

# the graphos

February 1991

Volume 74 No. 3

New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

## Lovers send sweets, flowers

by B.J. Drum  
Graphos Reporter

Love was in the air as Valentine's Day pleasantly disrupted the winter's monotony at NUHS. Faces were beaming and curiosity was rising as students received Valentine cookies and looked over the top 10 people on their dating compatibility print-out.

Since the beginning of the semester, students had been tempted by the smell of baking sugar cookies as the home economics department began its preparation for the annual Valentine's Day cookie sale. The cookie tradition was originated by Jill Curry more than 10 years ago and continues to thrive for one month a year. For the first time, carnations are also included in the sale sponsored by the Future Leaders of America (FLA).

All home economics classes with the exception of Interior Design, were responsible for baking, frosting, selling, and distributing approximately 300 cookies to students and faculty members. Quite a task considering that all cookies were baked one at a time for eight minutes each because of their enormous size.

Cookie sales this year were down slightly from the 365 that were sold last year. Home economics teacher **Mary Wyczawski** said that the decrease was expected due to the sale of carnations which would strike students as something "new and different." Carnation sales were popular and benefitted from the banning of flower deliveries to the principals' office.

Cookies could be ordered with any

of six sayings ranging from a friendly "Be Mine" to a romantic "I Love You." Wyczawski added that the department should also offer broken "I Love You" cookies for the cookie customer whose romance had shattered between the time the cookies were ordered and delivered.

Cookies were delivered 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th hour to NUHS students and a few were even sent to relatives and friends at Jefferson Elementary. Students were also given the option of picking up cookies in the home economics room. "This service would become much more efficient with the temporary installation of a drive-thru window on February 14," smirked Wyczawski.

Proceeds from the Valentine's Day Cookie Sale will be used to buy a microwave oven for the department. Donations were also given to the FLA, who also received money from the carnation sales.

Most of the proceeds, however, was used to cover the cost of ingredients. Over 350 cookies were actually made but many break when frosting or letters are added. Some are "accidentally smeared" while others are nibbled at by sweet-toothed students.

The popularity and success of the cookie sale ensures the continuation of the fund raiser. "Things went so smooth this year, that we will continue the program next year," concluded Wyczawski. For most of us with a sweet-tooth that's definitely good news.



Amy Keech decorates cookies for the big day.

## This isn't your parents' school

by Julie Beck  
Graphos Reporter

Attending school now isn't like it was when mom and dad went to school. The students and the school system have both changed. Changes in technology, society, and teen values have all had a great impact on today's school. The teachers at NUHS have noticed many changes throughout their teaching careers.

**Mary Wyczawski** stated, "Today more students have cars and jobs. It's not like it was 20 years ago when the majority of the cars in the school parking lot were owned by senior guys or students' parents. Today both boys and girls have their own cars."

**There are more extracurricular activities to join so between jobs, cruising Broadway, and school organizations, there isn't much time for anything else.**

The fact that more students have jobs has also had an impact. Wyczawski observed that because more students have jobs there is less at-

tendance at school sporting and musical events. There are more extracurricular activities to join so between jobs, cruising Broadway, and school organizations, there isn't much time for anything else.

Shopping for clothes is also a big trend with today's generation. Wyczawski thinks students are better dressed today. "Students have to keep up with the Jones' which means you have to be dressed in the latest styles. If Chad has the newest version of the



Mary Wyczawski believes clothes are a big item with today's generation.

Nike Air running shoe, then Mike and Jon have to buy a pair also. It's great that students dress nice for school, but some students are worried more about how they look in the morning, rather than if their Algebra assignment is finished."

**Carol Ackerson** thinks that "Students have a better base of knowledge because of television." She also remarked that students read less as a result. "Students today realize how important a good education is." There is a lower dropout rate, and a higher percentage of high-school graduates continue their education.

**Today's generation of students are not the same as students who attended NUHS in the 60s and 70s.**

Students have more freedom concerning their appearance at school. Ackerson says she can remember when guys were sent home because their hair was too long. Nowadays just about anything is acceptable. Both Wyczawski and Ackerson agree that students are better behaved and more open with teachers as a result of better

communication between students and faculty.

Today's generation of students are not the same as students who attended NUHS in the 60s and 70s. Importance of fashions, a good education, and an openness with teachers are a few of the changes that have occurred through the years. "Kids are better now," concluded Ackerson.



Carol Ackerson sees improvement in today's students.

# editorial

## Protesters' motives analyzed



by Ann Wisniewski  
Graphos Editor

**What we feel is wrong is that many of these protesters feel some "moral superiority" that allows them to degrade and insult those who disagree with them...**

Do people protest because they strongly object to an issue? As Americans we have freedom of speech, but in our opinion there is a right and a wrong way to protest.

With the war in the Middle East, protesting has become more common throughout the world. We do not have a problem with those who protest against our involvement in this war. What we feel is wrong is that many of these protesters feel some "moral superiority" that allows them to degrade and insult those who disagree with them or to desecrate the symbol of a nation for which many people have paid a price far beyond anything these protesters would consider.

It is especially disturbing for us to

see the lengths that some people take to express their views. Some demonstrators vandalize recruiting centers to protest our war involvement. In our opinion, this action is clearly a wrong way to protest. We should be supporting our troops to show them how proud we are that they are serving our country. If we don't support our troops, we are conveying a message that perhaps they should not be there trying to defend another nation against aggression.

A right way to protest would be to participate in a rally. Some protesters do this; it is not vandalizing property as long as they do not harm, harass, intimidate, or violently interfere in the free movement of any person. To bring about peace, all of our activities must be peaceful and include actions that give people hope.

NUHS students have our means of protesting peacefully. We have "the rock" on which we can express our feelings. When some MVL students wrote letters saying that parents should not have to pay taxes for education if their child attends a private school, some NUHS students wrote letters to the Journal reacting to these letters. This is a great way to protest because it gets the message across without provoking any violent actions.

We protest the amount of homework we receive, our test scores, and how long we have to work. One of the best ways to protest is to go to the source of the problem instead of just griping and complaining.

It is not always necessary to use violence. We can calmly protest our views. But before we protest, we need to think before we unnecessarily harm someone or something for no just cause.

## The Mighty Current of Life

Life is a river with a mighty current. Sometimes it's tempting to grab hold of a branch, but the current is too powerful to sustain. The raft is not always easy to control, but it has to be to maneuver through the rapids and the narrow portions. If the raft is blown upon shore, the quicker it's thrown back into the river the better. Because around every bend are more rapids, more scenery, and, who knows, maybe a tributary.

by Aaron Spilman

## Students encouraged to give blood

by Julie Beck  
Graphos Reporter

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be at New Ulm Senior High February 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All students who are 17 years or older, healthy and weigh at least 110 pounds are encouraged to donate blood. It is for a great cause — saving someone's life.

Future Leaders of America (FLA) members are in charge of the bloodmobile and will have sign up sheets for everyone who meets the requirements. On the day of the bloodmobile, the students will be allowed to leave a cer-

tain class for about an hour to donate blood. On arrival at the site, the individual will register, complete a brief health history form, and go through a mini-physical. Then the donor is ready to give blood in a procedure that lasts about five to ten minutes. Next, the donor rests for a few minutes, has some refreshments, and returns to normal activities. The process is simple, safe, and painless. Best of all, the donors go away with the feeling that they may have helped save someone's life.

New fall fashion in '92



## War creates confusion

by Anne Reilly  
Graphos Editor

Like most other high school students who have never experienced anything like the War in the Gulf, I have been confused. I have also been angry that our generation will be responsible for cleaning up a war-torn world we did not create, and for decisions and actions we did not condone.

