

the graphos

February 1990

Volume 73 No. 3 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

Does education pass the final test?

by Amy Dauer and Anne Reilly
Graphos Reporters

One of the primary goals of education is to produce responsible and well-informed individuals who are aware of the world around them. In our environment today, a formal education is practically mandatory, but is the current education system as effective as it should be?

To some students homework seems to cause brain damage. How many students actually do their assignments? Pupils lack motivation and self-discipline. They continually graduate from high school unable to perform simple tasks. Some colleges accept any high school graduate, no matter what their academic record suggests. Others going directly into the work force know the only thing that matters is whether they have a high school diploma.

“Fewer than one in 10 gave the right answer to the question ‘If you borrowed \$1000 at an annual interest rate of 8%, what would be the total owed at the end of one year?’”

A recent study of 11th grade students in American high schools concluded that less than half could identify the half-century during which the American Civil War was fought. Less than half of the juniors tested could locate the Persian Gulf on a world map. Fewer than one in 10 gave the right answer to the question “If you borrowed \$1000 at an annual interest rate of 8%, what would be the total owed at the end of one year?”

American students show the highest level of confidence and yet finish last as far as test results are concerned. Weaknesses in math and science occur most frequently, but study habits,



The educational system in which these students participate is under attack.

reading comprehension, and writing ability are also inadequate. According to English teacher **Walter Jones**, we are increasingly becoming a video society. “Students can see things on television or computers and not be forced to verbalize.”

Various circumstances have contributed to the gradual deterioration of New Ulm’s school system. The elementary school enrollment rate has risen to some of the highest levels in years. Teachers are turning into zookeepers at a zoo. Fewer opportunities are available for both students and teachers as effects of the budget cuts are felt. Social studies teacher **Jim Senske** feels that the quality of time students put in has declined over the years. Part-time jobs have been large impediments when considering time spent on homework.

Several educators feel that grades are stressed too much while others add that grading should be abolished. English teacher **Carol Ackerson** feels the necessity to provide the help students need to succeed. “We can’t afford to have children who fail because they become adults who fail.” One New Ulm High School senior who opposes a harder grading scale said, “Some students don’t do well on tests or in reading but are smart in doing some things just as good as anybody.”

Now that we are aware of the problems, solutions are badly needed. The remedy isn’t as simple as “take two aspirins and call me in the morning.” What is being done to improve our rapidly deteriorating education system? Inducing greater student effort by raising graduation standards often results in a huge number of failures

and high school dropouts. Ackerson has been challenging her students to read critically, write logically and clearly, doubt assumptions, and ask questions.

“We can’t afford to have children who fail because they become adults who fail.”

Our system can in some ways be considered adequate, but there is room for improvement. High level literacy skills such as reading comprehension and organized logical writing demand a student-teacher ratio that allows for individual help. Math and science needs to prepare students for a world in which knowledge doubles in less than five years. Senior **Pat Blomquist** also thinks that focusing on individualism is crucial. “I would place more stress on the individual rather than the group even though it would be expensive and time-consuming.”

Sometimes even the scores of our best students can be appallingly low. Improvement can be gained by de-emphasizing memorization, awarding creativity, and encouraging questions. But don’t forget education is a two-way street. Interesting material presented in a more enjoyable way is more likely to motivate learning. A whole new spectrum of opportunities opens up when students become involved in class discussions they can comprehend.

Education is one of the few things that cannot be taken away from you. It’s a privilege that many people take for granted. Education is almost like the “yellow brick road” leading everyone willing toward a prosperous and fulfilling life of opportunities. Pave this path now and you’ll be thankful for years to come.

Love is in the air

by Chris Christenson
Graphos Reporter

It’s that time of year again. Love and romance are in the air as students are thinking of that special person on this special day.

Traditionally on this day people send cards, candy, and flowers to the ones they love. As kids, we were brought up on the ideas of Valentine’s Day. In school we exchanged Valentines with one another and left hints in the cards to show them that we liked them. As high school students we basically do the same thing except that we take it a little more seriously.

“In school we exchanged Valentines with one another and left hints in the cards to show them that we liked them.”

At NUHS a very popular thing to do is give your Valentine a cookie. The home economics classes make hundreds of Valentine cookies and sell them to the students. They are then

“As the cookies are delivered, you see many excited faces, and once in awhile you see curiosity because the person doesn’t know who ordered the cookie.”

delivered to the student whom that person chooses on Valentine’s Day. As the cookies are delivered, you see many excited faces, and once in awhile you see curiosity because the person doesn’t know who ordered the cookie. The cookies make the day more exciting and make lunch a little more bearable. As you walk down the halls, you see girls with arms full of roses and a very special look in their eye. It’s a very special day when couples express their love for each other and celebrate their relationship together. It is also a day when new relationships begin because that shy person got the courage to tell the person how he feels.

We hope your Valentine’s Day is all that you hoped it to be and that you are with that very special person on this very special day. HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY.



Home economics students spend hours working on the Valentine’s Day cookie sale.

editorial

Living with expectations



by Jen Nagel
Graphos Editor

What is the very most anyone can ask you to be? The unique person you are — yourself. This seems to be an exceptionally simple request until you realize its full meaning. Expectations are placed upon us by many elements of society; parents, friends, teams, teachers, and bosses. Many of these expectations boil down to expectations placed upon us by ourselves. Each of us has the power to decide which outside sources we will allow to influence what we do as well as what we believe.

“...it is a facade that states we are cool people, but we also have a few problems.”

As high school kids we have an image to uphold; it is a facade that states we are cool people, but we also have few problems. Many people fail to realize the pressure we have for success, conformity, acceptance, and role models. Who is watching us? What are we expected to represent? What kind of values do we represent? The choice

of lifestyles we have is limitless. Do we drink, smoke, act responsibly, experiment sexually, strive for success, know ourselves, have fun, or be a friend? A unique combination of these traits makes up each one of us and the values we uphold. In differing situations, each one of these can be an expectation placed upon us, but in the end it is our own choice to decide which expectations we are able to meet and which we are comfortable placing upon ourself.

