

# ENOUGH SAID

## New Ulm High School

January 2005

Home of the Eagles

### Inside

### College Tuition Continues to Soar

Written by: Jackie Tohal

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From California to the Carolinas, cash-strapped states are facing hefty increases in tuition for colleges and universities, making experts wonder if schools are pricing themselves too highly and out of the market for the average student. And this isn't just a rumor spread by disgruntled college goers paying their way through their higher education; there are facts to back up all the grumbling. The cold hard facts are that college costs are rising steadily, much faster than the current rate of inflation (2.5%). Public schools, as in the past, are taking the hardest hits. The average tuition for a four-year public college has risen about 12.25%. Two-year technical schools come in second, with an increase in tuition of about 11.24%. However, private schools are not much better off, with tuition rising about 6.34%. These numbers are slightly

better than last years, when cost increases were at record highs.

James Boyle, president of College Parents of America, said that with things going as they are, college costs might make families "turn away from higher education options for their children." Many other experts agree. "We spend most of our time telling students that college is within reach, and every time we turn around...the fees keep going up," said Christopher Daves, a spokesman for the Council of Opportunity in Education.

So how does the Midwest size up to other parts of the country as to tuition increases? According to The College Board, the owner of the SAT tests, we aren't on either of the extremes; grossly high pricing or brilliantly low costs. The highest college costs for public colleges are in the New England area, with average tu-

ition at \$6,839. Next is the middle states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland) at an average of \$6,300 per year. Then it's us, the Midwest, at \$6,085. After that is the Southwest, then the South, and finally the West, with \$4,569, \$4,143, and \$4,130, respectively. For private colleges and universities, New England is the costliest area again with an average tuition of \$25,660 per year. Next are the Middle states at \$21,439, followed by the West with an average of \$19,998. Then it's the Midwest with \$18,690 per year. After that is the South at \$17,317 and lastly the Southwest with an attractive average of \$15,867 per year.

What must be remembered, however, is that generally the more expensive the schooling, the better school

*continued on page 3*

### NUHS to Cut \$1.5 million from Budget

Written by: Curt Wech and Sam Waibel

Declining enrollment and a lack of change in the state foundation formula has led to a decision by the District #88 School Board to decrease expenditures for the 2005-2006 school year by \$1.5 million dollars. These cuts come as revenue in the district once again falls short of projected expenditures for the year.

The school board is unsure of what cuts will be made for the upcoming school year, but will work on targeting cuts over the next three months.

Superintendent Remme stated that many areas are likely to be hurt by the cuts. Average class sizes are likely to increase, while district staff decreases. Maintenance projects scheduled for the upcoming year are to be suspended. One such project is resealing the space between slabs of cement at district schools; this has been scheduled, but will now be suspended. Extracurricular activities are likely to be hit, with the possibility of some elimination, as well as fee increases. Some

operational changes may take place; this involves district counselors, principals, clerical employees, and bus routes. Finally, raising the amount of students for a class to take place from 12-15 now, to 18-20, may be considered. This would eliminate classes for which fewer than eighteen students have scheduled themselves. Mr. Remme expressed, "We don't want to do any of them, but we have to."

The school board had only a few

*continued on page 2*

# News

## 8 Easy Steps to Study For Finals

Written by: Liz Bode

Are you stressed, or worrying about finals? Well the time is here to start studying and get prepare for finals. Here are eight easy steps from Mrs. Janssen on how to make it through finals.

- 1) Eat breakfast
- 2) Read through previous tests and quizzes (especially the ones you got wrong!)
- 3) Know formulas
- 4) Don't try to memorize EVERY detail
- 5) Review summaries of novels
- 6) Get enough sleep
- 7) Know your Review Worksheets
- 8) **"Don't stress about finals. They're not as bad as you think they are going to be. Stay Calm," encourages Mrs. Janssen.**

### Final Test Schedule

#### 1st Semester 2004-2005

##### Day 1: January 20th

1st period final = 8:15-9:35  
 2nd period final = 9:40-11:00  
 STUDENT LUNCH = 11:00-12:10  
 4th period final = 12:15-1:35  
 5th period final = 1:40-3:00



##### Day 2: January 21st

MAKE UPS = 8:15-9:35  
 3rd period final = 9:40-11:00  
 STUDENT LUNCH = 11:00-12:10  
 7th period final = 12:15-1:35  
 6th period final = 1:40-3:00

### Budget continued from page 1

choices this year to face the upcoming budget shortfall. They could increase revenue by using a levy referendum, or try to convince the state legislature to increase the amount of money given per student. Because of local ad state tax increases, a referendum would currently be hard to pass. Any change in the legislature will take time and a lot of persuasion. Their only other option was to reduce district expenditures through various undetermined cuts and changes.

Within the past five years the district has seen a decline in enrollment of 292 students. Possible reasons for the recent and continuing decline in enrollment throughout the district may be caused by a decline in rural population, people choosing to have smaller families, and the economic impact on local families. The drop is expected to continue for approximately three more years. The district faced a budget shortfall during the current year as well; but the school board managed to avoid student felt

cuts by reducing expenditures, along with using money in a Fund Balance account. This account acts as a savings account for the district; however, in order to maintain cash flow in the account the district cannot fall back on this for the upcoming year.

Eighty-three percent of funding for the district comes from the state of Minnesota. The formula used by the state to determine the amount of money a school is too receive consists of a multiplication of the number of students at the school, times a set amount. This amount is set by the state legislature, currently \$4,601, and has remained frozen for the past three years as the state has faced budget problems as well. Mr. Remme stated, "The legislature is going to have to make tough choices this year." This was in reference to the legislature having to face another round of budget



problems again this year. Other schools have felt the impact of this throughout the state, with those facing a declining enrollment like ours, getting hit the hardest. Of the money received by the district 80% is spent on district personnel, while 20% is used on other expenses needed throughout.

The district currently has a long-range planning task force that will report to the school board at the end of this school year. This task force will make a recommendation as to whether or not a district building should be closed. Mr. Remme commented on the figures that show by 2008 the number of kids in the district and classroom spaces available would fit into three buildings. While rumors of the Middle School closing in the near future are circulating, the board has not yet entertained that notion.

