

# QUE-TIMES

NEWSLETTER FOR OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY'S RHO GAMMA GAMMA CHAPTER SUMMER 2006



*RGG's Basileus Melvin Jefferson, left, stands with Omega's newly elected Grand Basileus, Warren G. Lee.*

## *CHAPTER'S SUPPORT HELP ELECT LEE AND BRUCE TO GRAND OFFICES AT THE 74th GRAND CONCLAVE*

*“Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward, All in the valley of Death, rode the six hundred. Theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.”*

The six delegates of Rho Gamma Gamma rode into Little Rock last July much like the soldiers rode into the valley of Death as presented in Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

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*Above: Brother Marvin McNeil of Rho Gamma Gamma speaks during one of the Conclave's plenary sessions in Little Rock, Arkansas. Story & pictures by Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr. Que-Times Editor*

# RHO GAMMA GAMMA SEND SIX QUES TO THE CONCLAVE AS VOTING DELEGATES



One of the key missions entrusted to the six chapter delegates was to fully support Brother Charles A. Bruce, a candidate for the Grand Keeper of Records & Seal.

Rho Gamma Gamma's Brother Paul Crutchfield seconded the nomination of Brother Bruce during the nominations of Grand officers at the plenary session on July 24.

Brother Crutchfield served as a chapter delegate. The other delegates included: Brothers Kendall Franklin, Melvin Jefferson, Jr., Marvin McNeil, Milbert Brown, Jr., and Steven Watkins.

Brother Bruce, a former Tenth District Representative was one of four candidates in a crowded field for the Grand KRS office. Bruce also endured a second round of voting during his run-off election against Brother Edgar L. Mathis. Brother Charles A. Bruce, a professional engineer and manager was won the election and is now our Grand Keeper of Records & Seal.

The chapter also supported Brother Warren G. Lee as a candidate for Grand Basileus. Brother Lee, a good friend of Brother Melvin Jefferson was the featured speaker at last year's Rho Gamma Gamma Founder's Day and Achievement Week Banquet.

Brother Lee was elected as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 38th Grand Basileus.

BROTHER MILBERT O. BROWN, JR. (LEFT) STANDS IN FRONT OF THE HISTORICAL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL. BROTHER BROWN, ALSO A CHAPTER DELEGATE AND A MEMBER OF THE ORACLE EDITORIAL BOARD HAD A MEETING WITH BROTHER WARREN LEE TO DISCUSS IMPROVING THE ORACLE MAGAZINE.

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On Tuesday, July 25, several hundred Omegas were bused to the site of the historical Central High School. In the fall of 1957, nine teenagers known as the "Little Rock Nine," integrated the all-white Central High.

Ernest Green was the oldest member of the "Little Rock Nine." He was also the only senior and he became the first Black student to graduate from Central High School in 1958.

After graduating from Central High, Green would later attend Michigan State University, pledging Omega in 1961. Brother Ernest Green signed several autographs and took pictures with several Ques in attendance.

Brother Green served as an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs under President Jimmy Carter. He is now, a managing partner and vice president at Lehman Brothers in Washington, D.C.

One of Ernest Green's early influences included his Little Rock scout master, Bro Johnnie D. Washington. Brother Washington would later become a Tenth District Representative.

Another Omega man with a direct connection with the young Ernest Green was Brother Wiley Branton. Brother Branton, a NAACP lawyer was the attorney for the "Little Rock Nine." He served with Thurgood Marshall, also an attorney for the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

With Brother Branton and Thurgood Marshall was one of the chief organizer of the "Little Rock Nine," Daisy Bates. Bates was the publisher of the Arkansas State Press, one of the largest and most influential Black newspapers in Arkansas. Bates would later become a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

# TENTH DISTRICT GETS BROTHER CHARLES BRUCE ELECTED TO THE GRAND KRS POST



Above:

Brother Burnel E. Coulon, the 31st Grand Basilei discusses the direction of the Tenth District at an evening caucus before general voting. On left, is Brother Charles A. Bruce, candidate for the Grand KRS post and Brother Steven Watkins, the First Vice District Representative and Rho Gamma Gamma chapter delegate. Brother Bruce would later win as the newly elected Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

Below:

“The King Makers”---Rho Gamma Gamma delegate Brother Paul Cruthfield, right with Brother JD Washington and Brother JJ at the morning Tenth District caucus in Little Rock.

During the Conclave, Brother Brown discussed how to improve Omega’s leadership with Brother Edward J. Braynon, Jr., the Fraternity’s 30th Grand Basilei and Brother Albert Smith, a 40-year member of the Fraternity.

Brother Braynon said in order for Omega to be successful in years to come we must improve the selection process of men who are seeking membership into our Fraternity.

“We must also be careful in how we indoctrinate young Omega men once that have joined the Fraternity,” stated Brother Braynon.

Brother Albert Smith of Eta Omega (Atlanta’s graduate chapter) said, “we are not a drinking Fraternity, but a working Fraternity. Many guys are joining just to wear gold boots.”

Conclave Reporting by Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr.,  
Rho Gamma Gamma’s Que-Times Editor



Rho Gamma Gamma's Chapter delegate Bro. Kendall D. Franklin talk with other Omega brothers during a break in the plenary session at the 74th Omega Grand Conclave in Little Rock.

## RGG Ques Work at Back to School Parade

For over 15 years, Rho Gamma Gamma has served as parade marshals for the Englewood Back to School Parade on Chicago's south side.

This year's parade was held on Saturday, August 26 as school children watched the parade travel from Foster Park at 83rd & Loomis) to Ogden Park at 65th & Racine.

During the parade, chapter brothers passed out school supplies along the parade route. After the food was distributed to the children, Rho Gamma Gamma again passed out 13 additional book bags with school supplies.

Report by Brother LeMarr "Spedy" Ketchens

## Chapter Presents Scholarship Awards To Six Students

Story by Brother LeMarr "Spedy" Ketchens

On August 10, 2006, the City of Chicago had been blanketed with rain. For some, this could be considered a very dreary day, but not for six young Black high school students.

Each student was honored with a \$1000 Corneal A. Davis Scholarship award for their scholastic achievement by Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter. The Scholars Banquet was held at Captain Hard Times Restaurant located on Chicago's south side.

The scholarship award is named after Corneal A. Davis, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brother Davis was a State of Illinois lawmaker for almost 40 years (1943-1979). One of his main focal points was education.

"Rho Gamma Gamma has not always been able to provide scholarships," said Brother Melvin Jefferson, Jr., the chapter's Basileus.

Scholarship candidates are judged on their written essay, high school grades and their service in the community. Each selected scholarship student is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the school year. The first installment of \$500 is given to the student before arriving on campus. The second installment of \$500 is awarded to each scholar that achieves a C plus average or better after their first quarter/semester grades.

Brother Steven Watkins, the chapter's Scholarship Committee chairman said, "enjoy yourselves in college, but you must make sure you remember why you are there."

The 2006 Corneal A. Davis Scholarship Award winners and their selected schools:

Langston Wesley, Stanford University  
 Christian Cheairs, Hampton University  
 Rachel Gadson, Florida A&M University  
 Charles Beavers, Howard University  
 Marquise Austin, Spelman University  
 Erica Campbell, Northern Illinois University