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Crime prevention officer Frank D. Green shows the weaknesses of hollow-core doors against burglars in a Neighborhood Watch lecture.

'If It Isn't Them, It Don't Matter'

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

The concern showed in the homeowner's face as he walked up to the unmarked police car. He had a lot to gripe about.

First, he asked if anything could be done about a man frequenting the vacant house next door. He took classes at night, and he was concerned that the vagrant might harm his wife and children.

He didn't trust his neighbors on the one-block long unpaved street only a few hundred feet from several blocks cleared out for redevelopment. He cited the shooting and poisoning of two of his guard dogs.

"The folks on this street have the attitude that if it wasn't them, it don't matter," the homeowner said.

Inside the police car, nodding as if he had heard the story a million times, was Frank D. Green, a walking "crime beat" who has the responsibility for "crime prevention" over much of the black community of Winston-Salem.

Green took the opportunity to push Neighborhood Watch, the program the police department is touting as

a way to reduce crime. He explained that the cooperation of the man's neighbors was needed to make such a program work.

The homeowner thought for a second, looked up and down the street and turned back to Green. "How can I make it (Neighborhood Watch) work, when maybe my neighbor wants to do it (break in) himself?" he asked.

"That's the problem," said Green as he drove away from the conversation. He passed through neighborhoods of ramshackle houses, mostly populated by renters.

Crime in Black Neighborhoods

"In neighborhoods where people don't own anything, nothing happens (with regard to Neighborhood Watch)," he said.

As he drove around, he passed houses with neatly cut grass and flower gardens. "Now, they have Neighborhood Watch signs in their yards."

He said much of the burden for reducing crime rests with the individual communities.

"If you have a neighborhood where a person

witnesses a crime and doesn't report it, it's going to happen again," he said.

In neighborhoods where people call us, the criminal won't go back there because he feels he's being watched," Green emphasized.

Green is the crime prevention officer for police district two, which extends from Liberty Street east to the city limits. He is one of four such officers in the city who organize Neighborhood Watch programs, give lectures on crime prevention conduct security surveys for business and keep track of crime trends.

While riding down almost any street in his district, Green showed an uncanny ability to point out houses where domestic problems, assaults and the like were frequent occurrences.

The actual statistics for major crime in the black community show that about a third of the murders, rapes, robberies, assaults, burglaries and larceny and car theft committed in Winston-Salem during 1975, 1976 and 1977 occurred in predominately black neighborhoods.

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On-street Parking Limited near WSSU

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen has voted to prohibit some of the off campus parking at Winston-Salem State University. Alderman Virginia Newell introduced the resolution which would prohibit parking on portions of Cromartie, Atkins and Cleveland Streets.

Newell told the board that residents of those streets had complained about the parking on both sides of the street.

"Some of the residents have complained that they have been hemmed in and are unable to get in or out of those streets," Newell said.

The resolution, passed by the board, would require that a "No Parking Any-

time" zone be established on the south side of Cromartie Street between Atkins Street and Claremont Avenue.

There is a \$25 fee for parking on campus and according to a spokesman for the campus police, most students avoid paying the fee by parking off campus.

"It costs \$25 a year to park on campus and \$10 for

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Bumper-to-Bumper

Dual parking on Cromartie Street, which is across the street from the campus of Winston-Salem State University will no longer be allowed, because of a resolution passed by the Board of Alderman, which will restrict parking to one side of the street.

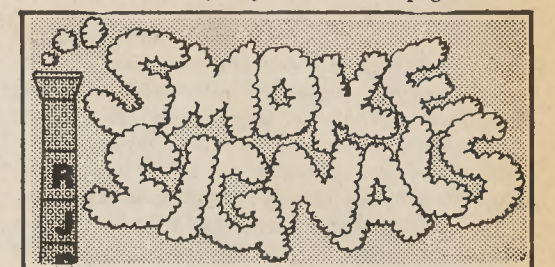
Ellison In Limbo

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

ESR officials are still awaiting word on the fate of Harold Ellison, director of Project SOY, now awaiting trial in Virginia on a 1974 worthless check charge.

Michael Wright, an associate of Ellison's at the Experiment in Self-Reliance, said that since the article on Ellison's situation appeared in the September 16th edition of the

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Took my son for a walk to the park the other day. As he rode on the swinging airplane there, a young lady, about 10 years old, walked up.

"That your son," she said.
"Yep."
"How old he is?" she asked.
"One year," I replied.

A few minutes later she had run off to play in another part of the park. I began to think about the way she had juxtapositioned the "he" and the "is." The commonly accepted usage would be "How old is he?" However irregular, her usage still constitutes a sentence, a perfectly proper sentence some English scholars would argue.

It made me think of an old high school classmate of mine, "Rat" Smith, and his sidekick, Foote. Foote had a first name, but no one ever used it and it escapes my memory now.

"Rat" had the same habit as the young lady with regard to juxtaposing his verbs and subjects in questions. He was famous for yelling, "Where Foote is?"

We all had a good time laughing at "Rat". However, his habit is a common one. Funny as it sounds, it is also a serious habit. For if children do not pick up the fundamentals of grammar in their speech, they will likely not pick it up in their writing or other use of the language.

Language problems such as these have a way of showing up in the form of bad test scores or English grades, resulting in belated remedial work which might damage the child's ego.

Something as simple as the way a child puts together a sentence could pyramid into problems that might force him or her from school or inhibit them from getting the full measure from their schooling.

