

# the graphos

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## Traditions make Christmas a special time



Christmas decorations highlight local businesses.

by Sarah Schmitz  
Graphos Reporter

Christmas is upon us, as the screams of frustrated, last-minute shoppers echo through the mall. Regret and anger have replaced the Christmas spirit. Shopping procrastination is a common disease among gift-givers during the Christmas season. But is Christmas really about shopping and gifts? Spending hundreds of dollars on those you love is one way to show how you feel, but what are some of the traditions that make Christmas special for NUHS students?

Eric Crabtree's family practices an unusual but interesting tradition. Each year his family celebrates Christmas in the tradition of a foreign country, such as Mexico or Italy. They play the games and eat the food of the chosen culture. "This year it'll probably be hamburgers," Crabtree predicts with a chuckle.

Some are lucky to travel to some other environment for Christmas vacation. The Besse twins are off to Illinois to visit their grandparents. Tracy Davies heads to Florida for a Christmas with the alligators. Florida also seems exciting to B.J. Drum; she

flies to the peninsula for the holidays. It looks as if half the school is spending Christmas in Florida.

A lot of countries around the world spend Christmas in ways very similar to Americans. "Christmas is just a time to have fun and gather with your family," explains Olga Orlova, an exchange student from the U.S.S.R. Kit Tsang from Hong Kong, China, comments, "We sing and open gifts and the next day we go shopping." I guess they have sales the day after Christmas in Hong Kong, too.

Now for the big question: When does Santa come to your house? An informal survey suggests that for most families, Santa delivers their gifts while the children are nestled in their beds Christmas Eve. Of course, Santa can't be everywhere at once so for some families the tradition is revised a bit.

One girl mentioned an unusual way in which Santa delivers her family's presents. Each year, the family hops in the car Christmas Eve and, as always, Mom checks to make sure the front door is locked about five times while everyone waits in the car. After the

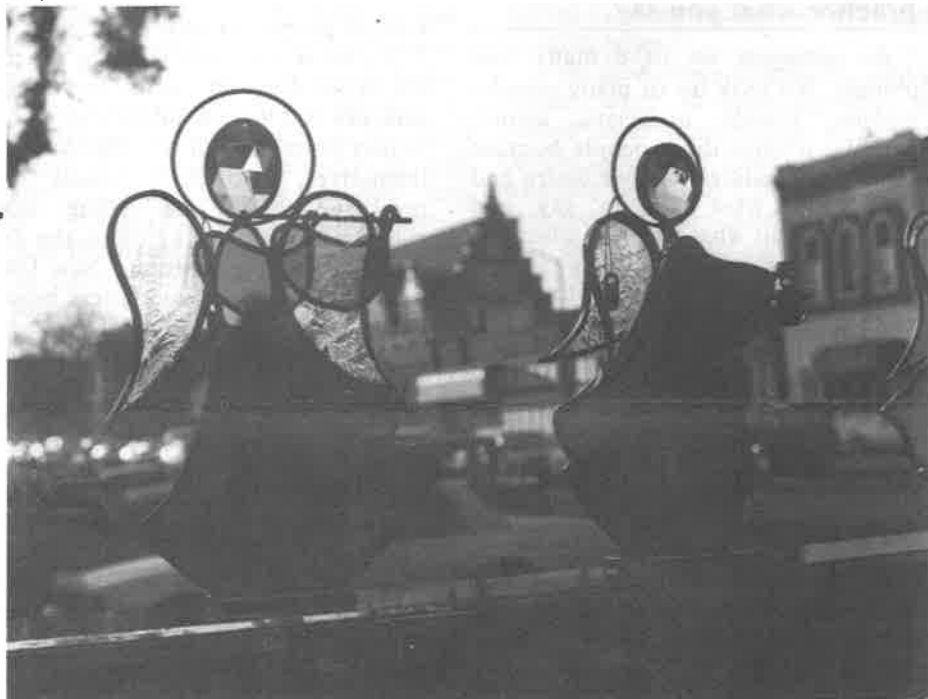
family returns from exploring the streets in search of the best light show, they discover their stuffed stockings and a trail of fake snow from the front door to the Christmas tree. Since they don't have a chimney, for years the girl insisted Santa had a key to the front door. Now the tradition is just a yearly ritual.

Christmas is a time for special treats. Will Rimmert is showered with once a year occurrences every Christmas. "Mom cooks for Christmas and our dog, Hunts, is allowed to come into the house to eat his big bone from Santa Claus," he joked.

Christmas is not the only holiday celebrated by students in December. Stacy and Jodi Shablott begin

celebrating Hanukkah on the 25th day of the third month on the Jewish calendar. This year the beginning date was December 12. Hanukkah commemorates not only the successful flight for survival of the Jewish state but also the first triumphant struggle for freedom of religion. The celebration lasts for eight days. "Every day, at sundown, we light a candle on the menorah and the children receive presents," says Jodi.

Even though Christmas and Hanukkah may seem to be stress-filled holidays for some, for most, the season is a time of tradition, love, and giving. It's a holiday to spend with family and friends continuing traditions that have existed for generations.



Stained glass adorns the windows of downtown New Ulm.

## School spirit lacking

by Allison Koeckeritz  
Graphos Reporter

When you think of school spirit, you probably think of sports events and the many teams we have at NUHS. This is a major part, but school spirit involves more than that. It is pride in our school itself. Why is school spirit so important? Giving support to our athletes helps them feel confident. Having a positive attitude about our school helps everyone.

New Ulm High School lacks school spirit. The support for our teams is not very high, and pride in our school is almost nonexistent.

### Many people are extremely busy with jobs, schoolwork, and other various activities.

Why are we lacking school spirit? There are many possible reasons. A popular response is "New Ulm is a booze town and all anyone wants to do is go out and drink." They'd rather go out and party. There are, however, many other things that occupy students' lives. Many people are extremely busy with jobs, schoolwork, and other various activities. Many students say that they don't have time to get involved in school activities. Senior Jeff Schwermann's opinion is

that "people are too wrapped up in themselves to get involved in something that has to do with school." School spirit does not seem to be a priority to many students.

### "Most of the people who really come to watch the game are parents."

Numerous students attend school sports events. Some are there to watch the game, but a majority are there to socialize. Our teams haven't done real well in the fall, and fans have gotten discouraged. The support has dropped. Senior Craig Debban says that "most of the people who really come to watch the game are parents."

Others say that there are not enough activities to get us involved, and school spirit is not stressed enough. Senior Nicole Degner thinks that "many of our special days and activities have been taken away. We've been limited."

Sophomore Jenny Guse says "there is too much baseball in New Ulm. There are tons of baseball diamonds around and hardly any tennis courts." New Ulm is known for its baseball. She thinks that things should be more evenly spread among the different sports. There is so much emphasis on baseball that some people don't support the other activities.



