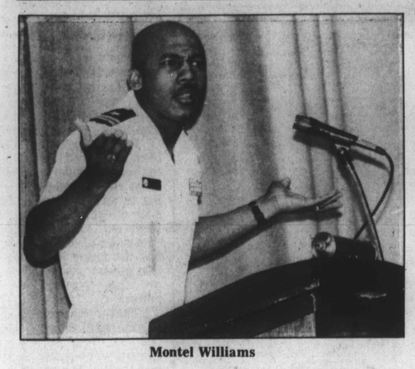
Navy men preach gospel of success



Montel Williams

By Jill P. V. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

Eight and ninth grade middle school students were forced to sit up and take notice when two rigid United States Naval Officers overtook the Polytechnic auditorium, Friday, and prodded students to make the most of their lives.

Strutting down the aisle, shouting "Mountain, Get out of my way," 32-year-old Navy cryptologist, Lt. Montel Williams gained the immediate attention of the visiting students.

They giggled and laughed, some even smirked and grumbled; but once Montel mounted the stage dressed in his Navy whites, it was obvious he had captured the students' interest.

The antics used by him and his fellow officer, Lt. Drew Brown, were somewhat gruff, but the message was keen.

"You have a set of choices in life, said Brown. "You can either work hard now, and slide for the rest of your life, or slide now and work hard for the rest of your life; because you ARE going to work hard, its up to you when you want to do it."

Coming on strong, the 6 foot-five inch, jet fighter pilot told the students that they could either listen now, or wish they had listened ten years from now.

"There is only one thing that makes me bad, I have a college education, said Brown.

"Because I have a college education, and because I fly Navy jets, I party in Paris, I jam in Jamaica, I do the cabbage patch in Monte Carlo, I do the butt in the Bahamas; so, how you like me now, asked Brown.

Using language that bridged the communication gap between the student and the handsome, 33-year old pilot, Brown soon had the audience in his grasp.

At this point, the children were totally engrossed in the session. There were shouts, sighs, cheers, and applause after almost every word.

If audience response is any indication, the two officers achieved their goal of motivating the students to strive for a college education, and not be hindered by drugs or peer pressure.

Funding the program themselves, Williams and Brown began their nationwide tour of city schools in January.

"The best thing in the world is to talk to kids," Brown said later while handing out autographs and chatting with students.

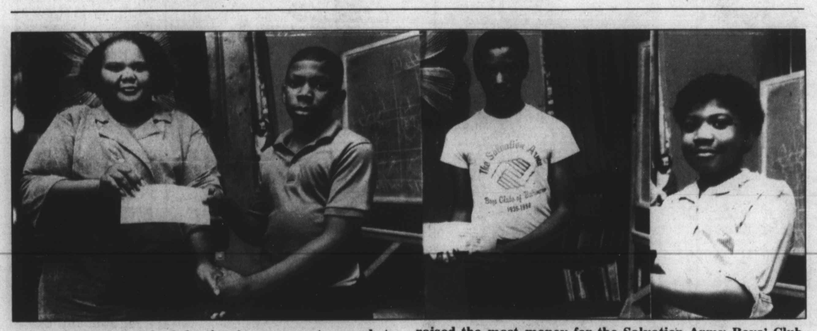
"This is a dream that came true, he added. Because I am a black jet fighter pilot, I wanted to make a change."

Brown grew up in Harlem, N.Y., and he says he hasn't forgotten where he came from.

"I was one of the brothers in the back," he said, referring to the stragglers who think it isn't cool to participate, and sit in the front of the assembly.

At the close of the assembly, the men received a citation from Lester McCrae, Mayor Schmoke's liaison between the mayor's office and the public schools.

No sooner had McCrae completed his final sentence, when Montel and Brown, were bombarded with emotional bouquet of kisses, hugs, and praise.



Antoinette Taylor of the Salvation Army presents awards to Jamal Brooks, Tavon Spencer and Tamara Brooks. The trio raised the most money for the Salvation Army Boys' Club through the "Coupons For Kids" program.

Drew Brown

Successathon hit at Walbrook

Successathon '88, a program directed by Rev. Bill Minson, had a surprise visit from celebrity, John Forsythe, recently.

Successathon was originally designed as an open forum for the community to speakout and discuss the problem and concerns faced by youth.

But, after a call from John Forsythe, two days before the communications program was due to begin, Minson and school official Malcolm Dutterer rounded up fifteen active members of the Associated Student Council of Baltimore City (ASCBC) to meet with Forsythe.

They discussed life, sex, drugs, teenage pregnancy, and all the other subjects that often escape adult ears.

