

Omegas feel sting of racism at U.S.C.

By James Wright
Special to Sentinel-Voice

One of the oldest Black Greek letter fraternities is challenging a rash of racist Internet messages posted on a national fraternity/sorority website.

The Zeta Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, based on the campus of the University of South Carolina, has been the subject of bigoted and derogatory postings regarding its move to the all-White Greek Village. The area is mainly comprised of mansion-like houses owned by predominately White fraternities and sororities.

Omega Psi Phi, founded at Howard University in 1911 by three undergraduate students and noted scientist Ernest Just, has more than 100,000 members in 700 chapters in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Prominent members include the Rev. Jesse Jackson; former Virginia governor and present Richmond, Va., Mayor Douglas Wilder; NBA legend Michael Jordan; former Clinton advisor, Vernon Jordan; comedian-entrepreneur Bill Cosby and the late Dr. Charles Drew.

The new house is a project of the fraternity's national organization. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2006, it will be the first Black Greek organization to have a house in Greek Village and one of the few Black Greek houses in the country located in a predominantly White fraternity/sorority area of a major, state-sponsored university.

Lewis Anderson, director of membership services for Omega, said the fraternity is reserving comment about the messages, but he did say: "We have made contact with the president of the University of South Carolina and have alerted the local media. We are not going to abandon the project."

Some postings on the website www.fratty.net have expressed disdain at having the Omega house or any other Black-owned facility in Greek Village:

• "The spooks, i mean Q-dawgs, are building a house" (Re: USC Greek Village/Reply No. 2 on Oct 24, 6:38 p.m.).

• "There goes the neighborhood" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 4 on Oct 24, 8:20 p.m.).

• "I propose throwing a cotton picking party for them when they move in. a thou-

sand pounds of cotton in the front yard. sure jesse jackson will be here in a heart beat, but it will be funny as hell watching them pick it up" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 7 on Oct 24, 11:41 p.m.).

• That cotton idea is funny as **** and a great way to set the tone for their time here. Hopefully, the house never actually gets built, though. It will only bring loud niggers, even louder n***** b*****, and trashy *** wiggers and white-trash girls around. But hopefully Darwin was right and these spooks will wind up tearing the house down in a week or two. Much longer than that and we'll have to do it for them. What do you say guys? Here's to ridding the village of our african-american infestation" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 8 on Oct 25, 1:02 a.m.).

• "I'm going to hang a black dummy out my window when they are ready to move in" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 9 on Oct 25, 9:26 a.m.).

• "Hah. yall ready for this? nothing but crack viles and broken forty bottles in the street, gunshots in the middle of the nighniggers walking around with crunk chalices. Pimped-out 95 Accords, and unsanctioned parties at 4 a.m. in the morning on Tuesdays. I hope the Zetas don't discover jungle fever and hang with them negroids looking for some sex" (Re: Q-Dawgs in the Village/Reply No. 4 on Oct 23, 10:42 p.m.).

[Editor's Note: Text printed as it appeared online on the chat board.]

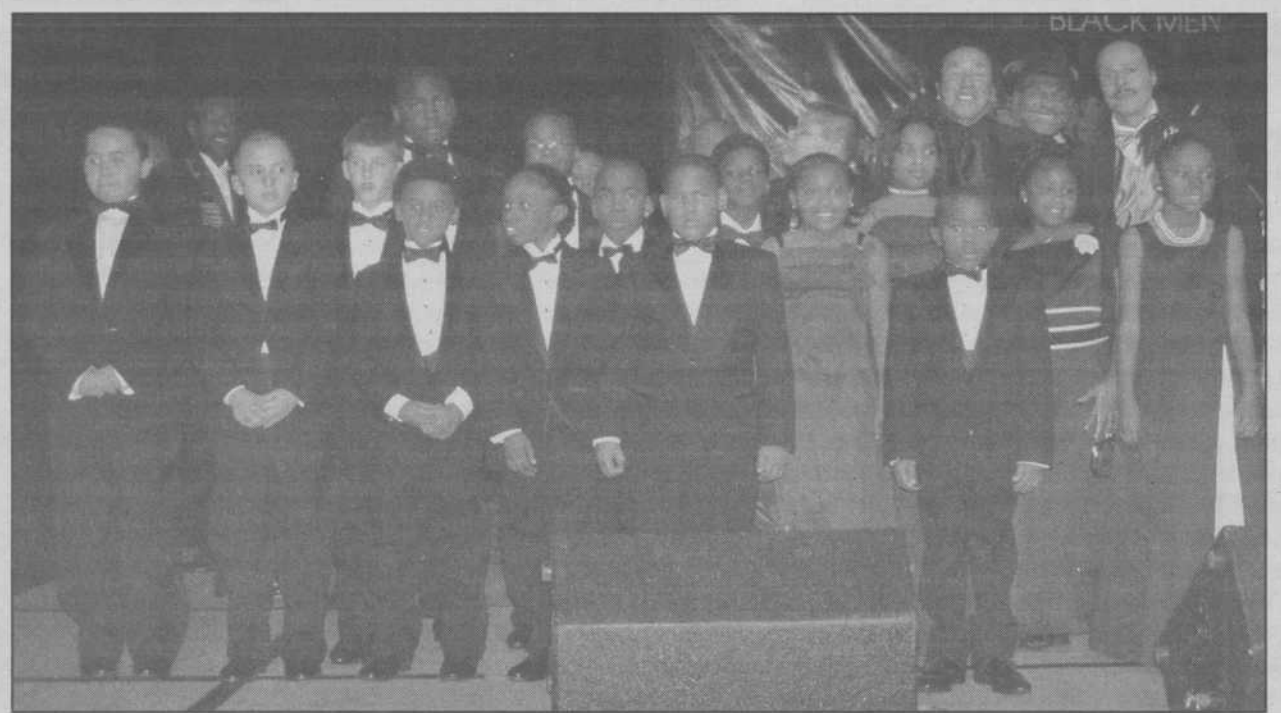
The website is based in California and serves as a chat board on Greek organization issues.