A lot of fans are disguised as empty bleachers at this home game.

# editorial

## Role models need to practice what they preach



by Ann Wisniewski  
Graphos Editor

**If you are going to be a role model to children, please practice what you say.**

As teenagers we have many role models. We look up to many people: athletes, friends, musicians, actors, etc. We admire these people because they have qualities that we desire and usually like what they do, say, and represent. But what happens when our models do something totally against what they stand for? We may think less of them and what they stand for. We may also not believe what they say, especially since their actions proved to be misleading. Sometimes we may choose to believe individuals no matter what their actions suggest, even if we know them to be wrong.

A lot of young children look up to us as role models. They admire us and are often influenced by what we do. But what happens when we go against what we've said to these children? I'm not

**"It's all right to say no," they say, but several of these same people are the ones who get blasted on weekends.**

saying that people can't change their minds, but when they emphasize something over and over and claim to be strongly against it, while they are actually for it, it's pretty futile to be saying it in the first place. Take, for example, drinking. How many times have people our age told children not to give in to the peer pressure of drinking. "It's all right to say no," they say, but several of these same people are the ones who get blasted on weekends. What kind of message are they conveying to the children who believed what these people said? How can someone be against something and tell children it's wrong, but yet do it anyway? What kind of people do such a thing?

We know that some students are trying to get the point across to younger students that it is not all right to give in to peer pressure. But is it OK that they themselves, who can't handle peer pressure, should be telling these students not to drink? With the fast way the word gets around New Ulm, how well will these youngsters believe what they are being told?

Since youngsters are usually more vulnerable than older children, some might actually believe that underage drinking parties are all right and there's nothing wrong with getting blasted.

If you are going to be a role model to children, please practice what you say. If not, then don't say anything. Why say something that you yourself do not believe?

## Student dress makes statement

by Eric Crabtree  
Graphos Reporter

**The administration needs to be reminded that there are other viewpoints besides those of school officials.**

Should students have the right to wear whatever they want to school? This is a question that has been discussed and debated about every year in high schools everywhere.

After reading this question you probably have come to your own conclusion, and most likely you decided yes, students should have that right. But before you get too comfortable with your decision, here is another question to think about. Should surgeons be able to wear whatever they want in surgery?

Maybe these questions are slightly exaggerated, but the point should be clear. The point is that there is proper attire for every situation.

Even though every person has their respective opinion on this matter, we should remember that there are two sides to every coin. For example, there was quite a bit of controversy over the dress of a few students on Halloween, and several different points of view were expressed regarding that incident. Most students, and rightfully so,

took the point of view that the administration was too strict in their interpretation of the dress code. Some students expressed their feelings publicly regarding the actions taken by the administration. I think that this discussion was good. The administration needs to be reminded that there are other viewpoints besides those of school officials. There is room for compromise on both sides. When rules are too strict, people are more likely to rebel against them. But, by the same token, when rules are too lax, people lose respect for authority. In this type of a situation, the sides must try to find a happy medium. On an issue like this one, it shouldn't be too hard to find a common ground. After all, this issue is fairly trivial when put in proper perspective.

**On an issue like this one, it shouldn't be too hard to find a common ground. After all, this issue is fairly trivial when put in proper perspective.**

No matter what your point of view, the basic idea remains unchanged: the way a person dresses makes a statement.

Let's all hope that Santa's dress code doesn't change too much this Christmas season.



## Evaluate teachers



by Jessie Sandau  
Graphos Columnist

Even though there is a present surplus of teachers, I think the surplus could be lessened some by hiring competent teachers and letting go of those who teach ineffectively. I believe that tenure — job security by seniority in the teaching profession — results in some teachers who don't care about those they teach.

**Maybe the reason some teachers withdraw more and more from their students is because of their job security.**

We have some very good teachers in our school, but there are some who need evaluation. I'm not saying that these teachers are not intelligent or don't know their subject matter, they just need to be in touch with our generation. All teachers are aging, and with each year they take another step backward in the way they relate to young people. Some are almost rebelling against the students as much as the teachers are reacting against them. Maybe the reason some teachers withdraw more and more from their students is because of their job security.

Our school system can let go of only the teachers with the least seniority while those who have been here the longest remain. Unfortunately, some of those with the most seniority are also the oldest and most out-of-touch with their students. We also have some teachers who are highly intelligent. The only problem is that they cannot relate to the average student. They need to be in touch with their students and realize that their students do not possess all the knowledge that they do. These teachers assume the students have knowledge that is not there. The teacher then ends up talking above the students and losing them completely. It seems as though these teachers are also the ones who have the most seniority.

**Teachers should not be let go simply because of seniority.**

Unfortunately, as teachers gain seniority, they also distance themselves from their students. When this happens, students don't learn. The reason people go to school is to learn. When they don't learn, they get upset and blame the teachers. It's not the teachers lack of knowledge that makes them an ineffective teacher; there is no motivation once they have established seniority. Teachers should not be let go simply because of seniority. Teachers should be let go because of teaching ability and teaching ability only.

## the graphos

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# Council faces tough job



by Jay Wiesner  
Graphos Columnist

## Maybe if we work with each other instead of criticizing others we could get more done.

"I hate school! I wish I would never have gone to this place." How many times do you hear this during the day? Are these people doing anything to change school?

"The student council gets nothing done." This complaint is also heard throughout the senior high.

People who complain about the student council should go to one of their meetings. They should see what's being

done. You will feel like you're watching C-Span, but that's what student government is all about. I finally went to one of their meetings because I've been complaining about the student council for a long time.

The council has been trying to make school interesting, but when people don't get involved in extra school activities, it tends to be pretty impossible.

The council is looking into having a costume day next Halloween. They are also planning for a Valentine's Day dance.

The student council is also interested in the problems of the world. They are going to research the idea of donating pop tabs to Ronald McDonald's House. Did you know they also sponsor a child from Guatemala?

One thing you have to remember is that the student council can't get everything done. Advisor Richard LaPatka watches over meetings so anarchy won't break out in the school.

These are the best days of your life. You don't have to work most of the time, and you can join any activity you want to. People shouldn't want to leave so fast. The school doesn't charge thousands of dollars for tuition. Maybe if we work with each other instead of criticizing others we could get more done.

## Finely Tuned Machine

I do not want to be,  
a boring textbook read with little interest,  
a murky stream spoiled by everyone's garbage,  
a game of Candyland, so simple and naive,  
dark storm clouds, with all the confusion, rumbling and crashing,  
an old clunker

out spread  
in million  
a pieces across the lawn.