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### College Tuition continued from page 1

experience one has the possibility of getting. Ted Bracken, The director of federal relations for the Consortium for Financing a Higher Education, explained when he compared college to an opera house. "You can try cutting the orchestra in half, or do away with the costumes and sets, but that's not what the customer wants."

This feeling of needing to be the best school around is a principal reason college tuition is skyrocketing in the first place. All schools want to be perceived as the best. This means they will spend precious budget dollars investing in things like state-of-the-art facilities and technology. They want to be on the cutting edge of new research and discoveries. But why? The bottom line: to attract the best students. With more think-tankers on campus, organizations and the like are more willing to donate money to the college to fund those radical, atten-

tion-grabbing studies.

Another way colleges try to attract more students is by boasting a low teacher-to-student-ratio. Essentially that means more little pockets to assuage. Salaries are also becoming an issue mainly because of heightening pension and health insurance costs. State and federal funding isn't stretching as far as it used to either.

The last major factor in determining the cost of tuition is a little double-edged sword called financial aid.

"Financial aid is the fastest-growing component of institutional budgets," said Sandy Baum, a College Board consultant. Between 1992 and 2003, grant aid rose 67% and loan aid rose 147%. The number of students receiving some kind of aid is on the rise as



well. Currently about 25% of full time public school undergrads and 60 percent of private college students receive some kind of financial aid. That is about \$3,300 per public college student and \$9,400 for a private school student.

So while some schools might be more expensive, generally the pricier the school, the more aid offered. While the sticker price of a school's tuition may scare a prospective student, about 50% of students attending four-year colleges pay less than \$6,000 for tuition and fees per year. In fact, in 2002-03, \$105 billion was given in student financial aid. This is a record amount- \$13 billion more than the previous year.

While total aid is on the rise, the distribution of the money is changing. No longer are the poorest students get-

ting most of the money, but the financial relief river is trickling outward into the middle-class as well. Now, aid is widely given for merit-based awards instead of need-based aid. This type of gratuity tends to favor middle- to upper-income families and students.

While the cost of going to college may give some families cold feet, take into consideration of the cost of NOT going to college. According to the US Census Bureau, those with a bachelor's degree earn well over 70% more than people with only a high school diploma. That equals about \$1,000,000 over a lifetime. College Board president Gaston Caperton summed it up best when he stated, "In the United States, college is clearly an investment in the future that pays off over a lifetime in both monetary and non-monetary terms. What all of us need to remember is that America's future and quality of life are tied to the benefits of higher learning and what transpires in the lecture halls and labs across the country."

## Survey Responses seem Questionable

Written by: Curt Wech

A Minnesota Student Survey administered to 6th, 9th, and 12th graders last spring provided interesting information regarding the lives of students in New Ulm. The survey covers feelings about school, family and relationships, risk factors, health and safety, and substance abuse. The survey was published for the public this past December.

While the survey may be used to judge how New Ulm teenagers compare with others across the state, it is hard to know whether the information obtained is accurate. Speculation may be made when reviewing some of the responses that students are not always truthful in surveys. Mr. Bergman commented, "Looking at the number of surveys students are subject too, and some of the responses given, it is fair to assess that this survey may have some nebulous responses." About 3% of the surveys were thrown out of the analysis because gender was missing, responses were highly inconsistent, or there was a pattern of likely exaggeration.

The survey, however, does tackle some serious issues related to students,

and provides at least a background into New Ulm student life.

According to the survey, the proportion of high school binge drinkers was higher, in New Ulm, than the state average. The number of 12th-grade girl binge drinkers in New Ulm was reported as being almost double that of the state, at 29 percent. The number of 12th-grade males reported as engaging in binge drinking over the previous 12 months was 39 percent. The survey defined binge drinking as drinking five or more drinks at a time, and drinking on 10 or more occasions during the past 12 months. Only 23 percent of 12th-grade boys and 35 percent of 12th-grade girls reported never drinking within the 12 months prior to the survey. Even worse, was a report that 50 percent of 12th-grade boys and 37 percent of 12th-grade girls reported driving after using alcohol or drugs in the prior 12 months.

While 11 percent of 12th-grade boys across the state reported using marijuana 10 or more times in the past 12 months, New Ulm 12th-grade boys reported this type of use at 14 percent. The 12th-grade girls reported in at 16

percent; 8 percent for ninth-grade boys, and 11 percent for ninth-grade girls.

Tobacco use was reported very high with 61 percent of 12th-grade boys reporting occasional use; 40 percent of 12th-grade girls; 26 percent of ninth-grade boys; and 34 percent of ninth-grade girls. Daily smokers were reported at 19 percent of 12th-grade boys and 31 percent of 12th-grade girls.

Of the 12th-grade boys in New Ulm, 39 percent, reported never hav-

ing sexual intercourse; 33 percent of 12th-grade girls reported never having sexual intercourse. When asked how many times in the previous 12 months they had sexual intercourse with 6 or more different male partners, the 12th-grade boys ranked in at 6 percent; this was more than the 12th-grade girls who reported 0 percent having had sexual intercourse with females.

It is responses like that above that call into question the validity of student response surveys.



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# Editorials

## Deadly Strength

Written by: Tim Campbell

Within the past months, a number of professional athletes have stepped forward, admitting that they have either knowingly or unknowingly, used some form of steroid or growth hormone to enhance their performance. This issue has the sports world questioning the integrity and the validity of today's sports superstars, those who are considered "role models" for young athletes.

Of course, it came as no surprise to most of us when allegations came forth that some athletes may be taking steroids. It has been suspected for years, and players have been caught here and there, but nobody imagined the immense presence of



steroids until recently when former Major League Baseball (MLB) players Jose Canseco and Ken Caminiti not only admitted to using steroids, but said that the use of steroids is widespread. More allegations and accusations emerged and more and more athletes have admitted to or been accused of using steroids, including baseball players Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield, Canseco and Caminiti, as well as football player David Boston, and Olympic gold-medalist Marion Jones, to name a few. An interesting point is that these are not second rate players - Bonds, Canseco, Giambi, and Caminiti are all past MVPs and Sheffield is an All-Star. Jones has won five Olympic medals, and Boston is one of the NFL's most promising young receivers.

