

CIAA Planning Loop

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vention Center, and the director of sales and general managers of area hotels. There was also a "CIAA staff party" planned at the end of yesterday's activities hosted by Claudette Weston, owner of Weston Travel.

And there was a meeting scheduled with the business writer of the Winston-Salem Journal, but no mention of a meeting with the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Bob McCoy, vice president for sales and marketing for the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau, and whose office issued the agenda, explained that because Pitt was a member of the host committee, he, Pitt, had the opportunity to schedule such a meeting with the Chronicle.

An advertising agency, Griffith and Jordan, which does business with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been hired to get information out about Winston-Salem to the people expected to attend the tournament.

McCoy explained that the meetings this week are being held to discuss logistics and are the next step involved in the planning. Such things as marketing and procedures for reversing hotel rooms will be among the topics discussed this week, he said. About 3,000 hotel

rooms are being put on hold for the event.

"We have a lot of questions of the commissioner," McCoy said. "We are novices, and there's a lot we don't know about hosting a tournament."

Winston-Salem Mayor Martha Wood said that the agenda was created especially for the commissioner and at his request. The CIAA is very specific in what they require, and the commissioner wanted to meet with those on the agenda.

She categorized this week's meetings as a "working visit," and explained that it was too premature for others in the community to get involved.

Mayor Wood said she has talked to the city manager about ways to insure that all of the city's business community would have a chance to capitalize on the business opportunities the tournament would create.

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines at Winston-Salem State University and honorary chairman of the CIAA host committee said he, like Pitt, was totally unaware of the meetings with CIAA officials until he was faxed the agenda.

He agreed that it was important to include the black community in

all stages of planning the event.

"As far as the economic impact is concerned, the tournament will actually benefit everybody," he said.

James Moore, president of Metropolitan Drywell Inc., said he was also unaware of the meetings.

"I'm interested in making sure that blacks secure all the opportunities that are available to us," he said.

"I suggest that we make up our own agenda and meet with these officials ourselves," he said. "It's very annoying when people sit back and criticize those who are doing something while not doing something themselves."

Al Spain, who was also a member of the host committee, said he has not felt out of the loop, as far as getting information was concerned.

He explained that it is important that African-American business people who want to capitalize on the tournament to not sit back and wait for information to come to them.

"They should take the initiative and go to the Chamber of Commerce and ask what can they do to help make sure that the tournament is a success and to find out how they can profit," he said.

Tang Nivri

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Everybody used to invite him and his wonderful wife to their homes after Sunday services. It was almost impossible to get them to join you for dinner because they were so popular and so well liked. Now they are inviting themselves in.

It seems that the trouble started when the preacher made it up in his mind that God had called him to go into the middle east and slay the great Satan. Over the protests of a few, he convinced the fine people of the church to underwrite the cost of the crusade, urging them to pray mightily and that all would be well.

Well as was well. And when the good preacher came back to town, he claimed victory and people everywhere rejoiced, for it was their preacher who had done something that no other preacher had done:

He had killed the devil.

Then one Sunday morning, as Rev. George spoke, a little child shouted out, "Mama, the devil ain't dead. I saw him last night."

At first, the congregation just laughed quietly, after all, everybody knows that all children see the devil at night.

The pastor even took the opportunity to read a passage of scripture reassuring the little lad, "My little one, have no fear for the devil has been destroyed."

But from that point on, people began to look under their own beds, into their own closets to see if he was in there. From then on, they began to question, to wonder whether or not the devil was really dead.

And what about other things the preacher had been saying? Then one thing led to another. Everybody started to read the scripture text for themselves.

It turns out that the preacher had been fudging more than just a little bit on the meaning and the interpretation of the holy words of writ, according to one deacon.

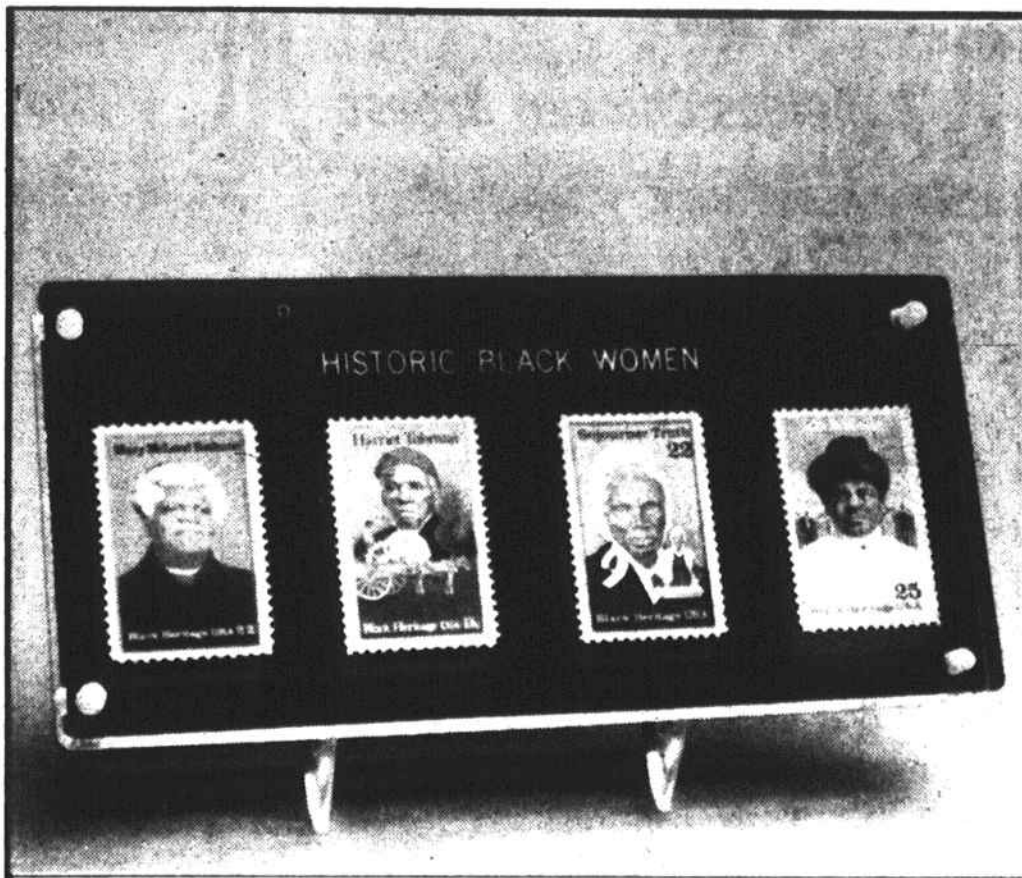
All of a sudden, old folks started to murmur about the church not growing enough. Then the trustees complained that the tithes and offerings were going down instead of up. Then the senior choir started murmuring about the hymns, complaining that they wanted to sing some of those new songs like they do on television, where people use a tambourine.

Then the mother's board got into the act., complaining about nobody shouting and that the spirit was missing from the church ... pretty soon, the whole church was in a uproar about everything. The preacher just had to go.

The last I heard, they had hired themselves a new preacher, who not only could make them shout but could play the saxophone, too. Nobody said anything about the devil.

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