I admit that I am a pacifist. This title does not, however, mean that I am either anti-American or pro-Iraq. It simply means that I am, to quote the dictionary, "opposed to war and violence as a way of resolving disputes," and that I "believe disputes between nations should and can be settled peacefully." It does not mean that I don't support the troops fighting in the Gulf. I most certainly do, if for no other reason than that I am proud to be an American. I am upset when I am told that protesting the war is considered undermining the troops because that is not my intention. I do think, however, that the best way to support the troops would be to bring them home alive, which seems more and more unlikely anytime soon.

I understand that the time for peace demonstrations was before the war, or when Hussein invaded Kuwait. But I don't understand the view expressed by Kenneth Lasson, a professor of law the University of Baltimore, in the January 30th issue of The Star and Tribune. Lasson stated, "At best, demonstrations a week into hostilities betray a lack of common sense and sensitivity. At worst, they are morally irresponsible or consciously subversive. Public demands for a ceasefire and diplomatic negotiations will be both more welcome (and more effective) if we are



still in the heat of war six months from now." I cannot believe that demonstrations would be any more welcome six months from now than they are right now. I also wonder if Lasson is old enough to remember Vietnam. If so, has he forgotten the lessons he should have learned? No, this war is not a repeat of Vietnam, but it is a war in which our reasons for being involved are unclear. Why should people wait six months to protest something they find morally wrong today? Must we wait for the coffins before we question the logic of war?

The most difficult part of the war for me has been the struggle to understand exactly why we are fighting it, and to decide what I support or oppose. We have declared ourselves the "peacekeepers" and "protectors" of the world. However, I find it increasingly difficult to justify the idea that peacekeepers could wage war and the protectors could kill fellow human beings.

I have been involved with many discussions about the war. It is something I have only read or heard about. Peace was something that I took for granted until January 16. The world was looking increasingly hopeful. The Berlin Wall had come down, the Cold War was ending, and, as one of my teachers said, "It looked as if peace were breaking out all over." As someone young and inexperienced in the ways of the world, I am incredibly disappointed that humanity's few steps toward peace and harmony are going to be wiped out by a power-hungry dictator.

## the graphos

The Graphos is produced by the students of New Ulm Senior High School; New Ulm, Minnesota 56073; and printed by Master Graphics; New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

Editors: Anne Reilly and Ann Wisniewski  
Art: Nathan Stolt and Matt Schmidt  
Photography: Mr. Phil Davis and Mr. John Olson  
Advisor: Mr. Ed Weber



Recruiter Brad Ravencraft is having a difficult time enlisting people.

feel an obligation to serve their country in any way they can. These people usually see the war as an opportunity to do their patriotic duty. Others, while still concerned with serving their country, were probably influenced more by a chance to receive money or numerous career skills. They didn't necessarily join because they wanted to serve their country by fighting. They thought a war large enough to include them was unlikely. For them war was only a possibility.

**"Many are interested in getting the benefits that military service can provide, but not so much about actually serving their country."**

"Americans," says Ravencraft, "are less patriotic, as a whole, than they were 20 years ago. They're less eager to serve their country. Most have a 'What's in it for me?' attitude. Many are interested in getting the benefits that military service can provide, but not so much about actually serving their country."

Obviously, military service isn't for everyone, but "I'm really not interested. Don't call me again" is a response that has become more common, says Ravencraft.

The 20% in the New Ulm area who have made up their mind that they want to join will enlist no matter what. Some of the other 80% are "swing" prospects who could go either way depending on how the war turns in the Mideast.

Since being transferred to New Ulm from Mississippi, Ravencraft has noticed that recruiters have to do more legwork here to obtain the same number of enlistees. "Here, maybe 20% of the people that we recruit call us first and say that they have a strong interest in serving in the armed forces. The other 80% decide to join only after we contact them first. In Mississippi, it's just the opposite." Since American soldiers began arriving in the gulf, more juniors and seniors from area high schools react negatively to military service when he makes a recruiting call.

## Recruiters face difficult job

by Paul Kluge  
Graphos Reporter

**"Recruiting is definitely down here, just like it is all around the country," observed Ravencraft.**

During the last few months Brad Ravencraft has had a hard time fulfilling his mission. Every three months he and the other officers at a New Ulm Army Recruiting Station receive a "mission" from their superiors detailing how many people the station is expected to recruit during that quarter.

"Recruiting is definitely down here, just like it is all around the country," observed Ravencraft, "but our recruiting missions aren't smaller."

The events in the Persian Gulf have helped many remember the awesome responsibility of being in the armed forces. They have also reminded potential enlistees of the chance that they could be killed while serving their country. The possibility of fighting has swayed many people away from enlisting, but has not yet undercut the power of our armed forces.

There are always many people who enlist, for the most part, because they

## War raises questions



by Jay Wiesner  
Graphos Columnist

**For the first two days of the war, I watched CNN constantly wondering if the three reporters in Baghdad were going to be all right.**

With about a month of the Gulf War already behind us, there have been many demonstrations for and against the effort. Do we really belong there? Was there any other way to stop this war from happening? These are difficult questions to answer for someone who is on the verge of becoming 18.

How many times have you turned on the television and found reports on the Gulf War? I have never seen so much television news coverage. For the first two days of the war, I watched CNN constantly wondering if the three reporters in Baghdad were going to be all right.

This is the first real war that we students are involved in. We never experienced Vietnam first-hand, and the only way we know anything about the war is what our history books and parents tell us.

They say history repeats itself. Well,

we are coming into a new refrain. How can we stop the repeating? I'm afraid there isn't any way we can. Everybody views things differently and when people don't understand what the other is feeling, they will attack them; with words, actions, or bombs.

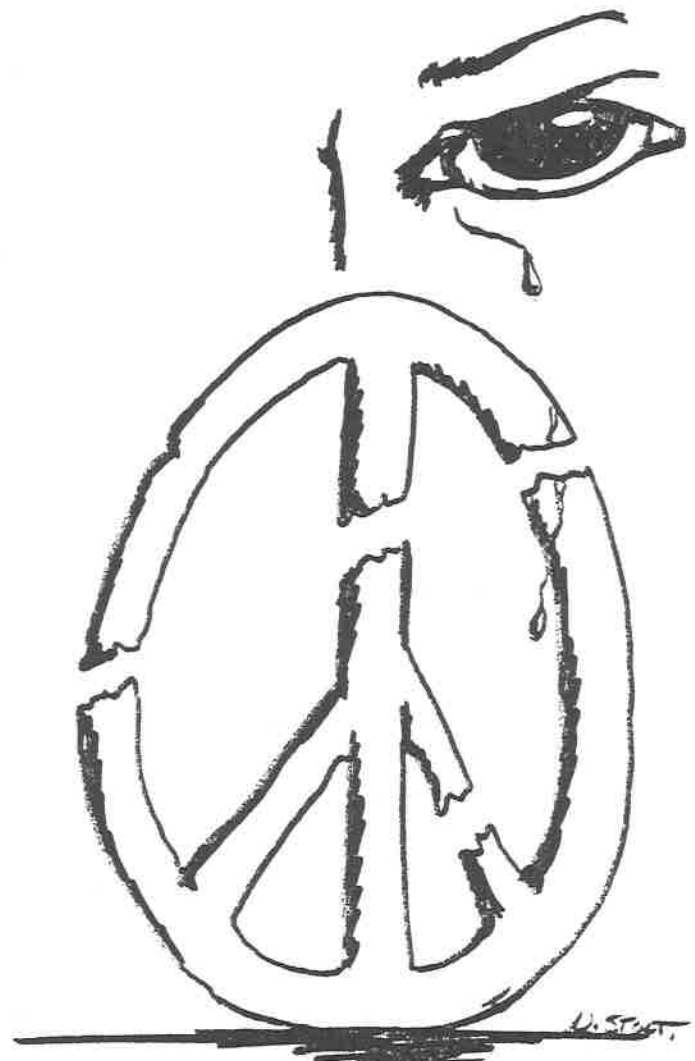
**Now before the band is about to play the national anthem at basketball games, people are quiet.**

One of the things that war teaches us is that we should be patriotic all the time. Now before the band is about to play the national anthem at basketball games, people are quiet. We are respectful toward the flag and know that freedom is something we need to protect.

