

## GOBBLER GIZZARD

**FEBRUARY 19, 2010** 

We digest the news one story at a time

Survey shows some modest decreases in risky behavior

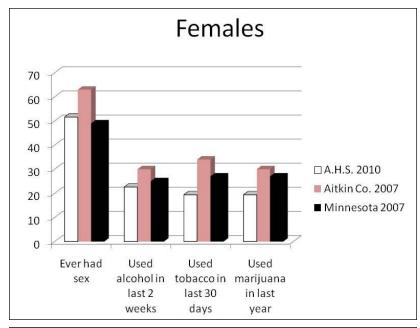
Brett Skattum Levi Stifter Staff Writers

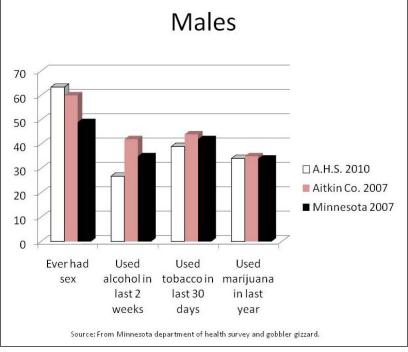
Last fall a survey was posted in the Aitkin age done by the state of Minnesota Department of Education and Health. It was a Collaborative Confidential Student Survey. Most people couldn't believe what they were seeing for numbers, but then there were people who would say they are right on.

Due to all of the controversy on this survey done back in 2007 and not published until the fall of 2009, the Gobbler Gizzard compiled the results to the exact same questions given to this year's seniors. This survey was given to this year's seniors in 2010 while the previous survey was taken by the 2007 seniors.

Although the male graph shows some increase in sex, the alcohol percentage is way down, which seemed surprising. Although everything else is relatively close, the numbers are showing a decrease.

See Survey, Page 10





Results are shown as a percentage of students answering "yes."

## **GET REAL**

#### Mrs. Real does well in her directing debut

By Kori Flowers Opinion Editor

Art has changed over the years in Aitkin High School. Last year, we had to endure the loss of our long-time art teacher Mr. Doub. Suddenly, all art classes were in the hands of Mrs. Julia Real, who worked as a co-art teacher with Mr. Doub. Mrs. Real had to prepare all art classes, as well as manage the production of this year's yearbook. Add onto that already heaping plate her first time directing a one act play, and Mrs. Real has been very busy this year.

Mrs. Real has been teaching art for years, but has an official major in theatre production and design, which led her to take part in Aitkin High School's yearly One Act play competition. Always in the background giving advice or working on set pieces, this year Mrs. Real single handedly began directing this year's one act play by herself. "It has definitely been a learning experience for all," she said about her directing role this year. But it is obvious to all that she has done an amazing job for her first year. The Aitkin One Act competition team traveled to Section competition under her leadership, and a critiquing judge was amazed to learn that this was her first time directing.

When not directing students onstage, Mrs. Real is directing students to



Mrs. Real

create art in the art room, as well as the drafting and electronics rooms. Besides Eighth Grade Art, she teaches Ceramics, Art Drawing, and American Art. American Art is a new course for this year, and "This class is my guinea pig class," she said of the students in American Art. There have been more learning experiences discovered in this class, such as the mishap that occurred

"It has definitely been a learning experience for all."

> Mrs. Real. One Act Director

when she attempted to kiln the pottery bowls that were the student's first assignment. The kiln was accidentally turned too hot, and the bowls fused together and tumed to a nearly glass-like consistency. "Everyone gets an 'A," she said with a chuckle.

Mrs. Real has had a busy year, managing and creating art classes during school and managing a one act play after school. But Mrs. Real has come through, and has done a magnificent job throughout.







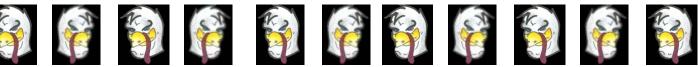
















#### Correction/Clarification

Kristy Hoge Sports Editor

The column about gym floors in the last issue needs some clarification. The gym floors are waxed along with the regular floors before the school year starts. It was stated differently in the last issue.

The gym floors have only been waxed before school the two years when there have been incidents in the gyms that damaged the floors. At that time, they needed a sealer to protect them again.

The drying time for the floors is 7 to 9 days. All the janitors are needed in this process.

The Gobbler Gizzard regrets the errors.

