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Kappa Alpha Psi working to advance black students

By Susie Reitz

"The main purpose of Kappa Alpha Psi is to strengthen and build a strong foundation of recognition for black students on campus, scholastically and academically," said Charlester Williams, secretary of UNL's black student fraternity.

Kappa Alpha Psi has been on the UNL campus for 58 years and is a national fraternity with chapters throughout the United States. The fraternity was founded in 1911 at Indiana University, said Williams, and is the largest black fraternity in the nation.

"Our chapter has been active in most of the black student activities and has been the originator of many advancements for black students on this campus," he said.

Up against pressure

"Black students here are up against a lot of pressure. They have pressure in classrooms and have no outlet socially. Blacks are outnumbered about one to 100 and it is the intent of our organization to make students on campus aware of blacks," Williams said.

According to *Jet*, a black news magazine, UNL is one of ten schools in the United States that black students should not attend, Williams noted.

"Our organization has provided leadership for most of the black student efforts on campus," he said. "Kappas were the organizers of the Afro-American Collegiate Society (AACS) and the Blacks of African Descent (BAD)."

"As a fraternity, with all the implications of the name fraternity on this campus, Kappas felt they could not be a political voice to the administration but felt that a voice was needed, so they formed the AACS."

"To increase cultural awareness for blacks on campus, Kappa Alpha Psi members formed BAD in 1970 to spread black culture on campus and throughout the community," Williams explained.

Providing leadership

He said that Kappa Alpha Psi has provided much of the leadership for AACS and BAD and noted that the current president of AACS, Mark Anderson, and of BAD, Al Stansbury, are members of the fraternity.

Kappa Alpha Psi members worked with the UNL administration to develop the Culture Center in 1972. Advising and recruiting efforts geared toward blacks have also been improved through their efforts, Williams said.

He said Kappa Alpha Psi chapters throughout the country are facing the problem of "making colleges like NU aware of the black student and his needs."

The fraternity has a pledge program, like other social fraternities, but pledges twice a year, Williams said.

"The organization has no fraternity house, he said, explaining "black students do not have the financial backing of most fraternities and, although a house would be good, Kappa Alpha Psi has interests it considers more important than getting a house."

Bettering relations

We are also interested in bettering relations with the Lincoln community and in maintaining a connection with black and nonblack environments, customs and lifestyles," Williams said.

This interest is one of the concepts behind the Kappa Alpha Psi spring 1975 "Karnival" project. The organization is interested in "encouraging the youth of Lincoln to develop their potential" and in "providing an opportunity for the Lincoln community to work with an organized black college student organization," Williams said.

The Karnival will be April 12 from noon to 8 p.m. at the UNI recreation field at 19th and Vine, and will include races, contests, games, speakers, displays, food sales and a live band.

"One thing black students lack at UNL are blacks in faculty and staff position whom we can see as models."

"A black student who might want to be a professor in philosophy for instance, has no black philosophy professor with whom he can talk and decide if that life style would fit his personal life style as a black man," Williams said.

"Our fraternity wants to provide a base for black students on campus to get involved and change the system to be more responsive to their needs. Blacks have a real struggle and our fraternity has higher goals than just having parties and social activities," Williams said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Charlester Williams, secretary of UNL's black student fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi.

calendar

Friday

12:15 p.m.—Dean Larsen - Luncheon - Nebraska Union Pewter Room

12:30 p.m.—Placement - Luncheon - Union 203

1 p.m.—College of Architecture - Luncheon - Union 242

1:30 p.m.—American Pharmaceutical Association - Union Auditorium

3 p.m.—Exxon Foundation - Piaget Program - Union 203

3:30 p.m.—Jazz and Java - Union South Crib

6 p.m.—Chi Phi-Alfa Delta Pi Dance Marathon - Union Ballroom

7:30 p.m.—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship - Union 202

8 p.m.—Quartetto Caecilia di Roma - Sheldon Art Gallery

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