

Just Chilling



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

William Gillispie, 90, cools out in the shade Monday during a community gathering in the Parkton Hills neighborhood in west Charlotte.

Cornel West: Public Discussion Is Key To Eliminating Racism

Continued From Page 1A

The Unitarians last year voted to affirm a vision of a racially diverse multicultural religion. The group is currently in the second year of a 10-year plan to achieve racial diversity.

There is no mechanism for accountability, West said to about 500 people at the Charlotte Convention Center.

"There is a succession from public life, no accountability. We specialize in regulating the lives of poor people. Let's play the game by one set of rules."

West said Americans must start out asking, "Why is there so much suffering induced by institutions?" With an inequitable distribution of wealth, he said, there must be some questioning. "If 1 percent of the population owns 37 percent of the wealth, there must be some public conversation."

West said he has a "tragic view of history and of the world. We are living in one of the most frightening times. This is no play thing. It's not just a matter of sisters and brothers not coping. Civil-

ization is possibly in death's throes. A sense of history is un-American, let alone a tragic sense of history."

Any struggle for freedom for black people can not be done without a "universal" effort, West said. "Not with assimilation. The struggle must be from below. We must dig from our own histories and heritages and find... an all-embracing vision that does not leave anybody behind, no matter of color, religion, sexual orientation. If we go up together, we go down together. It has to do, not with sympathy or empathy, but with love."

The ability to be self-critical is an important part of "public discussions," West said. "Self criticism is about courage. It hurts. It's easy to point out the difficulties in others, but not in yourself. We should never block the road to inquiry. Each and every traveler should be willing to put his naked ignorance under the spotlight. Conversation will force the bonds of trust. It means having to take a leap and no one does that unless he has hope."

Agreement Irks Some

Continued From Page 1A

into consideration when negotiating with Richardson Sports. But Ben Chavis, executive director of the NAACP, said everyone's welcome to work with the NAACP.

"We want those people to continue to work for themselves and work for us," he said. "This isn't something we're doing for narrow interests. We're doing this for broad interests."

In Baltimore, home of the NAACP's national headquarters, the local chapter would like to hear the organization's leaders apologize for endorsing Charlotte's bid for a franchise.

George N. Buntin Jr., executive director of the NAACP's Baltimore branch, said he told a representative of the national organization Sunday that "local membership is incensed."

"I told him nothing short of an out-and-out admittance that they made a mistake and that they owe this city and this state and this chapter an apology will do," Buntin said.

"They fumbled the ball on this one by not touching base with us," said Rodney Orange, president of the Baltimore NAACP branch.

The Rev. John L. Wright, president of the Maryland conference of NAACP branches, agreed.

"The executive director doesn't understand the sensitivity of this matter," Wright said.

In last week's news conference Chavis said his organization would "help out in any way possible" for Charlotte to get the franchise.

"We're going to send a clear signal to the NFL that the NAACP wants a team in Charlotte," Chavis said.

Buntin said Chavis then compounded the problem by releasing a five-paragraph statement Saturday that neither apologized to Baltimore nor backed away from the Charlotte endorsement.

"Anybody in public life will make mistakes sometimes. That's forgivable," Buntin said. "But the inability to admit a mistake and apologize for it is less forgivable."

Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke isn't looking for an apology.

"Since they decided to get themselves involved in the process, they ought to look at the fact that the NFL is going to select two cities, so I think they ought to endorse Baltimore, too," the mayor said Sunday.

The other cities vying for an NFL franchise are Memphis, St. Louis and Jacksonville, Fla.

Schmoke said he believes

the football endorsement will be an issue at the NAACP's annual convention. The event will be held in Indianapolis, home of Baltimore's old football team, the Colts.

Mark Richardson, general manager of Richardson Sports and Jerry Richardson's son, said the deal will prove beneficial to everyone involved in Charlotte's football quest.

"This is a progressive agreement that is good for African Americans and good for us," he said. "If an individual's concern is that we include everyone's concerns, then this agreement does that."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Touring Africa: Senegal, The Beauty And The Beast

By Dr. Paula Newsome
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Senegal, West Africa is one of the most beautiful places on the planet and yet it is the site of so much abject poverty, suffering and pain. This week, we will deal with the beast, Goree Island. Next week we will concentrate on Senegal proper.

It is important for us to look at Goree, especially at this time of the year when our country is talking about

"independence." While we realize the independence was only for people of European descent, it is important to understand that this wealth and power came as a result of human suffering.

While looking off the coast of Dakar, Senegal's capital city, you will see an island. This island was the last home on the African continent for



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See GOREE On Page 3A

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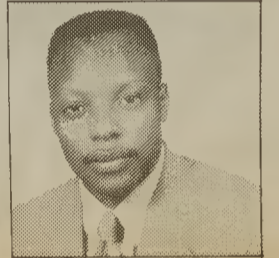
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