I want to be,  
a best seller read with interest and excitement,  
a clear brook with all its cleanliness and clarity,  
a player in a rich man's game, plotting my strategies  
and crediting my income,  
a rainbow with various colors and dimensions,  
afinelytunedmachineweldedtogether and confident of its makers.

by Aaron Spilman

# Student wants "action"

To the editors:

There has been a growing conflict between students and the administration. It seems that the students feel school should be more exciting and less boring. Should there be parties in the school is the issue.

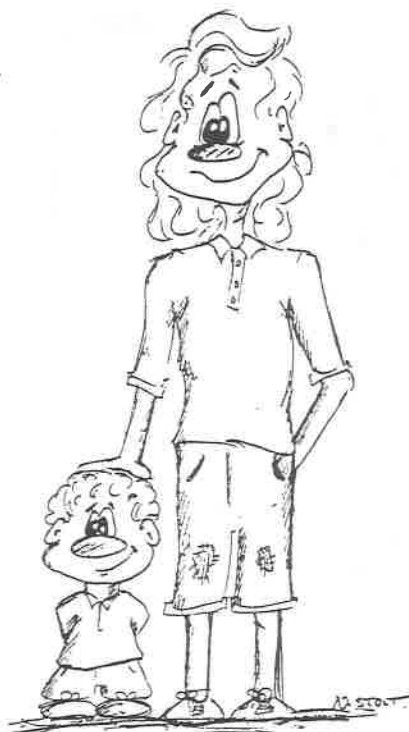
According to the bylaws of the teachers handbook, parties are allowed under certain circumstances. The words state that "parties in school must be a cultural experience to enhance the lesson." It goes on to say that "prior permission must be obtained from the principal."

Many in the student body feel that

school would be more fun if there was more excitement. "There should be more freedom" said one student. "I hate school," said another. What makes these students feel this way? I heard one student say, "I think school is so boring because school has to compete with Nintendo and TV."

The party issue will bring about a great deal of ideas from students as well as administrators, but this question remains: the power of student government is in whose hands?

Jerod Spilman



Good Role-Models?



Think Not.

# Court's decision a step forward

by Sara Freitag  
Graphos Reporter

Well, finally a step forward for the First Amendment. A recent Nevada court ruled that the rock group Judas Priest's music played no part in the suicide pact between two boys. The suit stated that subliminal messages in one song glorified suicide by repeating "do it" over and over. Two young men, Ray Belankamp 18, and James Vance 20, shot themselves after listening to this song. Both young men were also under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

## What gives these people the right to decide what is objectionable for others?

But that ruling seems to be about the only bright spot lately. Last year, Tipper Gore, Senator Al Gore's spouse, of the Parent's Music Research Commi-

tee finally got her way when record companies succumbed to pressure and started labeling records with "objectionable lyrics."

What gives these people the right to decide what is objectionable for others? And who decides who those people should be? Most of the people who buy tapes and CDs are usually in their teens or older. And are you saying that anyone in this age group hasn't heard the F word before? Come on! If parents think that students haven't heard about drinking, drugs, and suicide before, they are very naive. The kids who killed themselves had a lot of other problems, and now that their children are dead, parents need a scapegoat. So they chose music. What's next?

Parents should concentrate on education, not censorship. If they are limiting our freedoms, do we really have any freedoms at all?

# Sophomores didn't laugh

To the editors:

We deeply appreciate the tips that were given to us in the last Graphos. In the future we might use them, but until then we are gonna act the way we want. If you don't like it, tough! We are not trying to impress you and we never asked your permission on how to act. We're sorry that we made you ill, but you've made us ill from your article. Do you remember being a sophomore? Being young and not having a lot of choices to make.

Maybe the sophomore girls wouldn't act the way they do if some of the senior guys wouldn't flirt with us. Maybe they're scared of rejection by you? Anyway, most of us sophomore girls have boyfriends that we look up to more than the senior guys.

Maybe future sophomores will use your advice, but until then the Class of 1993 will act the way we want to act and not let people like you run our lives.

Just what kind of thrill do you seniors get out of putting down sophomores every year? All we want is to be liked and welcomed by everyone. So we are a little lost the first week of school. It's a new place for us; what do you expect?!

Why do you care how we act around "your guys"? Why are you try to protect them anyway? They're big boys now. I really think they're capable of looking out for themselves.

Oh sure, I know it's only tradition to

put down the babies of the school each year, but some of the things that were said were pretty cruel. They hurt. We also know that's what your intentions were.

We think you're the ones who feel intimidated. Or are you jealous? It surely isn't that, is it?

As for "sucking up" to our teachers, maybe we do. We want the teachers to like us. Besides, an angry teacher is just one less problem we'll have. We have enough to deal with trying to adjust to a completely different school.

You were sophomores once, too, and maybe you had it harder, we don't know. But as for you and your survival tips, you know where you can stuff them.

Thanks for the tips; maybe you should write something worth reading. We hate to see talents go to waste.

Sincerely,  
Two sophomores

Editors' note: This letter was signed but the names were withheld by request.

## 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

## Dempsey wants student opinions



Representative Terry Dempsey is the Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

by Anne Werner  
Graphos Reporter

How do you feel about taxes? Just something that comes out of your check? What about cuts in state spending? The crisis in the Gulf? Do you know how your legislators feel about these issues? Do they know how you feel? Terry Dempsey doesn't hear from many students, but he affects our school so shouldn't he know our views?

Dempsey is the Representative for district 23A and has recently been appointed Minnesota House Minority Leader of the state legislature. He has spent approximately two and a half days per week working with governor-elect Arne Carlson and his staff to get things set up for the new administration. Dempsey is also the spokesperson

for 54 Republican members of the House. He is in an influential position in state government.

"Students should talk to elected officials," Dempsey says, and he wants to know more about the way students feel on issues. He urges students to write him and other elected officials when they feel strongly about an issue.

**...he wants to know more about the way students feel on issues.**

During every election year some senior high students are eligible to vote. Dempsey would like students to take advantage of the opportunity. Precinct caucuses, however, are poorly attended. Usually people 40 and older dominate the caucuses. They determine who or what will appear on the ballot. If some students would attend the precinct caucuses, they could influence the political process.

Some high school students are eligible to take part in Project 120, "a wonderful program," according to Dempsey. "I would recommend it to anyone who has the chance." (To get more information see James Senske or other social studies teachers.) There is also a High School Page Program sponsored by the state Senate. Dempsey would like people, especially students, to get involved in all levels of state government.

Dempsey resides in New Ulm with his wife Janet, son Matthew, and this year, Pablo Borrero, an AFS student from Ecuador. He was born in Henderson, Minnesota, graduated from St. Thomas College and earned his law degree at the University of California. He is an attorney at Somsen Dempsey & Schade, a New Ulm law firm.