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#### Crush Cans a wonderful success

Emilee White Staff Writer

Its that lovely time of the year again! Crush cans were sold for \$1 to give out to that special someone whether it be a friend, teacher, or significant other during the lunches. With the delicious flavors of grape and orange, they made a perfect, thoughtful gift.

You could also send a little note with your can to let that someone know how much you care about them. The crush cans were such a hit that student council ran out of pop! So they delivered the rest of the cans this week after the long weekend. Seventh and eighth grade students seemed to receive the most cans of pop. Sounds like it was another successful event!

#### Sno-Daze comes to an end

Beau Ekelund Staff Writer

The Sno- Daze Dance was rescheduled for Feb. 14. There were a lot of students there to hang out with friends, be with their dates, and others were there for the music and the dancing.

When Elsa Roque was asked if she enjoyed the music and the dancing, she

said, "I enjoy it... ha-ha... it's more my style then his."

When Ashley Mate was asked the same question she said, "Yes, I like all the music except the slow song's because they're boring... ha-ha... I like to be energetic and to rock it out."

Andy Nyberg said the most memorable part for him at the dance was

"dancing." Mandi Rhodes said her favorite part was "probably dancing," and when asked if she enjoyed the music as well she said, "Yes, actually."

When I asked others if they will be coming back to the Sno Daze Dance next year and they said that they will be coming back next year for sure.

#### Letter to the editor

It's the latest craze sweeping the nation. Students all across America are jumping in. Here's the catch: it tears down self esteem, families, and entire school districts. What am I talking about? CYBER-BULLYING.

According to www.stopcyberbullying.org, "'Cyberbullying' is when a child, preteen, teen, or tween is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another

minor." Basically, it's when a kid says something mean about someone else, except with technology.

Some people think that technology is helpful, but in this case it only hurts. It could take the form of insults, funny pictures, or even comments on your "Facebook," "Myspace," or "Friendster" profile. Sure, kids could use that same technology to block all communication with the offender, but it's obvious that today's kids don't understand technology.

Even in Aitkin High School, kids are not safe from this dangerous threat. Earlier this year, several kids were suspended for sending hateful text messages about each other. And that's not all. These kids sent the messages outside of school. That's right, this menace can follow kids wherever they go. The problem is clearly technology. Until computers and cell phones, it was impossible for kids to say anything bad. Kids could only tell each other how nice they looked, and how wonderful it was that they shared a class. This menace must be stopped. Pledge your support and help end cyber-bullying by signing up at www.stopcyberbullying.org.

A Concerned Citizen And freelance journalist, Nick Magness

#### Poll:

# If you were a teacher, what style of teaching would you use?

Bobbi Studniski Staff Writer



Stephanie Bandow: "I would use the hands on style because taking notes is really boring."



Derek Kingsley: "I would use videos, lots of videos."



Matt Johnson:
"I would let the students learn on their own and help them if they needed it"



Ashlee Kommer:
"I would tell the students to do whatever they want because it's not my problem."



Jozie Tveit:
"I'm not really sure, but I really don't want to be a teacher."

## Turn up the radio!

Kori Flowers Opinion Editor

I like music as much as the next kid. More, actually. Music is a big factor in my life. I know I am not alone in this. If it were up to me, I'd have my headphones in all the time, blocking out the world...but it's not up to me, and there's that little thing called 'school' that makes me take my headphones off.

I can understand this. Kids can't listen to teachers and music at the same time. Loud and disruptive music won't allow us to concentrate. We are not showing the proper respect to the teachers by ignoring them. We could be listening to dirty music and not paying attention!

So what?

What about that boy in the back of the room sleeping? Or what about that girl in the front row reading a book during the lecture? Are they listening, concentrating, or showing respect? NO!

And what about I.S, when kids who want to concentrate are being distracted by kids who are talking? Put headphones on, and you're in your own world where you can concentrate on your own work. And if other people had headphones on, the talking level will go down.

I can understand that teachers don't want headphones on in class, but if it's I.S, or work time, or computer time, why can't we have headphones on?

Music can really affect learning. Isn't that why some parents play Mozart when the baby is as leep? Music calms and relaxes the brain, and changes mood so learning can come easier (thelearningweb.net). Music is used throughout childhood to aid children in remembering information. We use music to remember the alphabet, colors, and numbers, not just in English but in other languages, too.

This concept still works for teenagers. If we associate certain information to a certain song- even if the song has nothing to do with that information-the information will come when that song is playing. For everyone who hasn't taken Mr. Miller's psychology class, that's called classical conditioning.

