflects, of course, the strong dedication of their members. Therefore, while many sororities have collectively aimed at effecting improvements in the community, they also stress personal achievement in their members.

Despite the dedication of their members, sororities are facing one common problem — the number of young Black women joining organizations has declined. Many say they would rather effect change as individuals than by working through an organization. Also, lack of publicity of constructive sorority activities causes many non-sorors to question their usefulness. Yet, current sorority membership remains rather stable.

As college-oriented organizations, sororities continue to organize many young women to utilize their skills as a group; and their endless service projects contribute increasingly and significantly to the total Black community.

A recently founded (1969-70 school year) service sorority, Tau Phi Theta, is now in the process of establishing a "Big Brother-Big Sister" program with the children in the community between the ages of 8-12 years. This is in conjunction with Experiment in Self-Reliance. The Thetas assist in any community project that deals with the Black community. Their purpose is to uphold the Black community by helping them to help themselves, and to help Blacks to work toward the betterment of their race academically, socially, and civically.

Miss Black North Carolina and her first runner-up were both members of Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Incorporated. The Swings also had a sister who was the first runner-up in the Miss Black America Pageant. Founded April 13, 1969 at Winston-Salem State University, the members of the WSSU Chapter are the national founders of the fellowship. Swing Phi Swing now has fourteen other chapters on various campuses. The main objectives of Swing Phi Swing are to establish Black awareness among the people, to participate in school activities, and to serve as a sisterhood to Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Incorporated. Although Swing is relatively "young" (approximately three years old) they are well established within and outside of North Carolina. The WSSU chapter is drafting new projects to help the Black community.

The members of Gamma Sigma Sigma Service Sorority, along with their sorors at Fayetteville State University are presently working with the Sickle Cell Anemia program. Other projects are in

the making. The founding day for Gamma Sigma Sigma was October 12, 1952. The sorority's main objective is service. It gives the members the opportunity to serve the school, local community and the nation. Some of the past projects of Gamma Sigma Sigma were — helping at the convalescence homes, the SGA elections and the campaign for Shirley Chisholm.

Since 1908 when the first Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, was founded, sororities have given over a million dollars in scholarships to Black youth to encourage higher education. The sorors encourage their chapters to include cultural enrichment programs along with their service-oriented projects.

Nationally, the AKA's have established a Job Corps Center for Women in Cleveland, Ohio. The center houses 16-to-23 year old dropouts from poverty areas. AKA offers 36 domestic travel grants for high school seniors, other scholarships for students attending vocational schools or two year colleges and full four year scholarships to a few qualified students for their tuition and board.

Sigma Gamma Rho, founded in 1922 shares the enthusiasm generated by the national chapter. The Kappa Sigma chapter had a jazz-folk opera at Lincoln Center to raise funds for both the Vocational guidance and Workshop Center of Rockland State Hospital and research on sickle cell anemia at Howard University.

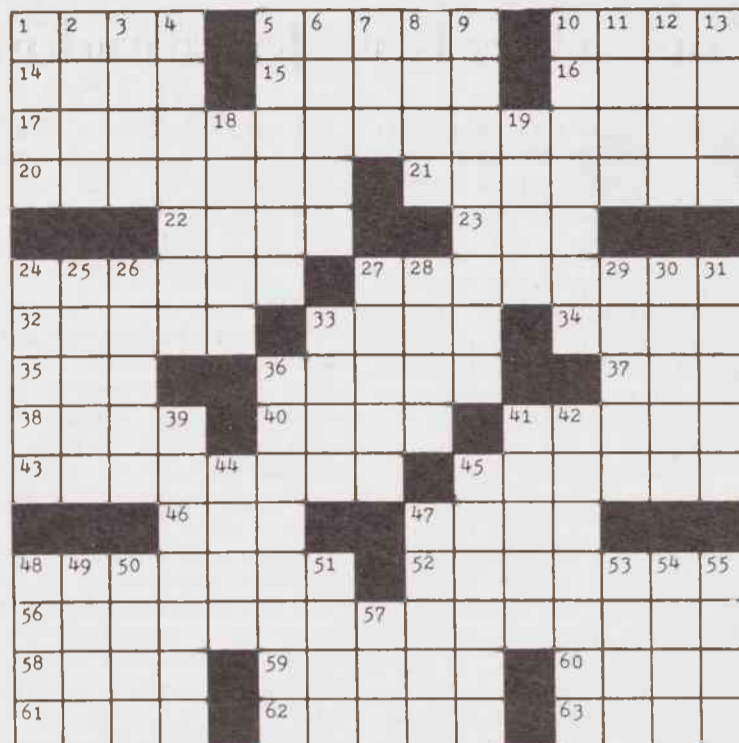
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913. Delta's five-point program (concerning educational development, community and international involvement, urban development, and mental health) is an example of the depth of sorority commitment. Delta's National President, Mrs. Lillian P. Benbow, announced at the national convention in August 1971 that sorors from chapters throughout the country would act as volunteer counselors in the program in conjunction with the Departments of Justice and Labor who are sponsoring an 18 month prison rehabilitation program. Delta also has a national "Teen Lift" program which encourages teenagers to seek higher education and cultural enrichment. Among the sorors of Delta Sigma Theta are Shirley Chisholm and Pat Harris, a former ambassador and presently Chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Democratic Party.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920. Maintaining the traditional goals of service and dedication, Zeta is involved in many child care projects including foster homes, family adoption plans, youth interest groups and birth control. The national grad chapters are currently sponsoring a program called "ZIP" (Zeta Involvement Program) with the National Foundation of the March of Dimes. The emphasis in the program is on reducing birth defects. In addition to ZIP, Zeta's local chapters are busy developing their national foster care programs.

