



"Last night as I was reading the policy, 'Super Size Me' came on. I was ready to ban everything."

Des Moines school board member Ako Abdul-Samad, on approving a new policy that bans soda from schools.

"Everybody from Iowa's a pig farmer."

Carolina Panthers player Brentson Buckner, quoted in a Dallas Morning News game roundup, about teammate Jordan Carstens, a Carroll, Ia., native — and a pig farmer — who played at Iowa State University.

"I don't mean to say anything bad about train travel, but I am not certain I would rely too much on it."

U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Ia., during a discussion last week at Des Moines' Red Cross headquarters on transportation options for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.



Ribbin' the ribbons

It was bound to happen: There's a backlash to the yellow-ribbon magnets adorning the tailgates of patriots around the country. This one, available for \$2.95 from FunkyRibbons.com, has a little label on the back that says, "Just say no to jingoism."

Anti-war ad campaign sets sights on Iowa

Cindy Sheehan, the anti-war activist known for demonstrating outside President Bush's Texas ranch, is now part of a newspaper-and-television ad campaign that will target Iowa, among other states.

The \$1 million ad campaign, paid for by Gold Star Families for Peace, is being unveiled today by Sheehan and two other mothers whose sons were killed in Iraq. Two-page ads will run in 14 newspapers around the country, including The Des Moines Register, and television ads will air on CNN beginning today.

The print ads, with the tag line "They Lied, They Died," accuse the Bush administration of making false claims about the reasons for the war in Iraq and feature the names of soldiers who have died in Iraq.



'Miss Saigon' hits home for Quinn

Kenneth Quinn, former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia and an American Foreign Service hero in Vietnam, told a pre-show audience at C.Y. Stephens Auditorium on Saturday that the pain of his experiences had prevented him from seeing the



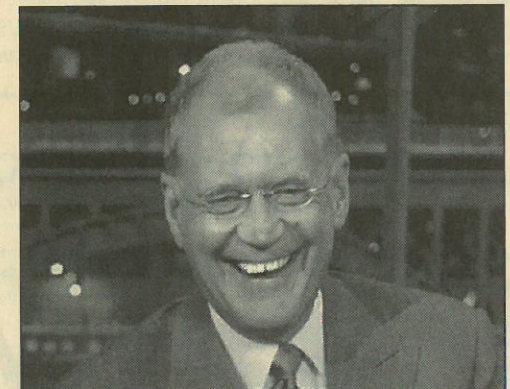
Maybe he means ethanol

During this week's Emmy Awards ceremony, David Letterman recalled how Johnny Carson was asked once by an audience member at "The Tonight Show" what had made him a star. Carson said, "I started out in a gaseous state and then I cooled." Letterman then continued, "Johnny Carson was born in the gaseous state of Iowa."

Broadway musical "Miss Saigon" since the play opened in 1991.

That night, Quinn saw the farewell tour of the production, the sixth-longest-running Broadway show. The play is a love story that portrays stress and hopelessness in the days just before Saigon fell.

Quinn, now president of the World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines, left his seat after the show, wiping tears from his eyes.



What, me worry?

While most Iowans are pinching their pennies because of high fuel prices, the Polk County Emergency Management Agency apparently has money to burn on its gasoline budget.

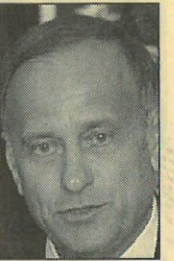
A huge Ford Expedition sport utility vehicle bearing the logo of the Polk County agency was seen parked in the lot Friday outside the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross in Des Moines.

Nobody was inside the gas-guzzling vehicle, but its engine was running and all the windows were closed. The vehicle remained running unattended as a reporter stood outside for several minutes to see whether anybody would show up to turn off the motor.

If this kind of fiscal management keeps up, maybe President Bush will send the Polk County Emergency Management Agency down to New Orleans to show those Southern folks how to spend federal money on hurricane relief.



Tancredo



King

Separated at birth?

U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican, bears a close physical resemblance to Iowa's 5th District congressman, Steve King. They also share similar views on issues like immigration.

On a weekend stop in Des Moines for a Polk County GOP picnic, Tancredo reminded a group of party activists of the similarities with King: "One of the two of us a lot of times says some outrageous things, and so I always say it's him."

Whoops . . .

The Washington Post recently ran this correction for a story on hurricane recovery:

WASHINGTON — A Washington Post article misspelled the name of the amphibious assault ship serving as a command center for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. It is the USS Iwo Jima, not the Iowa Jima.

Compiled by Political Editor Kathie Obradovich and Register staff members.

METRO RECORD

FROM REGISTER STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

SAYLOR TOWNSHIP

Hockensmith to host town hall meeting

couldn't be reached for comment.

Miller said Assistant Chief Mike Wenger, who had been on a paid leave of absence, has been rein-

to Des Moines in August 2004 to set up a "stash house" for distribution of methamphetamine.

Stash houses are where large

bus from Los Angeles to Dubuque, and that the bus was scheduled to stop in Des Moines. He was arrested without incident as he ar-

be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

Representatives of the organization will also be on the Jan

Three medals will be awarded in each of 12 age categories. Governor's Cup trophies will be awarded to the top finishing male and female in each age group.