“Failure to do so is often viewed as hypocrisy by others rather than simply humanness.”

We are human; we are teenagers. It would be naive to go through life thinking that we are infallible and will not make mistakes, be confused, or be embarrassed by our own actions. Taking into consideration that we are human, is it fair to have so many expectations placed on us? Certainly! Would there be a drive to do, to be, to strive if no one ever put expectations on us or if we never put any expectations on ourselves?

Accepting the expectations offered to us comes with rewards, but there is also an element of responsibility. We are expected to live up to our word. Failure to do so is often viewed as hypocrisy by others rather than simply humanness.

Expectations have a meaningful and necessary service in our lives if we treat them reasonably. It isn't reasonable for our parents to expect us to be the perfect young adult, nor is it reasonable for our friends to expect us to be the perfect friend. The most anyone can ask us to be is ourselves, but in the same token what we are and what we allow ourselves the potential to become depends on the expectations we place on us.

Party issues on the platform

by Jody Schiltz
Graphos Columnist

Let's talk politics! I know, it sounds like a really boring topic, but it doesn't have to be.

I think we've all seen, no matter how blind we are to the news, that quite a few of our government leaders are getting themselves in trouble lately. For instance, there's Barney Frank and his sex scandal, senator Dave Durenburger with money and ethics problems, and governor Rudy Perpich was recently described in a national magazine as “goofy.”

“Without the taxpayers money and support, the machine we call government couldn't run as smoothly and efficiently as it does.”

Well, believe it or not, there is something we can do about it. In a few years we'll all be able to vote. Did I just hear you say, “Oh, big deal!” Well, actually it is. Our government doesn't just run by itself. Without the taxpayers' money and support, the machine we call government couldn't run as smoothly and efficiently as it does.



If you think about it, we're actually very lucky to live in a country that holds free elections. Some people in other countries fight and die for that right.

Most of us know that our government is based on a two-party system. I'm not going to tell you how to vote because I have my personal biases, but many people have the idea that it doesn't matter who you vote for because the parties are all the same. Well, they're not. For instance, how do

you feel about environmental protection, our national defense, abortion, firearms laws, education, taxes, drugs, and crime? These are now all major political issues. Both parties have different ideas regarding these issues. And, like I said earlier, it does make a difference. Your one vote could mean the difference between a win or a loss for any candidate. Think about getting politically active in 1990.

The One

There they were —
Together.
Together in each other's arms
Sitting so close in a room dimly lit
By candlelight, and a fireplace fire,
Listening to enchanting love songs.
Holding one another, oh, so close.
Sharing.
Each expressing their love for the other
As they sip champagne from clear crystal wine glasses.
Listen —
“I Love You,” he romantically whispers to her,
Then gently kisses her on the cheek.
She feels a sudden chill run through her —
She feels as though she was overflowing, with love.
The flickering flames light the entire room
With such a warm loving glow.
Just like the glow in my heart —
When I'm with you.
I look deep within your eyes...
I see a very sensitive man, full of warmth and compassion.
I see a flame reflect from a drop of champagne
Slowly rolling down —
Falling from the edge of the crystal glass,
Like the teardrop that is falling from my eye.
One delicate tear, falling —
As I fell for you.
You: the one whom I love so dearly —
My sunshine...
The one who brightened all my days.
It seems, my sweet sunshine has gone away —
And left me —
Left me on my own — alone.
Though you're still close to me — close to my heart,
I have this unexplainable need for a little more
than just a memory.
I need you at my side —
Without you I feel so incomplete.
You say, you'll be there for me —
But, will you?
You say I'll get over you...
Why do you make it sound so easy to do?
I can't possibly begin to explain
The tightening pain in my heart aching for your love.
Maybe my life will continue
And eventually I'll meet others —
But no one could ever compare to you,
For you will always be the one.
The one who has helped me find myself.
The only one who made my life
so worthwhile.
It's so hard to say good-bye
For I've never loved anyone as I love you.
Now, all I can do is cry
For the emptiness inside my heart
— love hurts —
Now I ask you, my love —
Will you always remember me?
For you will always be the one

by Ginger Schneider

the graphos

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

Editors: Jen Nagel and Ann Wisniewski
Art: Matt Schmidt
Photography: Mr. Phil Davis, Mr. John Olsen,
Ross Harpestad, and Nicole Newburg
Advisor: Mr. Ed Weber

The Tipoff



Students pay a price

by Mike O'Connor
Graphos Columnist

"I always thought about the money I'd make and the benefits I'd get, but I never thought about what I'd be missing."

"I have to work tonight" is something that is heard often at NUHS. Having a job has many advantages, but it also has some disadvantages that people don't always think about.

As soon as students are old enough to work, they start looking for a job. I've had a job ever since the 9th grade. I always thought about the money I'd make and the benefits I'd get, but I never thought about what I'd be missing.

Everybody needs money to get the things they need or just want for the hell of it. You gotta have money for college too. How do you get the money? You get a job.

The things I never gave a thought to until this year were the strange hours I worked, the many school activities I couldn't go to, and the job's effect on my performance in school.

If you have to work late hours at night or early in the morning, you don't get enough sleep and you don't always do well in school. But how can you do well if you can hardly stay awake? If you're working at night, how do you get school work done? Do you do it in school during a free time? Probably not because there are too many distractions.

What do you do during the week? If there's a game, you go and hang out



with your friends afterwards. On the weekends you want to be with your friends, but you can't do that if you have to work.

"There are things I'd like to do during my senior year but may not be able to because 'I have to work tonight.'"

