



Ned J. Martin
...Prefers baseball



Ralph Gillian
...Extra special



Pearl Ellison
...Doesn't care

Opinions On The Street

Do Charlotteans Want Pro Football?

Practically every night, there's something on the television news about George Shinn trying to bring a professional football team to Charlotte. The two professional games he staged earlier this month at Memorial Stadium generated a lot of excitement in the city and were both well-attended, despite not-so-great weather at the first game.

With Charlotte Post publisher Bill Johnson being a great football fan, we just had to address the issue sooner or later in this opinion column. And, folks, this is the week! Notepad in hand and camera around neck, this intrepid reporter set out to see if the enthusiasm for professional football in Charlotte is a broad-based reality or merely a case of "media hype."

The question we asked was, "Do you think it's a good idea to bring a professional football team to Charlotte? Do you care?"

We're not sure if it's a symptom of widespread "football widowhood," but only two women who were approached were willing to respond to this week's question.

● **WILLIE DUNCAN, JR.**, a truck driver who resides on Remount Road, was extremely enthusiastic. "It would be the greatest thing for Charlotte," Duncan began. "Charlotte is growing into one of the largest cities. It's a beautiful place to live and a great place to raise kids." A self-confessed football fan, Duncan apparently would enjoy being able to attend professional football games here. For him, it would be one added bonus to living in the city he loves. Having been in lots of different cities, Duncan noted, "If you come here, you come to love it. People can grow in their own way here."

● **RALPH GILLIAN** of Camá Street is an assistant manager at Queens Park. He, also, was enthusiastic



Willie Duncan, Jr.
...Greatest thing



Johnny Mayhew
...More pride

about the prospect of professional football in the Queen City. Gillian believes Charlotte should get pro ball. "If we get a professional team, Charlotte would be something extra special," he remarked. Would he attend games if Shinn manages to get a team here? "I sure would!" he exclaimed.

● **PEARL ELLISON**, homemaker, lives on Remount Road with her two year old son. She didn't care one way or the other about football coming to Charlotte. "I don't care," she admitted. "I'm not a football fan." But she might try it out if pro ball comes to this area. "I'd probably go once to try it," she concluded.

● **NED J. MARTIN**, a Barringer Drive resident, is retired from Armour Meat Packing, where he worked 27 years. Martin didn't seem as certain about professional football for Charlotte as were the other men questioned. "Sometimes I think it's a good idea," he stated, "and sometimes I don't know. As

Charlotte grows, it would probably be good to have a professional team." Martin revealed that he is not a football fan. "I like baseball," he related.

● **JOHNNY MAYHEW**, of 18th Street, delivers furniture for a living. His response to the question was, "Yes, I sure do. It would bring a little more pride to Charlotte, more publicity," he explained. "Other cities will hear about us. We'd have more visitors and maybe we could get on television." A football fan, Mayhew would definitely attend games if professional football comes to Charlotte.

● **LISA MCCALL**, Morton Street resident, didn't seem interested in George Shinn's plans, either. "I don't care," she stated. "I don't look at football." However, Ms. McCall admitted she might attend a game. "I'd probably go at least once," she said. Her interest, she added, is hockey.

Hagen Is Winner In MLK Poetry Contest

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Paul Hagen, a 10 year old fifth grader in Mrs. Gloria Majors' class at Cotswold Elementary School, is one of the poetry winners in the first annual Martin Luther King essay contest sponsored by the Community Relations Committee in conjunction with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system.

Paul, whose poem appears below, explained how he came to write his poem and enter the contest. "My mom said I ought to take chances with things, try out some things," he related. When the contest was announced in school, Paul gathered information about Dr. King from his encyclopedia at home and in the public library.

Paul did not expect to win. "I told my classmate, Amy Myers, we weren't going to win, and then they announced my name and I was



Paul Hagen
...Wrote winning poem

astonished," he recalled. The budding writer has written poetry before, "little poems for my

mom's and brother's birthdays." This was his first contest entry, however.

Paul reported that his mother was excited about his winning. And, when asked if he agreed with his mother's advice to try new things, he responded, "Definitely!"

Martin the Dreamer
By Paul Hagen

Martin was a dreamer,
Who wanted equal rights,
But he didn't want his people,
Getting into fights.

They went about it peacefully,
Using neither gun or knife,
But he never saw the results,
Because he lost his life.

Congress passed a law,
To celebrate his day,
Things are still not perfect,
But we've come a long, long way!

Houston Wins MLK Essay Contest

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

One of the winners in this year's Martin Luther King essay-poetry contest sponsored by the Community Relations Committee is fourth grader Sammie Houston. Sammie, a student at Barringer Elementary School, explained how he came to write his winning essay, which is published below.

"My reading teacher, Ms. McRae, told us to write a story about Martin Luther in the past and to connect it with how it is today," he related. "She didn't tell me she was going to enter my essay in the contest until the next day."

The young winner explained that he had learned about Martin Luther King from his third and fourth grade teachers. Sammie admitted that he was surprised to learn he had won. He said he likes to write and may enter other essay contests in the future.

His winning essay, entitled, "I Have A Dream," follows.

Other winners in the essay-poetry



Sammie Houston
...Essay winner

contest include: Andy Clegg, grade 11, Myers Park High School; Michael Alexander, grade 12, West Charlotte High; Robert R. Harris, grade 6, Statesville Road Elementary School; Beth Carella, grade 5, Marie G. Davis Elementary; Caro-

lyn Allen, grade 7, Northwest; Kari McNitt, grade 7, Alexander Graham Junior High; and Gretchen Brown, grade 6, Bain Elementary.

I Have A Dream
By Sammie Houston

I have a dream, a dream of freedom. My dream is that one day all blacks will be able to ride in the front of the bus. And that all blacks will be able to go in restaurants. And that black people will be able to work for themselves and do what they want to do. And that is what Martin Luther King said. And today blacks are proud they can ride in the front of the bus, and go in restaurants of any kind that they want to.

Awards Luncheon Honors Students

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Other students honored included Lisa Suzan Beatty (Charlotte Catholic High School), Ava Michelle Oldham (Charlotte Christian), Robert Caithen Mitchener (Charlotte Country Day), Laura Alida Van Every (Charlotte Latin), Earl Rustia Mi-

randa (Harding), Forrest Otis Kenley, II (Olympic High), Daniel Wayne Hooks (Providence Day), Marc William Turner (South Mecklenburg), Frank Norman Romano (West Mecklenburg), David William Lucas, II (West Charlotte), and Rodney Eugene Hood (Myers Park).

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in the Kitchen
to find out
what's
cooking!

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