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— Jonathan Carlson,
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James Goetz, Des Moines



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

In this October photo, the Hoover Marching Band performs during Valleyfest in West Des Moines.

Saddened by demise of marching band

What a sad day for student musicians, the Des Moines public schools and music programs everywhere: Hoover High School no longer has a marching band. The reasons cited for the demise of this program are that some students don't like to participate in marching band in order to participate in concert band and jazz band.

Marching band uses a disproportionate amount of the music department budget.

Marching band teaches many of the same lessons that sports teach; hard work (even when you don't always want to work hard), teamwork, dedication and discipline.

Then there are the health benefits of marching band. In the time when childhood obesity is reaching new heights, Hoover and the Des Moines public schools have eliminated one more physical and mental activity that benefit students.

What would happen if Hoover's varsity football players decided that while they like to practice, they don't want to participate in the football program if they have to play other teams? Or, alternatively, what might happen if the varsity football program used a disproportionate amount of the athletic budget but produced only mediocre results?

My guess is there would still be football games on Friday nights.

— Suzanne Guess, Des Moines

Global warming predictions wrong

The major TV networks spewed out predictions of the North Pole losing its ice cover due to global warming. The reality is that less Arctic Sea ice melted in 2008 than in 2007, and open water came nowhere near the North Pole.

According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center, 1.74 million square miles of ice remained intact. However, the media failed to report the facts when the predictions did not materialize.

Could it be they are so enamored with the liberal environmental groups that the media fail to truthfully report the facts? Could it also be that the media are so supportive of President Barack Obama that they cannot bring themselves to report anything that would undermine his emphasis on correcting global warming?

World temperatures are right where they were in 1979. Let's not implement a costly, dumb idea like cap and trade for reducing greenhouse gases based upon false information.

— Dwayne Alons, Hull

Prisoners deserve to get decent food

My husband is a prisoner at Newton Correctional Facility and has been for the last year. Unfortunately, he is there for a few more years.

My issue with prisons is that my husband has informed me that the food prisoners receive is almost inedible. I realize they are in prison, but I still believe they are entitled to be treated as human beings.

The food they have been receiving has been everything from cold, when it should be hot, to small portions not even the size of a child's portion, to potatoes that were rotten. Now the worst of all is finding worms in the food.

Has the economy gotten so bad that the state has figured one way it can cut money from the budget is by not feeding some people who rely on the state to feed them?

Even if my husband would not find himself in that place, and I heard about people finding things in their food, I would still be writing this letter.

I believe in human rights for all people.

— Diane Cullett, Bettendorf

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