

the graphos

April 1995

Volume 78 No. 4 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

Committee closes prom to outsiders



Don Potter, shown here with former board member Clark Tuttle, is concerned about the damage done by other students at prom.

by Terry Smith
Graphos Editor

There will be an official announcement on Tuesday, April 4th, but many students will need this information as soon as possible. The Prom Committee of the School Board of District #88 has handed down a rather controversial decision. This year's prom will **NOT** be open to anyone other than students of New Ulm Senior High School. For those with dates in the senior high this will cause almost no problems. Unfortunately,

ly, those with dates who are out of high school or from another school will be faced with the difficult decision of finding another date or staying home.

Being the bearer of bad news is never easy. However, after being called into the Principals' Office the other day, I felt that it was my duty as Senior Class Vice President and editor of *The Graphos* to inform the student body of this matter.

Principal Dick LaPatka informed me that I was the only student who knew of the news, since was the only senior class officer available at the time. I was to tell **NOBODY**. I hope this article doesn't get me suspended.

When talking with LaPatka, I found out that the issue is an untouchable. That is the decision is final. I told him that there will be numerous irate students and many parents who will complain. He said, "This is the senior high's prom. Not Cathedral's, not MVL's, and not anyone else's. If there are too many complaints, we'll simply cancel the whole thing. Prom is a privilege, not a right. If you don't like the rules, don't go."

We felt it necessary to go to the school board, but because of the timing of the decision, I was

forced to call the board members. Only one was willing to talk on the record. **Don Potter** was very firm in where he stood on this issue. "We've been trying to pass this for years. Students other than those from the senior high cause nothing but trouble. We don't know who they are or what they're like. Most of them just plain can't be trusted. When it's not their school, they don't care. Way too much damage is done."

Prom decorating chair, **Tracy Skaja**, had mixed emotions. "I feel sorry for the kids who are forced to find new dates, but I also am glad in a way because our decorations will be better taken care of and lots of money and property will be saved."

Sure, money and property may benefit, but isn't prom for the students? All this decision does is cause chaos among the student body. If the decision had to be made, why were we told at such a late date? Most students have already completed most of their arrangements. This just throws a big wrench into the whole works.

We believe the school board owes everyone a big apology. This is just another example of the school district being power hungry. School is no longer for the students because the system is taking



Principal Dick LaPatka said the senior high prom should be for only NUHS students.

all the enjoyment out of the years that are supposedly the best years of our lives.

We encourage everyone to file a complaint. Whether you have a date outside of school or not, this will affect everyone. We feel

continued on Page 4

IBM computer lab offers business skills

by Travis Karstad
Graphos Reporter

Up until now, when you needed to word process a paper for a class, the only option you had was to go to one of the two Mac Labs in our school. But if you were to go to some of the local businesses in town, you would notice that most of them use either IBM or IBM compatible computers in their businesses. So how are us students supposed to get the computer skills needed to function in today's businesses?

One of the main reasons for installing the new PC lab was a survey of the local businesses done by the business department and the Community Education Program. The survey revealed that area businesses, and the school uses mainly Macintosh computers. Consequently students aren't getting the necessary experience of working with IBM PC's.

Another reason why the school decided to install new PC's over

new Macs is to give the graphics classes a different computer platform to work on. When the school begins to install more programs in the PC lab, some of them will be programs for the graphics classes enabling them to edit images on the PC's rather than just on the Macs.

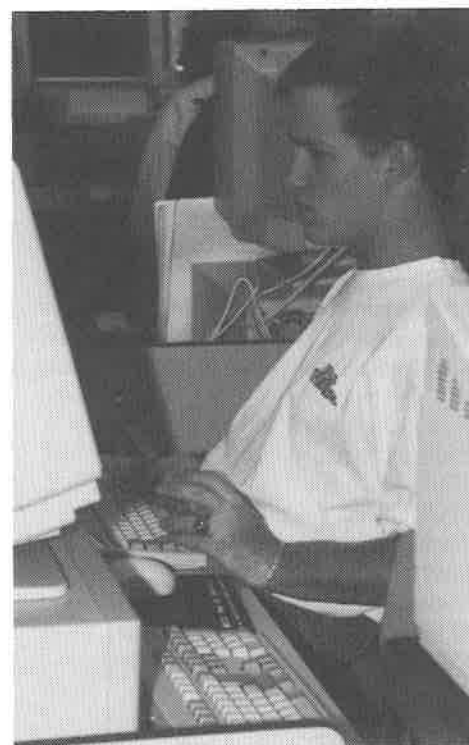
As far as technical information goes, the 30 computers are 486DX 2/66's, with 15 inch color monitors, and are accompanied by 2HP LaserJet 4ML printers. In most cases, the PC's are very similar to the Macs with reference to their configuration, but they do have one big difference. Unlike the Macs, which have individual hard drives, all of the PC's run off of a central file server that contains all of the individual programs, including Microsoft Windows. As of now, the only program(s) installed on the server besides Microsoft Windows is a software package called Microsoft Office, which is a bundle of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. The school would have liked to pur-