I'm not saying that we shouldn't work while going to school. I'm just stating what many of us have probably noticed. There are things I'd like to do during my senior year but may not be able to because "I have to work tonight."

Just think of why you are working. Is it just for the money? Do you enjoy what you're doing? Do you have time to do the things that you want to? If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, then you know how I feel. If you don't know how I feel, you will in the future. So be prepared for some of the disadvantages of working while going to school.

Jobs confuse priorities

"Budgeting time becomes important when holding a job."

the hours that you have to work. Some jobs offer great hours, but others have students working until two in the morning on a school night.

Many people complain about the late hours they have to work and how tired they feel. Students also complain frequently about not having time to do their homework, or attend school activities. That's when their school work begins to suffer. Sometimes students work so many hours they are continually tired.

A job also offers experience in the job market. Students gain valuable experience working with others and learning responsibilities. Sometimes they may not enjoy working with everyone, but this situation has to be experienced, too. You're probably never going to get along with everyone.

Budgeting time becomes important when holding a job. You have to decide when to study, spend time with your friends, and set priorities.

A job is great if it doesn't take away all of your leisure time. If it does, you should ask yourself if this is really important to me? After high school most people will work over 40 years. Is it necessary that teenagers should start working now? School should be the priority in your life now. If people's jobs become a top priority, they may want to quit. You can always work, but attending school and going places with your friends might not be.



by Ann Wisniewski
Graphos Editor

"Some jobs offer great hours, but others have students working until two in the morning on a school night."

Should high school students be working? Eventually everyone will have to work to make a living, but why are so many teenagers flocking to the job market?

Money is a big incentive for many teenagers. It's great to earn your own money and not have to ask your parents for help. However, sometimes money is the only thing people think about. There's a lot to a job, especially

Student mocks school food

Dear editors,

There is a topic of concern that has been on my mind for some time, the food (?) served in the cafeteria.

First, let's discuss the pizza. I have seen some pretty grotesque looking things sitting under the heat lamp. They have cheese on them that could pass for a bouncing ball. If there isn't a melted superball on the top of cardboard, there is a bunch of shredded banana peels on the top of a shoe sole. This is pizza? Not for me. Pizza is supposed to be cheesy and taste good.

The hashbrowns are also a questionable item. The tator tots are about the same as the hashbrowns trapped in a cylinder's body. The edges are really crispy; however, the inner parts are undercooked. You would think that by now the cooks would have figured out how to cook the hashbrowns. Especially since most of the cooks are mothers and have had some experience in this type of work.

The spaghetti noodles slopped on your tray remind me of starchy strings. It was my impression that food must be sanitary and to be sanitary, it must be washed. Well, the noodles that have been slopped upon my tray have been packed with starch. Obviously, if they are full of starch, the noodles have not been washed. Nothing serious, but at least water could be run over the noodles.

Another thing that needs to be addressed is the hamburgers. They remind me a little bit of the Wendy's commercial with the lady asking "Where's the beef?" Every time we have hamburgers for lunch they seem to shrink just a little bit. By the end of

the year, there probably will be no meat in the burger.

The corn dogs look so tantalizing from the outside, but take one bite and it's pure ice. The corn on the outside must be trained to turn just the right color of brown when the inside begins to thaw out. The actual hot dog is very raw and really pretty gross to eat. Again, you'd think that in time the cooks would learn to cook these properly.

The absolute worst about eating food in the cafeteria is "The Line." It takes sooooo long to actually get up to the shelf with the silverware and the trays. Plus, once you get there, you have to wait some more to receive the food. Why? Why do people wait in line to eat something they hate? Human nature can be a little strange at times.

But if a person eats this stuff every day, an immunity can build up. Of course, it takes a while. This seems to be the only good aspect that I can find in the whole lunch system. It's always nice to end on a good note so I'll quit being negative. Especially about the food served at school.

Letter signed but name withheld upon request.

Love and Trust

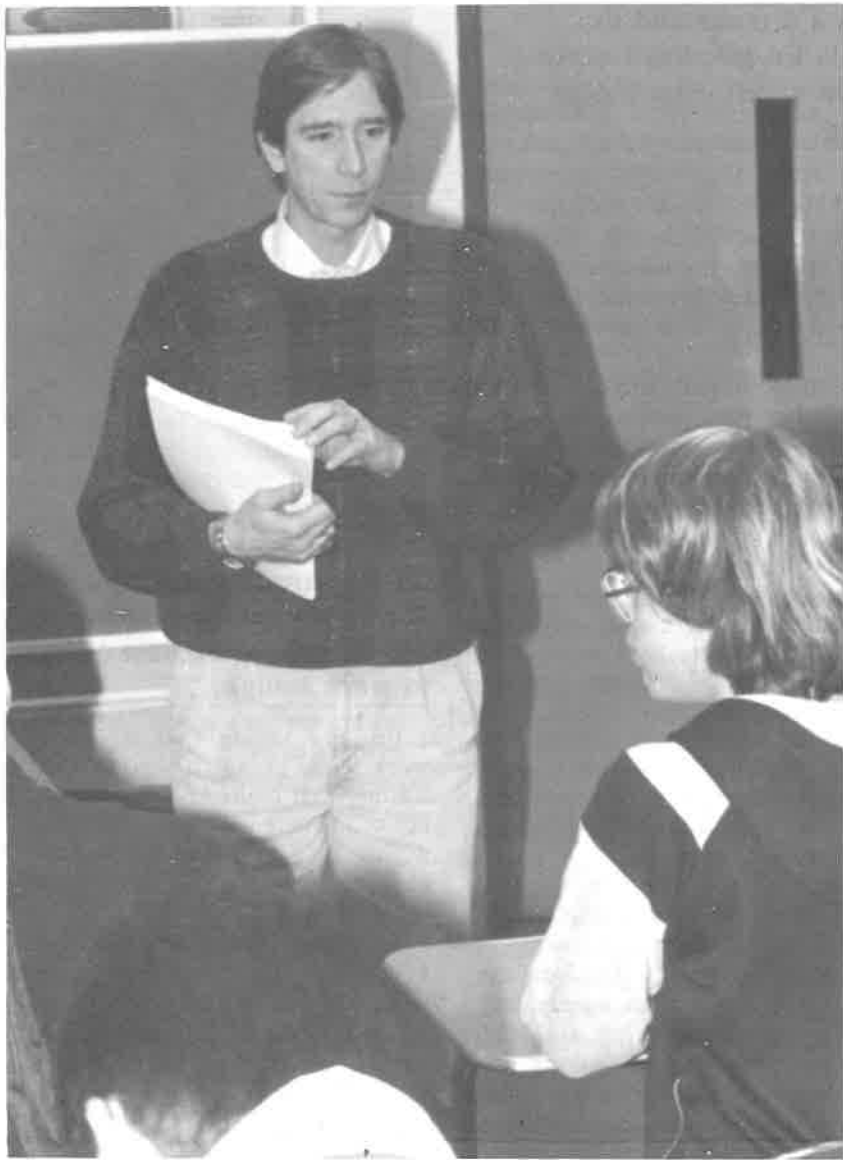
The look in your eyes wasn't hate
But it wasn't the look it once used to be
The love and laughter that used to be there
Is gone for the moment, right into thin air.
Somehow that trust that we shared
Has slipped through the hands of the one I once loved
Friendship is the thing that is supposed to be,
But does one know how difficult that is to succeed?
That's what everyone says...
Can't we just be friends?
That has to be one of the hardest things to achieve
A friendship, that is, of someone who was more than a friend
It's hard to believe that two people can share so much
And then the next day there is nothing there
It's one of the worst feelings there is
I know...
But life goes on, I guess,
But in the end there is one thing that doesn't
The most important thing, love and trust.