The problem this creates is high school athletes looking at the successful pro athletes and rationalizing that "if the MVP player takes steroids, why shouldn't I?" According to the University of Michigan, as many as 300,000 high school students used

steroids last year, and the number is drastically rising. The side effects of steroids are not too appealing, ranging from liver damage, to high blood pressure and heart disease, to development of breasts in men. It even lead to the death of the aforementioned Caminiti.

With this steroids epidemic, the question seems to be, why aren't the Player's Associations doing anything in response? The government has consistently threatened to create legislation that would give the government the power to punish players, but the Player's Associations have declined, saying that they are satisfied with their current testing policies.

In my opinion, professional leagues should become way more stringent in their testing policies, specifically the MLB, which has the most lax policy. They should test more than once a year, which they currently do. They should create harsher penalties: currently MLB players aren't penalized until their third substance abuse offense. Teams should also include a clause in player contracts stating that they will take money away from the players should they fail a drug test. Finally, professional sports leagues should use less of their revenue on player salaries and use the money to embark on an anti-steroid campaign that would encourage young athletes to not use steroids.

While the emergence of steroid use has tainted the integrity and validity of professional sports, the real problem is the potential risk that face today's youth who try to emulate their favorite athletes by using steroids. If players and officials would recognize the problem and try to do something about it, future generations may not have to deal with this scare.

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## Time for a Break? Think Again

Written by: Tessa Lambrecht

Anyone ready for a break? I don't think anyone would refuse a few days off from school. Spring break has been nonexistent for New Ulm Public students for as long as I can remember. Spring break is supposed to be a time to relax and maybe take a little vacation from our strenuous studies. But lately spring break has only been a four day weekend usually some time in March. No one would complain if we got more days off of school, but we have to consider the consequences.



If spring break were added to our school calendar we would not be getting off school in such a timely manner as we are used to. If we had more school days off we will have to stay in school longer. So you have to ask yourself if you would like to be lazy for a week in semi-warm temperatures, or would you like to have more time to grill out and go to Flandrau? It seems like an easy choice to me that a longer summer would be quite nice. But I don't think that is why the decision was made to cancel spring break. The school board makes important decisions about our school calendar and the teachers vote on whether to have spring break or not, and just like the students I am sure they wouldn't mind having more time in the summer. Trends show that a break in the

middle of a school year, and most likely in the middle of lessons in your classes, does not bode well for the retention of information during the break from school. I am sure that parents and teachers are concerned that we might forget things that we have learned and have to start all over again. These concerns are valid, but as a student the long winter and spring leave us feeling like we need a vacation.

If we were allowed a spring break, going on a vacation might not seem like such a good option. Spring break is usually

around the same time for all schools, and this causes a spike in travel, so to cash in on that ticket prices and other expenses actually rise up to fifteen to twenty percent higher than average. Having a spring break may only mean that we will forget what we learned, pay a high price for travel, or just end up working our whole break. So it seems like a much better deal to just tough out the few days we could have been relaxing and count down the days until summer, which will be a longer summer thanks to no spring break.

If you are still wishing we had a spring break the best way to voice your opinion about a change would be to get in contact with the school board. Otherwise enjoy your long summer!

# Features

## Pale Horse is a Magic Ride

Written by: Kayla Parker

**\*\*\* of 5 stars**

In the book *On a Pale Horse* by Piers Anthony, enter the age of the future. God and Satan are at a war to sway the people of earth to do good and to fall to evil. Satan advertising the "great" things you can find in hell, and God just sitting back and letting us choose our own course. On a Pale Horse is 303 pages of adventure.

Zane, one man out of billions in this chaotic world, decides it is finally time to end it all. Everything has gone wrong. He wasted money on a magic stone that proved not to work. He threw away true love. And all in the same day. But at the last moment, when Death has literally come for him, Zane decides he wants to live. So, he kills Death instead. But, this proves to bring more problems than Zane could ever have imagined. After killing Death, Zane soon discovers that in killing Death, Zane must take over

the office of Death and become Death.

Working as Death proves to be quite a task for Zane, who days earlier was ready to die. Now, with this job shoved at him, Zane must learn fast, for the Prince of Evil, Satan himself, is concocting a scheme of his own to force Zane to bring destruction to the one woman he has come to love, Luna. With the world at Zane's door, Zane must figure out a way to destroy Satan's plan, and save the souls of the people of earth.

A brilliantly written book, *On a Pale Horse*, is filled with twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat. While at times the book is a struggle to get through, the end result is worth it. I give this book 3 out of 5 stars. This books falls in the genre of Fantasy, but has its share of romance, action, and even mystery. *On a Pale Horse* takes you on a magic carpet ride.

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## Dos and Don'ts for Resolutions

Written by: Nicole Kretsch and Katelyn Berg

New Years was first observed in ancient Babylon around 2000 BC. The Romans caught on and in 153 BC declared January first to be the beginning of the new year. However, the Babylonians were the ones who started the tradition of New Years resolutions. The resolutions that were made by them were something like remembering to return borrowed farm equipment, whereas today resolutions are usually to lose weight or quit some bad habit.

Today eighty-two percent of Americans make a New Years resolution. Only twenty percent actually keep them. As a result to this lack of dedication, here are some do's and don'ts on how to keep your New Years resolution:

\*DON'T abandon the idea because you've broken them in the past.

\*DON'T make too many resolutions. Pick one or two which are the most important to you and stick to them.

\*DO be realistic. Pick a safe, attainable goal with a realistic time frame.

\*DO set resolutions based upon your own wishes, desires, and dreams. Not those of others.

\*DO use the buddy system. Rely on your friends and family for support.

\*DO plan a reward for yourself for when the resolutions/goals are met.

So if you have made a resolution this year and find yourself slipping and having trouble keeping it, keep these tips in mind and hang in there.



