



News from the Nest



New Ulm High School *Home of the Eagles*

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The Battle: Same Old Good, Clean Fun

By Lauren Horsch and Taylor Rueckert

New Ulm High School held its annual “Battle of the Classes” (BOTC) on October 2nd in the gymnasium. Students in grades 9-12 gathered during their 6th and 7th hours to watch the senior class win the coveted title and bragging rights for another year...again.

“We hope that kids have a good time but also not have the accidents we had last year,” said Mrs. Gordon, one of the three new Student Council advisors and history teacher.

With new advisors and a new council, came new events and new rules. For example, there was an attempt to have a boys’ cheerleading event (no little uniforms necessary) but no one signed up. Another new and exciting event was the New Ulm’s Best Dance Crew, which was probably one of the most fantastic events, except for the freshmen not having a routine.

Not everything was easy sailing though. There was one main difficulty in planning, and that was not having a Student Council for two weeks.

“We had a compressed time to plan all Homecoming events,” Gordon said. She also went on to say that having “a really good council” helped out once it was established.

As all the students entered the gym, the anticipation grew as senior Colin Campbell dropped a lunch tray on the gym floor, and a loud “Oooo” from all grades ensued. The onslaught of cheers continued as the junior and senior class volleyball teams made their way onto the court to do battle for the first team points.

Kayla Altmann, a senior, read the rules during which it was clarified that “this is the warning” and that inappropriate behavior and cheers would not be tolerated. Points would be docked for misbehavior.

At the end of the volleyball match, the juniors came out ahead with a score of 15 to 11.

“Face it, we will never be touched in volleyball,” said Zach Quiring, a member of the junior volleyball team.

The seniors then went on to win the next two events: the doughnut eating contest and the relay race, despite some sick-looking students after scarfing down cakes and dough-

nuts and ingesting a half gallon of milk during the contest.

Juniors then went on to win the Powder Puff football game against the seniors with a score of 6-0. The girls were running all over the gym floor while the teachers tried to keep them from smashing into the crowd and becoming brutal, which was inevitable.

The seniors ended up winning four more events: the tug-of-war, musical chairs, New Ulm’s Best Dance Crew, and the coveted dodge-ball game.



A senior ran over to the junior section, after a surprising loss to the sophomores, yelling: “What



was that?” Teacher security quickly squashed the insurrection.

During the New Ulm’s Best Dance Crew, the sophomores danced to “Can’t Touch This,” followed by the juniors grooving to “Marco Polo.” “Soulja Boy” was an unexpected senior choice, but took the win surprisingly, after the juniors and sophomores were disqualified for overactive hip movements.

Yet, the junior class won the pickle juice drinking contest.

“It was delicious,” said Micayla Irmiter, a junior class participant.

As the scores were being counted for the final time, everyone knew who was going to win: the seniors.

“(It was) freaking sweet!” said sophomore Olivia Blake about BOTC, which was confirmed by junior Matti Miller who described BOTC as “intense.”

This year there were no major injuries besides the occasional bruise. Even Powder Puff Football, which has produced the most injuries to date, was free of incident.

Since there were no infractions about behavior besides the docking of points during the dance portion, it looks like Battle of the Classes will live on for another year.

One thing that was quite out of the ordinary was the fact that there was very little blatant cheating on the part of the senior class (except, that is, in the relay). Many of the students agree that the games this year were better than they normally would have been, and expect more epic festivities next year.

Gordon said that she was “appreciative” of the students and Student Council for being responsible and going along with the changes.

She also said that changes would be made “as needed” for either safety reasons or to create more fun in the coming years.

Even with the changes this year it was the same old battle. The same Homecoming shenanigans were present and class rivalries were vocalized.

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Homecoming King and Queen Crowned

By Tessa Makepeace

Anticipation was in the air at 7 p.m. on September 29, 2008, as the New Ulm High School gym was filled with spectators waiting to find out who the Homecoming king and queen would be. Seven king candidates and seven queen candidates were seated on one side of the gym in a row of chairs on a platform awaiting the news.

Toward the end of the evening, Jake Hoffmann and Courtney Kral were crowned this year's Homecoming royalty. Grades 9-12 voted during school to decide who would win.

Coronation began with the school song played by the band. This was followed by the national anthem sung by the high school choir. Senior Josh Gronholz welcomed the crowd and introduced the MC for the evening, art teacher Mrs. Stewart.

Stewart introduced last year's royalty, Andrew Irlbeck and Carrie Kauffman, who sat on a couch in the middle of the row of this year's royalty.

The Danceline performed a high kick routine to the song "Cotton Eye Joe" amid cheers from the crowd to kick-off the evening.

Then Mr. Pickus announced the traditional faculty skit. This year each court member was paired with a teacher for a classic rock dance. All of the pairs left the gym for a few minutes to prepare their dances. In the mean time, the New Ulm High School band played the song "Evil Ways." The dancing pairs then returned to the gym, many dressed in costumes.

One group including Mrs. Fairbairn and Mr. Nelson wore wizard costumes for "Pinball Wizard" by the Who along with their partners, soon-to-be Homecoming royalty Jake Hoffmann and Courtney Kral.

Paraprofessional Chris Ohland slid between Jordan Bot-

ten's legs for their routine and the packed gym really went wild with a loud burst of laughter.

After the couples swung each other around to a variety of fun songs, the "Applause-O-Meter," or Ms. Tasto used her arm to show the volume of the cheering from the crowd for each pair. Not surprisingly, Botten and Ohland received the overwhelmingly loudest cheers to win the dance competition.

Stewart then recognized the fall sports coaches and teams by asking the players to stand as she announced each sport. Sports included were football, volleyball, danceline, cheerleading, tennis, and cross country.

The student skit, also known as "Mocking the Court," came next. One after another, Gronholz asked Homecoming court impersonators questions after they came onto the gym floor.

The court dance, another tradition, came next. Each year, the court prepares a dance to a medley of songs. This year's court danced around the gym to songs including "Get Silly" by V.I.C., "Come Clean" by Hilary Duff, and "Grease Lightning" from the soundtrack of *Grease*.

"The best part of being on court was the dance," Olivia Augustin, a court member, said.

The court members even met under the Marktplatz Mall the Sunday night before coronation to put the finishing touches on the dance. It wasn't all fun and games, however. Coming to school early was a necessary part to make the dance performance a success.

The last thing before the introduction of the candidates was a cheer from the cheerleaders to reenergize the crowd and to get everyone excited for Homecoming Week.

One by one, the seven king candidates came out to the middle of the gym floor to form a circle with their escorts standing behind them. Stewart introduced the candidates by announcing each person's interests, hobbies, and future plans.

Irlbeck gave a football signed by the 2008 court members to the new king after walking around the circle. Hoffmann became the new Homecoming king after Irlbeck handed him the ball.

Queen candidates were introduced in the same way before each escort received a plastic egg from Stewart. On the count of three, the eggs were broken over the girls' heads.

"Before they broke the eggs I was looking around at everyone else expecting to see confetti come down on someone else's head," Kral said. "I couldn't believe it when it was me."

Kauffman, the reigning queen, assisted Kral in receiving her cape, crown, and bouquet of flowers. The new homecoming royalty formed a procession

while the band played the school song.

Audience members were then welcomed to the floor to offer congratulations to the Homecoming king and queen of 2008.



Dress-Up Week a Hit

By Ryan Miller

Last week, New Ulm High School was overrun by a large number of teenagers in strange outfits. No, it wasn't an attack or a protest, but rather it was this year's Homecoming Dress-up Week sponsored by the Student Council.

During Homecoming Week to increase school spirit, the NUHS Student Council made it a dress-up week as well, where students who participated dressed in a different outfit each day.

Each day there was a theme that the students dressed up as. Nerd Day on Monday, Hobo Day on Tuesday, Retro Day on Wednesday, class colors on Thursday, and purple and white on Friday. Many students joined in and fun was had by all.

Nerd Day had quite a range of interesting outfits. People abounded sporting extreme geek; taped glasses, suspenders, pants hitched up to their third ribs, and even a few pocket protectors.

