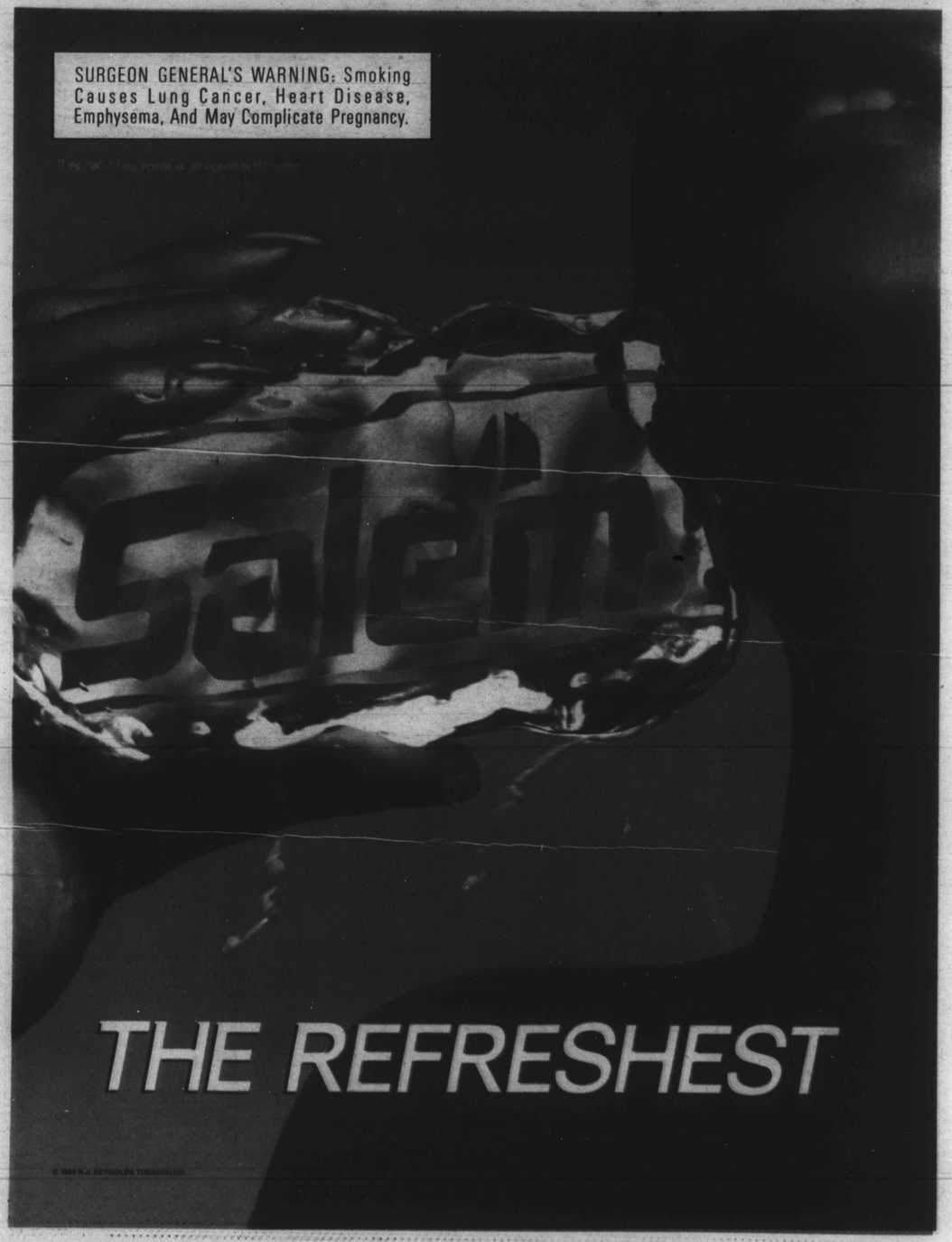

BLACK COLLEGE
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PUBLISHER
Ernest H. Pitt

EDITOR
Craig T. Greenlee

STAFF WRITERS
Randy Pettitt
Roscoe Nance

PRODUCTION
Yvonne H.B. Truhon
Brenda Thomas
Courtney Mack

PHOTOGRAPHERS
J.D. Schwalm
Joe Daniels
Mark Lyons

It's very clear that what goes around, also comes around

The 1987-88 school year was probably the worst in recent memory when it comes to abiding by rules and regulations.

