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 commonm such as "church community."

In the Post, we often use the phrase, "black community," to refer to Charlotte's black popula-tion. 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.

GERALDINE HAIRSTON, an MDO clerk, resides on Rockwell Blvd. "On a whole, yes," she re-plied. "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

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. 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. ership 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 read the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle were struggle to the struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle were struggle to the struggle forgot the struggle. We need to get back and work toward where we ity, 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



W.W. Twitty "People cooperate"



Wallace Green "Work together"



Mary Hinton "Too much envy"

munication 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, heavier feels that "We're definitely

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. Neigh-

bors were closer and could inter-

vene 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 real-

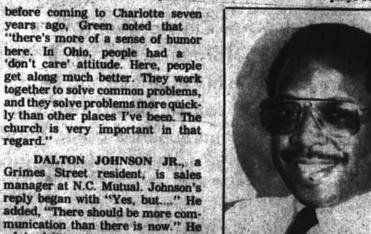
ly messing up is in losing family ties.

W. W. TWITTY of Madis

Now, everyone has their own identity."



Donna Ellis "Church plays role"



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 improve-ment, 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, 1-r,

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

Subscribe To THE CHARLOTTE POST Call 376-0496



USDA CHOICE HEAVY WESTERN GRAIN FED BEEF, BONELESS

Rib Eye Steak

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

Smoked Ham



COST CUTTER HAMBURGER OR



SANDY MAC **Boiled Ham**





HOLLY FARMS CUT UP MIXED FRYER PARTS OR GRADE A

ASSORTED VARIETIES Jeno's Pizzas

KROGER GRADE A

Large Eggs

Whole

Fryers

KROGER 2% LOWFAT

\$1.00 OFF REGULAR PRICE SAVEABBUCKER Get your advance discount tickets to t **Hot Rod Supercruis**

exclusively at Kroger! Charlotte Motor Speedway-July 12



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

6320 Albemarie Rd. 500 Tyvola Rd. 3301 Fr 568-2725 527:5470 591