



News from the Nest



New Ulm High School *Home of the Eagles*

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Turtles, Gangsters, and Mice, Oh My!

By Olivia Augustin

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, ladybugs, and various other creatures roamed the halls of New Ulm High School to celebrate Halloween on Friday, October 31. Students dressed in their finest and most creative outfits in hopes of winning the fame and glory of the high school costume contest. Unfortunately, only a few participants from each grade were able to take home the trophy, a cornucopia of various chocolates.

Throughout the day, watchful teachers scrutinized the halls and classrooms in search of the top contestants. As the day went on, teachers cast their votes for the most deserving candidates by e-mailing their top three choices from each grade to Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Longtin, student council advisors and teachers.

“The costumes were wonderful, and it’s always hard to



narrow it down to a few winners,” said Gordon. However, there were certain costumes that could not be missed. For example, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the freshmen mice, and the junior ladybugs all received many favorable glances, creating a tough competition.

“The turtles were the best costume ever,” said Jennifer Bethke, a senior at New Ulm High School. Along with the group competitors, plenty of other individuals disguised themselves in creative get-ups. Characters such as the lovable, huggable pair of Tigger and Pooh, Elmo, Thomas the Train,

and a miniature giraffe could all be found throughout the building.

“Michael Maudal’s giraffe costume was really cute,” said Kate Makepeace, a freshman, about one of the winning costumes.



“It was really cool to see how creative everyone was,” said Molly Gareis, a senior and member of Student Council

Some were even so creative one could not distinguish the costume. Alex Hoffman portrayed “Chicken Cordon Bleu,” and Colin Campbell was a movie theater floor, sporting soft drink cups and candy boxes he fished out of the movie theater trash while at work.

Not only did students dress-up, but also some over-creative teachers. There was an overwhelming display of “thug” quotes that lined the English department walls and hip-hop music that blared from Mrs. Fairbairn’s room between classes. The “E-unit,” as they called themselves, dressed in their most gangster gear and won the laughs of all students.

“Mrs. Hansel was really G,” said Tessa Makepeace, a senior and Halloween gangster herself.

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The Ancient Roots of Halloween

By Maya Heinonen

Ghosts, bonfires, werewolves, and witches have an important role in today’s Halloween celebrations. In fact, Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the USA, according to the news channel CNN. It is also one of the world’s oldest holidays whose origins are found in ancient Ireland.

The Celts lived in the area that is now Ireland 2,000 years ago. They celebrated their New Year on November 1. That day was the beginning of dark winter, which was also associated with death. Celts believed that the boundary between the worlds of the living and dead became blurred on the 31st of October when they celebrated Samhain.



Samhain, the night before the New Year, was the time

for the ghosts of the dead to return to earth. Celts believed that the presence of the spirits made it easier for the Celtic priests to make predictions about the future. They wore costumes and attempted to tell fortunes while sitting around huge sacred bonfires.

It is believed that in the 800s, the Pope was trying to replace the festival of the dead with a church-sanctioned holiday, which was called All-Hallows. Hence, the night of Samhain came to be called All-Hallows Eve, and later, Halloween.

In the second half of the 19th century, many Irish immigrants came to America and popularized the celebration of Halloween. At the

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The 2008 Election: One for the History Books

By Tessa Makepeace and Cassie Reed

History was made in the presidential election on November 4, 2008, when Barack Obama defeated John McCain to become the 44th President of the United States of America.

In the Electoral College, Obama won a landslide victory with 364 electoral votes to John McCain's 163, with Missouri's 11 electoral votes still in limbo. However, the popular vote was 52 percent to 48 percent in favor of Obama.

The race was called for Obama by most major news networks at about 10 p.m. Central Standard Time. Approximately five minutes later, McCain gave his concession speech in Phoenix, Arizona. His speech has been called classy and graceful by citizens and analysts alike in the news around the world.

Shortly after McCain's speech, Obama gave his victory speech to an estimated 225,000 supporters in Grant Park in Chicago.

Obama is the first African American president in the history of our country. His election also marks the first time in over a decade that Democrats have held a majority in both houses of Congress at the same time.

Voter turnout was the highest it has been in a presidential election since 1908, with 64.1 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots in the United States, according to Michael McDonald of George Mason University based on 88 percent of the precincts in the country tallied and on projections.

In Brown County, 60.56 percent of the votes for president went to John McCain and 37.14 percent to Barack Obama.

For United States Senate, the race between Al Franken and Norm Coleman is still too close to call. There is only a fraction of a percent separating them with Coleman currently in the lead. The margin of a few hundred votes separating them calls for an automatic recount. The results of the race may not be determined until December.

On the national scale, President-elect Obama is already looking to the day he will officially take office on January 20, 2009. He had conversations with nine world leaders the day after being elected. Obama is also showing strong signs his top priority is the economy in meeting with economic advisors on November 7.

"I hope to see the economy slowly rebound in the next four years," said Mrs. Gordon, a social studies teacher at New Ulm High School.

Obama is also focusing on the people who will be a part of the White House staff. He appointed Rahm Emanuel, a "fiercely partisan Democrat," as his chief of staff only days after being elected. "No one I know is better at getting things done than Rahm Emanuel," Obama said. However, some Republicans

are concerned that appointing Emanuel is not the right step toward unity for our country.

Obama does not have plans to announce more Cabinet positions this week, according to his advisors. Several names are already being carefully considered for the White House staff but appointments have not yet been made.

Both Obama and many people around the world have renewed hope for the future of our country. "I believe Obama offers the best opportunity for peace, prosperity, and promise for the future," Mr. Anderson, another social studies teacher at NUHS, said on his faith in Obama.

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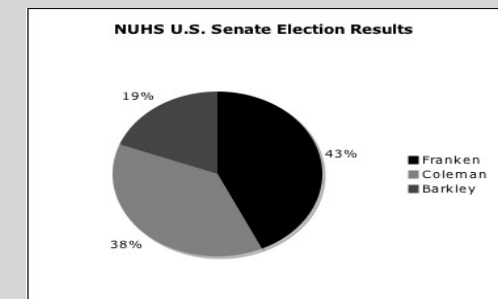
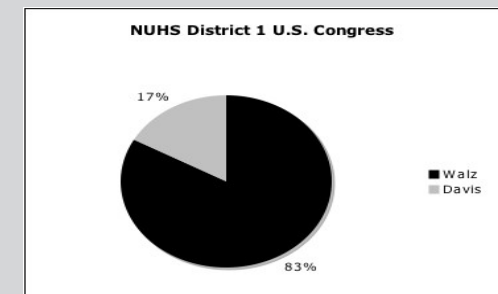
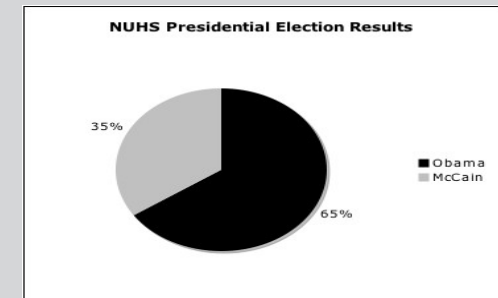
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NUHS Election Results



NUHS election results courtesy of Mr. Anderson's 3rd hour American History class.

What Students Think of Obama as President

Do you think Barack Obama will make a good president?



"I don't know."
Korinne O'Connor, senior



"Yes."
Lauren Horsch, junior



"No."
Sadie Blackstad, junior



"Yes."
Micayla Irmiter, junior



"Yes."
Leah Nelson, junior

Moles Run Amuck in 8th Annual Mole Day

By Cassie Reed

Mole Day was celebrated October 23, 2008, in Mr. Menzel's chemistry classes. It was the eighth annual mole day held by Mr. Menzel. Moles were the theme of the day with students bringing in moles and doing mole activities all period.

Mole Day celebrates the unit mol. A mol is 6.022×10^{23} of any object, usually referring to atoms in a molecule of something. The mol is an important measuring tool in chemistry. The International Science Committee discovered the mol in 1962.