Studies about music playing in the background show that the students working



on homework or assignments are more focused and on-task (edweb.sdsu.edu, Prof. Donn Ritchie). Isn't that what every teacher wants!?

I suppose that the issue of listening to distasteful music in school can come up. But it's OUR music, and OUR right to listen to it. And don't kids cuss in class anyway?

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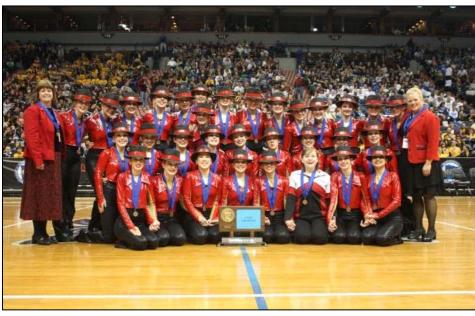
#### All Starz are stunning at state

Kristy Hoge Sports Editor

The Aitkin All Starz had a couple remarkable performances down at state in the Target Center. The varsity jazz team performed on Friday and made their goal by making it to the jazz finals. But surprisingly after a great performance they took home a third place while Duluth Marshall took first and BOLD took second. These ladies did an awesome job.

The Varsity High Kick team made Aitkin very proud this Saturday. After a great performance during preliminaries; Aitkin moved on to finals. After a long wait Aitkin finally came out as the very last team to dance. The whole Aitkin section was on the edge of their seats as they would watch this dance live for the very last time. The girls came out crisper than ever going through their motions like they were perfect. Ending their performance in the unforgettable M.J. the crowd went wild, standing up and cheering like these girls were famous. To no surprise they danced so well that teams and fans from 3A and 4A schools were standing up.

Lac qui Parle Valley-Dawson-Boyd took third, Cannon Falls took second and the AITKIN ALL STARZ took FIRST! The All Starz are the first team ever in class A to get a 10 by the judges. It is very rare to get a 10 by a judge and for it to be at state is a marvelous experience for the girls. At sections the All Starz also were rated a 10 by a judge. They also got first place at sections with Cannon Falls placing second and



All Starz pose for picture at the Target Center.

<u>Place Winners</u>: Higk Kick:

First- Aitkin

Second- Cannon Falls

Third- Lac qui Parle Valley- DB

First- Duluth Marshall Second- BOLD Third- Aitkin

Jazz:

Concordia Academy placing third. The Jazz team took second with Duluth Marshall placing first and Concordia Academy taking third.

The welcome home party was on Sunday at 1 p.m. with the girls coming off the bus embracing anyone around them. Many people of the community, fans, the mayor and families were there, proud to be a part of the thrill the girls have brought us back. The mayor, Gary Tibbetts said to the girls, "You ladies have put Aitkin back on the map and thank you very much." An

emotional coach had many praises to the girls and she kept saying, "I'm so proud of the hard work these girls have put into this season." It was a very emotional atmosphere; there were tears of joy and tears of sorrow. It would be the very last time the 5 seniors would have danced together and had a welcome home party. They include, Arika Fairchild, Heidi Klingelhofer, Jenna Kuiken, Abi Nadeau and Elsa Roque. Congratulations to this year's high kick and jazz teams for doing a wonderful job and representing Aitkin proudly.

#### Gobbler wrestlers move on to second round

Dylan Otto Staff writer

The wrestling team has been doing pretty good this season with a record of 9-7. They traveled to Braham on Friday where they left with a team second and four champions and two second places. Some of the star wrestlers are Joe Elvecrog, Dalton Stevens, Brian Wold, and Isaac Novak based on their records.

They wrestled in the first round of section against Ogilvie on Tuesday night at home. They won by a score of 49-22. Winning matches for the Gobblers were Adam Jackson, Wold, Stevens, Jordan Chouanard, Novak, Kevin Handt, Kane Magness, Adam Bast, Levi Stifter and Cooper Blau. Coach Lamke said, "We'll have a chance of going to state if the guys actually show up."

#### Lady Ballas topple over Onamia

Bobbi Studniski Staff Writer

The Gobbler Lady Ballas have been working their hearts out this season, with the overall record of 13-11 and the conference record 9-7.

At the most recent game against Onamia, the leading scorer was Meredith Chaput with 29 points, second leading scorer Melissa Paulson with 7 points, Elizabeth Mattson and Carrisa Herron with 6 points



each, Kristy Hoge and Allie Carlson with 4 points each, and Emily Lundgren and Miranda Paulson with 2 points each. Meredith scored seven three-point shots during the game. The final score was 60-38, scoring the girls another win.

