

The Post wins two awards

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place honors for best news story for coverage of the Million Man March. The piece, written by Editor-In-Chief Herbert White, appeared in the Oct. 19 issue.



White

"It makes all our hard work and long hours worthwhile."



Johnson

The Charleston Chronicle, which placed third in best column writing.

The John Russwurm Award, named for the editor of the nation's first African American newspaper, Freedom's Journal, went to the St. Louis American for best overall newspaper. The award goes to the member newspaper winning recognition in the most categories.

The Baltimore Afro-American won the general excellence award.

The Chicago Hyde Park Citizen and The Denver Weekly won the A. Philip Randolph Award for civil rights and education. Both papers will receive a \$10,000 prize from Miller Brewing Co., which sponsors the award.

MMM 66,000 in the red

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lected but, with less than 300 collectors, it was impossible to sufficiently cover the 20 or more city blocks that contained the march." Large cardboard boxes were used to gather the donations that were passed overhead through the enormous crowd of peaceful protesters.

A promise of 10 percent of the collection being designated for the host city, Washington, D.C., has not been forthcoming because of the pending debt the organizers face.

Leonard Farrakhan Muhammad, chief of staff of the NOI and chairman of Million Man March Inc., called that promise a "friendly" agreement, which organizers intend to make good.

More than \$1,438,168 was spent staging the demonstration itself for items such as six jumbo video screens and 3,000 portable toilets on the Mall. Another \$581,431 was spent for administrative expenses such as salaries, supplies, telephone bills, travel and hotel rooms.

According to the audit, \$106,170 was collected in vending fees and \$61,970 was collected from the sale of official march buttons and T-shirts. It was also reported that donations were made by motorists at intersections, as well as the \$11 donations through a 900 telephone number.

The audit, which was ordered by Nation of Islam leader, Minister Farrakhan, includes examining evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation, according to the Bolling & Hill, LLP Independent Auditor's Report.

NAACP national convention draws near

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Economically, the convention will mean \$4 million to the city, more when related multipliers are added.

CCVB President and CEO Melvin Tennant said the convention gives Charlotte an opportunity to impress other groups and organizations that could eventually bring their conventions to Charlotte.

For example, the National Baptist Convention could hold an annual event here in the year 2000.

"It's a showcase for our city and we're doing an even better job of rolling out the red carpet because of the potential sales opportunities," Tennant said.

The NAACP Convention has attracted financial support from such businesses as NationsBank, which contributed \$100,000, and Food Lion, Transamerica Life, First Union, Duke Power and Phillip Morris.

Among attractions for the convention are appearances by the major presidential candidates.

President Bill Clinton, the beleaguered candidate for a second term, will speak. As will Bob Dole, the Republican challenger who needs to look presidential and unthreatening to blacks.

But what's going to make this convention great may be as simple as the noted African Americans from the worlds of business, politics and entertainment who will come to town.

Speaking of entertainment, Ramsey Lewis and the Whispers will perform at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night, June 10.

About the same time Kirk Franklin and the Family will be performing back at the

Convention Center for the Youth Freedom Fund Dinner.

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. will speak at the fund raising dinner, a youthful match for the adult Freedom Fund Dinner the following evening.

Ben E. King will perform for the senior group.

Howard said the convention, the NAACP's 87th, will be the biggest attraction for African Americans because it is being held in the largest NAACP region, Region V, which covers the southeast. The North Carolina chapter is one of the organization's largest, if not the largest, Howard said.

"Black America comes out to the convention," Howard said. The location of the West Fest festival in uptown on the opening weekend of the convention is also going to be a big attraction and should help make the convention's visit to Charlotte outstanding, Howard said.

"West Fest is going to interact wonderfully with the convention," he said.

As many as 2,000 young people will participate in the ACT-SO competition, with its 22 categories in such areas as music, arts, science.

Howard said the local chapter is still looking for members for a mass choir that will perform Saturday night July 6 under the direction of Christopher Gray.

Gray is director of the N.C. Mass Choir, which also performed during the gospel extravaganza, along with Commissioned, and recording artist Marvin Sapp.

The event is open to the public and tickets are \$15.

"We want the mass choir to be big," said Howard.

The choir has already attracted more than 100 voices, he said.

2000 Baptist convention is target of Charlotte organizing committee

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"The most important thing is the coordination and input of local chapters," said George.

The local steering committee has won the backing of the State General Baptist Convention.

"We have committed our support, both verbally and in writing," said the Rev. Clifford Jones, president of the General Baptist State Convention and pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

"Charlotte is a progressive city with lots of media," said Jones. "We can offer the convention a great deal."

Jones feels that past problems have been eradicated and that Charlotte is clear to host the convention.

The most pressing issue of bringing a convention this size to Charlotte, is the allotment of space for classes. At least 100 different classes are offered for convention delegates as well as lectures and worship services.

"We would like to have the classes as centrally located as possible for the delegates," said George. "We don't want to spread them out too much."

The convention, which was

held last week in St. Louis, drew an estimated 50,000 delegates to the city for the week long training sessions, which focused on training teachers for Sunday school, vacation Bible school and other church educational and ministerial programs.

Based on figures provided by the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, a convention the size of the Congress of Christian Education can mean a \$10 million boost to the local economy.

The Rev. Ricky Woods, pastor of First Baptist Church West and Assistant General Secretary of the National Baptist Convention, said that convention sites were decided by NBC President Henry Lyons and the Planning and Meeting Committee.

A delegation from NBC's headquarters in Nashville Tenn., headed by Brenda Harris, executive director of Planning and Meeting will be in Charlotte in the fall to view facilities and meet with local leaders.

Officials from the Convention and Visitors Bureau will attend at least two National Baptist Conventions to get a feel for what will need to be done to ensure that Charlotte is ready in 2000.

"We have demonstrated that we can accommodate this convention," said Jones. "We are working hard toward our goal."

Those interested in singing with the mass choir can attend rehearsal on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. or Monday at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are held at Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church at 1243 West Blvd.

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