chase additional software, but money was a limiting factor. In the future Claris Works will be installed in the PC lab so students can type a document in the PC lab and print it in the Mac lab because the Macs have the ability to read disks and files that were created in the PC lab.

As far as new technology, computer teacher **Con Trapp** can see some very interesting possibilities such as continued exploration and use of the Internet. In fact, it wouldn't be surprising to see an entire computer lab connected to the Internet in the next several years.

Another area directly ahead is CD-ROM. A vast amount of information is already available on CD-ROM, and the amount will increase as the years go by. Some of the things that are presently available on CD-ROM are encyclopedias, atlases, almanacs, graphics, and many other kinds of programs. These will definitely be a part of the learning process in the future.

Other new technologies of the future are color laser printers, digital cameras, and scanners.



The IBM lab offers students more opportunities to develop their computer skills.

editorial

Loss to Waseca hard to take for cheerleader



by Betty Wetherell
Graphos Editor

Originally I started writing this editorial with the intent to talk about how we as a school misuse school spirit. Then I went to the boys basketball game with Waseca.

The bleachers were packed with kids and parents, all of them were bursting with spirit and enthusiasm. Then it hit me something was different about the crowd. Upon a second glance I saw kids from MVL and Cathedral cheering for New Ulm. What a sight it was seeing all the New Ulm area schools united.

Being a cheerleader I felt proud to represent my school and the Eagles basketball team. The boys didn't win, but that was not the biggest disappointment of my night. What really was hard for me to see was the behavior of the Waseca fans.

After the game I stood at the sidelines crying. Not because we

didn't win but because I always cry when something I love is done. As I looked into the bleachers of the Waseca fans, I was disgusted at what I saw. They were ripping apart posters that we had hung. Maybe it was their way of expressing themselves, but the posters were mementos that we had wanted to keep. One of us cheerleaders decided to ask for the posters back. The response she got back was a tearing sound. They ripped up the poster in front of her face.

After awhile I went into the bathroom with some cheerleaders from Waseca. I considered congratulating them and wishing them luck in their next game when one of the them laughed in my face. She then said she knew that the Waseca team would beat New Ulm. I don't think I have ever been treated so degrading before.

Never have I seen such a bad display of sportsmanship in my life. I had planned on complaining about how New Ulm on occasion said such things as "score board" and sang songs about goodbyes, but I have never seen anyone from New Ulm directly insult an opponent or destroy personal property.

I am proud of our school. We play fair, but most of all we know what respect and sportsmanship means. I would rather be a Eagle and lose a basketball game than be a Blue Jay and win for fans who have no respect for their opponents.

The Sound of Music

by Andi Bieraugel
Graphos Reporter

I met him while touring the **South Pacific**. The first thing I noticed about him was his **Hair** and his **Technicolor Dreamcoat**. He was this mysterious **Phantom of the Opera** and I was just **An American in Paris**. Soon we had our first **White Christmas**. I was **Singing in the Rain** when he said "**Kiss me Kate**." After that we traveled to **Oklahoma** and sailed via **Showboat**. Then in New York, we took the **Starlight Express** to **42nd Street** and stayed in a **Grand Hotel** where I said **I Do, I Do**. I started to feel **Fantastik** and some **Aspects of Love**. Then we played **The Pajama Game** while listening to **The Sound of Music**. He said, "**Us Guys and Dolls** were meant to be together. I never want to say **Bye Bye Birdie** to **My Fair Lady**." Suddenly we said **Hello Dolly** to a little baby. If it was a girl we would name it either **Evita** or **Annie**, if it was a boy, **Oliver** or **Li'l Abner**.