The most popular costumes themselves came on Hobo

Day, with a fair number of students trying to be as over-the-top or silly with their costumes as possible. Common themes were ripped clothes, plaid jackets, and cardboard signs.

Memorable Hobo Day costumes included Josh Gronholz, who wore plastic bags as shoes, or Jesse Wiggins, who looked like he came straight out of the Depression era with his torn suit. Also of note for humorous use of cardboard would be Tom Polich, who dragged his cardboard box/mobile home from class to class on a string.

Retro day had the least participation. In spite of that, it did have the largest variety. People wore styles anywhere from the '80s to the '30s, and even a few harder to classify styles. Hippies galore walked in the halls alongside the cast of *Grease* (complete with T-bird jackets and slicked-back hair). Sadly, not a single beatnik was to be found.

Not surprisingly, most students' favorite day seemed to be Class Color Day with nearly every high school student participating. The fact that this day was also Battle of the

Classes might have had some influence, however. This year faculty were red, freshmen were orange, sophomores were yellow, juniors were a sickly neon yellow that they claimed to be green, and the seniors were rockin' it in black.

Finally, Homecoming Friday was purple and white, the colors of the New Ulm Eagles! Mostly everybody who had purple and/or white wore it this day, and it was evident that school spirit was everywhere. Many students enjoyed participating in these days and all who were asked said they would like to see more theme outfit days.

"Yes, we probably will have a couple more," said Trevor Hildebrandt, a senior Student Council member, when asked about the possibility for more dress-up days. It is not known when the next week will be.

Student-suggested ideas for possible future days included Hat Day, Fake an Injury Day, and Crazy Hair Day.

Pepfest

An Enthusiastic, Screaming Crowd Sees Homecoming Court Riding Water Coolers

By Laura Schumacher

On Friday, October 3, NUHS had its Homecoming Pepfest. When all the students of NUHS entered the gym 7th hour, the band was playing the “Final Countdown” and the Danceline was giving its performance to raise school spirits to end a festive Homecoming Week and inspire the football team to victory before battling Waseaca at Johnson Field.

The gym was crowded and almost everybody joined in the school song with standing ovations while the Dance Line and the Cheerleaders welcomed the Homecoming court to the gym.

Mrs. Curry roused school spirits by initiating a 7-12 yelling contest, which was, according to many students, “the most fun part” of the Pepfest.

Every grade had to yell one specific word as loud as they could.

Students belted “Go, fight, win, New Ulm Eagles!” together nearly blowing the gym roof off! Everybody was



to “The Eagle Beat” and threw each other into the air.

The varsity football captains then introduced themselves and gave a short statement on the Homecoming game.

Everybody was optimistic and proud of the Eagles’ Football Team.

“We’re going to win!” said senior Garrett Fischer as the

very loud and the contest seemed close, but in the end the juniors won the contest.

The Dance Line wore cow-girl costumes and performed “Cotton Eye Joe” next, which drew loud applause and impressed many students.

The cheerleaders danced

crowd exploded into cheers in agreement.

The Homecoming court performed their dance to a medley of popular songs including “Grease Lightening” and “I Can Ride My Bike With No Handlebar” while also dancing with umbrellas and riding assorted “bikes,” trucks, and water coolers.

Most of the students said the Pepfest was “real fun” and it was important for them that the 7th and 8th grade students joined in. This way everyone in NUHS was involved.

Some of the seniors remarked that it was sad that this was their last Pepfest, but that it was “very energetic” and everyone seemed to enjoy it.



Dance Fever

By Olivia Augustin

As music pumped from speakers, a dance craze struck New Ulm High School’s gym on Friday, October 3, 2008. After a glorious win by the Eagles’ football team, roughly 300 students from grades 9-12 came to rock the dance floor with Up All Night Entertainment from 9:30 to midnight.

The boogying began with “Low” by Flo Rida. Only a handful of people were strutting their goodies but eventually jiving-hungry students filtered into the gym to get their groove on.

It wasn’t very long before a mosh of teenagers crammed the waxed floors to create a matrix of limbs. The dancers squeezed into a confined area and swapped sweat for 2 1/2 hours next to the DJ’s bass speakers. The body odor was so pungent it could have been smelled from the outside parking lot.

As legs turned to Jell-O, the DJ knew that a short rest was needed. He slowed it down with “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz and couples glided away, heads on shoulders.

“The first song wasn’t even really a slow song,” said senior Rodney Drexler, an attendee of the dance. “You couldn’t dance to it!”

But right after “I’m Yours,” a true slow song rang throughout the building and countless people embraced each other.

After a few minutes of sappy love songs, the teens were

ready to do some more overactive hip movements. Shortly after the slow stuff, Lil Wayne’s “Got Money” blared from the speakers and the whole crowd went crazy. The gang huddled in and raised their hands in the air, all the while chanting with what little voice they had left from a week’s worth of Homecoming activities.

“It was really fun. I love to bust a move!” said Maddie Babel, a junior. The night went on and everyone tried their hardest to stay standing.

“Everybody got buck in there,” said Marne Louters, another junior in attendance.

“It was uber-tastic,” said Sarah Maudal, a senior and member of Homecoming Court.

As the dance progressed, a thread of country tunes and rock songs chorused, draining some of the fun.

“I’d give it an all around 6.5,” said Tessa Makepeace, an avid dance attendee. “I requested ‘Swing’ (by Savage), and when they didn’t play it, I got crabby.”

Once the dead part of the evening passed, more rap jams filled the room and the crowd seemed content.

“It was off the hook, baby,” said Alex Hoffman, a hardcore dancer.

To complete the evening, one last romantic slow song was played. Lovebirds, or in most cases just cheerful friends, swayed away in each other’s arms. And just when everyone thought it was over, Unk’s “Two-Step” bumped from the speakers to get the crowd moving one last time.

As quickly as it began, the dance ended and the tired, sore students waddled and limped out the school doors to continue the party elsewhere with another year of Homecoming memories.

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Pre-Election: The Issues

By Cassie Reed and Tessa Makepeace

In the next few weeks leading up to the November 4 election, presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain will be presenting their platforms in hopes of becoming the next president of the United States.

Obama, an Illinois senator, is the Democratic candidate and McCain, an Arizona senator, is the Republican candidate. Results of the election will determine our national leader for the next four years.

The September 26 debate brought up important issues for the two candidates regarding foreign policy and the current economic situation. The candidates' issues were reinforced in the October 2 vice presidential debate between Obama's recently chosen running mate, Joe Biden, and McCain's recently chosen running mate, Sarah Palin.

For some students at New Ulm High School, the upcoming election means their first time voting and thinking more about the issues. Senior student Colin Campbell, for example, is following the campaigns closely and finds the vice presidential nominations particularly interesting.

"Are you kidding me?" Campbell said. "Sarah Palin's hot, but she can't run a country!"

Campbell thinks that Palin is not experienced enough to be the vice president, as is the concern of many others. Although McCain saw his popularity jump in the polls after announcing Palin as his running mate, a clear election leader has not yet been established; although, Obama appears to be inching ahead in recent days.

Senior Josh Gronholz is in support of McCain, believing that Obama is not as qualified and too inexperienced.

"I like McCain's stance on capitalism and private enterprise," Gronholz says.

High priorities for Illinois Senator Obama include a universal health care plan, social security, and ending the war in Iraq. For McCain, important issues include the war in Iraq, immigration, and abortion.

Other key issues in the election include the economy, health care, and gay marriage.

In terms of the economy, Obama wants to reverse the tax cuts President Bush has made for the wealthiest Americans and instead give a tax credit to middle- and low-income workers of up to \$500. McCain would keep the tax cuts for high-income Americans.

On the issue of health care, both candidates would like to lower costs but have different ideas of how to do it. The Democratic candidate has proposed a plan to make health care available to all citizens by guaranteeing eligibility and providing widespread coverage. McCain is in favor of bringing down health care costs by reforming payment systems and making purchasing health insurance easier.

On the issue of the war in Iraq, Obama is in support of withdrawing troops from Iraq now while McCain favors staying there until the Iraqi government is stable, maybe with a timetable for troop withdrawal. Obama voted against the war at its outset, and McCain voted in support of a resolution to send troops to Iraq.

