

the graphos

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One must witness the radiant beauty of the Schell house on Christmas Eve to get extra holiday pleasure from this spectacular sight created by burning candles in paper bags. (Photo provided by the Warren Marti family.)

New Ulm's heritage enriches the Christmas season

by Jane Hagedorn

Buon Natale! Frohliche Weihnachten! Joyeux Noel! Or in other words, Merry Christmas!

Here in New Ulm, we have many quaint Christmas traditions. The annual lighting of the candles at Schell's Brewery on Christmas Eve, City Hall's decorated Christmas tree, and the beautiful decorations on Minnesota street are just a few of these unique customs native to New Ulm. But what about our many other holiday traditions? Some of these rituals have surprising and distant origins.

The Christmas season is celebrated throughout the world in many different ways. Many of our American Christmas traditions are deeply rooted in European customs and legends. For example, the legend of Santa Claus was first brought to America by Dutch colonists in the 1700's.

For centuries the Dutch had cherished the true story of a young bishop named Nickolus. Born in 300 A.D. in Southwest Turkey, Nickolus was the only son of wealthy parents. He took great joy in giving aid to the poor and needy. In the darkness Nickolus would leave money or food on poor people's doorsteps or in their windowsills. Sometimes he would drop a parcel down the chimney. Soon the people began to leave baskets outside their homes in anticipation of his visit.



These wooden figurines from Domeier's Store reflect the German tradition of Christmas. In fact, these two old folks are from Deutschland.

Upon his death he became St. Nickolus, the patron Saint of the poor and the children.

But it was an American who in 1822 gave St. Nickolus the personality of our red cheeked, white bearded jolly old Santa Claus. Dr. Clement Moore, in an effort to entertain his young children, wrote the immortal Christmas poem; "Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house..."

The history of the Tannenbaum can be traced back to old world Germany. German families would bring the fir tree into their homes during the winter months as a sign that life would be renewed with the coming spring.

During the holiday season the tree was decorated with religious symbols, fruit, and candles.

German immigrants brought this custom with them to America more than a century ago.

The pleasant custom of kissing under the mistletoe goes back to the ancient Druids of England. The Druids, a religious group that flourished 200 years before Christ, regarded mistletoe as holy. The plant was cut by a Druid priest and was then hung in people's homes. Considered a token of peace and good luck, enemies would lay down their weapons and embrace if they met under the mistletoe.

continued on page 6

editorial

Second thoughts on recent editorial



by Mark Hulsey

Because of such a tremendous response to our last editorial, we have decided that a follow-up statement is appropriate.

There were a few negative comments about the editorial on athletics in the last Graphos. Some people said, "How can this &?!+!! criticize our athletic system?! He should support our activities!"

Well, believe it or not, a Graphos staff writer is not necessarily a supporter of all

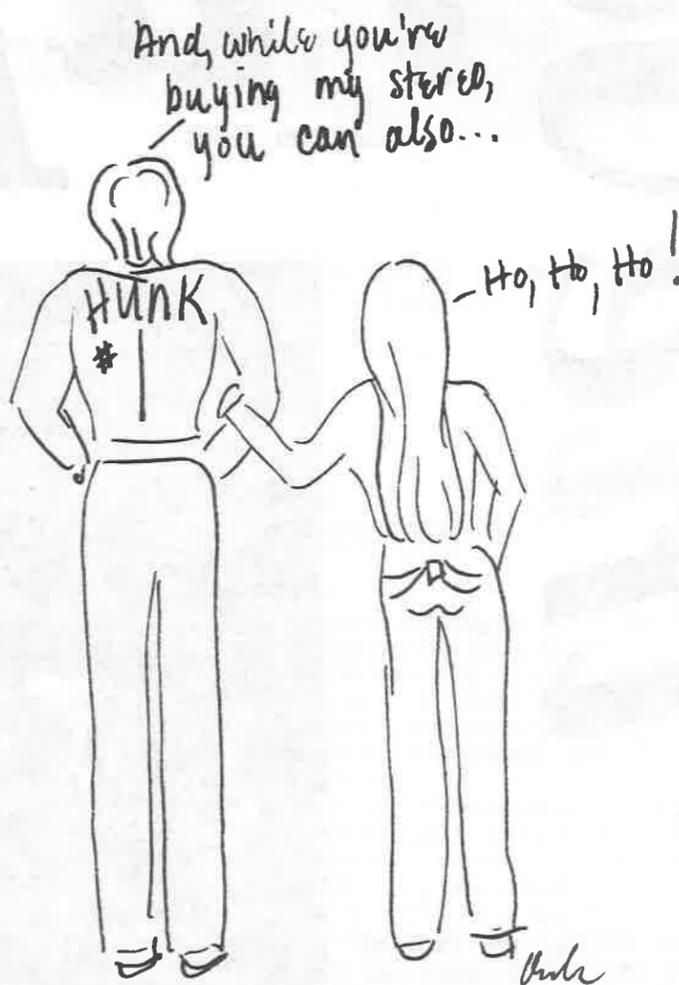
school activities or functions. In fact, only columnists are permitted to express opinions in their assignments. We could have written a "rah-rah" article, but we decided to write the truth as we believe it to be.

We also found something interesting during the discussions with various students, faculty members, and coaches. The overall response to the article was favorable. The coaches who were upset with the editorial were the ones to whom the editorial really applied. Those who had no harsh feelings, and there were some, were those who have been fine examples of coaches for years.

We hope the editorial was successful in that the coaches and athletes will understand their problems and begin to resolve them.

We admit that the discussion was too general in some parts, and details supporting specific criticisms were not always present.

After all, as one person whom we talked to said, "We don't want The Graphos to become like The Journal."



New-found spirit has "face value" at NUHS



by Colleen Berg

I am excited about this school's enthusiasm! Students have cooperated to originate wild and crazy events.

The inspiration of the "new-found" spirit began with the first basketball game. The cheerleaders started out by raffling three turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner. The last turkey, feathers and all, was delivered alive in a cage. The winner of the live Thanksgiving feast was Dick Wilner. The uncommon occurrence helped set the festive mood for the basketball Eagles' first victory.

