Donald Michael, Jr, son of the late Donald Sr. and Mary Michael, who currently resides in North Carolina, was born in Des Moines, Iowa. Donald’s educational carrier includes attending, Roosevelt High School, Drake University, and University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. He has earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Graphics. On February 5, 2009 he participated in the 2009 James Biggers and Friends Art Exhibit held at Gaston College in Dallas, North Carolina.

At a very young age, Mr. Michael discovered he had a talent for drawing and painting. He practiced on a daily basis especially drawing with graphite, wolf’s crayon, and ink from rapidographs pens given to him as a gift by his sister. He was awarded scholarships for study at art centers and at one of the most prestigious printmaking programs in the country at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, under the instruction of William Wegrzyn, Warrington Colescott, Raymond Gloeckler, Jack Damer, and Ted Pope.

Don is an artist who enjoys working with all art mediums, including photography. However, his three favorite forms are computer graphics, penning, particularly the old African tradition of relief printing, and painting. Since his childhood he has always been fascinated by geometry of life or sacred geometry and applied the principles to his artwork.

Throughout his career, his work includes several periods of expressions mostly realistic and symbolic abstractionist. The symbolisms used in his works are considered humorous, foreboding, and controversial. The basic icon used in the works is a combination of rectangles and circles, shapes found in nature and unified systems. The humor comes from the personification of the ‘cats’ or shapes and their dramatic portrayal of human situations. Many of the themes are taken from history, e.g., Bopaul Incident, Jonestown, discovery of the Black Madonna in Poland, and war between men. Eventually, this series became ‘Catheaven’ inspired by the simplification of cats in motion.

In addition to being an artist, Donald is a sought after professional in creating computer workshop laboratories and creating graphic digital design programs like at the Highland Technology School, Gastonia, NC and York Technical College, Rock Hill, S.C. Currently he is a fulltime graphic design instructor at The Art Institute of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC. He resides in Gastonia, North Carolina, with his family.

President Obama Seeks To Join Global Rights Of Child Pact: Story on page 7

Senator Hatch Chairs White House Working Group On Health Reform

State Senator Jack Hatch of Des Moines chaired a White House working group on health care reform. Hatch chaired the “State Legislators for Health Reform” group at the White House with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Nancy Ann DeParle, the Obama administration’s health reform czar.

“Democrats and Republicans in the Iowa Legislature have made more progress on health care reform than almost any other state,” Hatch said. “This year, we will extend health insurance to 30,000 currently uninsured children in Iowa working families. To continue Iowa’s success, we must have a strong federal partner and that means we must have a public option when it comes to health care reform.”

Iowa’s success in reducing the number of uninsured children is being studied by other states and by federal officials. To insure Iowa’s remaining uninsured adults and implement cost-saving reforms, however, Iowa must have federal help.

“Iowans working together at the state level have become national leaders in solving health care problems. Yet one of our U.S. Senators, Senator Charles Grassley, is a leading opponent of real health care reform at the national level,” Hatch said. “For Iowa’s success to continue, we need Senator Grassley to change his mind and agree that Iowans should have the same sort of public alternative to private insurance that he enjoys as a U.S. Senator.”

Senator Hatch had this to say after the meeting:

“I just met with state legislators from across the country at the White House. “We told Kathleen Sibils, the secretary of Health and Human Services, that state-level health care reforms can only go so far.

“In Iowa, for example, we are proud that soon almost all children will have health insurance, but the cost of health care is still too high for families and Iowa small businesses.

“According to the Secretary, real health care reform is an essential part of President Obama’s effort to create a strong, lasting economy recovery.

“In particular, she stressed the need to expand choices in the health insurance market is essential. Increased competition will lower costs and improve patient care.

“That’s why we all agreed that Americans must have a public health insurance option and now is the time to speak up.”

Senator Hatch, who chairs a new White House working group titled “State Legislators for Health Reform,” said state lawmakers across the U.S. are pushing for passage of fundamental health care reform.

Fear God, Tell the Truth & Make Money • The Oldest Black Publication West of the Mississippi • Vol. 119 No. 25 • June 24, 2009

“The Out-Of-Towners” Featuring Donald Michael, Jr.
Why Does Our Community Lose First And At Greater Cost Than Other Communities?

We are going to lose the Westside boxing club — at least that’s the rumor that’s floating around... it’s really not a rumor... With talk of financial mis-appropriations and lack of interest by those vary people and organizations that are supposed to help youth and be the voice for them as well we have to ask what's next? Well who dropped the ball? With disproportionate minority confinement, and the lack of any diversion program for youth of color living in the inner city of Des Moines, where is the United Way saying they will not drop the ball? How about the Black Ministerial Alliance when will they stand up for the kids... some of which belong to their congregations? They can stand up to fight against gay marriage but when it comes to keeping programs that work for our youth open... silence falls.

How can we get the $30 thousand dollar budget paid for the boxing club is the most important part of this issue? Some questions we should ask is can the city through CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) dollars fund the club? How about the federal weed and seed dollars, can it be a saving source of funds? Or maybe the County could use community betterment dollars from Prairie Meadows, and save the club from closing. The facts is we have options that are not far fetched about the federal weed and seed dollars, can it be a saving source of funds? Or maybe the County could use community betterment dollars from Prairie Meadows, and save the club from closing. The facts is we have options that are not far fetched but real.

At some point we must apply the brakes to the losing that the inner-city of Des Moines suffers every year. The time to do that is now and this is the tipping point for “we the people” to promote significant change... change for the better in our community. No matter if the fiscal agent may have misused funds, or if the United Way feels it’s that easy to turn a blind eye on the boxing club and the community, we can and must take control of the situation and get the funds to keep this vital place of hope for our young people open. Apply the needed pressure where it can do the most good, and we will keep it open.