"The war in Iraq is at a crossroads and the future of the entire region is at stake," McCain said in 2007, after the war was well underway.

"I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war," Obama said.

As for immigration, Obama is in favor of giving illegal immigrants in the United States today a way to become legal citizens. McCain agrees with this but would also like increased border enforcement including cargo screening at ports.

An issue on which the two candidates agree is gay marriage. Both support civil unions but oppose gay marriage, as do both of the candidates' running mates. Palin and Biden agreed on this issue in the October 2 vice presidential debate, which was somewhat unusual because the candidates of both the Democratic and Republican parties usually differ in opinion on this subject.

A big ticket item for both sides is energy and the environment as concerns about energy independence and global warming build. Obama has a plan to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. Both McCain and Obama want to end or significantly reduce our dependence on foreign oil. McCain's plan to achieve this goal includes expanding the use of alternative fuel sources such as nuclear power.

The next presidential event to watch for will be the third and final presidential debate on October 15, 2008, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. The focus will be on domestic and economic policies.

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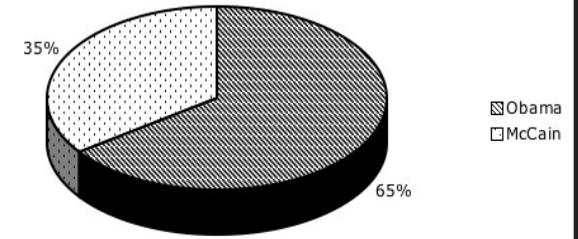
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**Presidential Election 2008:
If NUHS Elected the Next President,
Obama Would Win**



Issue	McCain	Obama
Experience	Senator	Senator and attorney
Economy	Supports making Bush tax cuts set to expire in 2010 permanent	Reverse tax cuts for upper-income taxpayers, cut taxes for middle and low-income taxpayers
Iraq War	Voted in favor to go, wants to finish job there before leaving	Opposed, in support of plan for immediate troop withdrawal
Health Care	Make health care affordable	National health care plan
Gay Marriage	Opposes gay marriage, supports civil unions	Opposes gay marriage, supports civil unions
Immigration	Stronger border enforcement, way for illegal immigrants already living here to become citizens	Stronger border enforcement, way for illegal immigrants already living here to become citizens
Abortion	Pro-life	Pro-choice
Energy/Environment	End U.S. dependence on foreign oil by using alternative energy sources	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, double federal clean energy research spending, reduce dependence on foreign oil
Education	State and local agencies should be responsible for academic standards instead of the federal government	Improve teacher pay, opposes school vouchers, opposes reauthorization of No Child Left Behind until it undergoes reform
Capital Punishment	Supports for federal crimes	Supports in certain cases

Source:

"John McCain Candidate Platform." 27 December 2007. *Boston Herald News*. 1 October 2008 <<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/politics/2008/bios/view.bg?articleid=1063099>>.

"Barack Obama Candidate Platform." 27 December 2007. *Boston Herald News*. 1 October 2008 <<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/politics/2008/bios/view.bg?articleid=1063110>>.

Minnesota's New Driving Restrictions

By Cassie Reed

The Minnesota State Legislature put into action new driving restrictions for teenage drivers this August. These restrictions are for teenagers who just got their license or will be receiving it soon.

The new law now prohibits teens from driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by a licensed driver 25 years or older, or if it is for work or school-related events where transportation is not provided, according to the new legislature.

This restriction is for the first six months after receiving one's driver's license.

Another restriction for the first six months is that new drivers cannot have more than one passenger under the age of 20 who is not a family member. For the second six months, teens can only have three such passengers with them in the car while driving.

Another stipulation in the law prohibits all drivers of all ages from reading, writing, and sending text messages on their cell phones.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has stated that in the past three years, 16- and 17-year-old drivers have been involved in 116 fatal car crashes resulting in 133 deaths

in Minnesota.

National data says that drivers aged 16-17-years-old are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal car crash as adults when there are two or more passengers in the car.

"Teens are more likely to be involved in fatal crashes, especially at night and are more susceptible to distractions, speeding, and failure to wear seat belts," Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Campion told the *St. Cloud Times*.

New Ulm High School junior Lauren Horsch, who just recently got her license, said that these restrictions wouldn't really affect her because she doesn't plan on following them anyway. She thinks the passenger limits are "pretty dumb." She said she's going to have as many passengers as she wants to.

New Ulm High School senior Lora Hlavsa, who has a permit, says that these restrictions will affect her because she will be getting her license right before she graduates, so she won't be able to car pool.

Both Horsch and Hlavsa agreed that these restrictions probably would not reduce the number of accidents and violations because people just won't follow them. They won't

be following them because teenagers car pool and no law is going to stop it. Also, in the two months that it's been in action, they don't know of anyone who has gotten pulled over for violating these restrictions.

If this seems harsh, it's actually not. In fact, Minnesota is one of the last states to enact nighttime and passenger restrictions on teen drivers, joining 40 other states that already have such restrictions.

Minnesota Senator Amy Koch said that she thinks the new law limiting teen passengers and nighttime driving for newly licensed teenagers will cut down the number of situations that result in car crashes, the leading killer of Minnesota teens.

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Q and A on Cell Phone Policy

By Ashley Schroeder

It's no secret students love their cell phones, and some think teachers love to take them away. Well, this year students greeted the 2008-2009 school year with a slightly revised cell phone policy.

The policy on cell phones hasn't really changed much. The first time a cell phone is taken away the student can pick it up at the end of the school day in the office. The second time a parent can pick it up at the end of the day. The third time, the phone stays at the school for five days or the student is suspended for five days, the student's choice.

The only thing that has changed is that now instead of waiting for parents or five days for a second or third offense, a student can pay \$5 to get the contraband phone back instead of waiting. However, you might have to pick up all your spare change and check those sofa cushions because it will cost \$5 per day it was going to be taken away in order to get it back earlier.

So let's say you get it taken away on Monday and it's your third offense. You would normally get your phone back on Friday. But if you absolutely can't live without it, you could rescue it from the office for \$25 on Monday.

"It's like if you had gotten your car taken away and impounded," co-principal Mr. Bergmann says. "You could either pay to get it back or wait."

Really it's your option what happens to your phone but either way if you don't follow the rules then there are consequences.

According to Bergmann, the money the kids spend to

get their phones back is going to be reinvested in the high school, like at assemblies or on new equipment. Either way, Bergmann says, they are not trying to take your money from you. The administration just wants to reduce students from using them during school hours. "When you come into the school, you should focus on school and not checking your messages," Bergmann says.

Bergmann advises that cell phones should be shut off or kept in your locker. If you have it on you, keep it in your pocket shut off. Teachers can't take it away unless they physically see it or hear it.

Several students have tried to get wise and remove the battery from their phones for fear of the office riffling through their phones while they are being held hostage in the office. However, Bergmann says students are not allowed to remove them. "The battery is part of the phone," he says.

"Students don't have to worry about having teachers look through your phone," Bergmann says. "They can't unless they have permission. All they're doing is just trying to maintain the rules in school."

Some students grumble that teachers use their own cell phones at school and set a double standard. However, Bergmann says, "The policy for teachers is similar in that they are not to be using them during class, but during a teacher's prep time he or she can use it when not responsible for students or teaching."

"You have to remember teachers are professionals and as a professional we expect them to know better," Bergmann

says.

The goal is to educate the students and to prepare them for the next stage of their lives. There are some jobs out there that don't always allow you to use your phone, so this rule is to help students be prepared for that situation, Bergmann says.

The cell phone policy is not new to NUHS, according to Bergmann. This is the fourth or fifth year students have had their phones taken away.

Last year, he says, incidents were really bad. If this year's new rule had went into effect last year he said it would have meant about \$1,000 if each kid would have paid to get their phone back. So hopefully, things will get better this year.



Studying in America: An Exchange Student's Perspective

By Maya Heinonen

I spent my first week in the USA in New York. After arriving in New Ulm, everything felt really small. Now I've found out that this is a very nice place to live. It is so beautiful and calm here. My home country of Finland is super small compared to the States, so I feel comfortable in a small place like New Ulm.