Suddenly, he turned on me. He claimed I was a **Gypsy** and had the **Kiss of the Spider Woman**. He also stated that he was a **Music Man**, and he was stuck in **Summer Stock** and **A Chorus Line** when he should be at the **Cabaret**. He muttered "**Damn Yankees**" and walked out the door. He slipped through my fingers like **Grease**. Oh, well, I still have my **Cats**.

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.

The editorial content of The Graphos expresses the views of the writer and the paper and not necessarily those opinions of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, or students of NUHS.

Editors: Terry Smith, Betty Wetherell
Art: Jessica Leske
Photography: Mr. Joel Boehlke, Mr. John Olson, Russ Schmidt, and Jason Schaefer
Advisor: Mr. Ed Weber



"ER" injects adrenalin into anemic TV programming

by Ryan Nelson
Graphos Columnist

The so-called television wasteland has just lately become so slow that I've noticed myself channel-surfing more than I have ever before. The story lines have not only become slower but also as in the case of "Picket Fences" progressively more corny.

But fortunately a show like "ER" has come along to inject some adrenalin into the arm of the stagnant television body. "ER" is a speed filled, heart stopping hospital drama. It was actually created in 1974 by "Jurassic Park" creator Michael Crichton as a movie script based on his experience at a major Boston Hospital. Crichton says that "ER" was not an easy sell, which is surprising, considering that 32% of households watching TV on Thursday night at 9 p.m. are tuned in to "ER."

One of the reasons for "ER" not selling well was the networks. Maybe the same reason for its popularity is the realism although some doctors around the country have critiqued the realism and even video-taped episodes to teach staffers what they shouldn't do. I'm sure these doctors will have to admit that "ER" is 10 times more realistic than CBS's medical drama "Chicago Hope."

But aside from some minor technical inaccuracies, "ER"



seems pretty much like a real emergency room. Or, at least, gives the feeling of one, and it should considering the steps taken by producers to create the atmosphere of an emergency room.

The set is actually not a set at all but a renovated, abandoned hospital in downtown Los Angeles. The producers also spend \$700,000 a month on medical supplies such as syringes, rubber gloves, and other medical items.

So if you're tired of the normal slow pace of television today, tune into "ER" on Thursday nights and see a heart-pounding drama that is just what the doctor prescribed.

people

Knapper enjoys teaching

by Missy Fluegge
Graphos reporter

Among the new faces at NUHS this year is social studies instructor **Tim Knapper**. Knapper teaches Ancient History and Religion, Developing World, and U.S. History.

A native of Clara City, Minnesota, Knapper grew up with an older sister, a younger sister, and a younger brother. In 1989 he graduated from Clara City High School with a class of 32 students. He attended Southwest State University in Marshall with the intent to pursue a career in education.

After planning to major in elementary education, Knapper decided to study secondary education and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1994.

Knapper has always enjoyed working with kids and his high school experience developed his interest in teaching. "I did a lot of coaching all the way through high school," Knapper said. He also cites his teachers as influential factors in his decision to become a teacher because of the positive relations he had with them. "My teachers were role models," said Knapper.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at NUHS, Knapper coached 7th grade basketball in the winter and is coaching 9th grade baseball this spring. "Baseball is my first love," Knapper said, and he also enjoys golfing during the summer.

Students slave away for low pay

by Shannon Clobes
Graphos Reporter

"Welcome to McDonald's. May I take your order please?" For many high school students who hold a job, the previous lines may