Zeta Phi Beta was the first sorority to charter a chapter in Africa. The Zeta Chapter in Africa has set up a vocational school for delinquent and homeless boys and a vocational school for women.

These projects are only capsule examples of the type of services that sororities are contributing nationally.

TARGUM CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By EDWARD JULIUS

ACROSS

1. Philanderer
5. Musical Piece
10. Miss Didrikson
14. Assert
15. Follow
16. Body of Troops
17. Al Capp Creation
20. Flexible
21. Conceit
22. Support
23. Sick
24. Moves Slowly
27. West Coast Trolley
32. French Name
33. Revolve Rapidly
34. Equivalent
35. Outer Comb. Form
36. Famous Puppet
37. Call for Help
38. Language Group
40. Playwright Simon
41. Prefix: Father
43. Musical Play
45. Tip Sideways
46. Anglo-Saxon Letter
47. Operatic Solo
48. Sea Cow
52. Raincoats
56. Minnie's Boys
58. Glacial Snow
59. Novelist Sinclair
60. Tidy
61. Asterisk
62. Parts of Speech
63. Building Wings

DOWN

1. Insect
2. Egg-shaped
3. Mother of Helen
4. Flying Saucer
5. Moral Philosophy
6. Field of Sports
7. Labor Union
8. Water-controller
9. Qualified
10. Hurries About
11. Caucasian Language
12. Partiality
13. Word Source (abbr.)
18. Day's March
19. Cromwell's Nickname
24. Belief
25. Summarize
26. Between Pr.
27. Hairlike Projections
28. Seed Covering
29. Hindu Group
30. Love in Italy
31. Tree Substance
33. Fruit Decay
36. In Retreat (3 wds.)
39. Visionary
41. Apply Cosmetics
42. Mythological Spider
44. Girl's Name
45. Sings Like Crosby
47. Front Part of Stage
48. High Landmasses (abbr.)
49. Egyptian Month
50. Leningrad's River
51. Ron Hunt, e.g.
53. Follow Closely
54. Of the Mouth
55. High-speed Planes
57. Heat Measure

Science Club Meets, Elects New Officers

The WSSU Science Club recently held its first meeting of the 1972-73 school year. A number of topics were discussed and election of officers was held. New officers are Lerla Joseph, president; Beverly Kemp, vice president; Rosilyn Tyson, secretary; Sandra Brown, treasurer; Philemon Samuels, parliamentarian; and Horace Britton, reporter and photographer.

Representatives attended a meeting of the North Carolina Collegiate Academy of Science held in Charlotte on October 21 at Queens College.

Our representatives met members of other schools' science clubs and ideas were readily exchanged. We felt that this

exchange of ideas was helpful in starting new science projects at WSSU.

We, the members and officers would like to encourage all persons who have a genuine interest in the natural sciences to participate in our program.

—Horace B. Britton

CURRENT BOOKS

1. *Black/White Sex*, by Grace Halsell. William & Morrow Company Inc. \$5.95.
2. *Black Jargon In White America*, by David Claerhout. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. \$1.95.
3. *The Origins of American Slavery and Racism*, edited by Donald L. Noel. Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co. \$3.95.
4. *Names from Africa: Their Origin, Meaning and Pronunciation*, by Ogonna Chukorji. Johnson Publishing Co. \$4.95.