

Six-year-old graduates valedictorian

▲ Antwan Clemons graduated from Ephesus Jr. Academy with honors

By YVETTE H. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

Antwan Clemons wants to be a lawyer when he gets older. He already knows how to speak up for himself, and he has the academics to back him up.

Clemons graduated from the Ephesus Jr. Academy kindergarden class this past Saturday, May 16. He was the class valedictorian, graduating with the highest grade average.

"I was really excited," said his mother, Miriam, who added that she was somewhat surprised about the honor since she and her son are not members of the Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church. Although the Clemons are natives of Winston-Salem, they are members of Miracle Temple Church in High Point.

The six-year-old Clemons had made the principal's honor roll at the Academy four terms in a row. And in addition to being honored for his academic excellence, he also received numerous honors for other activities at the Academy during an awards ceremony held Friday, May 15.

He received a trophy and certificate for winning first place in the Academy's spelling bee, and ribbons for being the "Most Academic," "Most All-Around," "Most Athletic," and "Most Likely to Succeed."

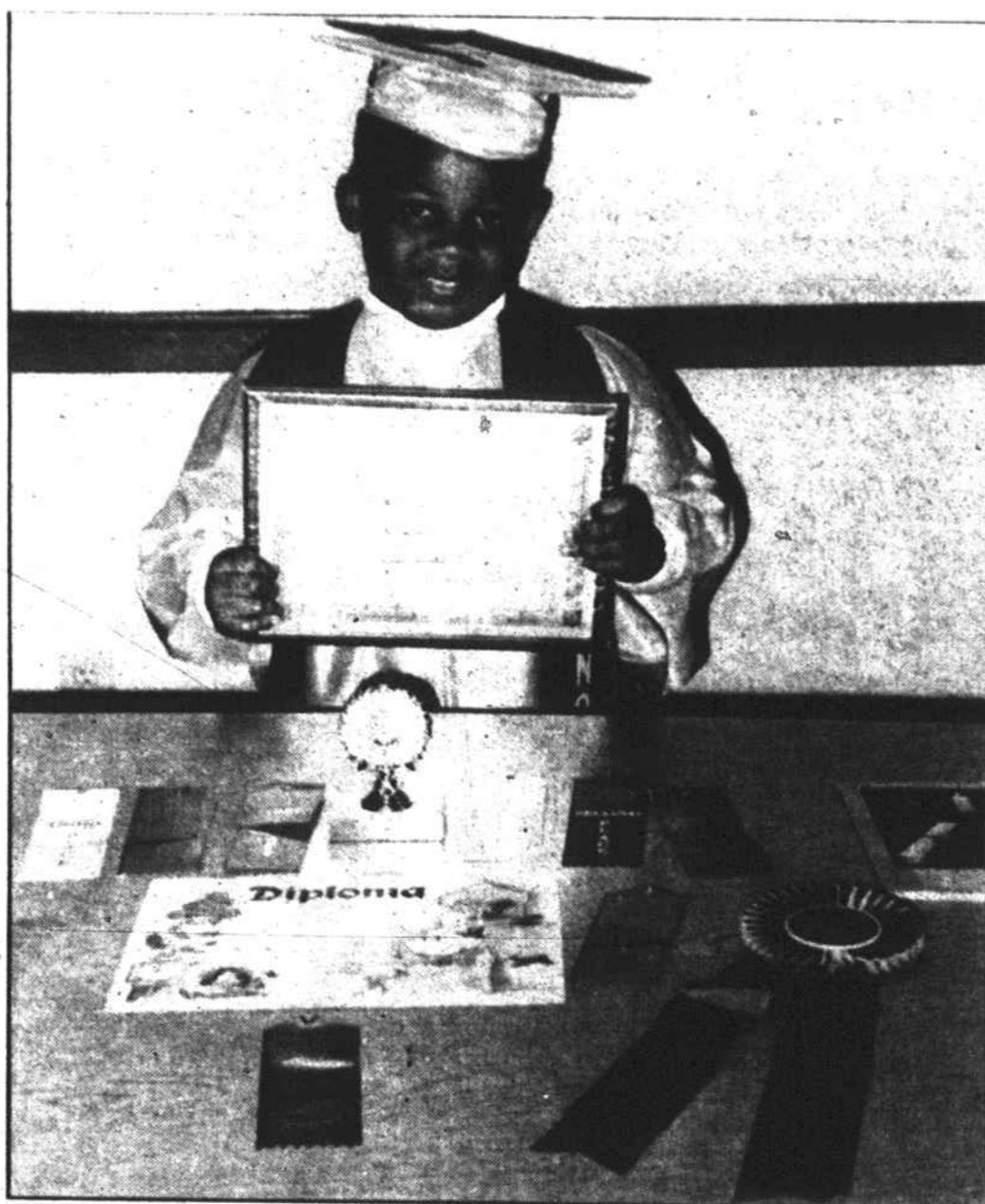
He also received a Bible award ribbon, a math contest certificate, several other athletic awards, and a perfect attendance certificate.