## Freisleben saw wall come down



Norbert Freisleben is this year's German exchange student sponsored by the Rotary Club.

by Ann Sundell  
Graphos Reporter

**"Someday this will be in history books, and we had the opportunity to be there."**

Norbert Freisleben is this year's German Rotary Exchange student. Freisleben's hometown is the small village of Blaustein (meaning blue stone), located a few miles from Ulm, Germany. Freisleben has a 17 year old sister who wants to attend business school. His mother is a management consultant, and his father is a supervisor.

There are many differences between our school system and that attended by Freisleben. There are no "lockers" in the German schools, and a student does not attend the same classes at the same time every day. Freisleben also commented that the school system in Germany is much more liberal. There is no such thing as getting detention for being a few minutes tardy, and one does not need a pass to go to a locker or make a phone call.

## Alternative School offers options

by Jessica Henle  
Graphos Reporter

**This school offers classes to those students who may have dropped out because they did not fit into the traditional setting.**

The Alternative School. The words have been heard before, but have they been understood?

The school is for students who "don't fit into the traditional school setting" says Virg Debban, a teacher at the school. At one time students were given two choices: attend a traditional high school or drop out. This school offers classes to those students who may have dropped out because they did not fit into the traditional setting. According to Debban these students have "different learning styles." The school gives them the chance to continue to learn but in a different setting and at a different pace.

Rules and regulations at the Alternative School are less rigid than those at the senior high. Students can be individuals without feeling confined to a set of ideals that fit only a few students.

Teresa Whitney and Debban teach at the school now, and James

Blackstad will start next semester. Whitney teaches cooking skills and survival classes. Debban teaches basic science classes. Blackstad will teach a math class. The classes include all the core classes such as math, science, social studies, and English. Auto shop and other vocational classes are also offered.

The Alternative School is run by Mike Akerson. The school is a part of District 88. The 18 students who attend the school are encouraged to take classes such as music and physical education and other classes they can get into at the senior high. They are also invited to attend school functions and take part in school activities. The students are from New Ulm, Sleepy Eye, Madelia, and St. James.

**The 18 students who attend the school are encouraged to take classes such as music and physical education and other classes they can get into at the senior high.**

Debban says he enjoys teaching at the school. "The students have a capacity to learn, but the traditional school does not give them the opportunities they need."

This year the school is at a new location. It was moved from North Broadway to South Broadway, across from Perkins in the old Precision Tool building.



Virg Debban, Jim Blackstad, and Teresa Whitney spend part of their day at the Alternative School.

Last year Freisleben was fortunate to experience firsthand the Berlin wall coming down. The wall came down on a Thursday, and on Friday morning everyone was talking about it. Freisleben went to school as usual that Friday morning, and while talking with three friends the idea of going to Berlin came up. They decided to go. "Someday this will be in history books, and we had the opportunity to be there," observed Freisleben.

**Freisleben manages to keep in touch with German current events through letters and the German newspapers sent to him by his parents.**

"Everyone wanted to be there, it was impossible to go anywhere by car, and if you wished to go anywhere by subway, it was necessary to wait for at least a half hour." Freisleben also commented that "everyone had the same feeling at the same time."

Events in Berlin included weekend-long concerts. There was no charge because "everyone just wanted to celebrate." Chocolates and cigarettes were thrown from trucks into the crowds of people. Stores gave away free coffee and doughnuts.

Defection of the East Germans was not much of an issue because they now knew that they could go to West Germany any time they wished. Freisleben manages to keep in touch with German current events through letters and the German newspapers sent to him by his parents.

While in the United States Freisleben wants to experience as much American culture as possible. Since arriving in New Ulm, he has taken a trip west with his host family and another trip to Washington, D.C., where he visited the many national monuments and places of historic and cultural interest. Freisleben enjoyed his visit. "There is so much to do. It's amazing, but I would not like to live there. It is just too big."



NUHS's newest English teacher was proposed to on Halloween.

## Tin Man makes Aaker happy

by Lonny Rathmann  
Graphos Reporter

**She was proposed to on Halloween, and she remembers the event vividly.**

Andrea Aaker, New Ulm High Schools' newest teacher, is getting married. No date has been set, but a large wedding is expected. She was proposed to on Halloween, and she remembers the event vividly: "He placed a dozen roses in front of my apartment door, and when I bent down to pick them up, he came around the corner dressed as the Tin Man and proposed to me in the doorway of my apartment. We had been going out for two years before the proposal," she recalled, "but we had known each other prior to this because we had done plays together."

Aaker recently graduated from St. Cloud State with a B.S. Degree in Theater and English. "It's a miracle that I even got the job," she said. "It was my last scheduled interview, and I just went in and answered a few questions and the next day they called me and said I got the job."

She likes being able to interact with students on a daily basis. Even though Aaker is fresh out of college, she feels she fits in with the rest of the faculty rather well.

"All of the teachers were extremely helpful, especially the English teachers," commented Aaker. "They showed me the ropes and helped me get started." Aaker is looking forward to a rewarding experience at NUHS.

## Cleaning is a dirty job

by Bobbi Jo Drum  
Graphos Reporter

**"If we could just take care of those d--- chewers..."**

When students arrive at school in the morning, the doors are always open, the lights are on, and the building has been cleaned. No, the magic genie didn't clean it with the blink of an eye; the janitorial staff did.

Five janitors are responsible for putting NUHS back together after students take it apart throughout the day. Janitor Harold Beranek has been working on that staff for the last 20 years and has been the "leadman" for the past 15.

Beranek arrives at the senior high everyday at 6 a.m. and works until 3 p.m. including holidays. Once he arrives at school, he is responsible for checking doors and pumps, and also takes care of several maintenance and cleaning tasks.

"I like my job. If something has to be done, or if something is wrong, you have to fix it."

Beranek enjoys working with stu-

**Catching those "chewers" would make Harold's day.**



## Students agree on need to clean up environment

by Paul Kluge  
Graphos Reporter

The fact that the environment is in bad shape and deteriorating quickly is rarely disputed. Thousands of acres of forest get the axe each day. In many parts of this country drinking water wells have become unsafe. Large cities are having problems finding places to dump their garbage. Evidence of large-scale pollution can be found just about anywhere. Our own Minnesota River contains enough poisonous chemicals that we've been warned not to eat too many fish from it if we want to stay healthy.

Bumper stickers reading "Pro pollution and proud of it" are uncommon, but pollution isn't. As a society, we don't think much about pollution even though we don't like it. Things may be changing, however. This year more people are more aware of environmental problems and sacrifices that will have to be made to deal with them. Students, who usually think more idealistically than the rest of the population, are concerned about the environment.

Most students agree that the environment is hurting, and we need to change our ways to limit the damage we do. Some share the opinion of senior Denise Fitterer: "Everybody needs to do a little to help the environment because if we don't, eventually there won't be a good environment for our kids to live in." A few others said that the environment didn't really matter much to them because by the time conditions became bad enough they would be dead anyway.

