

the graphos

March 1990

Volume 73 No. 4 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

Becker, Birkemeyer grow up fast



One and a half year old Kayla and her mom, Stacy Becker, are learning and growing together.

by Sonja Holm
Graphos Reporter

"I was so afraid of what my dad would say. I thought my mom would be more understanding, but it turned out to be the other way around."

Teenage pregnancies are a rapidly growing problem in the United States today. United States leads this fast-paced world in rates of teenage pregnancy, teenage childbirth, and teenage abortion. In comparing the teenage pregnancy rate in the United States to other countries, the results are alarming. The rate in the United States is more than double the rate of England, nearly triple the rate of Sweden, and seven times the rate in the Netherlands. Each year more than one million teenagers become pregnant and about one-half actually give birth.

Even though there is the option of adoption or abortion, more and more teen girls are choosing to give up their action-filled, exciting high school years for a life as a mother and an adult.

Stacy Becker, a senior at New Ulm High School, and her boyfriend Tim Birkemeyer have had to grow up fast during the past two years. After six months of seeing each other (when Becker was a sophomore), Becker thought she might be pregnant. Frightened, she went to Birthright for a pregnancy test. The agony of not

knowing if she was carrying a child was intensified when Birthright told her to come back in a week.

Probably one of the longest weeks of Becker's life passed before she went in for her pregnancy test. The results showed she was pregnant.

Becker remembers, "I was so afraid of what my dad would say. I thought my mom would be more understanding, but it turned out to be the other way around." Becker's mother made her go to Planned Parenthood for a test to confirm the test. After the second test showed that Becker was definitely pregnant, her mother opted for abortion. Her father also shared the same opinion of aborting the unborn fetus.

Birkemeyer and Becker had some difficult choices to make. Should they have an abortion, give the baby up for adoption, or raise the child themselves? During this whole terrifying and confusing experience Birkemeyer recalls, "I was very supportive. It wasn't my fault, and it wasn't hers. It was both of ours."

They talked to many people before making the final decision. "We talked to many different people. Judy Kuster, a counselor at Birthright, the people at Family Services, Marcia Nagel, and Susan Sloan, the social worker who handles all cases of teenage pregnancies in the New Ulm area. If it weren't for her, we'd be nowhere."

Becker vividly remembers how hard and confusing it was to make the final decision. "At first I wanted to keep the baby. But later I told Tim maybe abor-

tion was best because my mom kept pushing that. That made me mad because my mom was always against abortion, but when it was ME who was pregnant, then it was O.K."

After much careful and painful consideration, Becker made her decision. "I couldn't give it up I didn't want someone else raising my baby." She decided to raise the baby with Birkemeyer.

"That made me mad because my mom was always against abortion, but when it was ME who was pregnant, then it was O.K."

During Becker's pregnancy, her friends and family reacted in different ways. "All of my friends were very supportive. They all said they were glad I was keeping it, and they would babysit. My mom's side of the family was against the whole thing, and my dad's side accepted it for what it was and didn't say much. I was very excited about the whole thing." She paused and laughed. "You want to know how I really felt? I felt like I was a condo. I was very uncomfortable because I went to school until the day Kayla (Becker's daughter) was born. I got so tired from walking all the time!"

Kayla Birkemeyer was born on a Friday morning one and a half years ago. After Kayla's birth, complete chaos erupted.

Birkemeyer, Kayla's natural father, was required to sign paternity papers stating that he was responsible for Kayla, and that Kayla would receive the surname Birkemeyer. Becker's mom was in the room and angrily told the nurse that Kayla would have Becker as a last name. Stacy and Tim

had already agreed that Kayla would receive Birkemeyer as a name so Birkemeyer signed the paternity papers. He thinks "From that day on it's been a conflict. Her parents didn't think we were smart enough to find our own answers, and they didn't like the fact that we did."

After recovering from Kayla's birth, Becker returned to her old life as a high school student. But knowing Kayla and Tim were at home made high school quite different. "It was hard to go back to school. I didn't talk much, and I felt like I couldn't associate with anyone. I used to ask my mom to call school and tell them I was sick. I wasn't sick, but I just wanted to spend time with Tim and Kayla. But now I look at school in a different way. I look forward to school where I can see my friends. It's a getaway where I don't have to worry about anything else. And now my friends treat me the way they always have. Maybe even better, more adult-like."