Mr. Menzel says he celebrates Mole Day to emphasize the importance of this abstract unit. "It's one of the most abstract units and students need to be comfortable with it," Menzel said.

Students very much enjoyed celebrating Mole Day. New Ulm High School junior Rachel Enwright said she enjoyed it because "it's more exciting than a normal day [of chemistry]." Fellow junior Trisha Johnson agreed with Enwright's assessment saying that she "most definitely" enjoyed the day.

Most students also feel it is important to celebrate Mole



Probably the most memorable part of Mole Day is the song. Students love this song. "It was kinda corny, but enjoyable,"

Day. "It's a big part of chemistry," junior Shyranda Hornick said.

Johnson said.

The refrain is: "A mol is a unit or haven't you heard? Containing 6×10^{23} , that's a 6 with 23 zeroes on the end, much too big a number to comprehend."

Another important part of Mole Day is the presentation of moles. The presentation of moles is when students show the class the paper mole they have created to honor this day. The sixth hour winners were: 1st place- Rachel Enwright with Molopoly, 2nd place- Zach Klassen with Incredimole Hulk, 3rd place- Zach Quiring with Holey Moley, and 4th place- Pat Regan with Holy Moly.

Other memorable moles from the day include Mollet (a mole with a mullet), Mole-Esther (a mole dressed as an aunt named Esther), Decimol (named after the decimal symbol), and Doctor Menzmole (the name sake of the celebrator).

The most memorable mole Mr. Menzel has seen was Molelisa. He also said that two students once brought in a live gerbil for their mole.

Kelsey Koch, another junior, feels Mr. Menzel celebrates mole day because "he's Doc Menz and he can."



Mr. Foley: Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

By Tim Waibel

Mr. Foley, a math teacher at NUHS, was announced Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for 2008. This award praises the hard work that teachers do to help students succeed.

The Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award is a local contest. To sum it up, a teacher is nominated by another teacher or student for outstanding teaching skills. ISD #88 received \$1,000 to purchase technology. As part of the award Mr. Foley also received a \$100 gift card to Wal-Mart. "I still haven't decided what to spend it on," Foley

said.

This award was a shock to Foley. "I was surprised when I found out I had won. I didn't even know who nominated me," Foley said.

For Foley, teaching isn't about winning awards. "I started teaching because I enjoyed working while student teaching, and I liked helping the students," Foley said. "The award was a humbling experience. It was quite an honor to receive an award like this."

Did You Know?

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Corn Drive for Camp Courage

By Chyla Nelson

Have you ever heard of that thing called the Corn Drive that everyone speaks of? Well, it happens here every year, and every year is a success. Each fall FFA members go out into the fields with a truck and a trailer and ask local farmers if they would donate some grain for charity.

The Corn Drive started 68 years ago in the Freeborn, Minnesota FFA chapter. Here in New Ulm, we have been doing the Corn Drive for 55 years and each year goes well, according to Mr. Nelson, ag teacher and FFA adviser.

All the grain that we get for charity goes to a camp called Camp Courage. Camp Courage is a camp where children with physical disabilities and sensory impairments go



to have fun and make friends. At the camp, they have all kinds of things to do like swim, fish, have cook-outs, and learn about amateur radio and horticulture. Ever since the first year of the Corn Drive, over \$3 million has been raised by FFA chapters all over Minnesota. FFA helps raise money because some campers can't afford the full cost to stay at camp.

This year the NUHS grain drive was held in October after MEA weekend. We had 116 students that

helped out, and we raised a little over \$12,000.

"My favorite part of the grain drive is knowing we are making a difference for the youth attending Camp Courage," Mr. Nelson said.

"I think that the Corn Drive went very well. We made

a lot of money and had lots of fun," said Amber Halverson, a senior at NUHS. Halverson's group raised about \$178. Halverson's favorite part of the Corn Drive is leaving school and knowing that she's helping out for a good cause. Halverson didn't like the fact that it was so cold at first, but it then heated up throughout the day.

Julia Wendler, a senior at NUHS, also went on the Corn Drive. Wendler's favorite part of the corn drive is getting out of school to do a good deed for a charity.

"I think it went really well. I got to meet new people because I didn't really know who I was going with, but they were really fun to be with and we got a lot done," Wendler said.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the lion that roars in the MGM logo is named Volney?

Opportunity for the Arts in the Former Middle School

By Tessa Makepeace

Students hurrying to classes will likely never walk the halls of the New Ulm Middle School again since the building closed its doors to classes over two years ago. At the moment, the middle school is being used for District 88 administrative offices, but plans are underway to change that. Shortly after it closed, ideas began surfacing as to uses for the newly vacated space owned by District 88.

A committee was created to figure out the best way to make use of the building. The committee, chaired by Superintendent Harold Remme, was made up of area residents including some school board members. After having a few monthly meetings, the committee thought of possible options for the space that included using it as housing, studio space, or an arts center.

One of the more likely uses of the middle school would be put into place by Artspace Inc., an organization that has demonstrated interest in changing the building into a type of community or arts center.

"The goal of Artspace is to provide affordable, live, and/or work space for artists in a very broad sense," Anne Makepeace, an active member on the middle school committee, said. Anybody with "some arts hobby" could be considered an artist.

Some committee members attended a Blandon Leadership retreat in fall 2007 where they heard about the idea of an arts space. The sponsor of this retreat, the Blandon Foundation, supports leadership development in rural com-

munities.

Anne Makepeace went to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in St. Paul in October 2007. At the conference, Artspace Inc. gave a presentation on other communities around the country in which buildings have been renovated to accommodate the arts.

"A similar project done with a school located in Brainerd caught my attention," Makepeace said.

This sparked the interest of Makepeace and others, eventually leading to Artspace Inc. holding focus groups for two days in New Ulm. The focus groups were held in September 2008 at the Middle School.

These initial focus groups were funded by a grant engineered by Makepeace. During the focus groups two consultants from Artspace toured the middle school to determine whether it would be a good space for them to be a part of.

The middle school committee is waiting to get a report back from Artspace on their evaluation of the school as a space for one of their projects. If the project were to be put into action, the former school would become a live and work space for artists. Performances could be put on in the audi-



torium and dance studios could even become a part of the plan.

Anne Makepeace has served as a representative of the committee in communicating with the Artspace group. If Artspace does decide to further invest in the space, the next step in the process would be creating an artist's survey to be distributed throughout southern Minnesota. The survey would determine the level of interest a project like this would generate, according to John Makepeace, another member of the middle school committee.

After that, costs to further develop the project and to revamp the building would be funded mostly by affordable housing and historic tax credits. Public donations and loans would also contribute to the millions of dollars needed for this project, according to Anne Makepeace.

"In so many ways it can benefit so many people in the community," John Makepeace said.

Makepeace believes the arts center would also bring tourists and organizations to our area. It could even foster a community spirit and help create jobs.

The organization Artspace is unique because it is the "only organization in the country that does this," John Makepeace said. For now, the future of the middle school is uncertain. It will be left up to community members on the committee and Artspace to determine its fate.

Did You Know?

Did you know that a hummingbird weighs less than a penny?

Spread The Courage

By Amanda Huiras

On Thursday, November 6, 2008, the entire eighth-grade class gathered at the New Ulm Armory for the annual Courage Retreat.

Every year the eighth grade class gets to undergo this rite of passage.

"The 'middle schoolers' need this," said Courage Retreat organizer Mrs. Woodbury. "Kids are going through different changes around this time."

The kids learn about taking risks, showing respect, and being real. But ordinary teachers didn't teach the kids. Three fun-loving souls named Megan, Jess, and Jon-Knee enlightened them.

They are all part of group called Youth Frontiers. They put on events like this all over to instill values in young kids and to help them be nicer to one another.

They gave the kids much more to do than just sit and listen, though. They played the game "Cross the circle if..." and Jess would list different scenarios in which the kids would have to cross the giant circle they were sitting in.