Students soon began to use their creative minds. The "Purple and White Faced Guys" opened the girls' basketball season by making their first appearance. Each person painted his face purple and white in his own unique style.

In order to maintain their macho images, the "guys" did the same number of push-ups as the number of points scored in each quarter. During half time they formed a pyramid on the gym floor. They generated a lot of enthusiasm among the

fans. I hope they continue the good work throughout the remainder of the school year.

A Pep Club has been formed to help the cheerleaders. Together they produce massive amounts of noise. The crowd's excitement has rubbed off on the athletes and has created positive attitudes in the winter sports participants and fans.

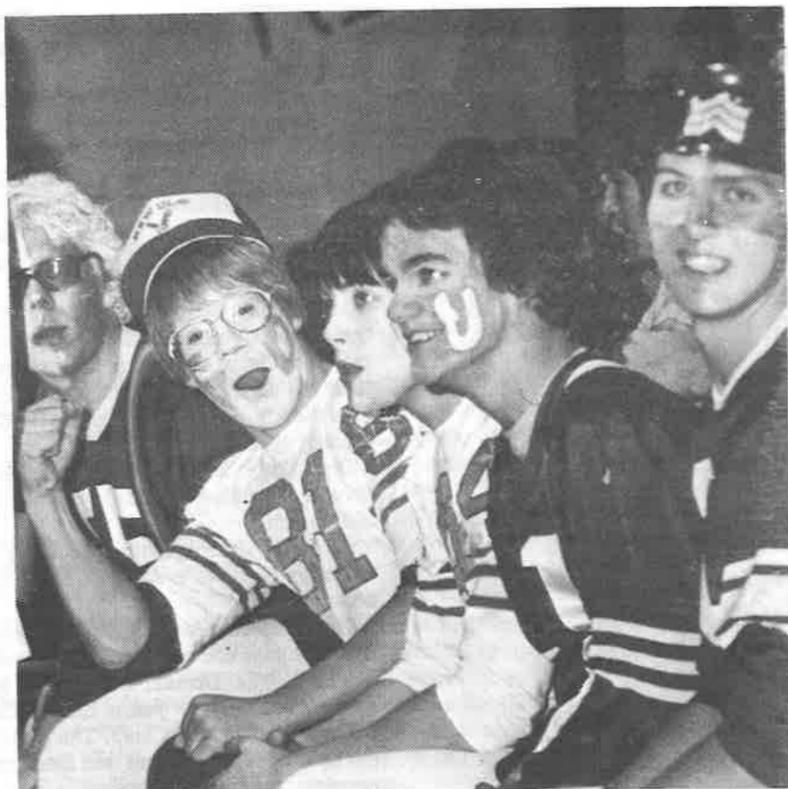
The girls have decided to take part in the fun and have created "The Purple Eagle Kissers." The Eaglettes are a bird of their own breed. The authentic bird is resembled by a purple beak. To show the teams they are behind them, the gals give a peck on the cheek for every point scored during the quarter or period.

This "new-found" spirit is making school fun and interesting. It shows other schools we have originality in addition to a great bunch of kids who like to GET NUTS!

the graphos

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Editors: Mark Hulsey, Kim Schmiesing
Art: Denise McKenzie, Lisa Peterson, Onda Salvati, and Titus Ulrich
Photography: Mr. John Olson, Mr. Mike Roelofs, and the Photography Club
Layout: Sue Kunz, Onda Salvati
Advisor: Mr. Ed Weber



The "Purple and White Faced Guys" have added a new dimension to school spirit. These spectacles are from left to right Mark Anderson, John Marti, Bryan Stuckey, Dave Traurig, and Steve Anderson.

the guidepost

by Jim Zetah, Counselor

Allow me to reflect on the word "spirit." The word may have a special meaning for each of us. To some it may stir nostalgic thoughts about the Christmas season; to others it may have a mystical reference, and to many of us it's a common feeling about school spirit.

"Spirit" is difficult to define. It has a very intangible quality about it. If it is present you know it. You can almost feel it, and if it is missing, you also know it. I think that is the way it is with school spirit.

School spirit often revolves around a school's athletic program and other extra-curricular activities. Any coach or activity director will know whether or not spirit is there, and the group works much more efficiently and effectively if it is. Sometimes spirit is generated from within the group, and other times it can be developed from the outside.

An interesting development at NUHS athletic events is the purple and white "Gang of Bleacher Creatures." The name that can be applied to them isn't as important as what they are accomplishing. This enthusiastic and spirited group is making a determined effort to stimulate student spirit and support. After observing them at a recent basketball game, I would conclude that they will be successful. This group joins the cheerleaders, the pom pom squad, and the band to add to their efforts. I don't want to give any impression here that the above groups haven't been doing a good job because they have been working very hard. In the past, it appeared the responsibility for generating school spirit was more of a woman's task, so it is refreshing to see a group of young men come forward and help promote a school-wide effort.

What I am seeing is a beginning of a new era of **EAGLE PRIDE**. With spirit comes pride, and pride in turn generates more spirit. I see it carrying over to all facets of life at New Ulm High School: the athletic areas, extra and co-curricular activities, the classroom, and our personal lives. I like the ring of **EAGLE PRIDE**.

Student drivers becoming endangered species



by Phil Vorwerk

There are people who would like nothing better than to take away your driver's license, and they aren't the local radar-equipped police either.

Several lobby groups are trying to have the minimum age for driving raised from 16 to 21 in the name of energy conservation and safety.

The first time I read anything on the subject was almost two years ago in *Car and Driver*. It had a couple of articles on teenage drivers and safety. However, *Car and Driver* is a national publication, so I didn't really think anyone was actually serious until I read another story in *The Journal*. This editorial reasoned that if the age were raised to 21, all of us students would have no choice but to ride the buses, and gobs of gas would be saved.

Both of these articles made a valid point. The accident rate in the 16-20 age group is higher than any other group. We could save gas by not driving to school, but raising the age to 21 would not solve either of these problems.