After Tim and Kayla Birkemeyer and Becker have been a family for a year and a half, Becker has noticed a few changes in herself. "I take things more seriously than I used to, and I have to look at things as an adult. Now my family comes first. There are some days when I just think, 'Oh, My God,' but I enjoy Kayla. It's great watching her grow up!"

Even though teenage pregnancy rates are rapidly climbing, there are helpful resources such as Birthright, Planned Parenthood, and Family Services available. Birkemeyer suggested, "It's not something I promote, but if it does happen, go to someone who will help you. Someone who will give you the black and the white, so you're not living a life of lies."

Curriculum trends evaluated

by Paul Kluge
Graphos Reporter

With so many people graduating without being able to write coherent sentences or do simple math, a return to the basics could be helpful.

"...Our school offers a diverse curriculum to meet the wide range of student needs, interests and abilities...", proclaims one of the paragraphs in our school folder. Lately, however, whether or not enough classes are available here has been questioned. Also, are the right classes being offered? Are there any changes that should be made, or are things fine the way they are now?

In high schools nationwide the trend is toward a less diverse curriculum. That means fewer electives and probably more required classes. The idea behind this trend is that the schools should make sure that their students know the basics. It can do that a little better if all of the students get the same education, which involves taking more of the same courses that everyone else must take. A smaller curriculum also

costs less, a plus for schools in tight financial situations. With so many people graduating without being able to write coherent sentences or do simple math, a return to the basics could be helpful.

There are also serious problems that come with a smaller number of courses being offered. By limiting course offerings schools could also be limiting students' career choices or education potential. High school is a place where by taking different courses you can find out what you like and what you don't. There's always the possibility that you will like something that you've never tried or didn't know about. With less courses, students might be losing out on the opportunity to try something new or find out more about themselves. Another problem with a more standardized curriculum is that not everyone likes or does well in the same kinds of classes. What might be right for one person could possibly not help someone else at all. The biggest drawback, however, to having a greater variety of offerings and focusing on the individual, rather than the group, would be its cost. This school district

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editorial

Test correcting causes conflicts



by Ann Wisniewski
Graphos Editor

Having students correct tests creates many problems.

"When you are finished with your test, hand it in and then we will correct them when everyone is finished" is a familiar saying before a test is taken. We don't believe in correcting tests during class.

Sometimes it takes the entire hour to correct a test when we could be doing something more productive. Imagine how many class hours are taken by correcting tests.

Some teachers feel that correcting tests in class will help students understand immediately what they did wrong, but without your own test, it's

difficult to remember how you completed the test. Teachers also like the time it saves them.

Having students correct tests creates many problems. For example, if a question asks you to list five different answers and there are more than five answers to the question, you now have 26 people interpreting a test response. Sometimes students don't use good judgment.

In the future, we would like to see more tests corrected by the teacher followed by review with the students.

Some students don't add scores correctly. Because the class period is almost over, the papers are turned in, and you don't get to look over your test for a day or two. By the time you get back your test, most people forget what the correct answers were and what they had questions about.

There is also a lack of privacy when a student corrects your test. It is nobody's business how you did on a test except the teacher and you.

We believe that students learn more from going over their own tests after a teacher corrects them rather than when a student corrects them. Students learn what their mistakes were when a teacher goes over the entire corrected test. We feel students need opportunities to learn from any mistakes and discuss their answers with the teacher.

In the future, we would like to see more tests corrected by the teacher followed by a review with the students.

Student test scores should remain confidential.

Flashback to the 1980s

by Heather Holm
Graphos Reporter

"Dallas" was the first and most successful prime-time soap opera. It ranked number one during the 1980-81 television season.

Our school was much different in the early 80s. Students attending the Senior High had more privileges than we do today. Seniors enjoyed a lounge set aside just for them where they played foosball and ping pong. (Anything to avoid homework!) Detention was nonexistent. Skippers were punished by sitting at the "naughty table" during their lunch period. The other part of the punishment was they had to eat last. (The delicious hot lunch was \$.65 back then) Another privilege students had during the early 80s was they were not required to bring a pass to admit to a class after an absence.

Although students had more privileges, a severe recession prevented one out of five students from getting a summer job. This figure is low compared to the entire United States because we are a community frequently sheltered from national trends. As gas prices soared to \$1.43 a gallon, fewer students could afford driving to school.