Change happened... Change Continues... Moving Toward Change... JB

Des Moines Arts Festival Features FREE Live Music And Entertainment

FREE live music and entertainment take stage at the Des Moines Arts Festival on June 26-28, 2009, in downtown Des Moines’ Western Gateway Park, headlined by performances from national-touring artists Gavin DeGraw and Collective Soul.

The U.S. Cellular Stage, located on 12th St., will rock all day on Friday, June 26, opening with Omaha-based group Sarah Benck. Hy-Vee proudly presents in celebration of the Hy-Vee Triathlon, Green River Ordinance, Gavin DeGraw and Collective Soul, sponsored by Budweiser. Collective Soul takes the stage at 7 p.m. followed by Gavin DeGraw at 8:45 p.m. Although the performance is free to attend, guests still have the chance to win VIP seats for Friday night by listening to Star 102.9. Live 104.1 or visiting Des Moines Metromix at www.desmoines.metromix.com.

Live music continues throughout the weekend on the U.S. Cellular Stage with Bonnie Finken and the Collective and Pictures of Then on Saturday night, and Bella Soul closing the Festival on Sunday.

The Performing Arts Stage highlights the arts of dance, theatre, music, and more, featuring a performance of Stars and Striper, a ballet dance performed on pointe by Ballet Des Moines’ pre-professional company. The Performing Arts Stage is located on the west end of the site in the Meredith Corporation lawn. Also featured on this stage is the Des Moines Playhouse, Foy Irish Dancers, Iowa Shakespeare Experience, The Honeybees and many more.

The new Jazz & Wine Pavilion presented by Meredith provides a cool and relaxing indoor space for guests to unwind and re-charge. Discover your favorite wine by the glass and sample 11 varieties from Iowa’s own Jasper Winery, and listen to jazz from local talent to complete your night from the Festival. Max Wellington, Bella Soul, Tony Valdez and The Hot Club of Des Moines are a few of the acts featured in the Jazz & Wine Pavilion.

Performing artists will also be roaming the Festival site doing street theatre with balloons, magic and ventriloquism. Remember, admission to the Festival and all live music and entertainment is FREE! See below for a complete schedule of music and entertainment.

CCI Members To Payday Lenders: “Enough is Enough!”

Two dozen members of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI) and concerned residents of the community visited three area payday lenders on the morning of Saturday, June 13, to deliver a simple message: fair lending in the community does not include crushing interest rates, unrealistic payback periods and misleading advertising, and everyday people deserve access to good, affordable credit.

“Payday lenders have a responsibility to the community to make lending affordable and reasonable,” said CCI member Angela Wymore of Des Moines. “I was in the payday lending cycle for a year. I had to go from one payday lender to pay another. I probably ended up paying $1,500 on what was supposed to be a $500 loan. Enough is enough!”

CCI members delivered a letter to the staff of EZ Money, Advance America, and LoanMax, outlining realistic and fair guidelines for a sustainable short term loan that is based on CCI’s own Small-Dollar Loan program. The letter also reiterates CCI’s request for top officials of the payday lending industry to meet with community members and negotiate better loan terms. This is CCI’s third request for a meeting.

“If it looks like these lenders don’t care us, the community, as a priority,” said CCI member Misti Craig, also of Des Moines. “We’ll give us a reason to.”

Payday lending can have a devastating effect on families. With annual percentage rates well above 400 percent and two-week payback periods, borrowers are frequently caught in a cycle of debt that can be impossible to escape. CCI members have been fighting for access to good credit since our founding, and will continue to address banks, credit unions and legislators to push for the availability of good and affordable credit.

Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Working Toward A State Free of Discrimination

Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws

Education and Training for Groups, Individuals and Organizations

Raising the Profile of Civil Rights and Diversity

For more information, or questions, or concerns, please contact us at: 400 E. 14th Street Des Moines, Iowa 50319 515-281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416 www.state.ia.us/government/crc
SCLC Member Wants ‘Missing’ $1.4M Investigated By Holder

ATLANTA (AP) - A former Southern Christian Leadership Conference board member has asked the U.S. attorney general to investigate the alleged disappearance of more than $1.4 million of the cash-strapped civil rights group’s money.

Florida State Chapter President Sevell C. Brown III sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder this week calling for a criminal investigation into several members of the national leadership, including chairman Raleigh Trammell, former president Charles Steele (pictured above with Hon. Hillary Clinton), general counsel Dexter Wimbish and others.

Wimbish said the real issue isn’t money, but baseless accusations from a member still angry over his removal from the board in 2005, when Brown demanded an independent audit of SCLC finances.

The organization had been plagued by infighting in the past, before Steele took charge in 2004.

“We will wait on a response from the Attorney General,” Wimbish said. “If he contacts us, we welcome the opportunity to give him all of our finances, which are in order.”

Justice Department spokesman Ian McCaleb said Tuesday that the agency received the letter, but would not comment further.

Atlanta-based SCLC, founded by Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders in 1957 to advance racial equality, has roughly 10,000 members and nearly 80 chapters in 17 states from Georgia to California. The group has also opened a nonviolent conflict resolution center in Israel, with plans to open 10 international sites in 10 years.

Brown alleges the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation, a sister group of the SCLC set up to accept tax-exempt donations, designated funds to the SCLC that did not appear on the organization’s 2006 or 2007 tax returns. Specifically, in 2006, $134,040 was not reported as income by the SCLC and in 2007, $1,387,301 was not reported, according to Brown.

