

Mr. 1600: Milton STAR student sets his sights on the future

Milton student scores perfection on SAT's

By ELIZABETH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Milton High School senior Marcus Williams is certain there are lots of things he doesn't do well, but when he is asked to name them, try as he might, he can't think of any.

Finally, he comes up with one. "I'm pathetic at bowling," he said.

Luckily for Williams, that particular subject is not on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and it seems that he has mastery of ev-

everything else a young man needs to know, as evidenced by his performance on that all-important exam. Williams earned a perfect SAT score of 1,600, an exceptional feat even among the area's top high school students.

"I was really surprised," Williams said. "I opened the envelope and it was 800 and 800, and I thought, this can't possibly be right. I was looking around for my real score."

Neither his family nor his peers are nearly as surprised at Williams' accomplishment, but he plays it down, attributing it partially to a matter of luck.

"It's just one test and one number," Williams said. "It's been a weird experience because now I'm sort of known as that number. It's kind of my claim to fame at Milton. On one hand, you have to not be conceited, and on the other hand, you have to not be ungrateful."

Having the top SAT score in the school earned Williams the distinc-

tion of being Milton's STAR student, and naming a STAR teacher who has had a special impact on his education.

Although math and science have been his primary areas of interest, Williams picked English teacher Judy Hammack.

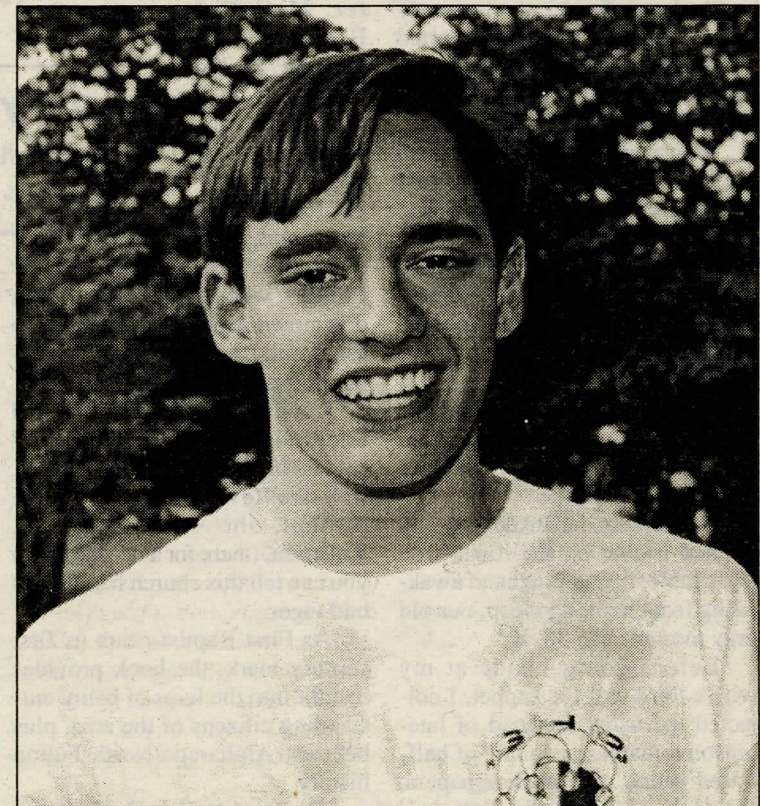
"I had always dreaded going to English class and she really opened my eyes to it," he said. "She was the first teacher who made literature not just something to be read but something to be experienced."

Williams has spent much of his free time at Milton involved in the math team and academic bowl team, but he also values creativity. The key, he said, is to find the right balance.

"A purely scientific mind is useless without the creative aspect and it's boring if all you ever do is play with numbers and never bother to learn about people's feelings and thoughts," Williams said.

Williams had a choice of top schools but he will be heading to the California Institute of Technology in the fall, where he will likely study physics. He has ambitious plans for his future.

"I hope to research stuff that nobody has thought of before, that will offer tremendous opportunity for the advancement of mankind," he said. "To move all of mankind



ELIZABETH ROBINSON/Revue

Milton High School STAR student Marcus Williams.

forward, all six billion people."

His parents, Raymond and Margot Williams of Alpharetta, say they expect that he will excel as a scientist or engineer, and perhaps accomplish something of that scope.

"He was always interested in building things and figuring out how things work," said Raymond Williams. "He is very interested in benefiting mankind and he would be [realizing his goals] if he was able to do that."

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