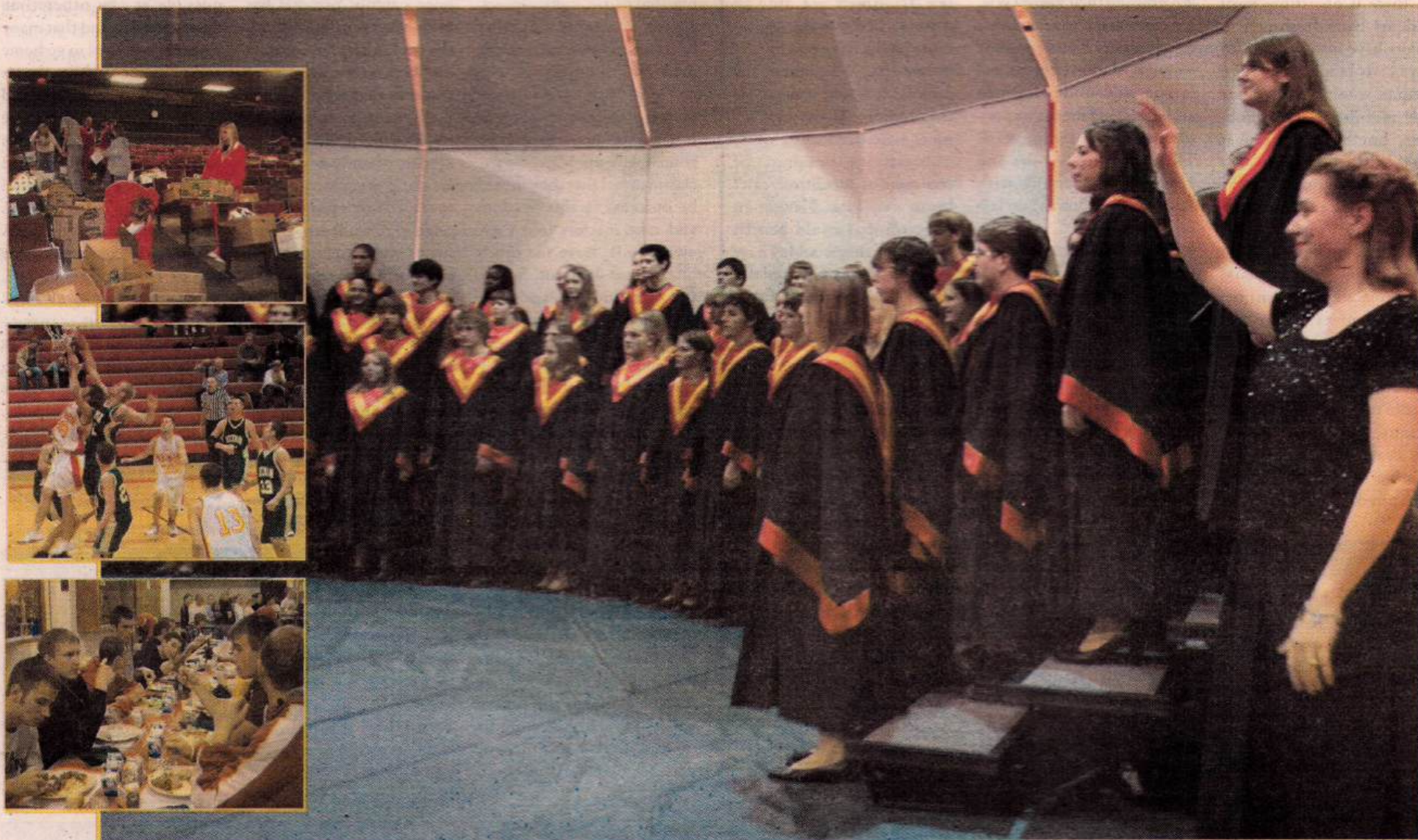


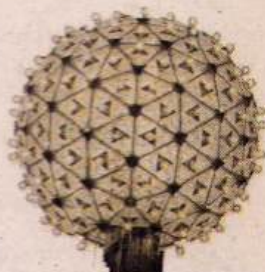
# The Vox

Volume LVIV  
Issue #3  
January 17, 2007

Marion High School



War in Iraq  
Should we stay in  
Iraq or should we  
bring our troops  
home?  
See pages 8 and 9



Must List  
Students' top ten  
resolutions for  
2007  
See page 13



Girls Basketball  
Freshmen contri-  
bution vital to the  
team's success  
See page 4



# Should we stay or should we go?

As the clock continues to tick and the lectures carry on, there is one thing most students from freshmen to seniors have in common. An empty stomach. An open campus wouldn't solve our early morning hunger problems, but by lunchtime it could help satisfy them. Unfortunately, an open campus wouldn't be reasonable for all students. Without an easy transportation to and from an off campus lunch it would be pointless for freshmen and sophomores to have that privilege.

It's ironic how students are constantly being taught to take responsibility for our actions, but when the action deals with our freedom to leave school, the action is banned. When the ad-

ministrators were asked why students weren't allowed to leave during their lunch cycle, it seemed as if it were mainly a responsibility issue. For some reason at Marion High School juniors and underclassmen are considered more irresponsible than the senior class. There are already rules and punishments dealing with skipping and showing up late for class.

Everyday we are at school for 6.5 hours; that's 1170 hours a year—1170 hours of being trapped inside the school building. It would be nice to be able to get a break from the usual routine. Going home for a 25-minute nap, or traveling around the block to grab a bowl of soup from Mr. Beans doesn't seem like it would cause too many problems. The school is somehow convinced otherwise.

However, responsibility isn't the only factor that restricts students from leaving for lunch. A more reason-

able issue would be that not all students can drive. Very few freshmen are able to drive and even at the sophomore level a large portion are license-less. What about the juniors? It would make sense that seniors, along with juniors, have freedom to leave.

Satisfying hundreds of teenagers at lunchtime can't be an easy task. Having an open campus could benefit the school, they wouldn't have to feed as many kids and the lunch lines wouldn't be as lengthy. It would also help teach students to be responsible for their actions, and a break in the day would be a simple way to get us to focus more on our afternoon classes. However, because everyone doesn't have a way to transport to an off campus eating area, open campus should be offered to juniors and seniors at MHS. As a student body we need to take an action to get what we want. By taking our wants to the student senate, they could then address the administrators, in the end our actions could lead to more freedom in our school.

To many, open campus is a very appealing opportunity, one that carries endless possibilities. Possessing the ability to go out to eat, return home, or do anything else for the mythical twenty-five minutes of their respective lunch cycle, is seen as an opportunity too good to give up. Many underclassmen feel that they should be included in this freedom and take matters into their own hands, leave for lunch in a blatant disregard for the rule as it stands. This privilege (yes, it is a privilege, not a right) should not necessarily be excluded from the daily agenda of MHS students, but perhaps altered to make both sides, the administration and the student body, content.

