

The Gospel According to Droopy

HU Student Releases First Collection of Poetry

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Maybe you know Drew—or think you know him, or don't care to know him. Well, read this anyway, because there's a lot you will want to know about Drew "Droopy" Anderson, who has published his first collection of poetry through his company Brokeballerbooks, entitled "Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool." Say it with a Cajun accent and you're ready to open your mind to the world of Drew Anderson and his fluency of the language we call poetry, spoken word, rap, and the list goes on.

So. You have the nerve to enter my world, do you?

Majoring in biology as an undergraduate student and now in his second year of graduate school pursuing a Master's degree in biology, one would think that Anderson is headed for a medical career in either the hospital or the laboratory. Yet, this New Orleans native, who believes in "having many irons in many fires," is focusing primarily on his new book and hopes of being an entrepreneur. "I'm feeding my people right," said Anderson, who is more concerned with exposure now rather than a huge profit.

i own my imperfections so perfectly that i can call them...

Anderson's love for poetry began in high school, where he was a "little rapper" and writing poetry for his then-girlfriend. Upon arriving at Howard in 1995, Anderson recalls that rap dominated the scene then, and in seeking to be different, reclaimed poetry. Now, six years later, the poet who calls himself "Droopy," the District, his home, Richard Pryor one of his heroes, and Nelly Furtado his girlfriend that "just doesn't know it yet," has given poetry-lovers and poetry-haters what they've been asking for. "I just got kind of tired of people telling me that I had so much insight, that they had never heard poetry like mine before, but I didn't have anything to show for it," said Anderson. "It's one thing to hear me perform, but even better to actually be able to sit down and peep it out for yourself and get other meanings out of it."

And it's not that when I write all my problems are erased but...

Anderson says that meanings and interpretations will be different for each and every reader of "Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool." "I've had people come up to me with things that they've gotten out of a poem that I wasn't even thinking about when I wrote it," said Anderson, who encourages readers to keep an open mind. "What-

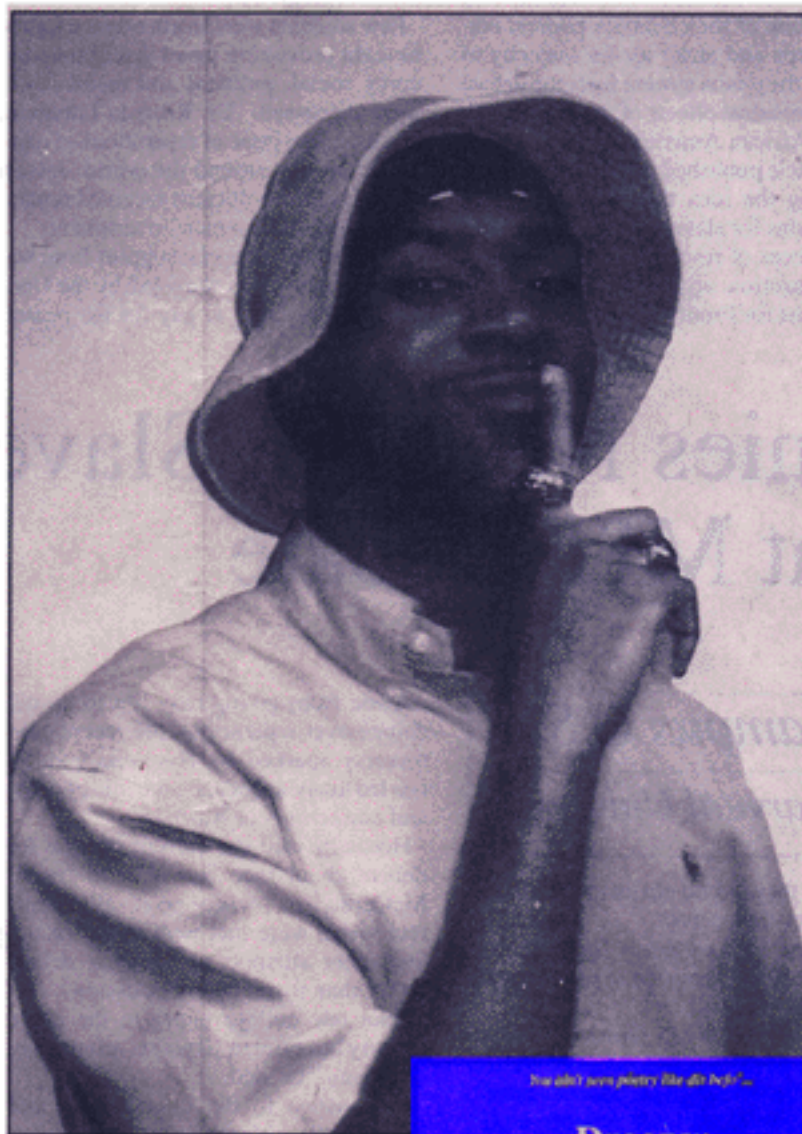


Photo by Ginger Skinner
Drew "Droopy" Anderson has published his first collection of poetry through his company Brokeballerbooks, entitled "Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool."

ever you got out of it...it's ours now. We're sharing it."

If you can't swim, stay out the Deep End...

Besides Malcolm X, Miles Davis and other notables that Anderson calls his "ghetto heroes," he says owes much of his inspiration for the book to author of "Men Cry in the Dark" Michael Baisden, who once told Anderson that selling poetry was very difficult to do. However, Anderson used this advice as encouragement to launch Brokeballerbooks, an independent, underground company named

after one of his poems. "What a Broke Baller is all about is taking the little bit of resources you have and using them to get the things that you want out of life," said Anderson, who wants writers to know that you don't need a powerful publishing company to get your book published. "It's not how much you have, it's what you do with what you have...and that's something else I'm trying to represent through my book."

...being a Broke Baller is based on how you fell inside...

"Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool" has something for everyone and like Anderson said, "You ain't seen poetry like dis befo'..." He credits music as a large influence, which is largely reflected through most of his poetry. "Music is the soundtrack to my life," said Anderson, who owns more than a thousand CDs and admits that music he cannot live without music.

I stalk the world's chess board a king...

Anderson also speaks out—loudly, about love, lust and heartbreaks throughout "Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool," in such poems as "You're Not Mine," "She's Funny That Way," and an HU favorite that you'll find isn't quite what you think it is, "Brotha's Ain't Sh*t!" In these familiar lines, Anderson admits that men "do dirt," but also admonishes superficial women who pass up the positive man who will treat them right for the ones who will hurt them. Through his poems, Anderson hides nothing from the world about the many heartbreaks he has encountered and makes no apologies for expressing his feelings on paper. "Nobody else apologizes for following their heart, so why should I?" said Anderson. He confesses his pain, but says he is not bitter. "Despite all that sh*t, I still believe in love. If you read the poems carefully, you'll see that there's hope in every poem I write."

"Droopy: Dat Boy's A Fool" can be purchased for \$10.00 by contacting Anderson at truespices@collegeclub.com. He urges students to get their "boot-leg" edition now before the second printing, which will increase the price. His work along with other poets can be viewed by visiting illpoets.com, which he hopes will be a future showcase for his book. Anderson says that he can't wait for his book to get

exposure at Howard and even encourages those who don't like poetry to read his book. "I want my book to be like a buffet," said Anderson. "Take what you want from it and leave the rest alone."