They also all had to go through a giant jump rope without



anyone getting hit. But the most fun game of them all was Mongo Volleyball. Everyone had to sit and try to get the huge balloons, "volleyballs," to their captain's side. Captains were different STABLE leaders that were there. The STABLE leaders also helped lead small group discussions throughout the day.

"I think having STABLE kids there helped," said 8th grader Stephanie Dalluge. "I wasn't afraid to say what I needed in front of them."

Everyone soon got the chance to say whatever was on his or her mind at the end of the day, though. The class did an activity called "Pebble in the Pond" where kids got up in front of everyone and shared their act of courage they were going to commit to and

why. This was an emotional point for all the eighth graders and broke down a few barriers once held up.

"I hope this helps our class," said 8th grader William Hughes, "otherwise there is no point of doing all this."

"This retreat is a beginng for potential changes in the class," said Woodbury, "and this class really took all they learned to heart."

Incredible Indoor Show

By Amanda Huiras

Band. Is it an art or a sport? The New Ulm Marching Eagles have a fall season, just like other sports do. Yet their music is a piece of work, an art. Maybe it is a little of both? Whatever the case may be, the Eagles ended their season with their 7th annual Indoor Show on October 27, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.

The Indoor Show started off with the drum majors giving their snazzy signal to the audience. Then, the Eagles marched in from the four corners of the gym. They stopped in front of the smallest bleachers, which are sometimes known as the "band bleachers." The drum majors gave the shout for the band's horns to go up, and the audience rose in a wave and put their hands over their hearts as the Eagles played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Eagles belted out "Soulfinger" next accompanied by some flashy horn flicks. After that, the Dance Team did a high-kick number to "Cotton-Eyed Joe."

At Halftime the band lined up in the hall and marched into the gym to the cadence once again, and lined up in multiple rows facing the audience. They rocked out "Greased Lightnin'" first and then "We Go Together."

Then, suddenly, the lights were shut off, and the gym was doused in blackness. The Eagles started in on the song "Hand Jive." At first, the crowd just listened. But after sophomore Alex Kitzberger's tuba solo, the crowd erupted in cheers as the band played on.

Three-fourths of the way through the song, the entire band put down their instruments while percussion had their own solo part. The rest of the band then proceeded to do the hand jive with their glow-in-the-dark gloves, which caused another eruption of cheers and screams from the audience. Soon, everyone was doing the "Hand Jive!"

Numerous band members and band teacher Mrs. Ayer said this was the best song of the program.

"The entire Halftime went really well," said Mrs. Ayer. "I've had tons of comments that this was the best Indoor Show ever."

After that stupendous Halftime was the seniors' Parent Recognition. All eleven seniors were escorted into the gym with either their parents or host parents beside them.

The School Song ended the Eagle's spectacular Halftime.

The Eagles' last numbers were the "Hey Song" and "Tear The Roof Off the Sucker."

The Eagles ended the show by trooping the stands and then went to hang up their uniforms with another marching season under their belt.

The Eagles had an impressive marching season to be proud of, though. They took first place marching in the State Fair and third marching in the Waseca Parade.

The entire band worked hard this year, and the best of luck to them in their winter concert in January.

SMART Boards: A New Era of Teaching

By Tim Waibel

We've all probably noticed some technological advances in NUHS this year. SMART Boards are the new and improved version of the whiteboard sweeping across U.S. classrooms. SMART Boards are interactive teaching tools for students and teachers. A SMART Board consists of a projector, computer, and large touch-sensitive screen for teachers to present from in place of overheads.


Teachers can do many things with these new SMART Boards: Power Points, interactive games, surfing the web, and even present full lesson plans. Teachers can write notes all day and not worry about the erasing process or getting chalk dust on their nice pants!

The SMART Boards are helping students and teachers alike. "I use the SMART Board to present PowerPoints almost every day," said Mrs. Longtin, a health teacher. "The SMART Board is really convenient because you don't have to go through the trouble of setting up the projector because they have projectors built into them."

"I like the new SMART Boards. It keeps us [students] paying attention because all the students can interact instead of just sitting there taking notes," said Jesse Wiggins, a senior at NUHS.

Even though SMART Boards seem like a miracle invention, they do have flaws. For example, only one student can use the board at a time because it's controlled by touch. It's also an expensive piece of equipment that's hard to replace. "Because it is a new technology, it can be hard to learn and adapt to," Longtin said, also describing the learning curve of incorporating new technology.

In total there are eleven SMART Boards in the high school. Microsoft had a lawsuit and the courts thought about who would benefit most from the money that they had to give away. They decided schools should receive some money to buy hardware and software. "New Ulm High School used their share of the money to buy LCD projectors and SMART Boards," co-principal Mr. Bergmann said. "I think the SMART Boards are being put to good use and we will buy more in the future."



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Bye Bye Birdie, Hello Entertainment!

By Laura Schumacher

This week New Ulm High School students will bring a 50's musical classic by Michael Stewart to life. "Bye Bye Birdie" is a satire on American society. The main character is based on Elvis Presley, who was drafted into the army shortly before the musical was written. Our students, under the direction of Mr. Maki, a choir teacher at NUHS, make it a spectacular, colorful, and fun show to watch.

Performances will be on Friday, November 21st and Saturday, November 22nd at 7 p.m. and Sunday, November 23rd at 2 p.m. at the auditorium in the middle school.

Songwriter Albert Peterson (Sam Sveine) finds himself in trouble when superstar Conrad Birdie (Alex Hoffman) goes to the army. Albert's secretary and sweetheart, Rose Alvarez (Katie Hansel) makes Birdie stay to record the song "One Last Kiss" and makes him give Kim Macafee (Sarah Maudal), member of the Conrad Birdie Fanclub, an actual last kiss. This leads to problems with her boyfriend Hugo (Josh Gronholz).

The main cast was selected by all staff members involved in the musical: Gary Maki (musical director), Jill Curry (choreography), Shannon Stuckey (orchestra), Wendy Tuttle (drama), and Carolin Drexler (costumes). The cast was chosen by acting ability, vocal range, talent, and involvement in the choirs.



"I like hanging out with all the cast, meeting new people, and the goofy stuff that happens during rehearsal," Katie Hansel (Rose Alvarez) said.

The musical includes large chorus numbers with many students involved. The song "Healthy Normal American Boy" is very popular with most of the musical members. "It's amazing! We have fun practicing it," said Annemette Koch, an exchange student from Denmark.

"Honestly Sincere," a big dance number and one of Conrad's songs, was already shown at the indoor band show and the students earned great applause for their performance.

Producing a musical is not simple. Students involved in the show practice up to five times per week and four hours per practice, especially in the last rehearsing period. "We still work on memorization and need to practice the dances," said Maki, "and also adding to the scenes to make them more interesting."

Maki was also responsible for choosing this year's

musical. He chose "Bye Bye Birdie" because it was entertaining and was last done 18 years ago. But it will for sure be different from the version produced 18 years ago. There are additional chorus parts, larger chorus numbers, and more experienced singers because students from the high school are involved instead of students from the middle school.

"I just love getting to know new people and the song 'Lot of Livin.' It's just ridiculous," said Sarah Maudal (Kim Macafee).

Many individuals assist with the play. Curry is responsible for the choreography, making up dances for the big chorus numbers and creating additional characters.

Carolin Drexler was always there to help the students put their costumes together. This year we will see teen clothes from the 60's as well as gold glitter suits and fancy dresses.

Sheldon Rieke built the set for the musical with assistance from students who volunteered to help. In addition to these "behind the scenes" staff, there are many people involved in the musical who work hard to make "Bye Bye Birdie" an extraordinary show.

Next year there will be no musical, so from Nov. 21st to Nov. 23rd you will have the only opportunity to watch such a big, spectacular, and entertaining production.

Technologic Age: How The Internet Affects Culture Today

By Madeline Ullery

The Internet has been called a lot of things: a place for news, a place for socializing, an evil place and a great place. But it is much more than that. The Internet is an entire culture unto itself.

