Ebony Fashion Fair presents Stylishly Hot

Ebony Fashion fair, the world’s largest traveling fashion show, celebrates 49 years with stylishly hot! See the fashion on Saturday, May 5, 2007, 8:00 p.m. at the Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Proceeds from the show sponsored by the Des Moines Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Triad Foundation will benefit the Helen Lemme Scholarship Fund.

Ticket prices include a one-year subscription to EBONY or six months to Jet and chances to win round trip transportation for two to any destination served by American Airlines or American Eagle in the domestic U.S. 48 states, a 2007 Ford Edge, a one-year supply of hair care products from Soft Sheen-Carson and selected items from Fashion Fair Cosmetics. Get your tickets today by calling 515/229-8519.

The show is characterized by its glamour, elegance and beauty and has all of the energy of a Broadway show. The flare of the world’s most creative clothing designs makes Ebony Fashion Fair’s Stylishly Hot an event that must not be missed.

Black scholarship fund gets help from Southern governors

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - Gov. Mark Sanford joined a rising trend among Southern governors holding a luncheon to help raise money for the United Negro College Fund.

Most of the seven governors who have agreed this year to host similar fundraisers have been Republicans like Sanford, organizers said.

“Most of the historically black colleges are in the South,” said Maurice Jenkins, senior vice president for the fund’s Southern region. “So, I think it’s most appropriate that the governors support those historically black colleges.”

Sanford said he decided to host the event because it ties into two issues he’s long championed - educational quality and school choice.

“If you look at historically black colleges in our state, what they represent is a different choice in the educational market place that frankly makes a difference,” Sanford said. “I think a portion of the fact that a lot people don’t make it through the educational system is that they are literally square pegs in round holes.”

More than $75,000, most from corporate donors, was raised during Tuesday’s event and around 300 people attended the fundraiser, Jenkins said.

Before this year, Florida had hosted the only governor’s luncheon to help raise money for the United Negro College Fund, said Willie Tabor, area director for the organization.

Around $380,000 was raised at the Florida event this year.

Governors in Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas have offered to hold luncheons this year, organizers said.

The money raised at the luncheons are important because financial hardship is the top reason black college students give for dropping out before getting a degree, Tabor said.

“The black colleges are producing more lawyers and engineers and doctors per capita than any other universities,” Tabor said. “The students at these schools drop out because of financial reasons. A lot of these students are first generation college students and some are from single-parent households, where the incomes are $25,000 to $35,000 per family.”

Voorhees College junior Dameone Ferguson, who was raised by his grandmother in Easley after his mother was killed, said a lot of students like him couldn’t go to college without the United Negro College Fund scholarship.

“I’ve seen people who came in with me, had financial difficulties and had to drop out,” Ferguson said. “Without these scholarships a lot of us won’t be able to attend school. And without school your future is very, very grim.”

The United Negro College Fund provides financial support to 39-member institutions nationwide, including five in South Carolina.
**Weekly Meditation:**

"Are You Routine or Consistent"

--- Lamentations 3:22-24

Is there a difference between routine and consistency? Maybe the general belief is that one can be consistent without engaging in routine. God is consistent; “new mercies we see every morning.” We consistently receive the benefits of God every morning. However, it is not routine, or the same thing. God’s mercies are “new”. They are not familiar or laden with yesterday’s pattern. If God gives us “new” every morning, then we should not be in a routine paradigm with God. Yes, we should be consistent and faithful, but not religiously routine. We should ask God everyday to show us new ways to express love to Him through our worship and praise. Let’s ask God to give us the tongue to speak and the heart of a poet, so that, we can express beauty, goodness and love in new and magnificent ways to our King.

**Prayer:**

Lord we consistently seek you everyday. You are our God and we can’t get enough of you. Early in the morning we rise up to pursue you. We have a hunger and thirst for you, like a parched person in a dry place. (Psalm 63:1) We long for you when we are not in your manifest presence. We know that you are always with us and surround us, but we want and desire the times where we sup with you and you sup with us. We run with excitement when you knock on the door of our heart and call us to go away in prayer and worship. (Revelation 3:20) We look to build a throne of praise that You can sit on and dwell upon. You inhabit the praises of your people and the costume pieces and props they find in their Magic Trunk.

Friday Funday at the Des Moines Playhouse

Join The Des Moines Playhouse on May 18 for “Stone Soup.” This story is the final performance in the 2006-07 season of Friday Funday, a creative participatory story theatre program for children ages 4-6. Performances are at The Playhouse, Friday, May 18, at 9:30 and 10:30 AM, and 1:30 PM. Shows are approximately 45 minutes in length. Admission is $5 per person, adults and children. Reservations are suggested and can be made by calling The Playhouse box office at 515-277-6261. May’s featured story is “Stone Soup.” “All we need to make this soup is a large pot of water and one large stone.” The selfish villagers do not want to share any of their food, so two travelers must start with two unusual ingredients. Join The Clubhouse at The Playhouse Gang as they dramatize this favorite story using only their imaginations and the cost.
Text of slavery apologies approved in Alabama Legislature this month

By The Associated Press


Sanders’ resolution:

WHEREAS, slavery has been documented as a worldwide practice since antiquity, dating back to 3500 B.C. in ancient Mesopotamia; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the infamous Atlantic Slave Trade, millions of Africans became involuntary immigrants to the New World, and millions more died during 17 passage; the first African slaves in the North American 18 colonies were brought to Jamestown, in 1619; and

WHEREAS, although the United States outlawed the transatlantic slave trade in 1808, the domestic slave trade in the colonies and illegal importation continued for several decades; and