Consider why the accident rate is so high in the 16-20 age group. It could be because teenagers are careless drivers. But when do most people start driving? Usually a person starts driving when he approaches 16. So the 16-20 age group contains the most inexperienced drivers. If the age were raised to 21, we would have all of our beginning drivers in the 21-25 age group. That's like trying to apply Daylight Savings Time to driving.

Teenagers do waste gas. Almost all of us have the dreaded disease "cruising." The fact that cruising is now so expensive almost enhances it. Students could get by without driving to school. We could ride the buses. But I don't know of any buses going to work, downtown, or my friend's house.

High school students make up a good portion of the working force. Many have a job by the time they're 16. Students practically run most of the fast-food restaurants and grocery stores. Plus most students would probably be driven there by their parents or someone else anyway. If we are going to get more energy conscious, let's start with car pooling.

I don't think any of us are in danger of losing our driving privileges anyway. Even if a law would raise the age to 21, it would just stop issuing new licenses to people under 21. But if they would take away my license, I would try to get a ride to school as much as I could.

Just to spite them.

Sophistication marks toys for this season



by Ann Forst

One afternoon when there was nothing exciting on the tube I decided to page through the Christmas catalogs. Actually, I was curious to see how the toy manufacturers had progressed since my day.

I thought the sky had reached the limit with miniature Star Wars characters, but all I had to do was turn the page and there was the Incredible Hulk. Also, Superman seems to be making a return this holiday season. At least Jaws is fizzling out, but I doubt if this great ruler of the sea will ever be forgotten.

I have to give the editors of toy booklets credit for their catchy leads and descriptions. There are dolls that have skin that feels like real, and they can also drink, wet, cry, walk, and talk. For the young boy on your gift list, you may select a toy pickup truck with a talking "CB." Little Johnny may dial one of "8 different frequencies."

Student solicitors knocked with unwanted replies

by Kim Schmiesing

A number of students have recently been playing the knock, knock game and getting answers, such as, "No one's home," or, "We don't want any!"

Of course, there's more to that story. After "knock, knock" comes the inevitable "Who's there?" and the student, with a quiver in his vocal chords, says something like "Um...I'm from the X group, and we're trying to raise money - - -"

Thus the story unfolds. No more details will be presented because *The Graphos* does not print blood and gore stories.

It seems that no matter what the season there's always some reason for a group to raise money to support their expeditions and activities. And what better way to raise money than selling half ounce candy bars for five dollars or dish towel calendars for ten? These high priced "necessities" would hardly be worth it if it weren't for the coupons redeemable in junk food at the local gut-bomb shops. And, of course, everyone takes advantage of the fact that support of these groups is tax deductible, don't they?

Do you want to "make the sound effects in her story book come alive?" Why not give your favorite niece cassette sets which read along with the corresponding children's book. Maybe as an added surprise you could throw in the much needed stereo-system to make this delightful gift useful.

If these presents weren't exactly what you had in mind, why not purchase a "Hungry, Hungry Hippo — may the best marble-muncher hippo win!" Sounds interesting and original, but in all my research the following detailed account took the prize for uniqueness. "The reason all the dinosaurs missed Noah's Ark is because they were having a big party that day — and guess who provided the music! *Pianosaurus*." Let's see you figure that one out.

As I continued paging through this book of inventions, I came upon the advanced toys, computers. With all the commercials there's no way to avoid these mechanical works of imagination.

For the sports fan on your list I could suggest an electronic hockey or soccer game. Or why not try your hand at baseball. By the way, remember that batteries and score-cards are not included.

How about obtaining a calculator to assist young junior with his addition and subtraction homework. I can handle those sums, but if there was ever a product on the market that could help me with geometry assignments, I'd invest.

I wonder how all this computer jazz is affecting children? I babysat with a young neighbor boy who told me several wild, imaginative stories. One account included killing a big monster "and it blew up and there was a big computer inside it." This same child was debating if he should drink a glass of water before he went to bed because his bionic leg might rust!

My kids will grow-up playing checkers and Monopoly.

Really, folks, this form of soliciting serves a purpose. "What's that?" you ask? Let's take a purely hypothetical situation. A student equipped with his *Some What* showcase (let's just say that this is a cardboard suitcase filled only with things grandmothers would buy to give away) rambles about the neighborhood for two hours one Tuesday evening and hits the house where the two senile men live twice. Upon his return home, he has sold \$41.23 "worth" of battery operated cotton swabs. At ten per cent profit, he is \$4.12 closer to the \$82.48 he needs in order to go by bus with his fellow "groupies" across the Plains States to see the national bull frog jumping contest the following spring. So the student ecstatically takes pencil and paper in hand and proceeds to figure that he has only \$78.36 left to go!

Now who can deny the wonderful results which come from these efforts? There are, however, some solicitor-deterrents. Next time you're on the other side of the door and hear "knock, knock," cross your fingers and hope for an encyclopedia salesman!

people

LBMOC is big on attitude

by Rachel Meyer

Our December BMOC is not really as big as the title implies. Doug Hoffmann compensates for his lack of stature with his friendliness and good attitude around NUHS.

Hoffmann's list of accomplishments is impressive. He has been elected president of his class for the past four years. In the ninth grade, he was student council president. Hoffmann is also active in FFA and is currently treasurer of that organization.

He is well-known, locally and statewide, for his wrestling accomplishments. Last year he was the regional champ in the 105 weight class and placed fourth in state competition. This year he is off to a good start with a first place in the New Ulm Invitational tournament and is undefeated as of this writing.

Eagle wrestling coach, Rich Peterson, says, "Doug is always enthusiastic about the sport; he is the kind of guy every coach would like to have on his team. He's always ready."

John LeGare, fellow wrestler and friend, commented, "He is always a good sport, and he works for the whole team, not just himself — he's a real team man."

Hoffmann is kept busy with daily chores on the farm, but when he finds a few spare moments, he enjoys motorcycling and hunting. He also holds a part-time job at HyVee grocery store.



This month's BMOC, Doug Hoffmann, is best known for his wrestling achievements and tremendous attitude toward school.