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# Horoscopes

Written by: Robyn and Roxanne

ATTENTION ALL HOROSCOPE READERS:

These are NOT reliable predictions and are for entertainment purposes only.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22-January 19)

You will be lucky this month. The significant other you desire will knock at your window on the 19th at 2:47 a.m. They will awaken you from your deep sleep. Bonus: Grandma will make you five extra batches of cookies!

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20-February 18)

Beginning on the 4th, you're itching to heat up the dance floor. So find a Nick for your Jessica or vice versa. On the 12th, you will hit a deer and approximately two squirrels on Summit Avenue. Bonus: You lose your job—but you hated it anyway. And then you find \$10.

**PISCES:** (February 19-March 20)

Your friend calls you a nasty name but don't get too worked up because your lover will come to your rescue from the horrible pain burning inside of you. Another snag: your grandmother will slip on the ice and break her hip. Bonus: The New Year's Genie will bestow upon you wishes that you can reverse everything bad that ever happened.

**ARIES:** (March 21-April 19)

Your neglected social life starts blooming after the 21st. Don't pass up that saucy guy or girl or you'll miss an exciting adventure. Bonus: You get pulled over by a cop but your flirting gets you out of a ticket.

**TAURUS:** (April 20-May 19)

Use your infamous charm near the 26th to acquire a family heirloom. Tricky Neptune confuses you mid-month but no one is out to get you except the girl with the long blonde hair. Bonus: You will relieve excess tension with a soothing candlelit bath on the 15th at 12:01 a.m.

**GEMINI:** (May 22-June 20)

Don't meddle in your friends lives or you'll end up making everyone mad. A cosmetics counter makeover perks you up when you're feeling "blah" on the 6th. Bonus: Your parents leave you home alone for two weeks. (Hint: Feel free to wander around your house as you please.)

**CANCER:** (June 21-July 21)

Don't get bullied into performing a ridiculous stunt near the 30th or you'll face serious consequences. For example, while trying to do a triple axle on your skating pond, you'll fall too hard and break through the ice. Bonus: When playing in the snow, you'll trip over a large box full of treasures.

**LEO:** (July 22-August 22)

While shopping for after-Christmas sales on the 16th, you will lose track of time and get locked in the River Hills Mall. Unluckily for you, the mall is closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day so you're stuck until the 18th. Bonus: Thankfully, the carousel still works.

**VIRGO:** (August 23-September 21)

This is the best month of your life. Everything you desire will come true. Wake up dude! You've been overlooking love signals from a cutie you see every day. Bonus: You don't need one. This month will be perfect.

**LIBRA:** (September 22-October 22)

The same routine threatens to derail your lover's love train. A boredom busting thrill like bungee jumping or rock climbing will bring out the fun. Bonus: Your younger sibling will purchase expensive gifts for you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23-November 21)

An honest apology will smooth things over when you get caught making fun of a friend this month. Near the 24th, hide letters when someone gets snooty. Bonus: Oprah Winfrey calls and wants you to be the feature on her upcoming show.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22-December 21)

With so many planets on your side in January, you're all smiles- at school, in your dreams, and everywhere! The one snag: Near the 10th, your smiles go too far and an enemy spikes your Coke. Bonus: The new year brings you the "ultimate" surprise!

# Wanted: Cult Following

## A Review of Napoleon Dynamite

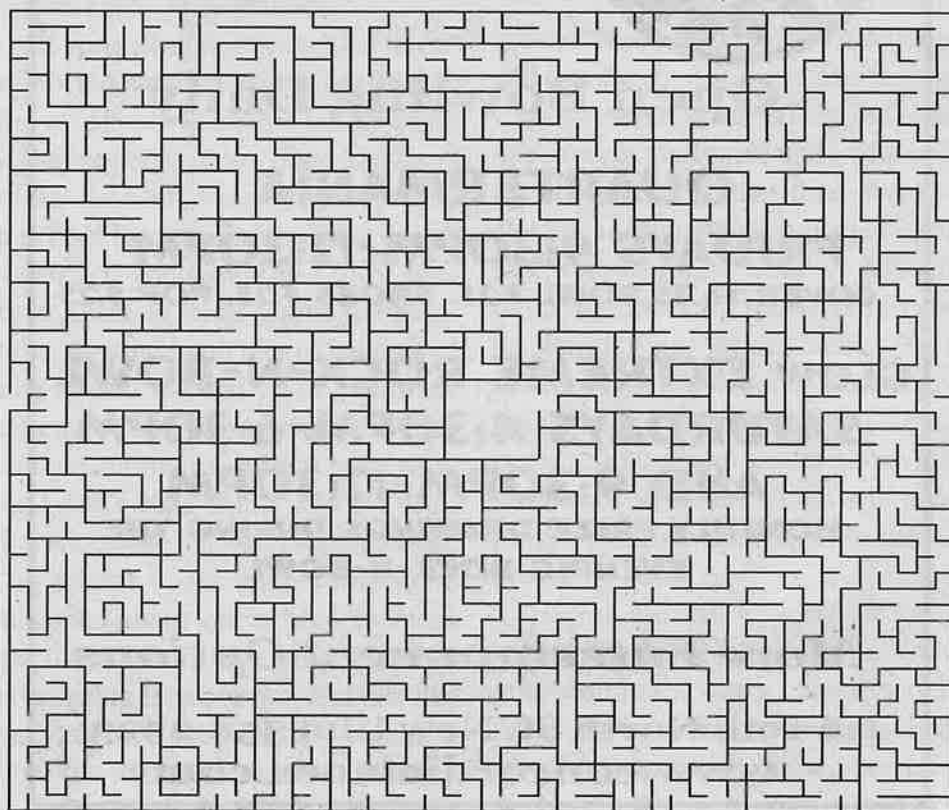
Written by: Katie MacRulay

Hollywood has come to a standstill in terms of originality. Think about it long and hard. It really has. We are no longer wooed by great cinematography, or seeing the unbelievable. The use of the "f" bomb no longer shocks. We have realized that paying close to \$10 to sit through a two hour plus movie, is about as ridiculous as saying that teachers are rich-but we still endure. Why? Because we thrive to be entertained. But what about getting back to the basics? A good clean, family type movie you wouldn't get nervous watching in your basement on normal volume, knowing that your parents are just a floor away. One that is just over an hour and a half that doesn't need all the fancy shmancy tactics of the twenty-first century. If you agree, you're in luck, and will find that *Napoleon Dynamite* is just one of those movies. Bizarre characters, offbeat catch-phrases and abnormal skills make this the love hate movie of the new year.