What can we students do? At the moment our armed forces are all voluntary. We have to be behind these young men and women, even though many of us are against war. We need to pray for a quick end. The oil Saddam Hussein spills into the gulf shows how black war can be. It is killing off life that has no idea what war means.

For the ones who have somebody they care for in the gulf, I hope you possess the strength to keep on. The TV networks keep saying that "life goes on." They should take that advice. Their half hour news consisted of three minutes reporting on something other than the war. That report concerned whether we should have the super bowl as scheduled.

War is on the minds of many. Many are accusing Bush for acting too fast. What would you have done if you were in the same position? Make sure you keep informed so you know what is going on in a war that means so much to us even though it is a half a world away.



## Seniors set record straight

Dear Editors:

First of all, the seniors would like to get a few things straight. The article that started all of this abuse of sophomores was written by one person. The rest of us had nothing to do with it. Jessie had every right to write whatever she wanted. Is it necessary to whine to everyone about her statements? Criticism of sophomores happens every year whether it's totally true or not. It's not just expressed by the Class of 91 or just us senior girls.

As for wanting to be "liked and welcomed" by everyone, HAH! Half of you have already made names for yourselves. One of you who wrote the article said, "It was just a joke!" Well, that's really going to get everyone to like you. But, good joke, seniors did laugh.

As for "our guys," they're our friends whom we've grown up with, not our possessions, and they're capable of protecting themselves. Most of us senior girls have boyfriends who we look up to more than senior guys. If some of you sophomore girls wouldn't "make out" with your boyfriends all the time in the hall, we wouldn't be so ill.

We all know who wrote the article and it's a shame you had the nerve to say the things you did and not sign your names to it. You make it sound like every sophomore girl is against every senior girl or vice versa, but there are sophomore girls who are more mature than you who are possible to get along with. I'm sure normal sophomore girls just blew off the things the article said, but you immature people had to cry about it. Everyone has a time to get picked on, but they also have a chance to get even or do their share. You've only made our feelings for you guys worse.

No, we don't know where to stuff it, why don't you tell us. All of us. We hope you get the point!

(Editor's note: The letter was signed by 61 seniors.)

## Letters

The Graphos welcomes the opinions of our readers in letters addressed "To the Editors." Each letter must be signed by the writer. It should be short and to the point in order to ensure their publication without condensation.

# people

## Backlund lives life to the fullest



Frank Backlund has traveled all around the world.

by Anne Werner  
Graphos Reporter

### Backlund, the father of Lisa, a NUHS senior, has been experiencing life to the fullest.

He jumped from the bridge. The height of the structure in Queen's Town, New Zealand, was close to that of a 15 story building. With only a bungee cord attached to his ankles, he fell within two or three feet of the surface. The springing of the cord returned him to a height within 30 feet of the structure. After the bouncing stopped, assistants lowered Frank Backlund onto a raft and released the elastic binding on his ankles.

This is only one of the thrills Backlund has experienced in his recent travels around the world. He has been retired from selling insurance for three years and is taking advantage of the time on his hands by traveling.

His most recent plans had been to explore Egypt. With the latest upheaval in the Mideast, he cancelled his travel plans. "My concern was not

the war so much. The closest I would have been to the conflict was Cairo," said Backlund. "I was traveling on British and Egyptian Air, but I didn't want to take the chance of being blown out of the air."

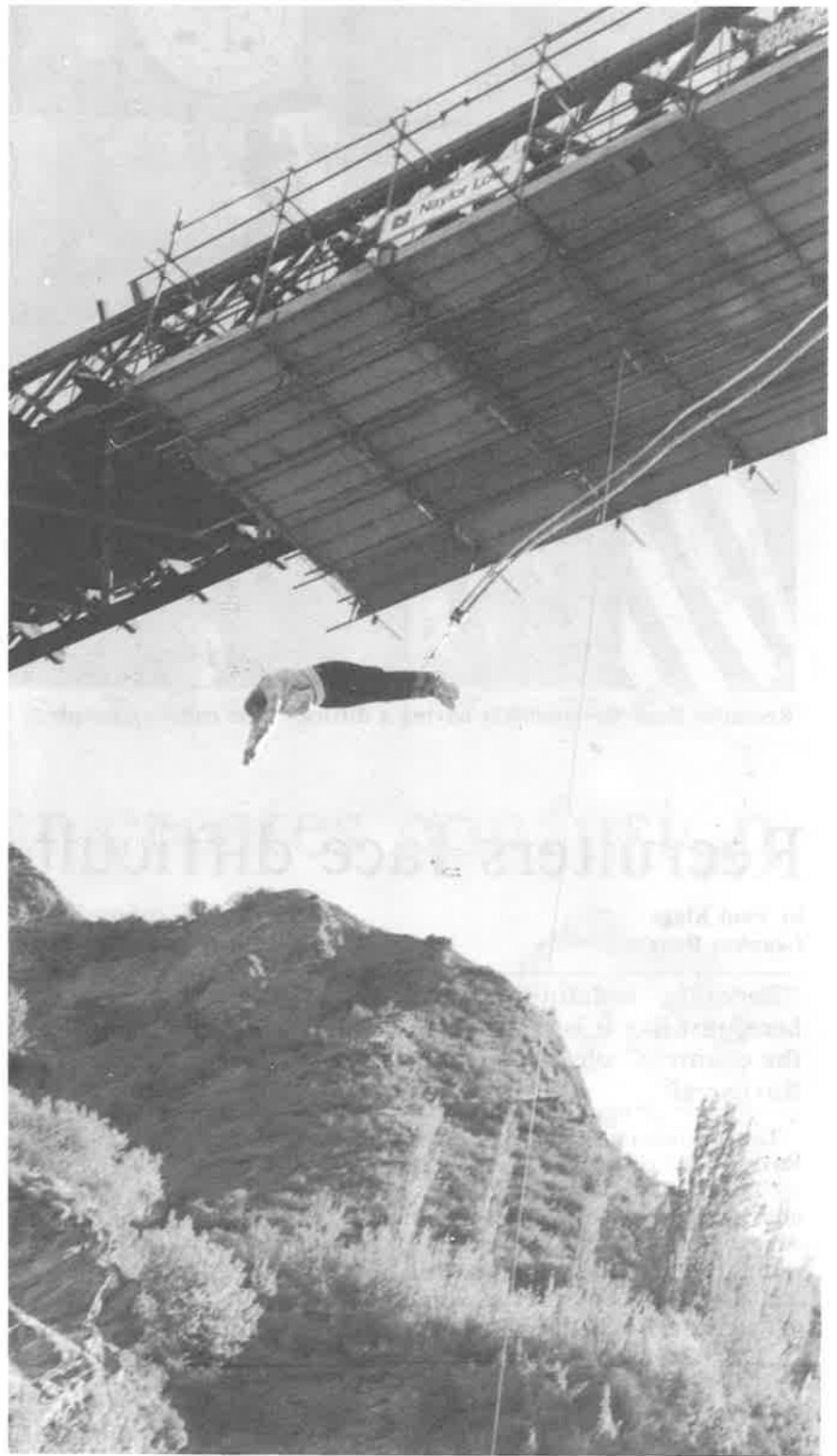
Backlund started his travels in Hawaii, visiting historic sites such as Pearl Harbor and Diamond Head Mountain. He snorkeled and parasailed in a small volcano half submerged in the sea and watched the yearly migration of whales from Alaska. His travels then continued south to Mexico and after one week on to New Zealand.