The ladies play Pierz at home on Friday at 7 p.m. The statistics will be posted at a later date. Come and cheer them on to another victory!!

#### Hockey team finishes regular season with a win

Thomas Zasmeta News editor

The Northern Lakes Lightning has a record of 17-8. Coach Shawn Chambers said that they are either 6 or 7 in the section out of 11 teams. 6 through 11 have a first round playoff game while the 1-5 have byes. Since the Lightning will be one of the higher seeds they had a very good chance of having a home playoff game.

I asked Chambers if he had a favorite memory this season and he said it was when the beat Detroit Lakes at Detroit Lakes by the score of 5-4. In their first game of the season the lost to DL 6-1, so they really enjoyed that win.

As of Wednesday the regular season concluded and the Lightning will indeed have a home playoff game against either St. Cloud Apollo or Sauk Centre on Saturday at 7pm. The game will be at Breezy Point Arena. They played Sauk Centre on Tuesday and won 5-1. Good Luck team!!

#### Boys fall to Braham, but still on track

Gage Hart

Recently the Aitkin Boys Basketball team hosted the Braham Bombers in conference play. In the first half Nick Sundholm was shooting the lights out, scoring 22 of Aitkin's first 28 points. But the Bombers were not missing much. From the three point line, they hit 15 of 27. That's an amazing 55 percent. Aitkin came out in the second half with revenge and playing with heart. They fought as hard as they could. They scratched and clawed at Braham's lead but couldn't pull close enough. The final score was Aitkin losing a hard fought battle 88-60 to the Bombers.

The boys have the second best conference record in our section right behind Rush City at 6-5.

Before the Braham game they traveled to Hinckley-Finlayson and got a much-needed team win by about 20 points. They controlled the game from the first whistle to the ending buzzer. On the previous Tuesday they traveled to Isle. The first time these two teams met here at home, the game went into overtime but the Gobblers still lost. They found the same results again. The boys struggled on offense and only scored around 20 points. But Isle did have one kid that didn't play in the first game due to injury but he played at home.

The teams overall record is 9-11 as of Thursday and they will get an ok playoff seed. Good luck guys.



## High-Kickin' Kuiken

#### Years of dance practice pays off her senior year

Emilee White Staff Writer

Jenna Kuiken, a senior at Aitkin High, has definitely eamed the spot as Female Athlete of the Week. Jenna has been a dedicated dancer since kindergarten, working her way up from Just For Kix to the infamous Aitkin All Starz. She tried out for the All Starz team because she had no other interests in other sports and a lot of her friends were trying out as well.

When Jenna is competing, tons of things are running through her mind. "I get super nervous and forget the whole dance right before we go out," she said. Not only do these thoughts run through her head, but lots of emotions come over her when she competes as well, especially after receiving their most recent award, taking the title as the state champions at the Target Center.

When asked what emotions came over her that day, she replied, "Shock! I couldn't believe we actually got it! I'm still



Jenna Kuiken

in shock! It was cool to see 'State Champion-Aitkin' flashing at the Target Center!"

Jenna makes dance one of her top priorities. "I'm not in any other sports and

even in the off-season I only have like 2-3 months to myself." But to her, it's an honor to be a dancer and have such a close sisterly bond with the other dancers.

When asked why dance is important to her, she proudly replied, "Because I have 30 sisters now. And once you have that bond, you can never turn your back on them. Not only do I love to dance, but I know they'll always be there to back me up."

Jenna has a lot of dance experience under her spandex and it definitely shows, as she is one of the captains on the varsity team. She's made it from little dance tu-tus to smashing state champion proud.

"Thanks to the entire team for the past six years, and remember to keep working just as hard," she said. Encouraging words from our Female Athlete of the Week.

#### J-Bird striking down the competition for Lightning

Joe Elvecrog Staff writer

This year is Jace Goodmanson's first year on varsity for Lightning Hockey. Jace said, "This year has been wonderful and the most enjoyable part of the season is beating good teams and winning."

Another enjoyable part is getting to the point where you can't remember how many goals you have scored. Jace said he gets nervous before every game. Jace's favorite game this season was when the Lightning beat Detroit Lakes at Detroit Lakes. Jace wears Bauer skates and uses an Easton stick.

When Jace broke his arm last year in the old gym, he was concerned he wouldn't be able to play hockey again but surprisingly it didn't have much effect on his ability to perform and play. Jace has had five concussions in his life on the ice, but said he has never been in a fight on the rink —

"Just a few scrapes."