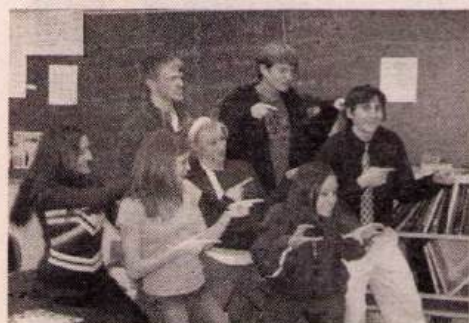
There are several problems that open campus as it exists now, instigates. A question that stands out is if there is a liability the school carries for students who choose to leave for lunch? If something would happen to the student during this time frame, or if the student would inflict some sort of damage, the school would be held accountable for the individual's offense. This is an issue that needs to

be addressed.

Another dilemma that open campus presents has to do with our lunch food; the cooks don't have precise numbers on the amount of students that will be in attendance in each lunch cycle. The discrepancy on the amount of students who will eat one day can vary greatly to the next. It is possible that one day all of the senior class may leave for open campus, and on another, all may choose to stay. Imagine the uncertainty of numbers that cooks have to work with. If there was an amendment made to our current open campus system, there would be more certainty for our cooks. This would also benefit students desiring two of a particular food item or those in the back of the C lunch line on Fridays when the soup supply runs dry.

It is understandable that many students

use this time period to do something that may not be possible at any other time during the day, and that many students just want to go home and relax for a while, that is why it shouldn't be abolished altogether. Possibly all those who wish to participate in this need to sign a liability waiver. Maybe open campus should only include those seniors who achieve a certain GPA or those who consistently stay out of trouble. Perchance, a system can be established that if a student wants to leave for lunch they have to notify someone a few days in advance that, in turn, can give these numbers to the cooks. Utilizing any or all of these suggestions could render the previously mentioned issues practically obsolete.



Marion High School  
675 S. 15th Street  
Marion, Iowa 52302

## THE VOX 2006-2007 STAFF

Editor:  
Chelsey Banes

Photo Editor:  
Matt Barnd

Ads Editor:  
Nicole Pratt

Sports Editor:  
Jordan Garretson

Opinion Editor:  
Kyle Hacker

Feature Editor:  
Sam Rinehart

Advisor: Sarah Bentley

Reporters: Sam Kiburz, Jenna Koppedryer, Pat Tiernan

The Vox is a student run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It is published six times a year by the journalism class at MHS. The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of 200 words per article, and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters into the office or to any staff member.



# Polar opposites experienced at MHS

By: Sam Kiburz

Walking from class to class at MHS shouldn't be a time to put on your coat and gloves, and hat, from a bystander point of view it looks like you're about to go out into a torturous blizzard, but here at Marion High School, a blizzard and walking into class coincide. Then in other rooms it feels like you're about to enter into a sauna. Feeling like your on a beach in Florida shouldn't be within the same time frame of two hours with feeling like your going to go into a blizzard. It

"...it would be nice if we could come to school with an expectation of what the temperature is going to be..."

needs to be more consistent.

It might be better if our school had a more consistent distribution of heat, it would be nice if we could come to school with an expectation of what the temperature is going to be or feel like for the day or even what it would be like for the period.

Some rooms are in desperate need of heat. Marion isn't the most privileged of schools in the metro area, but no school, including ours, should have to deal with going from room to room having to deal with the extreme cold. It's ridiculous! Others rooms are very cold.

It's annoying having to come from one room that is so hot you think that your going to pass out and then you go to a room where your going to have to put on your sweat shirt that you had to take off in the last class. The teachers also have to endure this struggle. And they're the ones who have to stand and talk the whole time.

The main reason why this is so annoying is because it disturbs the student learning. Many students are constantly thinking about how hot or cold their next class is going to be. If our school would be a perfect 68 degrees, students would be happier.

Our school would just be a more positive place to learn and grow.



## More than just presentations

By: Nicole Pratt

Take Charge, an organization designed to steer younger children away from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol in Marion. The students are split up into groups of four, usually two upperclassmen (who are able to drive to the location of presentation) and two underclassmen. They then go to Starry, Emerson, or Vernon, to teach about the consequences of using these substances. Also, they make the kids realize how much money you would waste on buying these things, when, instead, you could be buying more useful things with all that wasted that money. Elementary and middle school ages



Michelle Wilson, Take Charge supervisor, is having a meeting with her Take Charge representatives, the meetings are held so that she can share feedback and discuss new activities the Take Charge group will be apart of.

are a very influential time in a child's life. This is a point in

time when the influence of peers, whether positive or negative, is critical in their lives. Being educated about narcotics and the terrible effects can be a great help at this age, when beginning to choose friends and make major decisions. Once a month, there is a pizza meeting for all Take Charge members. At the meetings they discuss and plan upcoming events and topics.

Loyalty is a big conflict in the Take Charge program; saying one thing and doing another. Members are expected to be tobacco, drug and alcohol free, although once in a while this seems to get violated. "I really enjoy being in take charge because we get to go to other schools and talk to little kids," says Take Charge member Justin Scott. Take Charge seems to be a great and effective program at Marion. It is a fun experience for the members and the younger kids.

"I really enjoy being in take charge because we get to go to other schools and talk to little kids,"  
-Justin Scott, '09



# Phenomenal freshmen

By: Chelsey Banes

This year's varsity roster isn't the typical senior after senior line-up. With one senior and one junior taking the floor for tip off, the team has a new variety of players including freshmen.

"[Playing with upper-classmen] has been pretty good for the most part. We have had our problems but we've gotten over them," stated freshmen, Brittany Fish. This year the girl's varsity head coach, Coach Gaffney-Paige, made a decision that isn't commonly seen in the hallways of MHS; she pulled up three freshmen. Brittany, along with Morgan Paige and Lesley Hennessy are all starters for the varsity basketball team.

With the loss of four varsity players towards the beginning of the season, the freshmen have really had to step it up. "It's a lot of hard work because you can't be bossy or the upperclassmen won't like you, but at the



Brittany Fish, '10, guards the ball, while Morgan Paige, '10, and Lesley Hennessy, '10 play tough defense on Dewitt players.

same time you have to take charge and push the other players," said Brittany.

For the three freshmen, basketball has always been a big part of their lives. The girls previously played together for two years on the Cedar Rapids Panthers, one of the more competitive AAU basketball teams in the state. "The panthers were a lot of

fun and you played a lot of good competition and traveled around a lot," remarked Brittany.

So the question still remains: will the freshmen be able to help lead the varsity team to a successful season? "We have pretty high goals set for our team, like winning a conference championship and getting far into the

post season games," Brittany commented. Currently, the team holds a record of 7-3 and still has 9 games left in the season, but for Brittany, there is more than just having a winning record. Some of her personal goals are to "have fun and become a team.

## Girl's bowling strikes it big

By: Jenna Koppedryer

Everyone likes to win, whether they like to admit or not. But what's the point of winning if there is no prize in the end? For girl's bowling, this was the case. They all had the desire to win, but the prize they were working so hard for wasn't there. Over the last year that has all changed, and the prize is now here.

In past years, Marion High School has considered bowling a sport. But in reality it wasn't according to the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU). Sure, the bowling team had meets and invitational, but it didn't really mean anything. For bowling there were no districts or state; all the meets were of equal importance. Many of the bowlers went

out just because it sounded fun and it was something to do. All of the bowling team's successes never led up to anything in the end, making it hard to have the desire to win.