In parts of New Zealand, Backlund found language a barrier; French is the dominant language. Although there was a loss of verbal communication, the land spoke for itself. There was a variety of terrain in short distances. The region around Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound contained vast contrasts. "From ocean level, to tropical foliage, to white capped mountains within 25 miles," described Backlund.

His travels also took him to Australia and hundreds of miles of Gum Trees (Eucalyptus) and ant hills. Backlund went snorkeling and took scuba lessons in the waters of the 2000 mile long Cairns Barrier Reef along the coast where "Jaws" was filmed. He also visited Kakadu Park, where "Crocodile Dundee" was filmed. In the Billybongs of Kakadu, Backlund saw salty crocodiles averaging six meters (20 feet) in length.

### He has been retired from selling insurance for three years and is taking advantage of the time on his hands by traveling.

Backlund, the father of Lisa, a



Backlund jumped off a bridge during one of his recent travels to New Zealand.

NUHS senior, has been experiencing life to the fullest. His travels have been extensive. He has visited the Orient, Scandinavia, and much of Europe. One of the greatest things Backlund has learned is how much the United

States means to him. "It makes you appreciate the United States. If I had to live anywhere else, it would be Germany, but still there are many things the United States has that Germany can't offer."

## Danceline to compete in state competition

by Allison Koeckeritz  
Graphos Reporter

### This year they will be doing a routine to the song "Work Me Down" from the movie "Disorderly Conduct."

I'm sure all of you have seen an energetic performance by the Danceline/Pom Pon squad.

The squad consists of 19 members; three sophomores, nine juniors, and seven seniors. Sophomore Anne Gostonzick serves as manager and runs music and takes roll.

Many people are not aware of all the time and hard work that goes into their performances. The girls practice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-8 a.m. During homecoming practices were around 6:30 or 6:45 until 9 in order to get everything ready. Recently they have also been practicing on Tuesday because they are preparing for the state danceline competition.

The state competition is held February 16 at the St. Paul Civic Center in the Wilkins Arena. It is sponsored by the Minnesota State Association for Danceline. They will be competing against other teams from

around the state. New Ulm has participated in this event for the last six years. Last year they took ninth place. This year they will be doing a routine to the song "Work Me Down" from the movie "Disorderly Conduct." They are required to perform a routine that is three to six minutes in length.

Auditions were held last spring for this year's squad. The girls practiced every morning the week before auditions. They learned a few sidelines and then made up their own.

Besides performing for competition the danceline performs for boys' and girls' basketball games, hockey games, and wrestling meets.

The routines are the result of contributions from the girls. Each has the chance to suggest ideas. Normally a routine can be learned in about a week. For competition it takes about a month and a half to perfect the routine.

The girls are taught by Jill Curry. She enjoys working with the squad and seeing them progress throughout the year. "Hearing their comments and ideas is what keeps me feeling young," says Curry.

There are many different ways the girls benefit from being on the danceline according to Curry. It teaches them responsibility and discipline. They need to obey rules of the Minnesota State High School



The NUHS danceline presents the routine they'll perform at the state.

League as well as the rules of the squad. They benefit physically from the workouts and learn to work together as a team.

They are required to pay a \$30 participation fee each year. In addition,

they purchase pom pon jackets, ballet slippers, and insignias.

Curry is pleased with the way things are going. "The girls are doing a nice job working together to promote the school."

# Homecoming pageant selects Schneider



Ginger Schneider enjoys beauty pageants.

by Ann Sundell  
Graphos Reporter

## Her future plans include modeling and a career in art or design.

Ginger Schneider has been selected as a finalist for Minnesota's Eleventh Annual Homecoming Queen Pageant. The pageant selection will be held April 27 and 28 at the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport Marriott in Bloomington.

Minnesota's Homecoming Queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense-paid trip to compete with queens from other states for America's Homecoming Queen in July in Honolulu, Hawaii.

America's Homecoming Queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense-paid educational trip to Europe.

America's Homecoming Queen, Inc., is a nonprofit organization promoting educational travel for high school homecoming queens in all 50 states. The pageant was brought to the Schneider's attention by the high school's administration.

Schneider's experiences with pageants include the Miss Teen Minnesota and the Miss New Ulm Pageant. The Miss Teen Minnesota pageant required participants to compete in several categories: Judges Interview, Talent competition, and a Luncheon. The contestants were also judged on their academic achievements and community involvement. In the Miss Teen Minnesota pageant Schneider was awarded the title of Miss Photogenic. In the Miss New Ulm Pageant participants were evaluated during a judges' interview and a banquet.

For the America's Homecoming Queen Pageant participants will be judged on poise, personality, and appearance. Fifty percent of the Queen's score will be on a personal interview and fifty percent will be evening gown competition. There is no talent or swimsuit competition.

The sponsorship fee is \$275 to cover the awards, scholarships, and general expense of running the pageant. It also includes lodging and food for the queen during the pageant. She can have as many sponsors as necessary. Each sponsor who gives \$25.00 or more will receive an acknowledgement from the National Office. All sponsors will be listed in the State Program Book. The individual sponsorships will insure each girl an equal opportunity. The NUHS Student Council has awarded Schneider a \$50 sponsorship.

Schneider is entering America's Homecoming Queen pageant because she enjoys experiencing new things and meeting people. Her future plans include modeling and a career in art or design.

# Howard has unique pastimes

by Tonya Tepley  
Graphos Reporter

## He feels that an interest in cooking was sparked by studying languages.

Doug Howard, librarian at NUHS, is a very well-rounded person.

Howard was born and raised in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. After high school, he attended Luther College, where he majored in French and German. He wanted to become a language teacher, but found few positions available.

He then learned of a one year program at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, where he could receive a minor in library science. Because media centers were just getting started in schools, there was a high demand for librarians.

Howard's first job was in a small rural school near Claremont, Minnesota, where he taught German and was the librarian. Howard then attended the University of Iowa to obtain a masters degree in library science.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, Howard replied, "I enjoy being a librarian because it is so easy to keep on task of what is going on in the world." Howard receives so many sources of current media that it would be almost impossible for him not to remain informed.

There is now a lot of encouragement for innovation and technology in school libraries. He said that he dislikes the frustrations that go along

with these trends because there is not enough money to pay for these services and facilities.

During the summer Howard likes to travel. Having relatives on the east coast and friends in the west, he likes to travel throughout the United States. He also enjoys gardening and takes classes during the summer to keep up on things.

During Howard's additional free time, he plays violin in the New Ulm Civic Orchestra, is a member of the board of directors of the Lind House Association, and teaches cooking classes at night.

In fact, cooking is a favorite hobby of Howard's. Coming from a family in which both of his parents worked, Howard often baked for his mother. He feels that an interest in cooking was sparked by studying languages. He heard of different types of food in his language studies and wanted to duplicate what was eaten in different cultures.

## Last year Howard cooked for a prom party of 20 at the Lind House.

In 1971 Howard traveled to Germany and worked as both a cashier and a busboy, and in 1975 he traveled to Austria. He feels that both of these experiences made his interest in cooking stronger because he was exposed to different foods. He says that travelling abroad encourages people to bring

Wayne Luepke stops to chat with Jen Becken and Lisa Rademaker.



# Luepke teaches math, fights Courtland fires

by Sarah Schmitz  
Graphos Reporter

A person who spends his life helping others can only be praised and admired. Wayne Luepke is such a person. He is not only a math teacher at NUHS, but a volunteer firefighter and secretary for the Courtland Fire Department.

Luepke grew up on a farm north of Courtland. He and his wife raised three sons and are recent grandparents. He has been a firefighter for 12 years. The department is also a Rescue Squad, which helps in emergency situations in administering first aid.