WHEREAS, slavery, or the “Peculiar Institution,” in the United States resembled no other form of involuntary servitude, as Africans were captured and sold at auction as chattel, like inanimate property or animals; and

WHEREAS, some African captives resisted enslavement by fleeing from slave forts on the West African coast and others mutinied aboard slave trading vessels, cast themselves into the Atlantic Ocean, or risked the cruel retaliation of their masters by running away to seek freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Slave Trade was a lucrative enterprise, and African slaves, a prized commodity to support the economic base of plantations in the colonies, were traded for tropical products, manufactured goods, sugar, molasses, and other merchandise; and

WHEREAS, acknowledgment of the crimes and persecution visited upon other peoples during World War II is haunting their psyches and clouding their vision of the future and of America’s many attributes; and

WHEREAS, although the United States outlawed the transatlantic slave trade in 1808, the domestic slave trade in the colonies and illegal importation continued for several decades; and

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Unique memorial service at DMU honors body donors

On May 18, Des Moines University will honor 72 Iowans who donated their bodies to further medical education. The family of each donor, the DMU community and the public is invited to remember each donor and recognize each generous gift.

“We are indebted to these individuals that donated their body for education. I would hope all donors and their families realize what a great service they are doing for students of medicine. They provide an invaluable resource for our education and we are very grateful for the learning opportunity,” said Kaasia Sandstrom, physician assistant student. “These donors all led meaningful, fulfilling lives and were able to give to their communities after they passed away. They deserve recognition for this important decision.”

The non-denominational service will begin at 1 p.m. in the Student Education Center auditorium, 3300 Grand Avenue, and is open to all. The body donor memorial service has been held annually for at least 35 years. At least 300 people are expected to attend. For the first time, this year military honors will be performed for the veteran donors. Family members at the service will be given a lapel pin that honors the gift their loved one made.

Clayton Carlson, anatomical coordinator, arranged this year’s service. He says, “It shows our donor families that we care about them and it gives students an opportunity to recognize the donors who contributed to their education. This is the only service some donor families have.”

Sandstrom, osteopathic medicine student Matthew McClanahan, Nicole Mason, a podiatric medical student and physical therapy student Laurel Nystul will speak during the program.

Other speakers at the service will include Kendall Reed, D.O., dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Robert Yohe, D.P.M., dean of the College of Pediatric Medicine and Surgery, Jodi Cahalan, P.A.C., dean of the College of Health Sciences, Donald Matz, Ph.D., chair of the anatomy department, and Reverend Beau Collins of Des Moines’ Evergreen Church of Christ. A video tribute to the donors will be shown as well.

The Body Donor Program at Des Moines University has been contributing to medical investigation and student education for as long as the University has. Since detailed record keeping began in 1955, more than 2,000 bodies have been donated to DMU. Studying the body’s systems and organs contributes to a thorough understanding of human anatomy.

Mason said, “We learn best when we can actually see and touch that which we need to understand. The donors provided an invaluable opportunity - the scientific knowledge we gain working with actual bodies is indispensable.”

When a body is donated to the program, the University pays a portion of the transportation costs within Iowa and provides for the memorial service and entombment. The annual memorial service has been held for more than 35 years. Of the 72 being honored this year, 15 will be entombed at the Merle Hay Mausoleum.

Making death preparations is not something most people like to talk about but planning ahead insures the option of donating your body to science. For more information about the Body Donor Program at DMU, call 515-271-1481.

Free parking is available behind the building and directions to campus are available at http://www.dmu.edu.

Eating out still risky when it comes to sodium in food

DES MOINES, Iowa (Dow Jones/AP) - Americans trying to shake the salt habit aren’t getting much help when they go out to eat.

Despite repeated warnings by health experts about the consequences of over-salted diets, big fast food and casual dining restaurant chains either have made little apparent effort to reduce sodium in their food or simply don’t disclose the amounts.

One reason: There is little economic incentive to do so.

“Too many people still equate low salt with low taste,” said Dr. Lawrence Appel of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, an authority on hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

Experts believe that many Americans consume twice the sodium they need to stay healthy. The government’s recommended limit is 2,300 milligrams, or about 1 teaspoon, a day. Blacks, older adults and children are advised to ingest less than that.

But some of the most popular items on restaurant menus make following that guidance difficult. For example, a Burger King Whopper with cheese comes with a medium order of French fries and medium Diet Coke, has 2,060 milligrams of sodium in a KFC Famous Bowl with mashed potatoes and gravy. An order of baby back ribs with honey barbecue sauce at Chili’s Grill & Bar comes with 4,410 milligrams of sodium.

The seasoning heightens health problems related to what’s been called an epidemic of childhood obesity. “The more calories (taken in), the more salt in. There’s a direct relationship between obesity and high blood pressure,” said Dr. Jeffrey Cutler, a preventive medicine specialist at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a unit of the National Institutes of Health.

Last June, the American Medical Association called for a 50 percent cut in the sodium in fast food and other restaurant fare. The physicians’ organization also said it wanted to talk with the Food and Drug Administration about the issue, but 10 months have passed without such a meeting.

An FDA spokesman, Michael Herndon, said this week that one is being arranged. Meanwhile, he said, the agency is “looking at ways to get input from all stakeholders on what actions we might take” to promote reduced salt consumption.

The restaurant industry is on record as opposing mandates. Sheila Weiss, director of nutrition policy for the National Restaurant Association, called sodium reduction an “important issue” and said restaurateurs have been working with food suppliers on such items as salad dressings, sauces and soups.

“This isn’t something our members are taking lightly,” Weiss said.

Even so, diners at many of the country’s biggest chains haven’t a clue as to how much sodium they’re consuming.

“Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by it’s light.” ~ Joseph Pulitzer

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If you answered yes to any or all of these questions an area walking club will be forming next month. Walking is one of the best ways to get fit and shed that extra weight. We’ll also discuss how to eat healthier. So if you’re interested call Jonathan at 515-471-5092 or email him at jon_narcisse@yahoo.com.

Three young, severely malnourished Somali children stand in line for food on Christmas Day at an aid center in Bardera. (AP Photo/John Moore)

AVID Author Visit: Masha Hamilton
On Monday, May 7, at 6:30 PM, Masha Hamilton will be at the Central Library to discuss her book, The Camel Bookmobile, a captivating novel about a young American woman who leaves her everyday life behind to bring the joy of reading to a small African village. The real-life Camel Bookmobile made its first run almost a decade ago with three dromedaries that trudged through deepest Kenya to bring a library to the most remote settlements. Masha Hamilton brings this inspiring story to life in her novel that is both illuminating and highly entertaining.

Masha worked as a foreign correspondent for The Associated Press for five years in the Middle East, where she covered the intifada, the peace process, and partial Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Then she spent five years in Moscow, where she was a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, wrote a newspaper column. “Postcard from Moscow,” and reported for NBC/Mutual Radio. She wrote about Kremlin politics as well as life for the average Russians under Gorbachev and Yeltsin during the coup and collapse of the Soviet Union. She traveled Afghanistan in the spring of 2004 to report on the changing situation for women in prison, child brides, war widows, and others. In 2006, she traveled to Kenya to research The Camel Bookmobile and interview drought and famine victims in the isolated northeast near the unstable border with Somalia.

Children’s Author Masha Aylesworth at the Library!
Meet children’s author Masha Aylesworth on Thursday, May 8 at 4:00 PM at the Franklin Avenue Library. Jim is an author of many picture books and retellings of traditional tales, including The Gingerbread Man, Old Black Fly, The Tale of Tricky Fox and many more. Jim taught first grade for twenty-five years and has since then retired to write and travel. He stays busy traveling to schools, reading his stories, and inspiring thousands of children to read and write. This author/lecturer/teacher will discuss and read from his work. The presentation will be followed by a book sale and signing. Don’t miss out on meeting a great author and getting your own book signed!

Genealogy Resources
Learn how to research your family history by attending the Introduction to Genealogy Resources class on Tuesday, May 8, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM at the Central Library. This brief introduction and overview will inform you about electronic genealogy resources available at the Des Moines Public Library. Stop by the Central Library or call 515-283-4152, extension 3, to preregister.

Learn to Use the Internet
Stop by the South Side Library on Tuesday, May 8, at 9:00 AM to learn to use the Internet. This class will give you helpful hints on ways to use the Internet and many opportunities that are available on the Internet. This is for those already familiar with the mouse and keyboard. You must preregister. To do this call 283-4152, ext. 3.

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Chess and Go Club at the Library!
Teens, join the Chess and Go Club at Central Library, May 8 at 3:30 PM in the second floor conference room. Whether you’ve played before or have never heard of Chess or Go, come hang out with other area teens. You can learn how to play or watch others play while you eat the snacks provided.

Adult Book Discussions
Stop by any of the six libraries to be part of an adult book discussion. There are several chances to attend. Ask at the information desk to borrow a copy of a book.

• Tuesday, May 1, 2:00-3:00 PM, South Side Library, Teacher Man, by Frank McCourt.
• Thursday, May 3, 1:00-2:00 PM, Franklin Avenue Library, Blue Shoes and Happiness, by Alexander McCall Smith.
• Monday, May 7, 2:00-3:00 PM, North Side Library, A Girl Named Zippy, by Haven Kimmel.
• Tuesday, May 8, 6:30-7:30 PM, Franklin Avenue Library, Honky, by Dalton Conley.

Looking to get fit after a winter of putting on unwanted pounds but you just don’t know where to start? Do you work out better if you have someone working out with you? Are you ready to shed that extra weight and live a healthier lifestyle?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions an area walking club will be forming next month. Walking is one of the best ways to get fit and shed that extra weight. We’ll also discuss how to eat healthier. So if you’re interested call Jonathan at 515-471-5092 or email him at jon_narcisse@yahoo.com.

Three young, severely malnourished Somali children stand in line for food on Christmas Day at an aid center in Bardera. (AP Photo/John Moore)

AVID Author Visit: Mary Doria Russell
Stop by Sheslow Auditorium on the Drake campus, May 3, at 6:30 PM to meet Mary Doria Russell. Mary Doria Russell will share how a perfectly normal paleoanthropologist ended up writing two science fiction classics, two serious historical novels, and now a western. Russell has become widely known for her two novels which explore one of science fiction’s oldest concepts: first contact with aliens. In this framework she also explores the even older issue of how one can reconcile the idea of a benevolent deity with pain and evil in the world. Russell will discuss her three novels The Sparrow, Children of God, and A Thread of Grace.

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Three young, severely malnourished Somali children stand in line for food on Christmas Day at an aid center in Bardera. (AP Photo/John Moore)
Skills shortages bite despite army of unemployed workers

Although there is a worldwide shortage of engineers and artisans, South Africa is particularly badly hit because of the legacy of apartheid, which reserved quality schooling, training and jobs for the white minority and condemned a generation of blacks to drudgery.

The 2001 census showed that of the 45 million population, at least 4 million South Africans at least 20 years old had no schooling at all, while another 4 million had limited schooling at primary school level - about 18 percent of the population in all.

The government has made big strides in education and training since the end of apartheid in 1994. But critics maintain that some of its policies - including so-called affirmative action which prioritizes nonwhites in awarding jobs - have worsened the skills crisis.