Forsythe encouraged students to strive for success and continue their education, as he revealed that he wishes he had finished school himself and plans to go back someday.

The kids interacted so well with the television star that they shared another session with him the following day, this time with over a 100 students from Walbrook Senior High School's Student Government Association.

One main issue that Forsythe stressed is danger of cigarette smoking. Both his sister and brother died from lung cancer.

Forsythe's visit with students was just the tone setter needed to kick off the two-day Success-a-thon project.

Hundreds of students, parents, volunteers, and community leaders, filtered into Walbrook Senior High School, enlivening the usually empty school building. A main topic of concern at the Success-a-thon was the need for youth activities and day care this summer.

Some of the volunteers speaking at the forum were: State's Attorney Stuart Simms; White House Representative, Fred Colgan; Youth activist, Derrick Johnson; Dr. Rebecca Carroll; and Allen Quill.

Although hundreds of people participated, the turn out wasn't as great as the thousands Minson had hoped for.

"With such a great message on the importance of communication, you just wish more people could participate in it," Minson said.

Along with the speak-out portion of the program, Minson also awarded scholarships to three city students from each level of education. The students will have the opportunity to travel to New York City to benefit from a different kind of learning experience.

Minson plans to repeat the effort in the fall, and this time increase participation.

LEGAL NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Easton Utilities Commission at their office located at 219 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland on July 6, 1988 until 2:00 p.m. E.D.T. for the Town of Easton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project: Lining Program, Contract No. 3.

Form of Contract, Specifications, Plans and blank proposals may be obtained from the Easton Utilities Commission, 219 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland on or after May 25, 1988 for fifty dollars ($50.00) per set, which is refundable upon return of the materials in satisfactory condition.