You've probably heard many of the quotes from this movie even if you haven't seen it. "Sorry I'm late, I was taming this wild honeymoon stallion for you." The thing is, the golden part of this film is just that. Many critics have decided that it is really a plotless

movie. We're not going to lie, there really isn't much of a plot. But oh well, so it won't get any Oscars, doesn't make it any less funny. This movie is probably going to be the movie that defines our generation. *The Breakfast Club* is to the eighties as *Napoleon Dynamite* is to the double zeros (You heard it hear first). It's made such an impact that the senior class has already put "liger" (a cross between a lion and a tiger) as a possibility for their class animal. This movie provides lunch room fodder and a basis for conversation with that kid you've never talked to before in your art class. Napoleon is a character that anyone can relate to, along with the rest of the cast. Whether you're the "Summer" of NUHS or the "Deb" type of the photo airbrush lab you'll find humor in these quirky characters while relating to their lifestyles. If you haven't seen it yet, go out and rent it, or borrow it, or steal it if ou have to (just kidding). As a statistic that we definitely just made up, about one in three high school students own a copy at this very moment.

This might be a short review, but we don't want to reveal too much about the movie. Go out and rent it because you'll feel left out if you don't.



# Kristen Gehrke Having the Time of her Life in Germany

Written by: Sam Waibel

Kristen Gehrke will have many stories to tell when she returns to New Ulm after spending the year in Germany. It took a lot of time and planning, not to mention courage to get there, but Kristen is finally there and having the time of her life. She is staying in Müelhiem, not too far from Düsselndorf, currently living with her second host family of the year. Kristen's host dad is a well known local architect and her host mom is a German Art teacher at a high school. She has a 17 year old host brother, who is attending an English boarding school and a 14 year old host sister. Through the Rotary program that Kristen is going through, she will have three families throughout the year.

As Kristen and her family found out, it is difficult to become an exchange student. First, Kristen applied to Rotary, then she was interviewed. Out of 80 other students applying for the exchange program, only 60 were accepted, and of those 60, only five went to Germany. "Germany was my first choice so I feel very privileged to be here," she said. After she was accepted, she and her family went to three orientation sessions, which Kristen says were very helpful. Ac-

ording to Ruth Ann Gehrke, Kristen's mother, after attending the orientation sessions she "felt at ease about her traveling abroad." It is different for Kristen's family and friends with her gone, but with email and digital cameras Germany seems a lot closer than it really is. Plus, "knowing that she is enjoying everyday of her experience is helpful to us, too," says Ruth Ann.

"Going abroad is one of the best things a person can do to learn more about themselves and the rest of the world," said Kristen, but she also says that it isn't for everyone. It's challenging and Kristen recommends that people don't just go and sign up without fully considering it, "otherwise you could get into a real mess." An interesting fact: you can basically go anywhere you want, except if you're a vegetarian. Because of the diet, they can only go to Japan, India or South Africa.

Kristen is definitely enjoying everyday of her Germany experience. "It has been so far the best thing I have done with no regrets about it at all." She says her favorite part is "all the new experiences." She is learning everyday that she is there. She has traveled through much of Germany with

her host families and with Rotary and has seen many new things.

She is shocked by how different school is there from how it is here. She says it is really hard. One of her hardest classes is Chemistry, the students there have been taking Chemistry for the last four years, and everything is in German. She says, also, that the teachers arrive in the classrooms five minutes after the bell and they leave the room with the rest of the class, so if you have a question, you need to ask it during class, which to begin with, for Kristen was hard.

Kristen says that the lifestyle in Germany is more relaxed. She gets home from school at around 1:15 and then she and her family eat a warm

meal. In the afternoon her host parents have tea or coffee and read the paper. At night they usually eat bread with different cheeses and then watch TV for a while together. "It's really hard to classify things as 'the German lifestyle' because I realize that from person to person there are so many differences, and it's hard to put classification to the differences." All things considered, the Germans eat healthier and they are "more in tune with what's going on in the world."

Kristen's family and friends here in New Ulm are glad things are working out well for her in Germany, even though they miss her. They remember that she will always remember her experiences there.

## Celebrate New Year Traditions

Written by: Tammie Alho

Breaking out the cold Catawba, clicking on the T.V. to a giant lighted ball, and cuddlin' up to that special someone, New Year's Eve traditions are a great way to ring in the New Year and say good bye to old man time. But where did all these traditions begin? The first celebration at Times Square, was held in 1904. The New York Times produced this event to inaugurate its new headquarters in Times Square and to celebrate the renaming of Longacre Square to Times Square. The first ball drop was held to ring in the year 1908. One year a giant apple was used instead of a ball, but it just wasn't the same. The traditional ball prevailed.

But that's just the start of a long history of celebrating the New Year. Some historians believe it was the Egyptians who started this whole party idea. By celebrating when the Nile River flooded, giving them water for their crops. Others think it was a more humorous way in Babylonia (now Iraq). Once a year, the king was stripped of his clothes and sent away. The people could celebrate and do whatever they wanted. When the king came back, it was back to work again for everyone else.

So what's with that Auld Lang Syne song? The custom goes all the way back to the British Isles in the 18th century, when party goers would end the celebration by getting into a circle and singing this song, saying "goodbye" to the night. The song actually came from a Scottish folk poet, Robert Burns, a favorite of the time. Auld Lang Syne translates into "old long since" (a.k.a. "the good old times"). The true message of the song is to forget the past and bring on the future. Many of just sing along, not really understanding what we're saying. We just sing it to be part of that Auld Lang gang.