Both amounts are listed on the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation’s tax returns, but line items for those amounts do not appear in the SCLC’s records for the same years.

“I am concerned about the obvious theft of government funds, the pattern of racketeering, and the future of the SCLC,” Brown said in the letter dated June 8.

Wimbish, SCLC’s lawyer and spokesman, said the funds weren’t listed on the returns because the money didn’t go directly to the organization. It instead helped pay for the construction of the group’s new headquarters, which was not listed on SCLC’s 2006 or 2007 tax returns.

The building will appear on the 2008 return, he said, which has not yet been filed.

Brown said he was reluctant to raise the issue previously because he was critical of the Justice Department’s handling of civil rights issues under President George W. Bush and cited increased retaliation by Trammell as a reason for coming forward now. In the letter, Brown said he and the Florida chapter’s board of directors would soon be removed from office by Trammell “for trumped up reasons.”

Trammell said Tuesday that he had not seen Brown’s letter and did not comment.

“I may be sour grapes, I don’t know,” Steele said. “In terms of the leadership under my administration, everything was above board and everything was documented. We got a clean bill of health in terms of our taxes.”

Steele resigned as president on Jan. 31 and still works with the SCLC as a conflict resolution consultant.

Brown said the issue is not a personal vendetta over his removal from the board. “This is not about me,” he said. “The numbers speak for themselves, and the numbers just don’t add up.”
A Little Bit Of This And A Little Bit Of That

They called it “The Azz Beat down”

I was listening to “Drive Time,” a daily national program that comes on our local radio station KJMC. The host and hostess, Doug and Dee Dee, were talking about a Black woman in an Oak-land, California beauty shop who had taken a terrible beating. They called it the Azz beat down. They talked about it alot and said that you could get it on the computer by going to DougandDeeDee.com, just type into the word “fight.”

So we did.

This is what we saw: two Black women entered the shop, and one said a few words to the woman in the shop and then proceeded to slap her in the face, punch her in the face and head and then knocked her down. The other woman who came in the shop with her pulled down the blind, locked the door, and then she started to hit and kick the woman. These two women beat on her, just as Doug and Dee Dee said, for more than six minutes. She never raised her hand to fight either woman; she tried to say something to them but only got punched in the mouth or slapped in the face. Eventually a man came in and said he was calling the police. When they left one turned around and said to her, “We beat your azz.”

People who saw this said to me “I wouldn’t call it a beat down I would call it a first degree assault and a kidnapping because they held her against her will. Have you ever watched a prize fight?” They only fight three minutes per round. These women beat her a total of two prize fight rounds. Besides the two women beating and kicking this woman not one person in that shop tried to stop the fight or call the police!

Go to DougandDeeDee.com and put in the word “fight.” Let us know what you would call this and what you would do if you were her?

- Nellie

FROM

STREETCORNER

LIGHT

You Got Food

The next time one of y’all talk to Oprah, tell her I said thanks for dinner. Oprah was able to feed the hungry and the curious with a free grilled chicken dinner from KFC. They did the Colonel proud. It ain’t your mama’s cookies but, I will be stopping by KFC to treat myself again. For a Madison Avenue publicity stunt, the chicken ain’t a bad speaking of food, if you remember, back in January about a Drake Law Center study that reported more than ever before, inner city dwellers are eating out of gas stations like Casey’s and QuickTrip which means that they’re not eating a lot of vegetables. Susan Roberts, an investigator and Drake attorney, suggested that low and middle income dwellers, who populate these areas should consider starting their very own personal and/or neighborhood gardens. I support that recommendation.

Moreover, there is so much information out there on both the local and national level to support her findings. I read many of the local papers here in Des Moines and each one of them have done a story in support of neighborhood gardens. As a matter of fact, the City of Des Moines has provided printed information for gardening from planting to harvest.

Plus if you qualify they will throw in some seeds to produce tomatos, parsley, and the like. So there is no excuse for you not to check it out. You can get started on your garden today. Eating food fresh from the garden assures you that no pesticides have been sprayed on it and best of all you know exactly where it came from. It will help to keep you healthy.

Wow! Just look at this new swine flu. And this might be a stretch, it must be wonderful the pork federation said take my name off of that and the world—including President Obama, including WHO, Asian Flu, the Bird Flu, and several other random names. And the World Health Organization was in a panic; in what country would this new flu break out next?

They issued a statement that this new strain was coming into this country through border states like Texas. Several cases were found to be confirmed. Many of these people who fell deathly ill were found to have the flu with existing illnesses, which only exacerbated the situation as it relates to both the illness and the fear.

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Shockingly, Americans were buying cold remedies off the shelves. It seemed crazy and a bit premature because even to this day, even after more than 8,000 related deaths, the CDC has admitted that they have not come up with a vaccine for this new swine flu. It may be next year before they do, and even then this strain may have the capability to mutate. Let’s see, there was the Hong Kong Flu, the Asian Flu, the Bird Flu, and several other random names. And the World Health Organization was in a panic; in what country would this new flu break out next?

They issued a statement that they had everything under control.

Some countries killed all pigs and hogs they could in an effort to fight this new disease based on its name. The CDC responded that people should not be afraid to eat bacon, ham, center cut pork chops, pig tails and our collard greens, hog maws and chittlings for dinner, or scrambled eggs and hog brains for breakfast because the swine flu has nothing to do with the animal. It was beginning to sound like the situation some years ago Oprah faced with the beef industry until the big boys from the pork federation’s public relations department called a code red. Mass media of every form stopped on a dime stating this new strain of swine flu is not related to pigs or hogs. Therefore, this is now H1N1!

