Gateway Dance Theatre celebrates 35 years

Gateway Dance Theatre will celebrate its 35th Anniversary in Iowa with a performance on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall of Performing Arts (at the corner of 25th and Carpenter) on Drake University campus. A reception will precede the performance starting at 6:00 p.m. and is open to ticket holders only. Tickets are $25.00 and may be purchased at Zumi’s, Zanzibars, Metro Arts, India Star Restaurant, or Gateway Dance Studio. For information call 282-8696 or 283-8383.

Meet Tammy Harris
CEO of Elpis Ministries
Covered by Paul Smith

Elpis Ministries Inc. is a non profit community based organization established to serve and support a hurting humanity. Through our programming we enrich, empower and meet the needs of individuals and families. We believe that by producing healthy people, healthier communities are built. We are committed to equipping and transforming lives of low income, disenfranchised underprivileged people by fostering economic independence promoting self sufficiency and strengthening families. Our goal is to restore hope, thereby improving the quality of life.

Tammy said “Often enough these individuals have been told what their problems are and how to solve them, without assistance or guidance. With the understanding that every person is different and every situation is not the same, our organization works with the individuals, by identifying and eradicating barriers that prevent them from living self-sufficiently.”

As individual move from the “hope so” to the “know so” Elpis Ministries is in place to help strengthen the and infirm and push forward the willing.

More blacks and Hispanics live in prison cells than in college

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than three times as many black people live in prison cells as in college dorms, the government said in a report released last week.

Story on page 7
Alphas working together?

(This commentary originally appeared in the September 17, 2007 edition of Iowa Bystander.)

When you put the alpha personalities of any species together, bulls, lions, long horn sheep, gorillas, roosters, and of course man, you will have a power struggle that could become a fight to the death. But the alpha phenomenon can be worked into a productive relationship.

In the coming months you, the black community, will be invited to a historical event. An event that will be like no other held for our community and the guest speaker will be you the black community.

This historic event is being put together by three alpha men, Rep. Wayne Ford, Rep. Ako Abdul Samad and Iowa Bystander publisher Jerald C. Brantley. All differences have been ironed out and put down. The opportunity for change is now and this historical event will act as the catalyst for the change in our community the must and will happen.

The ground rules for this event are simple - bring your concerns, your wishes, dislikes, wants, and needs for the community. Nothing is off limits, including how we have been doing our jobs in your eyes. The most important ground rule is we will come away with a positive plan of action for our community, unified, whole and intact.

With the number of black elected officials climbing to new heights, the time to change is now, and we must start with building trust within our community. This unprecedented event will provide us with the launching pad that will take us to great heights.

“If you don’t know your history you are destined to repeat it” and we have history to study. But we won’t get paralyzed in the studying of that history because we are in change mode.

Keep looking in the Iowa Bystander and listening to KJMC radio for more details of when, where, and what time. Get there early - we expect a full turnout.

Moving Toward Change JB...
What’s Going On?

By Robert V. Morris

One of the best kept public attraction secrets in our state is the “World War II Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Memorial” fiberglass replica P-51D Mustang (Red Tail) at the Iowa Air National Guard 132nd Fighter Wing on the north side of the Des Moines International Airport. Unfortunately, due to a “paucity” job of marketing since its 2004 mounting, few Iowan’s even know it is there.

I created the concept for the WWII Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Memorial while leading the Fort Des Moines Memorial Park project and watching an Air Guard presentation on their new entrance to Iowa’s political delegation on a Des Moines Partnership trip to Washington, D.C. in 2000. The IANG was going to mount three jets they had flown at the new (McKinley) entrance and I thought a P-51D Red Tail would make a great addition.

Several of my parents friends were Tuskegee Airmen and I had been impressed by the 1995 HBO Movie “The Tuskegee Airmen” written by Ottumwana native Robert Williams whose character was portrayed by actor Laurence Fishburne.

After the DC meeting, I approached IANG commander Col. Douglas Pierce with the concept and he liked it immediately and we tentatively agreed that if we (Fort Des Moines) paid for the fiberglass replica ($65,000), the IANG would retrieve, assemble, paint and mount it at their new entrance. After gaining support from my board and his command, I located a California company that made replica WWII aircraft and the party was on.

The plane would honor Iowa’s two most famous Tuskegee Airmen with Captain William’s “Duchess Arlene” (#10) on one side and Des Moines native Luther Smith’s (#93) on the other side. A plaque on the mount would mention all 12 WWII Iowa Tuskegee Airmen.

Captain Smith had flown 133 combat missions over Europe and was knocked down by a ground explosion on his final mission. He was badly injured in the crash and became a Nazi prisoner of war for 9 months until war’s end. He survived to graduate the University of Iowa and become the first black aerospace engineer working for General Electric in the NASA Space program.

An added emphasis for me was that my mother was “Duchess Arlene” as the wartime sweetheart of Robert Williams, who became a Hollywood screenwriter and actor after the war.

In what was the greatest historical event I have ever seen, we dedicated the plane in November 2002 and hosted a huge weekend for veteran Airmen and their widows all spoke of their experiences and the Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Memorial was born. I masterminded and Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Luther Smith, Joe Gomer and Dr. James Bowman keynoted the activities.