The Internet and social networking websites have vastly affected youth culture in the past few years. In fact, as this article is being written, I am simultaneously on four different social networking sites.

Internet culture today is nearly parallel to youth culture. The way teens speak, act, and see the world are all influenced by what they are exposed to. In this respect, Internet culture has a huge influence on them.

In a way, the Internet creates trends and subcultures much like music does. Emo (lots of black, lots of depressing poetry, and lots of eyeliner) is one trend that started out with music and got a snowball effect from the Internet.

Other popular trends have been largely impacted by the Internet. One of these trends is "Scenster" (think Emo with bright colors and big hair). Another is "Gamer" (pretty self-explanatory). Gamers spend their time on websites such as "IGN, or Internet Gaming Network," according to Trent Lutz, a senior at New Ulm High School). One more trend that has been affected by the Internet is Indie (music snobs and social elitists who will always think they're much better than you).

Social networking sites are a huge part of Internet culture. Three of the biggest social networking sites are Myspace, Facebook, and Livejournal. These websites are generally visited by people who are anywhere from age 9 to 30 (though they really have no age limit).

Myspace is basically what its slogan says, "A place for friends." It's typically used for interacting with current friends and, a newer trend, uploading and listening to music. It's perfect for keeping up with all the newest developments in friends' lives.

Facebook is very similar to Myspace. It was created for university students but has developed into something for people of all ages. It's generally used for keeping in touch with friends, sharing photos, and, according to Lauren Horsch, a junior at New Ulm High School, "Facebook stalking."

Micayla Irmiter, also a junior at NUHS, says she likes Facebook because "it lets me talk to multiple friends at one time."

Livejournal is mostly used as a forum. It's less a place for current friends and more a place for meeting people. Livejournal boasts a huge number of "communities," or groups, where people with similar interests can meet and talk. Most users on Livejournal are members of one or more fandom. (A fandom is an Internet domain about a book, comic, TV show, band, video game, or any other sort of media).

Young adults today are the ones most affected by the Internet. They have grown up with it, been exposed to it, generally know their way around it, and understand how to use it to their advantage.

The Internet is also a good place for teens to just be themselves. "The Internet provides a shield so you can provide your unabashed opinion on a subject and let off steam and not have to be ashamed about it," said Colin Omori, a freshman at NUHS.

John Palfrey, in his book *Born Digital*, refers to anyone born after 1980 as a "Digital Native," or someone who has and has always had access to networked digital technologies. This group

of people is the youth of today, and the ones influenced by a new kind of culture.

The Internet has changed youth culture in a variety of ways. For one, it has changed the way we get information. Nearly any desired information can be found on the Internet (and what can't be found can certainly be made up).

Websites like Wikipedia.org, UrbanDictionary.com, and Encyclopediadramatica.com can supply information from one Internet user to another. Websites like these, while not always reliable or politically correct, are perfect examples of Internet culture.

Whereas Wikipedia (a user-updated encyclopedia) stands for the infinite knowledge of the Internet, Urban Dictionary (a user-created dictionary of slang) and Encyclopedia Dramatica (the Wikipedia of youth culture) show more of a cultural, sometimes ridiculous, side.

With the Internet, youth can begin to become one with the world around them. It's certainly empowering to have the ability to walk to the nearest computer and chat instantly with people from all over the world. This helps diffuse cultural viewpoints and opinions.

For the most part, the Internet has created a new culture of global ideas and ridiculously easy communication. This is one culture that will be sticking around for quite some time.

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Counting Pennies: What It Means to You

By Rebecca Henle

Up and down, back up again, and now down again. No, it's not a yo-yo. It's the economy. Recently, we have heard about the stock market hitting an all-time low only to bounce back like nothing happened the next day. For a long time now, we have been worrying about when the economy is going to just crash. Another question that is on the minds of many students now is "What does this have to do with me as a teen?"

First of all, it affects teens like it affects all people in the obvious ways. Inflation is raising prices, gas prices keep changing, and we all need a little more money to keep going. What's harder to tell is how the housing market can affect teens, too.

Because of the foreclosures, banks don't have money and are forced to file bankruptcy.

"The economy is not going to correct itself until the housing market is settled," Mr. Anderson, an economics teacher, said. "And the stock market it not going to correct itself until the economy is settled."

It has been on the news recently that many families have had to cut back on everything from food to entertainment and especially gas consumption because of rising prices and a failing economy. Family vacations, for example, are not going as far or not happening at all. Even at our school you can hear students talking about carpooling, gas prices, and girls waiting for that all-important sale.

It is almost becoming necessary for teens to have a job to be able to afford gas for their cars or have spending money for clothes, food, and entertainment. Some may be feeling the pinch more than others. Either way, teens are coming up with more ways to save money.

"I started eating-out less and trying to save more gas,"

said Kya Fischer, a senior.

"I stopped carrying cash and got a debit card," said Ethan Hauer, a senior. "I don't spend as much when I don't have cash."



What is happening in our economy now is also going to affect our futures. Students are going to find it even harder to find the money to pay for college. A lot of teens already take part of their paychecks out and put it toward college, but with the current banking crisis, college students are finding it harder to secure loans from banks

nervous about getting their money back.

Students planning to go straight into the work force or even college

are going to find it challenging with the number of jobs being cut. According to the outplacement firm Challenger, in October alone, 112,884 jobs were cut. That's nineteen percent more than September and the highest cut since January 2004. The job market is expected to keep dropping for the next few months.

"In the best-case scenario, jobs will stabilize by the middle of 2009," said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Overall, most teens will make it out of this crisis just

fine. There may be a few hardships, but the economy should be able to right itself, according to Anderson.

"If you're not affected now, you'll probably be okay," Anderson said.

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Did You Know?

Did you know that Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros?

Did you know that it costs \$ 7 million to build the Titanic and \$200 million to make a film about it?

Did you know that you eat over 70 insects and 10 spiders when you're sleeping during your whole life?

Source: <<http://www.hemmy.net/2006/04/30/50-interesting-facts/>>

Nobody Likes Bad Movies

By Ryan Miller

It was film critic Roger Ebert who said, "No good movie is too long and no bad movie is short enough." A fitting quote for modern cinema.

However, while there are many qualities to be said about good films, less often expanded upon are bad things about bad movies. Despite the fact that bad movies almost never help out the producing company, they still are constantly made. Why? Who knows.

Most people I interviewed seemed to watch at least one movie a week, and all of them had a few things to say about their experiences with bad movies.

"Poor acting, predictability, and a low budget" are three things that often contribute to a bad movie, according to Mrs. Fairbairn, an NUHS English



We Know It's Big.
We Measured.



teacher. She adds, though, that "a low budget isn't always bad. What I really don't like is when you watch a two hour movie and know that they could have done everything you just saw in 45 minutes instead."

Almost everyone I asked said that movies have been pretty good as of late and are getting better. This didn't leave them without some movies they'd call awful, though, most of which were B-movies, including *Cube 2*, *Epic Movie* (and most of the "Movie" movies), *The Hand*, *Batman & Robin*, *27 Dresses*, *The Grudge*, and some movie about a plate-throwing midget

(we have no idea).

Now we all know there are some real duds out there, but how can we know prior to watching a movie that it's a bad movie so we can avoid seeing it altogether? Popular opinion is sometimes accurate and your own interest factors into it. If you like the actor and like what they're doing, give it a shot. Also, read reviews if you're unsure. "On average, reviews are solid," Fairbairn said about the reliability of most reviews.

"There's always good ones, but there's also always bad," Josh Drexler, a NUHS student, said about movies.

This summer's good movies included *Batman: The Dark Knight*, *Wall•e*, *Iron Man*, and *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (or the slightly more obscure movies such as *Burn After Reading* or *Mamma Mia!*)

Even if you have seen all of this summer's biggest movies, you can't forget that there are still some old movies you probably haven't seen that are still good. Fairbairn recommends *Juno* or *Little Miss Sunshine* to all those who haven't seen them.