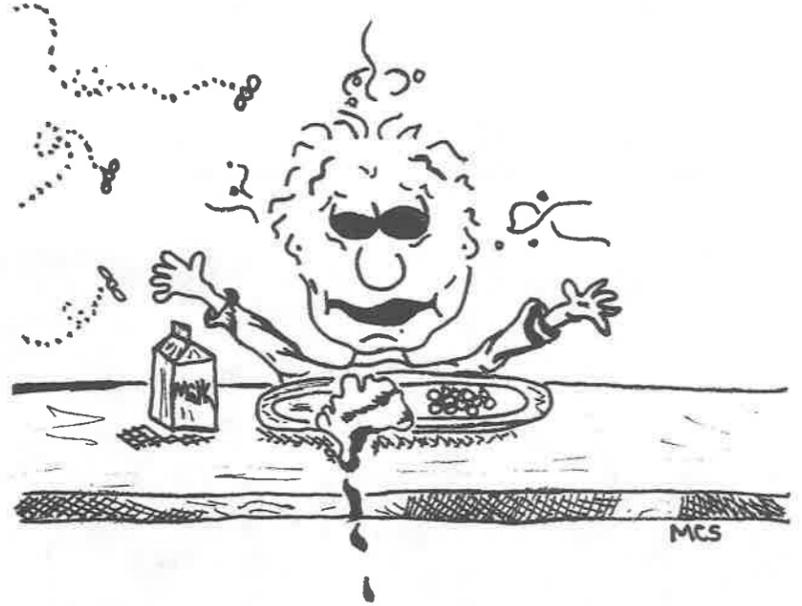
Clothing styles have changed greatly

since the early 80s. Monogrammed sweaters and oxford button-down shirts with the collar up were very popular. Jeans had straight cut legs. (No rolled or pinned jeans!) Duck shoes and deck shoes were necessities for girls. During 1981 Calvin Klein jeans became popular because Brooke Shields modeled the jeans in commercials. Fifteen million Calvins were sold in 1981. Video games also became popular in 1981. Pac-man was everyone's favorite game. Two point eight billion dollars was spent on video games in 1981. "Dallas" was the first and most successful prime-time soap opera. It ranked number one during the 1980-81 television season. In 1982 "E.T." was the top movie. The following year, the finale of M*A*S*H was watched by viewers everywhere.

Monogrammed sweaters and oxford button-down shirts with the collar up were very popular.

Fast-food restaurants "modernized" and began to install drive-thrus. (What would we do without them today?) The Holiday Inn was constructed. It was a welcomed construction because it offered new jobs to New Ulm students. New Ulm also got a Chinese restaurant.

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Mikey Says:
"Just Say No."

Hannah Bauer needs our help

by Mike O'Connor
Graphos Columnist

The parents of Hannah came to the high school and asked Principal George Wagner if we would be willing to allow someone to come into the cafeteria each day during lunch to man a donation box.

You may have heard of a little girl named **Hannah Bauer**. She is the daughter of John Bauer and Gretchen (Schmiesing) Bauer both of whom are New Ulm Senior High School graduates. The thing that some of you might not know is that Hannah has a genetic metabolic disorder which is known as GM2 gangliosidosis. It is a degenerative disease that causes brain cells to act abnormally and is fatal without treatment.

The only treatment for GM2 gangliosidosis is a bone marrow transplant. This procedure costs \$250,000 and up. There have been numerous fund raisers with many people donating money to help defray the expense of the operation. The parents of Hannah came to the high school and asked Principal George Wagner if we would be willing to allow someone to come into the cafeteria each day during lunch to man a donation box. This was brought to assistant Principal Dick LaPatka and this writer to see what the Student Council wanted to do, if anything. We knew we wanted to do something but didn't think that a donation box would get a great response.

Some Student Council members tossed around various ideas and agreed on one. The idea of having a joint school dance had come up before in past years but never materialized. Well, this would be the perfect opportunity to see how good the idea is, and it is for a great cause.



The student councils of both high schools are going to put on a joint dance with all the proceeds going to help Bauer.

There still are meetings to be held with the Cathedral Student Council, but this is what the New Ulm Senior High School Student Council has come up with. The student councils of both high schools are going to put on a joint dance with all the proceeds going to help Bauer. The dance is set for the 20th of April and is going to run for three hours (9:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.). The Dancing Machine has donated their time and music to this worthy cause.

This is a perfect opportunity for everybody to have some fun and help someone in need at the same time.

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.

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Butterflies possess power



by Jen Nagel
Graphos Editor

Think back to the stresses of your little-kid years: the first day of school, piano recitals, going to the dentist, or your family fights. The butterflies that inhabited your stomach seemed so abundant, you readily would have testified that they were actually multiplying bunny rabbits in disguise. The years between those childlike stresses and now may seem great, but the butterflies of excitement, anxiety, and nervousness are still regular residents of our thoughts.