Why January 1<sup>st</sup>? Blame Caesar for that one. The Romans used to celebrate the new year on March 1<sup>st</sup>, but in order to celebrate the god of all beginnings (Janus), Caesar decided to change it up. Janus is depicted with two faces; one looking back at the past year and one looking forward into the new. However, Great Britain and the English colonies still kept the March New Year. It wasn't until 1752 that they adopted what we view today as the current calendar.

So enjoy your new year. After all, it only comes once a year.



Kristen Gehrke with her host siblings.

# Put me in "Coach": An expose' on NUHS's most forgotten League

Written by: Katie MacAulay and Martha Stuckey

As I approached the dingy cafeteria table next to the droning sounds of the dimly lit vending machines I noticed Mr. Andrew Reed a . k . a . "Coach" with applications laid out in front of him. I knew this was going to be an "A+" interview.

It's a compliment to be called a nerd.

- Andy Reed

The reason for our encounter was based solely on a widespread misconception of Math League. No, it's not just a club for those quiet kids who has memorized all the digits of pi, it's actually a close knit group that meets once a week to bring their mathematical fortes to the surface.

**Katie:** So Andy, what exactly is Math League?

**Andy:** Well, we take tests!

**Katie:** Right...Do you want to elaborate?

**Andy:** There are five different kinds of tests at our competitions; A, B, C, and D. "A" is algebra, "B" is geometry, "C" is trigonometry, and "D" is whatever they feel like throwing you that day.

**Katie:** So, what is each test like?

**Andy:** Each test is twelve minutes

long, with four questions of extremely, EXTREMELY lateral thinking. And the team test is twenty minutes long in which each person has the same test to work on.

**Katie:** How do you decide who takes each test?

**Andy:** We split them up based on strengths and age?

**Katie:** Age?

**Andy:** Yes, age. As we all know, a freshmen would not know

the amount of calculus that a student of the course of the same name would.

**Katie:** Other tests?

**Andy:** Andy's explanation.

**Katie:** Who do you compete against?

**Andy:** Blue Earth Area, Fairmont, St. James, Mankato East and West, Lake Crystal Wellcome-Memorial, and MVL.

**Katie:** When are your competitions?

**Andy:** We compete on random Mondays, five months a year.

**Katie:** So, I'm assuming scoring is based off of who scored best on the tests.

**Andy:** Kind of, every point you get on the test is added towards the overall team score. Team score is also kept track of and at the end of the season the highest cumulative score wins overall and is named the best Math League. Or more importantly, which

team goes on to State.

**Katie:** How does New Ulm end up in the ranking?

**Andy:** We're third from the bottom, usually. Basically, two teams are worse than us.

**Katie:** When do you practice?

**Andy:** We practice Mondays after school from three to four.

**Katie:** If the competitions involve random tests, how would you practice test taking?

**Andy:** Well, we take practice tests, bounce ideas off of each other, see how each of us sees things. Basically, we talk about strategy.

**Katie:** What is the outline of practice?

**Andy:** (Gives Katie confused look)

**Katie:** You know like, warm-ups, stretches, drills, mental focusing....

**Andy:** (chuckle) Well, either you know it or you don't. There's multiple ways of going about things, it's all

about strategies.

**Katie:** All right, well I guess that's about enough information. Do you have any closing statements for us Mr. Reed?

**Andy:** This is a good one...C squared - A squared = B squared. "B" different.

**Katie:** Thank you.

Just seconds after Reed's closing statement, the tone wounded signaling the end of our session. Before he leaves the confinement of the cafeteria, he has absentmindedly forgotten a few things lying on the table. Just as I remind him, turning he gives me that familiar smile everyone here at NUHS has grown so accustomed to from Coach, leaving no doubt in anyone's mind where he picked up such an honorable nickname. "See ya in physics Kath, and thanks." And I thought, "No, thank you Coach."

## The 1990's - A Peek Back in Time

Written by: Tammie Alho

If you ever think about what life was like back in middle school, or for seniors: even your first years of high school, it's fond to think of your friends, bad hair days, and maybe even those nasty classes. But what about the music you used to jam to? And the clothing you thought was "cool"? The toys you used to play with, and pretend you never had? Yeah, we all had those times, most of us still do. Let's take a peek back in time.

"Waasssuup!" Welcome to the 1990's with more on Budweiser commercials, Furbies, Beanie Babies, and Boy Bands than the over-rated Y2K scare.

You had one, and if you didn't, you know you wanted one; Gigapets and Tomogatchi - those annoying little beeping dogs, cats, aliens and strange looking blobs. It was actually a little interesting trying to keep 6 of them alive at once. And it was all the rage to collect pokemon in any way, shape and form!

Remember the tunes you dared your friends to learn? Had banging grunge such as Nirvana's "Smells Like

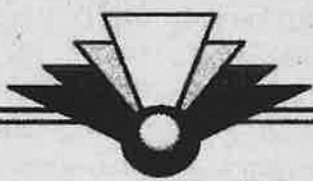
Teen Spirit", to trying to catch up with Savage Garden's "I Want You", and all the way back to shakin' with Los Del Rio: "The Macarena". Heaven forbid you didn't know that dance. Or maybe those special songs you shared with a close one like "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" by John Elton or Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You". How about that humming song "Mmm Mmm Mmm" by the Crash Test Dummies?

Catchin' a ride with mom or dad to simply get to a friends birthday party. Yes, I remember too.

The infamous award-winning Budwieser "Waasssuup!" commercials. They had everyone from the Pope to Mario saying it and now me!

Here's a doozy for you, POGS! Yep, that pointless game of flipping over little circles of cardboard with a bigger, plastic circle. Oh the memories.

Oh yeah, those were the times. Granted most of us are over Barbie's and little toy trucks, but from My Little Pony, to The Spice Girls; the 90's are more alive than you think.