Now the desire for the bowlers is stronger than it has ever been before and many bowlers go out not only for the fun but also for the competitiveness. "We want to go to state, not just as individuals, but as a team," said Alex Taylor, '09. The girl's bowling team has a goal and plans to meet that goal of going to state and maybe even winning.

The prize of actually being considered a sport the bowling team has worked so hard for is a big step and change for them, one that has been made for the best.

## Show stoppin'

By: Chelsey Banes

"Show choir is a choir that dances, not a dancing group that sings. It's important that they sound good and they do," expressed Mrs. Freese.

Although this isn't the first year MHS has had a show choir, it is a new start. Show choir was dropped after the 2002-2003 school year. Mrs. Freese commented, "It was difficult to find a time when all students could make a commitment."

With many active students already involved in extra activities, it's a hard time commitment to make when most of the practices would be out of school. So why is she bringing show choir back? More time hasn't been created, but now there is something more, loads of talent. "Last year after doing *Joseph and the Techno Colored Dream Coat*, I was impressed with the performance our students were doing onstage and thought it would be nice if the students could go past the musical with their talent.

The middle school has a pretty strong show choir now too," elaborated Mrs. Freese. With the middle school providing a good feeder for the high school show choir. Mrs. Freese can only expect good things.

This year's show choir is off to a good start. "The kids are enthusiastic," said Mrs. Freese, "it's fun to have it back again, although we're kind of under a crunch because we got started late."

The show choir isn't competing this year but does plan on performing at follies along with a performance with the Jazz Band on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Aid to Women*

- Free Pregnancy Tests
- Walk-ins Welcome
- Confidential and Caring

Real Answers. Real Support. Real Respect.

701 Center Point Rd. NE • CALL 364-8967





# Get up & play

By: Patrick Tiernan

For years, video games were restricted to a generic controller with buttons while participants sat down in their lazy boys. Well, that's not the case anymore. Programmers have been stretching the limits of gaming and coming out with some groundbreaking ideas.

One of these revolutionary interactive games is Dance Dance Revolution. The game, better known as D.D.R., has been around for a couple years and is still riding strong. One of the many Marion High School students who enjoys the calorie burning excitement of D.D.R. is senior Nathan Nissen who remarked, "Real men play D.D.R."

D.D.R. consists of a touch pad with four arrows; the participant must hit the corresponding arrows as they fall down the screen. The most difficult songs are basically non-stop shuffling. It can

get intense. Nathan enjoys playing D.D.R. while at the same time getting a pretty powerful aerobic workout. Nathan commented, "It is basically the same thing as a speed and agility workout." Nathan uses D.D.R. during track season to quicken foot speed, and it seemed to help with his district championship in the 1600M run last track season.

Nathan also enjoys playing D.D.R. to pass time and to stay in shape, "I like the fact that it's a video game, and you can get a workout from it," said Nathan. While being one of the most popular games for the Playstation 2, D.D.R. is a rare example of a video game that is entertaining and has health benefits. According to Newsroom.eworldwire.com, a person weighing 150 pounds can burn an average of 16 calories per song. That's a whopping 640 calories per hour compared to 501 calories per hour jogging. So for all those who want to lose weight

but aren't into jogging, try playing a video game.

Another unique video game is Playstation 2's Guitar Hero. Guitar Hero, like Dance Dance Revolution, features hitting buttons as corresponding objects fall down the screen. Unlike D.D.R.'s touch pad though, Guitar Hero uses a model guitar (resembled to look like a Gibson SG) with colored buttons. The more difficult the song the more buttons used, and the faster the buttons must be pushed. "The orange button is a bit tricky," admits Guitar Hero enthusiast Jesse Hubble.

Jesse along with classmate Joe Begley, '09, started playing Guitar Hero in November and have been hooked since, "It's very fun and exciting," said Joe. Jesse further added, "It's nice to know if you can't play a real guitar you can play a fake one." Both enjoy the new and classic songs featured in the game especially their favorite, "The Trogdor Song is definitely the best part of Guitar Hero, it's very intense!" persisted Joe.

Joe and Jesse admit they get competitive while playing against each other, but their favorite thing to do is take their skills to the public. "It's fun to go to Wal-Mart and compete against strangers," stated Jesse. "Yeah, I dominate them," Joe added.

Whether it's getting a workout or showing off their skills to the public, Jesse, Joe, and Nathan will continue to master their skills of these interactive video games.



"Real men play D.D.R.," says Nathan Nissen, '07, who enjoys playing D.D.R. to pass time and stay in shape. Nathan added, "I like the fact that it's a video game, and you can get a workout from it." Nathan added.

# Extreme hobby

By: Jordan Garretson

While not a traditional sport, the level of popularity of skiing has certainly risen recently, especially among teenagers such as junior Riley Quinn. Riley is a four-sport athlete and certainly enjoys the traditional sports such as basketball and baseball, but has become an avid skier over the last decade or so.

Riley has been skiing ever since he was five years old when he visited his grand-uncle's house in Keystone, Colorado. "He owns a condo up in the mountains, so we

go there over spring break and stay with them," added Riley.

This has become a tradition for the Quinns, and it has helped Riley develop his skiing skills more thoroughly year by year. Slowly but surely, Riley has improved upon his original skills, "I'd say I'm above-average," remarked Riley as far as how good he is. "I do the double black diamonds when I'm skiing in Colorado."

For those of you who don't know what a double black diamond is, it is one of the

symbols in the color-shape system that is used in North America to indicate the difficulty of the ski trail.

Using regular skis until around the age of 12, Riley then started to use snow blades, which are shorter skis. Snow blades, originally popular in New Zealand and Europe, are beginning to grow in popularity in North America. Their shortness also makes them lower in mass, allowing the user to perform spins and flips more easily. "They are easier to do tricks with," said Riley.

As the popularity of skiing increases, more students appear to become interested in the sport, and it seems that more and more are trying it every winter season. For those of you who are considering it, but haven't tried it yet, Riley offers the following words, "They should definitely try it because it is a life-long activity you can do for recreation. It's a great way to bond with your family, as well."

So whether you're looking to pick up a new hobby, want a way to have fun with your family, or just want to try out something new, you should look into skiing because as Riley says, "There's nothing like going as fast as you can through fresh powder."

**An orange rectangle is used to indicate varying levels of difficulty on the course. These trails usually consist of a variety of half-pipes and other jumps that cater to more "extreme" skiers.**



**A green circle is used to indicate an easier course. These trails are intended for people who have little skiing experience.**



**A blue square is used to indicate a course with an intermediate level of difficulty. These trails are usually the most trafficked.**



**A single black diamond is used to indicate a course with a high level of difficulty. They are among the most difficult trails at a given mountain.**



**A double black diamond is used to indicate a course with an extremely high level of difficulty. This rating has only been around since the 1980's. Symbols & descriptions are according to Wikipedia.**



Trail symbol pictures were found at [skiing.about.com](http://skiing.about.com). Trail symbol descriptions were found on [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).