“Trends are showing skills shortages in many sectors,” said Bownes, whose WorkNow has signed up more than 15,000 artists, artisans and technicians since it was formed two years ago.

Despite the shortage of skilled workers, there is a glut of gardeners on her list of jobseekers. But Bownes says such positions are “very menial” jobs. “It’s not that I’m anti-gardening or anti-green thumbs. But it’s very, very menial. A wiser government would have done everything possible to retain scarce skills despite their whiteness.”

Bownes says that even though many young people in the community are eager to be trained as carpenters or plumbers, they don’t have the money for the bus fare to Cape Town training centers and would lose desperately needed cash if they were in school instead of working casual jobs.

“People are disproportionately hit by South Africa’s unemployment, which is officially 26 percent. In reality it’s closer to 40 percent because the government figure doesn’t include the informal sector or those who have given up looking for a job.”

“Some of the people who come in here have been educated, but they can’t find work,” says Bownes.

“People are saying that they have a college degree, but they don’t have skills. They need to get skills.”

“We have a vast pool of labor but a real lack of skills.”

Job seekers signal their need for work April 2, 2007 as they sit on a sidewalk in Wetton, Cape Town, South Africa. The unemployed gather daily in the hope of finding work in a country scarred by extreme unemployment coupled with a crippling shortage of skills. (AP Photo/Obed Zilwa)

HOUT BAY, South Africa (AP) - Simon Gungqa and dozens of other hopefuls stand at a busy intersection, their eyes watchful, appealing to motorists to hire them for a few hours of casual labor in a country scarred by extreme unemployment and coupled with a crippling shortage of skills.

It is a dispiriting daily ritual for 26-year-old Gungqa, a school dropout and sometime gardener with no regular work, who forms part of what South Africa’s deputy president recently described as the country’s poorly educated, untrained army.

At a small community employment center nearby, program manager Tania Bownes sighs as she contemplates the 300 domestic workers and glut of gardeners on her list of jobseekers. But there are only a handful of carpenters, stonemasons and seamstresses - and all the plumbers and electricians have been snapped up.

“We have a vast pool of labor but a real lack of skills,” said Bownes, whose WorkNow project tries to find jobs for unemployed blacks living in an impoverished suburb of this otherwise wealthy town. “Skilled artisans are like gold.”

The paradox in Hout Bay, a coastal resort near Cape Town, is witnessed throughout South Africa as it struggles with estimated 40 percent unemployment coupled with shortages in almost every profession and craft - top level managers, teachers, engineers, bricklayers and welders.

The government wants to train 30,000 artisans by 2010 - requiring an annual increase of 7,500; more than double the number of students in higher levels of school and training to 1 million; and dramatically increase the number of engineering graduates. It is also drafting retired people back into the labor force and trying to persuade South Africans working abroad to return home.

Even so, it will have to rely on imported skilled workers to meet deadlines for stadium construction, transport and other infrastructure projects for the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament, as well as to provide services when the anticipated hordes of visitors arrive.

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CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING
TOO MUCH DEBT?

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.
—Mark 10:14
DMACC 2007 Commencement ceremonies scheduled May 3rd

Des Moines Area Community College’s (DMACC’s) Ankeny/Newton/Urban/West Campus 2007 Commencement will take place at 7 p.m., Thur., May 3 at Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium.

DMACC Newton Campus student Linda Allen of Newton will welcome family and friends to the graduation ceremony. Accumold President and Chief Executive Officer Roger Hargens will deliver the commencement address. More than 1,750 students will graduate from the Ankeny, Newton, Urban and West Campuses

The DMACC Boone Campus Commencement will take place at 10 a.m., Fri., May 4 in the Boone Campus Gymnasium. DMACC Boone Campus student Tammie Hartman of Ames will welcome family and friends to the graduation ceremony. More than 230 Boone Campus students will graduate this spring.

The DMACC Carroll Campus Commencement will take place at 6:30 p.m., Mon., May 7 at the Carroll Senior High School. Carroll Campus Student Activities Council President John Skinner of Lidderdale and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Beta Theta Xi Chapter President Traci Keoppel of Carroll will welcome family and friends to the ceremony. DMACC Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kim Linduska, will deliver the commencement address. More than 100 DMACC Carroll Campus students will graduate this spring. In addition, 21 University of Northern Iowa/DMACC 2 + 2 Technical Management students will be graduating at the Carroll Commencement.

Attorney general sues to stop dairies near park honoring blacks

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - The attorney general sued the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on Thursday to block two mega-dairies from being built next to a state historic park that pays tribute to a black community founded by a freed slave.

The approval last month to allow 12,000 cows about a mile from Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park violated the California Environmental Quality Act, Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. said in the lawsuit filed in Tulare County Superior Court in Visalia.

The dairies proposed by Sam Etchegaray would produce 20 tons of manure a day - polluting air, water and creating a stink near the park, the suit claimed.

It also alleged the board did not adequately address the environmental impact on the adjacent Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and the Allensworth Ecological Reserve.

The dairies have long been a source of contention between Tulare County, the nation’s biggest milk producer, and members of the black community and environmentalists.

Black residents have said that allowing the farms insults the legacy of the Civil War veteran who founded the black utopia in 1908.

Although Etchegaray is negotiating to sell the land or development rights to the Trust for Public Land, a private nonprofit that conserves natural and historic lands, the dairy is under attack from several fronts.

On Wednesday, an Assembly committee approved a bill that would ban dairies from within 2.5 miles of the park.