Of the 22 firefighters in the Courtland Fire Department, Luepke has earned the rank of Lieutenant and is also the Chief Safety Officer, who is in charge of the well-being of the firefighters entering a burning building. This responsibility is crucial in the safe-

ty of these volunteers risking their lives.

The hardest part of being a firefighter in Luepke's experiences is calming the survivors of those who die. "It really has made me value human life," commented Luepke.

In his spare time, Luepke drives truck for Courtland Concrete and occasionally drives charter buses. He enjoys reading and is talented in car and home repairs. He likes to do some fishing and camping as well.

Luepke has taught in New Ulm for 23 years. Math has always been his metier. He taught his first 17 years at the Junior High, his second three at both the Junior and Senior High, and for the last three years he has prevailed in Room 003.

When asked about his favorite part of teaching, Luepke said, "I like hearing what the kids have to say. By in large, New Ulm has really good kids!"

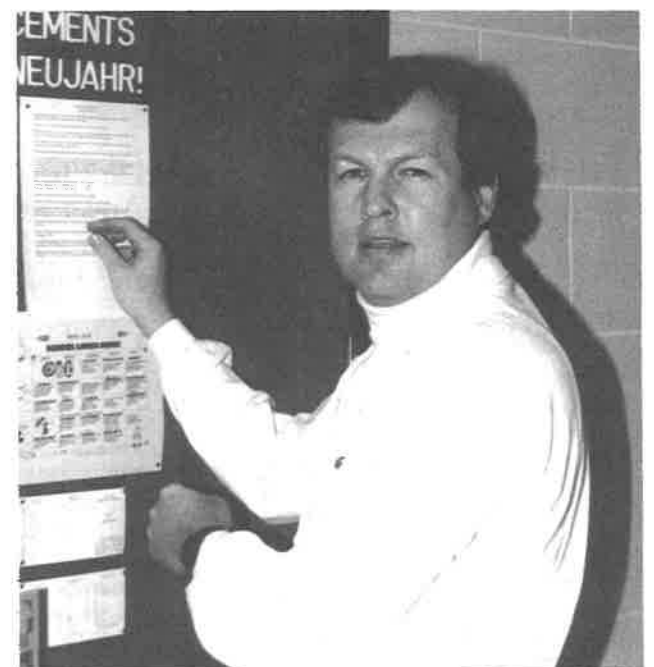
back recipes of foreign food to the U.S.

Last year Howard cooked for a prom party of 20 at the Lind House. "I was very honored when these students asked me to cook for them, especially at the Lind House because it tells me that these students realize the house is there for them." Howard feels comfortable that students will support similar endeavors, as the Lind House organization in the future.

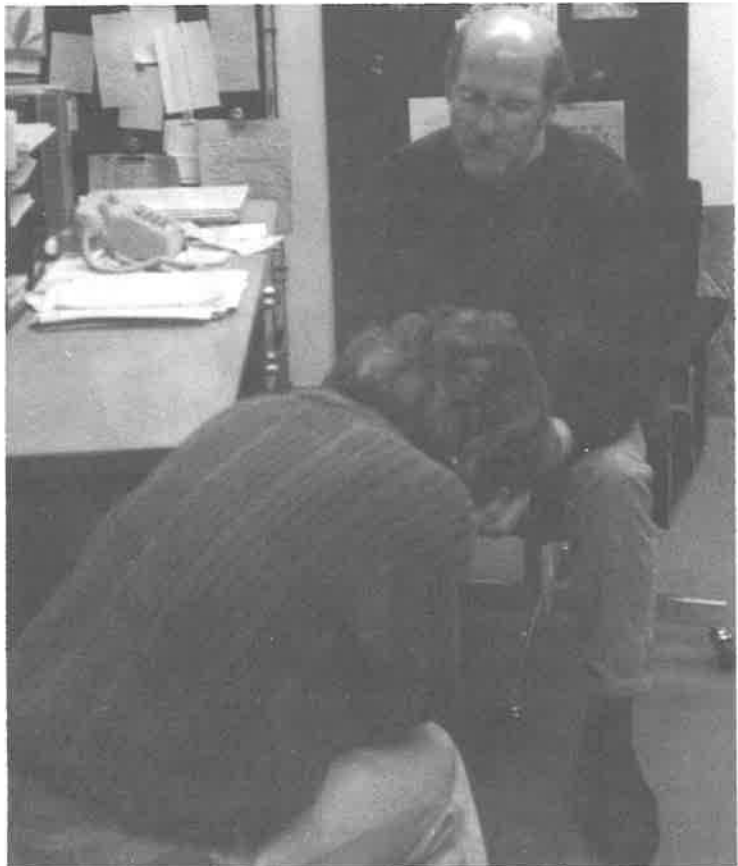
Howard has also cooked for wedding parties at the Lind House.

However, he dislikes cooking for large groups because he needs more assistance and doesn't have the proper facilities to accommodate a large number of people.

When asked what his favorite authors were, Howard said that he enjoys Barbara Penn, E.F. Benson, and Agatha Christie. His tastes in literature range from 20th century English literature to mysteries. He likes to see some realism in stores and doesn't like to see the main character as a super hero who never gets hurt.



Doug Howard decorates the library display case.



Jim Zetah counsels a student whose parents are getting a divorce.

## Divorce forces students to grow up quickly

by Anne Reilly  
Graphos Editor

**For some, the news of a parent's divorce brings grateful realization that they won't have to listen to the fighting anymore.**

In recent years divorce has become a commonplace occurrence, and one more thing that teenagers are forced to deal with. For some, the news of a parent's divorce brings grateful realization that they won't have to listen to the fighting anymore. Others are more reluctant to see their parents split up and deal with their feelings about the divorce in destructive ways. In either case, divorce forces children to grow up fast and face responsibilities earlier than normal.

To David (all names are fictitious) the news that his parents were divorcing came as a relief. The first thought that popped into his head was "When is Dad leaving?" David was 15 years old at the time and had three older sisters and one older brother. His brother and sisters shared David's attitude towards the divorce. They all knew that their parents had been putting off the decision for too many years.

David's parents were divorced in April and the next time he talked to his dad was late November of the same year, when his dad called and asked if David would like to go out to eat and catch a movie.

The only minor in the family, David was allowed to choose who he wanted to live with. He decided, without much trouble, to be with his mother because "I don't like my dad." Looking back, he has no regrets and feels he definitely made the right decision. David feels that his life changed after the divorce, but for him that change was, for the most part, for the better.

David's father was ordered to pay child support, but as is the case in many divorces, his father has been unwilling to pay, and his mother has taken him to court several times.

Fred's mother was divorced for the first time when Fred was only one. His biological father lives in Arizona. Fred has no contact with him and doesn't consider him his "real dad."

His mother's second marriage came to an end when Fred was nine and his brothers were five and 13. Their parents never told the kids that they were getting divorced. They just knew

that it was going to happen because Fred's dad was trucking all the time and also cheating on his mom.

It was decided in court that the kids should live with their mom because their mom's second husband was not the biological father of the oldest boys. Fred thinks he probably would have chosen to live with his mother if he had been given the choice, but admits that it is hard to judge now what would have been best then.

Things went downhill for the family after the divorce. "My mom was really traumatized and kept going to shrinks. She wanted me and my brother to go too, but it didn't work out." Fred went to two sessions with a psychiatrist. During the second session, Fred and his older brother had a disagreement with the psychiatrist, and they never returned.