With the amount of love and admiration in the room that night, I knew that a historic event could never get better than that and it never will. If only more Iowans, especially youth, could see and hear about this great memorial and the contributions by those brave men who risk, and often gave, their lives for freedom in the face of racism from their own countrymen.

It is worth a drive up Fleur and west on McKinley to see the fabulous replica P-51D Mustang Red Tail and share Iowa’s fabulous contribution to the war that forever changed the world.

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) meets 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, October 9, at 300 East Locust, Des Moines.

The meetings are open to the public. The ICSW meets at sites accessible for people with mobility limitations.

If other accommodations are needed, please contact the office prior to the meeting. For further information, contact Lori M. SchraderBachar at 515/281-4470 or 800/558-4427.

DMACC to unveil new $14 million health sciences facility and major donor during groundbreaking ceremonies

WHAT: Joe Pugel, chair of the Des Moines Area Community College Board of Trustees, will be joined by DMACC students, faculty and staff and the President of a leading Des Moines company to officially break ground on a new three story building that will have important implications throughout Central Iowa.

WHY: For reasons to be outlined during Monday’s news conference, Iowa is facing a severe shortage of health care professionals. Representatives from the public and private sector have addressed this challenge by a new facility that will increase DMACC’s health science enrollment capacity by 30 percent.

WHEN: 1:00 p.m., Monday, October 8
WHERE: Behind building 21 and next to Building 5 on DMACC’s Ankeny Campus; 2006 South Ankeny Boulevard. (There will be reserved media parking in the Building 21 parking lot, near the groundbreaking event.)

WHO: Joe Pugel, DMACC Board of Trustees Chairman
    Rob Denson, DMACC President
    Sally Schroeder, DMACC’s Health and Public Services Dean
    President and CEO of a leading Des Moines company

CONTACT: DMACC Marketing:
    Erin O’Hagan (515) 965-7029, (515) 238-5358 cell
    Todd Jones (515) 964-6242, (515) 238-8242 cell

NOTE: The FFA Enrichment Center Groundbreaking also located on the DMACC Ankeny Campus will take place immediately following the DMACC Health Sciences Event at 1:45 p.m. Signs will be posted directing participants to the FFA site.

Iowa Bystander

Subscribe To: (print or online edition)

Iowa Bystander

Name

Address

Phone

$80 - 1 Year Business or Organization
$50 - 1 Year Family
$30 - 1 Year Students & Seniors

Subscribe Today To:

Iowa Bystander

P.O. Box 8477
Des Moines, IA 50301-8477

Call 1-515-274-1342 to purchase by VISA or MasterCard
Red Cross is looking for heroes

The American Red Cross, Central Iowa Chapter is looking for local heroes. Do you know a person who has performed an extraordinary act of courage to save someone’s life? Or maybe you know someone who has dedicated countless hours to a special cause. The Red Cross is recruiting to honor and celebrate these individuals at a special “Heroes of the Heartland” event, to be held on March 6, 2008.

Heroin use need not involve the direct saving of a life. Heroic event must be ongoing or have occurred between September 1, 2006 and August 31, 2007. In order to be eligible for nomination, the hero must live, work or go to school in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Audubon, Cass, Clarke, Dallas, Guthrie, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Ringgold, Taylor, Union and Warren.

Nomination forms must be received by October 30, 2007.

Youth group announces 10 Years of work in the neighborhood

Youth Incentives, Inc. (YI) celebrates its 10th year of working with children in the Forest Ave. Libra (FAL) neighborhood wit+2 gatherings on Sunday, Oct. 21 at Com* hian Baptist Church on 9th St. South of the 235 Freeway. Both gatherings will feature the impersonation of George Washington Carver, revered Afro-American horticulturist, by Paxton Williams.

Doors open at 1 p.m. with Williams’ first show at 3 p.m. Small group discussion and refreshments will follow the early show. A second presentation starts at 7 p.m. Both events are open to the public and are free for all children and Youth Incentives families. Adults are a $10will donation. All proceeds go to YI and its tutoring and mentoring work.

Carver is well known for his research with peanuts, having developed 300 uses and products. Carver is especially remembered in Iowa because he was one of the first African Americans to be educated at Iowa State University (ISU) and Simpson College, after slavery ended in the late 1800’s. Williams has researched Carver’s life since he himself was a student at ISU and is currently director of the Carver Birthplace Association near Joplin, MO.

It is expected that most YI families from over the years will be present to hear and respond to Williams motivational play along with present and past tutors, mentors, board members and the many financial contributors. Over 100 volunteers have made YI possible with their dedicated tutoring and willingness to take youth to community and cultural events. For all those who support YI, we offer a special offer for YI alumni from the Forest Ave. Libray, and more recently at some Des Moines’ schools during school hours.

The Playhouse presents

Tickets are now on sale for play “Tuesdays with Morrie,” Oct. 19-Nov. 4, at The Des Moines Playhouse. Tickets are $34 for adults and $20 for students, and may be purchased at The Playhouse ticket office, by phone at 515-277-6261, and online at www.dmplayhouse.com.