Republican opponents said the measure was a precedent-setting threat to local government’s right to make land-use decisions. The bill approved 9-4 by the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee next goes to the full Assembly.
Virginia Tech English Professor, Nikki Giovanni, speaks closing remarks at a convocation to honor the victims of a shooting rampage at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., Tuesday, April 17, 2007. (AP Photo/Steve Helber)

Giovanni evokes hope in wake of slaughter

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - When poet Nikki Giovanni evokes the indomitable spirit that she says must have kept slaves living and loving in their servitude, it is in the service not only of black people still struggling to overcome that heritage, but of people of any color who must struggle to deal with lives filled with sorrow and pain.

“We know that sorrow is just around the corner,” Giovanni told an audience Friday at Philander Smith College. “But so is hope.”

Giovanni evoked for Arkansans the spirit that was apparent in her remarks to a memorial service Tuesday on the campus of Virginia Tech, the day after student Seung-Hui Cho fatally shot 32 people before taking his own life. At that service, she brought the crowd to its feet with her words: “We will prevail.”

Two years earlier, Giovanni, a professor at Virginia Tech, had stood up to Cho and forced his removal from her class after other students complained about his behavior.

Friday, she was in Little Rock as part of the Arkansas Literary Festival, giving a reading of her poetry to a full auditorium at historically black Philander Smith. She made only brief references to the slaughter on the campus where she teaches.

“We are having a difficult time at Virginia Tech,” she said. “The world is aware of the sorrow we’re having.”

But she said some of the suggestions for how the violence might have been avoided or minimized are not to her liking.

“Somebody said, ‘Arm the teachers,’” she told the audience. “I don’t want to be armed - I can’t even turn on my cell phone.”

The laughter that remark prompted was only one of many interruptions as the audience showed its enthusiasm for Giovanni’s humor and humanity. She found humor amid the pain of her mother’s death, and amid the struggle of Rosa Parks to maintain simple human dignity on a Montgomery, Ala., bus.

Giovanni praised the spirit of the people brought from Africa to be slaves in America, citing “what we call ‘the Negro Spirituals’” as a product of their pain and hope that can still inspire.

“We found a way to laugh, we found a way to love,” she told her audience, and they laughed along with her.

Asher group pushing for Missouri ballot measure

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - A former college administrator wants Missouri to adopt an anti-affirmative-action measure to end what he calls race-based “preferential treatment” in state-sponsored programs.

Tim Asher, a former admissions director at North Central Missouri College, is behind a group that believes Missouri should follow the lead of California, Washington and Michigan in passing a ballot measure that addresses affirmative action programs.

To be included on the 2008 ballot, an anti-affirmative-action initiative “is liberating people like me from the last legacy of bondage,” said Connerly, who is multiracial. Connerly believes affirmative action programs send the message that women and minorities require special treatment.

An anti-affirmative-action initiative “is liberating people like me from the last legacy of bondage,” said Connerly, who is multiracial. Connerly believes affirmative action programs send the message that women and minorities require special treatment.

To be included on the 2008 ballot, the initiative requires signatures equal to 5 percent of the voters in the previous gubernatorial race in at least six congressional districts.

Anita Russell, president of the Kansas City branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said her organization plans to oppose the ballot initiative.

“We support affirmative-action policies and practices by the state to ensure equal access for minorities and women,” Russell said.

Courage, it would seem, is nothing less than the power to overcome danger, misfortune, fear, injustice, while continuing to affirm inwardly that life with all its sorrows is good; that everything is meaningful even if in a sense beyond our understanding; and that there is always tomorrow.

-- Dorothy Thompson

Iowa Bystander • Page 8 April 30, 2007

**Image 255x35 to 584x480**

**Image 309x488 to 584x737**

**Image 32x342 to 129x476**
of other times ... We can finally judge the past by the standards of President John Adams, who called slavery "an evil of colossal magnitude"; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama, the vestiges of slavery are ever before African-American citizens, from the overt racism of hate groups to the subtle racism encountered when requesting health care, transacting business, buying a home, seeking quality public education and college admission, and enduring pretextual traffic stops and other indignities; and

WHEREAS, European and African nations have apologized for their roles in what history calls the worst holocaust of humankind, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and racial reconciliation is impossible without some acknowledgment of the moral and legal injustices perpetrated upon African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, an apology for centuries of brutal dehumanization and injustices cannot erase the past, but confession of the wrongs can speed racial healing and reconciliation and help African-American and white citizens confront the ghosts of their collective pasts together; and

WHEREAS, the story of the enslavement of Africans and their descendants, the human carnage, and the dehumanizing atrocities committed during slavery should not be purged from Alabama’s history or discounted; moreover, the faith, perseverance, hope, and endless triumphs of African-Americans and their significant contributions to the development of this state and the nation should be embraced, celebrated, and retold for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the perpetual pain, distrust, and bitterness of many African-Americans could be assuaged and the principles espoused by the Founding Fathers would be affirmed, and great strides toward unifying all Alabamians and inspiring the nation to acquiesce might be accomplished, if on the eve of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the New World, the state acknowledged and atoned for its pivotal role in the slavery of Africans; now therefore...

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Wal-Mart diversity figures show small change in chain's management makeup

LANGSTON, Okla. (AP) - The val- edictorium from the magnet high school did not go to college.

“I was just worn out,” Leethaniel Brumfield III said.

He had spent four years “trying to be better than everybody else” at Classen School of Advanced Studies in Okla-
homa City. Then he turned down a full scholarship to historically black Morehouse College in Atlanta, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and filmmaker Spike Lee attended.

His parents did not understand, and in their household, children who did not move on to college moved out.

Brumfield found a $700-a-month apartment and got a job as a collections manager for Sprint in Oklahoma City. Soon, he figured out he could not get a promotion or more money without a college degree.

And, he felt inferior to his high-

achieving peers from high school. He would run into them at Wal-Mart, and he felt stupid, having worked so hard just to end up in a dead-end job, he said.