It must be wonderful the pork federation said take my name off of that and the world—including President Obama, including WHO, CDC, gave this old disease a new name. Ain’t it wonderful what money can do. Stay healthy, plant a garden, and save your money pocket book.

Your Funeral: Continued on page x

Your Funeral

Your Funeral. I know. Not something that we like to think about. Yet, we all know that death is as much a part of life as life is. The other strange thing about death is that it has a way of sometimes bringing out the worse feelings between family members. Whether it is based on greed, envy, jealousy, control or power, the results may leave deep scars that can tear a family apart. Which is something that none of us want.

During the past few weeks 3 people whom I have known for many years passed. Their passing and the situations associated with making their burial arrangements got me to thinking about my own funeral and how I can help my love ones, who are left behind, to make the necessary arrangements. Well ……..simply put … I can help by creating a packet, box or folder that includes the following documents:

1) A Will. This is a very important document that helps to keep everything simple. Plus it helps to avoid squabbles over property, jewelry for example. You can pick up a blank will form, fill it out and have a notary witness your signature and sign it. Then mail it to yourself, but do not open it. This is a cheap way to get an official Will created, at least it is true to be. So check to make sure that this way is still valid.

2) Your Life Insurance Annuity Policy, Policy Number, and who to contact information. This is extremely important to file the claim. If you do not have life insurance, I strongly recommend that you get one right away. Funerals are going up, like everything else. And it is unfair to put our family in a stressful financial position because we did not think ahead.

3) Certified copy of your Birth Certificate.

4) Military Discharge papers, if applicable

5) Social Security Card Number

6) Bank Account Number(s), debit card and pin number and/or a signed blank check, just in case you are the only person on the account, your love ones will have access to any money you may have that can help with expenses.

7) A list of all of your assets. Like 401K, Stocks & Bonds, pension plans and so on along with contact information necessary to file a claim.


9) Write your own obituary. Or list all of the things you did. Hobbies, organizations you belonged to, church affiliation, places of

Your Funeral: Continued on page x
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

The Peace of God

Scripture Reference: Romans 5:1(NLT)

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.”

Are you surrounded by turmoil and chaos? Do you find your mind occupied with worry? Some of us may find ourselves distracted by a problem or situation with a family member, co-worker... or we may find ourselves worried about what problems tomorrow will bring. It is during these times that we need to call upon the peace of God.

When accepting Christ and making Him Lord over our lives, we began a relationship that would be like no other relationship we have experienced... or will ever experience. Along with this relationship we were given many things, including God’s peace. He said “it’s His peace He gives... not the peace of this world.” His peace is like no other peace we’ll ever know. His peace will have our minds in a place of tranquility and serenity, even when all hell is breaking loose all around us.

How do we get God’s peace? It’s a combination of things but the most important thing is that we must have a relationship with Him. Get closer to Him, by reading His word and seeking His presence. We must intently listen to Him when He speaks to us. Knowing His promises help to keep us in a place of peace as well! Then we must do what He tells us with boldness and confidence. So when the world is falling down all around us, we will be in a place of tranquility because we have God’s peace. Worry and anxiety may come, but it will not overtake us and cause us to be in a place where we are feeling chaotic or not at peace. Remember the promise He made to us in John 16:33... “I have told you all this, so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.” But take heart! Because the promise is “He’s already overcome the world...” (or the things of this world!)

New Normal: Because we have a relationship with God, we are entitled to many things, one of things being peace. In order to have His peace we must cultivate our relationship with Him by reading, obeying, knowing our promises... and doing His Word.

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

“A Knock At Your Door...” For Your Spiritual Diet

By Carolyn Clinton King C., ThD

Welcome back dear heart, it’s another day’s journey, aren’t you glad about it?

From our last reading we saw that “Christ was outside the church – knocking” (Rev. 3:20); and following our attention was drawn to an “open door.” If Christ is knocking and the door is open, he can come in through the door of our hearts if we will open.

We wanted to write a little about the church for the church is the “Body of Christ.” In Ephesians 1:22-23 we read “And hath put all things under His feet, and gave HIM (Jesus), to be the HEAD over all things to the Church which is His BODY.”

The context of v. 20 shows that this “Headship” was not possible until Jesus had been raised from the dead, and seated at the right hand of the Father. The Church, therefore, could not have been in existence before there was a Head, for God does not make headless things. The Church then is the Body of which Christ is the Head. You can read about how this “Body” is formed in I Cor. 12:12, 13. From this we see that it is the Baptism of the Spirit that incorporates us into the Body of Christ. Therefore, there could be no Church until the “Day of Pente-cost.” Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4.

“The Church, then is a “Body” made up of “living members” and this shows us not an “Organiza-tion,” but an “Organism.” An “Organization” is made up of distinct units like the doors, windows, roof, floors, etc. of a building, that may be removed and replaced by new parts without destroying the integrity of the building; but a human body is an organism. You cannot remove an eye, ear, arm, or foot, or even a fingernail or tooth without causing harm.

“The Church is called a body for the manifesta-
tion of a personality. A person can exist without a physical body, as the Soul exists without a physical body between death and the resurrection of the body, but that existence cannot be made manifest. So the only way Christ, who is now in Glory, can manifest Himself to the world is through His Body - The Church. The only way the world can see Christ today is in Christian believers. This is possibly what Paul meant when he wrote to the Philippians, (1:21) “For me to live is Christ.” That is, for Christ to live again in Paul, so that the world might see Christ manifested in Paul. That’s the task of believers today to be a reflection of Christ to the world.

CONSIDER WHO IT IS, WHO IS KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR?  Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Perhaps you have faulted the innkeeper in the Christ-mas story for not making room. Just think, “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew him not.”