After graduation from high school, Hoffmann plans to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings. His career plans are presently undecided, although he is looking at agri business and ag economics as two possibilities.

He is popular among friends and faculty, and everyone seems to agree that our "Little" Big Man On Campus is a nice guy to have around.



Dan Digre, NUHS music man, has his hands full being the director of the school's numerous vocal groups.

Digre directs students musically

by Grace Stabell

"Do, re, me, fa, so,..." is the way Dan Digre, choir director, fires up student voices for the Christmas season.

For those who don't know who this "Music Man" is, Digre was graduated from Augustana College where he majored in music. He began his teaching career at New Ulm Senior High School two years ago. Although he has no family ties in this area, Digre is pleased with New Ulm. He feels this town is unique because of its pride in its ethnic heritage.

"I'm impressed with the kids here, and the attitudes they seem to acquire from their families are refreshing." Digre expressed concern about the number of hours many students spend at part-time jobs in the community. As a result many are unable to participate in school activities.

Digre is the director of such groups as the Concert Choir, Choralaires, Company

88, Payne Street Singers, a Christmas caroling group, and Bel Canto, a group that sings church music. Some of these groups appear occasionally on television, travel to different cities, and also perform in the New Ulm area. Digre says "There is a singing group for everybody at NUHS, and everyone is able to sing! I would really enjoy seeing more people participate in one of these groups as we could use at least 100 more voices."

Some of the vocal groups meet an hour a day throughout the school year and receive a half credit toward graduation. Digre hopes students will be given a full credit because "The students take written and vocal tests and participate for a full hour. This deserves a full credit!"

Many of the school's choirs will be performing during Christmas time so Digre suggests students attend one of their performances.

Schlong is glad to be back

by Cathy Gulden

The name Jill Schlong may have a familiar ring to it. A 1975 graduate of NUHS, Schlong is a former Miss New Ulm and is presently employed in the advertising department of The Journal.

During her high school days she was active in drama, declam, debate, choir, and band. However, Schlong feels that her life didn't really begin until she attended college at Iowa State University. She commented, "You learn more about yourself the first year of college than you do the rest of your life."

At Iowa State Schlong studied veterinary medicine and was active in dramatic productions. Both were very time consuming so she was forced to choose between the two. Drama won. This decision caused her to steer towards nursing and a different college, the University of Minnesota, where she discovered that nursing didn't appeal to her. She eventually majored in Television and Radio Speech Communication.

This course of study gave her the opportunity to serve as an intern with KCTA TV, Channel 2, in Minneapolis. After her graduation last December she returned to New Ulm where she planned to stay until March when her internship was to begin.

Once back in New Ulm, however, Schlong decided not to leave. A country



Jill Schlong, a former Miss New Ulm and a 1975 NUHS graduate, does not wish to live in the bright lights. This "country girl at heart" enjoys her rural lifestyle because it allows more time for her horses.

girl at heart, she didn't relate to the bright lights and fast pace of life in the big city. More importantly, she missed her horses; the passion of her life. Her love affair began at eight when she purchased a \$13 horse and brought it home to her unsuspecting parents. She now owns three horses; her most recent addition is named Burt Reynolds.

Although Schlong did not serve her internship at Channel 2, she agreed to do a TV show for them. She was interested because it was a show about New Ulm entitled "Island of the Plains" in which many New Ulm residents appeared and reminisced of their years spent in the community.

When asked about her experiences as Miss New Ulm, Schlong said she was especially glad for the opportunity to "do something for New Ulm because the city has done so much for me." Her most enjoyable time occurred during the Heritagefest celebration.

Schlong is glad to be back in New Ulm amid the friendly and familiar faces. Currently she is much involved with her Journal advertising job which she enjoys because it fits in well with her lifestyle and interests. Her future plans include continuing her education, directing Children's Theater this summer, and, of course, in her spare moments continuing her affair with Burt Reynolds.



Leo Berg has seen his six years of hard work promoting New Ulm's Heritagefest become more successful each year.

Red's lead burns bright

by Mike Ostrom

In recent memory, New Ulm was infamous for its conservatism. Progressive bond issues were dropping like flies in the boy's locker room. However, in the past five or six years, the direction of the town has changed from almost backwards to positive progress and growth. An integral constituent of this welcomed change is one Carl Wyczawski, mayor of our humble town.

While the first name may be unfamiliar to some, the extensive use of the alphabet in the surname instantly rings a bell. Of course, the Honorable Mayor is known to many as "Red" because of his seemingly incandescent locks. Although the hair is brilliant, what lies beneath is even more so. Through his guidance, the town has seen more progress during the 70's than many felt would not develop until well into the 80's. Although Wyczawski seems to have a natural feel for the pulse of New Ulm, he is not a native.

Wyczawski hails from Thorpe, Wisconsin, where he lived the first 18 years of his life. While in high school at Thorpe, he was active in sports participating in football, basketball, and baseball. This avid interest in sports has continued through his life. After high school, Wyczawski's interest in sports influenced his collegiate studies.

Aspiring to be a sports journalist, Wyczawski attended the University of Wisconsin for one year. He then transferred to Superior State where he received his BA. Following graduation, Wyczawski served brief stints writing sports in Eau Claire and later St. Louis. He was a journalist until 1953 when he took a position on the public relations staff of the Milwaukee Braves baseball team.

His activities for the Braves were varied. He wrote the biographies of the players in the annual press release, did much public speaking on the team's behalf and was the public-address announcer at the Brave's home games. He also kicked field goals on the Milwaukee County Stadium gridiron and has the distinction of never having a kick blocked. You never

knew he kicked for the Packers? O.K., so he didn't, but he still was known as "The Golden Toe" when his public relation buddies and he kicked field goals during their lunch hour. It was after the 1955 Braves season that Wyczawski and his wife, Mary, moved to New Ulm and assumed his present position, President of Green Clothiers, Inc.