The Latest on New Music

By Ashley Schroeder

Get down and funky with the new fresh music that's coming out from artists that are the talk of the nation from Guns 'N' Roses to Brad Paisley to Missy Elliott.

The greatest buzz right now is about Taylor Swift and her upcoming album called "Fearless." The album includes her new single "Love Story," which is all about romance and destiny (two subjects that are usually on a teenage girl's mind). "You're Not Sorry" is about a boy who's really just a liar, and "White Horses" which is about a romantic fantasy that doesn't always work out the way you expected it to. "Fearless" is due out November 11.

Nickelback returns with a brand new CD entitled "Dark Horse" along with their new single "If Today Was Your Last Day," which comes out November 18. If you're a fan of this band, you will surely enjoy this album. Their last album sold up to 10 million copies worldwide and hit the top 30 spot on the Billboard 200, so go check it out.

Mudvayne is coming out with their new hit "Do What You Do." It's sure to be different than what they've done in the past. They are hoping everyone will like it. It will be coming out November 18.

Missy Elliott is releasing her new album "Block Party" on November 11. It includes songs such as "Hip-Hop Don't Die," "Milk & Cookies," and "Best Best." A music video for "Best Best" may be in the works, too. The album title was chosen for the dance clubs out there. She was hoping to get more kids pumping their blood for it as they bust a move on the dance floor.

For all those fans that are all about rock, AC/DC just released their new album called "Black Ice." So far, the al-

bum has topped the charts in 29 countries and its debut is at the top in the U.S. album chart with sales at 784,000 copies. It's overwhelming for them having the second biggest album debut in 2008. Good luck to them, and hopefully they'll go even farther.

We can't forget about one of the greatest rock legends, Guns 'N' Roses. They're coming out with their new CD called "Chinese Democracy," which is set to be released November 23. Their run up release date album track "Shackler's Revenge" will debut in the video game "Rock Band 2." They're most likely debuting this song because Rock Band's a popular game and most kids will like it once they hear it playing on the game.

Finally, we have Brad Paisley who has just introduced his new CD called "Play." If you like his music you will definitely love this CD. There's even more guitar than there has ever been before. There's lots of new music coming out, so go check it out!

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Roots of Halloween from pg. 1

beginning of the 20th century, Halloween lost most of its religious overtones.

The ancient Celts believed that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. In order to avoid being recognized by the bad spirits, people started to wear masks and costumes thinking the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits.

The tradition of trick or treating started in the United States after the Irish immigrants began to celebrate Halloween. The idea of trick or treating lies in the early Halloween parades in England where poor citizens begged for food and promised to pray for people's dead relatives. Now that most people don't have to beg for food anymore, the ancient style of trick or treating has become entertainment. Children dress up in costumes and ask for candy. The "trick" is a threat to the homeowner's property if no treat is given.

A pumpkin is the most popular symbol of Halloween. The Celts believed that the head was the most powerful part of the body because it contained the spirit and knowledge. They started carving turnips to frighten off superstitions.

In the USA the role of the carved vegetable became more decorative than spiritual. Instead of turnips Americans carved pumpkins because they were cheaper and easier to get. They were also bigger than turnips, which made them easier to carve. According to a CNN study, the U.S. produces more than 998 million pounds of pumpkins nowadays.

Apples are also strongly associated with Halloween. Sweet caramel apples are traditional Halloween food. The Celts used them for different games. The root of the "Bobbing for Apples" game, for example, comes from Celtic games. Apples were also seen as powerful tools of the prophets.

Today's Halloween has hardly any religious meaning anymore. It has become a children's commercialized holiday. Americans, for example, spend about \$3 billion annually on Halloween.

According to a recent study, more than 36 million children go trick or treating every Halloween. Additionally, the average American consumes about 25 pounds of candy each year, most of that eaten during Halloween and Christmas, according to a study of CNN.

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Fable II Review

By Taylor Rueckert

Most likely in the top 3 games of 2008, Fable II lives up to the vast adventure of the original game. Fable II is an interesting adventure through an expansive land filled with many quests, secrets, and choices. Fable II takes place 500 years after the original Fable replacing bows with guns and people forgetting that magic even existed.

Fable II employs an in-depth karma system, where the choices that characters make affect various things such as how people see them and how they react to being near them as well as how the characters naturally look.

There are a few problems that can be found over time, such as the problem of trying to interact with an object in front of the person as well as some timing issues like a character saying something later than they should. The graphics in the game are truly amazing, though, especially compared to the first game; it is a huge improvement, as well as the design of the other AI (artificial intelligence) characters in the game.

The AI of the enemies in the game is also a big improvement compared to the first, but they still make very plain mistakes that can make the game easier than it should be, such as not attacking when the player's character is getting up from being knocked down. Fable II also goes fairly in-depth with the character customization, offering many different costume or suit choices that could affect what people think of a character, plus being able to change hairstyles. Now there is a choice to be male or female at the start of the game. This game has its difficult moments but overall it's fairly easy. It's a great game for any role-playing game fan.

Worth Buying – Overall Score: 9/10

Mercenaries 2 Review

By Taylor Rueckert

The sequel to the original Xbox game, Mercenaries 2 is a fairly fun Grand Theft Auto-style game developed by Pandemic Studios and published by Electronic Arts. The game has a few control problems with trying to do various things such as hi-jacking a vehicle where it wouldn't confirm that a button was pressed at the right time even though it was. There are also problems with what people say; after a while when they keep saying the same things over and over, it gets really annoying.

The graphics in Mercenaries 2 are okay, but there are still some occasions where, when high enough in the air, trees go two-dimensional and look terrible in the background, as well as sometimes objects revert back to a very simply colored object in the general shape of what it was.

Mercenaries 2 offers a large arsenal of weapons and vehicles to cater to each situation differently. For hasty people who play quickly, this game could take a week or so to complete, but most people will probably take their time taking roughly 2-3 weeks. This game also has a lot of bugs that can really affect gameplay, such as suddenly falling through the ground after hitting something.

The game doesn't really have much for character customization except for a few suits that have to be won.

Overall, this game is okay for people who like third-person shooter games or someone who wants to try something new.

Worth Renting - Overall Score: 7/10

Did You Know?

Did you know that the average person laughs 13 times a day?

Halloween Contest from pg. 1

"Bark if you're my dog!" was Hansel's gangster slogan of the day.

When the end of sixth hour arrived, Gareis' voice boomed from the loud speaker with the anticipated results of the Halloween costume contest winners. After the winners were announced, excited students pranced through the halls to claim their candy and pride. It was a fun, successful day that left students with another memorable Halloween.

2008 Halloween Costume Contest Winners**Grade 7 Winners**

Patty Gruber
Tasha Holm
Krista Janni
Bailey Nelson

Grade 8 Winners

Marissa Johnson (holy cow)
Autoworkers

Grade 9 Winners

Mitch Eggert
Michael Maudal (giraffe)

Grade 10 Winners

Olivia Blake (tree)
Michelle Youngbloom (tree)
Skylar Reed
The Mice

Grade 11 Winners

Brett Gieske (Batman)
Ladybugs (Haley Lutteke, Logan Ahlness, Brittney Raatz)
Elliot Backer (Where's Waldo?)
Kacie Covington (dirty clothes basket)

Grade 12 Winners

Ninja Turtles (Olivia Augustin, Alexa Forstner, Courtney Kral, Shannon Mosenden, Korinne O'Connor)
Burt's Bees (Molly Garies, Allison Rubie, Robert Santella)
Tigger & Pooh (Cody Kohn & Billy Schwarz)

Do These Ideals Make Me Look Trendy?

By Lauren Horsch

Many of today's teens conform to one or more trends. Whether it is wearing a certain type of clothing bought at the coolest store or listening to the latest band, they're all trends, and teens will succumb to it.

A trend in the Dictionary.com sense of the word is "the general course or prevailing tendency." Socially, it's a course that influences daily life.

It is indeed true that the media does influence one's choices. Whenever something becomes popular, the media will project it into the lives of everyone.