Now He comes to you. He is knocking at your door. Will you receive Him? He fills the universe, “The heavens of heavens cannot contain Him. He wants to fill your heart. He wants to be at home in your life.” He knocks. He calls, but He will not open the door. He will never make a forced entry into your life. He only comes by invitation. He leaves the choice up to you. He makes His offers of life, hope, joy, peace, then leaves it to you to accept or reject. He wants to give you a rich inheritance for eternity, but He will never force you to take it.

The Difference is Inside Us

At Iowa Health – Des Moines, we believe “what’s inside us” is what makes us different.

Our workforce is the strength behind our proud tradition of providing quality health care. And we know that our success is due to our outstanding workforce of dedicated employees who have a common mission to improve the health of our communities through healing, caring and teaching.

No matter what your area of interest, you’ll find plenty of opportunities at our hospitals and more than 35 primary care physician clinics throughout central Iowa. And as one of Des Moines’ largest employers, we offer a flexible benefit package and competitive salary.

If you’re interested in joining our team, visit our Website at www.iowahs.org.

Free Counseling Available

Consumer Credit Counseling

Too Much Debt?

Not enough money left after meeting household expenses to make your loan and credit card payments? We offer confidential counseling for

• Debt Payment Programs

Family life is too intimate to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It can be sustained by a spirit of love which goes beyond justice.

— Reinhold Niebuhr

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Quincy Jones Tells Sinatra Stories In Shanghai

SHANGHAI (AP) - American music legend Quincy Jones delighted an audience of university students in Shanghai on Friday with stories about working with Frank Sinatra and Michael Jackson - and a sprinkling of Chinese phrases he had picked up.

About 200 students welcomed the 76-year-old composer before his lecture as part of the 12th Shanghai International Film Festival. He greeted the students at Fudan University’s Shanghai Institute of Visual Art with the Mandarin phrase for thank you - “xie xie ni” - and praised their “piao liang” - beautiful - campus.

Jones, whose career spans jazz, film scores and pop music, discussed a wide range of topics, including the technical difficulties of writing movie scores, Internet music sharing and the evolution of African-American music.

The multiple Grammy award-winner advised students to follow their interests and “never chase money,” but also to work hard and prepare well for any career.

“When Frank Sinatra called me, I was ready ... You better be ready when you work for Frank Sinatra because he knows no breaks. He either loves you and respects you or he’ll roll over you with a Mack truck in reverse,” Jones said, referring to the late American singer’s reputation as a perfectionist.

Students also wondered what it was like to work with Jackson on his best-selling album “Thriller.” Jones, who produced the album, said Jackson was a “very, very focused” worker with a strong memory.

Asked about illegal music downloads in a country where piracy is rampant, Jones said it was crippling the record industry, but added that he believed China’s music industry could become the world’s biggest.

He also impressed students with his knowledge of traditional Chinese string instruments - he did not know their names but easily identified them by gesturing the way they are played - and said he would like to work with Chinese musicians.

Jones said he had visited many music conservatories in China and was impressed by the passion of its youngsters, saying that they “really have a thirst for knowledge.”

The students bid farewell to Jones by singing his hit song “We Are the World,” to which he responded in Chinese, “Thank you, my beautiful children.”

He said his current projects include a film about the Brazilian carnival, a Broadway show about the history of jazz and blues, and an animated film for children about a range of a music genres.
President Obama Seeks To Join Global Rights Of Child Pact

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The Obama administration is reviving efforts to have the United States sign onto a global children’s rights treaty ratified by every U.N. member except the U.S. and Somalia, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said Monday.

Administration officials are actively discussing “when and how it might be possible to join,” Rice, a Cabinet-level official, said while visiting a school in Harlem and fielding a teenager’s specific question about the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

She did not provide a specific timetable for the decision and has said previously only that the administration would conduct a legal review of the treaty.

But during her a brief question-and-answer session with 120 junior high school students at Harlem Children’s Zone, a nonprofit educational facility, Rice acknowledged that the effort was long overdue given that “the only two countries” are the United States and the lawless Horn of Africa nation.

“It’s a long story,” she said of the nearly 20-year-old treaty that has become such a point of contention in the United States, not to mention Somalia.

The treaty says children have basic rights to education, health care and protection from abuse. Its supporters have used it to improve child education, health care and protection from abuse. Its supporters have used it to improve child education, health care and protection from abuse. Its supporters have used it to improve child education, health care and protection from abuse.

A peace deal in 2003 reduced the fighting but both the army and rebel groups still lurking in the forest continue to attack villages and mutilate and kill civilians.

Teenagers from Harlem, a predominantly African-American part of Manhattan, said they felt good about participating by choosing between boxes of school supplies, family water kits, mosquito nets, first aid supplies, mealess vaccine and carriers, protein biscuits and soccer balls and jump ropes.

“It’s an opportunity for us to feel like the ambassador,” said 16-year-old Shantae Hicks, a Harlem ninth-grader, who was leaning toward choosing in the same hearing. A Douglas County District Court ruled earlier that evidence showed Poindexter’s defense attorneys knew a tape of the 911 call that lured Minard to his death existed but never asked prosecutors for it.

Poindexter asked that his original trial was flawed because a jury was allowed to determine his guilt and sentencing in the same hearing.

In the ruling released Friday, the state Supreme Court said it did not have jurisdiction in that matter because Poindexter failed to raise the issue in his original appeal to a lower state court.

Poindexter also claimed his trial attorneys were ineffective and failed to get key evidence from prosecutors.

A Douglas County District Court ruled earlier that evidence showed Poindexter’s defense attorneys knew a tape of the 911 call that lured Minard to his death existed but never asked prosecutors for it.

