Iowa Bystander
2009 Carl T. Rowan Pinnacle Award Winner

Professor R. Dean Wright
Remembrance, His Legacy

By Allen Spencer

Iowa Department of Human Rights Meeting

The Iowa Department of Human Rights will meet Thursday and Friday, July 30-31, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Iowa Department of Public Safety Conference Room, 215 E. 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. The DHR will be holding a Strategy Planning Retreat to review and develop action plans through goals and measures as determined by their mission and vision to serve all Iowa constituents. This work retreat is open to the public and the meeting site is accessible for people with mobility limitations.

Iowa Department of Human Rights Meeting

Moore Enters Council Race

Skip Moore officially announced his intention to seek the At-Large seat for the Des Moines City Council on Thursday, July 16th, 2009.

Skip Moore is 55 years old and was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa. He has lived in Des Moines for 46 years. He graduated from East High School and has been employed for 34 years with the City of Des Moines as the municipal arborist. Mr. Moore has been involved in the Des Moines neighborhood movement since 1987.

Moore. Des Moines Neighbors’ 2009 City Employee of the Year for 2009 has three top priorities:

City Finances

With the current state of the economy and a projected budget deficit for 2011 of $5 million plus for the city of Des Moines, coupled with the possibility of a $50 million dollar franchise fee refund, I realize that we are headed for a potential crisis like we have never seen before.

I am prepared to do the financial belt tightening that will be necessary to see the city of Des Moines through this crisis. I understand that there are basic services that must be provided to our citizens and those services must remain intact. Police, fire and public works must maintain a level of service that guarantees the security, safety, health and welfare of Des Moines citizens, businesses and our guests.

Des Moines should take a cue from its citizens and stop spending money on unnecessary projects. The city should be saving money and should begin spending as they go instead of mortgaging its future and raising the cost of projects.

Neighborhoods

We have become a city of vibrant neighborhoods with a very diverse population. This has made Des Moines a citizen’s participation city with the neighborhoods being a partner with the City of Des Moines and all boards and commissions.

I have personally seen how the city council has, for the most part, turned a deaf ear to the neighborhoods. It is rather disturbing to see large numbers of citizens that are representing their respective neighborhoods appear before the city council with a unified voice and yet, the council votes against them with little or no explanation.

Moore: Continued on page 10

The Out-Of-Towners:
Featuring Mr. John Francis Cheatem

Mr. John Francis Cheatem, son of John R. and Shann L. Cheatem, born in Terre Haute, Indiana, is in the process of laying the foundation for a career in the Christian music industry. John attended Gospel Assembly Christian Academy in Urbanaide, Iowa. In 2007 he won Iowa Idol. He is a gifted and talented performer whose fan base has expanded so much so that his first solo concert, held on June 5, 2009, was sold out.

Mr. Cheatem, who is in the process of working on his debut CD “In Your Will,” continues to be in high demand across the Midwest. His ultimate goal is to have a successful music career as a solo contemporary/gospel artist, thereby spreading Jesus’ message to anyone that has a hearing ear and a willing heart.

If you are interested in seeing just how talented he is, he has several videos posted on the internet and may be accessed from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOJxKx0BtMk&feature=related.

Mr. Cheatem currently resides in West Des Moines, Iowa. He is single, currently employed by Wells Fargo Bank as a Short Sales Negotiator, and is the Praise & Worship leader at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

If you have an “Out-Of-Towners submission email it to g_a_grubb@yahoo.com or iowabytanderarticles@yahoo.com. And remember “it’s a sad dog, won’t wag it’s own tail!”

The Out-Of-Towners: Continued on page 6
Are We Mentally Lazy?

A few days ago I engaged in a real strong conversation—a debate—about the difference in the success we have as a race (black) than other races. The topic surrounded the business and entrepreneurial success or lack there of for us. Thats when the question came forth “are we mentally lazy?”

In some circles we have been talked about and port raid as lazy do nothings, but that’s all been proven false. We aren’t physically lazy, but is there a problem when it comes to doing the research, or filling out paperwork that may be required for progress in business?

Being a laborer is an honorable occupation it can pay the bills. Why not the engineer, the architect, or even the carpenter? Skill trades have the greatest upside to becoming an economy with in yourself. That must be accomplished by doing the brain work that requires days and nights of study, hours upon hours of writing, and then the same in waiting for responses to proposals. This work is required when we apply for funds to help with business, or applying for insurance—the right kind of coverage.