“Tuesdays With Morrie” is based on Mitch Albom’s best-selling nonfiction book of the same name. Mitch, a journalist for a Detroit newspaper, finds himself losing his direction in life. He reconnects with Morrie Schwartz — professor, mentor and friend from his college days at Brandeis — who is in his last months of battle with the debilitating Lou Gehrig’s disease. Mitch visits Morrie once a week, rekindling their friendship and Morrie teaches Mitch life’s lessons once again. A touching, tender and true story, “Tuesdays with Morrie” reminds us what really matters and what to value each day.

The Playhouse production features Jack Mishler, a longtime area favorite, as Morrie, and newcomer Craig Petersen as Mitch. “Tuesdays With Morrie” is directed by Rhonda Lake, a theatre professor at Doane College in Crete, NE.

The Playhouse is Iowa’s oldest and largest producing theatre. Located at the 42nd Street exit of I-235, the theatre has presented a full season of shows since 1919 and also offers a wide variety of educational experiences including classes for ages 4 to adult, theatre trips to New York, and volunteer opportunities onsite and onstage.

For more information on The Playhouse and “Tuesdays with Morrie” contact The Playhouse ticket office at 515-277-6261.

Is your company is serious about diversity in the workplace advertise your jobs in The Iowa Bystander!

Weekly Meditation

What Does Love Look Like?

Verse of Concentration: Ephesians 5:29-30

“For no man ever yet hated his own flesh: but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.”

To nourish, that it may multiply and multiply, to foster with tender care, concern and comfort, just as the Lord nourishes, cherishes and loves the church.

Paul proceeds to show us in 1 Corinthians the 13th Chapter the contrast of love (v1-3), the character of love (v 4-7) and the constancy of love (v8-13). What does this love look like? I’m glad you asked!

Love endures the test of time, the longest enduring characteristic. After all, God himself is love (1 John 4:16). Love is patient and kind. It is not easily provoked, self-centering, or self-seeking. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, sustains the assaults of the enemy (2nd Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 10:32). LOVE NEVER FAILS!

Love is patient and kind. It is not easily provoked, self-centered, or self-seeking. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, sustains the assaults of the enemy (2nd Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 10:32).

For further information phone 243-4073

Mother-Daughter book discussion at Franklin Avenue Library

Spend some mother/daughter bonding time after school with the Mother-Daughter Book Club at the Franklin Avenue Library! Members will discuss the book Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

Elpis Fellowship
Gerome Linley

Mother-Daughter book discussion at Franklin Avenue Library

Spend some mother/daughter bonding time after school with the Mother-Daughter Book Club at the Franklin Avenue Library! Members will discuss the book Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.

A prequel to the J.M. Barrie classic Peter Pan and Wendy, Peter and the Starcatchers follows the adventures of the boy who never wants to grow up before he sets foot on Neverland. Sent away from St. Norbert’s Home for Wayward Boys with four of his friends, Peter finds himself aboard the ship Barley on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 PM. Grades 5-8 are welcome to join this event.
Metro Arts Alliance pilots arts education program at Jackson

Arts in school can no longer be ‘Art for Art Sake’. Although there have been studies that have shown that the arts increase creativity and learning ability, so often the arts are the first to get cut in funding and time.

Metro Arts Alliance is partnering with Jackson Elementary to pilot Project Impact as part of its education outreach “Education on Location.” Project Impact is a long-term artist residency designed to assess how arts in the classroom affect learning. The goal is to create an intensive, arts education experience for children, integrating the arts into curriculum through repeated classroom visits. Artists will be working with teachers to create arts-based experiences that address curriculum benchmarks in academic subjects.

The fourth grade class will be working with puppeteer and storyteller Carol Taylor. Taylor will be working with the students in the area of math, specifically multiplication. Through storytelling and use of puppets, students will be able to come up with their own story based on multiplication, and perform it using puppets and storyboards. Students will have the opportunity to see first-hand the concept of multiplication.

The second grade class will be focusing on literacy, vocabulary, and story composition. “The Tellin’ Man” Jim Boardman (storyteller) will be telling stories and guiding students to write their own stories using farm and animal themes.

Project Impact will culminate with two performances of the students’ work. Second grade will be performing their stories Friday, November 9, (time TBA) and the fourth grade on Friday, November 16, 8:45 a.m. Parents, students, faculty, and community members are invited and encouraged to attend these performances to support the student’s work.

Project Impact has been made possible through funding from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino. Metro Arts thanks Prairie Meadows for giving children opportunities to experience and be enriched by the arts.

Metro Arts has 3 education programs, which are brought to the community year round. Metro Arts Education on Location: Day, Summer, and After School brings arts programs to schools, community centers, day cares, and senior centers. To learn more about Metro Arts and education programs available please visit www.metroarts.org or call 515-280-3222.

Statement by Oversight Committee Co-chairs on plans to put “Protecting Iowa Students” on agenda

With Iowans seeing record levels of student debt, we want to thank Attorney General Tom Miller for looking into credit card company’s misleading and dishonest marketing practices on our college campuses.

On October 29 and 30, in conjunction with the Oversight Committee, the Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care, which I co-chair, to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage for every Iowa child.