# Snakes on a Plane

By: Kyle Hacker

It's a movie with only two plot points: Snakes and planes. But that's not saying that it doesn't have its share of problems.

The plot is not any more imaginative than the title suggests. Some guy, whose name I still don't remember after watching it three times THAT'S how important he was, sees a mob boss named Eddie Kim kill a district attorney in Hawaii. He goes under the protection of Neville Flynn (Samuel L. Jackson), a hardcore F.B.I. agent. He takes the witness on a red eye flight to L.A. so that he can testify against the Kim. But Kim hires hitmen to take out the witness, and they put snakes on the plane. When the plane reaches a certain height, the snakes are released and the movie really takes off (HA, airplane pun).

The characters aren't any more memorable than the plot. Most of their names get lost in the action, and even the snakes have more personality than some of the actors. When Kenan Thompson is one of the best actors in a movie, you know there's a problem.

Really, this movie completely hangs on the performance of Samuel L. Jackson. He has all of the best lines, and you can really tell that he put a lot of effort behind his performance. Really, there are only two other good performances in this movie: David Koechner, best known for the part of



<http://www.weloveyoureally.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/05/Snakes%20on%20a%20Plane.jpg>

Champ Kind in *Anchorman*, and the snakes.

The action is pretty fun to watch even if it is a little cliché in parts. There is a lot of death and mayhem in the film, especially when the action first starts. The snakes aren't the only ones scoring kills, and when the passengers fight back you'll see much snake death. My personal favorite is the microwave kill. But nothing compares to the thrills you will receive when you first see Samuel L. Jackson tazer a snake. That is, without a doubt, the best surprise I got while watching this film.

The snakes are extremely varied with over thirty different species being present ranging from rattlesnakes to a 19-foot boa constrictor. Expect to see spitting cobras and sidewinders as well. Unfortunately most of these snakes make only one or two second cameos before killing someone or dying them-

selves.

This movie is really effect heavy. The snakes that aren't real are CGI, but don't expect *King Kong* type graphics. The graphics follow the title and the story right out of a B movie, but it's really not that bad of a problem if you don't look too closely. But the best effect by far is one that many have come to call Snake Vision. This effect is basically a fractured lens with a green tint, but it still chills me to my very core. Much like red in a M. Night Shyamalan, whenever you see this, you know somebody is going to die.

Really, if you can make it past the acting, this movie isn't that bad, and it's fantastic if you can tap into its sense of humor. The biggest flaw of this movie is that you probably won't be able to enjoy it without any friends. It's definitely worth a rental at first, and a buy only if it really clicks with you.

# Children of Men-Movie

By: Kyle Hacker

Children are our future. This is something we've heard since we ourselves were children. But what if we were robbed of our ability to make more children?

This is the questions posed in this movie. The year is 2027 and most of the world has fallen into chaos. No one has been able to conceive for the last eighteen years. Only England has been able to survive as the rest of the world fell to ruins. In this landscape we are introduced to a former political activist, played by Clive Owen, has been contacted by his estranged ex-wife. She asks him to help her transport an illegal immigrant, and through a series of misadventures he becomes involved with freedom fighters, the military, and the last hope for his world.

The plot is pretty deep; It keeps itself pretty consistent and doesn't leave you with any annoying plot holes. The ending will be unsatisfactory to a few people, but all in all it was a very well written movie.

This movie is much faster paced than I expected to be. It jumps from scene to scene in a manner that leaves you on the edge of your seat. It keeps you tense and relaxed with the characters, which allows you to identify with them easily.

This movie throws out an interesting idea to the end of our race, and does a fantastic job of making it seem plausible. But you don't have to watch this movie any more than skin deep to have a good time.



What would happen in a world devoid of children? Watch this movie to find out.

[http://blog.danzab.com/wp-content/char\\_baby.jpg](http://blog.danzab.com/wp-content/char_baby.jpg)

## FREE



- Birth Control Supplies
- Gynecological Exams
- Pregnancy Testing

*Call for details! Most will qualify!*

**Planned Parenthood**

3425 First Avenue SE Cedar Rapids

363-8572 | [ppfa.org/ppeci](http://ppfa.org/ppeci)



# Global Warming: a global threat?

By: Jordan Garretson

The seemingly never-ending talk that global warming and its effects are inevitable seems to pop up often, whether it's in science class, on the news, or in

a random conversation. And knowing the average teenager, you're probably tired of hearing about it constantly. At this point, you know that it's bad, and it's caused by bad things, but do you really know what is actually behind global warming?

First, let's get the facts straight. What exactly is global warming? Global Warming is defined as the phenomenon that consists of the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans in the past 50 years or so. According to Wikipedia,

"...the most significant cause of global warming has been increased emission of greenhouse gases..."

org, the majority of that increase in temperature over that time is a consequence of human activity.

This phenomenon, however, cannot be attributed to just one basic cause. At the same time, it is not projected to have just one simple effect in the future, either. Also according to Wikipedia, the

most significant cause of global warming has been increased emission of greenhouse gases, such as Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The destruction of the Earth's natural forests have led to this because there are less trees and other plants to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus, the earth's surface becomes warmer, and the ice near the Earth's North and South poles begin to melt more and more.

Obviously one of the effects of global warming, is, in fact, higher temperatures around the Earth. Also, with increased melting in the poles, this creates more water, which in turn, creates higher sea levels. In coastal

areas this would lead to large amounts of serious flooding, and according to Wikipedia, this effect has already started to be noticed.

One of the effects that seems to be the most little-known about global warming is the international spread of disease. The main reason is that with increased amounts of warm temperatures, the amount of mosquitoes also increases, as they tend to thrive in warmer environments. In more comfortable environments the rate of mosquito reproduction increases, and the length of time of the maturation period for the diseases also decreases. This allows the diseases

to be spread even faster. This poses a very scary threat, as the spread of deadly diseases such as Malaria could become more rampant, especially in third world countries.

While not fully avoidable, the effects of global warming can be lessened when the proper actions are taken. First off, you should try to avoid wasting electricity. This can be done by doing things such as turning lights off when not in use, unplugging appliances or electronics that are not being used, and doing such simple things as turning the TV off before you leave. According to studies published on Wikipedia, out of all the fossil fuels, coal

combustion creates the largest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> per energy unit, and along with oil, coal composes 80% of the United States' fuel supply used to produce electricity. So, along with individual contributions, further research and development of energy alternatives are an important factor that will determine whether the Earth is able to overcome global warming or not.

So, while global warming may not affect you directly in your lifetime, you must consider the future, and the fact that it could affect your child well beyond your lifetime.

Pictures from <http://www.google>.





# PRO-WAR

By: Patrick Tiernan

It's human nature to concentrate on the bad things in life, and the media in the U.S. does take full advantage of this with the War in Iraq. Everyday you see suicide bombings on television and hear experts talk about why we shouldn't be in Iraq. There are those, however, who see the positive in the war, and Marion High School's Kyle Thompson, '08 is one of these people.

Kyle is for the war in Iraq and realizes that American troops are greatly helping the citizens. "Without our

support the terrorists would take over the country. Many more people would die, and it would not be a good situation," explained Kyle.