"If I wasn't in hockey, I would most likely be out ice fishing and snowmobiling," said Jace.

Jace's favorite movie is "Stepbrothers" and his favorite food is a tie between goose jerky and steak with Mountain Dew as his favorite drink. Jace said that he will probably go to college in Ely but most likely not play hockey.

#### Book Review: Dear John

Kristy Hoge Staff writer

Dear John starts out with John Tyree, a young boy who loves coins. Coin collecting was the vital connection with his father. Then John turns into a teenager and becomes a bad boy with tattoos all along his arms. John then shapes up a few years out of high school and joins the army. John is home on leave from the army, and Savannah Curtis is a young beautiful college student is on spring break. The two meet after Savannah knocks her precious bag in the ocean and the new and improved John jumps in after to save it. The two spend the next two weeks together and become inseparable. The two will always stay in touch by the full moon.

Having to go back overseas, John and Savannah promise to write each other about everything. The first letter Savannah

wrote him started Dear John; and it promises her love for him. John is supposed to be completing his enlistment in 12 months. But, with the tragic 9/11 attack, John feels it is his duty to reenlist which keeps them apart for much longer. After this Savannah wrote him one final letter, it started with Dear John, and ended with good-bye.

After finding out a tragic thing has happened to his father, John is sent home to take care of him. He goes to his "always clean" house to find that it is filthy and it smells like urine. Then there is tragedy and John can't find comfort at the local bars so he decides to search for Savannah. He asks around and found out where she lived and he then went on. Surprising Savannah at her house in Lenoir, NC, John has come to find out she has been married and her husband is severely sick. After having his heart torn apart, John realizes what the best decision.

Last thing John and Savannah do is they both look at the full moon, but they both do not know the other is the looking at the very same moon. I give this book 5 gizzards.



#### **Movie Review: The Hangover**

Thomas Zasmeta News Editor

Now I get what all the buzz is about. All day long I hear people singing songs about their best friend Doug. After seeing the movie I understand. The Hangover is about a bachelor party in Las Vegas. Four friends head out for a night they will always remember, without remembering any of it.

After their eventful evening they wake up to find their room trashed and crawling with exotic animals. On top of all this their best friend Doug is missing. They retrace their steps to see if they can find him, stealing cop cars, and paying a visit to Mike Tyson in the process. They see all of their mistakes along the way.

After a talk with a newly saved drug dealer, and an encounter with a deranged Chinese man, they figure out that Doug is on the roof of their hotel. They get him, rent tuxedos in the middle of the free-

way and make it back in time for the wedding.

It is the cast that really makes this movie. Zach Galifianakis does a very good job portraying Alan, Doug's brother in-law, who is indescribably funny. Alan lets the dogs out with his attire, poetry, and his obvious knowledge of pharmaceuticals. I wish him luck in getting his bartenders license.

Justin Bartha plays the part of Doug, the groom. Ed Helms is Stu, the only dentist I know who would pull out his own tooth to win a bet. Bradley Cooper plays Phil, and provides comic relief in a disturbing manner.

After viewing I see why this is a favorite amongst the guys. Sorry girls, but you still have "Twilight." I have good news for all the Hangover fans out there. The sequel is in the works. But before you get too excited, remember, "I find your language offensive." I rate this movie 4 out of 5 gizzards.



## Hittin' the Trails Hard!

Levi Stifter Staff writer

Snowmobile trail report. Weekend of Feb. 13-14.

On Saturday, Feb. 13 a group including Levi Stifter, Jessica Siegford, Brett Skattum, Nicole Beneke, and Brian Wold, left County Market at 11 a.m. with no destination in mind. We rode the 169 trail south with better than expected trail conditions. We rode that until we came to Players and then cut across to Malmo on the Wealthwood trail and the trail conditions stayed the same.

When we got to Malmo we pulled out the map and found a destination. With better than expected trail conditions and the Arctic Blast going on around Mille Lacs Lake, we decided to head north towards McGregor. We left and hooked up on the south Kimberly road to Jack's Shack to get a bite to eat. After eating we got on the MM



Levi Stifter shoots through the powder.

trail heading north, we stopped along the trail and found a nice swamp that had a lot of deep powder! We then started our way to the North Kimberly that ran into McGregor to stop for fuel. The trails up to this point

were great: Nice and wide with a good scuff on them to keep the sleds cool.

