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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Spotlight hits 2 Detroit veterans

Vanity Fair has a picture spread on "the new ruling class" in Washington in its current issue, showcasing mostly Democrats and giving Capitol power brokers catchy titles. Barack Obama is "The Promise" and Hillary Rodham Clinton is "The Force."



John Conyers is an Old Bull.

Two Michiganders make the list, although less glamorously. Reps. John Conyers, 77, of Detroit and John Dingell, 80, of Dearborn are with Ted Kennedy and Robert Byrd among "The Old Bulls."



And so, too, is John Dingell.

DETROIT SCHOOLS

Thornton regains her board perks

The Detroit school board voted Thursday to remove the four-month suspension from board-paid travel and some other privileges of Marie Thornton, who insulted another board member.

Thornton's troubles began at a hearing last spring for students who were expelled when she said board member Reverend David Murray should not participate because he was blind.

Murray, who has five degrees including a master's in criminal justice from the University of Detroit, has a visual impairment that he said caused him to be placed in classes for retarded children as a child. His disability was diagnosed when he was 22 and a student at Wayne State University, he said. He must wear contacts or use other visual aids.

Thornton was fined for that and an array of other actions, including getting up and snapping pictures of other board members during meetings.



Marie Thornton, left, apologized — sort of — to fellow board member Reverend David Murray.

In September, after further misconduct, she was told she could vote at regular meetings but was not allowed to participate on committees or travel for the district.

To dispense with the restrictions, she had to meet with the district's lawyer, pay several \$30 fines and apologize to Murray. She would not.

Until Thursday. Without saying Murray's name, Thornton said, bitterly, "I apologize for any misinterpretation that was perceived."

Of the 11-member board, Murray, Tyrone Winfrey, Joyce Hayes-Giles and Jimmy Womack voted against lifting the sanctions.