Micayla Irmiter, a junior at NUHS, defines a trend as something "popular for a time." Her friend, Leah Nelsen, also a junior, agrees.

Trends have been present during all periods of human life, not just in recent times. We, as humans, are almost predestined to follow trends, even absurd ones.

Looking back in time one sees the painted faces of men and women at the palace of Versailles during the reign of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. It was the "in thing" to wear blush and white face powder to all formal events and even in everyday life.

In the late 1960's, psychedelic music hit and the counter-culture came into being. The look of hippies and beatniks as a form of expression worried adults because they thought it was a

form of horrible rebellion, when really teens were just expressing themselves.

Irmiter and Nelsen both remember 'snap bracelets' from back in elementary school as a more recent trend. But those were only popular for a couple of months. Then came the products of Lisa Frank whose notebooks and pencils were the all craze.

All trends are transitory, moving in and out almost on a yearly basis. Most teens look to Hollywood for ideas. Many of them list bands, musicians, and stars as their influences or even heroes. But mainly, it starts with a single thought: "That is cool."

Take skinny jeans, for example. When stars such as Rachel Bilson and Jessica Alba started wearing them during the past year or so, the general public went crazy and needed them right that second. Now, we can see skinny jeans every day in the school.

Friends are another big influence in a teen's life. Most teens run with people much like themselves or that have the same ideals. Thus, a group that follows a trend is created. Even if they think they are not conforming to society, they really are.

Within the past couple of years, many new trends have popped up on the culture radar. One such trend could be referred to as 'Emo,' where kids wear their hair in their face, wear tight clothing, and self-deprecate for kicks.

Other trends to be considered in the new millennium are punk,

hipster, geek chic, wangster, and metal-heads. Inside these genres of trends or styles are sub-genres that break them down even more.

Some trends aren't just with clothing. Terry Sveine, a father of two, believes that technology is both a blessing and a curse.

"The same technology that is enabling easier communication is also serving to isolate people," Sveine said. He is, of course, referring to groups of teens that hang out and just text other people that may or may not be in the same room. Thus, one will have very little real communication with an actual human being.

Are trends even that bad?

"You lose your self-being...Duh!" Nelsen said.

"It's expensive to follow a trend," said Irmiter explaining how when something is in, it's expensive, then goes on sale as soon as no one follows the trend anymore.

There are few benefits to following trends besides a "comforting feeling," according to Nelsen.

"You end up looking like everyone else," Irmiter reiterated.

Sveine still has a sense of pride in being "independent" and tries not to follow all trends, even as an adult.

Honestly, though, it doesn't exactly matter. When we look back at our high school yearbook, a shudder will go through our spine or we will say, "Man, what was I thinking?"

Yes, We Can! Volunteering in the Community

By Sara Keller

Yes, we can! This message was repeated many times in the 2008 election by President-elect Barack Obama's campaign. "I am asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington. I'm asking you to believe in yours," Obama said in a speech on October 28, 2008.

At the heart of Obama's "Yes, we can!" cry is a message of hope and improvement. We all want our community, our state, our country, and our world to be a better place. How can we help to achieve this desire? One way is by volunteering.

Volunteering has numerous benefits for the community as well as the person who volunteers. There are many different options for students to choose from. If you want to support a cause but can't afford to donate money, you can donate your time instead.

So why volunteer? You can become a well-rounded person and help others who may not be as fortunate. "Volunteering builds character," says Mrs. Weiss, a New Ulm High School Guidance Counselor.

Volunteering looks good on a college application, too. "But there is more to it than just looking good on an application," Weiss says. It can also give you insight into what is involved in future careers or you can learn new and valuable skills (such as communication and interpersonal skills) that you can put to work in any aspect of your life.

In addition, being a volunteer looks good on scholarship applications. "Scholarship committees like to see well-rounded individuals who have volunteer activities," Weiss says. According to Weiss, having put time into volunteering, these commit-

tees can see that you are reliable, involved in your community, and are doing something to make the world a better place.

A great thing about volunteering is that you can pick what suits you best. Consider your likes and dislikes as well as what fits into your schedule. Most volunteer organizations like you to put in a certain number of hours per week or month depending on the organization. If that does not fit into your schedule, you can volunteer with a charity that sponsors a special day to raise funds or to help people. Two examples of one-day activities in New Ulm are the United Way's "Day of Caring" and The American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life."

Like animals? Consider volunteering at the Brown County Humane Society. They are in need of dog walkers on weekends or after school. The amount of time it takes to volunteer varies on the number of dogs

there. An adult has to accompany or be at the Humane Society at the same time if you are under 18, however. "Volunteering at the Humane Society makes you feel good," said Jan Raitz, Adoption Specialist. "It allows you to give the dogs or cats the love that they deserve while they are waiting for a home."

Volunteering also allows you to meet people with many of the same interests. You can use these new relationships for networking, future job opportunities, and internships. By volunteering, you show potential future employers or references that you are hard working, dependable, and interested in that career field.

When looking for places to volunteer, there are multiple options. For example, you can look on the Internet, on bulletin

boards at a library, at a high school guidance office, or in a phonebook. Another avenue would be to ask a friend or relative if they know on any organizations that are looking for volunteers.

Minnesota is ranked third in the nation with 39.7% of its population volunteering, according to Corporation for National & Community Service. Minneapolis is the number one large city for volunteering in the nation. This just shows that there are many different options for volunteering right here in Minnesota.

Volunteering is about giving your time, energy, and skills freely. "Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless," to quote a common motto among volunteers. Why not give it a try?

Some volunteer opportunities in New Ulm include:

- Brown County Humane Society (507-359-2312)
- Brown County Food Shelf (507-354-7668)
- Brown County Teen Court (507-233-6694)
- Healthy Communities/ Healthy Youth (507-354-8632)
- New Ulm Area Youth Council & Students Performing on Tough Situations (SPOTS)
- Tutoring at New Ulm High School (Guidance Counselor)

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Are you willing to try volunteering?

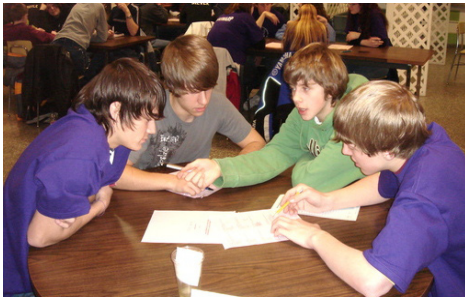
Knowledge Bowl Looking for a Big Season

By Korinne O'Connor

This year's Knowledge Bowl team kicked off the season in the beginning of November. The team, under third-year coach Mr. Bute, is looking forward to good competition this year, especially with some key returning participants.

Many of us may have heard of Knowledge Bowl but don't know what it is. "It is basically a game of team jeopardy," Bute said. "You have five players per team. Once you buzz in, you get 15 seconds to answer, and every question right is worth one point."

Knowledge Bowl in New Ulm High School started in 1986, making it a long time activity here. Knowledge Bowl isn't just for high school students, but also for the junior high aged kids as well.



This year's Knowledge Bowl team has 12 junior high students and twenty-two 9-12 graders. There are four different teams with the Purple team being similar to a varsity team.

The Knowledge Bowl season starts unofficially in the fall with practices once per week, and begins officially in the beginning of November. The Knowledge Bowl team practices twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday practices are dedicated to the oral portion of competition and Thursdays to the written part.

In January through March, Knowledge Bowl participates in eight non-regional meets. The meets are held during the school day and at various locations. Our Knowledge Bowl team host's two meets a year on teacher workshop days. A meet usually includes 28 to 29 teams. The competition starts with a written exam and then three to four oral exams each with 45 questions.

"It's really awesome and a lot of fun," said senior and four-year returning player Cassie Reed. "It's totally relaxed and exciting." She is really looking forward to the season to be with her friends and going to tournaments.

There are many reasons to join Knowledge Bowl including "to meet kids, competition, good for academics, and to compete without sports," Bute said. If you're in sports, Bute says, it is still possible to be in Knowledge Bowl.

