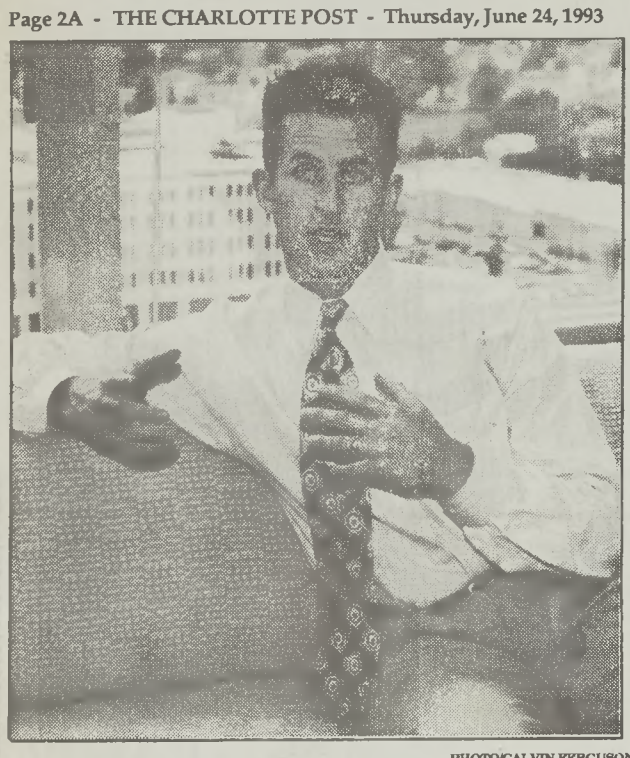


PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

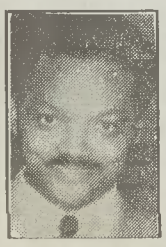
Mark Richardson says black companies acquired 35 percent of the contracts for the preparation of the proposed NFL stadium site and pledges more opportunity if the league expands here.

Denny's Controversy At Heart Of Debate

Continued From Page 1A

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue to express his dissatisfaction with Denny's and to block the Richardsons' bid, although they deny any wrongdoing at Denny's.

"I think the people of Charlotte are deserving of an NFL team (not to say that other cities are not deserving as well), but whether this is the right ownership group in Charlotte or not is another matter," Jackson wrote Tagliabue last week.



Jackson

"Charlotte is deserving of a team, but under what conditions? "

The NFL, where 68% of its players are black, has been decisive on race-related issues in the past. The league snatched the 1993 Super Bowl from Phoenix, Ariz. after voters defeated a measure to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a state holiday. Phoenix has a football team, the Cardinals.

Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association in Washington, was on a business trip and unavailable for comment at press time.

At the NFL's offices in New York, league officials are keeping an eye on the matter.

"We're aware of the situation," said Greg Aiello, the NFL's director of communications. "It's fairly clear the Richardsons have responded positively to the charges."

Giving A Fair Share

Denny's entered into negotiations with the NAACP on a Fair Share agreement last year, long before the current flap. Recently finalized, the agreement allows the civil rights organization to monitor hiring and treatment of minorities. In April, Denny's signed a consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department to end bias at restaurants nationwide. If Charlotte gets a team, it would have a Fair Share pact with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP.

"Kelly (N.C. NAACP President) Alexander and I are working on it now," Mark Richardson said. "We hope to have it completed by the end of the summer."

Black leadership, in the form of Jackson and NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Chavis, can't agree on Denny's merits. But there's no doubt who the NFL believes.

"We know Jerry Richardson has been working closely with Ben Chavis since 1992," Aiello said. "We're aware of what Jesse Jackson has said, but we also know what Ben Chavis and other NAACP leaders in the Carolinas are saying."

Richardson Sports' efforts to ensure minority representation has gotten lost in the torrent of publicity over Denny's difficulties. But with more attention going to the football operation, Mark Richardson said the organization is starting to assert its position.

"There's so many different areas of this project that it's been hard to communicate all of them in this short period of time," he said. "We feel that now is the proper time to help everyone understand the opportunities that will be available as the project kicks off the ground."

Richardson points to the preliminary phase of the proposed stadium's preparation, in which black-owned firms received 35% of the contracts.

"We're proud that we had 41% MWBE participation, and we're proud that 35% of the work went to minorities," he said. "Not only are we proud of that participation, we're proud of the quality of the work."

If Charlotte lands a team, blacks will have a hand in building the stadium, Richardson said. Carol Lilly, a black woman, has been retained by Richardson Sports to help secure minority contractors for the project and to field concerns and suggestions from the African-Americancomminity.

The team's front office staff, which is expected to reach about 150, will also have a diverse look, Richardson said. Today's 10-person Richardson Sports staff includes four African Americans.

African Americans from North and South Carolina met Wednesday at Little Rock AME Zion Church to discuss unity. Several speakers wanted to make sure that the public did not get the impression that they were against Jackson or the NAACP.

Mecklenburg County Commisioner Bob Walton said blacks "Want cases of allegations dealt with conclusively and decisively. We want to know what kind of agreement the Richardsons will put in writing."

The group indicated in a written statement that they support the concept of an NFL team if Flagstar resolves the charges made against it. Twenty percent participation by minorities in the expansion team's operations was suggested as a fair goal.

Across from Little Rock, a capacity crowd at the Afro-American Cultural Center listened to Mark Richardson's version of Flagstar's involvement in the black community.

He expressed an interest in contracting with minority businesses in accordance with the Fair Share agreement.

Richardson said, "We're going to win this franchise together. When I say together I mean North and South Carolina, blacks and whites."

