



Joyce McMillan
....."Majority do"



Wayne Berry
....."Kind of hard"



Gall Sanders
....."No idea"

Opinions On The Street

Can Police Officers Be Better Protected?

A Charlotte police officer was recently killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, such occurrences are part of the risk men and women take on when they decide to enter careers in law enforcement. Nevertheless, when a death occurs it is as tragic as any other death.

Can those who serve the public by attempting to enforce the law be protected from potential killers? While there is probably no way to ensure an officer's safety 100 percent, there may be some ways to help minimize the danger.

The Post asked Charlotteans what they thought could be done to help protect our police officers, and if they thought police had the respect of the community. Here are their replies:

● **WAYNE BERRY** of Columbia Circle is a cook for Kentucky Fried Chicken on South Blvd. A

Charlottean all his life, Berry expressed the belief that police officers "get respect in this community. The kind of job they've got is kind of hard. Pairs might have a better chance."

● **DANNY MCKINNY**, manager of a Kentucky Fried Chicken on Remount Rd., is a resident of Ambassador St. He recalled that "a long time ago" officers drove around in pairs. "They need to start riding two in a car. They used to ride in pairs. They also need more back-up help. I think they get a bunch of respect."

● **GAIL SANDERS**, a cashier at Nelson's Restaurant, lives on Feldbank Drive. Sanders declared, "I have no idea what they could do," and questioned the effectiveness of bulletproof vests. From what she has seen on the news, she doesn't believe local police get enough respect.

● **ERSKINE PORTER** lives on Still Pond Court and works as a shipping-receiving clerk. "A police officer is out there protecting the public," he noted. "They're wide open, not knowing who they're going to face. They can talk to some (criminals) but others they can't." His recommendation: "The only thing we can do is give them our appreciation and cooperation."

● **JOYCE McMILLAN** of Barfield Drive is a nail technician for J.C. Penney at Eastland Mall. She suggested that "maybe they could have two cars investigate a crime" instead of a single officer going alone. She added, "I don't think they are respected enough. The majority of people do, but there are always some who don't."

● **PATRICIA SIDBERRY** is a nursing assistant at Wesley Nursing Center. She lives on Brentwood Place. "What they should do is have more than one on duty because there could be more than one person committing a crime. I don't think they get enough respect by people doing bad things. But most officers get the respect they're supposed to have."

● **SHARON ANDERSON** of Clinton Rd. is a salesperson at Richway. She seemed pessimistic about protecting the police. "I don't think anything can be done. As long as we live in this system something always is going to happen. Police are respected in the community, but I wouldn't want my son to become a police officer because he would have to kill people, and that's against my religion."

Open Door School Reserves "Few" Openings For Minority Students

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The Open Door School, a pre-school program for children ages two to five operated by the Unitarian Church of Charlotte, still has a few openings reserved for minority students.

Established in 1968, the school offers a morning program for children from two through five, September through May, and a full-day program for three and four year olds all year long.

The Open Door School is located in the lower level of the church at 234 N. Sharon Amity Rd. Founder Sue Riley, who is a former director of the school and is presently serving as summer director, reports, "We're gearing up for opening in September. We have about 100 students during the school year." Children have come from as far as Huntersville and Matthews and represent a multi-racial, multi-national mix of all economic levels.

The educational philosophy of the school is developmental. A variety of learning activities each day emphasize growth of the child's creativity and problem-solving abilities. A rich and stimulating program and a good teacher-pupil ratio allow recognition of each child's uniqueness, dignity, and individual learning style. Two large, well-equipped and wooded playgrounds allow for exploration of the outdoors.

The school year begins right after Labor Day, according to Ms. Riley. Children must reach their class age by October 16. An "easing-in" schedule at the beginning of the year aids the child's adjustment.

The half-day program for two year olds is two days a week. Three year olds attend the half-day program three days, and four and five year olds, five days. The tuition for the half-day program ranges from \$45 a month to \$75. The cost for the full-day program for three and four year olds is \$210 a month.

Ms. Riley stresses that any parent interested in the school should not let tuition be a barrier. "To my knowledge," she asserts, "we've never turned anyone away who couldn't pay for it." A scholarship

program, funded by art auctions and private donations, is available for those who need assistance.

At the present time, the school does not provide transportation. Ms. Riley admits that the lack of transportation "has been a real problem." In the past, however, some parents have formed carpools for their children.

For more information about the Open Door School, call the school at 364-1521. Ms. Riley can also be reached at 375-4342.



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