There are many things that surprised me in the beginning. For example, it was very strange to me that the motorcyclists don't have to wear helmets.

New Ulm High School is also a lot bigger than my school in Finland, which has only 350 students. In Finland, there's always about 15 minutes between classes, so at first I was sure that there was no way I could make it to the next class in four minutes; but now, I know that it is possible.

Overall the whole school system is different. I would say that American high school is very similar to Finnish middle school. Finnish high school is very demanding, but you don't have to go there if you don't want to because our comprehensive school doesn't include high school.

There are good and bad sides both in Finnish and American schools. I'm confused that the school here doesn't recycle in the cafeteria. I think that it should be required in every school. By recycling the students would learn to be more responsible about our environment. The good things

about American schools are the big variety of different sports and activities, which we don't have in Finnish school. The school spirit here is really high, too!

Contrary to some people's beliefs, Finland hears news from America every day. We listen to the same music and watch the same TV shows and movies. We have McDonald's and Burger King.

However, all these things form a picture of America to Finnish people. The general image of the USA in Finland is not always so positive. Many Finns think that Americans are all fat and that families are just like the Simpsons, which I have found to be incorrect. Many Finns say that the people here have a big smile and bright white teeth, which I would totally agree with.

President George Bush is not Finland's favorite person, and because of him people may think that America loves war. It's stupid that one person has such an impact in media that it gives the wrong impression about a country.

If we don't travel, much of what we assume about other countries comes from media. Although I come from Finland, I don't think the same way, especially after coming to America. I have seen something else than just the media. I've spent time in this country in a real American family and met the people.

I think that everybody's very friendly and outgoing. The food here isn't just hot dogs like Europe thinks. Actually, I can find anything I want including Chinese, Greek, Italian, and Spanish food, and hamburgers, of course.

The country itself has a variety of many different forms of nature. There are forests, deserts, beaches, snow, mountains, and fields. You can choose to live in a big city or in a farm in the middle of nowhere. So it is true: the USA is a country of million opportunities. I hope that I have a chance to get to know even more and more about this country during my stay here. I'm sure I'm going to love it.



Laura & Maya

Through Hermann's Eyes: A German in New Ulm

By Laura Schumacher

Are you tired of waking up early in the morning? Do you sometimes wish your teachers would just forget about having a job and stay home without ever coming back to school? Are tests and quizzes and studying for them getting on your nerves? Do you think you spend way too much time doing homework? All in all, are you tired of school already in October?

Hi, my name is Laura Schumacher. I am an exchange student from Germany, and even though Hermann the German is not my actual ancestor, I can tell you how he would most likely see New Ulm and New Ulm High School today based on my time in the U.S. so far.

As an exchange student, I have noticed several differences between American and German schools that might make you think differently about your daily school life.

First, you might find that German schools could be more fun because a normal school day usually ends at 1 p.m.

Instead of moving to different classrooms, German students can stay in one classroom most of the time and wait for the teachers to come to them (and you'll never get a tardy this way!).

Because German schools don't have water fountains, students can drink their own water during class and nobody will care. Students are also allowed to go to the bathroom whenever they'd like. So it has been a learning adjustment to ask for permission to do "normal activities" in America. There are just fewer rules in Germany.

However, a less than enjoyable part is that German students have 13 grades of school. There are actually three types of schools as well: one has 9 years, one has 10, and one has 13, but it is better to go a 13-year-long school, otherwise students will not be able to go to college.

It all starts in 4th grade when your teachers decide if you are clever enough to go to a 13-year-long school, which is by the way called Gymnasium (but it does not have anything to do with a gym), if you were better suited to go to a 10-year-long school (realschule) or to a 9-year-long school (hauptschule).

The reason for this separation is to give the students the opportunity to work with other students on the same ability level and so school will never be too easy or too tough for the students.

In Germany, you don't get to choose your classes. Instead, a schedule is given to you by your "class teacher." and there are not many choices to make if you want changes made.

Schedules in Germany are also different. Here students have the same daily schedule, but in Germany there is a different schedule for every day of the week, which can be confusing.

German students also have much more homework to do and most of it is harder than at American schools. German students cannot have study halls, so all homework is done at home.

But this is not everything about German schools. Tests and quizzes are much tougher in Germany because there are no multiple choice tests and there will usually be an essay required.

At the very end of your 13th grade, there is a big exam called Abitur which is similar to the final exams. The Abitur is a lot tougher, though. The chances to get an A in every subject are small. The Abitur, however, does influence one's whole career.

School spirit is vastly different in the U.S. than in Germany. German schools usually don't have much school spirit. Only a few people, for example, will come to the soccer games (which is the most popular sport in Germany. Actually, they don't have any football teams).

German schools don't have Homecoming or a prom, and there are less school activities to participate in--the teams and clubs will usually only meet once per week. In my opinion it's a good thing about American schools that they have so much school spirit. I wish students in Germany could be more excited about their school, just like American students are.

I hope if you are a student like in the description on the top of this article, you think a little differently now about going to school everyday. German students complain about school all the time, too, and you can be happy you are a student at New Ulm High School and not a student at Ulm Gymnasium in Germany.

Are You Ready For the ACT?

By Olivia Augustin

Seven classes a day, sports, work, and other various activities make it difficult for students to find spare time. So why should a junior, senior, or even a freshman or sophomore for that matter, carve out time from their busy schedules to prepare for a four-hour test?

The ACT (or American College Testing since 1996) is not a test you can cram for the night before. It consists of four major categories: English, Math, Reading, and Science.

According to Mrs. Weiss, a New Ulm Public High School guidance counselor, "A student should start preparing at least a month or two before [the test date] to go over any questions [they may have about the test]."

It is not common for a student to begin studying two months before a regular high school history or math test. So why is the ACT exam so important?

"If a student is planning on going to a four-year college, they have to take [the ACT] in order to gain entrance," Weiss said.

Choosing not to take the ACT does not mean a student won't be admitted, but it will greatly reduce his or her chances. Many colleges will consider admitting only those students who have taken the exam.

Furthermore, colleges have certain "cut-off" scores, and they will only accept students who meet the minimum scoring requirements.

The highest score possible someone can receive on the ACT is a 36. Each section is scored separately on the scale

of 1-36 and then averaged for an all around composite score. In 2008, the national average ACT composite score was 21, according to act.org, which many colleges will accept.

But don't fret. This is why our school counselors remind us to start prepping early and offer plenty of opportunities to do so. There are many tools available for students to prepare properly. You can purchase prep books, practice test books, and even take an ACT prep course offered at the high school in the spring.

There is a fee for the course but Weiss believes that students should consider it as an investment in their future education. With the prep course, the student will receive a practice book and guide with answers and tips to help achieve the perfect 36.

The practice books contain questions like those found on the actual ACT test. For example, a question from the math section might be:

The sum of the real numbers x and y is 11. Their difference is 5. What is the value of xy ?

A. 3 B. 5 C. 8 D. 24 E. 55

"I tell kids to take a test and time themselves," Weiss said.

When the time has elapsed and the student has attempted the test, he can evaluate whether he needs to speed up or can slow down when taking the actual exam. The student can then check his answers and review the areas that need improvement.

Once a student feels he has done all the prepping possible, it is best to take a break for a few days before the big day. One should always get a good night's rest the night before and remember to eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.

Weiss suggests dressing comfortably and staying focused on the task that lies ahead. She also stresses being on time. There are no refunds for being late or sleeping in!

"The testing center will not let you in late!" Weiss said. Everyone should come prepared to do their best. "I went into the ACT with a clear mind and tried not to dwell on it too much," said senior Joshua Gronholz, who scored a perfect 36 on his ACT this past spring.

"Keep in mind, it's not the end all and be all," Weiss said.

There are always chances to retake the ACT and improve a score. Colleges will look at the best ACT score, even if it is taken over five times!

So study hard, relax, and do your best...your future awaits you.