“The trick is not to rid your stomach of butterflies, but to make them fly in formation.”

Few high school students can say they've never worried about a speech, a first date, free throws in the midst of a noisy crowd, prom, college entrance exams, paying for a car of your own, job interviews, or ending relationships.

Every single person is going to experience different feelings in these situations. Are butterflies a negative sign? Would you rather live a life never feeling scared, nervous, or excited? The inflections in our moods provide a safeguard so that we might never forget what it feels like to be truly alive.

Consider the statement: “The trick is not to rid your stomach of butterflies, but to make them fly in formation.” I love this quotation and can see the wisdom it expresses. Each of the above examples are situations that although they may occur in a group, have to be dealt with alone.

The trick is to gain control of your own nervousness, put them into positions of power, and allow them to work to your benefit.

Picture standing on the free throw line with teammates and opponents poised for the ball while loud cheering crowds mount the excitement. You are one individual in the midst of a tense situation and it probably wouldn't be human if you failed to feel the pumping adrenaline. Without this inner drive to succeed, you may not have strived so hard to gain the points and the exhilaration that follows. These butterflies are serving a purpose.

The trick is to gain control of your own nervousness, put them into positions of power, and allow them to work to your benefit. Next time you are faced with the stress of real life, take a second to envision the swarm of butterflies that inhabit your stomach as they work their way into a formation pattern. The power of these butterflies can carry you anywhere.

Teens discriminated

by Jody Schiltz
Graphos Columnist

We've all heard about discrimination against certain groups in a society. It usually occurs under the headings of race, sex, national origin, or creed. But, I believe there's also another kind of discrimination. It comes under the heading of age. No, I'm not talking about senior citizens. I'm talking about teens.

The first magic age we hit is 15. Suddenly, we're responsible enough to drive a car; that is, if we have a permit and one of our parents or another adult with us.

Then we turn 16. Now we're able to get a license and drive a car by ourselves, but there is one catch. One of our parents has to sign a paper giving his or her permission. If we try to get a duplicate license before our 18th birthday, guess what? Our parent has to sign again. It doesn't make much sense. Even if we get pulled over, the policeman can easily find out that, yes, we do have a license. I know this from personal experience.

I don't think there's much in these movies that would really shock or surprise us.

When we turn 17, we can go to R Rated movies. Ooh!! I hate to break this to any adults who might be reading this, but I don't think there's much in these movies that would really shock or surprise us. We hear about rape and murder everyday in the news. Also,



there are a lot of pregnancies that occur before a girl turns 17. I guess that covers both sex and violence. Aren't those the two main reasons for movies being rated as they are?

That covers movies, but what about music? There's a group out there now called the PMRC (Parents Music Resource Center) that wants to label music with ratings and warning labels. The irony here is that the more they label, the more we'll buy.

Guess what happens next? On our 18th birthday we're suddenly transformed into adults. Now, we're mature, responsible, and able to take care of ourselves. Along with this new maturity we can vote. I guess we just automatically know who the best leaders of our country are.

We can also buy cigarettes. As informed adults, we realize the dangers



Soaring gas prices were a familiar sight to motorists in the early 80s.

1980s, continued from Page 2

Guys could still participate in boys' gymnastics. For exercising outside of school, students went to the newly opened racquetball courts at Vogel Arena. They also worked out at Leick's Helath Spa for \$22.50 a month. (Today we can go to the Fitness Center for \$15.00 a month.)

Skippers were punished by sitting at the “naughty table” during their lunch period.

Outside school in the “real” world, our government changed to a predominantly Republican Senate as Carter left the presidential office and

Reagan moved in. The 80s was a decade of heavy spending. Our national deficit climbed \$74 billion a year. The Dow Jones Industrial average rose to record-setting heights. Another greatly discussed topic was AIDS. During the early 80s people believed AIDS was isolated to the homosexual community. Today many people have discovered this impression was not true.

As far as school activities: students began semesters as we know them because of “budget cuts.” Sounds familiar. One last note: students in Carol Ackerson's 3rd Hour AP English class used *Cliff's Notes* in 1982.