Poindexter’s current attorney, Bob Bartle, also argued that transcripts of police interrogations of his voice on the tape, it was not unreasonable for counsel to assume the voice was Peak’s, the state Supreme Court wrote.

No New Trial For Former Black Panther

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - The Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday upheld the conviction of a former Black Panther who claimed he didn’t receive a fair trial before he was convicted in the 1970 bombing death of an Omaha police officer.

Edward Poindexter and another Black Panther, David Rice, were convicted decades ago in Douglas County District Court for the death of Omaha officer Larry Minard. Authorities say the pair lured police to a house with a 911 call, then detonated a homemade bomb that killed Minard.

Poindexter and Rice were sentenced to life in prison but have long proclaimed their innocence.

They have said they were targeted by an FBI program that undermined radical political groups.

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Obama Brings Hope To Black Women

NEW YORK (AP) - Monica Weeks has met many men, but at age 51 she says she still hasn’t found her “Barack.”

Among Weeks and her friends, President Barack Obama’s name has become shorthand for a black man with integrity, character and spirituality, one who loves and values his wife and makes his family a priority — in other words, the kind of man that many black women had despaired of finding.

Weeks said probably every single woman she knows is looking for her “Barack.”

“He absolutely makes me think it’s attainable,” said Weeks, a divorced mom in Somerset, N.J. “For women who are older and seeking a man, I think we can look at him and say, ‘All is not lost.’”

The story is the same elsewhere among black women, who say the new code word for Prince Charming has become so commonplace that with romantic date nights and charming interview banter.

“Having access to that much of a person endears you to that person,” he said.

And while women were taken with Presidents Bill Clinton and John F. Kennedy, neither would have made a particularly good husband, said Rich Hanley, director of graduate journalism at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

Experts caution against over-romanticizing the Obama marriage.

Experts caution against over-romanticizing the Obama marriage.

For years, single black women have been commiserating about the perceived shortage of eligible black men. It’s laughed about in movies (“Waiting to Exhale”) and backed up with statistics: The May unemployment rate for black men was 16.8 percent for those ages 20 and older, compared to a national rate of 9.8 percent for all adult men. Black women outnumber black men almost 2-to-1 on college campuses.

Most black babies are born to unwed mothers.

“The number of African-American women who have largely given up on finding a mate,” said Sheri Parks, associate professor of American studies at the University of Maryland. “Their men are not there.”

Renee Bredesen didn’t have much hope she would find a life partner after dealing with what she called “extremely selfish” black men. At one point, the 35-year-old divorced mom had stopped dating black men altogether.

But watching the Obamas has renewed her faith that she can have a loving relationship with a black man.

“There’s no denying the love between them, and it made me feel like ‘Wow, there’s still hope for me,’” said Bredesen, an administrative assistant and online radio talk show host in New York. “There is still something appealing.

For black women, it’s significant that Obama has a white wife and values her education and professional aspirations. Black men are more likely to marry outside of their race than black women, according to the U.S. Census.

To be sure, there are plenty of famous, attractive black men to dream about, but people don’t know as much about Denzel Washington’s relationship with his wife, for example.

These days, there’s little people don’t know about the Obamas, said Marc Lamont Hill, associate professor of education at Columbia University. The first couple’s relationship has been on public display with romantic date nights and charming interview banter.

“I think they are e g 7 7 <4 73 :0:1 44 73: 42 ‘1 06 09 9 42 9 042 00 !:: $ 27 7: 5 77; 60 7< 3 9 4 1an-American women who have

“Some single black men are hoping Michelle Obama changes that. If they’re disappointed, said Audrey B. Chapman, a black marriage therapist in Washington, D.C. She thinks many black women are too picky.

Some single black men are hoping Michelle Obama changes that.

The story is the same elsewhere among black women, who say the

Many black women are realistic and know that an Obama-esque man is out of reach, simply because of the numbers, Parks said.

“I think they are e g 7 7 <4 73 :0:1 44 73: 42 ‘1 06 09 9 42 9 042 00 !:: $ 27 7: 5 77; 60 7< 3 9 4 1an-American women who have

Evita Broughton, 27, a single black woman in MC 5jrtta, Ga., who works in public relations, said she has heard a lot of men say, “We can’t all be Barack. Don’t put that burden on us.”

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High Court Rules Narrowly In Voting Rights Case

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Voting Rights Act, the government’s chief weapon against racial discrimination at polling places since the 1960s, survived a Supreme Court challenge Monday in a ruling that nevertheless was warned of serious constitutional questions posed by part of the law.

Major civil rights groups and other defenders of the landmark law breathed a sigh of relief when the court ruled narrowly in favor of a small Texas governing authority while sidestepping the larger constitutional issue.

After argument in late April, it appeared the court’s conservatives could have a majority to strike down part of the law as unnecessary in an era marked by the election of the first African-American president.

But with only one justice in dissent, the court avoided the major questions raised over the section of the voting law that requires all or parts of 16 states - mainly in the South and with a history of discrimination in voting - to get Justice Department approval before making changes in the way elections are conducted.

The court said that the Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Austin, Texas, could apply to put out of the advance approval requirement, reversing a lower federal court that ruled it could not. The district appears to meet the requirements to bail out, although the high court did not pass judgment Monday on that point.

Five months after Barack Obama became president, Chief Justice John Roberts said the justices decided not to determine whether dramatic civil rights gains mean the advance approval requirement is no longer necessary. That larger issue, Roberts said, “is a difficult constitutional question we do not answer today.”

Attorney General Eric Holder called the decision a victory for voting rights and said the court “ensured that this law will continue to protect free and fair access to the voting booth.”