by Kathy Hanson

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



Pickus combines classroom work and lab time to make his Auto Tech classes meaningful.

Pickus uses experiences

by Sheri Preisinger
Graphos Reporter

Jim Pickus has been a familiar face in our school for 12 years. He is currently teaching three hours of Beginners Automotive Technology and two hours of Advanced Automotive Technology. Pickus likes to make his class an "experience" for his students by making his classroom a comfortable and positive environment. "Sometimes my jokes don't work very well, though," stated Pickus.

The main assignment in his automotive classes is the building of the Super Mileage Car, but the competition is open to anyone in high school. The main ingredient in the building of these cars is the students' creativity. The students need to know math and physics, in addition to automobile skills. When the time comes to entering the cars in the competition, all the students must prepare a paper about their car.

"This year Pickus and his students are planning to reach 500 miles per gallon with each car."

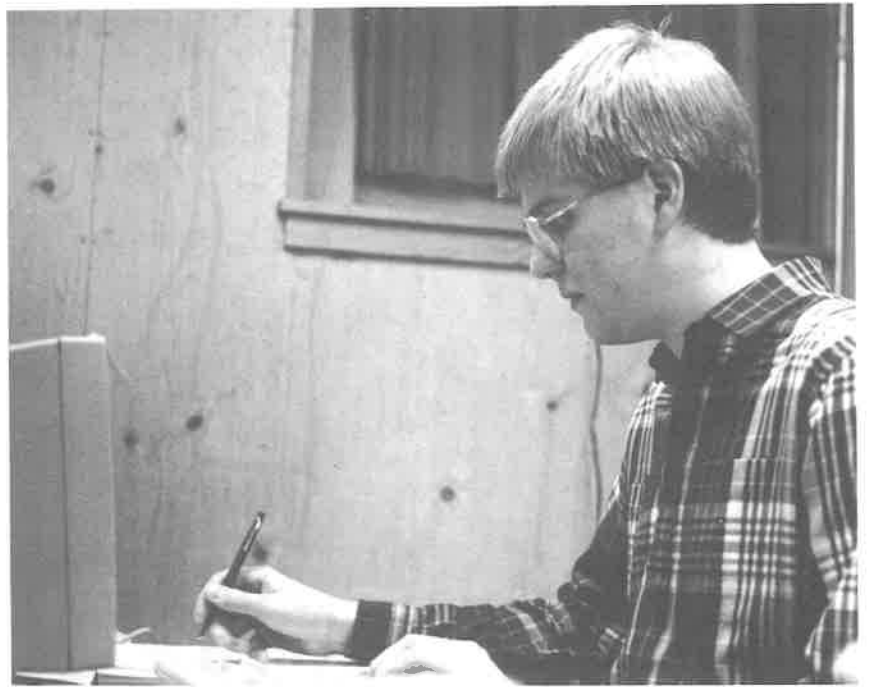
Pickus' classes will compete at St. Cloud State University and again in Marshall, Michigan, where they will be the only high school crew in automotive engineering competing at the college level. This year Pickus and his students are planning to reach 500 miles per gallon with each car. The students will spend extra hours on their cars on Tuesday nights, when they have an open lab. On these nights

Pickus works on some of his own projects while supervising the open lab.

"Pickus receives letters from all over the country about the competition and spends seven to eight hours a week answering letters from interested teachers."

Several years ago Pickus started the Super Mileage Competition in St. Cloud. He got people interested in the competition by having a few workshops during which he handed out applications to see who was interested. The word began to spread, and the money for the competition came from donations. Pickus receives letters from all over the country about the competition and spends seven to eight hours a week answering letters from interested teachers. He expects over 50 vehicles in this year's competition. An article in *Technology Teacher*, a national magazine, featured Pickus, his students, and the Super Mileage Competition.