In the book of Proverbs the key word is Wisdom “the ability to live a skillful life,” King Solomon the son of David says Proverbs 1:2, Teknow wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding. In 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires and has nothing. But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. King Solomon is reported to be the richest and wisest man to ever live, and the two main words he uses are wisdom and diligent. We must be diligent in the search for wisdom!!

In my agency Spectrum Resources we have a mantra called C.Q.I. (continued quality improvement) we want to always pursue knowledge, and quality knowledge.

I had a young man talk to me about his dream of starting his own business, but in the conversation he had the chance to apply for some funds, and to my surprise he said that he did not want to go after the money because it was too much paperwork to pursue knowledge, and quality knowledge.

Are we Mentally Lazy?

We have to make the difference.

We have to start filling out the paperwork in bunches to make a difference in the number of financial awards that are required when we apply for funds to help with business, or applying for insurance—the right kind of coverage.

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Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation recently presented a check for $75,000 to the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Foundation to help fund equipment for the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant Programs at the college. Pictured left to right, Donn Hutchins, CEO and President of Delta Dental of Iowa; Ganesh Gampat, Executive Director, DMACC Foundation; Deborah Penney, DMACC Dental Hygiene Professor; Sally Schroeder, DMACC Dean of Health and Public Services; Jeff Plagge, Board Chair, Delta Dental of Iowa; Ed Schooley, DDS, Dental Director of Delta Dental; John Kearns, DDS, Board Member, Delta Dental of Iowa and Suzanne Heckenlaible, Director of Community and Government Relations, Delta Dental of Iowa.

Delta Dental Of Iowa Makes Major Donation To DMACC Dental Hygienist Program

Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has announced a $75,000 award and a $50,000 challenge grant to Des Moines Area Community College’s Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs.

"This is the first grant of any kind for our Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs," said Sally Schroeder, dean of DMACC’s Health and Public Services Program. “Our students are thrilled with the news. We are also grateful to Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation for the foresight and commitment to our dental program. All of Central Iowa will benefit.”

The funds will be used to renovate DMACC’s Dental Clinic where students, with faculty oversight, see patients from the general public. New equipment will also be purchased. “This remodel will make the DMACC Dental Clinic one of the best student facilities in the Midwest, as well as enhance the capability of providing low cost preventive oral health care to the community,” said Schroeder.

As a result of Delta Dental’s awards, DMACC’s Foundation is launching a Capital Campaign to take advantage of the challenge grant. Delta Dental will match all new contributions, dollar-for-dollar up to the $50,000 total.

“Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation is proud to support DMACC’s Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs,” said Donn Hutchins, President and CEO of Delta Dental of Iowa. “Our donation and the matching challenge grant is a great way for Delta Dental to invest in the oral health of Iowans, while insuring needed training for hygienists and dental assistants.”

There are currently 44 students in DMACC’s one-year Dental Assistant program and 48 in the two-year Dental Hygiene program. “DMACC is committed to preparing students to meet the demands of the dental health care workforce,” said Schroeder who noted that with the growing demand for health care professionals, employment is nearly guaranteed.

“The Foundation’s support of DMACC ensures dental hygienists and assistants are being trained using the latest technology,” said John Kearns, DDS, and member of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board. “As a dentist, I understand the importance of having well-trained dental hygienists and assistants that know the latest dental technology.”

Schroeder said the DMACC Dental Materials Lab recently experienced a $50,000 facelift. Renovations to the DMACC Dental Clinic are expected to be completed in May 2010. The DMACC Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs combine academic and clinical course work. These programs were launched in 1974 on the DMACC Ankeny Campus where they continue to thrive for the highest educational experiences for students entering the dental workforce.

DMACC has also recently launched a pre-professional program where aspiring dentists can take undergraduate coursework.

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“When we have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

-- Mary McLeod Bethune

What’s going to happen to my family?

When I was diagnosed with cancer I had so many questions, then I called the American Cancer Society. I would never have imagined they offer so much information and help.

The American Cancer Society is the place to go for information, education, help, and support. It’s free and confidential.

I have health questions, who can answer them?