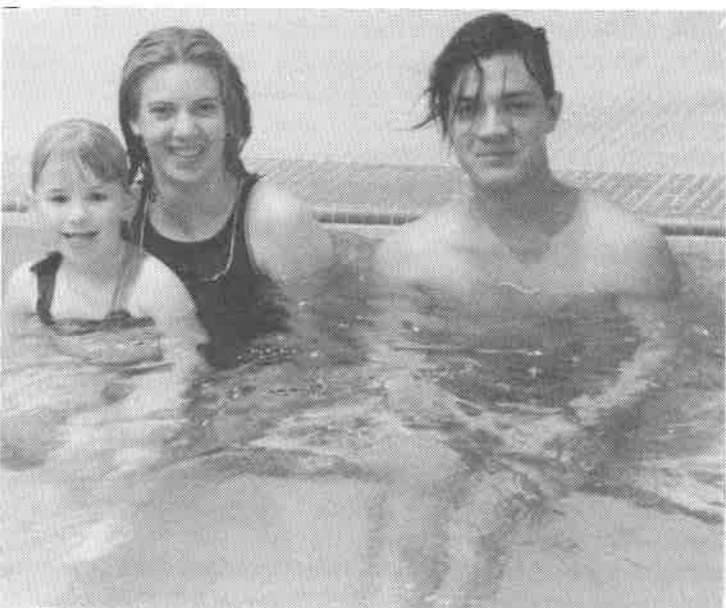


First-year teacher **Tim Knapper** enjoys the variety of the everyday classroom.

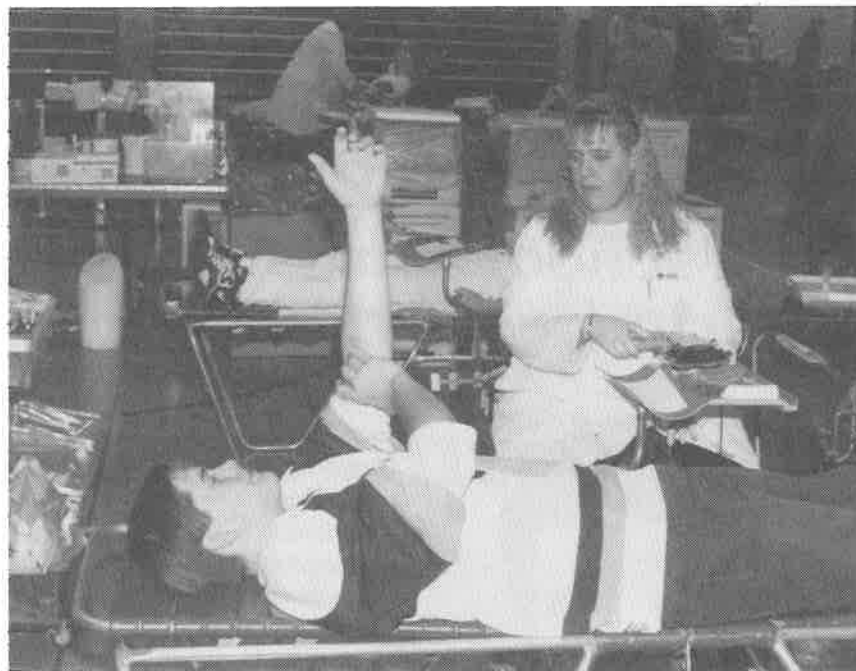
Knapper offers this advice to anyone interested in a teaching career. "If that's what you want to do, I think you should do it." Because the job market for teachers is virtually saturated, Knapper said that prospective teachers must be willing to relocate and move to the jobs. Knapper suggests that students should not be discouraged by the limited job openings. According to Knapper, having an interest in teaching does not necessarily mean that other options are not available. "Teaching can lead to a lot of other things." Individuals can make use of their talents and interests through related careers.

What does Knapper enjoy the most about teaching secondary education? He said, "There is something new everyday." In addition to the variety in the classroom each day, Knapper likes the opportunity to work with kids.

ring a bell or maybe make you cringe. Although not all of us work at a fast food restaurant, we all know what a typical student



Lifeguards **Jacquelyn Witt** and **Jamie Matter** cool off at work.



Junior **Brady Flatau** adds his pint donation to the Red Cross collection.

FLA helps Red Cross collect needed blood

by Mandy Hoffmann
Graphos Reporter

Imagine that you and your friends are out for another "exciting" Saturday night, cruising the town. As you head towards Perkins, a car suddenly flies around the corner, and the last thing you remember is the car's headlights heading straight towards you. When you wake up, you're lying on a hospital bed, covered in blood. While you look around in shock, you hear the doctor say you're losing blood quickly and will need a transfusion. Where will the blood come from? Chances are, the blood will come from the American Red Cross, which made its annual stop at NUHS last month.

The Future Leaders of America, under the leadership of advisor **Jill Curry**, coordinated the event. According to Curry, 1995 is the sixth year that FLA has sponsored the blood drive. All junior and senior social studies classes were shown an informative video that explained the process of giving blood and encouraged students to participate. **Mandy Weinkauff** answered student questions and helped Curry coordinate the event.

