

New Year's resolutions — a realistic version

Winter Break gives senior Gabe Uhr time to examine the more cynical side of the holidays

Winter break is a great time to get reacquainted with family and friends. And then the third day of winter holiday rolls around and you're so bored that you've already been to Blockbuster and you're considering bowling as "something to do."

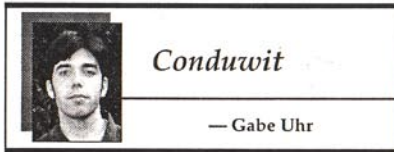
I spent most of this break hibernating in the guestroom of my mom's house (my brother stole my room). When I wasn't sleeping, I took advantage of some "good ole' home cookin'." "Good ole' home cookin'" is any meal I don't have to prepare myself; to expound on that, in my house, we lovingly refer to my mom as "house servant" or "what's for dinner?"

Even with the cold weather and "good ole' home cookin'," I couldn't get into the spirit of the season. To me it just didn't feel like Christmas, Hanukkah or even Kwanzaa. I was more concerned with deciding whether or not it was worth the effort to re-program the radio stations in my car.

Possibly, the holidays have just gotten to be too stale. Every year it's the same thing. The Grinch gives back all the stuff he stole from the Hoos, Rudolph bails out Santa and Dick Clark drops the ball.

It seems like the only thing that changes from year to year is that the mall decorations go up earlier and earlier. By my calculations, the '99 X-mas hysteria (a.k.a. X-treme X-mas '99, proudly sponsored by Pepsi) will begin roughly two days after Easter. However, my calculations involve a six-pack and an abacus I made out of cheese.

Still, one holiday tradition persists in my family. I'm speaking of the tradition of buying bad gifts for others and returning the bad gifts received from others. This



Conduwit

— Gabe Uhr

year I returned or exchanged 15 of 17 gifts. I couldn't exchange the performance fleece (I boycott Old Navy, as I do other products, based solely on their commercials) and I needed the Backstreet Boys calendar. All my returns go to show that the best gift is still green, and I'm not talking about last year's fruitcake.

Speaking of gift giving, everyone knows it is better to give than to receive. However, it's the worst to receive and then to give again or, as Seinfeld calls it, "re-gifting." This Christmas I saw something far scarier than mommy kissing Santa Claus: I saw my mom re-gift. If my mother is diabolical enough to re-gift, then I wonder what sort of sinister deal she cut with my brother in exchange for my old room.

You can see that Christmas stressed me out a little bit. Luckily, New Year's was a blast. New Year's Eve is beautiful because it's not just an excuse to have a good time, it's your duty as an American to drink excessively and kiss people. You can bad mouth drunkenness and promiscuity all you want, but I'll be damned if you bad-mouth the United States of America.

For me, the toughest part of the New Year is finding a resolution I can stick with for an entire year. I figured a lot of others were in a similar situation, and it's not too late to make a resolution. So I came up with some practical resolutions for 1999:

- #1) Start smoking — Cigarettes turn your teeth yellow and kill you, but at least they're expensive. It doesn't have to be cigarettes either; any bad habit is easy to pick-up. Be creative!
- #2) Gain weight — This one is tough if you resolve to try #1, but you can do it. Frequent D-hall, and remember UREC is always further away than the nearest couch.
- #3) Quit something — People are always complicating their lives with challenges. Instead, this year give something up: a job, a class, an annoying friend. Again, be creative!
- #4) Buy a Breeze employee a beer — This doesn't pay the bills, folks.

Gabe Uhr is a senior English major who resolved to floss regularly