



Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica CA 90401,
(310) 458-8600, www.smpl.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2009

Contact: Nancy Bender, Public Services Librarian

Phone: (310) 458-8922

E-mail: nancy.bender@smgov.net

Santa Monica Public Library Presents An Evening with Thom Gossom

Santa Monica, California —The Santa Monica Public Library presents **An Evening with Thom Gossom** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12 in the Multipurpose Room of the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Thom Gossom, author of *Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University*, visits the Library for a reading, discussion, and book signing. Thom's memoir chronicles his dream to play football as a young man at Auburn University, and his experience of being caught up in the biggest cultural change in the Southern United States since the Civil War.

Thom Gossom was the first black athlete to graduate from the previously all-white Auburn University. He left behind his segregated hometown boyhood when he was accepted to Auburn in 1970, and entered a world of privilege just starting its struggle with desegregation. Loneliness, anger, and racism awaited him on and off the football field, but Gossom fought for his place on the team and on campus. In the process, he became part of history.

This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. For more information, contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600; or visit the Library's web site at www.smpl.org. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Administration (310) 458-8606 one week prior to events.

###