No fewer than four schools -- Southern University (football), Clark College (basketball), University of District of Columbia (basketball) and Alabama A & M (basketball) were guilty of using ineligible players.

Such practices are inexcusable. Has the desire to win become so great, the rewards so lucrative, that coaches and athletic administrators will ignore what's right and what's wrong?

Apparently so.

Some will argue that such widespread use of ineligible players was coincidental, the result of technicalities, oversights and misinterpretation of rules. Those are not legitimate reasons and will not hold up.

Black schools, in some circles, are viewed as being lax when it comes to administration and adhering to rules anyway. The things that happened this past school year only serve to reinforce those ideas. White schools are already reluctant to compete against black schools. Playing ineligible people only fuels that reluctance. No one wants to compete against someone who has an unfair advantage.

These misdeeds also detract from those schools' accomplishments. It makes one wonder just how long ineligible players have been used.

Using ineligible players puts those schools in the same category as schools who offer athletes illegal inducements -- those fat cats who are lambasted and called cheaters.

But the bottom line is that using ineligible players is a disservice to the athletes themselves. It tells them they don't have to follow rules. It also shows them that allowances will be made for them because they can shoot a basketball or throw a football. The odds are that these athletes will go through life expecting allowances to be made. In that case, they certainly won't feel that it's important to follow rules.

Is this what we want?

Of course not.

Come on guys, clean up your acts. Winning isn't *that* important.

Or is it?

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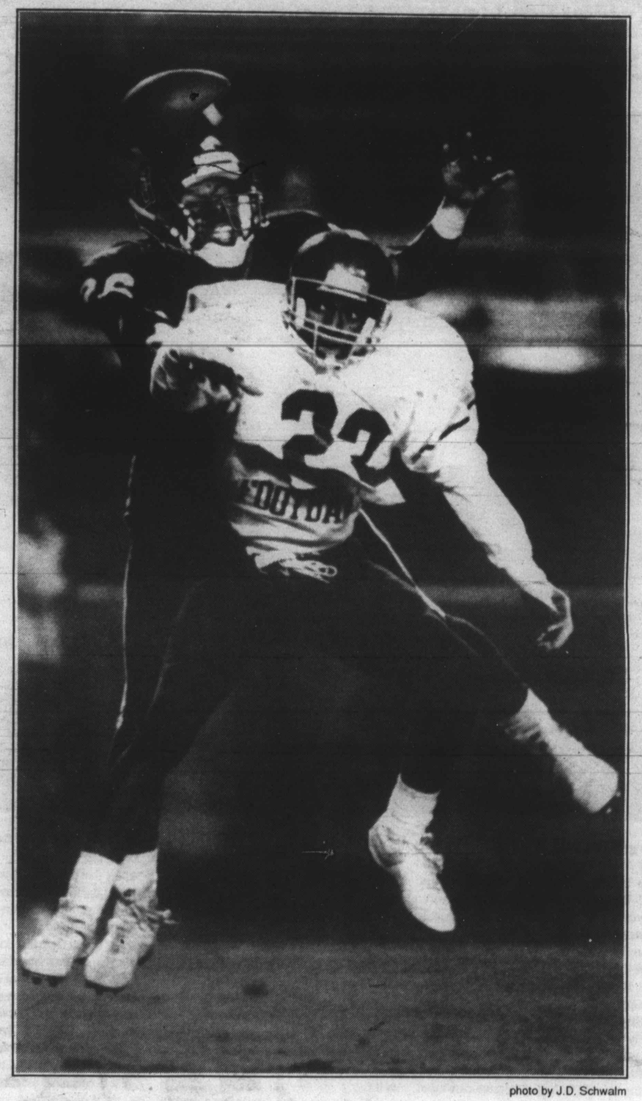

photo by J.D. Schwalm

It's Almost That Time -- Again

In less than 60 days, the air will be filled with the sound of pads cracking and footballs spiraling downfield. The college football season is quickly approaching, and Black College Sports Review will be there, giving you descriptive accounts of all the black college football action. Next month, BCSR will treat its readers to a full-scale preview of teams in SWAC, MEAC, CIAA, SIAC, NAIA, plus the independents. Get an early bird look at how things are shaping up for your favorite team in 1988.