Along with their mother the three boys also had trouble dealing with the divorce. Fred's younger brother "stopped talking for a while and started hanging onto his security blanket all the time." Fred and his older brother spent their time blaming themselves for their parents' divorce. Their parents never fought in front of the kids so the only time they ever saw their parents angry was when they were mad at one of the boys. While all of this was going on, Fred began experimenting with alcohol and marijuana. Fred knew that alcohol and drugs weren't the answer; they wouldn't make his problems go away. But what he did learn at a young age was that drugs gave him a few hours when he wouldn't have to deal with the problems.

**He "tries to replace my dad. And I really resent that. I've been trying to get rid of him for a long time."**

Fred's dad has remarried, and his mother is dating someone. Fred gets along with his dad's new wife, but his mother's boyfriend is another story. He "tries to replace my dad. And I really resent that. I've been trying to get rid of him for a long time."

Divorce is stressful, at best, for adults, but for the children involved, it can be destructive. Their already fragile worlds are irreversibly changed.

## Priest believes media, money frequent cause of divorce

by Sonja Holm  
Graphos Reporter

**Unfortunately, in today's fast-paced society the perfect marriage often ends in a messy divorce.**

Everyone dreams of the perfect marriage. A rich husband or wife, a house on the lake, and 2.5 children. Unfortunately, in today's fast paced society the perfect marriage often ends in a messy divorce.

One out of every three marriages performed in the United States end in divorce, and the divorce rate has risen 85% in the past decade. The divorce rate among Catholics is increasing while Jews have the lowest divorce rate.

The Catholic Church is often stereotyped as having strict laws regarding divorce and marriage, but each denomination has its own laws. Like the Catholic church, Lutherans believe marriage is a life-long commitment, but both have come to the understanding that it is better to end bad marriages than try to hopelessly continue them. Jewish law permits divorce on mutual consent. In the Presbyterian Church divorce is granted only if an act of adultery has been committed, or if one spouse has deserted the other and absolutely nothing can be done to remedy the situation.

**Father Greg Heille**, a NUHS graduate and a Catholic priest in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has seen many divorces. He believes that the media has been a major contributor to the extremely high divorce rate. "Our culture, especially TV, movies, and music create a false impression of love. They don't teach people what I like to call 'stirring the oatmeal.' That is, the day-to-day support and care." The media often portray a marriage consisting of perfect children and a fairy tale, happily-ever-after life. They don't show unpaid bills and conflicting personalities.



Father Greg Heille thinks that careers sometimes get in the way of marriage.

Because money is so important in today's society, it is often a factor in the marriage commitment. Heille, who has been a priest for 15 years, notices that "couples in their 20s getting married now are more concerned about money than couples who got married in their 20s when I became a priest. They don't take time to build a relationship but instead they build a bank account." Often each spouse becomes career oriented and takes separate paths, a factor in many divorces.

As one or both spouses begin to lead different lives, they lose the ability to communicate. As a Catholic priest, Heille does some marriage counseling and finds it very common that the couple don't talk to each other anymore. Many couples end a marriage if a spouse is being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused, or if a partner is an addict. It is in these situations when the Church actually recommends a divorce to end the circle of turmoil the couple endures.

Couples often come to priests or pastors if their marriage is failing. Although they are helpful in dealing with couples, Heille says that "a Catholic priest is not a counselor. I will have a more pastoral conversation with the couple. I may help the couple find a marriage counselor, and most often I will make referrals. Priests will help extend the support of the Christian community and talk about the situation from a standpoint of faith because it may be a question of a crisis in faith."

**As one or both spouses begin to lead different lives, they lose the ability to communicate.**

The first step in trying to save a marriage is to look at the problems from the very beginning. It is possible that the marriage should not have happened. If this is the situation, Heille believes that "marriage is a lifelong commitment, but the Church recognizes reality. For a lot of people it doesn't work." That is when the priest or counselor has to ask the question "why" doesn't the marriage work and take steps to solve the problem.

As in other religions, a Catholic may be remarried in the Church if the divorce is annulled. If the marriage is not annulled, the couple may be married by the state but not by the church. Although this is Catholic law, Heille knows that "opinions about this vary. Some churches are stern, and other churches may support remarriage, but it will be kept quiet. Then it becomes a question of where the couple stands in the Church."

Unfortunately the rate of divorce and remarriage is increasing and quickly becoming acceptable. Although professionals such as marriage counselors, pastors, and priests are available to help, couples often do not take the necessary time to resolve the endless struggle that living together creates.

# sports

## Referees take abuse



by Shelly Esser  
Graphos Columnist

**It usually happens at away games where the visiting team has been called for a lot more fouls than the home team.**

Referees are a necessary part of most sporting events. They are judges and mediators and sometimes find themselves on the receiving end of abusive behavior.

Oftentimes the referees decide the outcome of a game. They may make a crucial call with seconds left and sometimes it's even the foul that isn't called that proves the game's outcome. Once in a while you might notice that there is a considerable difference in the number of fouls called on each team. It usually happens at away games where the visiting team has been called for a lot more fouls than the home team. The referees tend to be biased toward the home team.

We have to give them some credit, though, they have a tough job. In a basketball game they have to watch 10 players for fouls, traveling, three second violations, and many other things. They also have to deal with the coaches and fans as well as the players.

Some fans like to get on their cases right away. One bad call and you'll hear some taunting. Don't get me wrong, I'm not sticking up for the referees. I'm just saying they have a difficult job.

Some referees whom I have seen have been absolutely terrible. They seem to know nothing about the sport. I wonder where they find some of them, but every once in a while I come across one who is halfway decent.

Sports are a part of most people's lives, either cheering, watching, or participating. In all of these aspects the person benefits by meeting a variety of people.

When participating in sports you not only make many friends, but you can have a lot of fun in the meantime. Sports is also a great way to stay in shape and enjoy athletic competition.

**When I graduate, I think the thing I will miss most about sports is the fun I had.**

When I graduate, I think the thing I will miss most about sports is the fun I had. The friendships I made I will always remember and I hope to keep them going even after I graduate from NUHS.

## Hatle-Division I Recruit

by Eric Crabtree  
Graphos Reporter

There have been a number of good athletes at NUHS. In the past there



Dawn Hatle has accepted a volleyball scholarship at Iowa State.

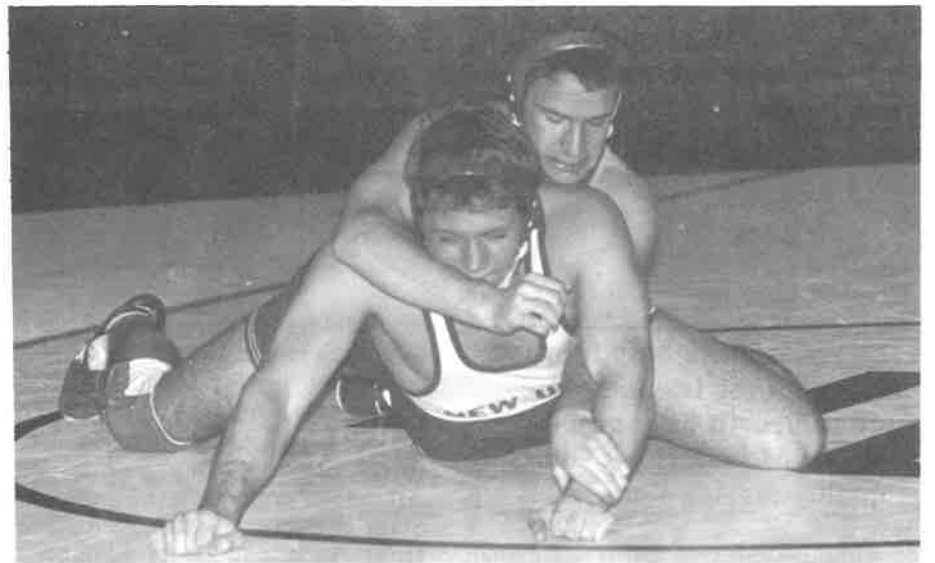
have been a few who have excelled. New Ulm has had several athletes continue their athletic careers in college in such sports as volleyball, football, basketball, and baseball. There is another name to add to this list of athletes, volleyball player Dawn Hatle.