Others had different opinions. Josh Quandahl said, "Sort the trash so much more if it can be recycled. It should be required by law." Jacob Swantz liked the idea that the proceeds from the lottery will be going to help clean up some of our messes. Grant Olson and Mike Achman agreed that "the forests should be cleaned up and there should be stronger laws against littering." Paula Thomas expressed the opinion that "people should start recycling more because our children could be a lot worse off than we are if we don't do anything about the environment." Shawn Olson thought

planting more trees and having more open fields for snowmobiling would be good ideas. John Ingebritson remarked, "Laws are needed that say each town must have the means to get everything that's recyclable recycled." Bob Brown talked about littering; "It's a problem because everyone does it at times, but no one really thinks that what they're doing hurts the environment." David Koch commented on the need for longer sentences for polluters. Sonja Holm, Julie Wallner and Sheri Kjelskus wondered why "we make so many things that pollute when alternatives are available." Khanh Khuu pointed out a surprising fact: "Sophomores are a threat to the environment due to the amount of hair spray they often use."

**"It's a problem because everyone does it at times, but no one really thinks that what they're doing hurts the environment."**

Many felt that punishments for convicted polluters should be greater. Curt White remarked that "we need better anti-pollution laws, and we need to enforce them. Polluters should be put in jail to send a message to others." Aaron Rolloff pointed out that "Things aren't going to change much when major polluters never get caught or get only a slap on the wrist when they do."

One senior noted that past generations haven't exactly taken good care of the environment, and we are the ones who are going to have to live in it. In the past people generally had neither the time nor a reason to think much about the environment. They did not have the means to pollute much. Now we have cars and factories and nearly everything we buy comes in some sort of packaging, yet we still think as though we have little effect on the environment.

If anything is to be done about the environment, people must realize that they do have an impact on the environment. Nearly everyone agrees with Eric Stern; "The environment could be improved a lot." The only question is when we will start.

dents and faculty. The only exception is the chewers! "If we could just take care of those d--- chewers," exclaimed Beranek with a smirk.

**"We have a very clean school and people know it."**

What's the most unusual occurrence that has happened to Beranek during his janitorial experience? He recalls coming to school on an extremely cold morning unable to open the door because the lock was frozen. He used a match to heat his keys so they would melt the ice and unlock the door.

Beranek looks forward to retiring in three or four years and fishing during his spare time. In the meantime, however, "I enjoy working here very much. I started here and just like it."

He is very proud of the cleanliness of the school building. "We have a very clean school and people know it. People from out of town compliment us and can't believe that a 24-year-old school can be so clean."

So think before you write a message to a friend on the top of your desk or toss a gum wrapper in the water fountain. The magic genie won't be passing through the building while you're sleeping, but Harold Beranek and the other senior high janitors will be.



The rock lets students express themselves on a variety of issues.

## Get a piece of the rock

by Julie Beck  
Graphos Reporter

...the rock was first painted in the spring of 1977 by a few senior girls before their senior breakfast.

Is there any place in New Ulm where a student can get caught spraying paint and not get into trouble? No? Guess again. Too tough? OK, I'll give you a hint. It's on school grounds. No, not LaPatka's new car! I'm talking about "the rock." The one between the senior high and Jefferson Elementary.

Students may think they are getting away with something when they spray the rock, but in reality they're not. The police officers don't bother to stop students from placing their artistic abilities on the rock because they realize it's better to have writings on a rock rather than on the school buildings. All students have the privilege of adding their two cents worth to the many layers of paint already on the rock.

Anyone who has ever painted the rock has probably wondered how many layers of pigment are actually covering the rock. Nobody knows the answer to that question. However, it may be helpful to know that the rock was first painted in the spring of 1977 by a few seniors girls before their senior breakfast. Other students in other years after have kept the tradition going strong.

Throughout the last 13 or 14 years the rock has been used and abused in various ways. Jefferson students have found the rock to be a wonderful place to climb, but so have some senior high students. Other fun-loving students

have tried to set the rock on fire while others have tried to chip away the many layers of paint to get to the actual rock itself. Students once placed two smaller rocks next to the big rock to keep it company, but the two boulders were quickly removed. The most recent stunt took place late October of this year. Although it was a harmless prank, some townspeople were upset. As the story goes a few nameless rascals decided to decorate the school campus near the rock with orange pumpkin bags filled with leaves. The result was a giant pumpkin patch.

### Students once placed two smaller rocks next to the big rock to keep it company...

The main use of the rock, however, is for expressing one's thoughts. Before games or meets, especially during homecoming, teammates paint their slogans on the rock. In a couple of days the rock could display "The Class of '92 rules," and the next day "92" may be crossed out and replaced by "91." Gossip is another familiar scene on the rock. "Bob loves Jan," "Carl is a two-timing snake," and "Betty, how can you keep track of so many guys at one time?" have recently adorned the rock.

Whatever the case may be, the rock remains. As long as it is secured in its spot, the number of layers will keep increasing. If anyone has not taken the opportunity to share their thoughts on the rock with us, there's one thing to say, do it!

## Explorers search for future careers

by Jodi Shablott  
Graphos Reporter

### Local businesses and organizations support the various posts.

High school students age 14 to 21 wishing to pursue a career make up the Explorer program of future professionals. Local businesses and organizations support the various posts.

There are six separate groups. The law post is sponsored by Gislason, Dosland, Hunter and Malecki Law Firm. The medical sponsor is Sioux Valley Hospital. Biebl, Ranweiler and Company sponsor accounting while Social Services of Brown County and the Department of Natural Resources provide funding for social services and

the natural resources respectively. The county sheriff's office sponsors the law enforcement post.

Explorer groups include hands on training, field trips, lectures, and observation of a working professional.

The law post involves legal competition, mock trials, and discussions of the legal profession. The leader of this post is **Kurt Johnson**.

If a medical career interests you, this post discusses surgery, nursing, medical treatment, and psychiatry. This post often involves "shadowing," observing someone in the medical profession. **Dr. Karl Papierniak** heads this part of the Explorer program.

The accounting post explores careers in business, data processing, and taxes. The post leader is **Bob Ranweiler**.

Juvenile delinquency, social work,

## New Ulm's night life lacks choices for teens

by Tonya Tepley  
Graphos Reporter

It's Friday! The end of the school week and for many high school students the beginning of a boring, same as every other, weekend.

Although New Ulm is a fairly good-sized town, there is absolutely nothing for teens to do. For many students the only thing to look forward to on weekends is sleep.

New Ulm has a shopping mall with one or two good stores in it. The only thing which attracts teens to it on the weekend is the Skill Mill, which after some time gets old and expensive.

The cinema in New Ulm is nice, on Tuesday nights. Tuesday is "cheap night" at the theatre. On weekends some teens cannot afford the spendy prices to see a movie for two hours.