Kyle believes that for the betterment of Iraq and its people, our troops are necessary to stabilize the country. He elaborated, "Without support the elected government would fall. Terrorists would take over the country and things would be worse off from before we came."

Despite many saying we should get out, Kyle thinks [starbulletin.com/2005/07/24/editorial/special.html](http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/24/editorial/special.html)

we need to reside there a little longer, "I think we should stay in Iraq until the country can defend and support itself. If we leave too soon Iraq will just cause more problems to us down the road."

Much of the conflict with the war is the large number of soldiers killed everyday. Kyle sees these terrible tragedies as a negative part of a positive process. "It's very unfortunate that our soldiers have to die, but hopefully in the end something good will come out of what we're doing there."



"We might as well finish what we started. If we pull out now we will lose everything we have worked for,"

-Taylor Buckley, '10

"The land between the Tigris and the Euphrates is sacred and America should have it, so we can build a mall there,"

-Ryan Immerfall, '08



"I think if we leave Iraq now it would be ch

-Lisa Burns, '07



An American soldier stands around Iraqi children. American troops help Iraqi citizens everyday and many believe this is a big reason why we should stay.



George W. Bush waves to the crowd at a speech at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Bush has been our country's president since 2000 and his term will end in 2008.



# War

9



"I think we should leave because we've done our job,"

-Alex Ditzenberger, '09

"I think we should leave because we're killing innocent people,"

-Alyssa Biery, '10



"I think we should come home because they are Americans and they belong in America,"

-Joshua Hogue, '09

[www.globalspecialoperations.cocom/goodiraqnews.html](http://www.globalspecialoperations.cocom/goodiraqnews.html)

## ANTI-WAR

By: Patrick Tiernan

For Marion junior Andrea Oldfield, the argument of the War in Iraq is not if we should stay or go, but why did we ever go in the first place? "I feel the War in Iraq is unnecessary. It's caused more problems that it's worth. Iraq isn't ready for democracy and we shouldn't push it upon them," commented Andrea.

Andrea is a firm believer that America would have been better off without the war, and troops should have never been lost. "It's an unfair and unfortunate

mess," remarked Andrea. "Innocent lives, both ours and Iraqis, are being killed in the hundreds. It's a massacre." When it came to the question of who was to blame, Andrea had a very quick and confident response, She replied, "Bush is to blame. Well, actually it wasn't all Bush, you have to give Cheney some of the credit. Bush made up weapons of mass destruction. He used misinformation to convince our congress and people there was a need to attack

Iraq when there actually wasn't. Bush lied to the American people."

Even though Andrea is against Bush and going to Iraq, she does feel we need to stay there a little longer, "We need to stabilize their democracy and build up their military so they are able to defend themselves. Only when these things are accomplished can we begin to pull our troops out. It's an unfair and unfortunate situation and now we have to face the consequences of our decisions."

[www.nomorebush.com](http://www.nomorebush.com)



Bush made the decision for our troops to go to Iraq and it's stirred up much debate. Fall of 2008.



Soldiers stand by caskets of lost troops from the War in Iraq. Thousands have been lost in the war and many think because of this we should return home.



# Senior Interviews



**Name:** Kara Griggs  
**Main Activity:** Wrestling Cheerleading  
**Other Activities:** NHS and SODA  
**Season Highlights:** Showing up for Mid-Prairie at the beginning of the 2nd round.  
**Best High School Memory:** Cheering at State last year and eating breakfast with Fontenot and Mr. Immerfall everyday at State Wrestling.  
**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** My friends and football season.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Good Morning Star Shine, the Earth says hello"- Johnny Pepp (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)  
**Future Plans:** Attend Simpson or Luther



**Name:** Janessa Senter-LeMain **Activity:** Choir  
**Other Activities:** FCA leadership team, track, show choir, and youth group  
**Season Highlights:** ...still waiting...  
**Best High School Memory:** Being able to be there for my friends when they needed me has by far been the best part of high school.  
**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** All of the wonderful friendship that I made...and super-outgoing people like Kelsey Labs.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Stay true to yourself and don't ever change who you are or what you believe in just to fit in. Just be yourself, and everything will fall into place.  
**Future Plans:** Go to Iowa State to major in Psychology and then go to grad school



**Name:** Micaela Kelley  
**Main Activity:** Varsity Girls Basketball  
**Other Activities:** Volleyball, Soccer, and SODA  
**Season Highlights:** Making it to the semi-finals at state  
**Best High School Memory:** Nate, Tara, Josh, Curtis, and I being inseparable and going to random cemeteries, away football games with Nate, Tara, and Owen, playing

guitar hero practically everyday at Nate's house, Pella camp with my volleyball girls, and of course going to state two years in a row for volleyball.

**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** Seeing everyone everyday, Doctor Thomas, Coach Paulsen, and Coach Bentley

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Always be yourself! Don't ever try to change yourself into someone your not for another person.

**Future Plans:** Go to Capri



**Name:** Phillip Roth  
**Main Activity:** Varsity Boys Basketball  
**Season Highlights:** Scoring 7 points on T.V. against Benton.  
**Best High School Memory:** Hanging out with my friends  
**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** My friends and the cool teachers  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "I don't know!!"  
**Future Plans:** Go to Mount Mercy and major in Graphic Design.



**Name:** Bryan Mock  
**Other Activities:** Cross Country, Tennis, Champs, Work, Lean on me untill it went away, Soda, Art Club, more.  
**Best High School Memory:** Having a week of early outs because it was really hot. And, of course, committing a felony at Kyle's house.  
**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** Friends, Mrs Braun's random topics of dis-

traction, the great times

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Koosh? To the freshmen, don't do other homework in someone else's class. Come on.

**Future Plans:** Go to Iowa State for something with excitement.

Think you might  
be pregnant?

**B**irthright<sup>®</sup>  
can help.

Free and Confidential

Call 393-3251

800-550-4900

www.birthright.org





**Name:** Tara Carsner

**Main Activity:** Varsity Girls Basketball

**Other Activities:** Softball, Track, FBLA-president, SODA, Youth leadership of 5 seasons, volunteering

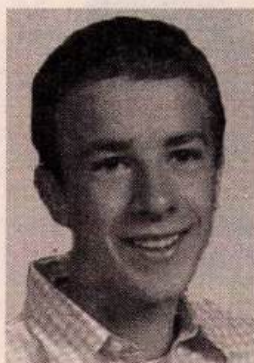
**Season Highlights:** Stealing the ball from the Jaime Printy and watching B. Fish destroy my record.

**Best High School Memory:** Softball team campouts, hanging out with all my friends, road trips to Manchester with Alyssa, and Madame's French class!

**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** My friends, easy classes, a couple of teachers, my coaches, and of course Mrs. Jackson!

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Don't bring drama into your life-its just a waste of time."

**Future Plans:** To attend Coe College and major in Business Administration, minor in Public Relations. Also play Kowhawk Women's basketball.