Dennis Pruitt, USC's vice president for student affairs, said, "We are not going to allow students to engage in behavior that threatens or intimidates other students."

Jerry Brewer, USC director of student life, said that the \$2 million facility will contain living spaces for 40 students, plus gathering places and food service for non-resident Omega members and meeting and entertainment spaces.

USC Director of Greek Life Gena Runnion said, "My hope is that the construction of this house will spur other historically Black sororities and fraternities to do the same."

James Wright writes for Afro newspapers.



ALL DRESSED UP

Young boys and girls dressed to the nines for the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas' annual Holiday Gala Saturday night at Caesars Palace. During the gala, legendary recording artist Smokey Robinson, pictured behind girls and to the left, received special recognition for his singing and civic accomplishments. Joining Robinson in acknowledging the 100 Black Men mentees were entertainers Michael Colyars, center, and Leon Isaac Kennedy.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

Man trades hair products for sex

By Bill Beene
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. LOUIS (NNPA) - "I don't want these Black people patronizing these Arabs because they don't care about us," said Carol Hazam, an angry Black Muslim woman currently married to an Arab Muslim business owner.

Hazam is divorcing her husband of five years, on the grounds of adultery after allegedly seeing a surveillance videotape of him sexually abusing a 13-year-old Black girl in his Marcus Beauty Supply store.

Yemen-born Mohamed Hazam, 48, is charged with three counts of second-degree statutory sodomy and three counts of second-degree child molestation.

Hazam got her hands on the videotape after police were called to the store during a fight with a male customer. She alleges that her husband refused to give the tape to police to view the fight and tried to record over it since the sex acts were on it. Hazam said she then took the tape home and viewed it. When he allegedly called demanding that she return it to the store, she took him a blank tape, leaving the store surveillance tape at home to view.

She said when she saw the sex acts of Hazam and an underage Black girl, she immediately turned it in to police, who arrested him on September 13.

She said a friend of hers and Hazam's had previously told her that he was having

sex with girls in the back of the store.

He was arrested last year for child molestation, but released for lack of evidence.

She said her husband was trading hair products for sex from young Black female customers. She and neighbors protested in front of the

store calling for a boycott but were stopped by police.

"This whole community should be in an uproar," Carol Hazam said of the crime.

"They are taking advantage of the disadvantaged and trading hair products for sex, and they've been doing it for years. But no one is

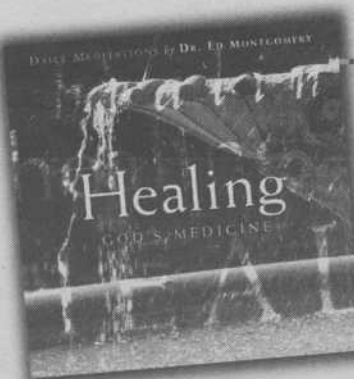
doing anything about it."

She criticized another North St. Louis location, M&A Liquor.

Ali Badran, a 21-year-old Palestinian family member of the family-owned M&A Liquor, categorically denied Carol Hazam's charges.

(See Sex, Page 13)

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