Staff writer April Turner contributed to this report.

Author Cornel West Headlines Unitarian General Assembly

Continued From Page 1A

29.

More than 2,500 Unitarian Universalists from member congregations of the association are expected to attend and participate in workshops, business meetings and worship services.

An entire day of the assembly will be devoted to the issue of racial and cultural diversity. The keynote speaker June 28 will be Dr. William Jones, a Unitarian Universalist minister and educator who has, after more than 30 years of research, developed a philosophy of societal pluralism and a model for conflict resolution. The remainder of the day will consist of a variety of focus groups, workshops, performances, hearings and videos around the issue of diversity.

The theme this year is "Universalism: For Such A Time As This."

The general assembly will vote on resolutions on choice, justice for indigenous peoples and violence against women.

Other highlights will include:

•A lecture by Jean Bertrand Aristide, deposed president of Haiti, June 27, 4:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center.

•The premiere of the new hymnbook, "Singing by the Living Tradition."

•The annual Ware Lecture June 27 at 8:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund and author of "The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours," will be the speaker.

In addition, delegates will elect a new president and moderator of the board of trustees.

Meeting In Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reparations Demanded; Charlotte Resident Is Elected To National Post

By T. X. green
SPECIAL TO THE POST

African people from all over the U.S. want the federal government to pay reparations for past injustices.

And it'll take more than 40 acres and a mule.

Blacks converged on Baton Rouge, La. June 11-13 to attend the fourth annual conference titled "Reparations Now." The conference was organized by the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'Cobra). N'Cobra is an organization created to address the issue of reparations for African people.

Charlotte optometrist Dr. Paula Newsome was elected national treasurer of the organization.

Reparations are payments to make up for the crimes committed against an individual, people or nation. As it specifically relates to African people, it means compensation for hundreds of years of free labor.

The concept of reparations dates back hundreds of years. However, over the past few years, the movement has been gaining considerable momentum. In 1990 and 1991, congressman John Conyers of Detroit introduced a bill for reparations for black people in the United States.

Originally titled H.R.A 1684, conference members voted to change the name from Bill 1684 to H.R. 40 to reflect the 40 acres and a mule and $50 which was proposed as just compensation for the "Freed Negroes" some 130 years ago. If passed, the bill would create a commission to study the affects of slavery, discrimination, and racism on Africans in America and make specific recommendations concerning reparations.

The conference launched a drive to solicit African people and supporters of Reparations to sign a petition whereby the National Black Caucus could co-sign on the bill thereby providing the necessary political muscle for H.R. 40 to pass. Members were further charged with encouraging supporters to contact their representatives and insist that they support the bill. Carolinians are being asked to contact congressman Mel Watt and insist that he lends the support of his office to this effort.

Several commissions were set up to facilitate the overall goals and objectives of the organization:

- Internationalization;
- Organizational development;
- Human resources;
- Economic development;
- Education and information;
- Youth.

Working groups were established to set action plan for implementing strategies that were developed at the conference during workshops.

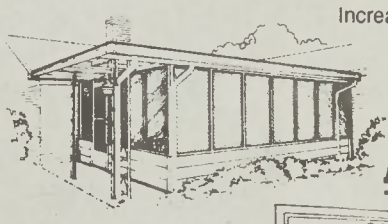
N'Cobra elected its national officers for the 1993-94 term. The new co-chairs are Kalonji Olugsegun of Washington and Johnita Obadele of Baton Rouge. Ken Small of New York was elected secretary. Six additional board members were elected to fill positions at-large. Queen Mother Moore, a pillar in the movements for reparations and Imari Obedele were appointed board members emeritus.

Next year's conference will be held in Detroit.

The Charlotte Post
The Best In Black Media

ED'S DAIRY BAR
4251 Statesville Rd.
SPECIAL
2 Cheeseburgers Fries, Large Drink $4.17 w/tax
ICE CREAM CONES
SMALL - .70
MEDIUM - .80
LARGE - .90
CALL: (704)596-5720 • "CARRY OUT"
Mon-Fri 7:30am - 7:00pm • Sat. 10:30am - 5:00pm

Dbl Rm $32.95 Special With Coupon
HOWARD JOHNSON
4419 Tuckeseegee Rd.
I-85 Hwy and Exit 34
704-393-9881
Dbl Rm $32.95 Special With Coupon
Special Discount Rates For
CONVOCATIONS, CHURCH CONVENTIONS
Visiting Choirs
- FREE Continental Breakfast - Swimmimg Pool -
(Subject to Availability) • Sales Director Al Austin

BEAUTIFUL, PRACTICAL PORCH ENCLOSURES
Custom designed to fit your needs and budget
Choose from our wide selection.
Increase your home's value!
Save on energy costs.

ARMACLAD
CARE-fully Installed by the Professionals at
All Seasons Window & Door Co.
2821 Rosemont St., Charlotte NC 28208
Charlotte 704/399-4244 • 1-800-273-6817

3 Piece Deal!
SOFA
LOVESEAT
CHAIR

Emery Sharpe "Manager"

$298
FACTORY DIRECT FURNITURE OUTLET
WIDE SELECTION COLORS & PATTERNS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MON/FRI 10am-8pm SAT 10am-6pm
SUN 1pm-6pm
3107-B Freedom Dr.
Behind Pizza Hut
(704)393-2750

MORE THAN CONQUERORS SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE & SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ATTENTION
PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSES
You're invited to
The More Than Conquerors
Pastors School
July 6 thru August 12
Registration: June 21 - July 5
Classes to be held at : 1501 N. I-85 Service Road
For more information contact Dean John L. Adams at *391-7339*