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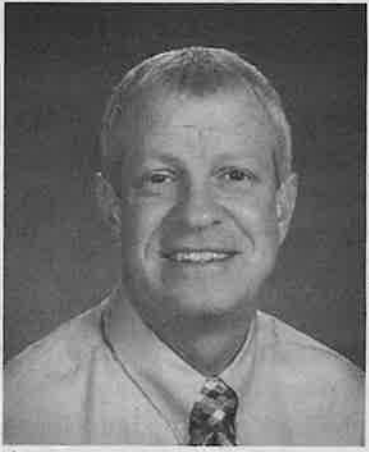
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# New Faces Grace the Halls at New Ulm Senior High

## Mr. Froiland

Written by: Samu Miller



David Froiland has been teaching for 31 years. This is his first year in the Senior High, many students have had him prior to high school because he taught science in the middle school. He received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Sioux Falls and says that the best part about being a teacher is interacting with the young adults. During class, in order to make things a little bit more interesting, he likes being on top of the subject, enjoys hands on activities and likes to have fun with his students. His favorite course to teach in the senior high is Composite Science, one possible reason for that is...it's the only class he teaches in the high school. Mr. Froiland enjoys the senior high more than the middle school because the kids are much more mature and adult-like, which makes teaching easier. At first he was worried about moving to the senior high after 30 years of teaching in the middle school, but he said he felt very welcome to be here and it was a very positive experience.

## Mrs. Untiedt

Written by: Lindsay Howk



"Where is Mrs. Untiedt?" Constantly a teacher on the go, this year Mrs. Untiedt is teaching at both the middle school and high school. Graduating from Minnesota State University - Mankato, Mrs. Untiedt began her teaching career in 1976 at St. Mary's school in Sleepy Eye. Not stopping at just teaching English to sophomores and seniors, Mrs. Untiedt also directed plays, advised the year book, and was the senior class advisor. After a few short years, Mrs. Untiedt joined the staff at New Ulm Cathedral School, where she taught freshman and seniors while also advising the school newspaper. For the past 11 years, she has been teaching at the New Ulm Junior High and this year, is currently working at both the middle school as well as the high school. On top of teaching within the schools of District #88, Mrs. Untiedt has also shared her time and talent with the community by teaching GED classes for the past 15

years. "There is rarely a dull moment in teaching," declared Mrs. Untiedt. "No matter what material is covered, each hour is unique because of the mixture of personalities." Mrs. Untiedt went on to say that witnessing a student having an "aha" moment, when they recognize their own ability and potential or grasp a concept is what makes teaching worthwhile for her. One interesting time in her teaching career was when she first began teaching full time at New Ulm Middle School. She was in a different class every hour, so she created the theme of "Where is Mrs. Untiedt?" based on "Where's Waldo?", to help her students find her more easily. Mrs. Untiedt notes that although she is not always easy to find, just like Waldo, rest assured if you look hard enough she can always be found.

## Sr. Reynen

Written by: Jade Menk



Sr. Reynen grew up in good old Hollandale, MN, which is near Albert Lea, MN. It was not a bad town, though it did not have much to offer

as means of entertainment, after all, only 289 people lived there. Sr. Reynen went to college at Winona State University. He received his education to become a teacher in graduate school at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN.

"I have been teaching in New Ulm now for one and a half years. This is my first teaching job I've ever had. I do not think there is one single thing I like best about teaching. First and foremost, I like being able to have an impact in people's lives. I welcome the opportunity to positively influence my students," commented Reynen. Another thing he likes is working with young people. Whether they are elementary, middle, or high school students, they have youthful energy and curiosity. Finally, he also enjoys having his summers off.

If he had not been a teacher, there are likely many things Sr. Reynen would have done. He originally wanted to be a composite materials engineer. He also thought about pursuing martial arts further. He looked into sales, and was an interpreter for a while too. "There is no one thing that is as attractive as teaching, though," he says.

"Some things that are interesting about me depends on one's perspective of interesting. I think students already know I'm a video game nerd and I'm proud of it. They know about much of my traveling. I suppose it might be interesting to know that I have eleven fingers. Weird that no one noticed. Just kidding," joked Reynen.

## Help Wanted at eNoUgH Said

Have you been reading eNoUgH Said lately? Are you interested in writing an article on something you feel strongly about or are interested in? Now you can! Next semester the school newspaper will no longer be put out by the journalism class, but will be put out as an extracurricular activity.

While the school doesn't have funding to continue distributing the paper, a high school journalism grant has been issued in partnership with the Putting Green project in order to allow the high school students to write about environmental issues as well as school related events. Article submissions will be reviewed by both the Putting Green personnel and Mr. Torgerson.

Any students interested in writing newspaper articles, advertising, photography, or design and layout should consider joining the staff of eNoUgH Said for our second semester of distributing the newspaper. Meeting and sign up will be on February 3 at 7:45 a.m. and again at 3:10. Listen for more details in the announcements.

# Sports

## Girl's Hoopsters are Determined Boys Buckets Could use Luck

Written by: Tim Campbell

Persistence, resilience, and determination are the three keys to success this year for the Eagle Girl's Basketball team.

This year's squad returns a number of players with varsity experience, which senior co-captain Martha Beatty recognizes as one of the team's strengths. "We've all seen varsity time, so I think we had that going for us coming into the year," she explained. Beatty, along with seniors Megan Oberle and Coresa Leighty are the captains. The Eagles are once again coached by Brad Metter.

To this point, the girls have played eight games, but are still looking for their first win. The team remains confident, however, that they can make mid-season improvements. One problem for the girls is their tendency to not play to their full potential. "I think sometimes we play at the level of our opponent, which can hurt us," explains Beatty. "Once we play to our level, we will start to win some games."

While experience is one of the strengths of this team, it isn't the only one. They have a good defensive presence as well. Senior Kelly Hammerschmidt gives the girls a good foundation down low, with the ability to make defensive blocks. Oberle is also a contributor on the defensive side, accounting for many defensive rebounds.

"This year, we are playing better defense," Metter points out. "Instead of turning the ball over, we are now causing turnovers, and we are not making the mental errors that we made in the past."

On the offensive side of the court, Leighty is one of the more consistent scorers for scoring, but the Eagles depend on different girls each night to help with the scoring effort. Metter recognizes the team's inability to have consistent scoring as their main weakness. Coach Metter has confidence that this will change, however, drawing on the fact that they have been

forced to play without some of their key contributors due to injury or other circumstances. "The nice thing about



the losses we've had are that they have been losses of five, seven points, as opposed to fifteen or twenty. We could as easily be 8-0 right now," Metter states.

