

# Educator retires after four decades of public service

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Mabel Hoggard Magnet School principal William Evans will dismiss himself from 40 years of public school service next month.

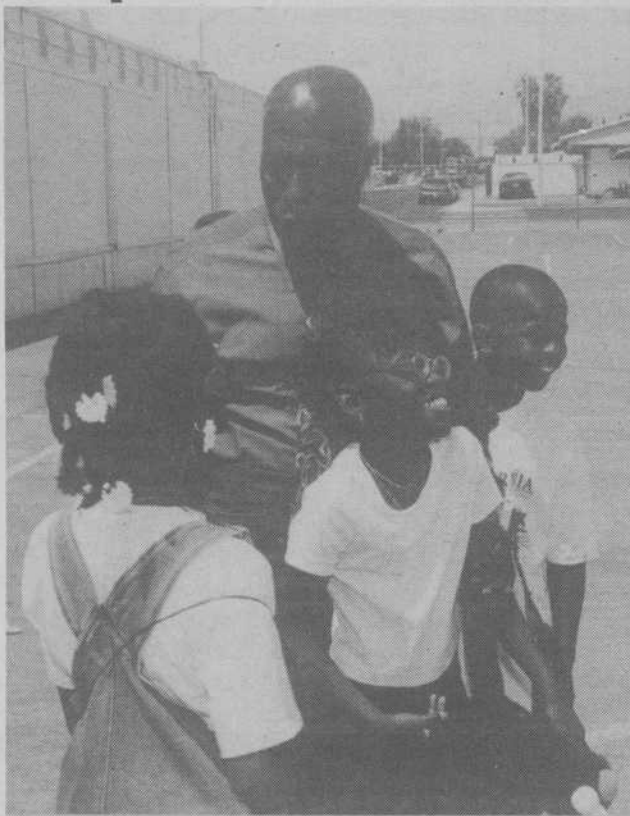
"You've lived a good life if after 40 years you can see the good you have accomplished," said soon-to-be-retired principal who prefers to be called Bill. "People still remember me as their principal when I go to banks and supermarkets."

Evans began his teaching in 1959 in his hometown of Symma, De. after receiving a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in physical science.

He earned a master's degree in education from the University of Maryland, where he majored in Special Education.

"The state of Maryland would pay your way to any university in the nation," Evans said about Maryland's position on blacks attending its state university before 1954. "Long as you didn't go to the University of Maryland."

In 1963, he came to Las



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

Hoggard principal William Evans jokes with pupils recently. Evans retires after a distinguished career.

Vegas to teach elementary education and coach football, basketball, baseball, and track & field. He earned an education specialist degree from UNLV.

"We started black kids on the Westside in sports," said

retired elementary school principal John Bass, a friend of Evans for 32 years. "Nurturing principal best describes him ... He really cares about people and kids."

Evans' Clark County (See Evans, Page 17)

## Jefferson, Hemings relatives gather for historic reunion

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) -Descendants of Thomas Jefferson and offspring of his slave Sally Hemings gathered at his plantation Saturday for the first time in 170 years and promised to stay close, whether or not they become official blood cousins.

"I hope this is the beginning of a long relationship," said James Truscott, a white descendant of Jefferson's daughter Maria and vice president of the Jefferson family's Monticello Association.

The association, comprised of white Jefferson descendants, will debate at a private family meeting Sunday whether to accept Hemings' progeny as their blood cousins, allowing them to be buried at the family

cemetery at Monticello.

Jefferson, who became president in 1801, was accused publicly in 1802 of being the father of several of Sally Hemings' children. Scholars have differed about whether to believe it ever since.

A DNA study published in November said Jefferson may have fathered at least one of Hemings' children.

At a news conference Saturday evening at Monticello, Jefferson's Blue Ridge mountaintop home, association president Bob Gillespie said the group's executive committee voted earlier in the day to study the Hemings membership issue for as long as a year.

Some in the reunion crowd of about 250 people groaned in disappointment.

A few minutes later, Truscott's nephew, Lucian Truscott, was applauded loudly when he declared that the Hemings family should be acknowledged as true kin right away.

He said he will press the issue at the family meeting in a Charlottesville hotel.

After the news conference, descendants from both sides stood together for a group photo on Monticello's steps. Later, they dined together at a historic tavern about a mile down the mountain from Monticello.

During the sunny (See Jefferson, Page 17)



## CELEBRATING COMMENCEMENT

Maryum Ali celebrates her graduation with mother Khalilah Ali and her father, former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali. The younger Ali graduated from UNLV with a bachelor's degree in social work.



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**CORRECTION**  
In our May 13th issue we omitted the fact that Billy Guy is the founder of the Billy Guy Coasters.

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