Upcoming ACT testing dates:

October 25, 2008

December 13, 2008

February 7, 2009

April 4, 2009

June 13, 2009

Sources:

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NUHS Student Post-High School Planning

by Ryan Miller

Calling all seniors! It's your last year! Nervous about graduating? No? Well, you should be. It'll be here before you know it.

As of now, a little over 100 NUHS seniors have begun to make post-high school plans, either for colleges, universities, or other options, according to school guidance counselors. Most of these students seem interested in 4-year colleges.

It's important for students to have a plan of what they're going to do after graduation, and it seems many are making good choices.

"Students come in with a variety of different needs," said Mr. Ziemer, an NUHS guidance counselor.

"I think the biggest thing we talk about are college applications," said Mrs. Weiss, another counselor, discussing what she helps students prepare for at this point in the school year.

There are quite a few things one needs for college applications. First, students need a list of which colleges they want to apply to. Then, they need to make sure they have letters of recommendation, school information, financial aid forms, and test results from the ACTs or SATs. They also should have applied for a few scholarships as well, recommend Ziemer and Weiss.

"First and foremost is to visit colleges," Ziemer said about the first step in finding a college. All colleges have special days when they allow students to visit, and yes, students are allowed to be excused from school to visit. This is an important step in learning more about each school and whether or one not will feel comfortable there.

Financial aid is another element students need to have planned

out. According to both counselors, the most important financial aid program is FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), a government program designed to help students with college finances. Students can sign up for it starting January 1 at [FAFSA.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

It's advised students also sign up for scholarships. "Some think they shouldn't have to know about them early on," Weiss said, "but they're always there." Scholarships are great because it's free money that doesn't need to be paid back.

She also advises that students look into local scholarships, too. Because they are local, there is less competition for them.

Ziemer recommends that students also sign up for Fastweb.com, which is where students can learn about scholarships and get a few tips on what to do for college and applications.

"Biggest thing is if anyone is going to play sports, they should register with the NCAA," Weiss said. The NCAA is a group that helps out kids who are interested in playing college-level sports. They award 174 postgraduate scholarships a year for both boys' and girls' sports, too.

While this might sound overwhelming, the very first step to getting all this done is for students to make an appointment for college planning with their high school counselor. Any questions they have or any help they need regarding planning can be discussed there, including questions on scholarships and applications.

When to start planning? "Get Started. Get started early," Ziemer recommends.



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Texting: Public Enemy or Useful Tool?

By Madeline Ullery

Text messaging. It's a huge problem in schools... or is it? Teachers' concern over text messaging may actually be a bit misguided.

Text messaging is usually thought to have negative effects on students. It distracts them from learning and it drives them away from spelling out words. However, the effects of text messaging and texting slang aren't always bad, according to many upcoming studies.

Mrs. Nelson, an English and Spanish teacher at New Ulm High School, says that texting doesn't really affect writing skills. Rather, how much and what a student reads is the main factor in their writing abilities.

New studies are being conducted to dispel the myth that text messaging hinders students' spelling and writing abilities. In fact, the text craze may actually be helping students.

Nelson refers to the predict-a-text function on many cell phones these days, saying it can be very helpful to students' spelling skills. Students are able to see how words should be spelled, much like the red lines that detect misspellings in many computer word processing programs.

Many studies agree, showing a neutral, if not positive, link between text abbreviations and literary achievement.

Researchers at Coventry University (United Kingdom) found that out of 35 11-year-old children, the ones who claimed to use the most "textisms" were actually the best spellers.

"We are interested in discovering whether texting could be used positively to increase phonetic awareness in less able children," Beverly Plester, one of the researchers, says.

Texting and slang terms also show how this generation understands and plays with words. It's easy for kids to pick up new words and meanings because abbreviations used in text messaging are constantly developing and evolving.

"Slang shows up in literature all the time," Nelson said, supporting the (appropriate) use of slang terms. She turns to Shakespeare and how, while he didn't make use of "LOL" or "OMG," his word choices could be considered the slang of his era (i.e. "Come hither!").

Using slang can help students identify with the rest of their generation. It's easy to link words like "groovy" or "what up, dawg?" to different eras and generations. Textisms will most likely be among this generation's defining words.

Students are also learning how to switch "languages" to fit their settings. Text speak doesn't often show up in formal

papers. This is because kids grasp the difference and make the change from situation to situation.

The development of new slang words by students is a good thing, according to Katherine Barber of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. It shows that kids are impacting language development.

But what about when texting does show up in formal papers? "I seize that teachable moment to help get the kids to understand, LOL," Nelson said, laughing at her pointedly ironic use of a common textism.

For now, text messaging will probably continue to be seen as a public enemy. Someday in the future, though, it very well may be seen as a positive (*gasp*) learning tool.

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New Student Council Doing A Great Job This Year

By Amanda Huiras

"It's my love child, dude," said senior Student Council member Colin Campbell.

Student Council members love being in Student Council. It holds so many fun and loving memories.

Take, for example, Homecoming Week. There is Battle of the Classes, dress up days, the dance, and, of course, the football game.

But a lot of people don't realize Student Council is behind all these memories.

They decided everything from what you wore each day in the week, to who would be the refs for Battle of the Classes. They put so much of their time into Homecoming Week making sure everything ran smoothly.

And with the new advisors this year, everything is run-

ning smoother than ever.

This year's new Student Council leaders include Mrs. Longtin, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. Nelson.

"We're tight like spandex," Longtin said of the trio.

The Triple Threat Team took on the job this year wanting to help out the school. The students needed advisors to come to during school hours.

"They are a lot more organized and put together," said senior Student Council member Sarah Maudal. "They know what needs to get done."

"I wasn't in Student Council last year, but it seems a lot more organized. Plus everyone gets to participate and everyone gets a say in what goes on," said senior Student Council member Molly Garies.

The average Student Council meeting consists of the secretary's and treasurer's reports, new and old business, and doughnuts.

And there are also executive committee meetings once a month to set the agenda for the monthly Student Council meetings.

"It's hard waking up so early to get there, but it's worth it," said Maudal of the 7:15, sometimes 7:00 a.m. meetings.

But being here that early is necessary. Student Council had to plan out so much, including things we may not normally think of. They picked the class colors, they picked all the events in Battle of the Classes, and they picked how long each event could be. They picked the prize for best decorated door, they organized the Homecoming Dance, and they sold Homecoming buttons.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. They did a lot to make this year's Homecoming Week a success.

And according to numerous teachers and students, this year's Homecoming was a huge success.

There was lots of enthusiasm during the week, and there were great turnouts at events.

Some upcoming events for Student Council include a Halloween Costume Contest, Turkey Bingo, Snow Week, and selling Valentine's Day Crush cans. So there are plenty of memories yet to come.

But I think what everyone remembers most about Student Council is the t-shirts they get every year. Two years ago they had Bob Sagot on them, and last year they sported, "We're tight like spandex." No one knows for sure what will be on them this year, but Campbell has an idea of what he would like.

"I want LeVar Burton, the host of *Reading Rainbow*, to be on them. He represents all that is good in society," said Campbell, which fits well with this year's Student Council. They are all good kids, all part of a close committee. The students have fun and have a say on what goes on in our school.

"Everyone gets their concerns and ideas out," Gronholz said, "including all of the underclassmen."

"The underclassmen have a tough act to follow," Gareis said. "But I think they will do awesome."

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Destroying A Culture?

High School Reading Rates Dropping

By Sara Keller

“You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” - Ray Bradbury

In high schools all across America, student reading rates are falling. In 2004, a study from the Department of Education stated that only 22% of 17-year-olds read daily for fun, while 30% of 13-year-olds and 54% of 9-year-olds read daily. American 15-year-olds ranked 15th in a study of average reading scores for 31 industrial nations.

The 2008 Minnesota School Test Scores found that 76% of students at New Ulm High School are proficient in reading. However, this does not mean 76% of NUHS students read on a daily basis.

At New Ulm High School, circulation of books in the library increased when homerooms were installed and reading was mandatory. After this, circulation slowed but with the arrival of the middle schoolers, circulation of books has increased according to Mrs. Schaetzke, the High School Media Center Assistant.