Debo Adegbile, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund lawyer who argued for the preservation of the law at the high court, said Monday’s ruling is a “major victory for voting rights and said the court “ensured that this law will continue to protect free and fair access to the voting booth.”

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From Senator Matt McCoy

Principal Riverwalk: investing in the future

On May 26, the final day for 2009 bills to be signed into law, Governor Chet Culver signed the last components of the I-JOBS initiative at the Des Moines City Hall, adjacent to the Principal Riverwalk.

That legislation made more than $450 million available from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIRF) to be used for economic development and infrastructure projects. Among those I-JOBS projects is $750,000 for the Principal Riverwalk.

“The money is going to be focused on completing the multi-purpose trail in Des Moines. We’re creating connectors in the urban area for the trail system. This will create a very safe environment for growth,” said Scott Cahill, Principal Riverwalk Manager.

I worked to get approval for that appropriation because of the long-term benefits the Riverwalk will provide to Des Moines and much of central Iowa. The project creates construction jobs for local workers. The completed Riverwalk will provide a convenient, healthy “green” way for people to get to work. And it will make Des Moines a hub by linking trails that run throughout central Iowa.

“It’s not only an attractive amenity for the Des Moines area, but it’s also a tourist focus that brings together 300 miles of trails,” said Governor Culver.

This was a major effort to identify geographic differences in the HIV epidemic, and we do see the evidence that suggests the change.”

The CDC’s HIV and AIDS prevalence data is reported on a state level, not county, by CDC officials. The data reported on a state level, not county, by CDC officials. For more information, go to www.principal.com/riverwalk.

For maps and more information about the many Des Moines area trails available to you, go to www.greaterdemoinestrails.org.

In these tough economic times, investing in infrastructure projects like the Riverwalk creates jobs now, while developing the amenities that will continue to make Des Moines an attractive home for businesses, employees and families.

Additional information

This is a legislative update from Senator Matt McCoy, representing western and southern portions of Des Moines. For newsletters, photos and further information, go to www.iowastatedemocrats.org/mccoy.

To contact Senator McCoy when the Legislature is in session e-mail him at MCCoy@downtowndemoines.com or call him at home at 515-274-0561.

Senator Matt McCoy is chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Budget Subcommittee and vice-chair of the Ways & Means and Appropriations committees. He also serves on the Commerce, Local Government, and Transportation committees.

HIV Rates Are Highest In The South

ATLANTA (AP) - A new Internet data map offers a first-of-its-kind, county-level look at HIV cases in the U.S. and finds the infection rates tend to be highest in the South.

The highest numbers of HIV cases are in population centers like New York and California. However, many of the areas with the highest rates of HIV - that is, the highest proportion of people with the AIDS-causing virus - are in the South, according to the data map, which has information for more than 90 percent of the nation’s counties and Washington, D.C.

HIV infection rates are higher in African-American communities, and high minority populations in the South help explain the finding. While that’s not surprising, the high rates seen throughout states like Georgia and South Carolina were said Gary Puckrin, president of the National Minority Quality Forum, the nonprofit research organization that put the map together.

Of 48 counties with the highest prevalence rates for HIV that had not yet progressed to AIDS, 25 were in Georgia, according to the map. Those were counties in which more than 0.7 percent of the population was infected with HIV.

Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Virginia were heavily represented on another map of counties, which showed the highest prevalence rates for cases that had progressed to AIDS.

The map depicts reported numbers of people living with HIV and AIDS in 2006. Puckrin said the data came from state health departments and was checked against information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Different states report data in different ways, and there may be case duplication that could impact some of the findings. Puckrin said.

The CDC’s HIV and AIDS prevalence data is reported on a state level, not county. CDC officials were cautious about the data map, saying they hadn’t seen all the organization’s information.

“but we have long been part of the effort to identify geographic differences in the HIV epidemic, and we do see the need for efforts like these to facilitate better understanding of these differences,” said CDC spokeswoman Elizabeth-Ann Chandler.

because until we all have access to affordable, high-quality health care, costs will continue to escalate. We’ve got to build a better system that meets people’s needs. And I believe we will because the President is making it a top priority and reaching out to leaders in health care reform from around the country. You’ll hear much more from me about Iowa’s leadership in the national health care reform efforts in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if you’d like to listen to a replay of the conference call, go to www.iowasenate Republicans.com/hatch.

State Senator Jack Hatch

Where do we go from here on health care?

What’s the next step for health care reform in Iowa and the rest of the nation?

Hosted a statewide conference call and live interactive chat on June 10 that addressed this question. Assisting me on the conference call were Dr. Beryl Engebritsen, a leader in Iowa’s health care reform efforts, and Mike Goodman, senior health policy adviser to Congressman Bruce Braley.

One thing is abundantly clear from the event: Iowans are concerned about health care. They’ve given it a lot of thought, and they had penetrating questions, concerns and ideas for health care reform.

Health care is a fundamental right. That’s why we must — and will — solve the health care crisis in America. In fact, we are moving toward a strong national health care policy. The federal government is taking its cues from what we’re doing at the state level. Iowa is ahead of the curve when it comes to improving health care, especially health care for kids.

Both the U.S. House and Senate have released detailed outlines of their representative bills. What’s different from 1994?”

This year, there is one bill in the House and one in the Senate, for our Congressional members are working through. In 1994, there were three separate bills in each chamber, making it impossible to reach a consensus.

President Obama is committed to a public plan and state legislators are ready to help, because until we all have access to affordable, high-quality health care, costs will continue to escalate. We’ve got to build a better system that meets people’s needs. And I believe we will because the President is making it a top priority and reaching out to leaders in health care reform from around the country. You’ll hear much more from me about Iowa’s leadership in the national health care reform efforts in the coming weeks.