If Congress does not override the President’s veto to the federal portion of the State Children’s Insurance Program (S-CHIP), there is a real chance that the Iowa Legislature will consider cuts to other health care programs—including those for children, families and the elderly—to make up for the federal cuts.

In spite of the President’s veto, I do want to thank the members of Iowa’s Congressional delegation (with exception of Congressman Steve King of Kiron) for supporting the bipartisan compromise that passed the U.S. House and Senate. I stand with Governor Chet Culver in urging Congressman King to join the other members of our delegation to support “kids’ health, not politics.”

The technical finger hold Congressman King uses to not support kids’ health shows his radical interpretation of federal law and his ignorance of the state’s HAWK-I program (Iowa’s version of S-CHIP). Congressman King needs to stop protecting Washington lobbyists and start protecting Iowa’s children.

I hope our Congressional delegation will continue to stand by Iowa children and families by backing a veto override on Oct. 18. If Congress does not override the President’s veto, we may have no choice here in Iowa but to reduce the level of health care coverage for children or cut some children from the program altogether. This is unacceptable.

Additional information
This is a legislative column by Senator Jack Hatch. Contact Senator Hatch when the Legislative Oversight Committee is not in session by calling 515-243-2033 or by sending an e-mail to jack@hatchdevelopment.com.

oo

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Luke warm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection." - - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Business in Soweto booms as black South Africans reap the benefits of growing economy

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) - The construction cranes towering and the cacophony of concrete churning and trucks and cherry pickers rumbling are the sights and sounds of a business boom in South Africa’s most famous township.

Black South Africans are reaping the benefits of a growing economy, and at the heart of it all is Soweto, the sprawling township in the southwest of Johannesburg that was at the center of the anti-apartheid struggle.

“Historically (Soweto) has been the leader in our national movement toward freedom... and we expect no less from it in our struggle toward the economic growth of the majority,” says Jason Ngobeni, executive director of the department of economic development of Johannesburg, which includes Soweto.

In the last five years or so, new houses have been built in the once overcrowded and underdeveloped area. Massive infrastructure projects have seen roads tarred and electricity installed. New parks have been landscaped and the derelict landscape transformed into a massive entertainment complex.

Most obvious, though, are the shopping malls, once chiefly associated with Johannesburg’s wealthy northern suburbs. The latest in Soweto, which former President Nelson Mandela opened Thursday by cutting a gold ribbon, is Maponya Mall, a 65,000-square-meter (699,654-square-foot) site that has been developed by Richard Maponya, one of Soweto’s oldest entrepreneurs.

“I have been one of the sons of this town for a very long time,” Maponya said at the opening, standing in front of a statue in honor of Soweto’s oldest entrepreneurs.

Maponya, dubbed “father of black retail,” spoke about how he battled to access business financing as he tried to build up a career as an entrepreneur.

“I refused to listen and kept on knocking on doors. Today, I deliver to you my dream of 28 years,” he said as people poured into the mall, keen to take advantage of the many opening sales.

While most welcome the arrival of the malls, there have been casualties of the boom - those small local shops that have served their communities for year but are now unable to compete with the large retailers.

Around the corner from Maponya Mall, owner of Welcome Butchery and Supermarket, Patrick Siswana, anticipates that for the next six months his business will decline as curious Sowetans see what the mall has to offer.

He says the malls are only serving to widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

“The only people that afford is the rich people. The poor will remain very poor.”

Others are more upbeat, focusing on what the malls bring: jobs, cheaper prices and an end to trips into the city center to buy anything other than the most basic of groceries.

“Before we had to go to town to buy stuff like shoes and we would spend R10 on a taxi only to buy one thing. Now it is better. You can buy it here,” says Solly Hlatshwayo, who is working as a welder on the new mall.

U.S. House hearing criticizes sex and violence in hip-hop, shies away from censorship

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. lawmakers, music industry executives and rappers disagreed over who was to blame for sexist and degrading language in hip-hop music but united in opposing government censorship as a solution.

“If by some stroke of the pen hip-hop was silenced, the issues would still be present in our communities,” rapper and record producer David Banner, whose real name is Levell Crump, said in prepared statements to a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing. “Drugs, violence and the criminal element were around long before hip-hop existed.”

At the hearing, music videos showing scantily clad women were played; music executives in dark suits testified on the uses of the derogatory or obscene words, and black civil rights leaders talked of corporate exploitation.

“We have allowed greedy corporate executives - especially those in the entertainment industry - to lead many of our young people to believe that it is OK to entertain themselves by destroying the culture of our people,” said E. Faye Williams, chair of the National Congress of Black Women, in prepared remarks.

“From Imus to Industry: The business of stereotypes and degrading images” was the title of the hearing, referring to former radio host Don Imus, who lost his job after making derogatory comments about the Rutgers women’s basketball team. The Imus incident has sparked debate within the music industry about black artists using offensive, misogynist and violent language.

Former gangsta rapper Master P, whose real name is Percy Miller, told the panel he is now committed to producing clean lyrics. In the past, seeing his relatives and friends shot and killed, “I just made the music that I feel, not realizing I’m affecting kids for tomorrow.”

He said he found that he didn’t want his own children to listen to his music. “So if I can do anything today to change this, I’m going to take a stand and do that.”

