

Chronicle Profile

The Bottom Line

Harold Ellison used to be a linebacker on the football team at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee. After that, he had a shot at the pro line-up when he was drafted by the Miami Dolphins in '65. But now he has reached what he calls "The Bottom Line."

He is serving a ten-year prison sentence. "I want to tell my story, because I was really involved in the crime prevention program," Ellison explained. "I want to prevent young people

from getting in trouble."

Ellison seems a most unlikely candidate for a prison term. He holds a B.S. degree from Lane in Sociology, a B.S. from Tennessee State in French, and a Master's Degree from the University of Maryland.

"I am not a habitual offender," says Harold Ellison.

He is mostly a victim of circumstances.

After a few years of teaching in Mississippi and later in Maryland, Ellison moved to

Greensboro and started a contracting business. As a graduate of the National Executive Institute, he handled the management end of the business.

When the '74 recession crippled the national economy, Ellison's contracting business went under.

"I should have filed for bankruptcy, but I didn't," says Ellison.

"I kept hanging on, waiting for that one big job that would solve all the financial problems."

In order to survive

while he was waiting for "the one big job," he wrote checks that he could not cover, and the big job never came. Instead, he was prosecuted for writing worthless checks, and sentenced to ten years in prison.

"One of the worst things about going to prison is that you lose all your friends," he recalls. "Nobody knows you when you're in trouble."

He was sent first to McLeanville Minimum Security Prison where he organized an Adult

Basic Education Program for fellow inmates, most of whom had no more than a sixth grade education. He was so successful that Greensboro Technical Institute made him a staff member.

When he was transferred to Lexington, he set up another education program—but for the first few weeks after his arrival Ellison, with two college degrees and a Master's, worked on a road gang for seventy

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Harold Ellison hopes that the ESH Anti-Crime Campaign will teach youngsters that crime does not pay -- before they learn from experience.

Letter To The Chronicle

Continued From Page 4 cert at all. Really, giving numerical estimate ("there couldn't have been more than 200 or 300 people") was absolutely unnecessary and irrelevant in reviewing the artistic quality of the orchestra's performance.

I seriously doubt the validity of the second paragraph ("seemed a waste, and such a sad moment when one is omniscient in such matters. Never would I claim to possess that quality, but I am convinced there are many who would agree with me that time, talent and money have been, will be and are more sadly (yes, much more sadly than in this concert) wasted in numerous other arts performances, projects, etc., not associated with this particular university.

The third ("The audience response, however, left much to be desired.") and sixth ("many of those there seemed not to appreciate what they heard") paragraphs ignore the fact that the audience responded with several standing ovations during this concert.

Concerning paragraph sixteen ("mostly novice concertgoers"), unless Mrs. Shertzer has detailed knowledge of the lives of at least 51% of the members of the audience, he is most likely just "shooting off at the mouth."

With respect to paragraph seventeen ("Many of those who stayed clearly wished to be elsewhere"), unless Mr. Shertzer (1) is an expert

on human behavior and/or (2) conducted an on-the-spot survey of the preferences of these particular individuals, he had no justification for making such a statement. Anyone faintly familiar with the college academic environment should be well aware that the period for final examinations (in most universities, including Winston-Salem State University) is near. I've observed that students from most of the other universities in North Carolina are apt to leave programs early in order to study, write papers, etc. Nothing is new about that. (On occasion I've done it myself.) IF students did leave the Charlotte Symphony concert early, I am sure it was due to the aforementioned reason rather than to their lack of interest in the concert or the orchestra's performance. But, "students around me walked out right and left" gives the impression of "all the troops hastening in retreat." Apparently, a better choice of words is warranted here.

The only problem with the concert was probably Mr. Shertzer's failure to stay home. I am in doubt as to whether he would have attended the concert had it not been his job to do so. Perhaps a sport-writer would have written at least a fairer review of this concert, since sport-writers have seemed to be more just in their articles concerning sports activities at Winston-Salem State University. Perhaps...it might not be a bad idea for Mr. Shertzer to make appointments

with an ophthalmologist or optometrist and an otorhinolaryngologist so that he might listen to and see future arts performances at Winston-Salem State University with more acuity...so that he might attend more closely to relevant matters of fact. He states that the "orchestra deserved much better than it got." Much closer to the point is that a much fairer review of this concert was deserved by all concerned that the one which appeared in Friday's Journal.