Study halls questioned

Dear editors:

STUDY HALL. The first thing that comes to mind is time for relaxation, a break from the regular routine. Another thing is a chance to finish homework. I mentioned things we would like to have done, but unfortunately they usually fall by the wayside. What usually happens in study hall is nothing. The students bring their books and assignments, but they find their friends and they just have to catch up on the latest gossip — or to spread the latest. A lot of study hall time is filled with a nap. Generally, the hour is wasted. Students go to their next class having accomplished nothing.

Why is this tolerated by teachers? Many times a student has nothing to do, but then couldn't they read a book or look through a magazine? Many people feel that by the time we reach the senior high, we should behave. Unfortunately many times this is untrue. Other students become distracted when others misbehave. Teachers should have discipline rules and if the rules are

broken, action should be taken. Many times students use study halls to socialize; few take study halls to get their work done.

Let's accommodate everyone. Have two study halls, one for students who want to accomplish something and want a quiet surrounding, possibly in the library.

A second study hall could be in the cafeteria for students who wish to socialize. The cafeteria could be supervised and limitations established.

A study hall choice should be given. If a student has homework and wants to study, they should go to the library. If a student doesn't want to study, they could chose the cafeteria. Both students would be satisfied without disrupting others.

Hopefully this arrangement would satisfy everyone and increase productivity.

Letter signed but name withheld upon request.

of smoking, but do it anyway. I personally think that most teens start smoking earlier and are addicted by the time they can buy cigarettes legally.

Although we are informed, responsible adults now, we still can't consume alcohol. In order for us to do that, we must be 21, at least in this state. We can choose our country's leaders, slowly kill ourselves by smoking, or kill others in a war, but we better not get a little tipsy. That's a no, no!!

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to protest our laws. That's for the gun control activists and the fur people. I'm just questioning the sense of some of them. I'm also not saying that we should legalize anything. We

still have to think about the 12 year olds out there who should definitely not be exposed to the terrible things in PG-13 movies. You never know. Maybe one of them will get scared enough to have a heart attack or something. Sometimes it just makes you wonder, doesn't it? I hope so.

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



Craig and Virg Debban maintain a father-son relationship at school, on the track, and at home.

No escape for Debbans

by Anne Reilly
Graphos Reporter

He recalls feeling frustrated because he knew how much his father wanted him to excel, but he sometimes found it difficult to meet his expectations.

Think of all the time you spend at home. How much of it is spent arguing with your parents? Whether you spend a little time or a lot, it's usually a joy to get out of the house and away from your parents, even if only to go to school. But what if you went to school and had your father as a teacher? And then, after school, you dressed for track practice, went out to the track, and met your dad as a coach. Would this drive you crazy? How about your father? Do you think he could stand being your father, teacher, and coach? In the case of **Virg and Craig Debban**, they both have handled it quite well.

Craig had one class in the junior high, one semester of Biology and one year of Physics with his father as his teacher. Virg feels that 99% of the time it isn't any different teaching his son than it is teaching any other student. He admitted that there were isolated situations which put him in a fatherly position, but those did not occur regularly.

Virg believes that he treats Craig differently than other students, but not in a lenient way as one might expect. In other people's eyes his treatment of Craig will never be perceived as fair, and he admits that it is sometimes difficult to be 100% objective. So forced to choose between either leniency or harshness toward Craig, he chose the latter, although he doesn't feel Craig should have to get special treatment either way.

Craig, however, insists that he doesn't treat his dad like a teacher at all, even during class. He talks to his dad about what his plans are after school and tries to get the car as often as he can.

Virg has coached track since 1966 and will be coaching varsity this season. Craig joined track in the

seventh grade and will compete in the pole vault this year.

Virg feels that although there is a difference between coaching and parenting, there also is a relationship. He wants every athlete to succeed, but when Craig doesn't do as well as he would like to, Virg feels more at fault than he does with other kids. Craig agreed; he found his father to be "more concerned" when he doesn't do well.

...when Craig doesn't do as well as he would like to, he feels more at fault than he does with other kids.

As for expecting too much and pushing students/athletes too hard, Virg believes the possibility is always there, but no more for his own child than anyone else's. He describes himself as intense in the classroom as well as on the track, but people may perceive him to be rougher on Craig than on others. Craig himself seems to perceive his father's treatment to be tougher. He recalls feeling frustrated because he knew how much his father wanted him to excel, but he sometimes found it difficult to meet his expectations.

So forced to choose between either leniency or harshness toward Craig, he chose the latter...

After a bad day at practice or a meet in which one did poorly, most athletes want to go home and forget about it until the next practice. If your coach was also your father, one might expect that you would have to go home and discuss what went wrong and what could be done to improve. Virg stated that he is not the type to rehash mistakes, and he and Craig both agreed that problems from practice or a meet were sometimes brought up at home, but a lot of time was never spent on discussing them.