### If the movie theatre would have student prices, the shows on Friday and Saturday nights would be better attended and more affordable.

When high school students received their licenses, the "big thrill" was to cruise up and down Broadway. With the high cost of gasoline, few can afford to drive up and down Broadway the whole night. And after cruising Broadway all night, anything would seem fun.

The grocery stores in New Ulm receive good weekend business from movie rentals alone. On Friday and Saturday nights, many teens have friends over to their houses to watch movies on videotape. Most grocery stores charge a dollar for rental, which is five times cheaper than going to the movie theatre, and as many people as you want can watch with you.

When high school students go out on dates, the majority of them are in Mankato because there is nothing to do in New Ulm. The movie theatres and restaurants are just as expensive in Mankato, but a need to escape New Ulm life often drives teens to another town.

New Ulm is a community with a proud German heritage, a heritage involving a lot of Germans drinking beer. Minnesota Street contains numerous establishments selling liquor. There are some adults who spend their entire week's pay on alcohol.

### Many teens feel that a good time cannot be had without alcohol. New Ulm students go to these parties because there is nothing else to do.

So what does this have to do with teens? To begin with, underaged beer parties happen every weekend in New Ulm. The majority of high school students look forward to them. Many teens feel that a good time cannot be had without alcohol. New Ulm students go to these parties because there is nothing else to do. By the time NUHS students graduate, they will have experimented with alcohol.

The adults of the community have a great influence on the party scene because they are the parents. At Heritagefest and other New Ulm celebrations, teens are not the only people drinking beer and having a good time. New Ulm's idea of a good time includes alcohol.

Part-time jobs are plentiful in New Ulm and occupy students' time on weekends. They give teens something to do, help students learn responsibilities, and give them money.

A dance club would be a plus for teen life because it would give students a place to go with their friends, listen to music, play video games, shoot pool, and dance. A place like this in New Ulm would be popular.

If the movie theatre would have student prices, the shows on Friday and Saturday nights would be better attended and more affordable.

New Ulm needs to improve opportunities for teens. With some new attractions teen life could be better. Maybe in the future the saying "We have to go to parties because there is nothing else to do" could change.



Going to a movie needs to be an affordable option for more students.

handicap and disabled services, and welfare are some of the areas covered in the social services post headed by **Dick Embacher**.

**Cathy Fouchi** is the leader of the natural resources group, which explores careers in conservation of soil and water, wildlife, park management and game wardens.

Have you ever wondered what a career in the FBI would be like? How about the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension? If you said "yes," the law enforcement post is for you. Other areas explored are municipal police department, law enforcement, Sheriff's department, highway patrol, and fingerprinting. The leader of these areas is **Larry Pederson**.

All groups have field trips, dances, lock-ins, trips and tours.

Every two years the National Explorer Program has a national meeting. It is an opportunity to meet others from Explorer groups around the country and gain valuable hands-on experience. In July 1990 the National Explorer group met at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Explorer posts in engineering, military science, or photography will become active if enough interest arises. The posts presently remain inactive.

**Tom Schmitz** is the head of the Explorer program in New Ulm. He works with the various posts and the post advisor.

The Explorer posts are open to all students ages 14 to 21. If you are interested in joining the explorer program, contact Tom Schmitz or a post leader.

## Eagle teams rebuilding



by Shelly Esser  
Graphos Columnist

**Last year the varsity team had a lot of experienced seniors while this year the majority of the athletes are underclassmen.**

This is a rebuilding year for practically all of the NUHS teams. There is little or no varsity experience returning from last year, when many talented athletes graduated. Both the coaches and players have to deal with this problem. The coaches have to learn the strengths and limitations of their players while the players have to learn quickly so they can fill the vacancies as soon as possible. Both groups need to be patient until everyone gets accustomed with each other.

Last year the varsity teams had a lot of experienced seniors while this year the majority of the athletes are

underclassmen. The pattern seems to be that every other grade has a good group of players. Last year's graduating class and this year's juniors and freshmen have a lot of athletes while the senior and sophomore classes don't. The decrease in participants usually occurs in the freshmen and sophomore years.

- Loss of interest,
- loss of confidence,
- serious injury,
- part-time job,
- dissatisfaction with coaches, and
- lack of motivation are the usual explanations.

Fan support can be important to a team's success both at home and on the road. I'm sure every athlete will agree. Oftentimes, when a team gets down, the crowd becomes silent. It really should be the exact opposite because that's when the team needs fan support the most. On the road fans are especially important because the opposing team usually has many more fans.

The biggest fans should really be your teammates, including the people on the bench because they can get the crowd into the game. Sometimes they get down on themselves and their teammates.

Parents are probably the most devoted fans. Sometimes they get too involved in the game and try to do the coaching, too. This can lead to some big problems. All in all, though, the fans are a big influence on a team's success.



Jon Wojciak and Darin Bunkers go up for a hi-five during basketball practice.

## Inexperience slows cagers

by Rich Larson  
Graphos Reporter

Inexperience and a tough schedule may slow down the New Ulm Eagles Boys' Basketball Team this year after winning the South Central Conference for the first time in 23 years last year.

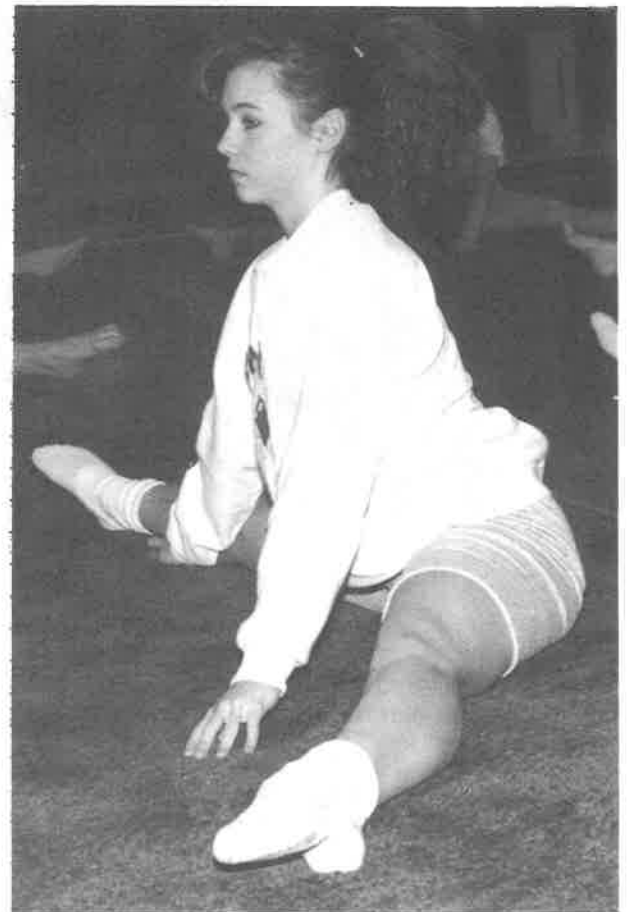
**Ben Frauenholtz** is the Eagles only returning starter from last year's team while the rest of the squad is made up of players from last year's B-squad and JV teams.