Within the South Central Conference, the team to beat seems to be St. James, who is undefeated at this point. Waseca and Fairmont also have solid squads. In the section, Worthington, whom the Eagles host on Feb. 1, holds top billing as the top-ranked team in the state.

While the girls don't feel that their record is a good indication of their ability, they do feel like they have something to prove. "I don't think we've played our best basketball yet, and once we get some consistency, things should come together," explains Metter. There is still a lot of basketball to be played, as the girls aren't even halfway through their season. Upcoming home games include Feb. 1 against Worthington, Fairmont on Feb. 3, and LCWM on Feb. 8. The playoffs start on February 24.

Written by: Timo Miller

The effort is there for the New Ulm Boy's Basketball team during the 2004-2005 season, even though their

record may indicate otherwise. Standing at 1-7 overall and 0-3 in the South Central Conference, they could easily have more wins under their belt.

The Eagles have had multiple games with chances to win on a last second shot, but each time it didn't fall, with the most recent one coming on January 7th at Blue Earth, losing 47-46.

John Besser and Mikale Gustafson have carried the offensive load for the Eagles so far, each having games with over twenty points.

New Ulm's only win came during the JWP tournament, where they captured second place. In their first game against the Minnesota Business Academy, the Eagles started on fire and it continued that way throughout the game, ending in a 71-40 victory. John Besser posted 26 points and 10 rebounds in the win. In the championship game of the tournament, the Eagles faced a St. Claire team that they matched up equally with. After being a tight game for four quarters, New Ulm ended up losing by three points.

Since the beginning of the basketball season, the Eagles have improved a lot, and look for more wins to come their way. Upcoming home games include conference rival St. Peter on January 14th, St. James on January 22nd, and LCWM on January 25th.



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# Gymnasts down section rival MCW

Written by: Jen Seavey - Journal Sports Editor

Members of the New Ulm gymnastics team got a glimpse today of how the end of their season may turn out.

The Eagles topped Martin County West 138.55-132.675; the New Ulm score was just .1 short of tying the all-time record.

The New Ulm girls knew, going into the meet that it was an important one to judge how the end of their season might go.

"We see how we match up with them now, and it shows what we have to work on to get to state,"

Kristen Johnson said. "They are in our section; they are one of the top teams we have to beat to get to state."

The other two teams are Jackson County Central, which has

been scoring around 135, and Worthington, which New Ulm beat on Saturday, so the Eagles are feeling pretty good.

"They [MCW] have good gymnasts and we beat 'em, so our potential to go to state is good," Backer said. "We didn't see anything worrisome."

On vault, Krista Windschitl took first place with an 8.9, beating out MCW's Danielle Sandberg (8.775). Allie Betsch tied MCW's Paige Ellman for third (8.75). On floor, Windschitl got a 9.2 topping the Mustangs Kristeena Patsche (9.0). Betsch took third (8.85). Betsch tied Patsche

for first on bars with an 8.9, with Windschitl taking second (8.7).

But the beam was where New Ulm really outdid the Mustangs.

Patsche took third (8.05), but Megan Grussendorf and Betsch tied for second place (8.675), and Johnson stuck first place with a score of 8.95.

"A lot of us stuck the beam," Johnson said. "We have trouble staying on the beam; we get shaky."

"I've been struggling a lot lately, so it feels good to stick it," she said.

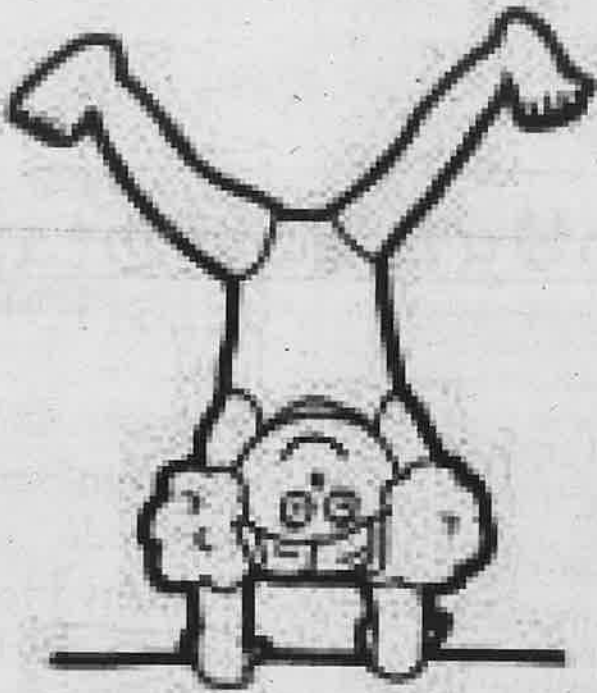
"It was a very important meet; we knew we had to win this one, so we tried our hardest."

New Ulm swept the all-around, with Betsch taking first place with a 35.15, Windschitl at second with 34.35, and Grussendorf at third (33.75).

"We tried some new tricks tonight and they went well," Backer said. "They turned into big scores."

In junior varsity action, New Ulm topped MCW 121-116.5.

Caitlin Barrett took first in the all-around with 29.3. April Lund tied for first on vault (8.5), and New Ulm's Sheila Lindemann and Briana Blomquist tied at third (8.2). On bars, Katie Cihak took first (8.0) and Shawn Hennessey tied for second (7.9). On beam, Rachel Reinarts was third (6.6). And the Eagles nearly swept on floor, with Shyranda Hornick taking first (8.1), Lund at second (7.9), and Kortney Petersen tying for third (7.8).



# Girl's Hockey Keeps Winning

Written by: Liz Bode

On Dec. 29 The New Ulm Girls Hockey placed third in the three day Sertoma Tournament held in Dodge County. The girls won their first game beating Winona 2-0. Their second game they didn't have much luck, los-

ing to John Marshal, with a close score of 5-4. For their final game they played Albert Lea and won with a score 2-1. The Girls hold a record of 10-5-1 as of January 12, 2005.



Photo taken by Liz Bode.

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Winston Churchill

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