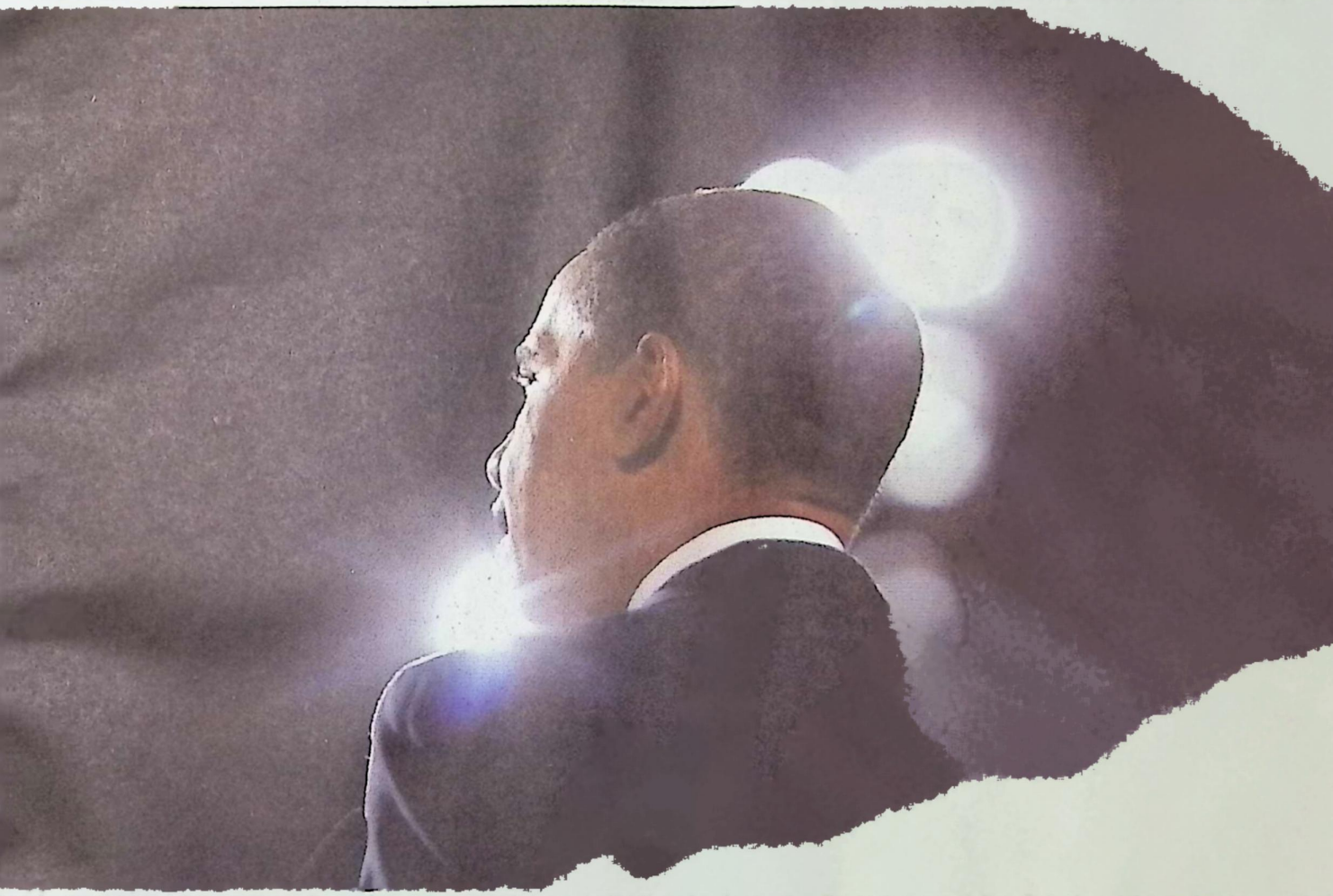
growing up in a Muslim country has led to much being said about the formulation of his political ideas. The conservatives in the west claim he will support a pro Muslim and African international agenda. Those to the centre-left say he is an issue-based man and his race and upbringing have nothing to do with his policy, but even they are over simplifying the point. But he says his upbringing was far more 'ordinary' and 'American' than people made it out to be. When asked about it on Meet the Press he says, "I think that my family had strong values, very much midwestern values." These values would be tested and twisted during his political career and eventually added to his electability, no matter what people currently say on the issue. If he had been just another black man from the ghetto, the racial lines in America would probably have held firm and he would not have been elected President. But the apparent 'whiteness' in his upbringing definitely gave him an edge when it came down to the election.



That as it stands is yet another topic, as people proclaim his victory to be a victory for African-Americans and Black people all over the world, they are actually subverting their own message. It was first claimed that this election transcended race, yet when people were asked what they felt, most said that they were happy and relieved that a black man finally took the highest office in America. If Obama is to be judged, as Martin Luther King Jr said, by the content of his character, rather than the colour of his skin, then this election probably failed to do so. There was a record turnout of black voters and almost all supported Obama and were proud to do so because he was black. All the sound bites had them saying they were proud to vote for a black person, few said they voted for him based on his words, promises and deeds. This was a referendum on colour, but claimed to be something else. The fact of the matter is that Obama was the better candidate and many people, white, Hispanic and Asian-American voted for him as being the better candidate, but many others probably numbering in the millions voted for him simply because he was black. It was a case of positive discrimination if ever there was any.

Race has been an issue with Obama for some time and his exploits with alcohol, marijuana and cocaine all of which were documented in his first book 'Dreams From