



The Official Newspaper of T.F. North High School
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Story by Aidan Jordan

The role of the barber shop in the Black community

African Americans have treated their hair as a way to link their African ancestors and Blacks throughout the diaspora. Barbershops are not only for hair care services but also locations where people are vulnerable and talk about issues in their community. For years barbershops have been a place for Black men to gather and socialize. “The Black barbershop was really a safe haven for the Black community where they discussed family, bills, jobs, sports, and current events. So the Black barbershops were really where most men got their information,” said Mr. Mattison, the barbering teacher. During Jim Crow, Black people were only allowed in segregated areas, and the barbershop became a place for African Americans to go and be able to gather without any racism. Most barbershops were one of the first Black owned businesses in America. Around 1854, San Francisco was home to 16 Black-owned barbershops. According to Heard It Through the Grapevine: The Black Barbershop as a Source of Health Information by Joyce Ball-Berry, “During the 1860s, a former enslaved African, Peter Briggs, effectively monopolized the barbershop market in Los Angeles on his own...During the post-Civil War years, when German and Italian

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Ms. Boulter working in her office. Photo credit Mia Romo

Story by Mia Romo

Ms. Boulter reflects on her legacy as an educator
TFD 215's first African American teacher to retire in June

In honor of Black History Month, the Thorntonian Staff wants to honor Ms. Boulter’s legacy and impact on District 215 and recognize her as she looks to the future after her retirement this school year. Ms. Lisa Boulter is currently the assistant principal of building control at T.F. North. However, previously Boulter began working in the district in 1992 as an English teacher at T.F. South. Her inspiration to become a teacher stemmed from her positive memories of her freshman year algebra teacher who made a difficult subject easier to understand. Boulter wanted to bring a similar energy into her classroom as a teacher. “I always felt that if I was going to go into the classroom, I wanted students to feel the same type of excitement about what I was teaching even if English wasn’t your favorite subject,” said Boulter. Boulter was hired at TFD 215 as the first African American teacher to diversify its staff and to address a

change in the student population. It was the first year students saw a teacher who looked like them. “I was a celebrity at South that whole first year. It felt as though I had a paparazzi,” said Boulter. In addition to teaching, Boulter became the first sponsor of South’s Black Student Union (now known as the Diversity Club). Furthermore, she was the first Black cheerleading coach and the first African American executive board member of the Thornton Fractional Teachers Union Local 683. She was involved in programs such as the Truants’ Alternative Options for Education and Jobs for Illinois Graduates as well. Though Boulter never originally intended to pursue administration, she graduated with a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision. She believes the universe put her on the path to being an administrator at the T. F. Center of Academics and Technology where she established a good relationship with at-risk

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Photo credit: Ruby Garcia

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immigrants began in large numbers. These workers perceived no stigma in barbering and entered the profession...In the post-Reconstruction South of the 1890s, Black-owned barbershops with White clientele were often targets of vandalism and arson by resentful poor White mobs." At this point, African-American barbers began opening shops in the Black community specifically to serve Black men. These barbershops quickly became a gathering place where Black men could gather to socialize, play chess and checkers, and discuss politics. Similar to African-American churches but on a smaller scale. Many politically active barbers handpicked the reading materials, and the barbershop provided an opportunity for men to read Black newspapers and magazines. In recent decades, recognizing that African-American men died disproportionately from preventable diseases, health researchers looked to the barbershop as a culturally safe site in which to promote health. Although barbershops don't hold the same significance to Black culture as they used to, they are still a place where African American men can go and hang out. "Not as relevant

as back in the day but it still has a place in the culture. A lot of fashion, a lot of ideas come from out the barbershop, but I wouldn't say it's more relevant as back in the day, but it still has its significance in the community," said Mattison, "Barbershops are a place where you relax, a place where you come and unwind, a place where you come and get good service; it can be used for a multitude of things. Now they even have little rallies in barbershops for politicians to connect with the community. It's just a place where you can let loose and have a good time." At T.F. North, Lavish Studio is open to the public on Tuesdays from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, and students can get their hair cut on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students of the barbering program will give out haircuts. "I was thinking of it as a side hustle to get money, but as I was getting into it, I thought I could go pretty far," said senior Aaron Little. "I decided to become a barber because I saw that there were not many women doing this and I was scrolling on Instagram and saw how it looked and really liked it," added senior Zyanna Smith. "I became a barber because I was

interested in the program, and then I ended up starting to like it," added senior Jayden Heard.



Senior Zyanna Smith of Lavish Studio
Photo credit Ruby Garcia

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or thorntonian@tfd215.org.