His friends had “out-of-this-world” sto-
ries from college to tell, and Brumfield could only talk about work.

So at 23, he enrolled at Langston Uni-
versity, the closest historically black college. An adviser told him to apply for scholarships, and they started pour-
ing in. Now a junior, he has so many scholarships, he is actually making money by going to college.

Brumfield did not pick an easy route through college. He is double-majoring in biology and chemistry and plans to graduate in four years, by May 2008, when he will be 27. He has to make at least a 3.5 grade point average to keep his scholarships. Somehow, he man-
aged to fit the presidencies of various campus groups into his schedule.

That is, until he had an stress-in-
duced stroke last semester.

On Oct. 6, he woke up with the right half of his body paralyzed. He remained paralyzed through November but be-
gan to regain movement in December.

The prognosis was good: He should be back to normal within a year. Now, only the right side of his face remains slightly stiff.

Brumfield stuck with his classes af-
ter the stroke and ended the semester with a 4.0 grade point average.

He let his campus activities slide, and he is taking only four classes this semester. His genetics class is hard, but “microbiology is a piece of cake,” he said.

A few weeks ago, Brumfield got a call about 10:30 p.m. while he was doing homework. He did not recognize the number, so he let it go to voicemail.

He listened to the message and found out he had won the United Negro Col-
lege Fund/Merck Undergraduate Sci-
ence Research Scholarship Award, which will pay up to $25,000 for his school expenses next year and pay at least $10,000 for two summer intern-
ships.

“I couldn’t sleep that night,” he said.

This summer and next, the United Negro College Fund/Merck program is sending him to Harvard University to research the development of medicine.

When he won that internship, he turned down four others, at Cornell Univer-

sity, Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

ology, Vanderbilt University and the University of Arizona.

Langston University President Joann Hayesbert said, “The mere fact that you have students at Langston who get off-
ners at MIT and turn them down for more favorable offers - that boxes well for the institution.”

Brumfield hopes the internships will allow him to get into graduate school at Harvard.

“If I could just do that, I would be so happy,” he said.

Eventually, he would like to teach chemistry or biology at a historically black college.

For now, as he continues to go through physical therapy, he said, “I’m really grateful and try not to be so stressed.”

He is not likely to slow down too much, however, considering his phi-

losophy is to put his all into whatever he does.

Recently he flew to Arizona to present his research on a shellfish toxin at a conference. A couple of hours before his speech, he squeezed in some study time for his final exam in genet-
ics.

In a file photo Betty Dukes, right, lead plaintiff in a potential class-action suit against Wal-Mart, poses with fellow plaintiffs shortly before a hearing Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003, in San Francisco. From right to left are Dukes, Patricia Surgenson, Stephanie Odle and Christine Kwapnoski. Their suit alleged Wal-Mart discriminated against female employees.

Has Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world’s largest private employer, grown too big for the U.S. justice system?

That provocative question is thhekey to Wal-Mart’s defense against a lawsuit filed on behalf of 1.6 million former and current women employees. Lawyers pursuing the class action claim Wal-Mart systematically denied raises and promotions to women and paid them less than their male counterparts. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)
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Assistant Professor of Radio/Television
Producer/Host of “Like It Is”
WASU-FM, Jonesboro, Arkansas

B.S., Radio/Television - Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
M.A., English/Communications - Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
M.A., Heritage Studies - Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AK
M.A., PhD of Philosophy, Heritage Studies - Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas

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Jimmie Porter • Founder and CEO
Don Imus’ sidekick-producer also fired over racist and sexist

NEW YORK (AP) - The longtime producer for Don Imus’ syndicated radio show joined his boss on the unemployment line one week after the disgraced broadcaster was booted from the airwaves for racist and sexist comments about the Rutgers college women’s basketball team.

Bernard McGuirk, who joined the “Imus in the Morning Show” as producer in 1987, was let go late Thursday by WFAN-AM for his role in the ugly incident, CBS Radio spokeswoman Karen Matao said Friday. CBS Inc., the parent company for WFAN, pulled Imus off the air on April 12.

McGuirk was one of Imus’ frequent on-air jokers, and was involved in the “nappy-headed hos” comments that left both without jobs. “Nappy” is a derogatory description of some black people’s hair, and “hos” is slang for whores.

McGuirk provided much of the program’s dicier content, a great deal of it while doing over-the-top impressions of the late Cardinal John O’Connor and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

Imus, in an oft-repeated schtick, would deride McGuirk as a “bald-headed stooge” when the material veered into dangerous territory. McGuirk also handled the booking of Imus’ guests, a group which ran the gamut from presidential candidates to mainstream media pundits.

Matao declined to provide any further details about the McGuirk situation. McGuirk was noticeably absent this week when other Imus contributors, including newsman Charles McCord and sportscaster Chris Carlin, were on the air with the WFAN replacement team of Mike Francesa and Chris “Mad Dog” Russo. Another Imus regular, comedian Rob Bartlett, appeared Friday on another radio show. But McGuirk has made no public comments about the controversy since the Imus firing.

CBS Radio had yet to decide on a permanent replacement for Imus on the New York station, Matao said.

It was McGuirk who first used the term “hos” while discussing the college women’s championship game between Rutgers and Tennessee. Imus described the Rutgers team, which includes eight black women, as tattooed “rough girls” during the April 4 broadcast.

“Some hardcore hos,” replied McGuirk.

“That’s some nappy headed hos there, I’m going to tell you that,” said Imus during the 10-second exchange that ignited a national debate over racist and misogynistic language and lyrics.