“This hearing is not anti-hip-hop. I am a fan of hip-hop,” said subcommittee chairman Bobby Rush, a Democrat, who gained national prominence in the 1960s as the founder black militant group in the state of Illinois. But he said there was a need “to address the issue of violence, hate and degradation that has reduced too many of our youngsters to automatons.”

Record company executives defended the parental guidance labels and edited versions they said kept the more controversial content material from children and stressed that uniform standards or censorship won’t work.

In the 1950s people were deeply offended by Elvis Presley, and a decade later many were scandalized by The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, said Edgar Bronfman Jr., chairman and chief executive of Warner Music Group.

“We have a responsibility to speak authentically to our viewers,” said Philippe Dauman, president and chief executive of Viacom Inc., which owns several cable television networks.

He said his company takes an active role in editing obscenities out of music videos and excising gang symbols or portrayals of violence, but “we also believe that it is not our role to censor the

Hearing: Continued on page 7
Dear Editor:

In recent years there has been a lot of talk and several studies done regarding the fact that 25% of the people in Iowa’s prison system are African American while only 2% of our population is black. This puts us close to the top when compared to other states. When we look for answers as to why this continues year after year we come up with the usual excuses: lack of good male role models, single parent families, disparity in crack–cocaine sentences, gang activity, etc. However these demographics actually are present to a higher degree in many other states, so why does Iowa fail to make any progress in reducing the number of African Americans who enter and reenter the prison system?

I think that we continue to overlook the failure of the correctional system itself to address these issues, especially the issue of helping African American men learn how to be good role models for their children and how to actually practice those models. How many programs does the Department of Corrections provide that promote opportunities for men to develop good parenting skills and actually practice these skills by interacting with their children? How many ways does the DOC even promote family connections of any kind? The high cost of phone calls makes it extremely difficult for parents to talk with their children. Parents would like to have the opportunity to help children with their homework, but the price of phone calls makes this impossible.

I understand that there is a class on parenting at Iowa State Penitentiary for men who are in lock up, but when do they get an opportunity to practice these skills? A member of Iowa CURE is willing to help men at ISP read books on tape to be shared with their children and this program certainly should be encouraged. In some states men are able to attend camp with their children. All these things would be helpful in addressing Iowa’s problem of locking up a disproportionate number of African Americans, but in my 25 years of working with the IDOC I have not seen much evidence that promoting and nurturing healthy family connections: a proven way of reducing recidivism, is a priority.

Do we really care about the future of Iowa’s African Americans or are we just going to put the findings of the latest study on the shelf to gather dust as we have all the others?

Sincerely,
Jean Basinger
President, Iowa CURE
(Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants)
Chairperson, Justice Reform Consortium

More blacks and Hispanics live in prison cells than in college

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than three times as many black people live in prison cells as in college dorms, the government said in a report released last week.

The ratio is only slightly better for Hispanics, at 2.7 inmates for every Latino in college housing. Among non-Hispanic whites, more than twice as many live in college housing as in prison or jail.

The numbers, driven by men, do not include college students who live off campus. Previously released census data show that black and Hispanic college students - commuters and those in dorms - far outnumber black and Hispanic prison inmates.

Nevertheless, civil rights advocates said it is startling that blacks and Hispanics are more likely to live in prison cells than in college dorms.

“It’s one of the great social and economic tragedies of our time,” said Marc Mortal, president and CEO of the Urban League. “It points to the signature failure in our education system and how we’ve been raising our children.”

The Census Bureau released 2006 data Thursday on the social, racial and economic characteristics of people living in adult correctional facilities, college housing and nursing homes. It is the first in-depth look at people living in “group quarters” since the 1980 census. It shows, for example, that nursing homes had much older residents in 2006 than in 1980.

The new data has limitations. In addition to not including commuter students, it does not provide racial breakdowns by gender or age, though it does show that males make up 90 percent of prison inmates.

Also, most prison inmates are 25 or older while 96 percent of people in college housing are age 18 to 24.

The data show that big increases in black and Hispanic inmates occurred since 1980. In 1980, the number of blacks living in college dorms was roughly equal to the number in prison. Among Hispanics, those in college dorms outnumbered those in prison in 1980.

There are a lot of reasons why black students do not reach college at the same rate as whites, said Amy Stuart Wells, a professor of sociology and education at Columbia University’s Teachers College.

Black students are more likely to attend segregated schools with high concentrations of poverty, less qualified teachers, lower expectations and a less demanding curriculum, she said.

“And they are perceived by society as terrible schools, so it is hard to get accepted into college,” Wells said. “Even if you are a high-achieving kid who beats the odds, you are less likely to have access to the kinds of courses that colleges are looking for.”

Students who don’t graduate high school are much more likely to go to prison, said Gary Orfield, co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA. Nearly 40 percent of inmates lack a high school diploma or the equivalent, according to the census data.

“The criminal economy is one of the only alternatives in some of these places,” Orfield said. “You basically have the criminalization of a whole community, particularly in some inner cities.”

Blacks made up 41 percent of the nation’s 2 million prison and jail inmates in 2006. Non-Hispanic whites made up 37 percent and Hispanics made up 19 percent.