After 12 years in New Ulm, Wyczawski decided to become involved in New Ulm's politics. He was elected to the City Council in 1968. In 1972 a vacancy arose in the Mayor's office. After some persuasion from his friends, he decided to run for Mayor and was, of course, successful. "I felt that the town had some definite needs," Wyczawski stated, "and was confident I could lead the town to realize these goals. I wanted to see a recreational complex, swimming pool, sewage treatment plant and, most recently a glockenspiel without having to raise taxes significantly." Although it took hard work and patience, Wyczawski is beginning to see these goals materialize.

"I attribute my success to patience and willingness to listen," Wyczawski reflected. "You must form your own opinions yet maintain your flexibility." The mayor spends 800-1000 hours a year carrying out his duties so hard work is an obvious ingredient of his success.

Although his public duties are time consuming, he still finds precious time to spend with his wife and seven children. His children are Steve-24, Mary Beth-23, Paul-21, Sara-20, Tom-19, Patty-16, and Amy-12. His wife, children, and hobbies are the reason that Wyczawski says this will be his last term as mayor.

"I had been asked to run for The Minnesota Senate, but that is not for me. I want some time to golf, watch as much high school sports as I can and see some Twins games."

"Red" Wyczawski's tenure as mayor will cover one of the most successful eras in New Ulm's development. Like Rudolf, The Red-Nosed-Reindeer, and his incandescent nose led Santa through the darkness; Carl, the Red-Haired-Mayor, has led us out of conservative darkness — and they both will do down in his-tor-eee.

Heritagefest keeps Berg busy

by Kim Hoggatt

Every summer New Ulm celebrates its ancestral background with the popular Heritagefest. This festival allows people to reflect on their German ancestry and traditions. While people look forward to the summer merrymaking, few people know about Leo Berg, the man who works year round on Heritagefest.

Six years ago the New Ulm Rotary Club asked Leo Berg if he would follow through with the idea of a festival celebrating New Ulm's heritage. Berg accepted and has been in charge of the overall plans of Heritagefest ever since. Organizing Heritagefest is a year round job for Berg in addition to his job at E.G. Oswald, Inc. Berg admits his job with Heritagefest is a "big undertaking," but he enjoys every minute of his endeavor.

The purpose of Heritagefest is to emphasize the origins of people. Berg feels it is "important to have people reflect on their past and enjoy their common German entertainment." The focus of Heritagefest is not on the beer drinking and dancing, but on the folk crafts and "Hermanstraum," the epic drama portraying the settling of New Ulm through the eyes of Herman, the legendary German warrior. The drama is a professional production except the actors who are citizens of New Ulm.

Berg grew up in New Ulm, moved away, and then later returned when he was 30. His first community involvement was with the Concord Singers, a family tradition since his father was a charter member of the musical group. By participating in the Concord Singers, Berg could "sense value in the ethnic qualities and personality of New Ulm." He believes the Concord Singers are the "nerve center of Heritagefest." Their singing is popular because people relate to the German background of the music.

Financial problems have been a nagging concern for Berg and the Heritagefest people. Last summer they lost about \$2600, but Berg feels that it won't be long before Heritagefest becomes self-sufficient. Maybe even as soon as next summer if the weather permits. The financial success of Heritagefest depends heavily on the weather conditions since most of the festival's activities take place outside.

Berg attributes the overall success of Heritagefest to the support given by the entire community. "It's tremendous!" exclaims Berg.

The future of Heritagefest is promising. Berg foresees Heritagefest becoming the most popular non-commercial festival in Minnesota within the next five years. "It's great purpose will keep it going," remarked Berg. "The people of New Ulm won't let it die."

Homecoming plans include king

by John Marti

By homecoming time next year, NUHS will have a homecoming king to escort our homecoming queen.

The student council recently agreed to let the student body elect a homecoming king next fall. The reason the council acted so early is that a head start is needed in order to prepare properly. Principal Dave Stead looked at various schools where a king has been selected. He reported to the council on options and methods used to elect and crown the king. Several council members thought that this addition would be an interesting variation to homecoming.

One option lets the king and queen escort each other. The other royalty would then

select their own escorts. Another possibility would be to let all the king and queen candidates escort each other.

As expected, there are mixed reactions among the student body to this issue. One recurrent opinion is the election of a king would give the school another good representative. Others fear, however, a homecoming king would not be taken seriously, and it would not be an honor to be selected.

Most hope the selection of a king will become a popular tradition. This aim can only be brought about by students acting responsibly. The selection of a homecoming queen has become an honored tradition at NUHS; the selection of a king can be one too.



"Red" Wyczawski has helped pull New Ulm from the tight grip of conservatism to progress and community growth.

Inflation affects high school students' work

by George Hudak

One of the major problems facing educators in the high school and post high school levels is grade inflation. This type of inflation is caused by teachers giving high grades to students who didn't deserve them.

The practice of grade inflation was started in the 1960's by college professors who considered a low grade similar to repealing the students deferment from the military draft during the Vietnam war. This reason was not the only one which led to higher grades. With racial tensions reaching a peak in that decade, it was common for a teacher to give a minority student a good grade just to keep him in school.

During the last decade, many of the

standardized tests taken by high school students, on a national average, have shown poorer results. The American College Test (ACT) is one example of this decline. During the school years 1968-1969 through 1976-1977, the average composite test scores (rated on a scale from 0-35) dropped from 19.7 to 18.4 across the nation. In New Ulm, the scores dropped from an average of 22.4 in 1968-1969 to an average of 21.7 in 1976-1977. These declines, which have been attributed to several factors, such as excessive TV watching, could indicate that students entering college may have a harder time getting satisfactory grades. However, this situation has not materialized. Instead, grades are becoming better. Between 1965 and 1974 the average grade point averages for students in colleges rose from 2.4 to 2.8.

For the most part, these increases were caused by the reasons stated previously. In 1975, when the war was over and the racial tensions eased, the grade point average declined from 2.8 to 2.7.

The problem of grade inflation was not eliminated by ending the war and reducing racial tensions. In fact, the problem seems to be getting worse because students now expect higher grades for their efforts. Many college teachers feel that the problem of grade inflation has its roots in the various high school grading systems in practice throughout the country. Unlike New Ulm, where the grading is determined by each teacher, many schools have a grading system that is used in all the courses the school has to offer, such as 92 per cent for an A, 84 per cent for a B, and so on. Many professors feel that too many

high school students have never been told that their work was mediocre.