– The Polk County Health Department

*I don’t have health insurance or a regular doctor.*

*I think something I ate made me sick.*

*Does my child need shots or a physical?*

*I don’t want to get pregnant.*

*I need to get a mammogram or pap.*

*I’m worried I may have a sexual infection.*

*How can I make sure my child does not get lead poisoning?*

For information about these and other health concerns call the Polk County Health Department. Our location and walk-in hours make your visit convenient. Most of our services are free, all are confidential.

286-3798
Retired With Children: More Common Than You Might Think!

By Petula Traywick

The idea of someone being “retired with children” may seem like the seed of another television sit-com or reality show. But the fact is that it’s becoming more and more common for older people to have minor children in their care — whether by bringing new children into the world, taking over the care of grandchildren or adopting children who need nurturing parents.

So it’s important to know that if you receive Social Security benefits and have minor children who depend on you, you might be able to receive benefits for them, too. This is true whether you receive benefits as a retiree or you receive Social Security disability or survivors benefits.

To get benefits, a child must have a parent (or in some cases a grandparent) who:

- is disabled and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- died after having worked long enough in a job where he or she paid Social Security taxes.

The child also must be:

- Unmarried; and
- Younger than age 18; or
- 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or
- 18 or older and disabled. (The disability must have started before age 22.)

Within a family, a child may receive up to one-half of the parent’s full retirement or disability benefit, or 75 percent of the deceased parent’s basic Social Security benefit. However, there is a limit to the amount of money that can be paid to a family. The maximum family payment can be from 150 to 180 percent of the parent’s full benefit amount. If the total amount payable to all family members exceeds this limit, each child’s benefit is reduced proportionately until the total equals the maximum allowable amount.

For example, if you are retired with a minor child and your benefit payment is $1,000 a month, your minor child could get up to half of that each month, or $500. However, if you had two minor children in your care, the maximum your entire family could receive would be between $1,500 and $1,800 — that’s $1,000 for you and between $250 and $400 per child.

Whether you receive Social Security benefits because you have a disabling condition, due to the death of a spouse or because you’ve reached retirement, if you have minor children, you’ll want to read Social Security’s online publication, Benefits for Children at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085.html.
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

Spiritual Check Up

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

“Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith; test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.”

In this passage of scripture we are being asked to examine ourselves. Why are we examining ourselves? Just like our physical body needs to be examined, we need to examine ourselves spiritually to see if the power and presence of God is operating in our hearts a life’s a love, and knowing that we are growing as a result of it. Paul is urging us to take a closer look at ourselves, carefully scrutinizing ourselves, being critical of ourselves. Not to one else...but OURSELVES! And he makes it very clear that is critical and necessary, as we move forward in our journey!

Many of us may not want to examine ourselves because it means we really have to face “who and what we are”; but we have to be honest and face the truth. And as we all know...the truth can really hurt sometimes, which keeps us from examining! We all have things that we wish no one would find out about the way we live. We wish to keep them hidden away from the world. Or we dress ourselves up on the outside, but all the while on the inside, we have unresolved and unaddressed issues which are tearing apart the very fiber of our souls. And because we have not acknowledged them...to address them to get to the next level of our journey. But if we are going to be the true Christian God has called us all to, we must take a look at those things, acknowledge them and pray to God to either deliver us from that thing or help us through it.

It is easy for us to point out everyone else’s flaws or issues because that way we don’t have to focus on our own? And we are so quick to let our spiritual brothers and sisters know “what they need to do to fix their problem or their situations.” We become spiritual Dr. Phil’s. We assess what is going on in the lives of others and let them know what they need to do to change their situation, and let our own self's “go unexamined”! Instead, we need to stop being critical of our brothers and sisters and investigate ourselves and address the issues that are keeping us from moving closer to God.

New Normal: We need to do a daily examination of ourselves, acknowledge our issues, and ask God to help us through these issues. The issue may not be resolved in a day, a month, or even a year...but continue to seek the Father (Matthew 6:33) and He will bless you beyond measure.