Mortal, who is a former mayor of New Orleans, said the political debate over high incarceration rates for minorities hasn’t yielded results. He said conservatives blame a lack of family values while liberals blame a lack of government programs, with neither side seeing the whole picture.

“We do, in the African-American community, need to instill a stronger value on education,” Mortal said. But, he added, minority students also need more early childhood education, longer school days, longer school years and more meaningful summer job opportunities.

“We need to get serious about true investment on the front end,” Mortal said.

Among the other findings in the census data:

-Men made up about 90 percent of prison and jail inmates in 2006, down from 94 percent in 1980.

-About 9 percent of prison inmates were immigrants last year, up from about 4 percent in 1980. Immigrants made up about 13 percent of the total population in 2006.

-Non-Hispanic whites made up about 73 percent of the 2.3 million people living in college housing in 2006. Blacks made up about 12 percent, Asians about 7 percent and Hispanics about 6 percent.

Creative expression of artists.

Alfred Liggins III, chief executive officer of Radio One, Inc., one of the largest media companies that primarily serves African-Americans, said the company reviews the contents of songs before broadcasting them and takes care to comply with Federal Communications Commission guidelines. But “Radio One is also not in charge of creating content, or in the business of censorship or determining what is in good or bad taste.”

The hearing was reminiscent of, although tamer than, a similar event in 1985. At the earlier hearing, lawmakers where exposed to Van Halen’s “Hot for Teacher” and Twisted Sister’s “We’re Not Going to Take It,” and the late rocker Frank Zappa hurled insults at Tipper Gore, wife of then-Sen. Al Gore, and Susan Baker, wife of then Treasury Secretary James Baker, who were urging the recording industry to voluntarily police itself on song lyrics.
Women of Mitchellville Present Works of Art

The women of Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville are once again exhibiting their growing talents during the month of November. Women at the Institute have been studying art with instructor Mary Muller in an effort to gain confidence, self-accomplishment, and possible income upon return to civilian living.

The motive for the class began over 3 years ago to present to the women the opportunity of developing an ability to create art.

In the past year, one member of the class having served her term, has been released, and is continuing her study. As a point of interest, she finds the going very difficult, as many of the women might. Holding down a fast food restaurant job and baby-sitting her grandchildren while their mother works does not leave much time to create her art. Several women at the Institute who are serving long-term are also finding new purpose in life from their participation in the class. “The dedication to such a worthwhile goal is monumental and to be applauded,” comments Muller.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, located at 8301 Aurora Avenue in Urbandale, is hosting the exhibit of work through the month of November. The church will be holding a reception for the public on Friday, November 2, from 5 – 7 p.m. Most of the original pieces will be for sale at a price not to exceed $125. Note cards featuring the work will be available for purchase to help pay for supplies. The church hours are 8-4 Monday through Friday, 5-7 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m.-noon on Sunday.

Obama calls for new era of diplomacy

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama on Tuesday touted five years of opposition to the Iraq war and called for a new era of American diplomacy.

The Illinois senator promised to be a candidate of candor and end the “unacceptable abuse of power at home.”

“The first thing we have to do is end this war, and the right person to do it is someone who had the judgment to oppose it from the beginning,” he told a crowd packed into a convention center in downtown Des Moines.

Obama said he would remove all combat troops within 16 months, bringing home one or two brigades a month.

“There is no military solution in Iraq, and there never was,” he said.

Obama said President Bush’s politics have left the country more divided, distrusted and in debt, and that “a war to disarm a dictator has become an open-ended occupation of a foreign country.”

“We’ve paid a heavy price for having a president whose priority is expanding his own power. The Constitution is treated like a nuisance to be avoided as opposed to the foundation of our liberty,” he said. “We get shifting spin, secret task forces, secret budgeting, slanting intelligence and shameful smearing of people who speak out against the president’s policies.”

He said the U.S. needs more diplomacy to improve its image across the world.

“We cannot secure America and show our best face to the world unless we change how we do business in Washington,” he said.

The foreign policy address comes five years after Obama spoke about his opposition to the war at Chicago’s Federal Plaza. Obama, a U.S. Senate candidate in Illinois at the time, warned that the U.S. would become mired in the war and tarnish its image abroad. He said he was opposed to a “rash war, a war based not on reason, but on politics.”

That early opposition to the war is a focal point of Obama’s campaign, and he said it shows sound judgment that trumps his lack of Washington experience. He uses his early stance to draw a distinction between himself and Hillary Rodham Clinton, John Edwards, Chris Dodd and Joe Biden, who voted for the war.

Diplomacy: Continued on page 12

Is your company serious about diversity in the workplace? If so advertise your jobs in The Iowa Bystander & El Comunicador!
Global health conference at DMU is open to local physicians

Des Moines University students and local doctors are excited about the ‘Global Health from the Heartland’ conference on October 24.

“We are thrilled to host this conference and hope it inspires our students and faculty, as well as local physicians, to get involved in global health care needs,” said Gov. Terry Branstad, president of Des Moines University (DMU).