And it seems the solution could be just a simple. I notice many parents who are constantly after their children about their language, particularly in the pre-school years. I suspect those kids are not the ones with the juxtaposition problem.

The little lady in the park is probably no less intelligent than anyone else's kid. No one has taken the time to correct her language and that could make a lot of difference, eventually.

"What it is?" might be hip, but "What is it?" might take one a lot farther.

By John W. Templeton

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all for you

•The State NAACP will focus on strengthening ties with churches during its upcoming meeting. See page 2.

•Low-cost housing for the poor. Meet a woman whose job it is to find it on page 3.

•The war on heart disease by the Patterson Avenue "Y." See editorials, page 4.

•Rufus Edmisten, the former Senate aide turned attorney general, tells about the shifts in emphasis in law enforcement in Questions and Answers, page 5.

•Ebony Fashion Fair comes to town. See Social Whirl, page 6.

•They're out to get Bill Hayes and his Rams. Find out about the two-week showdown that could decide the CIAA title on page 11, where Black on Sports also asks what's the difference between Muhammad Ali and Jim McKinley.

Auto Repair Protection Backed

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

RALEIGH--Attorney General Rufus L. Edmisten plans to propose legislation requiring auto repair shops to give consumers written estimates listing in advance the work they will do.

Under his proposal, if the

repairman wants to do additional work not included in the estimate, he must call the consumer and get approval.

Edmisten listed auto repairs as the major consumer rip-off during a Questions and Answers interview with the Chronicle news staff in his Raleigh

office September 14. The Justice Department, headed by Edmisten, includes the state's consumer protection division.

"We have more complaints on (auto repairs) than any other one thing--sometimes as many as one hundred per week," said Edmisten. "It's the most

perplexing problem I know."

"You take a car in and you say I want something done to fix my carburetor," he added. "You go back at the end of the day and they've done \$300 worth of everything you can think of and the consumer had no idea they were going to do

that." During the hour-long session, Edmisten also said:

•The Goldsboro trial of "Ike" Atkinson and 16 others accused of operating a heroin ring is the "most critical trial today in Ameri-

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Suicide Seen As Final Solution

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

"It takes a lot of planning to kill yourself," says 26-year old Denise R.

She should know. She tried it three times.

Perhaps she is still alive because subconsciously she did not mean to succeed.

Psychologists say that many suicide attempts are a cry for help, or an attempt to instill guilt in a person with whom you are having problems.

Denise was a newlywed having marital problems. "I couldn't talk to anybody about it," she recalls.

"Because I didn't want my family to know my marriage was in trouble. It would be like admitting failure. So I decided to kill myself."

"I wrote notes to everybody before I did it. I wrote my mother, my sisters, my uncle, my husband. I told

them I was sorry, but I thought this was the best thing to do. If I died then my husband would be rid of me, and I wouldn't suffer any more."

"I took sleeping pills while he was away at work. I didn't know what would happen. I thought you just went peacefully to sleep and didn't wake up. But you don't. It gives you cramps. It hurts."

Her husband came home in time to save her. He took her to the hospital, and Denise had her stomach pumped.

"When we came home, I just slept. It happened on a Monday, and the next thing I knew it was Friday.

For a few weeks things got better between Denise and her husband, but soon the situation worsened. About three months after the first incident she tried

again.

"I was through with pills," Denise said. "Too much time for somebody to

find you. I decided to cut my wrists."

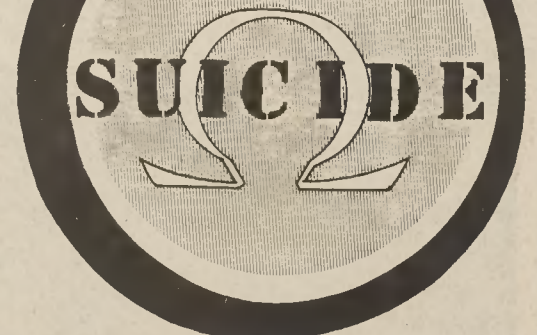
One morning when her husband left for work, Denise ran a tubful of warm

water, got in, and slit her wrists.

"It didn't hurt," she recalls, in a dreamy voice.

"I just lay there in the tub, feeling drowsy, and watched the water turn red."

On that morning, of all days, her husband had



Denise ran a tubful of warm

water, got in, and slit her wrists.

"I just lay there in the tub, feeling drowsy, and watched the water turn red."

On that morning, of all days, her husband had

forgotten his lunch bag. He came back to the apartment and found her.

After that came hospitalization and therapy, but the marriage had deteriorated past the point of saving.

Denise found a job and began living by herself.

"I wasn't happy working in the department store," says Denise. "The supervisor did not like black people. She expected me to be stupid and to say nothing but 'yes, ma'am and no ma'am.' I wasn't like that. So every week when she made up our work schedules, she'd give me shorter and shorter hours. Finally she told me I was laid off."

"I remember getting that letter, and it was just the last straw. I had bills to pay--no husband, no job. I didn't know what I was

going to do. So I just ran screaming from the apartment. Screaming. Like a wild woman."

"And I was headed straight for the lake. I couldn't swim, and I thought: 'That will be the end of it.'"

But her neighbors in the apartment complex had seen her run out screaming, and one man went after her.

"...I remember shutting my eyes and hurling myself at the lake, but I never touched water. He had caught me and was holding me by the shoulders."

They called Denise's mother, and she went home for a while. Gradually her depression subsided and she found another job. and began a different life.

"Will I try to kill myself again?" asks Denise. 3

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