



**Top of the class!**  
Six-year-old Antwan Clemons graduates with highest honors.

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**Teaching discipline**  
Home-school coordinator working with parents and students.

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## Were they guilty or entrapped?

### Opinions differ on fairness of trial

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Former alderman Patrick Hairston emerged from a federal courthouse last Thursday after a jury of five whites, six blacks and one Asian-American found him and

consultant Rodney Sumler guilty on 20 counts of political corruption, and muttered, "Only in America."

Hairston's not the only one who thinks he didn't get a fair trial. Emotions are running high in the community: some see the investigation,

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Sumler



Hairston



Mack

### Mack, Sumler await verdict

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

A heavy thunderstorm raged outside the federal courthouse in Greensboro Monday and the Rev.

Lee Faye Mack began to weep as her daughter-in-law, Belita Martin-Mack, answered questions from prosecutor Doug Cannon.

For the past seven weeks, Rev.

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## Feds investigating lending institutions

▲ More than 266 banks nationwide targeted for evidence of discrimination in mortgage loan applications

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a dozen banks, including some in Texas, have acknowledged federal regulators are scrutinizing their lending records for evidence of discrimination against minorities, *The Wall Street Journal* reported today.

The Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the regulator of nationally-chartered banks, confirmed last week that it had targeted 266 banks for investigation based on data showing they turned down mortgage loan applications from blacks and other minorities far more often than applications from whites.

Spokeswoman Ellen Stockdale said today it is the policy of the comptroller's office not to identify banks under investigation.

Banks acknowledging to the *Journal* they have been asked to explain their rejection rates are:

- First City Bancorp of Texas

- First Interstate Bank of Texas.
- Banc One Texas and Banc One Mortgage Co. in Texas, Bank One Lexington (Ky.), and Bank One Cleveland, all subsidiaries of Banc One Corp. of Columbus, Ohio.
- Hibernia National Bank, New Orleans, which has branches in Texas.

Using a computer to scan 1990 mortgage loan data, released last October by the Federal Reserve, the *Journal* identified 105 banks with widely disparate rejection rates for whites and minorities. Fifteen of them, responding to a *Journal* survey, confirmed their lending policies are under investigation.

However, some of the 15 disputed the data and others attributed the disparity to an aggressive effort to solicit applications from minorities.

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Bird's-eye view!

Two-year-old Joel Coel enjoys a bird's-eye view on the shoulders of Chris Coleman at the Fun/Family Awards program.

## 'Keep our centers open' residents urge committee

▲ Alderman Larry Womble and residents pleaded with city's Finance Committee to reconsider budget cuts

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Larry Womble and South ward residents made a plea to the city aldermen's Finance Committee Tuesday night not to close Morningside Recreation Center.

Four recreation centers — all located in the black community — face reductions in budget and services in the city's proposed 1992-93 budget. A public hearing was held at the committee's Tuesday meeting. The four centers include: Morningside, Kingston Green, North Hills, and Northampton. The next meeting will be held next Tuesday, May 26, when a final decision will be made on the budget.

"We're going to fight this," said Womble. "It seems like this is

already in concrete, but we're here tonight to try to keep the cement from hardening.

"There is a clear need for these centers. I am a product of a recreation center. It kept me off the streets," he said, adding that the shut-down of the centers may force the children to hang out on the streets.

"Whenever there is a decision

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Jackie Teal

**ON THE AVANT-GARDE**  
By TANG NIVRI

### Something ought to be said

We had just told our five-year-old son and his three-year-old cousin to stop playing doggie when all of a sudden we heard this very loud crash. Something tragic must have happened.

We rushed into the bedroom and found large pieces of glass sprayed all over the floor. This had the look of a very serious accident. In the midst of this near-tragedy were the two little boys — both of whom knew that something had gone terribly wrong.

Apparently, "Mister Dog's" leg, the three-year-old cousin, had been tied to the bubble gum machine in order to keep him still for a while. But Mister Dog didn't want to rest. He didn't want to be still. He wanted to go around the house barking "woof, woof, woof." But Mister Dog wasn't old enough to untie himself from the bubble gum machine.

The boys weren't hurt, thank God, but now, unless one of them could find the appropriate

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## Word on the street . . .

▲ Alderman Larry Womble found innocent . . . Patrick Hairston and Rodney Sumler convicted . . . Here's what people say about the verdict



"I thought everyone would get off. I don't think the (innocent) verdict on Womble will damage his credibility in the black community, even though they tried to use those tactics to do just that. It's hard to argue that it was an unfair verdict, just by the makeup of the jury. They made a sound decision based on the given facts. (But) this type of lobbying happens all the time in Washington."

— Bobby Brown, 41



"I feel like they were all set-up. The (white) guy who already showed prejudice should not have been trusted. Womble obviously presented his case better than the other two. I definitely believe that if they were white there would have been a different verdict. There seems to be two sets of laws, a written law and an unwritten law, and the unwritten law mostly applies to blacks."

— Beatrice Weaver, 60



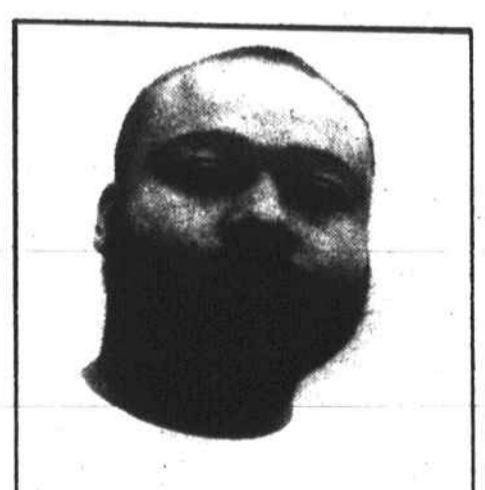
"Nationwide black officials, I feel, are being targeted. We basically still live in the good ol' boy system, where (whites) can do whatever they want to do and get away with it. I actually know Womble and I feel he was innocent all along. I didn't know the others personally. I don't know their integrity. It was left up to the hands of the court system and justice was served."

— Robert Lane, 36



"I don't even understand how and why Womble got off free. Honestly speaking I thought they were all guilty. They were on trial because they did something wrong — black, white, yellow, purple — I don't care what color you are if you did it. I don't think (Mack) will get off either. If they had to go through it all over again, and serve the public, they should do it the right way."

— Wanda Frazier, 39



"It was satisfying to see one black walk away. If you're crazy enough to get caught up in it, then you got what you paid for. You can't set a man up who isn't doing anything wrong. Obviously they weren't doing something they shouldn't have been doing. But they'll probably just get probation. There are enough people in jail. They just wanted them to know, we're watching you."

— Jay Johnson, 32