First, I would like to thank the editor for including me in the last issue in the section of "What Is Your Ideal Valentine's Day?" because I was reading everyone's and they were all lovey-dovey and then there's mine...I'm just despising them, it's really funny. The issues are getting more and more interesting. I really like the person who comes up with the ideas you guys decide to do with organizing the newspaper. Though one thing, I see in the newspaper there are the couples to vote for, and I noticed there are two that are not on Instagram, one being Ruby [Garcia] and Carlos [Cortes]. I really wanted to vote for them, and I was just wondering why they weren't on Instagram. But other than that, I think the issues are really good.

Alejandra Vazquez-Nevarez, sophomore

Dear Alejandra,

Thank you for taking the time to read our issue and for sending me this letter. I'm glad to hear how you related to one of our stories in our Valentine's Day issue. Unfortunately, I couldn't be a part of the contest because it wouldn't have been fair to others if I had won but thank you so much!

Ruby Garcia, Editor-in-Chief

2023-2024

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Established in 1925, the Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of D. 215 unless otherwise noted.

This issue's masthead was created by senior Serenity Howard.



Story by Diamond Adams

Learn about Black Culture at the DuSable Museum

According to their website, the DuSable Museum was founded in 1961 by the husband and wife, Dr. Margaret Taylor Burroughs and Charles Burroughs. The Burroughses created this on the ground of their home. The museum includes 15,000 pieces of art. It hosts different workshops and lectures featuring particular artists and historical events. The purpose of the museum is to educate about Black history, culture, and art. The museum was originally named the Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art. In 1968 the museum was named in honor of Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Haitian-born founder of Chicago. The Burroughses' mission was to attract different school groups from Chicago and other surrounding areas. The Museum explores the African American experience and accomplishments of African Americans of the past. These experiences are expressed through exhibits, educational programs, and special activities. Have you ever been to The DuSable Museum? Thinking of planning a trip there? You can go to <https://www.dusablemuseum.org/> and select a date and buy tickets. It is located in Washington (George) Park at 740 E 56 Pl, Chicago, IL. You can get there by driving, train, or bus.

Story by Cormora Williams

A brief history of Black History Month

Have you ever wondered about the history of Black History Month? Well here's a little bit about it. Black History Month is an annual celebration of African Americans and their role in history. Black History Month was previously known as Negro History Week until 1976. The theme for Black History Month is chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and it changes every year. This year the theme is African Americans and the Arts. Black History Month is in February to honor Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln's and Douglass's birthdays are both in February and both played a big part in emancipation. There are many organizations that sponsor Black History Month celebrations like the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress. HBCUs promote Black history during February and all year round. There is a lot to learn about Black history and it plays a big role in why the world is the way it is today.



Story by Taliah Robinson

Travel to learn more about Black History

Are you African American or into the culture, plus love to travel? Then this story is for you! In this story, I will be recommending some places for you to visit.

Firstly, we have Atlanta, Georgia. Not only is it the home to four Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but Martin Luther King, Jr. was born here and attended Morehouse College. There are these museums: The Museum of Design Atlanta and the High Museum of Art that share their parts in showcasing Black art. If you're into hip-hop music, visit The Trap Music Museum. This museum showcases the history of trap and hip-hop music.

Next, we have Washington D.C. A trip here could have you leaving with knowledge you didn't know before. The National Museum of African American History and Culture addresses many aspects of the Black experience. This museum focuses a lot on history, art, the Civil Rights Movement, and more! Learning about the history of Black people and experiences can benefit you in so many ways.

Another one to think about visiting is Chicago, Illinois. You can learn all about the city's Black history and culture. The South Side neighborhood of Bronzeville has monuments and landmarks dedicated to the African Americans' legacy. Then you have Hyde Park. Hyde Park is the home to Barack Obama's Chicago home. It's also home to the DuSable Museum of African American History. That museum is the nation's oldest independent African American museum. If you enjoy eating soul food or looking to try it, Chicago is the place for you! There you have, Pearl's Place Restaurant, Roy's Soul Food, plus many more.

Still tuned in? Good because I have another one for you! Memphis, Tennessee is another place to visit. There you have the National Civil Rights Museum located at the Lorraine Motel where unfortunately Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. But that shouldn't be the only reason you visit. They have exhibits that focus on slavery, segregation, activism, desegregation, and much more. Do you enjoy eating barbecue? Then go on down to Cozy Corner. Desiree Robinson became the first Black woman to make it into the American Royal Barbecue Hall of Fame. So if you're feeling hungry because of all of the stops. Go get yourself a plate at Cozy Corner! If you're into soul music then check out the Stax Museum! Artists like Isaac Hayes, Sam & Dave, and many more used Stax Records to launch their careers. The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, was born in Memphis and her birth home is still there for anyone who wants to visit.

