

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1994

75 CENTS

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

XX. No. 26

## CIAA Tournament Comes to Town

### Volunteer Work Paves Way for CIAA Tourney

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Now that the CIAA Tournament is here, it's perfect time to pat those on the back who were responsible for bringing it here, and to recognize those helping to make sure the city's estimated 20,000 visitors feel welcome.

And regardless of who you talk with, many seem to point a finger of praise at some of the same individuals who tirelessly volunteered.

"Mayor (Martha) Wood jumped on this on all fours," said Bob McCoy, vice president of marketing for the Convention and Visitors Bureau, an arm of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce.

"She has worked very hard," Wood said that she made a promise in 1985 to African-American voters that if they backed a bond referendum to renovate the coliseum, the city would "make a good-faith effort" to bid on the CIAA Tournament.

"I hold those kinds of promises very seriously. When you say you're going to do something you need to do it or say why you can't," she said.

The effort to get the tournament here, however, was not an easy one. One of the struggles was raising the money that was part of the proposal package. Wood said that community leaders balked at the idea of guaranteeing that those tickets not sold would be purchased by the city.

There was a lot of behind-the-scenes lobbying to get this tournament here. McCoy said.

McCoy was one of the city officials who was in of the proposal stages of the event. Convincing the tournament to relocate

Winston-Salem wasn't a n e a s y task, h e said.

Winston-Salem had to compete against a city like Richmond, which has 9,000 hotel rooms within its city limits, compared with 3,600 rooms in all of Forsyth County, he said. Other cities, including Norfolk, Va., and Charlotte, also bid.

One of the major tasks was persuading tournament officials that the city could guar-

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Abraham "Mr. CIAA" Mitchell has wowed crowds since 1978.

Photo courtesy of Richmond Free Press

## Modeling Legend To Dazzle Crowd

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

When the thousands of fans come from across the country to support their favorite team and alma mater at the CIAA Tournament this week, they will also see a sideline performer known as "Mr. CIAA."

"Mr. CIAA," aka Abraham Mitchell of Suffolk, Va., a tradition at tournament games since 1978, is known for entertaining the crowd by modeling colorful suits and outfits. He comes out during breaks and at halftime to show off his fancy outfits that usually have a color scheme that matches from head to toe. During his routine, Mitchell has been known to change outfits four or five times a night.

His saunter and leisurely gait through the crowds assuredly will momentarily shift the fans' focus from what's happening on the basketball court. Men will smile admiringly at his radiance, and women will often stop him in the aisles to pose with him for a photograph.

Mitchell was first noticed in the 1970s while watching his nephew, Peter Mitchell, play basketball at Norfolk State.

"Other people would just wear sweaters to the games, but I became noticed because I always wore colorful suits," Mitchell said this week in a telephone interview from his Suffolk home. "I started off wearing sport coats then suits and after that I started designing color schemes with the other accessories."

Mitchell was out buying new accessories Monday night to showcase this week in Winston-Salem. But he said he already has more than 45 suits and more than 100 pairs of shoes. He estimates the cost of his outfits to be more than \$850 a piece.

Mitchell would not say what he had bought

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### MORE CIAA COVERAGE INSIDE

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## Sixty-one Students Honored at HRC Banquet

▲ Event speaker focused on the importance of caring for each other

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The featured speaker at last week's Human Relations Commission banquet told the audience that if the commission isn't making someone feel uncomfortable, it is not doing its job.

"If you have not made someone uncomfortable ... haven't challenged someone, you haven't done your job," Carolyn Q. Coleman, special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt, told about 600 people at the commission's 15th annual banquet Thursday at the Benton Convention Center.

The banquet also recognized 61 students from the local school system for their "human relations" demeanor and rewarded corporate and non-profit organizations for their community activism. The HAWS Ensemble provided the entertainment with their usual harmonious renditions of gospels and standards.

Mayor Martha S. Wood, who shared the dais with Human Relations Director Emery L. Rann III and other community leaders, thanked the Human Relations Com-

mission for helping to build a strong community. She then declared February Human Relations month.

Benjamin Ruffin, vice president for corporate affairs at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., started his introduction of Coleman by mentioning that next week Winston-Salem "will be on fire." He was referring to the CIAA Tournament, and he pointed out Wood most

**"If we don't get more involved, there won't be no children."**

—Carolyn Q. Coleman

instrumental in getting the tournament to Winston-Salem.

Coleman's speech focused on the importance of caring for each other, and how the gulf between the "haves

and the have nots" has increased.

"As long as one of us is in a ditch, we're all in a ditch," she said.