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Additional information

This is a legislative update from Senator Jack Hatch representing central Des Moines. For newsletters, photos and further information, go to www.iowastatedemocrats.org/hatch.

To contact Senator Hatch when the Legislature is in session e-mail him at hatch@hatchdevelopment.com or call him at home at 515-243-2033.

Senator Jack Hatch is an Assistant Democratic Leader and chair of the Health & Human Services Budget Subcommittee. He also serves on the Economic Growth, Human Resources, State Government, Labor & Business Relations, and Appropriations committees.

King Brokers Publishing

Deal For Father’s Titles

ATLANTA (AP) - Four books written by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will be published for the first time in 20 years under a new deal with Beacon Press brokered by King’s youngest son.

Dexter King called the deal a historic partnership that will bring his father’s words to a global audience. Beacon, a department of the Unitarian Universalist Association, publishes books on social justice, human rights and racial equality.

The Boston-based publisher will release new editions of “Stride Toward Freedom,” “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?,” “Trumpet of Conscience” and “Strength to Love” in 2010.

Under the exclusive agreement, Beacon will also compile King’s writings, sermons, lectures and prayers into new editions to include introductions by leading scholars.

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.

---Mark 10:14
How Yesterday Affects Today

I have been around cars and car repair for a long time. I have seen makes and models come and go. I have a book and it is called: “A History of Ford Motor Cars.” It would seem that Henry Ford I, said that he wanted the cars he produced to be the best cars that people could afford. The early model “A” and model “T” were around $500 to $600. Ford made cars that people could use, durable units that would go when you needed them to go. In 1932 they made the first V8 engine, it was called a “flathead”, it was the first really fast car. People were not so concerned with speed as they were with durability, this engine gave them both. Things went well, very well, for a lot of years. In 1948 Henry died and his grandson took over, actually his grandson had taken over before Henry died, but now things were going to change, and they did. The last really durable flathead V8 was produced in 1951, after that, not so good. In 1954, Ford made what is referred to as an “overhead valve engine.” It was a 239 cubic inch V8, also called a “Y” block.

These engines had oiling system problems, too soft crank shafts and other headaches that older people remember. You see, they believed that they could make more money off of cars that break down, it was heartbreaking to have your car fall apart while still owing lots of money on it. It got so bad that people came up with acronyms for the name of these cars. Fix Or Repair Daily and Found On Road Dead. There are others, no need to be cruel.

Today’s Fords are as good as any other car on the road, my objection is in the fact that they could have done better a long time ago and they felt that the way you make a profit is on cars that fall apart. I don’t buy Fords anymore, even though they are a good durable car these days and thats because of the way they did things in the past. The fact of the matter is, the only reason Ford is doing well today is that most law enforcement agencies use the Ford Crown Victoria, that includes- FBI, DEA, CIA and others.

The truth almost always hurts.

RL Parkey, Sr.
Clinton: Historian Franklin Was ‘Angry, Happy Man’

WASHINGTON, D.C., ordering him to get her coat from the check room. Franklin wrote in his autobiography, “Mirror to America,” that he advised the woman to approach a club employee, all of whom wore uniforms.

“Now, we’re laughing,” Clinton said.

“But the man was 80 years old. He was perhaps the most distinguished living American historian. He did write this in a funny way. And he wrote it in a way that you knew he didn’t think it was funny. He was a genius at being a passionate rationalist. An angry, happy man.”

Franklin, who taught for a decade at Duke University and was a professor emeritus of history, died in March at age 94. His wife died in 1999.

In 1997, Clinton appointed Franklin to lead his Initiative on Race. Because of that report and Franklin’s work on it, “we are a different country,” Clinton said. “For 10 years, we’ve been working to become a communitarian country. After being known as a country know our divisions from 1966 to 2008, people know us as a country known by our unity. His life and work in no small measure helped to produce that.”

Franklin was born Jan. 2, 1915, in the all-black town of Rentiesville, Okla., and later attended historically black Fisk University, where he met his wife.

His book “From Slavery to Freedom” was a landmark integration of black history into American history that remains relevant more than 60 years after being published. As a scholar, his research helped Thurgood Marshall and his team at the NAACP win Brown v. Board of Education, the 1954 case that barred the doctrine of “separate but equal” in the nation’s public schools.

Venus Williams, who was then 17, lost in the opening round. This year, at 29, she’s the oldest player in the top 10 and the tournament favorite, seeking her sixth Wimbledon title and third in a row.

“This year, Williams was part of a generation of teen prodigies that broadened the popularity of women’s tennis. The group included Martina Hingis, who won Wimbledon that year, and Anna Kournikova, who made the semifinals. Both were 16. Other quarterfinalists included Mary Joe Fernandez, Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.”

A year later, Serena Williams made her Wimbledon debut. The sisters are well aware of how much the cast has changed since.

“Serena and I often talk about that: `Wonder what happened to them,'” Venus said. “We’re still here, and we’re not leaving. It has been a real blessing to have the success that we’ve had and to be able to be still playing great tennis at this point, obviously with the outlook of still playing great tennis for years to come. I don’t see anything changing for a while.”

At times, the sisters have made Wimbledon the Williams Open. Serena was the champion in 2002 and 2003 and lost to Venus in last year’s final. The only non-Williams to win the women’s title in this decade were Maria Sharapova in 2004 and Amelie Mauresmo in 2006.

Venus has been so dominant that she’s a 3-1 favorite with London bookmakers, even though she’s seeded third and has won only five of her past nine matches.

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