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

“Seven Seals” For Your Spiritual Diet

By Carolyn Clinton King C., Th.D

With today’s ‘reality shows’, people are becoming some what ‘reality minded’, the bad news about this is people are forgetting the morals that they were taught as a child, the simple commandments “love one another as I have loved you,” “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”, it is all changing, perhaps that is one of the noticeable things about getting older with each passing day. I had never heard the term ‘hater’, we all grew up with love in our hearts for one another, being taught from the Scriptures. It wasn’t until my son-in-law said, “are they hating on you?” I thought what an odd term, but now that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. “KJV

The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. “KJV

He is in you, for all that is in the world, the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is not in the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. “KJV

Like our physical body needs to be examined, we need to examine ourselves spiritually to see if the power and presence of God is operating in our hearts a life’s a love, and knowing that we are growing as a result of it! Paul is urging us to take a closer look at ourselves, carefully scrutinizing ourselves, being critical of ourselves. Not to one else...but OURSELVES! And he makes it very clear that is critical and necessary, as we move forward in our journey!

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Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”
No Air Conditioning?  Stay Cool Indoors With These Safety Tips

The inside of your home can get hotter than you might think for different reasons. You might not have air conditioning or your air conditioning might be broken. Or you might be waging a battle of “save energy, put the thermostat on 75°” vs. “I’d like to live in the Arctic.” Either way, it can get very hot inside on a 95-degree day. I can get dangerously hot for people whose no air conditioning or during periods when it just doesn’t cool down overnight. The fact that you indoors is not protect you from heat related health problems such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion. The temperature inside your home can quickly rise to the temperature outside or higher, but there are things you can do to help cool down your home without running the AC non-stop.

 Fans should be used to circulate air in a room. If it is above 90 degrees a fan pointing directly at your body can quickly dehydrate you and put you at risk for stroke and heat exhaustion. The temperature inside your home can quickly rise to the temperature outside or higher, but there are things you can do to help cool down your home without running the AC non-stop.

Fans should be used to circulate air in a room. If it is above 90 degrees a fan pointing directly at your body can quickly dehydrate you and put you at risk for heat stroke or heat exhaustion. If you have an AC turn it to the “fan only” setting and use ceiling fans to circulate air, this can make it feel 2 to 3 degrees cooler. Instead of sitting in front of the fan take a cool shower or put cold rags on your face and neck.

If it is cool outside, open up windows and doors that have screens. Also open skylights to let the hot air out.

Humidity can make a room feel even hotter than it is outside. Try avoid using the stove, oven, dishwasher, washer and dryer, and shower from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Use awnings to help keep the sunlight out, especially on the south and west facing sides of the house and keep your shades or curtains closed.

If you want to plan ahead to keep your house cool, plant trees, shrubs and plants near your house. These will provide shade and evaporation that will help keep your house cool.

Lastly, be sure to check on neighbors and relatives that do not have air conditioning. Call and visit them to make sure that they are comfortable and not experiencing any heat related problems such as fainting, stomach pain, nausea, and elevated body temperature. If you have no place to go to escape the heat call the Polk County Health Department and we can direct you to a cooling center that will provide some relief from the heat.
Ft. Des Moines Receives Wal-Mart Contribution

Wal-Mart Market 519, which is comprised of 12 stores based in Southwest Iowa, awarded the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center $7,500 to support programming for the Women’s Leadership Initiative. Programs included are the Metamorphosis Mentorship group, and the D-Day Commemoration of the 65th Anniversary, featuring speaker Charlotte Barrett, a member of the Women’s Army Corp. Ms. Barrett told her story of D-Day, where she was assigned to Allied Central Command. The funding also supported all Women’s History Month events.

“Region 519 Wal-Mart stores and managers continue to demonstrate the company’s commitment to community giving that supports diversity, education, and community,” stated Adrienne Windley, director of development and marketing for Fort Des Moines Museum. Windley continued, “We are grateful beyond measure for the support of the Region #519 Team as we continue to educate the community about the “hidden gem” that is right here in Des Moines, Iowa.”

The Fort Des Moines Museum honors the U.S. Army’s first officer candidate class for African American men in 1917, and the establishment of the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corp (WAACs) in 1942.

The museum is located at 75 E. Army Post Rd. in Des Moines, and is open Mon. - Sat. from 10 AM to 4 PM. Pictured in front row of photo from left to right: Sherrill Wiley, Wal-Mart Regional Human Resources Manager; Adrienne Windley, Fort Des Moines Museum Director of Development and Marketing; Brian Mueller, Wal-Mart Market #519 Manager; Joe Nolte, Fort Des Moines Museum Executive Director. Remaining rows: Market #519 Team from Southwest Iowa Region.
Six-On-Six Review

By Bryne Berry

“Six-On-Six” is a lively, informative--if not slightly flawed--portrait of the fascinating yet sexist practice of six-on-six girls’ basketball that Iowa defiantly called its own, outlasting 49 other states who had long since banned the practice.

