

Opinions In The Workplace

Is There A Feeling Of Community Among Black People In Charlotte?

When you stop to think about it, the word "community" implies a sense of togetherness or unity. The word is often used to refer to a particular area or to a group of people with something in common such as "church community."

In the Post, we often use the phrase, "black community," to refer to Charlotte's black population. Is there a sense of community, though, in the Queen City? Do people work together? Can they count on one another?

Employees at the North Carolina Mutual office on South Blvd. were asked this question: "Do you feel there is a sense of community among black people in Charlotte?" Here is how they responded.



W.W. Twitty
....."People cooperate"



Wallace Green
....."Work together"



Mary Hinton
....."Too much envy"



Donna Ellis
....."Church plays role"

GERALDINE HAIRSTON, an MDO clerk, resides on Rockwell Blvd. "On a whole, yes," she replied. "Being black and being in several black organizations and working for a black company, I would say blacks as a whole tend to stick together. I think they could improve in the area of solving problems together. Some blacks don't come in contact with black street people, and I think we could get more involved in trying to help them."

DONNA ELLIS is office manager. She lives on N. Poplar. "I feel there is," Ms. Ellis began. "The church plays the largest role in community activity. At our church (Mt. Carmel Baptist, pastored by the Rev. Leon Riddick), a lot of people come for aid with college or utilities. We have a committee set up to help people in the community." Ellis, who came from Ohio, has lived in Charlotte for three years. "I'll never go back North to live," she declared. "Here, people are so warm, friendly, and congenial."

MARY HINTON, of Wynbrook Way, is a sales representative. "I do not feel that there's a unity among blacks in Charlotte," she stated.

"There's too much envy and jealousy among our people when they feel someone is doing well. They try to pull you down rather than help you succeed." Ms. Hinton has also lived in Charlotte for only three years. Before that, she lived in Gastonia, but "it's even worse there," she noted. She thinks the problem exists because "Everyone is concerned with themselves. When they get to the point where they've reached their goals, they're afraid someone will take it all away from them." She thinks black leadership has something to do with this. "With Martin Luther King, we pulled together. Since then, it seems we forgot what we were fighting for." With some gains made, Ms. Hinton remarked, "We forgot the struggle. We need to get back and work toward where we really want to go, which is equality, to be looked at as a person, not as a minority."

WALLACE GREEN, an agent, lives on Farmpond Lane. Green's initial response was simply, "There is." Having lived in Ohio

before coming to Charlotte seven years ago, Green noted that "there's more of a sense of humor here. In Ohio, people had a 'don't care' attitude. Here, people get along much better. They work together to solve common problems, and they solve problems more quickly than other places I've been. The church is very important in that regard."

DALTON JOHNSON JR., a Grimes Street resident, is sales manager at N.C. Mutual. Johnson's reply began with "Yes, but..." He added, "There should be more communication than there is now." He advised "trusting one another and knowing that the only way we can get ahead is to work with one another. One way we're not working together is in business. We're not patronizing one another enough or getting ideas from one another." A Charlotte resident all his life, Johnson feels that "We're definitely losing our sense of community. As I was growing up, we had a sense of looking out for one another. Neighbors were closer and could intervene as parents. Now if you do that, you're almost looking for a fight with the parents. It's the same way in the schools. Parents used to support teachers. Where we're really messing up is in losing family ties. Now, everyone has their own identity."

W. W. TWITTY of Madison Avenue is acting manager. "I feel a sense of community in Charlotte.



Dalton Johnson Jr.
....."Losing community"

People cooperate very well. There are instances when it appears they're not cooperating but overall, they are." Twitty has lived in Charlotte off and on since 1936. He believes there is a greater sense of community now than there used to be. "Greater opportunities for blacks have caused us to work more closely now than in the past." He pointed to the fact that more blacks are being elected to public office and more are going into business. "Blacks support black businesses," he said. "I have supported black businesses. You'll never find 100 percent of whites supporting whites or 100 percent of blacks supporting blacks, but on the whole they do," he added. "There's room for improvement, though."



Ahhhh, the decisions of life. These graduates of the Irwin Park Day Care center are already having to make them. As they progress to kindergarten, parents and teachers will have a major role in how they perceive their education but the final decision to learn will be up to them. Pictured above are, l-r,

director Rose L. Dolphus (seated), Terrance Bowman, Darius Huntley, Keshia Wallace and instructor Annie Oliphant. Second row l-r are Pernel Sings and Shavon Harrison. Back row includes Johnny Bell, Mariam Mills and Loveless Hoskins. (Photo by Ricky Sampson of Divine Reflections)

"WOW"



Go Krogering for USDA Choice Grain Fed Beef...



U.S.A. CHOICE HEAVY WESTERN GRAIN FED BEEF TOP ROUND

Boneless

London Broil

\$1.98

Lb.

GO KROGERING FOR

DOUBLE COUPONS

ALL WEEK LONG

We Will Double 5 MFGS' Coupons (UP to 50¢ FACE VALUE) FOR EVERY \$10 PURCHASE.

PLEASE SEE DETAILS IN STORE

USDA CHOICE HEAVY WESTERN GRAIN FED BEEF. BONELESS

Rib Eye Steak

\$3.98

Lb.

WHOLE 19-23 LB. AVG. WGT. OR SHANK HALF

Smoked Ham

68¢

Lb.

HOLLY FARMS CUT UP MIXED FRYER PARTS OR GRADE A

LIMIT 3 PKGS Lb.

Whole Fryers 49¢

ASSORTED VARIETIES

Jeno's Pizzas

10 Oz. Pkg.

89¢

KROGER GRADE A

Large Eggs

Doz.

69¢

ORIGINAL OR HICKORY

Hunt's BBQ Sauce 99¢

22 Oz. Btl.

COST CUTTER HAMBURGER OR

Hot Dog Buns

3 \$1

8 Ct. Pkgs.

SANDY MAC

Boiled Ham

\$2.99

Lb.

IT'S "NEW"

Big K Cherry Cola 69¢

2-Ltr NR Btl.

SOUTH CAROLINA SWEET

Ripe Peaches 38¢

Lb.

KROGER 2% LOWFAT SKIM MILK OR

Whole Milk 99¢

1/2 Gal. Ctn.

\$1.00 OFF REGULAR PRICE

SAVE A BUCK...

Get your advance discount tickets to the Hot Rod Supercruise exclusively at Kroger!

Charlotte Motor Speedway July 12, 13, 14

Subscribe To

THE CHARLOTTE POST

Call 376-0496

Kroger Sav-on

Open 8 AM to Midnight · Open Sunday 9 AM to 9 PM

6320 Albemarle Rd. 500 Tyvola Rd. 3301 Freedom Dr. 101 Eastway Dr.
568-2725 527-5470 399-8321 597-8995

Park Rd. MATTHEWS PINEVILLE
at Ideal Way 11446 East Hwy 51
376-0334 Independence Blvd At Park Rd. Ext. 365-1953

ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY: Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale in each Kroger Sav-on except as specifically noted in this ad. If we do run out of an item we will offer you your choice of a comparable item when available, reflecting the same savings or a raincheck which will entitle you to purchase the advertised item at the advertised price within 30 days. Only one vendor coupon will be accepted per item.