“I think that reading rates in NUHS are getting better slowly,” comments Mr. Engeldinger, an NUHS English teacher. “I have 8th graders bringing books to class with them.”

Still lower reading rates are concerning educators who are asking why reading rates are falling. One reason that students are not reading as much is that they are really busy. Trying to balance school, extracurricular activities, and work is not easy.

Computers, cell phones, and video games can draw people away from a book as well. A 2007 National Endowment for the Arts report found that 15-to 24-year-olds read for fun for only seven minutes a day, versus watching televi-

sion for two hours per day.

“There are so many more ways to hang out with friends, so why read?” Engeldinger says. “We are in a new way of communication.”

People today are scanning Internet sites instead of comprehending it. Road signs use more symbols and pictures to get safety information to drivers. Marketers and packaging designers know that colors and icons are far more effective than words, according to a 2001 *Washington Post*.

So why read? By reading for fun, one gets a sense of independence. Reading helps to develop the “crazy working of your imagination,” Engeldinger adds.

In the classroom, reading ability shows up in writing abilities. Students who read a lot are generally better writers. Employers value employees who are able to comprehend what they are reading and formulate their thoughts in an organized way.

Overall, recent studies have concluded Americans are reading less and Americans are reading less well. Decline in a person’s reading ability can have an impact in many aspects of his or her life. With increasing competition economically and intellectually worldwide, the U.S. needs creative inventors to keep up. Reading for fun can help to develop the imagination of these future inventors.

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Eagles' Season Improving

By Justin Wiggins

One of the main goals of the New Ulm High School football team this year was to improve and be better than they were last year. Thus far they have achieved that goal. The Eagles are 3-3 (3-2) and have wrapped up a second place finish in the South Central Conference.

The Eagles struggled at times last year, which landed them a 3-5 record and an early exit in sections. The Eagles brought in a new head coach last year, Mr. Bute. He brought along a new offense called the spread that was difficult for the Eagles to adapt to.

According to Bute, the idea of the spread offense is to spread out across the field to create mismatches.

"It really forces the defense to play a more man-to-man defense rather than a zone," he said. "It allows us to pinpoint weaknesses and exploit matches that really give us an advantage."

The Eagles have caught on to the offense and are having a better season. They have stayed at around a .500 winning percentage all year but are hoping that their Homecoming upset over school rival Waseca will boost them into the play-



offs.

"We've had many big games in my tenure here, but this is probably the most important one," Bute said.

There was a lot of hype going into the Waseca game since it was Homecoming and the NUHS school rival.

Emotions ran high and it made the game a memorable one.

The Eagles did a good job of airing out the football thanks to the twin combo of Kyle and Garrett Fischer. The ability to pass the ball well led to an early lead, but Waseca came storming back, bringing the game within three points later in the second half.

But a couple more touchdown passes and an

interception return for a touchdown and the Eagles sealed the 33-17 victory.

The excitement of the big win shone through when the game ended and the student section rushed the field to celebrate with the football team.

"It was really exciting and fun to see," Bute said.

Senior quarterback Kyle Fischer was 13/22 for 219 yards and 3 touchdowns. The defense was led by senior Jake Hoffmann and junior Brian Kehren. Hoffmann amassed 10 solo tackles and 2 assists as Kehren contributed for 9 solos and 4 assists.

But Garrett Fischer stole the show with 9 receptions for 192 yards and 3 touchdowns. He also helped seal the victory with less than two minutes left in the game with an interception return for a touchdown. His superb play earned him the KEYC Player of the Week award.

"Kyle and Garrett are great players," Bute said. "They are two kids with a lot of talent and great determination. They just have that feel for the game and the presence on and off the field that enables them to be good leaders as well."

But it is the under-the-radar players that are getting the job done as well, Kehren being one of them.

"Brian is one of those under appreciated guys who is a quiet but good leader," Bute said.

Bute still believes that the team needs to keep getting better every week to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"Our running game isn't where it needs to be at yet. We need to improve in that area," Bute added.

According to Bute, the team to beat in sections is definitely Mankato West. He hopes if the Eagles can upend Henry Sibley and Blue Earth Area, that they can earn the 5th seed for playoffs.

Girls' Tennis Team Has Successful Season Bright Future for Team

By Jesse Wiggins

The girls' tennis team has had one of their best seasons in years. Led by seniors Sarah Maudal and Alexa Forstner, the team posted a 12-5 mark, this year, and tied with Waseca and St. Peter for second place in the South Central Conference.

The Eagles lost to St. Peter and defeated Waseca. However, Waseca beat St. Peter.

With a combination of aggressive play at doubles and consistent singles play, the Eagles were able to post their best record in over five years.

"This is definitely the best team I have been on, talented," said Maudal. "It has just been a great team effort. We all have a passion for the game."

The highlight of the season was when the Eagles defeated conference rival Waseca 4-3.

"It was awesome," said junior Leah Nelsen. "It was truly amazing."

The Eagles obtained the No. 3 seed in the section tournament, but was upset by the sixth seeded New Prague Trojans 3-4.

It is obvious that team chemistry has played a major

role in the team's success this year.

"I'm going to miss the team bonding nights," Forstner said. "They were so much fun."

Maudal has been the #1 player for three straight years.

Her solid and aggressive play has earned her another high ranking in the upcoming individual section tournament. Filling the gap that will be left by Maudal and the other seniors will not be easy, but she believes that the team can do it.

"We have a lot of great underclassmen," she said.

Sophomore Meghan King and freshman Hannah Stark have been consistent at number three and four singles. Freshman Emily Steinman has played very well alongside Leah Nelsen at number two doubles. With a lot of young talent rising, along with experienced upper classmen the

Eagles should be a very exciting team to watch in years to come.

Alexa Forstner entered unknown territory this year by

playing doubles with junior Trisha Johnson. Forstner has played singles every year in high school except this year. However, you wouldn't notice it if you watched her play. She has played wonderfully along Johnson all year.

The Eagles will wrap up their great 2008 season on October 11 at the individual section tournament.



Eagles' Volleyball Season Underway

By Korinne O'Connor

The New Ulm Eagles' Volleyball season is in full force and in their last month of regular season action. Under Head Coach Chris Otto, the team is looking to succeed late in the season.

The Eagles are lead by two senior captains, Kayla Altmann and Courtney Kral, along with five other returning seniors. They have four juniors and are rounded out with three sophomores.

Coach Otto feels that the girls are working very hard this season and that they have good leadership, which has helped them in many games this year. He does feel there are improvements the team needs to make including "communicating more throughout the match and becoming a team off the court."

The typical practice schedule for the team includes warm-ups, which includes a passing sequence, run-thru's, dynamics, serving, and stretching for about 30 minutes. Then they work on defense and hitting. From there they move to serve receive and eventually serving. They end practice with free ball or scrimmaging.

Otto, Altmann, and Kral all agreed that the best matches of the year have been against tough South Central rival Blue Earth Area. The Eagles may have lost both matches,

but look on the positive side: they took BEA into five games on both meetings.

"The girls really came out and played aggressively, which is what we want," Otto said of the last meeting with BEA on September 23. "We just didn't end up with the win."

The matches were "very competitive and taught us that we need to finish," Altmann said.

The Eagles may not be able to repeat last year and win the South Central Conference, but they can focus on the upcoming tough matches and the playoffs as well.

"We can be more consistent overall in the matches," Kral said about what to do on improving their game.

Altmann knows they have minor things to work on also. "Communication and being a team on and off the court will make us play better."

The volleyball team isn't all about work, though. They have many fun times to remember from the season, such as

bus rides to and from games and dancing in the locker room. For the rest of the year Altmann is looking forward to "competing against higher competition throughout sections."

"I'm looking forward to the Litchfield and Sartell tournaments, staying in the hotel, and being with the team," Kral said.

The volleyball team may have some improvements to make, and they hope to make them soon enough for the home Marshall game on October 7. Marshall swept the Eagles in their regular season match-up. The Eagles may have to face Marshall again in playoff action.

The rest of the Eagles' season is looking tough with Marshall, Waseca, and Fairmont in the upcoming weeks. They will wrap up the regular season in the Sartell tournament on October 16.