"We have eight good returning seniors with lots of experience, and also lots of experience with our juniors. We went to state in 2007, and hopefully we can repeat that. I'm looking forward to watching all of our teams compete, and hopefully advancing to finals," Bute said.

Returning players are also looking to have a good season, and they're looking for more freshmen and sophomores to come out.

"My favorite things about Knowledge Bowl are the atmosphere, friends, and, of course, the coach, Mr. Bute," said Reed.

New-Look Girls' Basketball Ready for Season

By Jesse Wiggins

No Lis Weineke, no Courtney Steinhauser. Instead, the Girls' Basketball team is led by captains senior Kayla Altmann and sophomore Marissa Klimmek. This year's team lacks what the Eagles have had over the past few years: height. However, Altmann isn't worried. "We are a very fast team," Altmann said. "It's definitely our strong point."

Another strong suit for the Eagles is team chemistry. "The seniors and juniors work well together and the sophomores and freshmen work well together. We are blending well," Altmann said.

The Eagles finished 4th in the South Central Conference last year with a 4-6 record and an overall record of 9-15. To better their record this year, Altmann believes the Eagles have a few things to work on.

"We need to play the whole game," Altmann said. "Instead of playing hard for one half and then being lazy the next half, we need to play hard the whole game. We also need to have a better mentality. Last year we went into some

games thinking 'We're going to lose.'"

The Eagles have six seniors on the team this year. All of them are expected to see some varsity time. The Eagles also have a pair of very talented sophomores. Point Guard Marissa Klimmek and Off Guard Rachel Holstein are going to play major roles for the Eagles this year.

The Eagles are aiming to post a .500 winning percentage this year and to be competitive in the conference.

One major question heading into the season has got to be the status of Altmann's leg injury. Altmann injured her knee during volleyball. The knee injury knocked Altmann out for the season, and her status for basketball is unknown. "It's sort of a wait and see thing right now," Altmann commented. "Right now I do plan on playing in the season opener." The Eagles open their season on December 2 at Mankato East.

The Eagles are going to need Altmann this year in order to stay competitive with conference powerhouses Blue Earth and Fairmont. The Eagles open practice on November 17.



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Rivalry Heats Up

By Justin Wiggins

Rivalries have always been the stuff of tradition. In college there is the famous Michigan vs. Ohio State rivalry. The Yankees-Red Sox rivalry overshadows all of baseball. And nearly everyone in Minnesota can relate to the Vikings' many clashes with our cheese-loving neighbor, the Green Bay Packers.

Naturally, rivalries have made their way down to the high school level as well. New Ulm High School is no exception. The Eagles have constantly clashed with their rival, the Waseca Blue Jays.

The rivalry has heated up over the past years, but no year has produced the astonishing results of this fall.

Not once did the Eagles lose to the Blue Jays this fall, something that some students at New Ulm High School were quick to realize. "It's awesome," said senior Josh Botten. "Beating Waseca is obviously a goal for every Eagle's team."

Senior Cody Kohn notes the importance of the rivalry for him. "Every time the schedule comes out, the first thing I look for is when we play Waseca," he said. "Nothing compares to the intensity and fun that those games bring."

Probably the most memorable win for the Eagles this fall was the Homecoming football game in which the Eagles pounced the Blue Jays 33-19. Never had the student fans at



a football game been so pleased with a victory. They showed their happiness after the game by rushing the field and celebrating right along with the team.

The Eagles scored plenty more victories against the Blue Jays from Waseca this fall, including two dominate victories for the Girls' Volleyball team. In the first match against the Blue Jays, the Eagles cruised to a 3-1 victory in Waseca. The second match was at home where the Eagles really took it to the Blue Jays in front of a packed house. Emotions ran high as the volleyball team destroyed Waseca 3-0.

For ten years Waseca has dominated the Eagles in Girls' Tennis. That was until the Eagles put their losing streak to an abrupt end with a surprising 4-3 victory over the Blue Jays in late September. It was a surprising victory even for the players.

"It was really exhilarating! It was the first meet that we were uber excited to win," said senior Sarah Maudal. "It was kind of a surprise, but we knew we could do it."

The Eagles picked up more rousing victories from the boy's and girl's soccer teams to finish off the amazing sweep this fall season.

Eagles' supporters are hoping that this year's winter teams can continue the streak. If they can, it would be nothing short of amazing, but we'll all have to go out and support our teams to help get it done.

Gymnastics Team Looks to Keep on Rolling

By Justin Wiggins

The New Ulm High School Girls' Gymnastics team has won five straight South Central Conference Championships, and they are looking to continue that streak this year.

Last year's team sported a record of 10-2 en route to their SCC title. That was with three seniors leading the way. This year the Eagles are lead by just one senior, Katie Hansel.

With that lone senior on the roster, leadership is normally harder to obtain, but according to fourth-year coach Meredith Nordby, the Eagles are led by many other girls too, including junior Shyranda Hornick. Hornick was one of the best players for the Eagles last year and should be again this year.

"Shyranda has been in sports for a long time and has naturally gained that dedication needed to succeed and be a good leader," Nordby said.

The main difference between last year's team and this year's team is the fact that this year's team is loaded with youth. The Eagles have six 7th graders scattered throughout

the roster. That could be a challenge for the team, but Nordby hopes they can overcome it.

"It's all about working together," Nordby said. "We may have one person who is really strong at one event, but then not that strong at a different event. That's when another girl needs to step up and make a contribution."

The main goal for the Eagles this winter is to maintain the South Central Conference crown. "We should stay competitive in the conference," Nordby said. "We play in a tough section, though, so we'd really have to play well as a team to make it to state."

Individually, Nordby believes the Eagles should be able to send a couple of girls to state, depending on just how hard they work. But as the past has shown, work has never been a problem for the Girls' Gymnastics team, not with five-straight conference titles under their belt.

Winter Sports Schedule

Boys' Hockey

Tuesday, Dec 2	7:30PM	Hutchinson
Thursday, Dec 4	7:30PM	St. Peter
Tuesday, Dec 9	7:30PM	Minnehaha Academy
Thursday, Dec 11	7:30PM	Litchfield
Saturday, Dec 13	1:30PM	Away vs. Willmar
Tuesday, Dec 16	7:30PM	Marshall

Girls' Hockey

Tuesday, Nov 25	6:00PM	Luverne
Friday, Dec 5	7:30PM	Away vs. Simley
Saturday, Dec 6	1:00PM	Away vs. S. St. Paul
Tuesday, Dec 9	7:00PM	Waseca
Thursday, Dec 11	7:00PM	Marshall
Saturday, Dec 13	1:00PM	Away vs. St. Peter
Tuesday, Dec 16	6:00PM	Luverne
Friday, Dec 19	7:00PM	Away vs. Shakopee

Girls' Basketball

Tuesday, Dec 2	6:00PM	Away vs. Mankato East
Friday, Dec 5	6:00PM	Fairmont
Friday, Dec 12	6:00PM	Away vs. BEA
Friday, Dec 19	6:00PM	St. Peter

Boys' Basketball

Tuesday, Dec 9	7:30PM	Lake Crystal-Welcome Memorial
Friday, Dec 12	7:30PM	Mankato East
Tuesday, Dec 16	7:30PM	Willmar
Friday, Dec 19	7:30PM	Away vs. St. Peter

Wrestling

Saturday, Dec 6	9:00AM	Away vs. Monticello
Tuesday, Dec 9	5:00PM	Away vs. Marshall, Dawson - Boyd
Friday, Dec 12	5:00PM	Away vs. Mankato East, Hutchinson, Scott West
Thursday, Dec 18	7:00PM	Away vs. Blue Earth Area

Gymnastics

Friday, Dec 5	6:00PM	Redwood Valley
Monday, Dec 8	6:30PM	Away vs. JCC
Thursday, Dec 11	6:00PM	Marshall
Saturday, Dec 13	1:00PM	Away vs. Mankato East
Thursday, Dec 18	6:00PM	Blue Earth Area

Dance Team

Saturday, Dec 6	Apple Valley
Saturday, Dec 20	TBD

Math Counts Season in Swing

By Korinne O'Connor

What are the next two terms in the sequence below? A, 2, C, 3, F, 5, K, 7, ____, ____. This is a problem eager students in Math Counts would love.

