

Reid fires back at detractors

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nished your 'good guy' image with many people in Charlotte," Reid said.

Reid told Davis that he should resign as chair of the Black Political Caucus and suggested that the organization change its name to the Black and White Political Caucus and include whites "if you really want to strike a blow against racism...."

He accused Leeper of enriching himself off the poor people of Earle Village.

Reid said Leeper wrote that Reid is "more dangerous than any of these kids out in the community."

He suggested that Leeper tell that to the family of a white Oregon woman killed at the University Hilton two years ago; the friends and families of over 500 black men murdered in Charlotte over the past 10 years and the families of four police officers who were slain in the last four years by African American males.

Simms and Davis were present at the council meeting, but decided not to speak.

Neither could be contacted for reaction to Reid's comments Monday.

Many of the blacks present at the meeting had participated in Black Monday, a protest many African American leaders had shunned, if not outright opposed.

Black Monday leader the Rev. Ben Chavis did speak Monday, saying, "We take exception to any racist statement."

"Mr. Reid, you have no reason to fear black youth, no more than you have to fear white youth," Chavis said.

One speaker, Tina White, said she was afraid of Reid. "It is white men like you who served with the KKK," White said, suggesting that Reid should be afraid of "black sisters," too.

Several speakers, including at least one black woman, voiced support for Reid. Many carried signs to that effect.

The comments were so heated

and emotional that council member Mike Jackson, who is white, stormed out of the meeting when Mayor Pat McCrory, who was attempting to stifle the debate, wouldn't allow him to speak.

Jackson was so angry he punched a hole in the wall of a small room off the meeting chamber.

Reid said Tuesday that he met with an interracial, interdenominational group of ministers led by the Rev. James Samuel at Little Rock AME Zion Church.

"I didn't hear a person talking about racism," Reid said. "They wanted to solve the problems."

He said Monday's was a "very open meeting."

"We had people who had very strong feeling and were willing to share their feelings. It was a kind of watershed for Charlotte. Now we can put aside this issue of racism and start talking about the ways to improve the quality of life in this city."

"Sure there are racists in Charlotte. There always will be.

But there are just as many people who use racism to promote themselves and their wealth."

"I think that people now feel freer in coming to council and expressing their feelings and the council members and I will feel freer in discussing the real issues in this city."

"Leaders will say lets talk and lets look at others' feelings. Let people say what they are feeling without retribution and name-calling. I think we have taken a bold step toward doing that and, if my speaking out helped in doing that, I'm glad."

Principal wins local school award

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Hidden Valley Elementary School principal Albert T. Winston says he's thrilled to be the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools 1997 Principal of the Year.

"Not as much for myself as I am for what it says about the school and the children here and the staff here," he said Tuesday. "They make me look good. Receiving an award like this is easy when you have good students, outstanding staff and very cooperative parents. I will surely accept this on their behalf."

Hidden Valley, a predominantly black school, has made significant gains under Winston. It is one of several schools which has instituted a uniform dress code for students.

The use of uniforms at Hidden Valley - white tops and navy bottoms - has made a difference, Winston said.

"The most redeeming thing I have found from the whole

thing is my boys look like boys and my girls look like beautiful little girls," Winston said. "The parents go all out getting

patent leather shoes and the like."

"The record indicates students are Hidden Valley continue to achieve," Winston said.

"We have parents who trust us and cooperate with us and allow us to deliver the instruction program we need to deliver. We don't get bogged down on a lot of things. Parents trust us to do the right thing by their children."

Winston will now compete at the regional level. Winston started as a kindergarten

teacher at Allenbrook Elementary and has been an assistant principal at Bain, Ashley Park and Allenbrook. He became principal at Pinewood Elementary in 1984 and came to Hidden Valley in 1993.

Winston has already won significant honors in his 24 years in the local schools. Two years ago, he won a \$25,000 Millikin award for outstanding work.



Winston

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James Earl Ray is sick

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - James Earl Ray, jailed for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., was back in the hospital for the third time in a month with chronic liver disease.

Ray was brought to Nashville Memorial Hospital around midnight Saturday in critical condition, and was in serious condition this morning, officials said.

Ray's lawyer, William Pepper, said earlier this month that Ray, 68, will die within months unless he gets a liver transplant. The convicted killer is not on the national liver transplant list and his supporters are searching for a donor to provide a liver directly to him.

Ray spent slightly over a week in the Nashville hospital in late December, and was hospitalized there from Jan. 3. to Jan. 10. He then went back to the prison hospital, where he was first admitted in September.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in the April 1968 shooting of King.

He initially admitted killing the civil rights leader on April 4, 1968, but almost immediately recanted and has been trying to win his freedom ever since. He has a state court hearing in Memphis on Feb. 20 on a request for new scientific tests on the rifle identified as the murder weapon.



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