

Family, friends grieve for young man whose dreams died with him Saturday

By Judith Bethel
Staff Writer

Anthony Moore Jr. "wanted to make it," says his friend Marcus Clay. "He was interested in becoming a film producer or recording artist and he loved music, especially rap."

The 15-year-old Moore had even recorded some of his songs on a demo tape and had made prints to use for an album cover.

But his dreams ended Saturday — Anthony Moore Jr. was killed on Macon Road when a car veered to the road's shoulder, hitting Anthony and his best friend as they rode their bicycles. The man who police say hit them, Hugh McElhannon, 36, of 5410 Macon Road, pleaded not guilty Monday to a variety of charges, including DUI. He was released on bond.

The other youth, Christopher Pettigrew, was scheduled for surgery today at The Medical Center.

Anthony, a ninth-grader and Army R.O.T.C. member at Shaw High School, came to Columbus with his family from Dayton, Ohio, in September of 1990. According to schoolmates at Shaw — Stephon Gilbert, 16, Mike Lee, 16, John Dawes, 14, and Cortez Rogers, 17, — he quickly made a lasting impression.

"He was a nice person," said Rogers.

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Donna Hailes
Victim's mother

"If you were a new person and didn't know anyone he would come up and introduce himself," said Gilbert.

Moore's father, Anthony Moore Sr., said his son was looking forward to getting his driver's license this year.

"He had musical aspirations," said his father, a systems engineering manager for IBM. "I remember when I tried to push him toward math and engineering instead of rap and he would say, 'Look at Hammer and Kool Mo Dee,' and other rappers. Then I realized the more I fought him the more he would go against me — so I decided to support him."

Moore said he didn't think his son's death had truly sunk in yet, for himself or his two other sons Alex, 13, and Arion 10.

Moore's mother, Donna Hailes, however, said the reality has set in for her — all too painfully.

"If you drink and drive and something happens, you don't realize the pain it causes the victims and their families," she said. "I don't believe that man sitting in a cell feels the pain. If he did he would never pick up another drink in his life."

The pain has also affected the family of 15-year-old Christopher Pettigrew. Family members say he remembers nothing of the accident — just waking up in a roadside ditch.

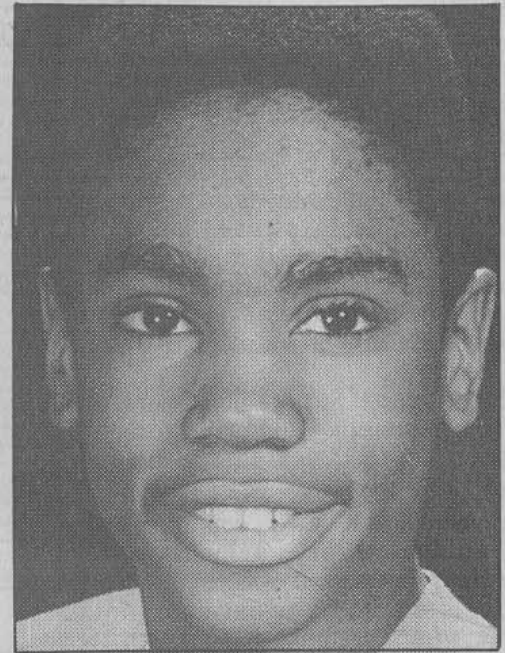
Christopher lay in a bed at The Medical Center on Monday with a concussion, a severely broken leg and traces of blood in his kidneys.

"Everything is going OK," said his mother, Kathy Pettigrew. "But I still don't know how bad it (his condition) is yet."

Pettigrew said her son, who is scheduled to have surgery on his legs today, doesn't want to discuss the incident.

"I don't think he realizes about Anthony yet," she said. "But I am very upset about the situation. I don't think it was right for that man (McElhannon) to be back out on the streets with a few thousand dollars bond. It's just not fair."

McElhannon had a Recorder's Court hearing early Monday. He was bound



Anthony Moore Jr.

over to Superior Court on charges of vehicular homicide (\$5,000 bond), being a habitual violator (\$2,500), DUI (\$1,000), leaving the scene of an accident (\$1,000), no proof of insurance (\$600), driving with a license that is suspended or revoked (\$1,000) and following too close (\$500.) He pleaded not guilty to all the charges. If convicted of vehicular homicide, he could face up to 15 years in prison.

Classmates said it was a somber scene at Shaw High on Monday, as students and faculty members mourned Moore's loss.

But according to his friend Marcus, one of Anthony's dreams — making a rap album — can still become reality.

"I was his rap partner," said Clay. "Now I feel that it is up to me to carry out his dream."