"We lost seven of our top eight players from last year's team," said New Ulm coach Jim Senske. "We have

no playing experience other than Ben and our biggest detriment will be the time it takes the kids who haven't played to adjust."

The starting team for the Eagles at this writing has Frauenholtz and **Jeff Boettger** at the wings, **Marrett Grund** and **Jon Hunstad** at the posts and **Jon Wojciak** playing point guard. Coming off the bench will be **Steve Schmidt**, **Will Rimmert**, **Mike Wenninger**, **Eric Jensen**, **Kurt Moelter**, **Darin Bunkers**, **Eric Crabtree**, **Travis Roth** and **Jay Backer**.

Senske expects the players coming off the bench to contribute by putting a



Nicole Fluegge warms up before practice.

## Gymnasts combine strength, agility, creativity

by Joye Schmelting  
Graphos Reporter

**A gymnast needs to be creative to devise an exciting floor routine that must consist of three tumbling passes.**

Gymnastics, what is it? Those who know the sport describe it as exercises for the development of bodily strength and agility.

Gymnasts aren't skinny little runts. "You have to have muscle, balance and strength, especially for floor and the bars. Upper body strength and powerful legs are very important. Flexibility is also an important factor," says sophomore **Heidi Fritz**.

A gymnast needs to be creative to devise an exciting floor routine that must consist of three tumbling passes. The last one should be the most impressive to the judges, and a dance series and a leap series. This routine requires endurance.

A typical day of practice consists of setting up the equipment, warm-ups, and stretching out. The girls then move into groups of three to six people to work for 20 to 30 minutes on each

event. They start easy and move on to the more difficult skills and routines. After practice, the girls either run a mile or lift weights.

If you were to go to a meet, who should you watch? Senior captain **Sara Peterson** has all-around talent in all events. Sophomore **Nicky Fluegge** is dynamic in the floor and beam events while Fritz's best performances involve the bars and the vault.

It's hard to say now who will compete on the varsity level or when they will compete. The three returning varsity members are Peterson, Fluegge, and Fritz. Peterson is the only senior, and Fluegge and Fritz are both sophomores. **Christine Boettger** aims for a spot on the varsity team even though she's only an eighth grader. For the present, she'll compete on the junior high level.

Other gymnastics hopefuls include sophomores **Rachel Swantz**, **Tawnya Bratsch**, **Kerry Hauser**, **Tami Hoffmann**, **Beth Schiltz**, **Becky Schmidt**, and **Jennie Mertz** from Cathedral. The freshmen are **Kristie Benson**, **Jessica Clyne**, **Jessica Heuchert**, **Sarah Nelson**, **Jenny Olson**, and Cathedral's **Denise Kuehn**.

lot of defensive pressure on the opponent.

"We're going to play a lot of people, and we're going to press," said Senske. "We have some speed, but not much rebounding so we're going to try and run. We're going to mix up our defense to confuse the other team, and we'll also put some fullcourt zone and fullcourt man-to-man pressure to try and force some steals."

The Eagles will look for Frauenholz to be in double figures every game and need Hunstad to score from the outside. Grund should be the main rebounder while Wojciak and Moelter will be expected to handle the ball and run the offense.

The Eagles will also face a tougher schedule this year than they have in the past. Some smaller schools were dropped and a couple of traditional power houses in class AA basketball were added, such as Cretin-Durham Hall, Willmar and Mankato East.

The Eagles will also face some tough competition in the SCC. Fairmont

**"We're going to play a lot of people, and we're going to press."**

returns four starters from last year's team which tied New Ulm for the conference title and took third in last year's Class A Tournament.

**Some smaller schools were dropped and a couple of traditional power houses in class AA basketball were added, such as Cretin-Durham Hall, Willmar and Mankato East.**

Blue Earth also returns most of their starters from a strong team last year. Senske feels the Bucs and the Cardinals will be the teams to beat in the SCC. "I think Blue Earth and Fairmont are a notch above everyone else. All the other teams in the conference will probably fight it out for third place."

And what does Senske look for in this year's team? "We know we're young so we'll want improvement each time out. We also want to raise some havoc defensively. We hope to spring some upsets late in the year and play .500 ball with the schedule that we have. I think we can be competitive with the good teams on our good nights."

# Weight concern during season

by Darin Bunkers  
Graphos Reporter

...in order for them to make weight, it might be necessary for them to skip a meal or two."

Weight is as much a part of wrestling as the pitcher is to a baseball team. The wrestlers of NUHS are constantly concerned with their weight, and in order for them to make weight, it might be necessary for them to skip a meal or two.

If not eating doesn't work and the wrestler is still a few pounds overweight, he isn't down for the count yet. It's still possible to obtain the desired weight in a number of ways. One of these is fairly obvious and won't be discussed in this article. For

those who are curious, it would be best to consult the nearest health teacher. Sweating is one of the ways to lose weight. Just ask Senior **Craig Debban**, who was seen running around in layers of sweat suits just to lose those last few pounds.

That method isn't a problem for heavyweight **Matt Schmidt**, but there are 12 other weight classes for other wrestlers.

These classes start at a 103 lb. mark for the light weight and increase to 112 maximum for the next class. The following are the maximum weights for each class: 119, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 160, 171, 189, and the heavyweight class.

Skill, hard work, and making weight are the talents of NUHS wrestlers need to compete successfully.



An Eagle skater moves the puck down the ice against Mankato West.

## Hockey missing graduated seniors

by Chad Ubl  
Graphos Reporter

He shoots! He scores! These famous words are screamed by nearly every hockey announcer, and chances are they will be screamed many times this season for the New Ulm Hockey Eagles. Chances are that those goals will be recorded by a young player.

**This year the Eagles have only four seniors on the varsity team.**

This season the Eagles have several young faces. They lost 13 seniors from last year's team through graduation, and two foreign exchange students returned home. This year the Eagles have only four seniors on the varsity team. The only senior who has seen any varsity action on a regular basis is **Shane Kraus**. Joining Captain Kraus are seniors **Scott Lambrecht** and **Brian Mehlhop** on defense and forward **Chad Freiderich**.

