

● MONITOR Microscope ●



A Close-Up Look At Black Community-Building Efforts

AKA to Assess Status of Black Women in Corporate America

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has embarked upon an ambitious project designed to gauge the degree to which Black women are included on corporate boards and in high level management positions in major consumer-oriented corporations, announced Faye B. Bryant, national president.

The project is being done in alliance with other Black organizations including the Greek-letter organizations, National Urban League, NAACP, Operation PUSH, National Council of Negro Women and their affiliates and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Declared the president of the 75,000-member sorority, "Our organization, allied with other Black organizations, is vitally concerned about the lack of inclusion of Black women on corporate boards and in high-level management positions, and the general lack of responsiveness of major corporations to requests of Black consumers and organizations."

The survey covers a wide range of Black-related issues. The questions require corporations to identify the number of Black women on the board of directors, in top management positions and in middle and lower-level management positions. The questionnaire also asks corporations to pinpoint programs designed to create upward mobility opportunities for Black women.

Other questions revolve around the degree to which the corporations advertise in Black-owned media and whether Blacks are utilized in advertisements.

The corporate commitment regarding purchasing insurance through Black-owned companies and utilizing Black-owned professional service companies,



Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity from across the nation converged on Chicago, Illinois to participate in the dedication ceremonies for Alpha Tower Apartments. General President Ozell Sutton (center) handled the ribbon-cutting honors, flanked by Immediate Past General President James R. Williams (left front) and Chicago Alderman Timothy C. Evans (right front). Also pictured are members of the boards of directors of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Building Foundation, Inc.

as well as the extent of corporate giving and research grant giving to Black institutions are also covered in this survey.

"Our task is to raise the consciousness of Corporate America to a variety of concerns that have an impact on Black women in particular and Black America in general," emphasized Ms. Bryant. "Through the results we will be able to assess the severity of the schism between Black women, Black America and Corporate America and move ultimately to remedy these problems."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization established by and for Black women. In existence since 1908, AKA boasts a membership that includes 75,000 college-trained women in the United States and abroad. It is involved in a host of consciousness-raising initiatives. Compiling such a survey underscores their commitment to grapple with issues that directly affect Black Americans.

Alpha Tower Apartments Dedicated

Since the early 60's, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has been committed to lending the resources of its members in the effort to provide decent and affordable housing to those in need. Projects in St. Louis, Missouri, Toledo, Ohio and Akron, Ohio offer more than 2,000 units of housing to low-to-moderate income residents in those areas. The recent dedication ceremonies for the Alpha Tower Apartments, 936 East 47th Street, Chicago, Illinois marked a new direction for the fraternity.

The 18-story, 149-unit "Alpha Tower" is the first project under the total sponsoring of the national fraternity; the other Alpha projects involved the local chapters.

The project is financed by a guaranteed HUD mortgage under Sec-

tion 202 of the National Housing Act. Erwin A. France, then of Palmer, France, Green and King, Ltd., served as general consultant for the development and Lawrence E. Goosby of Goosby & Associates serves as project attorney; both are members of the fraternity. The design architect (another member of the fraternity), William T. Wallace of Environment Seven, Ltd., has insured that the building meet the highest standards for apartment buildings currently applicable. This 18-story structure consists of 128 standard one-bedroom apartments and 13 one-bedroom units designed and equipped for the handicapped; with 6 standard two-bedroom units and 2 two-bedroom apartments for the handicapped.

Founded December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the oldest and largest of the predominantly Black Greek-letter college fraternities. The seven Black students who founded the organization encountered many of the problems of racism and discrimination and they united, in the words of Founder Henry A. Callis, for "social purpose and social action." To date, Alpha Phi Alpha has initiated more than 75,000 members and established 650 chapters in 45 states, Africa, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Kappas Declare: Civil Rights Director Insensitive Toward Blacks and Minorities

The Grand Board of Directors of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. has forwarded to President Ronald Reagan a resolution regarding the misrepresentative statements made toward Blacks by Linda Chavez, director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, according to Grand Polemarch Robert L. Gordon.

Ms. Chavez, the staff director of the
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