Math Counts is a competitive math league all across the nation that is based around team and individual events. It is open to 6-8th graders, but this year, due to transportation reasons, the sixth graders will not be participating. There are no requirements to join Math Counts and it's open to any student in junior high.

Mrs. Woodbury, the advisor of Math Counts, is looking forward to the upcoming season.

"We have a strong team of 8th graders and also some new 7th graders will be helpful. I'm really looking forward to how close we get to state this year," Woodbury said.

This year the team is up to 16 members, which is impressive. There have been as few as 8 and as many as 19, so they have a good number of students involved this year.

"It's tough to get kids to come out because there are so many other things kids do and sports to interfere," Woodbury said.

You may wonder what it takes to be in Math Counts. Well, the Math Counts team practices once a week. The days and times vary but they usually practice from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

or right after school from 3 to 4 p.m. Once competitions start approaching, they will go to two days a week.

They have two to three mini-meets a year, which are just smaller because fewer questions are asked. They also attend two all-day meets, one at Cathedral and regionals at Gustavus. Regionals have 27 other schools competing for the top four places and a trip to state.

There are many perks to being in Math Counts.

"Two days out of school for competitions, treats and snacks for when we practice, and you can be with kids who share the same interest in math as you," Woodbury said.

"I'm in Math Counts because my mom forces me because she's a teacher, and it's my favorite subject," said Chris Mulder, an 8th grader.



"I joined Math Counts because I'm a nerd and some of my friends are in it," Hannah Jakel, an 8th grader said.

Math Counts is a great way for students who like math and some competition to get involved in school activities.

Mrs. Woodbury has been coaching Math Counts for 11 years and really enjoys the "A-ha" moments, when you know a student understands the problem." She also enjoys "when my team teaches me something. I'm always learning new things."

Math Counts hasn't had a meet yet this year, but they hope to do well all season and continue improving throughout the year. Oh, and if you

are wondering the answer to the problem, it is R, 11.

Sources:

"Mathcounts." 28 January 2008. 10 November 2008 <<http://mathcounts.org/Page.aspx?pid=1235>>.

Danceline Kicks Off the Season

By Josh Botten

The Dance Team is up and ready for their upcoming season this year with a varsity and junior varsity team. The captains for the team are Shelby Wilhelm, her first year as captain, and Jill Bartels, her second year as a captain. The coaches for the teams are Brooke Lilleoden, who is returning for her second year, and first-year assistant coach Jessica MarQuardt.

The varsity team consists of 17 girls compared to last year's 20 while the JV has 12 girls going out this year. There are six seniors, six juniors, three sophomores, and two freshman on the varsity roster this year.

The teams practice at Jefferson Elementary school at the same time on Wednesday and Thursday, but they practice on different times on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

"All of us girls have been working hard this year," said Jessica Koehler, a senior on the varsity team. "Our main goal is to keep improving and go win some competitions this year."

There are two kinds of dances that are preformed at dance meets: high kick and jazz. High kicks need at least 50 kicks but not more than 75 in their dance. Jazz dances are the alternative to high kick. Jazz dances typically have more flow and are more graceful and elegant.



The judges look at choreography, technique, facial expressions, difficulty of routine, how the team walks in and out from the dance floor, and high kick dances are judged on the difficulty of the kicks. The team with the highest score at the end wins.

"We are all great dancers, not because of our technique and skills but because of our passion," said Courtney Kokesch, a senior on the varsity team. "We strive everyday to perform at our very best, to have fun, and to love what we love to do."

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Frankly Speaking

By Lauren Horsch and Jesse Wiggins

Dear Frank,

My best friends are both being double-crossed by the same guy. He's messing around with both of them and they don't even know! The guy they are being played by is named "Mark," but they are unaware that Mark is the same guy. They just think they are dating a guy with the same name! His technique is quite advanced; he dates one of them one night and the other the next night. One time, he dated them both at different times, on the same night! As a fellow dude, I admire his player skills. But I have a conflict of interests. Do I tell them or do I let the unhealthy shenanigans continue?

Sincerely,

Player Respect-a-hater

Dear Player Respect-a-hater,

I would say go with your gut. Your gal pals don't deserve to be treated that way. Sure, his player skills are quite amazing, almost like the guy's on a teen movie, but honestly, TELL THEM! If I were one of your gal friends, I would appreciate the concern and actually welcome the advice. But, maybe try to talk to Mark about it first. Tell him you 'know what he did last night' to freak him out a bit, then drop your knowledge on him. Bring him down a peg and make him feel disgusting for what he is doing to these ladies. Then offer him an ultimatum: if he doesn't stop playing your friends, you will tell them and thus ruin his reputation. Win-win situation, right? Probably not. I would still allude to your friends that he could be up to some suspicious activity. Then have them start asking questions.

Sincerely,

Frank

Dear Frank,

I just moved to a strange, new town. I don't know too many people, just one kid in my 6th hour class with whom I have become attached. He has touched my soul in so many ways. I can't imagine life without him. However, having just one friend is starting to get a tad bit creepy. What can I do to reach out to others?

Sincerely,

Lonely

Dear Lonely,

I am so glad that you and your 'friend' are so close, but maybe shy away from him for a bit. A good way to meet new people is to just get out in the world and talk to anyone. Just ask that random kid sitting next to you in the cafeteria what his or her favorite food is. Then slowly start a discussion based off his or her eating habits. Another great possibility is to walk into a restaurant and yell, "Go Packers!!!" That will grab the attention of everyone. Another idea that once worked for me is to make a deal with the school bully. Pay him twenty dollars to purposely lose a fight to you. That way you can become acquainted with not only guys but with the ladies. My final great idea is to tell a story about how you once saved the life of a prairie dog by giving it mouth to mouth.

Or, use your close friend to meet other people. Ask to hang out in a group so as to not run into awkward and potentially creepy situations.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sudoku

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

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Horoscopes

By Amanda Huiras

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stand up for others. Fight for whatever you believe in. Don't back down to others and be an individual.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): All will turn out in the end. Ignore negative attitudes and develop a positive one yourself. People will see you as a charming and delightful person to be around.

Aries (March 21-April 19): You are the interesting person in your group of friends. Find other fun and interesting friends to do stuff with so you won't be so bored.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Activities are important to you. So learn how to juggle all that is coming at you, and you will succeed in all that you do.

Gemini (May 21-June 22): Take a moment for yourself. Relax and breathe and tell everyone else to shut up. You will find it's nice not to have annoying people talking around you all the time.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Everyone is looking to you as a good listener. Take one problem at a time, and you will find yourself solving your own problems and making friends along the way.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Tough situations are coming your way. Don't freak out like you usually do. Instead just ignore everyone around you and you will get through them.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22): You're feeling polite and sweet lately. Play this up to your parents and teachers so you can get what you want.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Don't take criticism seriously. You know what you do is good, so find a way to show everyone else up. Then you can say, "I told you so."

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Someone is coming to sweep you off your feet. Let your heart do the talking, flirt shamelessly, and enjoy each moment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money is coming your way. Spend it wisely and you will find riches in your own happiness, or in a cool pair of new shoes.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are learning to read between the lines. You can now see many nonverbal messages that have been sent to you. You may find some steamy messages that you need to read right away.

X S L I P P E R Y L C O J G N I I K S W K E S R X
S G Y H S W C I W V N K W I R E T N I W D S W E M
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Blizzard
Boots
Cold
December
February
Fireplace
Freeze
Frost
Hat
Hot Chocolate

Ice
Ice Skates
Iceicles
Jacket
Mittens
November
Scarf
Shiver
Skiing
Sledging

Slippery
Slush
Snowball
Snow Boarding
Snow Day
Snowflake
Snowman
Snowplow
Wind
Winter