Outside of school Pickus likes to restore cars. He also likes to play power volleyball and softball and spends some time jogging. Pickus is the seventh and eighth grade football coach and the boys varsity track coach. He enjoys coaching because he likes to watch the athletes improve their talents and abilities. He feels that coaching "keeps him young" and gives him a chance to relate better with kids. Camping is a special way Pickus finds time to relax and enjoy his family. All in all, Pickus likes his days to consist of a busy schedule.



David Trapp punches data into a PC at a New Ulm law firm.

Job market delivers

by Paul Kluge
Graphos Reporter

If you thought that job opportunities for you in New Ulm were limited to waiting tables at the Holiday Inn, pumping gas at Conoco, or flipping burgers and making salads at Hardee's, then think again. In addition to the common and familiar jobs, there are many others. Just ask Tom Flor or David Trapp. Both have jobs that are a little bit out of the ordinary.

"Our biggest project was painting the inside of the Golden Pantry factory in Madelia. Working on and off, it took us all summer to finish."

Flor, a sophomore, has been working for the Glaser-Flor painting company since 1987. His cousin, junior Tom Glaser, works there as well. Glaser-Flor is a family business that tackles all sorts of painting jobs, large and small. Tim recalled one of them: "Our biggest project was painting the inside of the Golden Pantry factory in Madelia. Working on and off, it took us all summer to finish." Most of Flor's work is done during the summer when he has all day for the job. The work can be long and hard, but Flor

enjoys it. While this job has given him experience, Flor is thinking about going to college after he finishes high school.

"He types data into the computer that tells what the attorneys have been doing so the clients can be billed properly."

Trapp, meanwhile, has been typing away on the computers at the law firm of Gislason, Dosland, Hunter, and Malecki. He types data into the computer that tells what the attorneys have been doing so the clients can be billed properly. He describes the work as "interesting" and likes the hours and his co-workers. The firm employs several other people in the data entry area, but he is the only high school student in the department. Trapp, a junior, is thinking about working at this job through his senior year and then going to college.

Flor and Trapp aren't the only NUHS students who aren't just stocking shelves or pumping gas. This writer talked to several students who had unique jobs. One helped with butchering pigs. Others listed a bowling alley, the fitness center, and the golf course as their places of employment.



Sara Gulden and Candi Miller provide McDonald's service with a smile.

Singing, swinging, and entertaining crowds

by Ann Sundell
Graphos Reporter

This year the responsibilities of directing The Payne Street Singers are shared by Allan Hawkins and Debra Dille. All choreography is designed by Jill Curry and Hawkins.

The Payne Street Singers includes 15 members. They are seniors Josh Crabtree, Ryan Love, Krista Stillwell, Kim Burnett, Mary Andryk, Christine Altmann, Jill Hendricks, Michele Flatau, Jenny Retka, Aaron Ingebritson and Chad Baker. Juniors are Anne Werner, John Wellmann, Jay Wiesner and Matt Schmidt.

To become a member of Payne Street Singers you have a week to prepare a solo. The song is selected from music chosen by Hawkins. You are also given an accompaniment tape of the song, and Hawkins has you sing some scales, do sight reading, and submit to an interview. All these are done before Hawkins and a panel of judges.



Payne Street Singers gain performing experience and create good PR for NUHS.

“It provides a small group experience and serves a public relations function for the school.”

When asked what he was looking for in a potential Payne Street Singer, Hawkins replied, “Singing skills of course are important, but I also look for tone quality, sight reading ability, how well the singer expresses themselves through music, stage presence, and attitude. I also consider how committed the singer is and what type of person they have been in class.”

When asked why they tried out for the Payne Street Singers **Mary Andryk** replied, “I enjoy singing and perform-

ing. Payne Street Singers is fun.” **Ryan Love** stated that he first became interested in Payne Street Singers when his older brother was a part of the group when it started in 1983.

Hawkins feels that Payne Street Singers is another outlet for students with musical ability. It provides a small group experience and serves a public relations function for the school. Payne Street Singers represent New Ulm Senior High and our Vocal Music Department when they perform in the community.

Performing for groups and entertaining people is the best part of Payne

Street Singers according to Love. Andryk commented that “The practices are hard, but they really pay off.”

“I want them to experience a wide variety of musical literature.”

Payne Street Singers perform several different types of music: vocal jazz, pop music and chamber choir. In summing up the types of music sung by the Payne Street Singers, Hawkins commented, “I want them to experience a wide variety of musical literature.”

Payne Street Singers will be com-

peting at the Burnsville Invitational Show Choir Festival where they will compete as both a pops and a chamber choir. They will be judged on quality of performance, blend, intonation, and appearance. On April 29 the Payne Street Singers will sing at the Minnesota Festival of Music.

During December you may have seen the Payne Street Singers caroling downtown. This tradition began three years ago when the New Ulm Retail Association approached Hawkins with the idea of a group of students caroling downtown in the weeks before Christmas.

Hammerschmidt Division I recruit



One of New Ulm's best, pitcher Andy Hammerschmidt will choose which baseball scholarship to accept.

by Jenny Retka
Graphos Reporter

“He's had scholarship offers from the U of Minnesota; Pacific; Iowa State; U of Wisconsin, Madison; Texas A&M; Oklahoma St.; Wichita St.; and Creighton University.”

Andy Hammerschmidt's dedication and hard work as a baseball player has paid off. Numerous colleges around the nation want Andy to play baseball for them. He's had scholarship offers from the U of Minnesota; Pacific; Iowa State; U of Wisconsin, Madison; Texas A&M; Oklahoma St.; Wichita St.; and Creighton University.

Hammerschmidt started his baseball career playing T-ball at the age of four. As a 12 year old he participated in the NBC Jr. World Series and was also a member of the All-State team. Throughout his junior high years, Hammerschmidt played on a variety of teams including Babe Ruth, VFW, Legion, and Kaiserhoff. In his sophomore year he participated in the state high school tournament in which NUHS took third in the state.