**Name:** Cory Mohling

**Main Activity:** Wrestling

**Other Activities:** Soccer

**Season Highlights:** Last year in the CPU game, I scored two goals and assisted two more.

**Best High School Memory:** Teachers dancing to the YMCA during the homecoming parade.

**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** I will miss the sports that I was in and the people.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Try and learn something new everyday."

**Future Plans:** Go to ISU to major in computer engineering.



**Name:** Chris Gusatas

**Main Activity:** Wrestling

**Other Activities:** Tennis, Baseball, and Football

**Season Highlights:** When I dislocated my shoulder, had it popped back in, then finished the match by pinning the guy.

**Best High School Memory:** Being a ninja on Halloween with my ninja friends and running around Marion doing ninja-like activities. The best activity being sabotaging the volleyball practice, and hearing frightened volleyball players screaming, "AAHH!! NINJAS!"

**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** The People

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Sup man?", "Come On!?", "Nice pants!!", "Is it pants day?"

**Future Plans:** Go to college and be a success in the field of my choosing and meet Santa Claus.



**Name:** Jordan Kruger

**Main Activity:** Wrestling

**Other Activities:** Football and Soccer

**Season Highlights:** When I won my 1st Varsity match wrestling heavy weight, when I only weighed 195lbs.

**Best High School Memory:** When I walked into Chris Gustas's house, and seeing Hacker choking the Jackhammer, AFTER seeing Creepy Guy

**What You Will Miss Most About Marion:** My friends and the teachers, but most of all, SEMS (Mr. Semler).

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Sup Man?" "Don't drink and drive!" "Hugs, not drugs!"

**Future Plans:** To go to Mt. Mercy and play soccer or just go to UNI for business.





## Josh Ster

## Ster It Up

## Ian Ster

By: Kyle Hacker

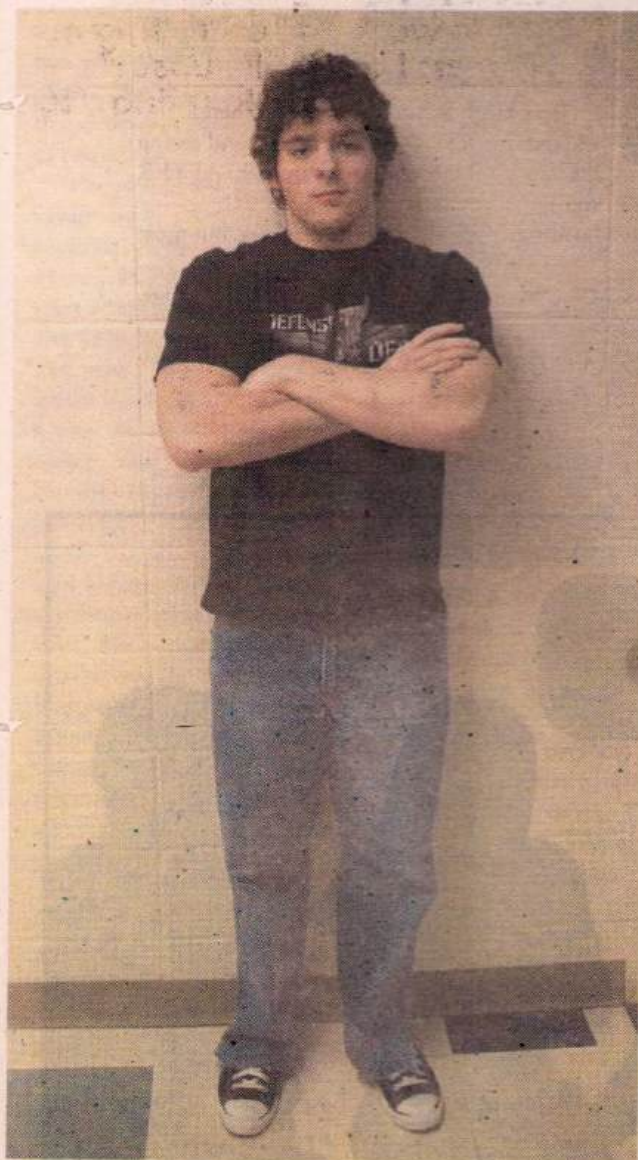
There are people out there that think that if you've seen one twin, you've seen them both. Well, as anyone who knows any twin can tell you, this isn't true. There is no better example of the falsity of this statement than Josh and Ian Ster, '08.

It doesn't take much to tell the biggest difference between the Sters. A casual glance tells you the most obvious discrepancy: Josh is large, while Ian . . . not so much. Not only is Josh taller than Ian, but he is also more jacked. Admittedly better at lifting than his brother, Josh is also the more athletic of the two. This doesn't much faze Ian, though, who is, as both brothers recognize, the better at all things involving band and most especially with the flute, Ian's instrument of choice. This isn't to say that Josh is any slouch when it comes to music. Even the humble lad can acknowledge his own musical capability. "I'm better at singing," admits Josh.

But these two aren't all apples and oranges to each other; they have quite a few things in common. "We share the same last name and live in the same house," comments Josh. "We like the same video games, too." Ian adds, "We have the same family, and we are both into music." They not only have music and games in common, but they also can both be seen on the football field . . . but not at the same time. You'll see Josh out contributing to one of the numerous Marion football victories, while Ian is out playing in the marching band.

Even with all of their differences, they still remain close . . . ish. "At times yes, and at times no," explains Ian. Josh further elaborates, "We're mostly close when we pick on our younger brother." Whatever the reasons may be, these two don't seem to suffer the same brotherly strife that has kept some other siblings from being close.

While they may not be the most similar of twins, this two still have a few things in common. To many, they seem to be on opposite ends of the spectrum, sharing only a name and birth date with one another, but whether it be through videogames or music, they can find a common ground to come together on.



## Twin Facts

- 1) Younger
- 2) Bigger
- 3) Footballier



## Twin Facts

- 1) Older (By 30 Seconds)
- 2) Smaller
- 3) Bandier

## Twin Facts (Similarities)

- 1) Music
- 2) Video Games
- 3) Little Brother Torturing



**10. Get good grades**  
 "I need to work on getting better grades so I can get farther in life."  
 -Brett Schissel, '09

**9. No put-downs**  
 Bullying

**8. Get stronger**

**7. Not swearing**  
 "I don't think swearing is the best thing to do when I'm angry."  
 -Kayla McGrew, '09

# Must List Top Ten New Year's Resolutions

By: Sam Rinehart

**2. Save money**  
 Instead of spending all their money and going on shopping sprees, students are saving up this year.

**1. Exercise more**  
 To loose weight, get more energy, and feel accomplished, students are exercising more in 2007.

All images obtained from: [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com)

