

Opinions On The Street

Is Charlotte A Good Place To Live?

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

No doubt about it, Charlotte is a growing city. According to information from the City, the population is 294,738. Charlotte prides itself on its image as "the place to be" in the New South.

We wondered how well area residents like their city. Post reporter Audrey Lodato asked pedestrians on the Tryon Street Mall recently how they like Charlotte. Is it a good place to live? Do they want to stay here? Here is what they had to say.

● CATHERINE BROWN, of Horne Drive, works as a day care aide at Gethsemane. Ms. Brown moved to Charlotte from Daytona, Florida, with her family in 1976. She likes the city, although she didn't have any particular reason. "I just like it," she affirmed. "I like it about the same as I did Daytona. They're about the same size, I think. Charlotte has a lot of businesses." Ms. Brown concluded by saying she stays in Charlotte.

● JANEL PATTERSON of Remount Road works as a caretaker for an elderly woman. Ms. Patterson has lived in Charlotte for 35 years. "I've never liked it," she replied, "but I stayed for my kids." She explained that she had grown up in Conway, S.C., a small town. "It was hard for me to get a job and settle down here," she continued. Ms. Patterson preferred the atmosphere of her hometown, which she thinks was friendlier. "Conway was friendly. Charlotte is a big place. I was happier in Conway, but it doesn't look like I'll ever get back," she lamented.



Janel Patterson
...Happier in Conway



Owen Frazier
...Charlotte has more

● DORIS MILLER, a cook at Ryan's Steak House, lives on Sumter Avenue. She has been in Charlotte for 21 years, "all my life." In her opinion, Charlotte is "a good place to live. I like the people here. There's not as much violence here as there is in other places," she noted. "They're trying to get our city together. It's a nice place to live."

● OWEN FRAZIER is an unemployed warehouse worker residing on Torrence Road. Frazier has also lived elsewhere, but has been in Charlotte about 10 years. His response addressed the availability of aid to residents in different locales. "I believe Charlotte has more aid for people than Rock Hill," Frazier remarked. Frazier has lived in Rock Hill and other locations. He explained that he traveled around the country while his father was in the service. "On the whole, there

are people here who are concerned about others," he commented, but added the thought that local churches need to consider the handicapped to a greater extent.

● JACK TOMLINSON doesn't live in Charlotte. The Monroe resident is employed as a mechanic for Hall's General Tire. He commented on Monroe as good place to live. "There are good people in Monroe and the taxes are lower," he noted. Tomlinson has lived in that city since 1963, when he moved north from Greenville, S.C. "Monroe is a small town and I like that," he added.

● GLENN MORGAN, of Morgan & Beard Barber Shop on S. Tryon, downtown, expressed appreciation for Charlotte. "I've been in about 17 different countries and 23 states, and there's no place I've found as nice as Charlotte," he asserted.

In Essay-Poetry Contest

Kellie Talley Writes Winning Poem

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Earlier this year, the Community Relations Committee sponsored an essay-poetry contest in memory of Martin Luther King for the students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. According to Shirley Johnson, Community Relations Coordinator for the school system, the contest, which may become an annual event, had three objectives: (1) to create awareness of Dr. King, his life and works, and encourage students to learn more about him and his place in American history; (2) to encourage creativity among children in the form of written expression; and (3) to foster better school-community relations by encouraging the schools to become actively involved in the county-wide observance.

Kellie A. Talley, a ninth grader in Ms. Mary Wright's English class at Cochrane Junior High School, wrote one of the winning poems. Kellie, who entered the contest "because my teacher asked me to," never thought she would win. "My grandmother said I did a very good job and is very proud of me," she remarked. Others, however, were "shocked," she said. "They said they knew I had the talent but they didn't know I could project it in a positive manner," Kellie explained. "So I had to show them."

Kellie's poem, entitled "Fulfilling the Dream," is printed below. The young author related that she chose to write a poem rather than an essay "because I can get my thoughts across in fewer words. When I write an essay, I have too many thoughts and it gets too long."

In writing her prize-winning poem, many ideas came to Kellie's mind. "I thought about all that black people had been through and how I could've been born into it," she related. "We still have far to go, but we can overcome problems through love. Fighting won't do it." Without further ado, here is Kellie's poem.

"FULFILLING THE DREAM"

By Kellie Annette Talley

He had a dream of equality,
But has it become a reality?
Fulfilling this dream was his
lifetime ambition.
Winning the Nobel Peace Prize was
not his mission.
Bombings and violence were not
his to claim,
Was it our society, and not
the to blame?
To want freedom as well as equal
rights,
To make peace among the Blacks
and Whites,
To remove the transparent slave
whip the white man held,
To lift your head high,
Whenever you fell,
This one black man did all
he could,
To fight for a cause for which
he stood.

So we must back him in this
effortless deed,
Not to put down one another because
of their creed.
To realize the color of skin doesn't
matter at all,
We should pick up our brother
whenever he falls.
Like a ship held fast to a dock,
Our faith in one another should be
solid as a rock.
Like a roaring fire burning peaceful
and bright,
We should find peace with our
brother, through day and night.
When we learn as people to join our
brother's hand,
Then we can live together in our free
and beautiful land.
Maybe we all can't be a Martin
Luther King,
But we can all unite in love to fulfill
his dream!!



Kellie A. Talley
...Contest winner

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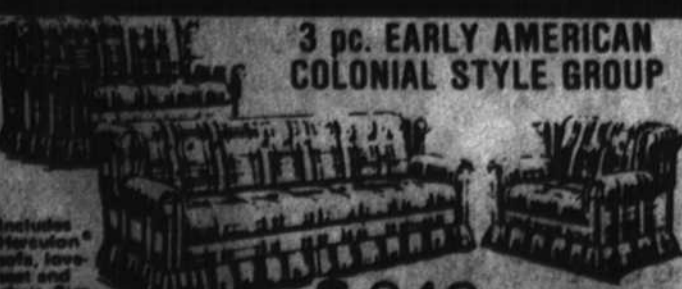
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Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalms 116:15

Death to a Christian is not a loss but a gain, not a demotion but a promotion.