Many educators, however, feel that grade inflation is not a problem. They believe students who work to the best of their ability should receive good grades. Many feel that a system of grading people with different abilities in the same manner is unjust. They say students should compete against themselves instead of competing against other students for grades.

The main concern with grade inflation is that too many people feel higher grades suggest educational standards are being lowered. Most agree, though, that grades and standards are not the same thing. The question teachers must answer is will lower grades necessarily mean higher standards.

Sertoma SERves New Ulm community

by Lorie Mogen

SERVICE TO MANKIND is what the Sertoma Club of New Ulm is all about. The kinds of services the club provides range from sponsoring a boys' camp for New Ulm area boys to raising money towards a much needed hearing service for a local girl.

The boy's camp program began during the summer of 1969 and was held at Flandrau Group Camp, just outside of New Ulm. Local boys from various New Ulm area schools participated in all the traditional camp activities. Unfortunately the camp had to be discontinued seven years later because of the lack of interest in the camp.

Another project Sertoma worked on was a fund drive for a local girl, Lori Bushard. Lori had a severe hearing problem that could only be corrected by an expensive hearing device called a Phonic Ear. Sertoma raised the money needed for the Ear. But who organizes these projects?

The Sertoma Club of New Ulm is made up of 62 local businessmen who are interested in helping or serving people. The current president is Steve Reinhart. His responsibilities are similar to those of a president of any social club. The current Chairman of the Board is David Stead, Sergeant of Arms is Jerry Herzog, Secretary is David Brown, Treasurer is Dale Janke, and President Elect is Tom Pearson. The club also has a Board of Directors that include the executive officers and six other members.

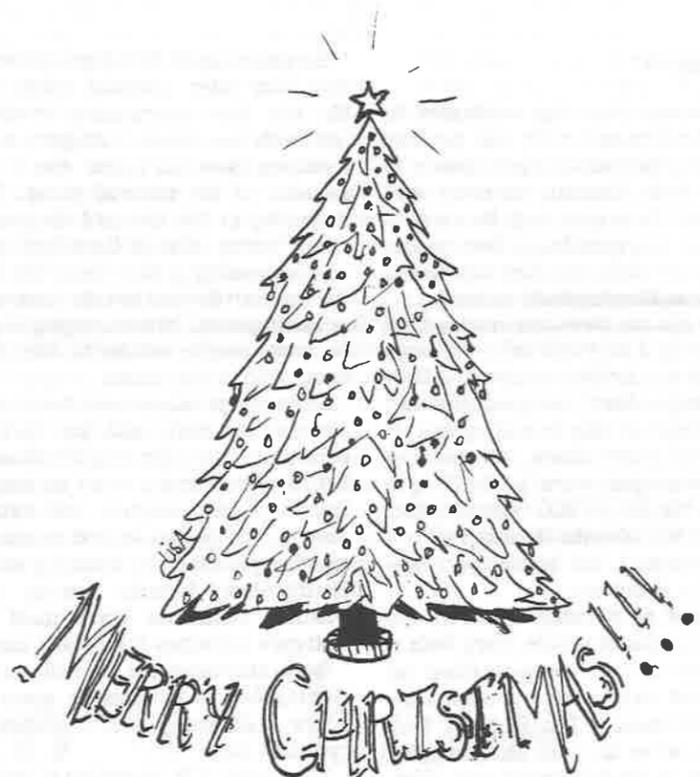
To become a member of the Sertoma Club, one may contact a current member for information or attend a weekly club meeting. The meetings are held every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Madsen's Shopping Center for breakfast.

Three times a month the meetings are highlighted by a guest speaker. Some past speakers include: Sandy Shade, Mankato Vo Tech Nursing Program; Ollie Mogen, plant manager at Kraft, and Terry Dempsey, state representative.

Other projects of the area club include the purchase of a \$9,000 van for the Developmental Achievement Center (DAC). This van is used by the Center to provide transportation for Brown and Nicollet County Retarded citizens. Each year Sertoma has its annual light bulb sale. The sale raises money for the various financial responsibilities of the group throughout the year. Also each year the club has Double Dollar Dividend Days. This fund raiser involves selling tickets at \$25 each, and each week for 50 weeks a drawing is held to determine the winner of \$50. The light bulb sale usually brings in \$1300, and the Double Dollar Dividend raises \$2500.

Sertoma is not only a New Ulm area club. There are other Minnesota chapters in Mankato, St. James, Albert Lea, Fairmont, Owatonna, Mapleton, and Faribault. The national headquarters is located in Kansas City, Missouri, which is also the city in which the first Sertoma Club began April 12, 1912. Other countries with Sertoma members include Canada, Mexico, and the newest is Puerto Rico.

This reporter asked the New Ulm Sertoma President for his evaluation of the organization. President Steve Reinhart replied in this way: "We are not a welfare office, but instead we are here to generate money in the hope that we can give service to mankind by helping people who need help." Plans for this year's project are not complete, so if you know of anyone who needs some help, please contact Steve Reinhart, President of Sertoma or any club member.



Christmas heritage continued

Another enjoyable Christmas custom, gift giving, began with the ancient Romans and their New Year festivities. Symbolic presents such as gold, (to bring riches) lamps, (to bring wisdom and light) and cakes, (to assure a life of sweetness) were exchanged.

This idea later became popular with the royalty of England during the Elizabethan period, and from there it came to the United States.

There is one Christmas tradition however, that is truly American. The Poinsettia plant was designated as the official Christmas flower by a politician from South Carolina 112 years ago.



This handsome German clock displays masterful wood workmanship.

sports

School spirit rejuvenated *Senske's Sports Sense*



by Eric Senske

Do me a favor and answer these three questions as honestly as possible:

1. Do you know the words to the school song?
2. Did you attend the last non-required pepfest (that you were not involved in)?
3. Do you view an athletic contest as a social event?