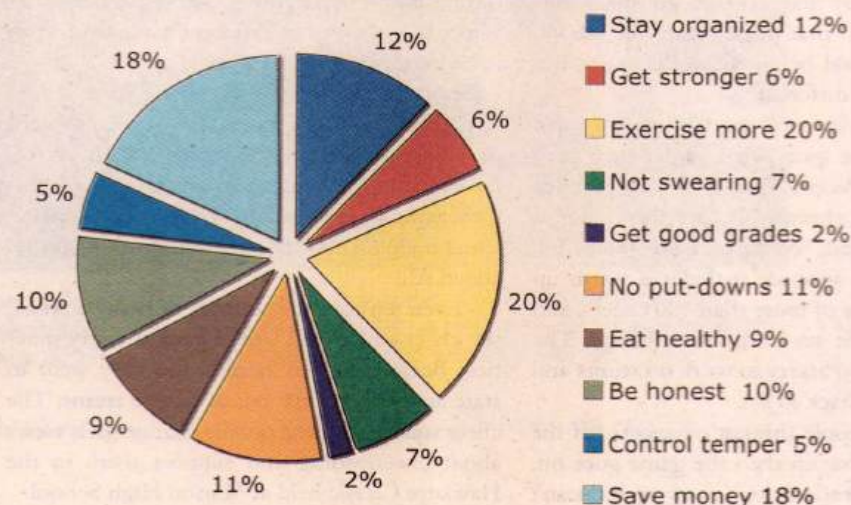
**6. Control temper**  
 "I need to work on controlling my temper; I get really upset"  
 Jade Remling, '10

**5. Eat healthy**

**4. Be honest**

**3. Stay organized**  
 "I need to be more organized because I'm a very messy person!"  
 -Brienne Wade, '08

## Where does your resolution stand?



**Better Crust. Your Choice.**

**ORIGINAL**  
Our Original crust bakes into a light and fluffy bread-like crust.

**THIN**  
Our Thin Crust bakes into a cracker-like crust.

**Perfect Pan**  
Think Golden Crust. Crispy on the Outside. Chewy on the Inside.

DELIVERY AND CARRYOUT

**PAPA JOHN'S**  
Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Marion  
2840 7th Avenue  
373-7722



## Big on band

By: Sam Rinehart

Have you ever had an interest in something and you always knew you were going to be involved with it for the rest of your life? Well, that's how our band instructor, Mr. Allard, felt about music. "Activities that I participated in at school got me interested in music the most," Allard

explained.

Allard has always lived in Eastern Iowa. He grew up in Lisbon and here in Marion. He graduated from Linn-Mar High School and went on to pursue his music career with a Bachelor's degree in music from Simpson College since music is his biggest adoration. "I became a music instructor because I want kids

to be able to have the same opportunities I had when I was a kid and maybe build a strong passion for music," said Allard.

Before he came to Marion, he spent a combined seven years at AGWSR and Iowa Valley. "I wanted

to come back to my home town and Marion has nicer facilities." He also appreciates Marion's size because there are more opportunities and a bigger pool of talent.

The talent at Marion has done its job by receiving a Division I rating for state marching band this past fall. "I was really proud of what they accomplished because there were many obstacles we had to overcome," added Allard. One of the main obstacles they conquered was that they had to get used to each other. "It took time, but I made my expectations clear, set goals, stayed patient, and then everything clicked," said Allard. Allard is sure that the marching band will have many other accomplishments to go along with the Division I rating they already have under their belt.



Mr. Allard explains the order of music to be played at the Winter Concert.

## JapanaMania

By: Kyle Hacker

Some may call it an epidemic. It came from the far east (the "closer west" to us), and just about everyone exposed to it in turn infect the people around them. No, I'm not talking about the bird flu; I'm talking about the impact of Japanese culture on America.

Their manga, video games, music, and movies have found their way into the homes of Americans. Whitely Corrin, '07, is one of these people. Since becoming interested after seeing an episode of Yu Yu Hakisho while in 6th grade, she has become immersed in the culture. "I like their technology and creativity," she said.

Other than the technology, Whitely has an appreciation for the Japanese culture as a whole, "I'm into the Indie Rock, manga, and the anime." But still, out of all that the Japanese culture has given, Whitely still gets the most pleasure out of the technology, an opinion much agreed with by anyone who owns anything Sony.

The impact can be seen anywhere. It's nigh impossible to find an American household without something of Japanese origin in it, and it most likely is electronic. From the alarm clock that wakes you up in the morning to the Play-

station that kept you up the night before, it's hard to imagine life without this technology.



Whitely Corrin, '07, has been infected by the Japanese culture bug.

## Aggressive argument

By: Sam Rinehart

Is cheerleading a sport or not? That is a question asked by many. There are many different answers to that question in our school. Some say it should be considered a sport, but others views are different.

The cheerleaders are upset because people are 'dissing' their sport. "It's harder than people think it is. People should go to a practice and actually try cheering before they judge it and say it isn't hard," comments Ali Holub, '08. A normal cheer practice includes a warm up run, cheer review of more than 100 cheers, and practice of six or seven different jumps. The team goes over to Starry to work on stunts and then they come back to lift.

Why don't people think it's a sport? "If the players don't show up then the game goes on, and if the cheerleaders don't show up it doesn't

matter," states Jimmy Soldner, '09. What about competition cheerleading? They don't cheer at games, but they go to different meets and work to be better than other schools.

Sport, as defined by Webster Dictionary, is "any activity or experience that gives enjoyment or recreation: pastime: diversion." "I am active, I am having fun, and I am dedicating myself to something I'm passionate about. It's frustrating when people think cheerleading isn't a sport," added Ali.

Even without the support of being a sport, the cheer squad still works hard at every practice. Because of their hard work, they went to state and placed fifth out of twelve teams. The cheer squad is hoping people change their views about cheerleading and support them in the Hawkeye Classic held at Marion High School.



Shawna VanMeighem, '09, pumps up the crowd while Jennifer Link, '09, Aubrey McElmeel, '09, and Kathleen Neff, '10, base Nicole Pratt, '09 at a recent basketball game.

## Quick Facts on Competition Cheer

- 1) There are four seniors on the squad.
- 2) Practices are 1.5-2 hours long.
- 3) They practice 2-3 nights a week.
- 4) 50% of the team is sophomores.

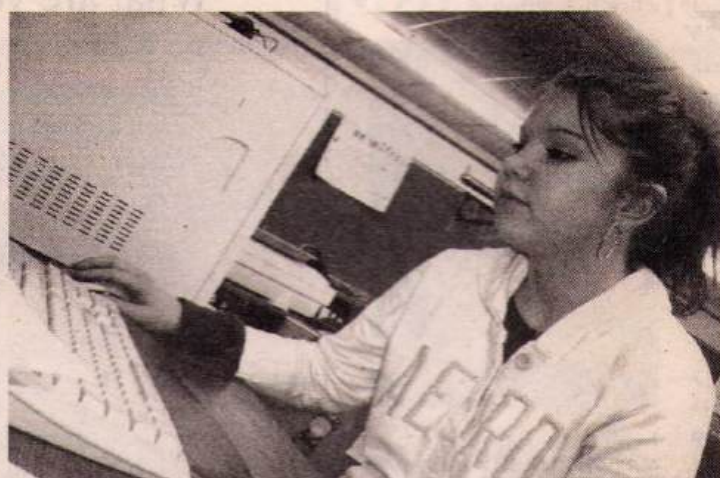


# A day in the life...

By: Jenna Koppedryer

Wake up, get ready, go to school, change clothes, go to work, go home, sleep, and wake up and do it all over again the next day. For some this may describe your day, for others it may not. But for senior Samantha Hancox this is a typical day.