To be eligible to give blood, a donor must be at least 17 years old

and weigh a minimum of 105 pounds. Almost 150 students pledged to donate blood, but 16 of these couldn't because of sickness and other restricting factors. By the end of the school a total of 106 units had been collected for distribution by the Red Cross. A unit donation is equal to one pint. The average person has eight to 12 pints of blood in their body so everybody can give a pint. After giving blood, most people feel energized because their body has lost red blood cells so their heart pumps harder to make up for the loss. The experience feels like an extra rush of energy. A few people became lightheaded and fainted, but this occurs every year.

The blood collected by the Red Cross is given to hospitals and U.S. Department of Defense for use during national emergencies, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. It is also sent to the military. In the U.S. alone, over 40,000 units are needed every day.

Students who donated blood said that they felt good about giving because they knew that the blood would be given to someone who really needs it. By giving, they could have saved the life of someone thousands of miles away.

job is like. Many students work late hours at low pay.

When asked why students work, the prevailing answer was to earn money. If they're not working to earn money for college, students are earning extra cash to go out on the town. "If you work, you have less free time, but the free time you do have is better because you have cash," said **Keith Carlson**.

Trying to find the balance between homework and earning greenbacks poses a problem for some. "It takes a special breed of people to go to work and keep your grades up at the same time," said **Jason Baihly**. The question students have to answer is whether making money or doing well in school is more important.

Most student workers agree with the observation that working teenagers are like the Yellow Pages - used and abused. "They don't pay us enough for what we do," said **Mindy Schmidt**. **Kim Drill** said, "We work as hard as the adults but get paid less."

There are, however, a few optimistic student workers. **Ben Wallner** said, "I think it's great. I get paid a lot of money for not doing anything." **Kim Mehlhop** said, "My job is OK, but cleaning the bathroom stinks." Some students enjoy their jobs because their employers understand they are busy and are willing to work around conflicts and school activities. "I like my job because the people I work with are fun and my employers schedule around my events," said **Laura Marti**.

sports

High school sports' experiences invaluable



by Luke Schmidt
Graphos Columnist

The roar of the crowd and the shrill ring of the whistle mark another game in the life of the athlete. For some, this will be the last year of intense competition and close team contact that they will experience. High school athletics are a great learning experience and confidence builder. They develop teamwork and cooperation among peers. They are an invaluable part of the high school education. Unfortunately, they must come to an end.

As our hockey, basketball, and football teams know, defeat is not sweet. Learning to cope with these tough losses now will be a great benefit in years to come. Everyone can't be a winner, but being a good and mature loser is pretty close.

Band peps up school activities

by Brian Varland
Graphos Reporter

If you've attended a NUHS sporting event this year, you've probably heard music coming from a certain section of the stands. That music is performed by the NUHS Pep Band under the direction Steve Skadberg.

The pep band performs for numerous athletic events during the year. They also perform for school pepfests.

Members of the pep band practice during their regular band class. Preparation for the pep band season begins immediately after school starts in the fall. The pep band season lasts until the end of the winter sports season. Members often have busy schedules because they usually perform at two games per week in addition to their other activities.

There are many times when people would love to do everything for themselves. A baseball player may think he can pitch, catch, and throw out the runner on the same play, but the truth is that one person can't do it all. That's when teammates come into play. Learning to depend on others is a skill many people never learn. Team play is a factor far beyond high school or college. In the workplace, skills working as a group are invaluable and are considered a great asset in hiring an employee. Friends made on high school teams are especially close because everyone depends on each other. As the old cliché goes, "The chain is only as strong as it's weakest link." This is very true when you've got five or 11 players on the playing surface and any one of them can cause the team to buckle. These close friends will be remembered for life and will be the subject of talk at all the class reunions.

For those who didn't have the abilities to be involved in something throughout high school, it is your support that made it fun for those who were involved. You were the fans at every game or activity who make it fun to participate.

For the underclassmen and women, I have two words. Get involved. Being a part of something is what makes high school fun. Contrary to popular belief, there is no drinking club, so stay clean and get involved. That's the best advice I can give.