Imus was expected to meet with CBS Radio officials to settle the remainder of his recently signed five-year, multimillion-dollar contract. McGuirk’s contract status was unknown; he had joined the radio station in 1984 when it was WNBC.

Letter to the Editor:

The March 28 DM Register article about the disparity among Des Moines schools in terms of both economic and racial diversity quoted a school board member saying “the disparity has been overlooked amid leadership changes” in recent times. In truth, both school board members and administrators have long been exposed to community concerns about this lack of diversity, perception of unequal services and the systems DMPS put into place that encourage the continuation of this inequity at some open enrollment schools. Just the fact that no transportation is provided for students in these schools self-selects families with higher incomes. There is a duty to seek out such information about school profiles in the early days of serving on the board. Without such information, how can any discussion about disparities, including the achievement gap, be considered informed?

DMPS administrators and board members should be very familiar with issues of inequity and resource allocation concerns. These topics have been explored over a number of years in discussions about the Downtown School, the Callanan Connection, the failed Windsor/Cowles merger attempt and also in various school board election forums. To say that board members were informed is untrue.

I’d also be interested in knowing the percentage of DSM versus out of district students being served in the open enrolled schools, and the reason that DSM students are being rejected. This disparity also needs to be addressed, explained and corrected. This information, I would guess, probably helps explain the differences in both race and income among student populations across select schools.

Mary Kundrat

Lead Poisoning

Childhood lead poisoning is a disease that occurs when children have too much lead in their bodies. One out of every seven Iowa children is lead poisoned. This is three times the national average.

Lead poisoning is usually caused by lead-based paint found in homes built before 1960. About 60% of the homes in Iowa, both in urban and rural areas were built before 1960.

Children become lead poisoned if they:
- Put lead-based chips in their mouth.
- Put dusty or dirty hands, toys, bottles or pacifiers in their mouths.
- Chew on surfaces painted with lead-based paint.
- Play in dirt or a sandbox near and old building where an old building was torn down.
- Breathe in dust from lead-based paint that is being sanded, scraped, or removed with a heat gun.

Children may show the following symptoms if they have been lead poisoned:
- Be easily excited.
- Have problems paying attention.
- Complain of headaches and stomachaches.
- Be more tired than usual.

Lead-poisoned children may have learning problems when they start school. Children with very high lead levels may have severe brain damage or even die.

The only way to tell if your child is lead poisoned is to have their blood tested. All Iowa children under the age of 6 years should be tested for lead poisoning. It is important that your child get their blood level tested at least once a year until they are six years old.

For more information contact:
Children’s Center at Mercy
1-888-4122
www.mercydesmoines.org

Sodium: Continued from page 4

Applebee’s International Inc., operator of the nation’s largest casual dining chain, is among those not disclosing salt levels, although spokes-

man Frank Ybarra said, “We will continue to

listen to our guests as they tell us what type of

additional information they want to have.”

Ruby Tuesday Inc. publishes online data on
calories, fat, fiber and carbohydrates, but not for

sodium. The Olive Garden and Red Lobster units of

Darden Restaurants Inc. don’t disclose sodium

content on their Web sites, nor does Cheesecake

Factory Inc.

However, most fast food restaurants do.

McDonald’s Corp. recently told franchises that it’s looking at reducing sodium in its popular

Chicken McNuggets. But its growing emphasis on

chicken as fast food fare has, in some cases,

resulted in sandwiches that contain more sodium than their beef counterparts. For example, while a

Big Mac hamburger comes with 1,040 milligrams of sodium, McDonald’s premium grilled chicken

club sandwich has 1,720 milligrams - three-fourths of the recommended daily allowance for most adults. Crispy chicken versions are even saltier.

Other fast food chains say they’re analyzing their menus for possible nutritional enhancements.

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Mary Kundrat
The Director’s Council & Spectrum Resources

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### Church Listings & Weekly Schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burns United Methodist Church</td>
<td>811 Crocker Street, Des Moines, IA 50309</td>
<td>515-244-5883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Curtis Devance, JD, MDiv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Church Schedule:</td>
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<td>Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. &amp; 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church</td>
<td>1201 Day Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50314</td>
<td>515-243-4073</td>
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<td>Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor</td>
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<td>St. Paul A.M.E. Church</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey, Pastor</td>
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<td>Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Praise &amp; Worship</td>
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<td>New Membership Class</td>
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<td>Training or Minister/Evangelist</td>
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<td>Morning Worship</td>
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<td>Children's Church</td>
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<td>Nursery Available</td>
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<td>Mondays 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Praise Dance rehearsal</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Computer Classes for seniors</td>
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<td>Good Samaritan Youth Outreach</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m. Women's Ministry</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Thursdays</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. Aerobics</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Ministry - 1st &amp; 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>515-288-4419</td>
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**Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Lee Zachary Maxey, Pastor

*Address:* 1201 Day Street, Des Moines, IA 50314

*Phone:* 515-243-4073

*Church Schedule:*

- **Sunday Morning Worship:** 11:00 a.m.
- **Sabbath School:** 9:30 a.m.
- **“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service:** 15:00-9:00 a.m. (Saturday)
- **Wednesday Prayer Service:** 6:30 p.m.

**St. Paul A.M.E. Church**

Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor

*Address:* 1201 Day Street, Des Moines, IA 50314

*Ministry Days & Times*

- **Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Praise & Worship**
- **New Membership Class**
- **Training or Minister/Evangelist**
- **Nursery Available**

**Sunday School:**

- 9:45 a.m.

**Morning Worship**

- 11:00 a.m.