If you answered either of the first two questions "no" or the last one "yes," then I think I have made my point.

I am, of course, addressing the lack of school spirit exhibited in our school's sports programs. In the past few years, I have become increasingly alarmed at this decline of enthusiasm.

I can remember full houses at B-squad basketball games when fans came early to get a good seat. The noise level was deafening at its lowest. And this was not as long ago as you might think.

So you think I'm exaggerating? I don't think so. Basketball fans remember the 1975 state tournament team. If you don't remember, ask someone who does. He'll tell you about the full houses, the deafening noise, the enthusiasm — **THE SCHOOL SPIRIT.**

Well, I'm no dummy (I expect some argument there), and I realize that many fans are fickle and tend to follow the front-runners — the winners. I also realize that two years after a state tourney appearance, the basketball team sported a 3-17 record, followed by 0-19 the next year. But the lack of school spirit is by no means restricted to basketball; other sports have witnessed it as well. In fact, I can't think of a sport, except hockey that hasn't experienced a decline in spirit, and hockey hasn't been in existence long enough for a true test of its real popularity.

Maybe I'm being too negative because this year some positive factors finally seem to be developing. Presently, there is a movement afoot to start a pep club, reminiscent of the "Rat Pak" of several years ago. At the group's first meeting two weeks ago, the lecture theater was nearly filled with interested students; over 90 have signed up for the club. Holly Herbers, faculty advisor to the group, stated that the objectives of the group are simply to "get some people there (various sporting events), yell, and get the crowd involved." The group has also produced a school mascot, which was unveiled last week.

Of course, the biggest spirit builders have been the mysterious but legendary purple and white faced gang. This group, originally masterminded by Dave Filzen, made its debut when six members donned their makeup for the first girls basketball game. Now the gang is over a dozen members and still growing. Their pushups and other antics are real crowdpleasers, and the enthusiasm exhibited in their first few appearances seems to be contagious.

The last few years had given me the impression that school spirit is a thing of the past. But now I think I'm finally seeing some of that spirit rejuvenated — I hope so.

Basketball program has rebuilt team



Steve Hage 45 scores on a layup during one of New Ulm's early season wins.

by Jeff Albrecht

The rebuilding years seem to be over, and the dividends are now paying off. Dave Hartmann, in his third year as the head coach of the boys' basketball team, has developed a contending squad.

Underneath the basket are forward co-captains Eric Senske and Steve Hage

along with junior center Dave Filzen. Having started over half the games last year, they are the anchor of this year's squad. Both Senske and Hage check in at 6'3" and Filzen is 6'5" so they have the height needed to control the action under the boards. Besides hauling down the rebounds, these three men are also doing most of the scoring. Each is averaging in double figures for the first three games. In addition to these three starters, seniors Mike Ostrom and Brad Zetah are regularly substituted at these positions.

In the back court the team is not as experienced as they are down deep. Setting up the team's offense and handling the ball at guard are juniors Jeff Stoll and Neil Stock. Also helping out at guard are senior Chris Lund and junior Eric Wilner. These positions were filled last year by Eric Larson and Doug Bastian who left little playing time for others. Rounding out the varsity roster are juniors Mark Friske, Ken Olstad, and Mike Voges.

The team lacks varsity experience, but hard work during the off season has made up some of the difference. Many of these players competed in summer basketball leagues in New Ulm and Mankato.

"I think we have a really good club this year," claims Senske. "We'll win a lot of games this year. Filzen has made progress since last year because he is such a hard worker, and that will help out after losing Boelter."

So far the hard work has paid off. The team has won its first three games against Mankato West, Sleepy Eye, and Saint Peter. The basketball team has not had this good of a start in a long time.

Pucksters in transition period

by Dave Traurig

The 1979-80 hockey Eagles are changing the guard. This year will be a transition period for the pucksters and their fans. No longer will Jeff Schugel, New Ulm's top goalie for the past three years, be in the net. No longer will Tom Steinbach, his 47 goals last year was a school record, skate and shoot past opposing players. Graduation took nine members last May.

The continuation of New Ulm's winning hockey tradition rests on a squad with only three seniors. The three are co-captains Terry Steinbach, Peter Macho and Paul Macho. All are in their fourth year of varsity hockey. Backing up the seniors is a young squad with little experience. There are six juniors, six sophomores, and five freshman.

Leading New Ulm on offense are center Steinbach and wing Peter Macho, last year's number two and three leading scorers. Steinbach and Macho also made up two-thirds of last year's first line, but filling out the first line remains a question mark.

Putting together the all junior second line are wings Jim Ubl and Mike Mehlhop and center Mark Thompson. All three saw little action last year. As in past years New



Terry Steinbach 12 starts some fancy maneuvering in order to get a shot on goal.

Ulms third line will change during the year.

Heading up the defense are Paul Macho and junior Dave Shavlik. Both played regularly last year. They will be supported by several underclassmen, Ron Schrader, Steve Janni, Craig Wilfahrt, and John Gag.

Standing in the nets will be one of three sophomores, Rod Kobs, Gary Cooper, and Scott Lang. Kobs seems to be the favorite; he is the only returning goalie from last year's club. "With all three goalies being very close, they are working harder and all three have shown improvement," stated Steinbach.

While New Ulm has never had any depth in hockey, they usually are in good condition. Without indoor ice the Eagles have to take to the streets and hills for practice.

According to Steinbach, a big difference from last year's squad is that "we've worked harder this year to make up for what was lost. St. Peter, Northfield, and Faribault will be tough in the Central Minnesota Hockey League. But look out for us. We'll surprise a few people and have something to say about the conference title."

Gymnasts will soon leap into action

by Sue Kunz

"Beggars can't be chosey" is a thought that surely hasn't crossed the mind of NUHS girls' gymnastics coach Sandy Fritz.

Fritz didn't have to beg and can be chosey this year because of a talented group of young women out for gymnastics. Seniors who will be leading the squad are Denise Gieseke, Tammy Current, Karen Altmann, Barb Nupson, Patti Wieland, and Deb Gulden, who is a transfer. They will get a lot of help from a large group of underclassmen consisting of three juniors, four sophomores, and eight freshmen. Denise Zimmerman is team manager.