The pep band performs a variety of music for the fans including jazz, big band, popular, and rock and roll. Some of the songs performed include "Gimmie Some Lovin'," "Championship," "Respect," and "We Got the Beat." The pep band also plays the school songs and the "Star-Spangled Banner" and gets the crowd going by playing the popular "Hey Song."

"Pep band brings out the school spirit in everyone," said Shannon Clobes. "It fires up the team. It really gets them pumped for the games," said Jennifer Smith. Mindy Schmidt said, "People enjoy listening to music while they're watching. It makes the game complete." DeEtte Tobias jokingly said, "It gets us into the games for free."

Ranweiler wrestles his way to state meet

by Brad Weber
Graphos Reporter

When Brady Ranweiler went out for wrestling for the first time as a sophomore, his main job was to not get pinned. Since those first few matches, his role on the Eagles' varsity wrestling has changed dramatically.

As a junior his teammates relied on Ranweiler to win many of the close meets. More times that not, Ranweiler beat his opponent to seal another Eagle victory.

During his senior season, Ranweiler compiled a 25-6 record, dropped from heavyweight to 189, and earned himself a trip to the state meet. Along the way, Ranweiler won the White Bear Invitational at heavyweight and won both the South Central Conference and Region 2AA tournaments. In addition, Ranweiler went undefeated at the Wabasso Quadrangular and the Park Center Team Tournament.

"My first year at heavyweight was tough. I wasn't used to having the whole meet depend on how I did. It took a while before I was really comfortable in that spot," Ranweiler said. "After that season, I wasn't really sure what I wanted. I decided to go out again and take another run at it."

And run at it he did. Ranweiler

compiled a 19-10 record before the Region 2AA tourney, where it looked like he might have a shot at going to state before falling 6-5 to Kelly Kobernusz, a highly ranked wrestler in that tournament. Ranweiler ended up taking 5th place.

"That match with Kobernusz was disappointing, but after the way I ended up in the tournament, I was pretty well satisfied with my season," said Ranweiler.

As his senior season rolled around, Ranweiler toyed with the idea of dropping a weight class. "I thought that if I'd wrestle against guys my own size, I'd have a better chance of going somewhere," he said.

After a midseason move from heavyweight to 189, Ranweiler went on a tear, winning both the SCC Tourney and earning himself a spot in the state tourney. His state tournament appearance was short lived, however. "Before my first match, I wasn't feeling too hot, and I had a lot of problems just trying to keep up with the other guy. I started out slow in my second match and got behind so that at the end of the match I had to try to throw him to his back, and I got caught," he said.

Congratulations to Ranweiler on an outstanding wrestling season and high school career.

STABLE shapes positive role models

by Tami Nelson
Graphos Reporter

As you walk around school you may notice some students wearing STABLE sweatshirt and wonder, "What is STABLE?" Well, it's an acronym for Students Teaching Approach to Better Living for Everyone. It was formed to educate elementary school students about such things as making choices, peer pressure, friendships, and solving problems that affect everyday lives.

To train for STABLE high school students view a video about one of the above topics and study its meaning. When the STABLE people enter the class rooms, the video is shown to the youngsters while the STABLE students relate the topic to the kids with discussions and examples from their own lives.

STABLE is a successful program found only at NUHS. This factor makes the job of the new STABLE advisor Vicki Courson a little more challenging. She has devoted many hours to familiarizing herself with the program. She also takes a lot of time scheduling training sessions, retreats, and class times for the members. Courson said she enjoys it. "The nice thing about it is the students are cooperative and enjoy being in STABLE; it makes the job easier."

There are about 110 students in STABLE. At the beginning of the year students fill out an application in which they answer questions about themselves. These applications are then reviewed by teachers, counselors, and administrators. They look for students who are positive role models for young children, outgoing individuals who do not smoke or drink, and are good with children. The students are then chosen with these standards in mind.

The students also seem to enjoy the program. Many said it was fun to be around people with similar values and to teach impressionable children valuable lessons that may help them cope with the stresses of everyday life. Lisa Albrecht said, "I think STABLE is a really good program. I like it because I know I'm positively influencing the kids, and that makes me feel good."

Prom,
continued from Page 1

sorry for those who must change their plans, and we would like to see all the students do what they can to help.

We also feel sorry for those of you who believed this story. This issue of **The Graphos** was laid out over April Fool's Day weekend.