Incidentally, Mr. Shertzer's article ("Acoustics Are Still Not Perfect in Renovated Hall at NCSA," Winston-Salem Journal, December 3, 1977, p. 29) neither makes mention of an actual numerical estimate of those who were in attendance nor describes their response to or behavior at the program. My pointing this out may sound trite, but so did several of the details in Friday's review article.

I wonder if the editor of the Journal has given due consideration to derogatory reviews of this nature. Surely, the people of Winston-Salem deserve art criticism of better quality than this.

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Winston-Salem, N.C.

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Shagail Robinson



Irma Berry



Catherine Wilson

4th "Miss Jr. Ram Pageant" Held

The Kuandeala Alumni Chapter of Winston-Salem State University sponsored its fourth annual "Miss Jr. Ram Pageant" on Saturday, November 19 at the Student Union Ballroom on the college campus.

Crowned "Miss Jr. Ram" 1977-78, was Miss Catherine Wilson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Wilson. She is a freshman at Bishop McGuinness High School. First runner-up for the crown was Shagail Robinson, daughter of Mrs. Cortney

Robinson. She is a freshman at Carver High School. Second runner-up was Miss Irma Berry, daughter of Mrs. Lucille Berry and the late Mr. William Berry. Irma is a sophomore at Hill High School.

Other contestants were Miss Valerie Clayborn, daughter of Mrs. Evelina Clayborn and Miss Tonya Grady, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Grady.

The winners were presented trophies and wardrobes from Davis Department Stores.

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For other exciting salad ideas, look for recipes in August and September women's magazines.

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Picket Fence Club

The Picket Fence Garden Club held its November meeting at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Gwyn of 2370 Dellabrook Road.

Plans for the Christmas Holiday House Tour were discussed during the business meeting.

T.W. Flowers, Horticultural Specialist from Greensboro, discussed Bulb Planting, Landscape Planning and the care of plants during the winter season. Interesting slides were shown which added much to the informal discussion.

Mrs. Flowers was also a guest of the club.

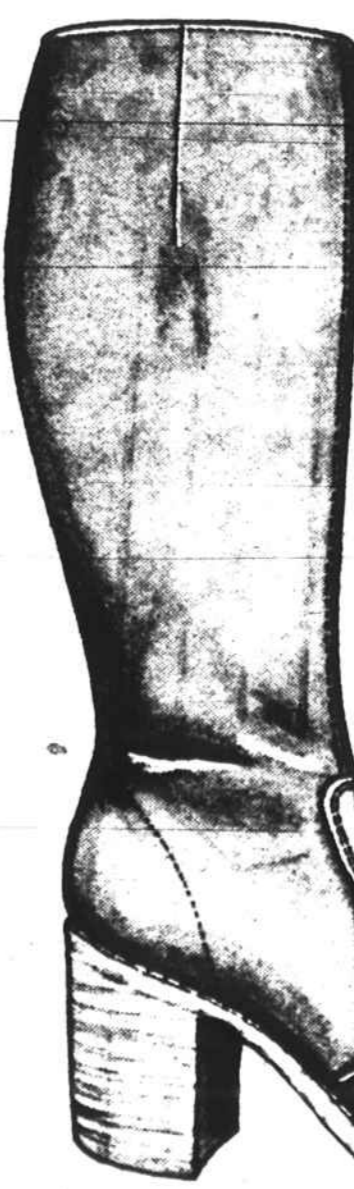
The hostess, Mrs. J.W. Gwyn, served a very delicious repast.

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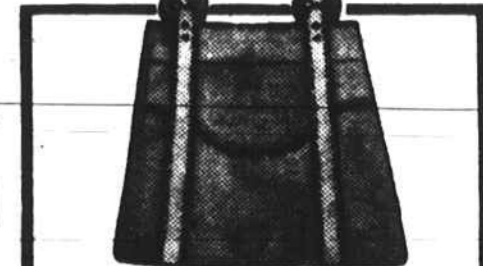
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