We are introduced to Gloria Levelle (Megan Walz), named by her mother after the staunch feminist Gloria Steinem, as the Michigan transplant to the Edmund High Eaglettes. Through the hilarious tune, “Six-On-Six,” Gloria is rudely awakened to the needlessly stringent and chauvinistic game that prevents the girls from dribbling more than twice lest their “inherently weak” arms get tired.

We are also introduced to the star of Edmund and Iowa’s previous Golden Girl, Jolynn Hanrahan (Alexis Van Vleet), who is on track to be the highest scorer in girls’ basketball of all time. Both Jolynn and Gloria get caught up in the whirlwind of high school sports, unexpected fame and infamy, and a lawsuit that could decide the fate of the very game they played.

“Six-On-Six” is aided by great performances from a wonderful cast and catchy and perceptive songs. I enjoyed Act I, bolstered by intuitive songs such as “Six-On-Six,” “One of those Women,” “A Little Bit of Heaven” and an introduction of great ensembles of characters: the Basketball Association of Girls in Iowa was a host, the marital problems of the lawyer couple-Counselors Singleton and Green, (Sandy Henry, Ed McAtee) -- endearing, and the orations of the proudly feminist mother, Loretta Levelle (Gina Gedler), glorious. I believed each character and in their conviction for and against this bizarre game.

I did appreciate how the playwright and lyricist, Robert John Ford, was able to display both sides of the argument so gently--how it wasn’t so much politics as providing the girls an opportunity to merely have fun--that by the end, I too was a little sad to see it go.

However, lugging on at almost 3 hours, by Act II—as my father put it mildly—the play felt more like “right-on-eight.” While the acting and music were great, it seems that the playwright fell into the perfunctory game. But I digress. “Six-On-Six” taught us that you should follow the dreams you set for yourself, not those set or lived vicariously by others.

But it digresses. “Six-On-Six” taught us that you should follow the dreams you set for yourself, not those set or lived vicariously by others. Girls’ basketball in Iowa should be remembered not only by its dreams you set for yourself, not those set or lived vicariously by others.

Six-On-Six or eliminated the intro all together, given the fact that it should have been followed by a song that was both elegiac and poignant enough to say goodbye to this rich tradition, it was instead followed by the cast singing a slower rendition of the “Edmund School Song.” It not only seemed inappropriate, but also a little pretentious given the fact that they were just announced as the last team ever to win the six-on-six championships.

Even if it was just the intro to “Gone Forevermore,” it seemed out of place. In an analogy I told my father, it would be like announcing Mississippi was ending Jim Crow and then singing “Song of the South” just for the heck of it. It serves no purpose but to augment your own stature. The music director should have instead slowed down “Six-On-Six” or eliminated the intro altogether, given the fact that it was the game, not the team, that was leaving.

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 & 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 600 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.

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EEO/AA
Something To Think About: B.O.O.B. Support

Now that I have your attention, BOOBs, stands for “Black Owned and Operated Businesses.” After reading the June 3, 2009 issue of the Iowa Bystander “From Nick’s Street Corner Light” column, I was inspired for this week’s STTA column. I agree with Nick. I often have the same question regarding why other diverse groups are successful as business owners and why Blacks, who have been in Des Moines, Iowa, in some aspects, longer than the Hispanic and Asian populations, are not. Meaning that as business owners, our culture just can’t quite get a grip on wealth, which is the ultimate goal of operating and owning our own businesses. Don’t get me wrong. We have Black Businesses in Des Moines, but how long do they stay in business? You may say that it takes money to start a business. True. However, there are many grants and Small Business resources out there, specifically designed to help to start new businesses. So, what’s the real problem? In my opinion, there are three basic problems that prevent “BOOBs” from being successful.

The first basic problem has to do with lack of support. We as a community do not support Black owned businesses, regularly. When I was taking a marketing class in college, years ago, (I can’t remember the exact percentage), the success of a business depends on something like 80% repeat business and 20% on new business. Which I think is the key difference between the success of Hispanic and Asian businesses vs. Black businesses. You see, the Hispanic and Asian consumers DO support Hispanic and Asian owned and operated businesses. Often times, we as Black consumers go to a Black business only once, mostly when it first opens (this includes nightclubs). And when we do, instead of going there with a positive supportive mindset, we criticize it.