Clemons, who was also the class president, is a very outgoing young man. In fact, his mother says "He doesn't meet any strangers. He talks all the time."

That was not the case during an interview on Monday. One-word answers were all he could give, except when he was talking to his mother. When asked whether he was shy though, he fervently shook his head 'no.'

However, he did manage to say that he likes attending school and reading, which is a characteristic that will come in handy in about 16 or 17 years, when he enters law school.

Clemons is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Clemons Jr.



Antwan Clemons holds up his kindergarden diploma along with the other awards he received.

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Sims Center holds Mother's Day program

The William C. Sims Recreation Center, along with Better You and Better Me, and the Happy Hill Boys' Club recently held a Mother's Day program.

The program was held May 6 with 33 mothers and 25 children in attendance.

During the program, several speakers spoke of the importance of mothers in the community. The speakers included Ron Bethune, director of the Happy Hill Boys' Club; Clarence Brown, a volunteer of the Sims Recreation Center; Sara Hines, spokesperson for the mothers of the Happy Hill community; and Ben Piggott, director of the

Sims Recreation Center.

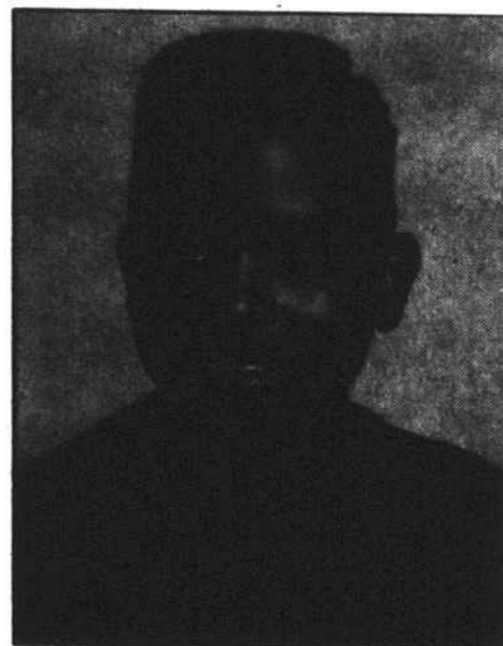
The program also featured the unveiling of a new wall plaque honoring Mahala L. Wilkins, Emma Sims, Harry W. Campbell Sr., Maggie Edwards, Karen Jackson, Yvonne Jefferson, and Alderman Virginia K. Newell, for their concern and hard work in the planning and design of the Sims Recreation Center. The plaque will be mounted in the Center.

James Hayes, a seventh grader, was announced as the Center's "Student of the Month" for the month of May. He is a student at Wiley Middle School. He is active in the Learning Center, and recently par-

ticipated in the Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.'s Oratorical Contest. He was the third place winner.

Hayes was chosen as "Student of the Month" based on his attendance to the Center's classes, above average school work, oral and written presentations, and his leadership abilities in school.

Meantime, the Sims Recreation Center also recently held a "Girls Overnight" program on Saturday, May 15 through Sunday, May 16. Clarence Brown served as the master of ceremonies. Activities included comedy, song and dance, and modeling.



James Hayes



Adriene Wilson of First Union talks to some of the sleepover participants.

Keep our centers open

to cut the budget, we always put the burden on those who can not afford it. If you need to cut the budget, why not start at the top? For instance, this city is the only city, besides Charlotte, that has four assistant city managers," said Womble.

Womble met with Morningside community residents Monday night to discuss problems that have caused the lack of attendance.

"We don't think it's right to close down our centers. I don't like the idea of my 11-year-old walking down Reynolds Park Road to go to another center. If we do this, we will be opening ourselves to a num-

ber of problems," said Autra Johnson, who spoke at Tuesday's meeting.

"What you need to do is put programs in there that children will be interested in," she said.

Jackie Teal, president of the Morningside Manor Home Owner's Association, agreed, saying that the lack of programs and activities has kept the children out of the center.

"This will be damaging to our community. We will lose some of our children," Teal said. "Parents want to raise their children close to the home as possible."

Teal also warned the committee that an abandoned building can

Continued from page A1

attract vandalism and loitering to the area.

A resident from Northampton shared in the same concerns. "There are times when (the children) have no other place to go," said Ernestine Rorie.

Womble said the centers have become a problem of the "chicken and the egg."

"Attendance is not up because there aren't any programs and there aren't any programs because there's low attendance. Which comes first?" he questioned. He said if the centers are closed we can expect drug use, vandalism and violence to increase in the black community.

Mack, Sumler

Mack sat calmly through the government's conspiracy case against political consultant Rodney Sumler, former alderman Patrick Hairston, and Alderman Larry Womble. After the jury convicted Hairston and Sumler and acquitted Womble last Thursday, they began to hear Mack's case that same afternoon.

