

Road Show Productions Brings Businesses And Entertainment Together

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

There is no question that Charlotte is loaded with talent. It is also true that there are several businesses or groups who are constantly searching for talented people. Where the problem comes in is when the talented people and the businesses fail to help each other through poor communications.

As head of Road Show Productions, Michael Graham plans to change all that. His company, that was transplanted from his native home in D.C. two years ago, has set as its main goal — the ideal of bringing businesses and entertainment together.

"Road Show Productions is a promotions and public relations company for people who want to increase their image by using the ideas that the company suggests," explained Graham. The agency is an idea that Graham started in Washington, D.C.

Now in what can be considered the early stages of the agency, Graham is basically concerned with promotions and fundraisers, but also has definite plans of expanding the overall concept of the business, which will include videos and stage productions.

With plans of settling in an office soon, Graham, who has been operating from his home, is eagerly anticipating some of the activities that are already in motion at Road Show Productions.

In October, Road Show Productions will be sponsoring a local comedian, Antonio Simmons, whose performance will be held at Spirit Square. Road Show Productions has also been contacted by a major corporation in Pittsburgh who is interested in Road Show Productions promoting some concerts in this area. "In addition to the concerts, this same company has expressed an interest in Road Show developing a late night entertainment show," informed Graham.

These are the type of engagements Graham is banking on to help expand and boost the company's image as well as the people who affiliate themselves with Road Show Productions.

However, one of Road Show Productions' biggest projects to date is "Tour '85." "What that is," began Graham, "is a video graphics show that is scheduled to begin during Black History Month next year. This show will contain a variety of black information from world history to entertainment to corporate information and will be on display at trade shows, in shopping malls and



Michael Graham
.....Aspiring entrepreneur

available to other groups or businesses interested in having the display. It will tour in ten of the major cities like Charlotte, Atlanta, and D.C. and will be sponsored by corporate Black companies."

But Graham's ideas do not stop there. He talks about having an information center set-up in his office whereby people can come and check out not only the possible entertainment ventures, but also explore the job openings from around the country, listed by equal opportunity employers. "Hopefully, this information center will contain everything that is going on in the black community. We plan to have contact with every major agency and agent."

"I also intend to sponsor a major television production once a year, to be shown on Cablevision 3."

Graham is particularly concerned that major companies in the area use local talent for their advertising purposes. "I feel very strongly that

a consumer is more likely to buy a product from someone he can identify with rather than from a total stranger. My goal is to get that point across to these companies," asserted Graham.

Although Graham is here in Charlotte to stay, he does plan to expand his operation to include Atlanta and D.C. "I've already sent a couple of representatives to find outlets where we can set up offices."

Employed with the accounting department at the Marriott Hotel, Graham is the son of Alemater Graham and Golden Fricks.

He attended Central Piedmont and received his Interdenominational license from the Livingstone Seminary.

Graham is the pianist for the H.O. Graham Gospel Choir and one of the lead singers of the contemporary gospel group, John Kee and the Kee Singers.

For more information about Road Show Productions call 372-9203.

For November Election

October 8 Is Last Date To Register

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

People who haven't participated in an election on the city, county, state and national levels for years, are gathering in registration lines for the 1984 vote.

As politicians shake hands and deliver speeches, they remind citizens how crucial it is to select the right decision-makers.

If you haven't already registered to vote at one of the many voter registration drives held in the city, a

Conference For Small Business

Will Be Held Here

The AABWE Institute For Business Strategy Planning will sponsor a Southeastern Regional Conference for small business owners on Friday, September 21, and Saturday, September 22.

The Conference will be held at the Quality Inn in Charlotte. Ms. Joan Steward, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C., will deliver the opening remarks on Friday morning at 9 a.m.

The Conference agenda will include seminars, meetings and discussions addressing local, state and national topics that impact on the operations of a small business. AABWE's National President, Brenda Alford (Brasman Health and Business Researchers, Wash., D.C.), will host a reception for attendees and guests on Friday, September 21. The Southeastern Regional Conference is supported, in part, by a contribution from the Philip Morris Corp.

The American Association Of Black Women Entrepreneurs, Inc. (AABWE) was established on July 24, 1982 as a national membership trade association for black women business owners. The Association's major goals include assisting women business owners interested in establishing business owner organizations in their respective cities. The Association also provides business information and technical assistance to black women business owners nationwide that will assist to increase their procurement opportunities. AABWE has chapters in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD and the greater Tidewater area of Virginia.

spokesperson for the Mecklenburg County Elections Office said registration takes place Monday-Friday at the Elections Office, 710 E. Fourth St.; all branches of the public library; all branches of Mechanics & Farmers Bank; and all driver license bureaus.

Monday, October 8, is the last date to register for the November 6 election, even though voter registration is continuous. Only a few qualifications must be met to participate in the election. They are: be 18 years of age; a United States citizen; a resident of the state and county 30 days prior to the election. The 30-day rule also applies to people who haven't moved from their city or county, but have relocated to another precinct.

Other instances which call for new registration are changes of name, failure to vote in four consecutive years, and change of Party affiliation.

Several political candidates who

have visited the Charlotte area, are encouraging people to select the candidate which they think is best even if it means cross-voting. Republican candidates, particularly, Jim Martin and Alex McMillan, for governor and 9th District Congress, respectively, are enforcing that message in the black communities.

Traditionally, the majority of blacks are registered Democrat, but because cross-voting is constitutionally legal, some Republican candidates aren't neglecting to address blacks.

McMillan emphasized to readers of The Charlotte Post, recently, that his budget plan will "hold down inflation, and increase jobs and income."

Martin, also in an interview, commented about how he plans to govern chemical waste dumps and unemployment, two issues which have a great effect on the black community.

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