The prices are too high! I can’t find anything that I like! It’s too far away! Maybe like Nick said, the styles in the stores are too trendy, not enough size variety, not conservative enough for daily wear. Or like Nick said again, regarding the Hallmark envelopes and cards, that the expectation for quality commitment is sometimes lacking. So we look, complain to our family and friends, but never express our concerns to the business owner. Instead we just never go back.

The second reason is that when we go into a Black Owned and Operated business, we expect to get a discount. WHAT’S UP WITH THAT?! It’s a SMALL BUSINESS PEOPLE! When they buy more for their products because they don’t buy in bulk, like Wal-mart. So the price they charge, which rightfully so includes a profit margin, will be higher. Otherwise, what would be the purpose of having the business?

Before I go on I had an investment account with Edward Jones, with a Black Financial Advisor, located in Clive, they too moved out to Jordan Creek and most of this customers, were not ethnic. So, why is it that Black owned businesses can’t make it in Black Areas?

When I spoke to Mr. Henderson, he told me that people would come into his store on Hickman expecting …….yep … a discount! I just don’t get it. When we go to Wal-mart, get up to the checkout do you say to the cashier….Uh, can I get a discount? No. You pay what is printed on the price tag. I have so much more to say on this subject, but now is not the time. So let me close by saying if you are troubled by the lack of Black businesses, do your part to help them succeed. Seek them out and patronize them, regularly and often. Including the Iowa Bystander. If you own a business, advertise with the Iowa Bystander. If you have good news to share, send it to the Iowa Bystander, which is a submission community based publication that reaches not only local but cross country readers.

If you patronize a Black owned and operated business and can’t find anything you like, let the owner know! If the quality of the merchandise is sub-standard, let the owner know! And every time you go shopping, make a point to put these stores on your regular list of where to shop.

You see criticizing the success of Hispanic and Asian owned and operated businesses won’t improve the wealth or success of Black owned and operated businesses. However, we as the consumer can! WE NEED TO SUPPORT all types of businesses, especially “Black Owned and Operated Businesses.” AND Black Owned and Operated Business owners need to invest in advertisement, put money back into the business as to maintain quality, provide customers with a way to express their opinion about the quality of the products and services provided. …..in other words …. put a little work and money back into making the business successful. And where applicable, share the knowledge regarding how to run a successful business, with others. As a customer, if we don’t support our “BOOBs,” but notice that Hispanic and Asian owned and operated businesses are popping up everywhere,…

All I have to say is Don’t Hate The Player…… Hate The Game!
Culver Didn’t Keep His Word!

Few leading Iowa Democrats will admit it publicly, but Governor Culver is in deep trouble. If something doesn’t change, and soon, he could be the first incumbent Iowa Governor ousted from office since Norman Erbe lost to Harold Hughes in 1962. A litany of woes afflicts Governor Culver. Most notably, he has had issues with issues.

• Iowans have seen little to no progress on key front-and-center concerns such as climate change, labor law, campaign finance and the regulation of corporate hog confinements, to name a few.
• Right or wrong, there’s a broad perception that flood recovery efforts and the budget crisis have been mismanaged by the Governor’s office.
• Iowa’s economy continues to struggle -- a situation somewhat beyond the Governor’s control, but depending upon his response, one that inevitably affects his popularity.

Governor Culver’s problems are reflected in a recent SurveyUSA poll that found his overall approval rating a dismal 42%. Among that all-important block of voters known as “independents,” it was 35%. (By comparison, Senator Grassley scored a 58% overall approval rating, with 59% approval among Independents and only 44% for President Obama a 57% approval rating, 50% among independent voters.)

Yet the Governor has another problem, a deeper problem, one that is frequently overlooked. While Culver may be out of favor with the vast majority of independent voters, even among Democrats, his approval rating is only 62%. That’s indicative of a profound dissatisfaction within Culver’s base.

Candidates--even incumbents--rarely prevail if their base is not with them.

Culver needs to have forgotten the all-important maxim “dance with the one that brought you.” A disturbing number of Party activists have told me they’ve been snubbed by the Governor, as have many elected officials. While failing to maintain good relations with one’s political base is always a bad idea, it’s especially bad right now. In advance of re-election, it is a recipe for a political suicide.