If you're still reading, you can probably guess what I'm going to say next. New York! New York is definitely somewhere to visit. This state has many ties to Black heritage. New York has a huge influence on music like hip-hop and jazz. Half of the world is into hip-hop music. Hip-hop was born in the Bronx!



Photo from www.businessinsider.com



Photo from www.history.com



Photo from www.visittheusa.com

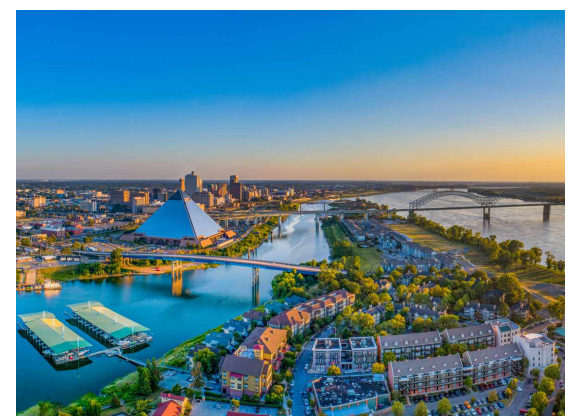


Photo from www.worldatlas.com



Photo from worldstrides.com



GUEST PLAYLISTS

Curated by
Diamond Adams & Jaela Westbrook

If you're looking to add something to your BHM playlist, here are some song suggestions.

Do you have a song you would like to add to our next playlist? Email your suggestions for March's Women's History Month Playlist to thorntonian@tfd215.org. Be sure to use your school email address and include your first and last names and your grade. Only school-appropriate suggestions will be accepted. Please limit your suggestions to 5 songs per playlist. The deadline for submissions is 3:30 pm on March 8, 2024.

Thorntonian Staff's Picks:

"After The Pain"
by Betty Wright

"You Don't Know My Name"
by Alicia Keys

"Crying Out For Me"
by Mario

Tessica Foster's Picks:

"Stand Up"
by Cynthia Erivo

"Rise Up"
by Rihanna

"Glory"
by John Legend ft. Common

Gerald Williams's Picks:

"On & On"
by Erykah Badu

"Next Lifetime"
by Erykah Badu

"Didn't Cha Know"
by Erykah Badu

Mr. Stubbs's Picks:

"Halfcrazy"
by Musiq Soulchild

"Can You Stand the Rain"
by New Edition

"Can We Talk"
by Tevin Campbell

Ms. Jones's Picks:

"Someday we'll all be free"
by Donny Hathaway

"Remember the time"
by Michael Jackson

Story & photo by Jaela Westbrook

McCarthy's class wins contest

The Student Equity & Leadership Club sponsored by Ms. Givens had a door decorating contest for Black History Month. All of the teachers and their classes that wanted to participate had to decorate the outside of their classroom doors as best as they could. The theme was African Americans and the Arts. According to Givens, "African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount." The judging of the door decs took place on February 20th. It was done by the Student Equity & Leadership Club. Mrs. McCarthy and her class were the winners. They received a box of donuts as an award.



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students. "Going into administration allowed me to be a present parent for my kids," said Boulter. As the first African American educator, Boulter said she experienced treatment of being a race spokesman, imposter syndrome, and was the subject of "clickbaity" articles. However, she believes that her ability to form relationships with students and staff speaks for itself. "You just rise above," Boulter added, "being the first is a lot of responsibility but when you break through that sound barrier, hopefully, it gets easier." Boulter's biggest accomplishment is being able to raise and put her two kids through school as a single parent. Boulter's plans for retirement are to be a caretaker for her father as well as continue to learn new things to stay active. "I'm just trying to navigate it," said Boulter. Her career was the beginning of District 215 acknowledging the student population was changing and a diverse staff was needed. The district continues to address the need for diversity. Boulter said, "If in any school district, we're still talking about hiring the first teachers of color, then we're not doing what we're supposed to be doing."

Jasmine Pastrana & Tianna Bowen

Being bi-racial but nobody believes us

OPINION

When it comes to race and ethnicity, some people assume identity based on the way you look. Unfortunately, many people who are very proud of their bi-racial and ethnic backgrounds are just thrown into a single group. Even then when you share your background you are told you don't belong in either group because you aren't full.

Not Hispanic Enough, Tianna's Experience

Most of the time people assume I'm mixed with something just because I'm light-skinned. When I tell them I am, they assume I'm white. I'm Black and Mexican. My mother is a Black, light-skinned woman who lived her whole life in Chicago, and my father is a Hispanic man who lived most of his life in Mexico and doesn't speak English. I understand why people assume I am not Hispanic because I didn't grow up learning about my Hispanic culture but at the same time, it's frustrating being told I'm not Black enough or Hispanic enough to belong to either group.