Practice started December 3 with conditioning and loosening drills. Now that the equipment is out, the girls are working on their skills and putting their routines together. Because of the shortage of gym space, the gymnasts migrate to the Jefferson building for practice each day, but most of the girls agree that this is better than having to practice on shifts.

Team competition begins January 7, right after Christmas vacation. New Ulm hosts Lake Crystal and Nicollet in a triangular meet. The next week they will entertain Fairmont, which always proves to be an exciting and close meet. After that dual meet they have seven more meets before conference and sub-region competition begins.



Despite her awkward stretching exercise, Denise Gieseke seems to be enjoying Karen Altmann's help.



Staying in shape carries weight with athletes

by Lisa Peterson

If any of you have noticed newly bulging muscles on any senior high men, this observance is not just coincidence. It is due to the relatively new winter weight-lifting program which is turning out to be successful.

Three days a week — Monday, Wednesday, and Friday — the weight-lifters diligently report to the weight room. The whole program sometimes takes two hours to complete. The weight-lifters work in groups of three or four and help each other with the various weights and exercises.

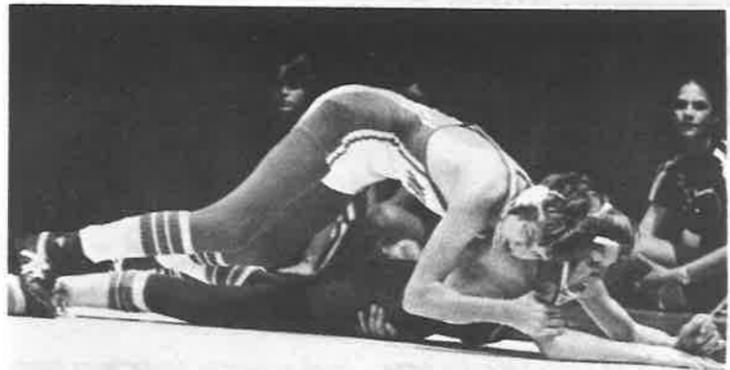
One example is the work-out on the bench press. After an initial test-out to see how much the person can lift, percentages are figured out. Thereafter, on the bench press, the person would do 12 repetitions (reps) of 60 percent of the testout, then eight reps of 66 percent, six reps of 75 percent, six reps of 75 percent again, and

finally eight reps of 70 percent.

The bench press is only one of the many weight sets. There are other weights and exercises for most of the major muscles of the body. A few of the other work-outs include the military press, curls, sit-ups, the hip press, and lats.

When the weight lifters aren't lifting weights on Tuesday and Thursday, they are kept busy on an exercise and running program set up by Stan Zweifel. The whole program is set up to increase strength and endurance for those who want to get into shape for a spring sport, stay in shape after a fall sport, or just want to be in shape.

The weight-lifting program is better organized this year. Zweifel and Skip Davis hope to get the group involved in some competitive weight-lifting with a few of the schools in the New Ulm area.



As the cheerleaders watch, Tim Spaeth, on top, gains valuable riding time against his opponent.

Boys hope to pin more wins

by Todd Tyler

New Ulm wrestlers are looking forward to a good season this year. After three meets, their record is 0-2 in dual meets and 1-0 in tournaments.

Their first meet, which was the New Ulm Invitational, was handily won by New Ulm with an impressive score of 299. Of the four teams in the tournament, the closest was Wabasso with a score of 228. Seniors Mark Davis, Doug Hoffmann, Jeff Portner, and Bob Dehn each won overall in their individual weights, and junior Jerry Sandmann and freshman Al Bastian also posted victories. A plaque was awarded to Al Bastian for having the most pins (3) in the invitational.

New Ulm's next meet came against Mankato West. It was a close meet the whole way with any one of the individual

matches deciding the winner. The Eagles came up short losing 23 to 21.

The same thing happened with their 29 to 21 loss to St. Peter. "In order to be successful you must have a little luck and this is what we're lacking," said Coach Rich Peterson.

Some of the individuals who are having a good year so far are Dehn, who is 5-0, and Bastian, Davis and LeGare are all 4-1. Hoffmann is also wrestling well.

Coach Peterson is optimistic about the season. "I think we're awfully good this year, but victory escaped us in our last two meets. All we have to do is eliminate those little mistakes and continue to improve."

New Ulm's next meets are with Waseca, Fairmont, and Mankato East. How the Eagles do against these usually strong wrestling schools will give fans a good idea of the kind of success they can expect during the rest of the season.

Quickness highlights girls' basketball team



Mary Moriarty practices dribbling without watching the ball.

by Eric Wilner

The New Ulm girls' basketball team has five returning players from last year so Coach Lyle Sparrowgrove will rely heavily on them this year. Four of these five are seniors; the other is a sophomore. The four are Kris Bloedel, Terri Brudelie, Jennifer

Coyle, and Carla Windschitl. The sophomore is Mary Moriarty.

There are also three juniors who, according to Coach Sparrowgrove, will also see action. They are Kris Traurig, Julie Mosenden, and Jackie Brudelie. Other players are seniors Mary Keyes and Kim Horner.

The girls' basketball team has not set a definite goal for this year, but they want to improve on last year's record. Improving their pressing and man to man (or is it woman to woman?) defenses are the other objectives.

This year's team is shorter and less experienced than Coach Sparrowgrove's previous teams, but their lack of height will not hurt them very much because team quickness is much better. The girls will rely on quickness, better defense, and pressing to force the other team into mistakes.

As always the teams in the South Central Conference are tough. Probably the two best teams, according to Sparrowgrove, are Waseca and Fairmont. Both of these teams are exceptionally tall with Waseca having girls at 6'0", 5'8", and two girls are 5'7". St. Peter is also expected to be a tough conference foe.

Coach Sparrowgrove wants team improvement from game to game. In their first game, the Eagles lost to Mankato West by a big margin, but will try to improve their performance when they play New Ulm Cathedral on December 17.