The conference begins at 4 p.m. and will feature keynote presentations, “Global Health Care – The Role of American Medicine and Opportunities for Physician Service” and presentations on professional liability insurance, the value-based exploration of global medical service and DMU’s Global Health Program. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., Iowa doctors will share stories of their experience with global health care.

The conference is sponsored by DMU and the Iowa Medical Society (IMS). The conference offers Continuing Medical Education credits. It costs $149 for IMS members or $298 for non-member physicians. Guests of the physician cost $15. Attendees must register by October 17 at www.iowamedical.org/ghh.htm.

Patricia Hoffmann, D.O., IMS president-elect, said IMS is excited to partner with Des Moines University to offer this program on global medical service.

Anita Hill restates sexual harassment allegations, disputing Clarence Thomas’s book

WASHINGTON (AP) - Anita Hill, whose sexual harassment allegations against Clarence Thomas (pictured) nearly derailed his Supreme Court nomination 16 years ago, said Tuesday that she stood by her account of his behavior, disputing Thomas’ assertion in a new book that the charges were politically motivated.

“Stand by my testimony” at a 1991 Senate Judiciary hearing on the nomination, the former University of Oklahoma law professor wrote in an Op Ed piece in The New York Times. “I will not stand by silently and allow him, in his anger, to reorient me.”

In his book, “My Grandfather’s Son,” Thomas says Hill, his former employee at the Education Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, was a mediocre employee who was used by political opponents to make claims she had been sexually harassed.

Powerful interest groups were out to stop him at all costs and chose “the age-old blunt instrument of accusing a black man of sexual misconduct,” he writes. He described Hill as touchy and apt to overreact and said she complained to him only about his refusal to promote her.

Hill, who is also black, disputed Thomas’ assertions.

“I was truthful. What I described happened actually did happen, and what I’ve learned is that it’s happened to many women in the workplace,” Hill said in an interview Tuesday on ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

She said she believes the workplace environment is better now for women, but added that Thomas’ approach “is really so typical of people accused of wrongdoing. They trash their accusers.”

In the 1991 hearings, Thomas adamantly denied Hill’s accusations that he made inappropriate sexual remarks, including references to pornographic movies. Thomas says he did talk about X-rated movies while at Yale Law School, adding that so did many other young people in the 1970s.

Hill is now a professor of social policy, law and women’s studies at Brandeis University.

Iowa Bystander Mission

The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership nurturing, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander

President & CEO • Jonathan R. Narcisse
Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr.
Associate Publisher • Gaynelle Narcisse

Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items and press releases should be 500 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc...should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo. Finally, all submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

Iowa Bystander Is Published Weekly By:
New Iowa Bystander Company
P.O. Box AR • Des Moines, IA 50303
Phone: 515-280-8092 or 515-471-5092
iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

What do you think?
Submit your insights and issues with a photo to:

iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

Advertise your jobline in Bystander!

Join Our Team
We Both Win

Please contact our 24 hour Job Line for information.

www.aric.com
KBBG keeps Black Iowa informed!

Tune into “Black Iowa Today,” “Black Iowa Imperative,” and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap.” “Black Iowa Today” airs the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., “Black Iowa Imperative” airs the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap” airs every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. on radio station KBBG 88.1 FM, Waterloo, Iowa or on the world wide web at www.kbbgfm.org.

The programs are hosted by Jonathan Narcisse, president of the State of Black Iowa Initiative.

Cornerstone Family Church

3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

Business Office
Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:40
Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

Our Purpose
Helping ALL people find and live their lives for Christ, bridging ethnic, cultural and denominational lines.

Sundays
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Youth Elevate 9:30 a.m.
Real Life - Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday Morning Worship services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays
Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
SpiritLife 7:00 p.m.
One Youth 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays
Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fridays 11:30 a.m. & Sundays 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

Pastor Appreciation - All October
October has been set aside as Pastor Appreciation month, an opportunity for us to rally around our pastors and let them know how much we love and appreciate them!

Men’s Prayer Breakfast - October 13th
Another filling and fulfilling season of Men’s Prayer Breakfasts has begun. Men (and sons 8 years and older) are encouraged to come be a part of this powerful ministry. Prayer begins at 6:30, breakfast is served at 7:00. Alan Baty will share this month’s devotion.

MERGE - October 13th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Living Without Fear is our focus. Kendall Marshall will be teaching. Please read Chapters 4-6. Books can still be ordered through the CFC Bookstore at a cost of only $9.00. Bring your favorite comfort food - soup, chili, crackers or cornbread - add a friend, your bible and join us as we uproot the spirit of fear!
Advance notice childcare is available - $3.00 per child. Sign up at the Information Center.