Baseball has been with Hammerschmidt throughout his whole life. It has taught him discipline, responsibility, competition, and self control. The motivation to play comes from his parents, and his coaches receive a lot of credit for developing Hammerschmidt's talent. Baseball is hard work and dedication, but Hammerschmidt realizes that “Your future depends on how hard you practice in the present.”

“Hammerschmidt realizes that ‘Your future depends on how hard you practice in the present.’ ”

Ideally, Hammerschmidt would like to attend Oklahoma State, Arizona State, or Texas A&M because of their top-notch baseball programs, yet he's still interested in the U of M and Creighton. He's also leaning towards the school with the best engineering program. Wherever Hammerschmidt decides to go, he'll take along his love for baseball. “To become a baseball player, you need the dedication and self confidence to be a leader on the field and to gain the respect of your teammates,” commented Hammerschmidt.



This kind of snowy winter sport has been replaced by fun in the sun.

Minnesotans skip winter hibernation

by Sonja Holm
Graphos Reporter

“Every normal minded student anticipates a blizzard.”

Every year the winter snow and cold come too early, and stay far beyond their welcome. The only way to avoid winter is to pack up and move to a warmer area (Florida would be nice!) or lock yourself in a room without a window and come out in spring. Unfortunately, neither option is very practical.

So what do Minnesotans do? Some of us keep up an annoying string of complaints and gripes while others don't even seem to realize it's below freezing. But since many of us have

lived most of our lives in Minnesota, the land of winter and wind chills, we have all learned to find things that make the long winter a little more bearable.

Some people take advantage of the slopes at Mt. Kato while others use the ski trails at Flandrau State Park. Besides being outside in the invigorating winter air, both activities are excellent forms of exercise. Because there are two major winter holidays with so much tantalizing, tempting food, a little exercise is not a bad idea! And who knows who you'll meet as the wind rushes through your hair or you ski down those slopes!

If skiing sounds like a good way to break a leg and breaking a leg doesn't seem real appealing to you, there's a lot of other things to do. Every normal minded student anticipates a blizzard. You know the kind, 30 mph wind, zero

visibility, and three foot snow drifts blocking everybody's driveway. If the school administration cooperates, we are all relieved of solving monotonous equations and attending school for a day or two.

If your car starts and you can get out of your driveway, these are perfect days to spend with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Curl up on the couch under a warm, comforting afghan, and watch the flakes blow by the window. Hopefully one of you has a fireplace. As the day slowly transforms into night, you can sit in front of the warm embers and enjoy the peace that follows the storm.

And after the storm has passed, it's a good time to revert to your childhood. Go outside and play! Remember those ugly red and black moon boots your parents used to make you wear? And the snowmobile suits? It's probably not necessary to wear that kind of

winter apparel, but you can still enjoy the newfallen snow. Pelt your friends with snowballs or dig those tunnels you always thought were so cool. Find your little brother and rub snow all over his face. Go in your backyard, lay in the snow and make angels. When you feel the cold snow inside your coat, you'll realize why your mom made you wear snow pants!

Many people enjoy snowmobiling, and if you are fortunate enough to live by an open area, your yard will have many "beautiful" trails going through it. People of all ages get out their sleds, inner tubes, and toboggans. Unfortunately, sometimes there are too many people on the hill you are using.

Ah, yes. Winter in Minnesota. What do we do? Whether it's skating, letting snowflakes fall on your tongue, or complaining about winter, we are stuck with it. So enjoy it!

FFA focuses on farming technology

by Jay Wiesner
Graphos Reporter

“Agriculture is changing all the time because of the science and technology involved.”

How much do you know about FFA? Do you realize how much work goes into FFA and the agriculture program at NUHS? This reporter didn't until he talked to instructor Scott Stuckey.

The name of the organization is no longer Future Farmers of America. It is now called the National FFA Organization because it deals with all the careers related to agriculture.

FFA is open to high school students from 8th grade until age 22. If you are a junior or senior in high school and you have never been involved in FFA, you can still participate.

There are three parts to agriculture as a class. There is the classroom work, FFA work, and the Supervised Agri-

culture Experience (SAE), a program in which students are placed in a job.

The ag department grows crops on land owned by the school district, but that land has been sold and can be used for only one more year. Students have had to stay in the classroom more because of budget cuts eliminating much of their previous hands-on experience.

Every year FFA has a fruit sale before Christmas as a fund raiser. The money pays for the various conventions that many FFAers attend.

Stuckey, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, teaches in the morning at the senior high and in the afternoon at the junior high. He also works with the Young Farmers, a group for students who have left high school. It is a group trying to bridge the gap between high school and managing your own farm.

Agriculture is changing all the time because of the science and technology involved. Ag students have to learn more than how to run a farm now.

“Farming has become an extraordinary business. You have to make management decisions,” Stuckey stated. For example, you can turn on a monitor in the Ag Room to find out

what the commodities prices are on the Chicago Board of Trade. A chemical that is legal this year could be illegal next year because of recent research and information.



The season of love is upon us — Happy Valentine's Day!

sports

New Ulmites like their baseball



by Josh Crabtree
Graphos Columnist

"...all of the different reasons come down to the fact that New Ulm puts much more emphasis on baseball than it does on any other sport."

Picture, if you will, these two different situations. First, a football game, New Ulm vs. Fairmont. New Ulm is trailing with three minutes to go, but they have the ball and drive down the field for a couple of first downs. However, New Ulm is unable to pull out a victory.

Second situation: New Ulm vs. Fairmont in baseball. It is the bottom of the ninth with one out. New Ulm trails by two. The Fairmont pitcher gets rattled and walks two runners. The next pitch is wild and the runners advance. The batter steps out and takes the sign. The pitch is on the way. CRACK! New Ulm wins by one.