**...she decided to attend Iowa State where she will be playing Division 1 volleyball for the Cyclones.**

Hatle has excelled in volleyball and now is receiving some of the benefits for her excellence. She is going to continue her volleyball career at the collegiate level. Recruited by colleges like the University of Southern California, Maryland, The University of San Francisco, Alabama, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois, she decided to attend Iowa State where she will be playing Division 1 volleyball for the Cyclones.

After a stellar season in her junior year, the college recruiters began contacting Hatle at Christmas time. She sat out most of her senior season because of an injury, but this did not discourage the recruiters. The decision to go to Iowa State was made after she had received many calls, letters, and had visited a few campuses.

It is an honor for any school to have their graduates continue their educational and athletic careers in college. New Ulm High School wishes her well in her college endeavors.



Cory Doble attempts an escape from his opponent's hold.

## Wrestling techniques perfected during practice

by Chad Ubl  
Graphos Reporter

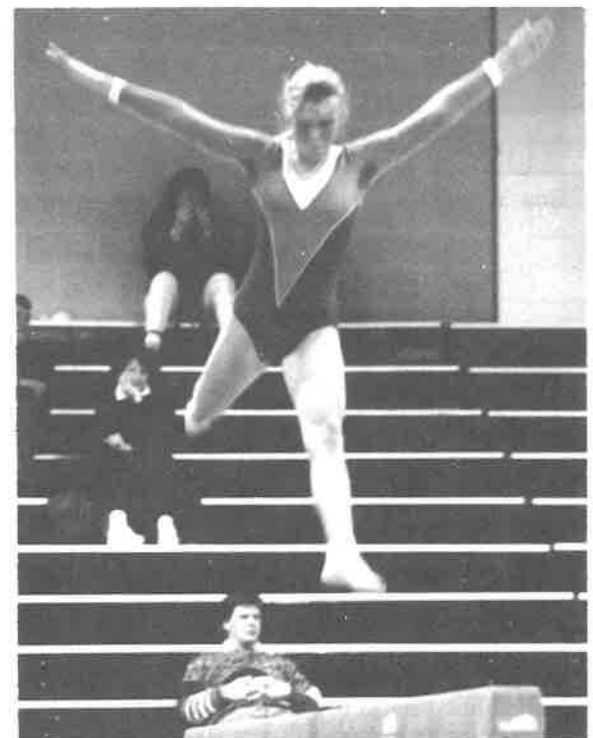
During the first weeks of practice, the wrestlers do not actually wrestle. The practices consist mainly of calisthenics and technique. "You are definitely tired by the time practice is over," said Troy Kamm.

The wrestlers then work on their technique. "The stance is the basis for every wrestler. If you don't have a good stance, your opponent has an advantage over you right from the start," replied Matt Schmidt. Other techniques involve take downs, riding opponents, and pins. "Technique is very important. It is just like basketball players shooting baskets everyday in practice. It is that important," added Schmidt.

As the season progresses, the Eagles get more involved in wrestling situations. After they are finished with practice, the wrestlers run laps around the foyer or lift weights before hitting the showers.

A wrestling team consists of 13 different weight classes from 103 pounds to heavyweight, which has a limit of 275 pounds. The varsity team includes Brian Zitzmann, 103 pounds; Lydell Janni, 112 pounds; Brandon Reichel, 119 pounds; Kamm, 125 pounds; Craig Debban, 130 pounds; Chad Wilson, 135 pounds; Pat Altmann, 140 pounds; Chad Hoffmann, 145 pounds; Jared Peterson, 152 pounds; Andy Fraenholtz, 160 pounds; Darrin Poss, 171 pounds; Cory Doble, 189 pounds; and Schmidt, heavyweight.

These spots on the varsity team aren't permanent. A member of the B-Squad may challenge a member of the varsity squad. The first wrestler to win two matches wrestles in the varsity meet. If one of the wrestlers is not at his weight, however, he is penalized one match. This requirement gives the wrestlers incentive to work throughout the season and make their respective weight.



Heidi Fritz is caught in the middle of a leap during the beam competition.

## Gymnasts performance steady

by Richard Larson  
Graphos Reporter

The New Ulm Gymnastics Team has performed steadily throughout the season, including a close loss to state-ranked St. Peter, but the Eagles have won just one meet while losing three by close margins. The Eagles won their South Central Conference opener against St. James by a score of 115.9 to 103.9. In the St. James meet, the Eagles took the top three places in the all-around (total points scored by an individual in the vault, balance beam, uneven bar, and floor routine). Jennie Mertz was first with 29.45 points out of a possible 40. Sara Peterson was close behind with a score of 29.3 and Nicky Fluegge was third at 29.2.

When New Ulm faced Waseca, Fluegge won the all-around title with a score of 30.85 points, including an 8.05 on the beam, but the Eagles were defeated by nine points to fall to 1-3 on the overall, 1-2 in the South Central Conference.

The Eagles closest meet so far this season came against Fairmont, where they lost to a strong Cardinal team by just four points. The Eagles held a two-point lead before the final event, but lost the floor exercise to Fairmont by a score of 31.4 to 25.6.

Against the Cardinals Mertz was second in the all-around with a score of 30.9 while Peterson was third with a 29.4.

# Competition toughens girls' basketball

by Darin Bunkers  
Graphos Reporter

**The Eagles have only four seniors on the team and are sure to benefit later as a number of juniors get some "quality playing time."**

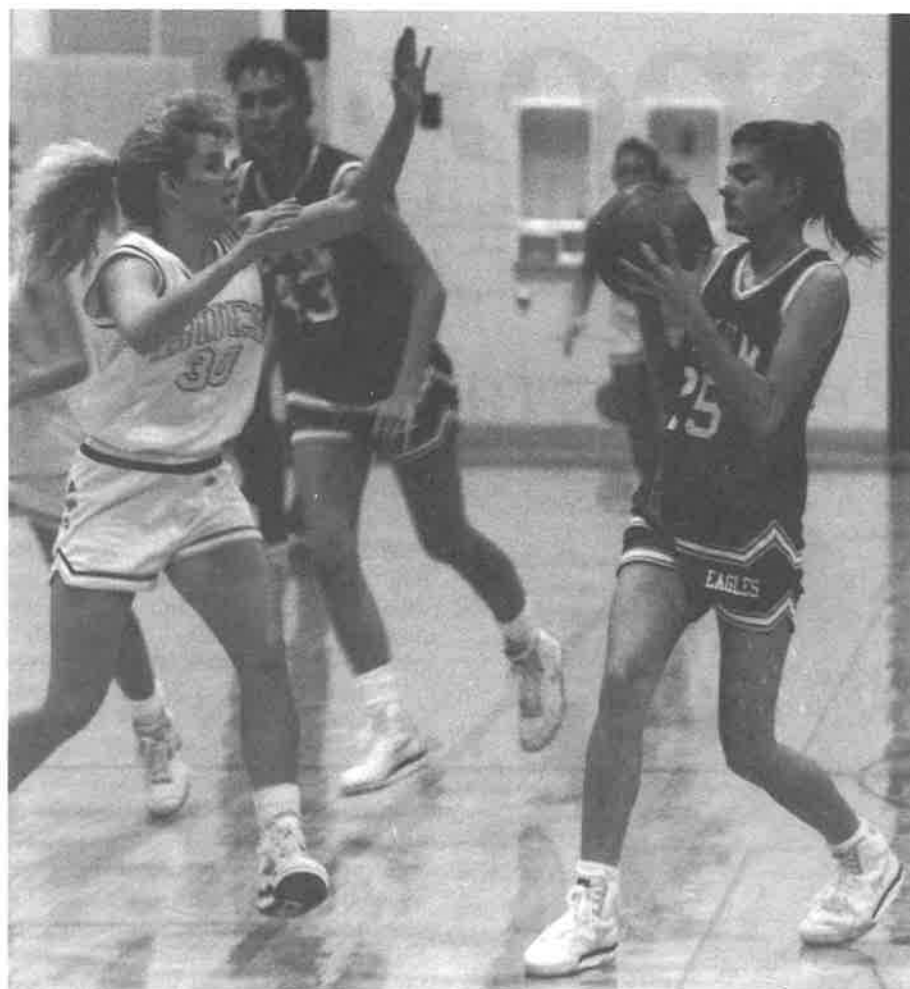
Although this year's girls' basketball team hasn't exactly been setting the South Central Conference ablaze, the tough competition will undoubtedly help the Eagles for the rest of this year and the next.

