



Tracy Martin delivers his message during 12th annual Corner 2 Corner Drug Dealer and Street Life Conference hosted by Union Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 22.



The pastor of Union Baptist Church, Bishop Sir Walter Mack Jr., talks about the 12th annual Corner 2 Corner Drug Dealer and Street Life Conference during a press conference on Sunday Nov. 22.

Father of Trayvon Martin touts black people in W-S

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

After his son was shot and killed by a neighborhood watch in Sanford, Florida, Tracy Martin, father of Trayvon Martin, committed his life to bringing a change to the perspective of black males and females in America.

Martin uses his endless heartache as strength to make sure a similar incident doesn't take the life of another young person.

"We all have a perception of someone when we first see them," he said. "I'm all about changing the perspective that every African-American male or

female is a drug dealer or a hustler."

Martin was the keynote speaker for the 12th annual Corner 2 Corner (C2C) Drug Dealers and Street Life Conference, hosted by Union Baptist Church. The conference is designed to galvanize those who have fallen into the street life.

Participation in the program was free and open to those on probation for drug-related charges, individuals in substance abuse centers, and rehabilitation programs.

Through the course of three days, participants engaged in a number of workshops, sessions and worship services. Job link

services and health screenings are provided as well.

The conference culminates with a graduation ceremony complete with caps and gowns to celebrate achievement.

During his message to the C2C participants and members of the Union Baptist congregation, Martin said that instead of waiting until something happens in our own neighborhoods to begin fighting injustice, we should all be proactive.

"Mothers and fathers always are calling me asking, what they can do to shed some light on a injustice that has happened in

their backyard," he said. "I just like to say don't wait until it hits your backyard. In order to prevent injustice we have to be aggressive."

When he first heard about the conference, Martin said it really hit home.

"I'm from the area of East St. Louis, Illinois, where the population is predominantly black, so I know the struggles of being in the streets," he continued. "This conference is all about changing that perspective."

"It's our duty to help change their lives around." During a press conference, Bishop Sir Walter

Mack Jr., pastor of Union Baptist, said that after seeing a drug deal take place near the church, he realized how drug abuse, and gang violence affects the lives of people in the community on a daily basis. Thus, the C2C Conference came to life.

"I started to think, we have all these resources within the church but yet we could not reach him," he continued. "So we decided to reach out, to offer them support."

A number of participants in this year's program mentioned they learned a lot from the C2C conference. Cassandra Wilson said she is confi-

dent her record will not hold her back from being successful.

"After attending the conference, I know how blessed I really am," she said. "This program really helped to reinstate that into my mind."

Union Baptist also offers a C2C Remix Program. The program is a follow-up to the conference and provides participants with guidance and counseling throughout the year. For more information on the C2C programs, visit www.unionbaptistwsnc.org

UNC students disrupt race meeting

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Chanting, "Whose university? Our university!" students at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill took over a town hall meeting on race relations at the school.

A group of protesters on Thursday night read a long list of demands, including that the school fire newly hired president Margaret Spellings, multiple news media outlets report.

The protesters also called for the elimination of tuition and an end to using the SAT as part of the admissions process. They also pushed for no out-

sourcing of campus jobs and no investments in prisons.

Sophomore Madrid Danner-Smith said racial equity training should be mandatory for every student, professor, administrator and staff member.

"We all agree on one thing," Danner-Smith said. "Systemic racism exists."

Several students called for the removal of Silent Sam, the Confederate monument on campus. A history task force has embarked on plans to place markers on McCorkle Place, where Silent Sam is located, to give full context to it and other memorials.

The meeting came a

week after a large rally in support of the University of Missouri, where a mass protest was held earlier this semester.

The Chapel Hill event was heavily attended by faculty and staff, who were asked to be there by Chancellor Carol Folt.

After the forum, Folt made no specific promises, but said her administration is committed to improving the campus climate.

"You can't have been listening to this without feeling the pain that people are feeling," she said. "I hear it loud and clear that people want action."

Correction



Submitted photo
UNITY's teens prepare for a day of work in the Teen Lawn Care Program. They are: (L-R) Maricia Davis, Alexandria Douthit, Donte' Friende, Mickael Wilson and Shakara Johnson.

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in a cutline with a photo on page B8 that goes with a story in the Nov. 19 edition. The headline for the story is "Teen Lawn Care Program draws praise from Joines, Burke." The cutline omitted the name of Shakara Johnson.

The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from the errors.

The Editor

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