I have heard this kind of comparison many times. People ask why can't New Ulm win in football or basketball, or any other sport for that matter, like they do in baseball. New Ulmites have all kinds of ideas. For instance, there is a tradition in baseball that no other

sport has, or the athletes aren't as good in other sports as they are in baseball. There are others.

All of these reasons may be true, but I think that all of the different reasons come down to the fact that New Ulm puts much more emphasis on baseball than it does on any other sport.

"...I don't think you can build a strong program on eight Saturdays a year."

The feeder program for baseball is superior to the feeder programs for any other sport. The dedication and time spent by the athletes, coaches, and parents involved with baseball is greater. There are baseball teams for every kid in New Ulm from ages five to whenever they don't want to play anymore. The teams play two, sometimes three times a week for almost two and a half months. Basketball has the Saturday morning program, and the fifth and sixth graders meet on an occasional Thursday night. However, the time spent is nowhere near that of baseball. The football program is only on Saturday mornings for third through sixth graders, and it only lasts for eight Saturdays in the fall. Tell me if I'm wrong, but I don't think you can build a strong program on eight Saturdays a year.

In the baseball program kids have to try out to make a team, and when they get older, some kids get cut because they aren't good enough. In other sports people believe that every kid should get to play no matter what their ability is.

Don't get the wrong idea. I like baseball, but I also like football, basketball, and many other sports. The time spent on baseball and the level of competition New Ulm teams compete at is what makes New Ulm baseball so great. If this much emphasis would be put on other sports, we could have good football and hockey teams also, but we don't. Until changes are made in the other programs, New Ulm will only have good baseball teams.

Boys' basketball team overcomes lack of height

by Ryan Love
Graphos Reporter

"Coach Jim Senske said that because of the players' good work ethic the team has been able to stay in almost every game."

The key to this year's boys' basketball team is defense. The lack of height has forced them to play a defensive game featuring good team speed and quickness.

Coach Jim Senske said that because of the players' good work ethic the team has been able to stay in almost every game. He also noted that the Eagles understand the switching defense he has installed. Their intelligence enables this group of players

to make the adjustments in game situations.

"Arlandson has been the key to the Eagles defense because of his 6' 4" height."

The team leaders on defense are Matt Senske, Josh Crabtree, Ben Frauenholtz, and Scott Arlandson. Arlandson has been the key to the Eagles defense because of his 6' 4" height. He has been an intimidating force around the basket because of his ability to leap and block shots. He plays taller than his 6' 4" frame. Arlandson feels that Senske's emphasis on defense fits his game very nicely.

Compared to the other conference teams, the Eagles are below average in height. They compensate for their lack of height with team speed and an excellent work ethic.



Chad Kraus is a key player on New Ulm's hot line.

Pucksters ice hot line

by Rick Kobs
Graphos Reporter

"These three have over half of the Eagles' goals scored this season."

One of the hottest lines in Southern Minnesota is the one consisting of Tom Hudrlik, Chad Kraus, and Chad Roeder. These three have scored over half of the Eagles' goals this season. They work together so well it seems every pass, shot, or play appears to be right on. Their talent and ability is evident by the way they dig the puck out of the corners to breaking the puck out of our own zone.

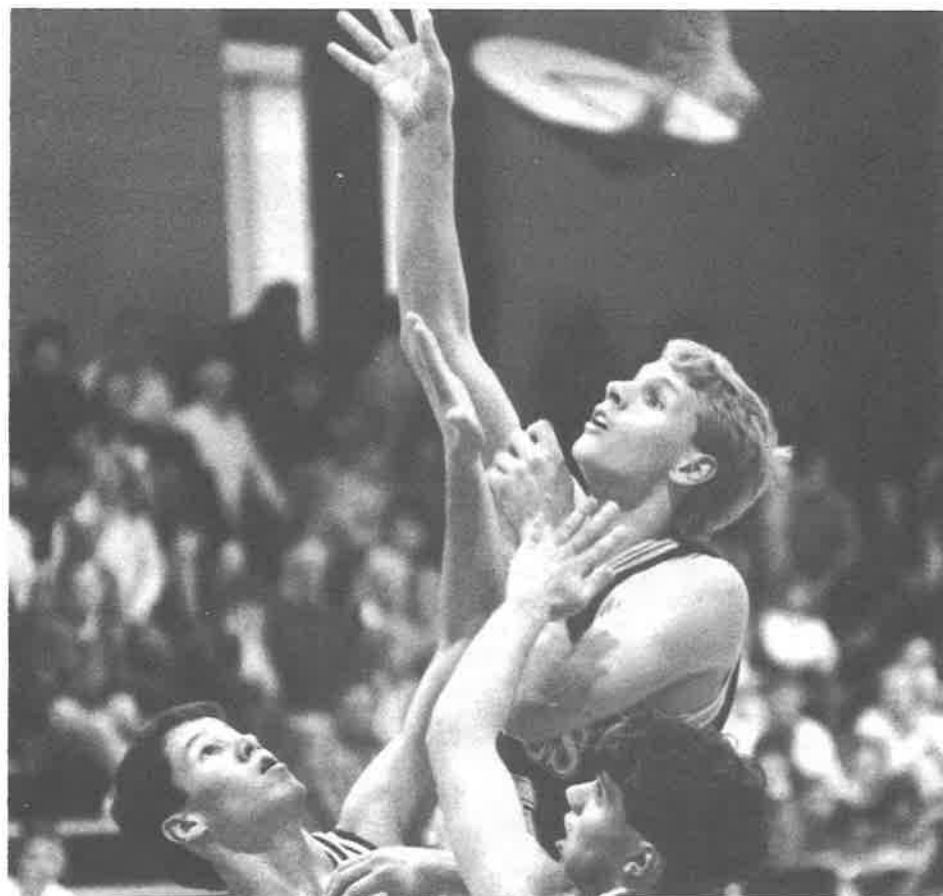
The left wing is Tom Hudrlik, number 4. Hudrlik is a senior and one of the captains. He is the scrapiest

player on the team, going for the puck in the corner and fighting for position in front of the net. He is planning to attend the University of Minnesota, Duluth. At this writing Hudrlik has 10 goals and 11 assists.