I encourage other disgruntled Democrats to share their stories. Sometimes, it’s cathartic, even necessary, to air one’s dirty laundry. In a nutshell, my story is this:

After a series of meetings in July of 2006, Culver promised to address Water problems. He would advocate for campaign finance reform and support legislation to control urban sprawl. After nearly two-and-a-half years of mostly unreturned phone calls and of trying to build a working rapport with him and his staff, I finally shared my discontent publicly this past April.

What was the Governor’s response? He or his staff could have called. They could have addressed the substance of my dissatisfaction. But instead of offering to dance, Culver’s staff chose to publicly Peter dodge my concerns.

Some conventional political strategists argue that cultivating one’s base isn’t that important. They argue, in this case, that even if Democrats are deeply dissatisfied with Culver they’ll still vote for him. Those strategists may want to spend more time honing their messages. It’s too late. Culver may not vote for a Republican, but unless something changes, they don’t plan to vote for Culver either.

And what happens on Election Day is contingent upon the strength of a candidate’s organization leading up to Election Day. In 2006, I spoke on behalf of Culver at numerous events. I actively encouraged everyone I spoke with to vote for him.

This time around, unless something changes, that’s not going to happen. Like so many other disgruntled Iowa Democrats, I’m tired of being asked to be a campaign foot soldier only to be ignored – and to have the issues I care about ignored – once the election is over.

Governor Culver needs to turn over a new leaf. He needs to demand that his staff be more responsive. He needs to follow-through on the issues he promised to address. He needs to stop stepping on so many toes.

And he needs to dance with those of us who helped bring him to Terrace Hill. Otherwise, the next Iowan calling the tunes at the Governor’s office could well be a Republican.

Ed Fallon

Moore: Continued from page 1

With over 22 years of experience working within the neighborhood structure, I am very well-equipped with the knowledge of how the system works. I fully understand that each and every neighborhood has its own specific needs. I will work hard for the neighborhoods and will always keep in mind that I work for the citizens; they don’t work for me.

Small Business
Small business is the backbone of our community. I’m very troubled by the amount of storefronts that are vacant in Des Moines. For every small business that closes, there will be an average of at least 10 – 15 people out of work. This disrupts our entire local economy and feeds into the domino effect that causes more small businesses to fail.

I feel that the city of Des Moines would be able to help turn the tide with a “buy local” campaign that would encourage our citizens to shop within the city limits.

Additionally, the city of Des Moines and the mobile merchants are continually struggling with each other. It is possible that the city of Des Moines could become partners with these merchants and establish an economic stimulus program to help train and then place them into vacant storefronts. This would be a win-win situation for everyone. The possibility at least merits some study.

Please contact Mitch Henry or Skip Moore at 729-2926 or mail at Moore-Council@iastate.edu for additional information.

Skip Moore’s Bio:
• Elected to the Logan Community Citizen Service Task Force and the Des Moines Action Board in 1998
• Chair of the Logan Citizens Task Force from 1990 – 1996
• Chair of the East University Beautification Committee from 1991 – 1994
• Spokesperson for the Second Police Citizens Academy in 1993
• Appointed to the Flood Housing Consortium from 1993 – 1994
• Chair of the Des Moines Action Board from 1994 – 1996
• Charter Member and Chair of Northeast Neighbors from 2005 – 2006
• Member of the Municipal Arborists Association
• Charter Member of the Iowa Arborists Association
• Member of the Midwestern Chapter of the International Association of Arboriculture
• Member of the International Association of Arboriculture
• Vice-Chair of the City of Des Moines Supervisory, Professional and Management Board
• Union Affiliation: Municipal Laborers Local 353
• Elected President of the Iowa Street Rod and Custom Association from 2007 – 2009

Iowa Department of Transportation FY2010 DBE Goal

To comply with 49 CFR part 26.45, the Iowa Department of Transportation establishes its overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal based on the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs, within Iowa, relative to the availability of all ready, willing, and able businesses within the same industry (hereafter, this proportion is referred to as “the relative availability of DBEs”). Establishing the overall DBE goal involves two primary steps:

1. Determining a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs.
2. Examining evidence in the state to determine what adjustments, if any, are necessary to the base figure to arrive at the overall goal.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is using the same methodology to determine our FY 2010 DBE Goal that was utilized for our FY 2009 DBE Goal. Based on this methodology, the Iowa Department of Transportation has set the following DBE participation goals:

• 4.60% for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds
• 0.00% for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds
• 0.03% for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds

The proposed goal and the rationale upon which it is based on will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Office of Contracts for thirty days following the first date of this public official notice. The Iowa Department of Transportation and the U.S. DOT will accept comments about the goals for 45 days from the first date of this public notification. The following addresses will be provided to the public for inspecting information and mailing comments:

Address of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Contracts (for inspection and comments):

Office of Contracts, Iowa DOT
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone 515-239-1422
E-mail: dot.contracts.dot.iowa.gov
Website: www.dot.state.ia.us

Address of the U.S. DOT (for comments):
Federal Highway Administration
105 Sixth Street
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone 515-233-7300
American Cancer Society Awards College Scholarship To Local Cancer Survivor

The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce central Iowa students, Aaron Koethe of Urbandale, Daniel Patton of Altoona, Murphy Stanley of Clive and Nadia Torkzadeh of Waukee are recipients of a college scholarship for the 2009 academic year. These four students are among forty cancer survivors from Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin awarded $1,000 scholarship by the American Cancer Society.

“The scholarship is very much appreciated and will help pay my tuition,” said Koethe. “I am very grateful to the American Cancer Society for the assistance they give to all cancer patients.”

The American Cancer Society’s youth scholarship program enables young cancer survivors to demonstrate the academic and social accomplishments they have made in spite of their illness. In addition to overcoming the disease, many cancer survivors and their families must also overcome the financial burden of obtaining a college education – the youth scholarship program gives them an opportunity to pursue a degree by covering some of the costs.

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million people in America who have had cancer and counting, the American Cancer Society yields passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a result, more than 11 million dollars this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us any time, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Latham Condemns Government Takeover Of Health Care

Iowa Congressman Tom Latham denounced the Washington takeover of health care proposed by House Democrats and called instead for a responsible approach to health care reform efforts that expands access to quality health care for Americans without breaking the federal budget.

Douglas Elmendorf, director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, reported to Congress the troubling finding that the current health care proposal from House Democrats would not rein in the spiraling costs of government health programs, as promised by Democratic leadership in Congress, but rather would increase costs.

Elmendorf’s devastating analysis of the House Democrats’ health care overhaul proposal topples the assertion made by the bill’s backers that the legislation could curb massive increases in federal spending on health care.

“Quality health care ought to be available and affordable for every American, but the ideas proposed by House Democrats can lead only to a massive expansion of government control that will cost the taxpayers dearly,” Congressman Latham said. “On the other hand, I’ve proposed and have worked for legislation that puts patients and their health first without forcing small businesses and families to pay the costs of health care for the entire country. My legislation is based on the guiding principles that define our country. Health care reform will touch the lives of every single American, and will expand the availability of affordable health insurance while protecting America’s workers and families to pay the costs of health care for the entire country; helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation’s largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing more than $3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and count less more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us any time, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Congressman Latham noted his objections to a range of provisions in the Democratic proposal and has introduced his own common-sense health care legislation in the past two Congresses as a starting point to comprehensive health care reform that provides long-term solutions.

The Democratic plan would create a government-run insurance option to compete with private insurers, a proposal that health care experts predict will force millions of Americans who are currently happy with their private insurance into the public option. The plan also would impose an additional payroll tax of up to 8 percent on small businesses that don’t provide coverage for their employees.

Congressman Latham’s plan, titled the ‘Health Care Security for All Americans Act of 2009,’ honors patients’ freedom to choose their doctors and contains no provision to empower government bureaucrats to make personal medical decisions for citizens. His legislation also recognizes that small businesses form the backbone of the economy. Latham’s bill would allow small businesses to pool together across state lines to negotiate with private insurance companies for lower premiums.

“The evidence is piling up against the massive and misguided attempt at reform proposed by House Democrats,” Congressman Latham said. “This bill would force Americans to become reliant on the federal government for their health care and put Washington bureaucrats between you and your doctor to ration or even deny treatments without your say. I’ve worked for fiscally responsible legislation that will expand the availability of affordable health insurance while protecting America’s workers and small businesses from an absolute and costly government takeover of health care.”
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