**Children’s Church**

- Nursery Available

**Nursery Available**

- Mondays 6:00 p.m.
- Praise Dance rehearsal

**Tuesdays**

- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Computer Classes for seniors
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Good Samaritan Youth Outreach**

- Nursery Available

**Wednesdays**

- 5:30 p.m. Women’s Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

**Thursdays**

- 6:00 p.m. Aerobics
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Saturday**

- Men’s Ministry - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m. Traditional Service

For information please call 515-288-4419.

**Union Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas, Pastor

E. University & McCormick Street

Des Moines, IA 50316

Phone: 515-262-1785

Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service

Bro. Donnie Williams: 244-4853 or Bro. Larry Welch: 771-4441

**Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to win the lost, build the believer and equip the worker so as to make disciples who can make disciples.

**Church Schedule:**

- **Sundays:** Worship at 8:00 a.m. & at 10:40 a.m.
- **Sabbath School:** 9:30 a.m.
- **Mondays: 6:00 p.m. Computer Classes for seniors**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Prayer Service & Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m.
- **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Youth Service:** 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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**Send your church news to:** iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Crime and corruption are top issues in Philadelphia mayoral primary race that remains a tossup

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The to-do list for the next mayor is a daunting one: slow a surging homicide rate and change the pay-to-play culture in City Hall.

With less than a month to go before the Democratic primary, a retired businessman with deep pockets, two congressmen, a former city councilman and a veteran state representative all say they can handle the challenges and turn the city’s fortunes around.

But with nearly a quarter of voters still undecided, the mayor’s office remains up for grabs.

With five viable candidates in the Democratic primary - all under pressure to reduce crime and corruption - the election looks promising for those in the city hoping for change, said Randall Miller, a political analyst at St. Joseph’s University.

“Clearly, they are suggesting that, ‘We were not part of this problem,’” Miller said.

The Democrat who comes in first in the May 15 primary wins the nomination outright; no runoff is required. The winner will face Republican Al Taubenberger, a Chamber of Commerce president, and a possible independent bid by Sam Katz, who lost to Mayor John Street in 1999 and 2003 running as a Republican. Street cannot run for re-election this year because of term limits.

The Democratic nominee will be heavily favored to win the general election in November. Nearly four out of five Philadelphia voters are Democrats and the city hasn’t had a Republican mayor in 55 years.

Millionaire former health care executive Tom Knox (pictured) holds a slight lead in the polls, running as an outsider who promises to take a “For Sale” sign off City Hall.

Reps. Bob Brady and Chaka Fattah are touting their leadership and congressional records, while state Rep. Dwight Evans is pointing to his legislative accomplishments in Harrisburg. Former Councilman Michael Nutter has sought to build on his reputation for challenging Street’s policies.

Knox’s anti-establishment TV blitz has set the tone, leading others to follow suit. Each sells himself as a fresh face - even Brady, the longtime head of the city’s Democratic machine, and Fattah, whom many view as closely allied with the incumbent.

All have campaigned on hiring more police or on other measures aimed at slowing a homicide count that topped 400 in 2006 and has shown no signs of slowing. More than 100 homicides have already been recorded this year.

Either directly or indirectly, each candidate has spoken about the need for a new start in a city rocked by a long-running corruption scandal. Nearly two dozen people have been convicted since an FBI bug was found in Street’s office before the 2003 election. Both the murder rate and corruption convictions have hurt Street’s legacy, even though he was never charged in the FBI probe and has argued he has done everything he can to fight crime.

“We have had the person who has probably been the best-prepared person to become mayor,” District Attorney Lynne Abraham said of Street, a former city councilman. “As well-prepared as he’s been, he has not done the kind of job that people wanted of him or expected of him.”

Abraham is campaigning for Brady and says the city needs a proven unifier like the longtime Democratic party chairman.

But Brady has had the toughest road so far. He’s been stuck fighting a Knox-led effort to knock him off the ballot over flawed nominating paperwork.

“The court challenge has hijacked the mayor’s race,” said Katz, who lost in a landslide in 2003, when the discovery of the bug led voters to flock to Street’s defense. Katz has since left the GOP just in time to qualify to run for mayor as an independent, but won’t say whether he will run.

Knox, a former deputy mayor under current Gov. Ed Rendell, is maintaining a lead in polls on the back of a self-funded spree of television ads. Fattah, the favorite heading into the race, has dropped back but recently stepped up TV advertising.

The racial makeup of the field muddies the electoral picture in a city where the percentages of blacks and whites are about even. Evans, Nutter and Fattah are black, while Knox and Brady are white.

State government officials mull boxing license for Tommy Morrison

HOUSTON (AP) - Former heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison needs to give more medical information to Texas state officials before they rule on his boxing license application for Friday’s bout.

The 38-year-old former WBO champ returned to boxing this year after retiring 11 years ago when tests revealed he had contracted the AIDS virus. He is to face Dale Ortiz in a four-round bout at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Houston.

Patrick Shaughnessy, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, could not say whether the additional medical information concerned Morrison’s AIDS status. He said state officials expected to receive the information Thursday and a decision on the application most likely will come the same day.

Morrison won the WBO title in 1993 by outpointing George Foreman, but lost the title later that year. In February 1996, he tested positive for the AIDS virus just before a fight against Stormy Weathers and retired. Morrison returned to the ring in February with a second-round knockout of John Castle in the eastern state of West Virginia.

West Virginia Athletic commissioner Steve Allred approved Morrison’s participation in that fight after reviewing medical records and consulting with the Association of Boxing Commissions’ medical review committee.

Shaughnessy said applicants for Texas boxing licenses are required to submit to blood tests screening for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and the AIDS virus. Those testing positive are barred from receiving a license.

Morrison has said he has taken several tests for the AIDS virus while preparing for his comeback and all have been negative. According to the National Institutes for Health, drugs can suppress the virus to undetectable levels but cannot eliminate it from the body.