The Eagles haven't exactly been playing cream puffs lately. Two recent losses to the #6 ranked Worthington Trojans and the #2 St. Peter Saints are sure to help the Eagles as they continue their SCC play. The Eagles have only

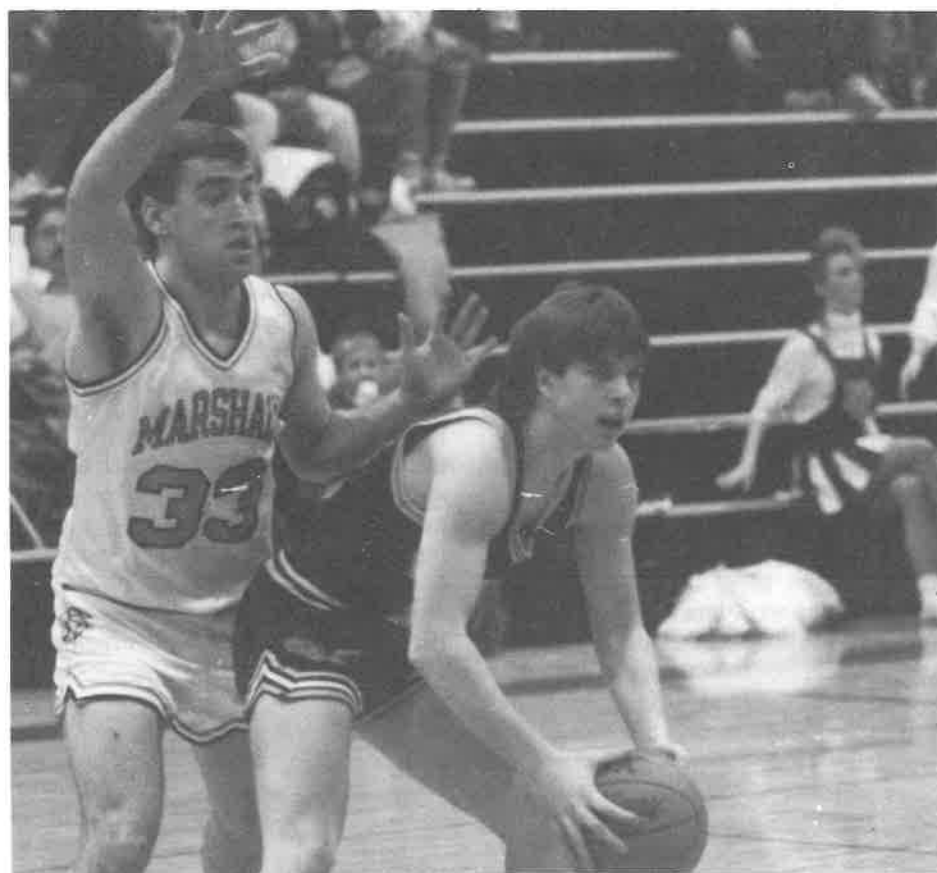
four seniors on the team and are sure to benefit later as a number of juniors get some "quality playing time," as Dick Vitale would say. Juniors **Tricia Reinhart** and **Alissa Swenson** are the forces in the paint, while **Dawn Arlandson** completes the junior trio. Stacy Kirchberg, Megan Roebbeke, Holly Andt, and Becky Klinkner will also be relied on heavily in future games.

But don't count out seniors Shelly Esser, Bobbi Jo Drum, Rachel Winter and Julie Olson. If they have anything to say, the rest of this season could be exciting basketball.

The leadership of this year's seniors and the growing experience and confidence of the juniors are sure to make the rest of the season interesting.



Bobbi Jo Drum looks for an open teammate.



Jon Wojciak keeps the ball away from his opponent.

# Suspensions hurt team's progress

by Joye Schmeling  
Graphos Reporter

**They are able to use 10 players during a game and each one can contribute.**

The odds don't seem to favor many Eagle sports teams this year. Boys basketball falls into this category. Suspensions have also had a lot to do with the team's lack of success. The fact is that they have had a rough season.

The players walked into the season like almost any other team hoping for a good season. This takes sweat, occasional pain, and honest work and interest from all the players. But some took risks and involved themselves in activities that lead to suspensions.

As far as team weaknesses go, the team lacks height and physical strength. Height isn't something anyone can do anything about, but physical strength, on the other hand,

can be improved given the desire to change.

This team has been showing steady improvement throughout the season. They are able to use 10 players during a game and each one can contribute. Playing subs can counteract the downfall that occurs from lack of experience by giving each player some playing time.

Those who already possess experience also show specific talents. **Ben Frauenholtz** has the all-around skills to help the team, along with the three-point shooting of **Eric Jensen** and **Jeff Boettger**. **Jon Hunstad** is one of the team's best inside shooters while **Kurt Moelter** is a good passer and floor leader.

"I think our team attitude has been down. We thought we'd have a better season. We lost a couple close games in the fourth quarter. These games could've gone either way. We've played a tough schedule so far," commented senior **Jon Wojciak**.



Jason Rewitzer shuts the door on the net's corner.

# Puckers pick up pace

by Lonny Rathmann  
Graphos Reporter

The New Ulm Hockey Eagles got off to a slow start this season. After a 0-12 start the Eagles have begun to pick up the pace. In their last five games their record has been much improved, winning four and losing only one. Three of the four wins came against "Big Nine" teams.

**"We can beat anybody as long as we stay out of the penalty box."**

Penalties have plagued the Eagles all year long. "Penalties have been our biggest problem," stated forward **Chet Peterson**. "Just when we start to gain momentum we get a penalty and the momentum goes back to our opponent. We can beat anybody as long as we stay out of the penalty box."

The Eagles are expected to finish the remainder of the season without forward **Chad Freiderich**. Freiderich suffered a serious knee injury during their win against Mankato East. Other Eagles who have been injured this season are: **Scott Abraham**, **Brian Melhop**, **Scott Schaefer**, **Landon**

**Rathmann**, and **Jason Rewitzer**. All of their injuries were minor and proved to be no significant loss to the team.

The Eagles have ventured into part two of their season. "Our main objective for the second half of the season is to beat the teams that we lost to previously," commented coach **Mike MacMillan**. The Eagles, for the most, have accomplished this goal. Early in the season there was some speculation about the Eagles being inexperienced. Critics charged that this inexperience would be the downfall of the Eagles. However, this has not been the case. "Even though we're young, there is talent on this team. We've pulled together in crucial situations and pulled off some big wins," commented **MacMillan**.

"There are no standouts on the team this year so we all have to work that much harder," stated forward **Sam Jacobs**. Hard work has certainly paid off for the Eagles. "The highlight of the season was when we won back-to-back games against Mankato West and Winona," commented forward **Jayme Groebner**.