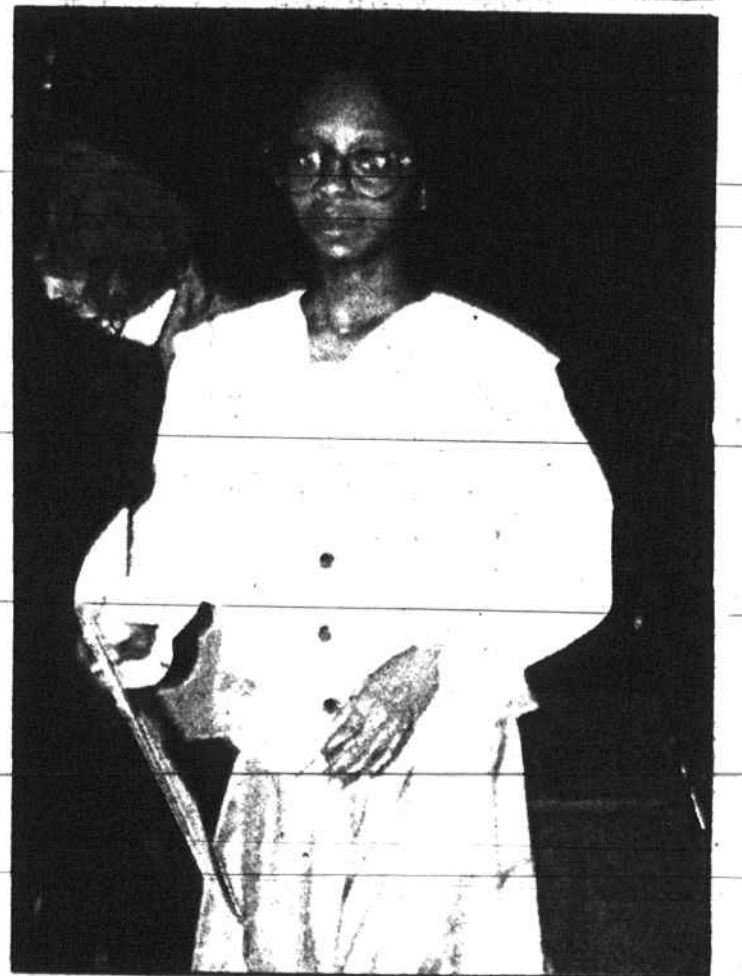
She plugged Hunt's Save Our Students (SOS) program by explaining that the program is meant to provide students with a place for them to go after school, a time which she described as being the hours most children get in trouble because they are unsupervised.

She quoted what she said was an African saying: "It takes an entire village to raise a child."

"If we don't get more involved, there won't be no children," she added.

Near the end of her speech, she told an anecdote about a country preacher who arrived at the church early that Sunday morning to get the stove going. Upon arrival, he heard a commotion from beneath the church. He found a mother bird defending her nest of eggs from a snake. The preacher killed the snake, then after praising the bird for willing to risk its life for its children, admonished the bird for having built the nest on the

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Student receives award at HRC Banquet.

## African-American To Head Local YMCAs

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Executive Editor

David C. Hinton has been appointed chairman of the board of directors for the YMCA of Greater Winston-Salem.

The Winston-Salem native will be the chief volunteer officer for the metropolitan area association. Hinton, a certified public accountant with the Business and Technology Center, will be the first African American to hold this position. He will serve as chairman for two years.

The metropolitan YMCA has seven branches serving three counties with a budget of approximately \$7.5 million. The branches are the Winston Lake Fam-

ily YMCA, Central YMCA, Kernersville YMCA, West Forsyth YMCA, Davie County YMCA Camp Hanes and Northwest YMCA in King.

Hinton was treasurer of the Winston Lake Family YMCA for six years, was chairman of that facility's sustaining campaign and was chairman of the metropolitan YMCA.

"Every year we give away more in scholarships than we bring in during our fund-raising campaign," he said.

Hinton said he is excited about his new position and looks forward to continuing the YMCA's tradition of providing leadership to youths and instilling in them Christian values.

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### THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On Feb. 22 1950, Julius "Dr. J" Erving was born.

## Black College Gets Grant To Correct Black History

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Executive Editor

There may soon be an answer to one of America's greatest modern-day mysteries of why no African-American veterans of World War II were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Shaw University in Raleigh hopes to supply the answer. The school has been awarded a \$320,500 grant to study why only white soldiers merited the U.S. government's highest armed-service award.

Daniel Gibrán, an associate profes-

sor in the school's Division of International Studies, and a team of researchers will examine guideline and procedures used to select recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Over 100 historically black colleges and universities were invited to submit research proposals for the study.

The methodology used, technical research expertise, competitive cost structure, along with outstanding familiarity with the subject, persuaded the review panel to select Shaw University's

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