So why doesn't she do anything else? Well, it is simply because she has no other option. Samantha doesn't have many of the luxuries that some of us have. She doesn't have time to just hang out and do nothing each and every day. Samantha has to work any time she can in order to pay for all of her bills and everything else she needs. Samantha's bills range from car insurance and gas to make-up and clothes.



Sam Hancox, '07, works on the computer after school. This was one of the few days Samantha had off from work to get help from teachers after school.

"I have to pay for car insurance, gas, car maintenance, phone, and anything else I want, like clothes, or make-up, CD's, etc." On the other hand, there are still some things that are provided for









her, a roof over her head and food, unless she is going out to eat.

But Samantha plans to break this cycle of waking up and doing the same thing

over and over each day however, and break it soon. Samantha is planning to graduate early after third term and head off to a Kirkwood Community College and get her general education classes done, and then transfer to larger college. But as far as life after college, she is still undecided on what she wants to do.

Sure, Samantha doesn't live the "high life," but she's thankful for all that she has. "I'm very thankful for my family and good friends." Samantha's excited to move on to the next step of her life.

## Fun facts about Samantha

-  Favorite Color: Blue
-  Favorite Food: Lasagna
-  Birthday: October 28, 1988
-  Born at St. Lukes Hospital in Cedar Rapids
-  Favorite Store: Aeropostale
-  Has 1 brother and 2 sisters
-  Favorite Sports Team: Iowa Hawkeyes
-  Has never had braces or glasses

## Who's the real national champion of college football?

By: Jordan Garretson

Going undefeated in one season is an accomplishment to be proud of, no matter the sport. It is the most that a team can possibly hope to succeed. So why should any undefeated teams' seasons be neglected in college football?

Case in point, this year's Broncos of Boise State University. Only receiving a slight amount of publicity in the past few years, the Broncos stormed onto the national scene this season after compiling a perfect 12-0 record in the regular season. However, as in years past during the BCS era, the team's practically unparalleled success was ignored. Despite being the only undefeated team besides Ohio State, the Broncos were not selected to play against the Buckeyes in the national title. Instead, they were pitted against the mighty Oklahoma Sooners in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, who were heavily favored despite entering the game with 2 losses.

The game seemed to have all the makings of a classic

"David vs. Goliath" match-up, with nearly every single so-called "expert" writing off the Broncos long before the first snap of the game.

By the time the final whistle sounded, it was those same "experts" that were made to look like fools as Boise State was able to pull off a miraculous victory, winning the game in overtime on an intricate trick play.

Yet even after the Florida Gators upset the #1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes the next week in the National Championship game, Boise State finished the year ranked just fifth in the final AP poll of the year. Bronco fans who argue that Boise State should be given consideration for national champion had a valid point, after all, the Broncos were the only team in the country to finish without a blemish on their record.

Unfortunately for the fans and the players of college football, all of the festivities of the bowls and the honors that go along with them have much more shallow roots than simply determining the best team in the country. College football is a lucrative business, for both the sponsors of the bowls as well

as the schools participating in them. More often than not, the sponsors will ensure that their respective bowl games create more profit by selecting the more profitable teams to play in them, such as a team from a larger university, which means a larger number of students, which also, in turn, means a larger number of fans and ticket sales.

While Florida still might have comfortably taken care of Boise State in an additional game to determine the true national champion, they also may not have. This was proven in this year's National Title game when the heavily favored Buckeyes ended up on the wrong end on the favorite saying of Florida fans. "If you're not a gator, you're gator bait!" Unfortunately for Ohio State, they were the latter and lost by a final score of 41-14.

Unfortunately, until the university presidents, the NCAA, and the main sponsors of college football all collaborate, a playoff or a "plus-one game," will never be utilized to determine a true National Champion each and every year.



# Are we getting what we need for lunch?

By: Sam Kiburz

When asked, Do you like school lunches, Alec Kiburz, '07, said, "I really enjoy school lunches, I think they're delicious!"

It seems that Alec really likes the school lunches here at Marion High School. But is our school lunch healthy? Our lunch on certain days is very healthy the main ingredient is Iowa's own agricultural product, soy.

Everyday at lunch there is always a fruit serving and a vegetable serving then a main dish; which usually includes, hotdog, hamburger, corn dog, or cheeseburgers. But one day a week there is a

crated meal from Pizza Hut, Subway, or Hungry Hobo. Everyone looks forward to these lunches, usually everyone looks forward to those days, and some get aggressive for their spot in the lunch line. An image of a Pizza Hut or Subway day is usually someone running down the hallways and taking people out to get their spot in line.

But the Pizza Hut days aren't the best healthy days for school lunch. The reasons why the pizza hut days are not the healthiest days because pizza includes. According to shereen slkdfj, author of, "Gooney, cheesy, but..." Says that, "The 6 inch pizza has 650 calories with 30 grams of

fat. There are about 1400 mg of sodium, over 70 grams of carbohydrates, and about 25 grams of protein. The pizza is a good source of vitamins A, and C, plus the minerals calcium and iron."

There are plusses to the pizza that we get but 650 calories for just one six-inch pizza is ridiculous.






Here at Marion the lunch consists of stupendous tasting food. That usually is very nutritious, but some days as much as other, and if you don't really care what you eat then school lunch is probably the most nutrition that you'll get for the day. School lunches all over Iowa are based on the food pyramid, which is

what you should follow to be a healthy person.



Sophomore, Cori Boel, eats one of the healthiest lunches provided at MHS. The lunch consists of a Subway sandwich, peaches and green beans.

## What are you eating?

	Cal.	Fat	Carbs.
 -	280	14 g.	22
 -	230	11.5 g.	22
 -	470	27 g.	31
 -	410	9 g.	38
 -	250	16 g.	29



# Mr. Beans

## It's All Good

**Marion**  
1080 East Post Road  
**447-4455**  
Monday - Saturday  
6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner  
Premium Coffees  
Smoothies

**Cedar Rapids**  
201 3rd Avenue SE  
Town Centre Building  
**363-2995**  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## Heavenly homemade chocolates

By: Jenna Koppedryer

So you're in the mood for some chocolate, but that stuff in the bag just isn't satisfying your craving? But there's another problem: you don't know where to go to get that mouth-watering chocolate you're craving for. Problem solved: Chocolate.

No, Chocolate isn't some magical store made all of chocolate, Chocolate is located on Seventh Avenue, in Marion, next to Maid Rite. But Chocolate isn't limited to serving just chocolate; the new store ranges from truffles and caramels to chocolate-covered orange peels and raisins. All of the candies, however, have one thing in common, they

are all made fresh.

When you walk into the store, you know right from the start that the quality of the chocolates and candies are top notch just by the smell in the air. All the candies are made fresh in the store and then sit on display waiting to be eaten and enjoyed by all your taste buds and your stomach.

Chocolate is open from noon to nine p.m. on weekdays and from noon to six on Saturdays and Sundays. So if you're chocolate-craving is in this time frame, Chocolate is the place to go. Whether you want a little or a lot, Chocolate will satisfy your ache for some sweet delectables.