Not Black Enough, Jasmine's Experience

Some people don't know that some Latinos are also Black because of our hair, our skin color, or even the way we talk. At first glance, many people assumed that I was just Mexican, ever since I was in middle school. I was always assumed to be fully Mexican. Some people don't believe that my dad is half Black and Puerto Rican because I don't have his strong genes. My oldest sibling looks mixed with white and Black and he's the only one that was assumed to be more Black than Hispanic. It is frustrating that other people judge others and never get to know them.



Juniors Jasmine Pastrana and Tianna Bowen
Photo credit Ruby Garcia

Story by Rogelio Romero

Overlooked Black heroes with Chicago roots

There are many overlooked Black heroes from Illinois. Here are 3 important people from Chicago

Lil Hardin Armstrong

Born in Memphis in 1898, Lil Hardin Armstrong moved to Chicago in 1918. Armstrong was a classically trained pianist, composer, and bandleader and had fronted several of her own bands in the 1920s and 1930s, which was unheard of at the time. In 1920 Lil Hardin played for the New Orleans Creole Jazz Band, which was then taken over by King Oliver who renamed the band as King Oliver Creole Jazz Band. By this time she was married to her first husband and traveling with her band had put a strain on her marriage, so she left the King Oliver Creole Band and moved back to Chicago. Eventually, the band came back to Chicago and invited her to come back and play. They also invited a young Louis Armstrong to play as well. This is how she first met Louis. They would later marry in 1924 after dating for two years. Lil Hardin was crucial in launching Louis Armstrong into superstardom, convincing him to move on from the King Oliver Band and go solo, making him look less country. Lil Hardin was not only an important figure in the jazz world by being one of the first females to front multiple bands, but also helping Louis Armstrong to launch his career. She passed away in 1971 at the age of 73.

Hazel M. Johnson

Hazel M. Johnson, known as the “Mother of Environmental Justice,” was born in New Orleans on January 25, 1935. At the age of 12, both her parents passed away and in her teens, she met and married her husband John Johnson. Shortly after they both moved to Chicago, she began her activism against housing segregation. Then in 1969, John Johnson was diagnosed with lung cancer and died just a week after his diagnosis at the age of 41. It was after this she heard many of her neighbors experiencing cancer, miscarries, and other respiratory illnesses; this is when she began to see a pattern. Through her investigation, she found out that her neighborhood was in the center of a 14-mile ring of pollution, chemical incinerators, more than 50 landfills, and water and sewage treatment facilities. Altgeld Garden, the neighborhood where she lived, was built on a former industrial waste dump. She made it her mission to put a stop to the polluting of her community, leading a non-profit organization called People For Community Recovery, as president and executive director. She has helped shape the way we now act upon an environmental issue. She passed away in 2011 at the age of 76.

Earl Wiley Renfroe

Earl Wiley Renfroe was born on January 9, 1907, on the southeast side of Chicago. He grew up on the south side, an area where race, ethnicity, and class were divided. He attended Austin O. Sextone Grammar School and James H. Bowen High School. At both schools, he was the only African American in his class. At Bowen, he was the first African American to attain the rank of cadet commander in the ROTC program. After graduating, he went to Crane Junior College, then in 1927, he went to the College of Dentistry at the University of Illinois in Chicago. White students were not allowed to work on Black patients and vice versa. He would help aid this problem, which made the school change their policies on the practice. He would go on to graduate in 1931, being ranked first in his class. He continued his dentistry journey, and in 1942 he received his master's degree and became the first Black dentist in Chicago to become an orthodontist. After opening up a practice in the Loop, he taught at UIC, and then in 1966, he was appointed chair of UIC Orthodontics. He would travel the world sharing his knowledge, writing textbooks, and teaching in Brazil and Barbados. He passed away in 2000 at the age of 93.

Story by Emily Sanchez

Black History Month art contest winners picked



TFN's Visual Art Club sponsored the Black History Month Art Contest. The different art pieces were showcased during the Black History Month Assembly. 1st place was a tie between seniors Samiya Smith and Rae Seals. Senior Jay Jackson won 3rd place. “What’s important about the contest was to represent how colorful the Black community [is]. We all come in different shades, sizes, and have different styles,” said Smith.



Senior Rae Seals submitted a digital art piece and senior Samiya Smith submitted a mixed media piece to the Black History Month Art Contest and tied for 1st place. Both pictures were provided by Ms. Matlock.



PJ Day and Twin Day photos provided by Vianka Guerra of the Chronoscope.



Senior Jay Jackson won 3rd place in the BHM Art Contest. The choir sang at the BHM Assembly. Photos provided by Ruby Garcia.



Student Council and Ms. Bartlett's Culinary Arts students hosted the Diversity Luncheon. Photos provided by Ruby Garcia.