

Rupert Murdoch
Owner - *New York Post*
News Corp.
121 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-8790

Dear Mr. Murdoch:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is outraged over the cartoon in the Wednesday, February 18, 2009 edition of the *New York Post*. We join the chorus of individuals and organizations from all over the world offended by this caricature of President Obama as a primate. The depiction of police firing their gun at him with smoke coming out of the gun's chamber is a brutal image and has the potential of stoking the embers of violence from among those in our society who are fragile and harbor thoughts of inflicting harm on our president. When framed against this reality, the cartoon takes on disturbing dimensions.

The imagery and the coded stereotypes are from a bygone era and have no place in this era, when the country is uniting to grapple with urgent challenges and burning crises. In electing an African American to be president, the country sent a message of unity and maturity that are missing from this brazen cartoon. Rational thinking and a sense of unity are now the prevailing images, and cartoons like that one have no place in the public forum.

The insensitivity that prompted the editors to allow this "cartoon" to find its way onto the editorial pages is disturbing and irresponsible. Continuing to depict this insult as a "harmless parody" is to minimize its sinister symbolism.

Your dismissing Rev. Sharpton's outcry as being an "opportunistic" publicity hound is just silly. With international outrage mounting, this is no knee-jerk response from one man, but rather an international outcry. This response illustrates how tone deaf, arrogant and out of touch the editorial board and editorial decision makers are. Being unable to see the offense in this is a compelling reason why those editors responsible for approving this sketch need to be fired.

On behalf of the 225,000 members worldwide, we demand an explanation, an overhaul of the editorial board that approved its publication, and an apology to those fair-minded individuals and groups worldwide who are angry and furious over this affront.

Most of all, we expect the *New York Post* to appoint a new team whose mindset and editorial instincts are more in line with the new direction of the country.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. McKinzie
International President
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.