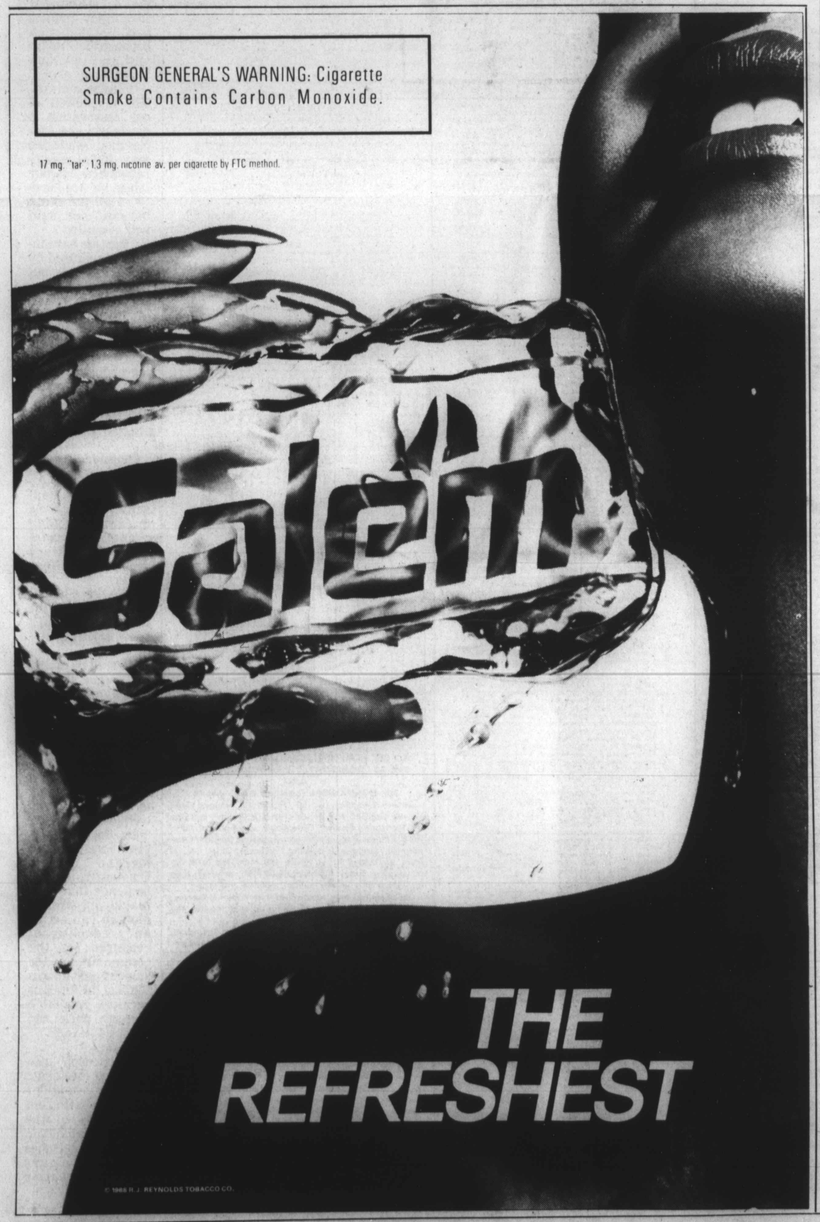
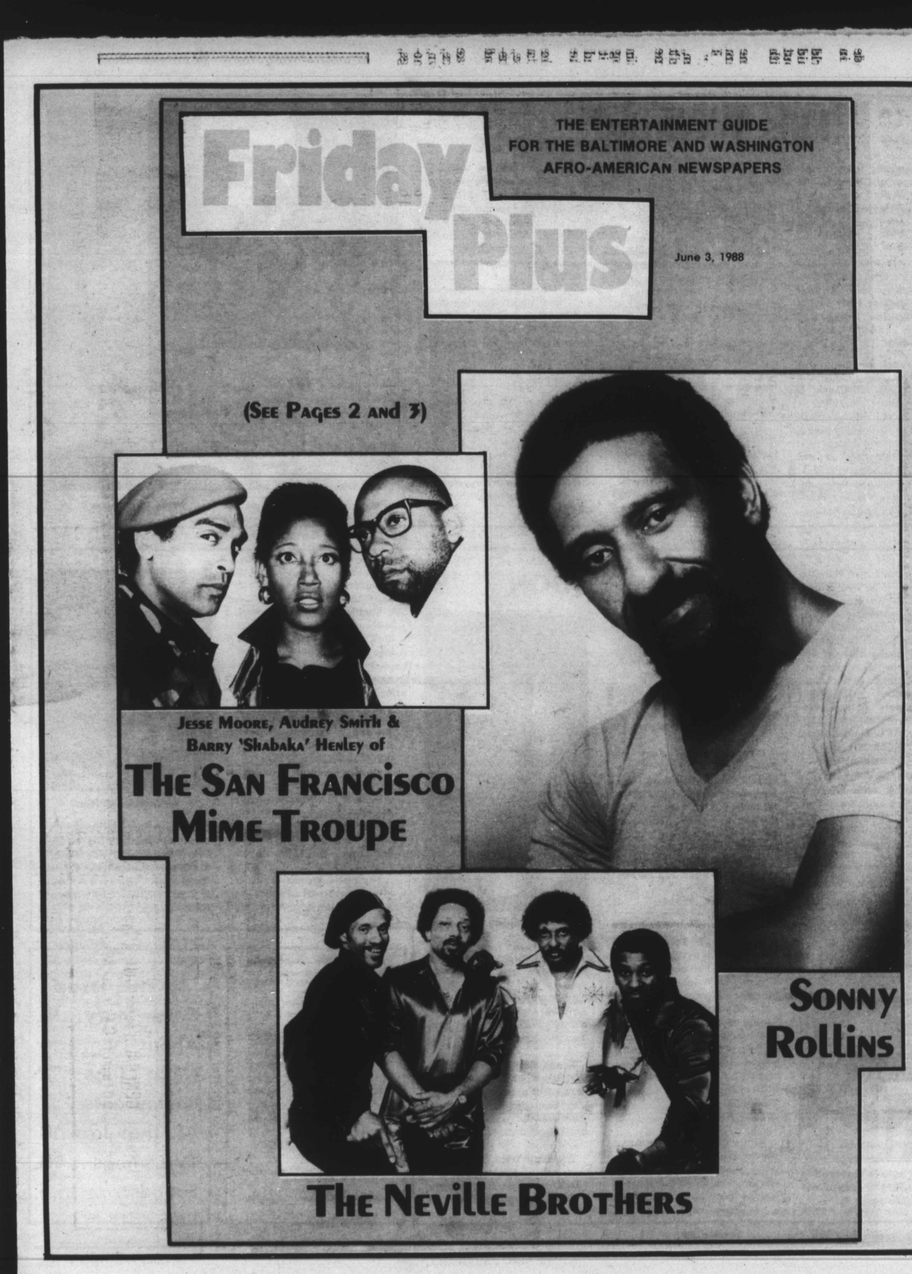
A certified check, cash or bid bond in an amount of not less than five percentum (5%) of the amount of the base bid is required.

The Easton Utilities Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids as deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Easton, Maryland.

ROGER C. JUDD
General Manager

GORDON L. CALLAHAN
Secretary

May 25, 1988

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

17 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.