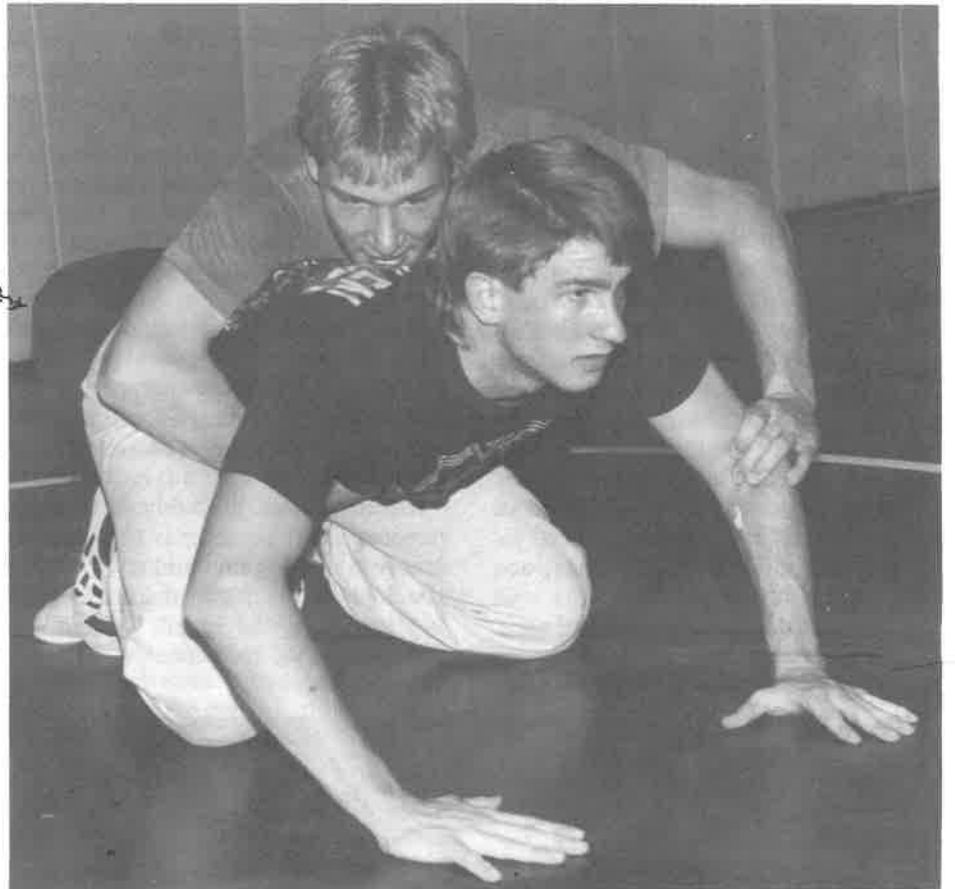
"There are really no big standouts this year like last year with Chad Roeder and Tom Huderlick, and our young players are really talented, so I

don't feel pressured to do a lot of scoring," commented Kraus.

Even though the Eagles have many young players, they are talented. Seven sophomores will start playing on the varsity team. Forwards, **Tom Leskey**, **Shawn Ennis**, **Lonny Rathmann**, **Erik Setterholm**, and **Chet Peterson**. Two sophomore goalies will backup **Jason Rewitzer**, **David Bonnifield**, and Cathedral's **Brian Stolt**.

Seven juniors return this season. Captain **Josh Hemingway** will be joined on defense by **Shane Freiderich** and **Scott Schaefer**. Returning forwards are **Eric Manderfeld**, **Jayne Groebner**, and **Chad Zobel**. Starting as goalie for the Eagles this year will be Rewitzer. Hemingway, Manderfeld, and Rewitzer are the only juniors to experience varsity action last year.

The young Eagles don't have much size on this team. "Early in the season some of the smaller and younger players will get beat around, but as the season goes on they'll get used to it. Everybody has to adjust to the hits you take in high school hockey. After the first couple of hits everybody will be OK," commented Kraus.



Darrin Poss and Andy Frauenholtz work out during an Eagle practice.

## Reinhart, Swenson lead inside game

by Travis Roth  
Graphos Reporter

This year seniority doesn't play as big of a role as it used to on the girls' basketball team. The main priority seems to be height, and two juniors possess a lot of it. **Trish Reinhart** 5'10" and **Alissa Swenson** 6'1" have used their height to create a strong inside game and in doing so have obtained a lot of playing time.

**"It brings out the team aspect of the game, and doesn't let it be a bunch of individuals."**

The other players on the team are usually feeding them the ball inside. "It brings out the team aspect of the game, and doesn't let it be a bunch of individuals," commented Reinhart and Swenson. "Getting the ball inside forces us to take on a leadership role because the others are counting on us for the basket," they continued.

The greatest advantage their height gives them is they don't have to work hard to get open for a shot. "Height makes shooting much easier."

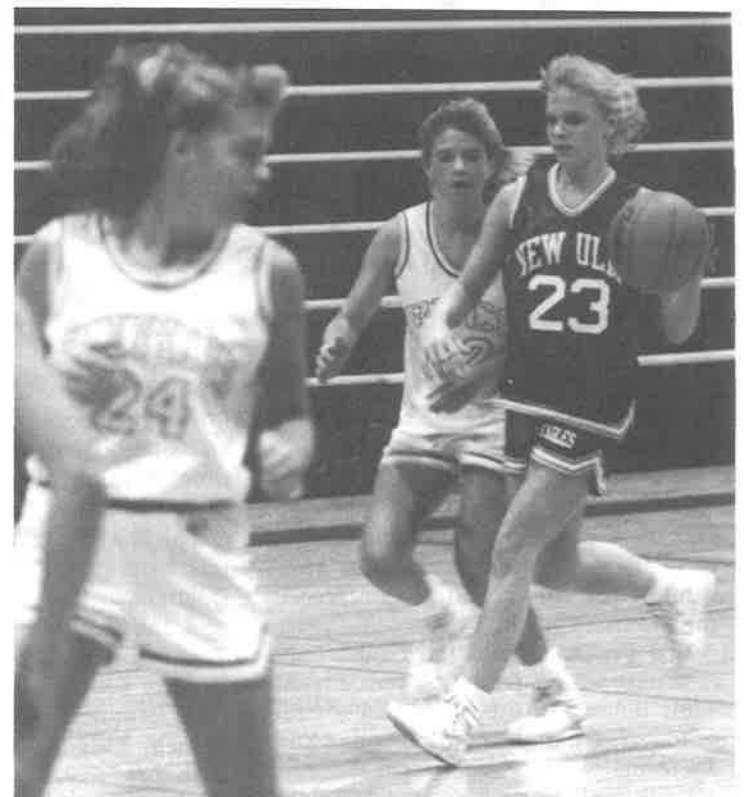
The junior duo observed that the rest of the conference isn't going to be tall so they will probably have a height advantage all year.

Girls' basketball is exciting to watch every game so if you're looking for inside scoring from a pair of tall and

talented pair of juniors, the lady Eagles are the ones to watch this basketball season.



Sara Peterson stretches out before gymnastics practice.



Dawn Arlanson cruises down the court.