The Eagles are 7-13 overall and 6-2 in South Central Conference play as of October 8



Eagles' Squadron

By Josh Botten

The Eagles' Squadron is a senior cheering squad that cheers on the New Ulm High School volleyball team. Sort of like cheerleaders, they have been the starters of cheers for the last four years while the rest of the student body comes in and joins them. Some of the chants include Let's Go, Eagles, Flustered, Ace, Kill, Let's Play Volleyball, Try Our C-Squad, Zicke-Zacke, The Famous Ole, and many more.



now there are rules for the Squad like no sitting on the bottom row, no negative cheering, no yelling at the officials, and no disturbing the warm-ups for the volleyball teams. Even though these rules are set, some of the Squad still do not obey them.

"The Eagles' Squadron this year is the best one ever," said senior Squadron leader Colin Campbell. "I really liked the St. James at home game and had a lot of fun cheering for the volleyball team," he said on his favorite memory.

"My favorite game was the Waseca game because of the cheering of their team trying to keep up with the roaring cheers of the Squadron," Josh Drexler, a senior Squad member, said. "I think even

though we have a Squad for the volleyball team I also think we should have a Squad for the hockey team because those games are just as fun to watch and cheer for as the volleyball games."



The Squad is very good at getting the volleyball team pumped up to crush the other team and win the game. This is the most important goal of the Squad, along with having fun doing it!

They have even gone as far as tailgating before the games in the high school parking lot, bringing inflatable beach balls to the game, and some members have painted their chests to support their team.

The Squad is great at cheering for the volleyball team, but has started to get out of control the past few years. So

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Boys' Soccer Team Readies for Sections

By Justin Wiggins

The resume for the 2008 boys' soccer team looks solid as they end the regular season with a 13-4 record and were crowned co-South Central Conference Champions along side St. Peter. For the first time ever, the team will play a Section playoff game in New Ulm.

The Eagles are looking for some redemption from last year in which they were ousted in the first round by Southwest Christian 2-1. Their first-round match is against Glencoe Silver Lake, who they beat 6-0 earlier this season.

It will still be a long road to state for the Eagles as most of their losses came against teams in their section. Although, according to Head Coach Jack Gronholz, the games have been close and competitive.

"We lost by just one or two goals in those losses, includ-

ing losing to Willmar in the last two seconds on a late goal," Gronholz said.

Gronholz added that the little things can change a game. "One inopportune bounce can decide a game," he said. "We just need to be ready for them."

Gronholz said that the main reason for the Eagles' success is the determination of the team. "A soccer game is 80 minutes long and the kids are playing to their fullest every minute, and I appreciate that."

Experience may be the key for a deeper playoff run this year as most of the players on the team played on varsity last year, including leading scorer, junior Matti Miller.

Gronholz also relishes in the fact that his team is deep with talent. "We are very deep. And that helps with getting

guys breathers," he said. "I can take guys out to get breathers and not worry because I know everyone can get the job done."

There was, however, one question that needed answering coming into this year: who would play goalie? According to Gronholz, three boys were in contention for the job, but junior Joe Peterson really stepped up and has actually been a huge contributor. He has turned this team's weaknesses into their strengths by making huge saves in key situations.

Taking one game at a time is crucial for the Eagles at sections. When they put patience, solid defense, and an explosive offense together, we get a team ready for the challenges of playoffs. "We're ready," Gronholz said.

New Ulm High School's New Weight Room

By Josh Botten

The New Ulm High School weight room is the place to go if you want to improve your skills for a sport or get a good workout. The weight room is open Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. or from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.

"The weight room could be better," said Mr. Bute, the head football coach. "We are hoping in time we could put in a second floor in the new weight room so we could get more room for machinery."

However, this summer New Ulm High School acquired a lot of new machines and equipment from Quality Fitness, really modernizing the space for students and staff. In time, the weight room is also in time hoping to get some bikes, treadmills, and cross trainers. Some of the

new machines the new weight room purchased were a set of free weights, pec deck, leg raisers, and bench sets.

activities.

"This is the first time in 15 years of coaching that students came up to me to open the weight room during the fall season," said Mr. Erickson, a teacher and a coach who helps supervise the weight room.

Not only is the weight room open for students in sports but it is also available for anyone who wants to get a workout, phy-ed classes, and ISD #88 staff.

The weight room had to switch with the auxiliary gym, or the wrestling room, to have more room for the people and more room for the new machinery. Wrestlers agreed to switch the facilities because it comes to their advantage during their season. Not only did the wrestlers have to move, but also the golf teams which will be relocated to a different practice area.

The weight room is open to all of the student body. All that is needed when coming to the weight room is some gym shorts and a suitable t-shirt to workout in. The hours for the weight room could increase during the winter for students who want to come and workout.



More students have been going to the weightroom because of the new equipment, the new hours, and to prevent injury during sports



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Out With the Old and In With the New

By Chyla Nelson and Rebecca Henle

Love them or hate them, teachers are a huge part of our high school careers. This year you probably recognize your favorites and noticed a few unfamiliar faces, too. It's about time to welcome them to New Ulm High School.

Mrs. Doust teaches ninth grade English and speech in Annex Classroom 2. She grew up in St. Cloud, went to high school in Little Falls, and attended college at St. Cloud State University. It was her ninth grade English teacher that inspired her to become a teacher. This is her first teaching job. Her year has been good so far, with a few bumps earlier in the year. Doust chose to teach high school because she wanted to be more involved with college preparations.

Mrs. Pratt teaches geometry, business math, and consumer math in Annex Classroom 1. She grew up in Preston, a town in southeastern Minnesota, and went to Filmore Central in Harmony. Before she started teaching, she worked in the corporate world with a degree in finance and

managed a camp of middle and high school kids. She wanted to work with them full-time so she went back to school to get her degree in teaching. So far this year, things have been going really well.

Ms. Mensing is teaching digital art at the high school and art at Washington. She grew up in Blue Earth. Art has always been something she's enjoyed but didn't know it was teaching she wanted to do until she was done with her student teaching. "I had a great experience and just knew teaching was for me," Mensing said.

Ms. Redlin is teaching English at the high school this year. She grew up in Rochester. Redlin was inspired to become



an English teacher by one of her teachers at Mayo High. She enjoyed it so much she just decided to become one also.

She worked at John Marshall in Rochester for a year before coming to New Ulm. Compared to that school, New Ulm is smaller.

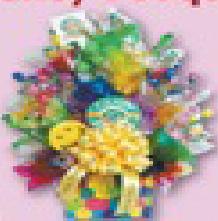
Ms. Lewandowski is teaching special education and social skills here at the high school this year. She wanted to become a high school teacher because she liked the older students and loves to help them make decisions for after high school. Lewandowski grew up right around here in Lafayette and went to school at MVL. So far this year she is having a good year and really loves the age group she is teaching.

Mr. Ortmann teaches eighth grade and elementary physical education. He grew up in Marshall and went to Marshall High School. After that, he went to Southwest Minnesota State University. He chose to be a teacher because he was passionate about working with kids and getting them ready for the future. His year has been going awesome. "Students are great here and the faculty is very helpful and friendly," Ortmann said.

Other new teachers this year that were not available for interviews included Mrs. Furth (Spanish), Mrs. Thedens (physical education), Mrs. Daniels (special education), and Mrs. Moravec (seventh grade math).