But the pressure of the long ordeal showed on her face and that of her many family members and supporters who have faithfully appeared in the courtroom each day of her trial.

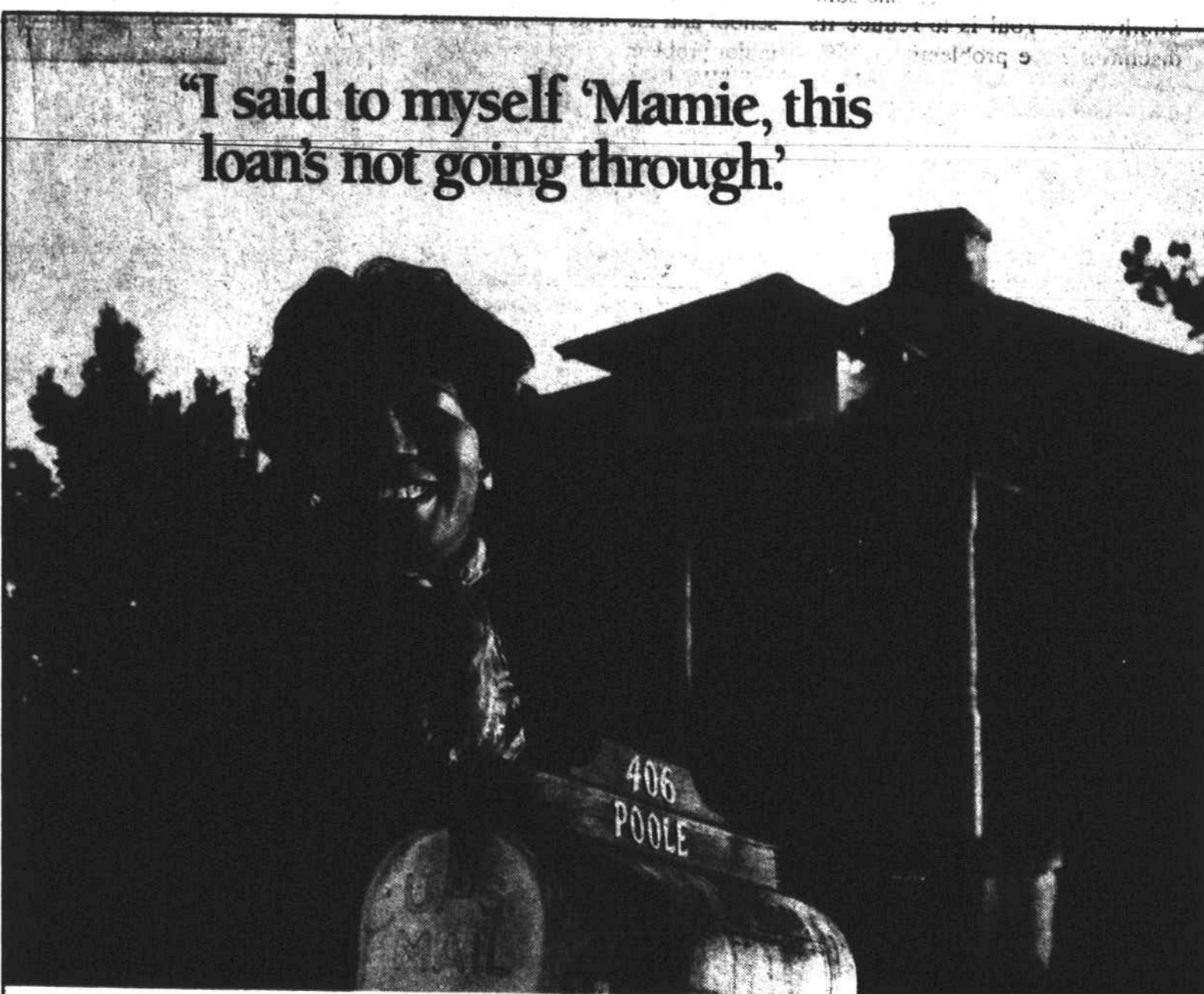
The jury is expected to begin deliberating Thursday on two charges of perjury and obstruction of justice against Mack, and two remaining charges against Sumler, obstruction of justice and income tax evasion. Much of this week, Sumler has lowered his eyes and leaned back in his seat beside his attorney, John A. Dusenbury of Asheville.

Prosecutors contend that Mack lied to the grand jury in October, 1989, when she told them Rodney Sumler had nothing to do with preparing a list of contributions for

the Back To Life Center. Sumler gave that list to the grand jury.

Cassandra Scales, Sumler's former secretary, testified in the earlier trial that Sumler gave her a handwritten list of contributions and directed her to type it on the typewriter at the Back To Life Center, which was founded by Maek in 1988.

Mack's attorneys, Gregg Davis of Winston-Salem and Lewis Pitts of the Southern Institute in Durham, contend that Mack was confused by the questioning, and did not understand what was being asked of her.



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