

Black Fraternal Organizations To Flex Economic Muscles

Members of the Council of Presidents - a consortium of presidents from the eight black Greek-lettered fraternal organizations - met recently and hammered out a "Convention Bill of Specifications." According to this dictum, member societies will leverage their collective clout to assure that sites where conventions are held are accountable to black aspirations at every level of the economic spectrum including employment, corporate contributions, use of black-owned

banks and use of professional services. Members also pledged to offer a similar "litmus test" to airlines and hotels constantly deployed for their respective travel needs. In attendance at the meeting were the national presidents of the following fraternal organizations: Faye B. Bryant, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and chairperson of the Council; Hortense Canady, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Edith Francis, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority;

Bonita Herring, representing Dr. Rajesta Perry of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority; Ted Smith, representing Randall Bacon, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; John Epps, who stood in for Dr. Moses C. Norman, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and James Blanton, who represented Charles Teamer of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Ms. Bryant indicated that member organizations are moving to parlay their economic power when considering that research reveals

that blacks spent \$2.5 billion in 1985 attending conventions. Of this figure, Greek letter fraternal organizations - with a collective membership of 500,000 - spent a disproportionate amount hosting their respective conventions. She projected that by the year 2000, that figure is expected to climb to \$5 billion. She further noted that there are 29 million black Americans with an aggregate estimated income of \$203 billion and that by the year 2000, it is expected to double.

"With this type of economic leverage, blacks can flex their muscles and wage a campaign to make host sites where we spend all of these dollars, accountable to our needs," declared Bryant. "Through such a power initiative," continued Bryant, "blacks can significantly impact the economic plight of blacks and put convention sites on notice that if they want out dollars, they must be prepared to accommodate our needs."

Mayor Harvey Gantt will be the keynote speaker when the Charlotte chapter of the American Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs (AABWE) presents its first annual anniversary banquet on Saturday, January 18, 7 p.m., at McDonald's Cafeteria on Beatties Ford Rd. For ticket information, call 376-2981. Deadline is January 13.



Angela Simpson
... To expand business

Goals For '86

Continued From Page 1A
expanding her business beyond Charlotte for she acknowledges, "Charlotte has kept me afloat in retail but this will not make me rich. I realize I can only be happy and have peace of mind, mentally and spiritually, if I'm self-employed," Simpson expresses.

Based on his behind-the-scenes work on the political campaigns of Harvey Gantt, D. G. Martin, Richard Vinroot, and Vic Bell, there are those of us who expect Alfred Glover himself to emerge as a viable candidate for office one day.

The 24-year-old states, "I wouldn't rule out political aspirations for myself. But right now I'm more interested in getting good people in office."

This year, Glover projects, "All my attention will be focused on D.G. Martin. Whatever he decides, I'm 100 percent behind. I've also pledged support to Arthur Griffin for School Board."

Glover's stimulus? "The help of the good Lord and just a desire to get involved and make a difference." He alleges, "It doesn't matter if a person is black or white, Democrat or Republican, if their views are aligned with mine, I want to help."

Roman Phifer is being described as "definitely pro-potential" and several colleges which are trying to recruit the South Mecklenburg senior are quite aware of this fact.

The young man who's a sportsman and a scholar, Phifer plays football and basketball and maintains a grade point average of 3.6, is being wooed by Carolina, Georgia Tech, UCLA, and N.C. State this year.

He hasn't yet decided which will be the lucky university, though Phifer relates he's looking forward to 1986 bringing him his first opportunity to play college football. As to how he's able to handle the basketball, the pigskin and the grades so well, Phifer simply states, "I guess I've been raised to be good in school and sports keep my mind sharp."

Will success spoil Margaret Freeman? Not likely. Even though Freeman, who most recently played the role of Odessa in the film, "The Color Purple," says her goal for 1986 is "getting rich and famous," she relates her incentive as "service to my community."

And while Hollywood may beckon, Freeman will be in Charlotte as the resident actress with the Afro-American Cultural Center and Artistic Director of GM Productions.

The show must go on with Freeman, who's now preparing for the GM production of "Tambourines to Glory," a Langston Hughes play which will be the first theatrical event at the new Afro-American Cultural Center.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Arthritis Patient Services Adult Support Group will be held on Thursday, January 16, at the Community Health Services building, 1401 East Seventh St., at 7 p.m.

Beth Swann, R.N., will present a program entitled "The Importance of Early Arthritis Intervention."

For additional information, call 764-975-0172.

Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the South Iredell branch of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People will be held Sunday, January 12, at Reid's Memorial Presbyterian Church on North Broad St. New and renewed memberships are still being taken.

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5 Lb. Bag - Fresh Pink Or White

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