The center of the line is number 18 Chad Kraus, another senior. He has the best shot on the team with a strong slapshot and a quick backhand. Kraus' plans after high school are uncertain. He currently has eight goals and 13 assists.

The right wing is filled by number 10, senior captain Chad Roeder, the best all around player on the team. Roeder is one of the top scorers in the state with 35 points.

Roeder plans on continuing his hockey career under coach Don Brose with the Mankato State University Mavericks. Roeder had 21 goals and 14 assists as of this writing.



Scott Arlandson plays taller than his 6'4" frame.

the graphos

February 1990

Volume 73 No. 3 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

Does education pass the final test?

by Amy Dauer and Anne Reilly
Graphos Reporters

One of the primary goals of education is to produce responsible and well-informed individuals who are aware of the world around them. In our environment today, a formal education is practically mandatory, but is the current education system as effective as it should be?

To some students homework seems to cause brain damage. How many students actually do their assignments? Pupils lack motivation and self-discipline. They continually graduate from high school unable to perform simple tasks. Some colleges accept any high school graduate, no matter what their academic record suggests. Others going directly into the work force know the only thing that matters is whether they have a high school diploma.

“Fewer than one in 10 gave the right answer to the question ‘If you borrowed \$1000 at an annual interest rate of 8%, what would be the total owed at the end of one year?’”

A recent study of 11th grade students in American high schools concluded that less than half could identify the half-century during which the American Civil War was fought. Less than half of the juniors tested could locate the Persian Gulf on a world map. Fewer than one in 10 gave the right answer to the question “If you borrowed \$1000 at an annual interest rate of 8%, what would be the total owed at the end of one year?”

American students show the highest level of confidence and yet finish last as far as test results are concerned. Weaknesses in math and science occur most frequently, but study habits,



The educational system in which these students participate is under attack.

reading comprehension, and writing ability are also inadequate. According to English teacher **Walter Jones**, we are increasingly becoming a video society. “Students can see things on television or computers and not be forced to verbalize.”

Various circumstances have contributed to the gradual deterioration of New Ulm’s school system. The elementary school enrollment rate has risen to some of the highest levels in years. Teachers are turning into zookeepers at a zoo. Fewer opportunities are available for both students and teachers as effects of the budget cuts are felt. Social studies teacher **Jim Senske** feels that the quality of time students put in has declined over the years. Part-time jobs have been large impediments when considering time spent on homework.

Several educators feel that grades are stressed too much while others add that grading should be abolished. English teacher **Carol Ackerson** feels the necessity to provide the help students need to succeed. “We can’t afford to have children who fail because they become adults who fail.” One New Ulm High School senior who opposes a harder grading scale said, “Some students don’t do well on tests or in reading but are smart in doing some things just as good as anybody.”

Now that we are aware of the problems, solutions are badly needed. The remedy isn’t as simple as “take two aspirins and call me in the morning.” What is being done to improve our rapidly deteriorating education system? Inducing greater student effort by raising graduation standards often results in a huge number of failures

and high school dropouts. Ackerson has been challenging her students to read critically, write logically and clearly, doubt assumptions, and ask questions.

“We can’t afford to have children who fail because they become adults who fail.”

Our system can in some ways be considered adequate, but there is room for improvement. High level literacy skills such as reading comprehension and organized logical writing demand a student-teacher ratio that allows for individual help. Math and science needs to prepare students for a world in which knowledge doubles in less than five years. Senior **Pat Blomquist** also thinks that focusing on individualism is crucial. “I would place more stress on the individual rather than the group even though it would be expensive and time-consuming.”

Sometimes even the scores of our best students can be appallingly low. Improvement can be gained by de-emphasizing memorization, awarding creativity, and encouraging questions. But don’t forget education is a two-way street. Interesting material presented in a more enjoyable way is more likely to motivate learning. A whole new spectrum of opportunities opens up when students become involved in class discussions they can comprehend.

Education is one of the few things that cannot be taken away from you. It’s a privilege that many people take for granted. Education is almost like the “yellow brick road” leading everyone willing toward a prosperous and fulfilling life of opportunities. Pave this path now and you’ll be thankful for years to come.

Love is in the air

by Chris Christenson
Graphos Reporter

It’s that time of year again. Love and romance are in the air as students are thinking of that special person on this special day.

Traditionally on this day people send cards, candy, and flowers to the ones they love. As kids, we were brought up on the ideas of Valentine’s Day. In school we exchanged Valentines with one another and left hints in the cards to show them that we liked them. As high school students we basically do the same thing except that we take it a little more seriously.

“In school we exchanged Valentines with one another and left hints in the cards to show them that we liked them.”

At NUHS a very popular thing to do is give your Valentine a cookie. The home economics classes make hundreds of Valentine cookies and sell them to the students. They are then

“As the cookies are delivered, you see many excited faces, and once in awhile you see curiosity because the person doesn’t know who ordered the cookie.”

delivered to the student whom that person chooses on Valentine’s Day. As the cookies are delivered, you see many excited faces, and once in awhile you see curiosity because the person doesn’t know who ordered the cookie. The cookies make the day more exciting and make lunch a little more bearable. As you walk down the halls, you see girls with arms full of roses and a very special look in their eye. It’s a very special day when couples express their love for each other and celebrate their relationship together. It is also a day when new relationships begin because that shy person got the courage to tell the person how he feels.

We hope your Valentine’s Day is all that you hoped it to be and that you are with that very special person on this very special day. HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY.



Home economics students spend hours working on the Valentine’s Day cookie sale.