If you would like to place your business card or your organization’s business card in Iowa Bystander call Jonathan at 515-471-5092 or 515-280-8092.
Church Listings &
Weekly Schedules

Burns United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV, Pastor
811 Crocker Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883

Church Schedule:
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey, Pastor
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Phone: 515-243-4073

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

St. Paul A.M.E.
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
St. Paul A.M.E Church
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Ministry Days & Times
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Praise & Worship
New Membership Class
Training or Minister/Evangelist

Nursery Available
Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
Children’s Church

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
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Aerobics & Tae-Bo
7:00 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
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
9:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal

Saturday
Mini-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. Henry Isaiah Thomas, Pastor
E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-2302

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.
Sundays - Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study 10:00am-12:00pm
Tuesdays - Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
619 S.E. 15th Street
Des Moines, IA 50317-7611
Phone: 515-282-3425

Church Schedule:
Busies Miss Church - 2nd & 4th Sat. of Every Month 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 615 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1352 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1931
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratifl, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM
Email Address: utsphiladelphia@msn.com

...how are they to hear
without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. on Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 814 School Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-243-4073
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthianbaptisms.org

New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097
Pastor: Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: Pastoral Teaching at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 615 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-9th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

...how shall they hear
except they be sent? Romans 10:15

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Jena approves race relations panel

JENA, La. (AP) — Jena’s mayor will appoint an interracial committee to study race relations and how they might be improved in the small central Louisiana town where a civil rights march drew 20,000 people from around the country.

“We felt this was a positive move,” Councilman Tommy Sandifer said after the city council voted 5-0 Wednesday for Mayor Murphy McMillin’s proposal. “This has been birthed out of the Jena Six situation.”

The vote came as two universities dealt with incidents related to the events in Jena, where white students were suspended from high school for hanging a noose in a tree and black students were charged with attempted murder in a white classmate’s beating.

At historically black Grambling State University, President Horace Judson said the school would announce Friday how it is responding to a lesson about racism in which teachers put a noose around the necks of kindergarten and first-grade students.

“I’ve got some personnel actions that I have to go through the system to get done,” Judson said Wednesday. “We’ve come to some definite conclusions as to what happened.”

Judson had photographs of the incident removed from the school newspaper’s Web site, prompting staffers to say it was censored — though Gramblinite editor-in-chief De’Eric Henry said the newspaper was going to take the photos down anyway because community members were offended.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe, attended by at least two white youths involved in an online “reenactment” of the beating in Jena, will bring in speakers and offer more time — including class time — to discuss racial sensitivity, President James Cofer said Tuesday.

“Four who were 17 and legally adult at the time and Mychal Bell, who was 16, were initially charged as adults with attempted murder. The charge has been reduced to aggravated second-degree battery,” he said.

Bell was convicted, but the conviction was overturned and his case returned to juvenile court.

Jena needs to restore its reputation, Sandifer and fellow council member Donnie Kendrick said. “We’re not like what you’ve heard,” Sandifer said. He said he didn’t think the town had race problems until the past year’s turmoil.

Kendrick said, “I think the town of Jena has been tried and convicted by the national media for an incident that (residents) had no control over.”

Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. Marchers say the white students who hung the noose should have been charged with a hate crime and the black students face charges stronger than they should for the beating.

Four who were 17 and legally adult at the time and Mychal Bell, who was 16, were initially charged as adults with attempted murder. The charge has been reduced to aggravated second-degree battery.

Bell was convicted, but the conviction was overturned and his case returned to juvenile court.

Jena needs to restore its reputation, Sandifer said after the city council voted 5-0 Wednesday for Mayor Murphy McMillin’s proposal. “This has been birthed out of the Jena Six situation.”

The vote came as two universities dealt with incidents related to the events in Jena, where white students were suspended from high school for hanging a noose in a tree and black students were charged with attempted murder in a white classmate’s beating.

At historically black Grambling State University, President Horace Judson said the school would announce Friday how it is responding to a lesson about racism in which teachers put a noose around the necks of kindergarten and first-grade students.

“I’ve got some personnel actions that I have to go through the system to get done,” Judson said Wednesday. “We’ve come to some definite conclusions as to what happened.”

Judson had photographs of the incident removed from the school newspaper’s Web site, prompting staffers to say it was censored — though Gramblinite editor-in-chief De’Eric Henry said the newspaper was going to take the photos down anyway because community members were offended.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe, attended by at least two white youths involved in an online “reenactment” of the beating in Jena, will bring in speakers and offer more time — including class time — to discuss racial sensitivity, President James Cofer said Tuesday.

“We don’t sweep things under rugs here,” Cofer said. “We need to learn on a whole number of levels from this experience.”

Jena has not set a deadline for forming its committee.

The march on Sept. 20 was organized by the

---

Diplomacy: Continued from page 8

“Some now seek to rewrite history. They argue that they weren’t really voting for the war, they were voting for inspectors, they were voting for diplomacy, but the Congress, the administration, the media and the American people all understood what we were debating in 2002,” he said. “It was a vote about whether or not to go to war.”

Obama urged Americans to ask those who voted for the war, “How can you give the president a blank check, and not expect him to cash it?” He blamed “Washington group-think” for leading the U.S. into the conflict.

“I am not running for president to conform to Washington’s conventional thinking. I am running to challenge it,” he said.

Obama, who planned to campaign in Iowa through Friday, said the focus should be on the real issues, not “who has the most experience scoring political points.”

The senator also spoke Tuesday night at a hotel in Coralville, where he promised to protect America from terrorists by keeping nuclear weapons in safe hands.

“That’s why I’ll lead a global effort to secure all loose nuclear materials (during) my first term in office,” he said. “I’m not afraid that America will lose a propaganda battle with petty tyrants.”