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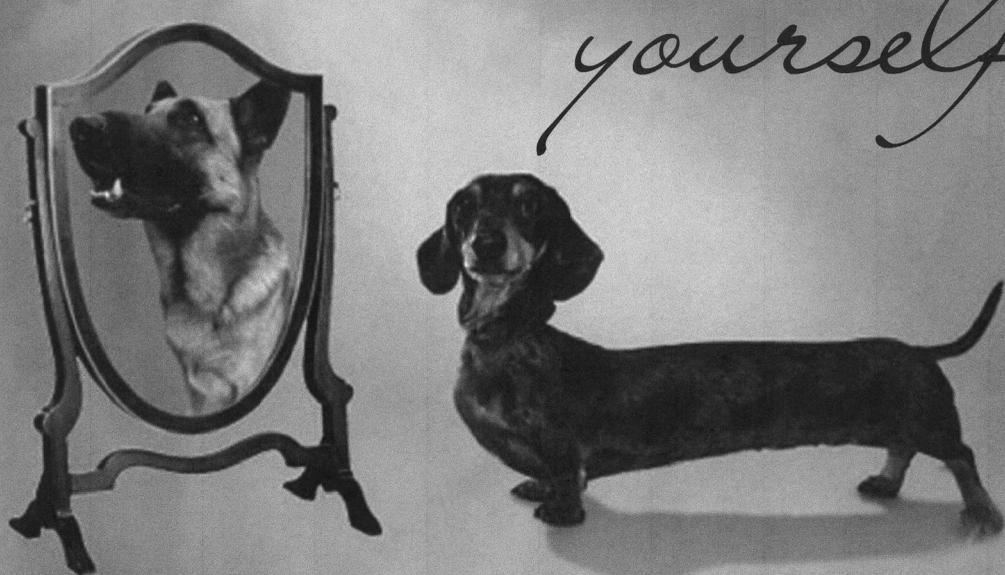


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Frankly Speaking

By Lauren Horsch & Jesse Wiggins

Dear Frankly Speaking,

I'm in a predicament. I sort of like this guy, but I'm not exactly sure because...well, I'm never quite sure about this sort of thing. I'm pretty sure he likes me, but I can't always tell because his body language is so hard to de-code. Is there anything I can do? I want to date him and all, but I just don't want to make a fool of myself. What's a girl to do?

Sincerely,

Confused

Dear Confused,

Well, first try to find out if he likes you. But please don't go all old school on him and have a friend ask a friend if he likes you. Don't go all middle school on him either with one of those "if you like me check yes or no" notes - that just shows that you are too chicken. If all else fails, make a pro-con list. That always works in matters of the heart!

Honesty's the best policy mama used to say. I'd say just go for it and ask him flat out. Even if something bad happens you'll know you have the courage to ask those sorts of awkward and potentially socially crushing questions.

Sincerely,

Frank

Dear Frankly Speaking,

My girlfriend of a couple of months has recently begun to expand her vocabulary. I'm all for gaining knowledge, but she

is being totally pretentious about it. She will slip in words like "ubiquitous," "cacophony," and "coruscation," into our everyday conversation. I mean we'll be walking down the street together having a grand time and she will say something like, "I love it in AP English when Mrs. Fairbairn has a coruscation in the middle of a Grendel discussion and she ubiquitously starts laying the smack down like Chuck Norris in her cacophony of criticism of the author." I mean, what is that?!?!

To add insult, she expects me to know everyone of these words. If I dare ask what one means, she tells me to "go read the dictionary." Frank, can you aid me in this?

Sincerely,

Out of Words

Dear Out of Words,

Have you ever considered actually reading the dictionary? It is very titillating (that is, stimulating). Actually, try to one up her by learning a bit of Greek or even Latin roots of words. Then get haughty, and if she gets huffy, ask her how it feels. She may or may not get it. But this way, it's loud and clear. Then explain to her why you did that. Hopefully, she'll be respectful enough to understand. If she doesn't stop...resort to my first piece of advice. Or just put up with it. It can't be that bad? Just keep all pugnacious comments to yourself, for now.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sudoku

5							9	8
		4		6			2	
	6	9		7				1
6	9	5			1		8	
	2	1	3		8	9		
3			6	9	5	2		
9			2		3			
		3	4	8	6		7	9
4		6	9	5	7		3	

Horoscopes

By Tim Waibel

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are dealing with a big project in front of you, and it has to be crammed into a few days. The mind is an amazing machine, and it's astounding what you can do under pressure. Hang in there!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You have been working for praise, but you haven't reached your goal yet. Keep persevering and rewards will come your way.

Aries (March 21- April 19): This is your love month. Put yourself out there and get to know people. With any luck your special someone will ask you on a date to remember.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You should start getting on track health-wise. All of the stresses in life can be helped by a healthy diet. When all of your bodily functions are in order, stress just seems to wilt away. Make Mrs. Longtin proud!

Gemini (May 21-June 22): Make sure you don't hold on too tightly to anything because when you're not attached to something, you can have the freedom to do whatever your heart desires.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The great Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." So take a break once in a while and explore the dimensions of your mind. Try to broaden the view of perspectives.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You should plan something new and spontaneous because the monotonous routines of life may be wearing you down. Reading a new book or going on a brisk walk can brighten up a boring perspective of your life.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22): Be able to adapt to sudden changes in your life because things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out. The ability to adapt to changes in your life tells a lot about your character.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Don't let your emotions pull you in the wrong path. There's always a tomorrow to take control of your life and steer it in the right direction.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The majority of kids try to fit into cliques, but you are a true individual who has your own personality and being. Find something about you that makes you different from everybody else and pursue it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything seems hectic and crazy at the moment, but time is an amazing tool that tends to fix problems in life. Don't worry about the little problems; focus on the joys of life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There are 365 days in a year and every one counts, don't be fooled by the simplicity of day-to-day life. Every day has a meaning, but you are the one who defines it.

Word Find

F S O C C E R S R E D A E L R E E H C O Z P S
 N A M H S E R F N S O P H O M O R E S A R Q D
 P B A E D A R A P X L D O D G E B A L L K D E
 J U N I O R S V T I R I P S Y A D O R T E R S
 H O B O D A Y D A N C E L L A B T O O F B J I
 A C R O S S C O U N T R Y I S E N I O R S X N
 X I S Y A J E U L B E L L L A B Y E L L O V N
 Q C U H S S N O T T U B N O Y P E P F E S T E
 G N I K N E R D D A Y Y S X Q M L U W E N X T
 H V G P U R P L E A N D W H I T E S E L G A E
 H O M E C O M I N G C O U R T U W A S E C A C
 R A W A G U T J K D N A B G N I H C R A M S A
 C G U B A T T L E O F T H E C L A S S E S R Q

Battle of the Classes

- Blue Jays
- Buttons
- Cheerleaders
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Dodge ball
- Eagles
- Football
- Freshman

Hobo Day

- Homecoming Court
- Juniors
- King
- Marching Band
- Nerd Day
- New Ulm
- Parade
- Pep fest
- Purple and White

Retro Day

- Seniors
- Soccer
- Sophomores
- Spirit
- Tennis
- Tug a War
- Volleyball
- Waseca

Comic

By Ryan Miller



Shout Outs!

A shout out to all you young studs with rocks in your ears. You're all so fine that we ladies can't stop watching your every move with all that sparkle and bling in your ears.

Good luck to all the fall sports athletes and coaches for the rest of the season and playoffs. Good luck volleyball team.

Thanks to the 7th and 8th graders for being so loud and proud at the Homecoming pepfest! You may be little but you sure are powerful! Way to work those lungs for future spirit days!

Hey, Triple Threat, thanks for all your hard work during Homecoming Week! It was awesome, and you looked omnipotent in that referee gear keepin' the peace!

You are my Troy, I am your Gabriella. Let's meet on October 24th. I'll buy the popcorn. P.S. You are the music in me!

I saw you on the bench outside the school deeply intrigued by *Grendel*. You looked so pensive. I couldn't keep my eyes off you. Let's meet and talk philosophy sometime, you silly solipsist.

I see you every day in the new weight room. Your glistening biceps make my heart pound 100 mph, just like your fast black Eclipse. I love watching you bench 200 lbs. in our new weight room. I hope I can be your spotter soon.

If you've got a Shout Out! you'd like to send someone, drop it off to Mr. Van Leeuwe. Shout outs cannot name individuals and must be appropriate.

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Sudoku Answer

5	7	2	1	3	4	6	9	8
1	3	4	8	6	9	7	2	5
8	6	9	5	7	2	3	4	1
6	9	5	7	2	1	4	8	3
7	2	1	3	4	8	9	5	6
3	4	8	6	9	5	2	1	7
9	5	7	2	1	3	8	6	4
2	1	3	4	8	6	5	7	9
4	8	6	9	5	7	1	3	2