See Snomobiling, Page 10

## Fish talk with Guppy Gage

Gage Hart Staff Writer

The crappies are biting very rapidly. From 5 p.m. to anywhere after eight, the younger crappies are eating your bait as fast as you can put it in the water. Once again the more preferred jig to use is a forage minnow tipped with just a minnow head (no excess body should be on the hook). Keep the hook active by jigging it constantly and it will attract fish to your hook. Hold it steady and as soon as they bite it the first time they may not come back. And they're not going to sit on it as if they do on a regular minnow. So set the hook as soon

as you feel that first bite.

Recently I went to a lake by Palisade. I arrived on the lake at 5:30 in the afternoon. After getting all set up I was fishing by quarter to six. Cameron Rian and I went out with his four uncles. By eight all four of them were going home with their limits and Cam and I had a limit and a half (limit is 10 as said in previous issue). They weren't the greatest sized ones but they still made fillets.

On warm sunny days they are way more aggressive and easier to fish. After catching 55 crappies we went back out the next day and left with only eleven. The difference was the temperature of the day. When we caught them, it was about 30 degrees out. The next day it was about two degrees. It makes a big difference in the clarity of the water which is why they tend to bite better on nice days.

This previous Saturday, Dam Lake hosted a local ice fishing contest and had some fair results. Some fish were caught but personally if they would have had a way to post it at night I think more people would have been bringing home more fish. But all in all it was a pretty successful day.

#### Snowmobiling / Continued from Page 9

After fueling up we headed back towards Aitkin on the Kimberly trail. We stopped a few more times to play. The trails were ten times better than I had expected. We rode 98.4 miles of nice groomed trails.

Sunday Feb. 14, The Siegford family and I were hitting the trails. We left at 9:30 a.m. from the Siegford drive-way and were heading to Denham, some 60

miles away. We rode the Tibbetts trail to the Glen trail that ran until we got to highway 65. We went north in the ditch then hooked up with a trail that ran into Denham. All the trails that we rode to Denham were in top shape. We stopped at the Denham bar to eat. Then we went to Willow River on some of the worst trails that I had ridden on this year. There was little or no snow in the corners and mostly snirt (snow dirt) every-

where else. We got gas in Willow River. We rode the Hinckley trail to the Finlays on trail. Once we got onto those trails there was great riding. It had started to snow and it was a nice day to ride. We rode the Finlays on trail to the South Soo Line. Then we rode the MM trail back to Glen trail. All the trails were good except for the ten mile trail from Denham to Willow River. We rode about 150 miles.

#### Music / Continued from Page 4

And what if information can be stored on a MP3 player and used during a test? I *suppose* that someone could put the answers to a test on an MP3, then pull the player out during a test and look at the answers. But if someone has enough knowledge and time to go to such great lengths to cheat, then what's stopping them from studying?! And what teacher wouldn't notice a kid with an MP3 during class?

Some (really cool) teachers overlook MP3 players while kids are working on assignments or I.S. A few teachers even have permission to allow MP3 use in the classroom or on certain days.

But then there are the teachers on the opposite end of the spectrum who do not allow MP3 players *ATALL*, even during work time. And kids who work better with music are yelled at for an innocent misunderstanding.

I think we should be able to listen to MP3 players during I.S and work time. We're not hurting anyone, or bothering anyone; quite the opposite actually. It's every teacher's wish for a quiet working class. MP3s are the answer. If we can do better with music involved, why not let us listen?

I once wrote a thousand word essay in half an hour while listening to Disturbed. The best things I have ever written have come when listening to music.

And just an after note: I typed this entire article while listening to music.

#### Survey / Continued from Page 1

Females have shown a decrease all -round starting with sex, a 12 percent decrease. Everything else has decreased to some extent, but tobacco shot way down. This shows that we are lower than the state all-around for the most part. Maybe those DARE classes paid off.

Mr. Stifter said, "At first I thought it was high, but now after seeing both surveys I'm not too surprised." When asked if

he's seen a change year-to-year, his answer was, "No, it has always been around and been a problem."

The survey that we did was given to this year's seniors of Aitkin High School. The survey that we compared it to was given to all Aitkin County seniors of 2007. The survey is conducted by the Minnes ota Department of Health every three years and is asked of all seniors across the state. The

information is then broken down county-bycounty.

"I was surprised how something completely illegal like marijuana was being used more than alcohol," Mrs.Doyle said. "Even though alcohol is illegal for kids under 21 you would think it would be more accessible."