Although the relationship between a father and a son is often rocky, in some cases what might have led father and son in opposite directions has perhaps brought the Debbans closer.

"Being themselves" important to Spilmans

by Angie Schilling
Graphos Reporter

The year seems as if New Ulm Senior High has become a magnet for new students. Amidst the new faces are brothers **Jeff and Aaron Spilman**.

The Spilman family consists of parents Steve and Beverly and their five boys: Jeff 17, Aaron 16, Jerod 14, Damion 13, and Nicolas 12. The guys said they enjoy their new home located just outside of Courtland because of the "breathing room and openness" of the country.

He is a Civil War buff and says he has over \$800 invested in an authentic looking Civil War military uniform.

Jeff, a senior, is especially interested in history and would like to pursue that interest at either Mankato State or a college in Virginia. He is a Civil War buff and says he has over \$800 invested in an authentic looking Civil War military uniform. He also describes himself as an avid reader and particularly enjoys military books.

Some of Jeff's personal heroes are his Uncle Curt, a major in the Marines, his father, whom he says "lets us be ourselves," and Robert E. Lee, a Southern general in the Civil War. He especially admires what Lee was able to accomplish with the resources he had. Jeff describes most Southern officers as "good leaders, refined" who "used men in the right way."

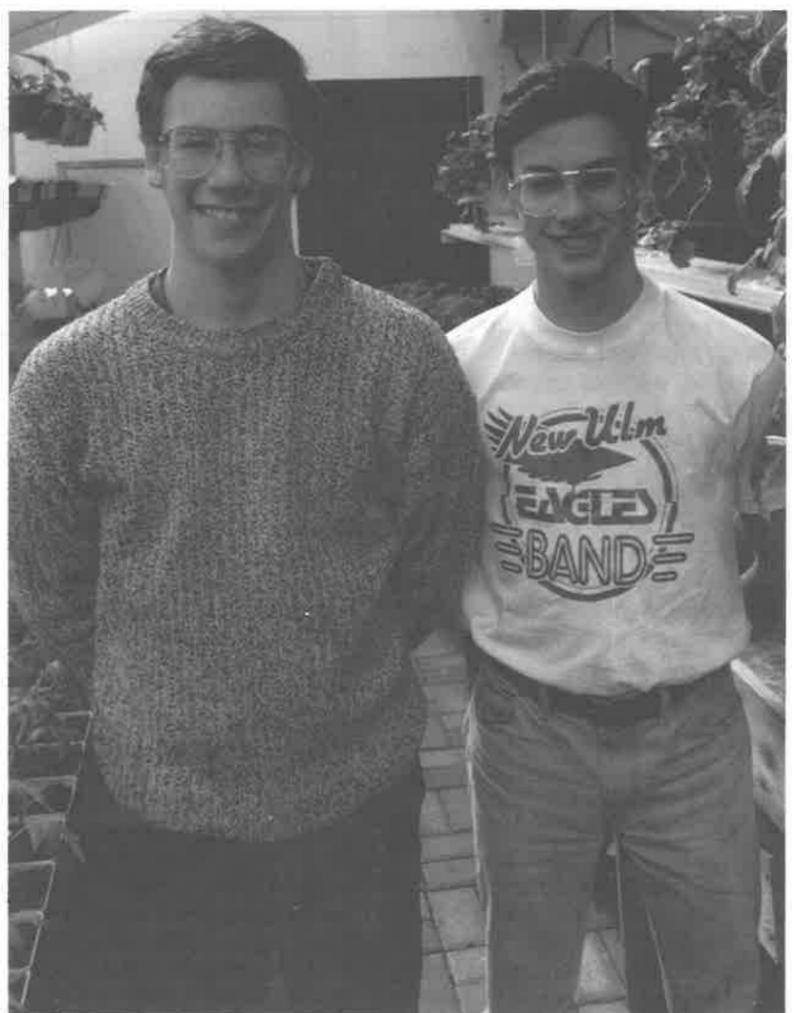
"He's a neat freak," is the way Aaron described his brother Jeff. He likes to play with the family's pet cats Bert and Ernie and watch TV. Some of his favorite shows are "Wonder Years," "Major Dad," "The Simpsons," and "Saturday Night Live."

One thing he especially enjoyed about band in Texas was the competitions between bands of different schools.

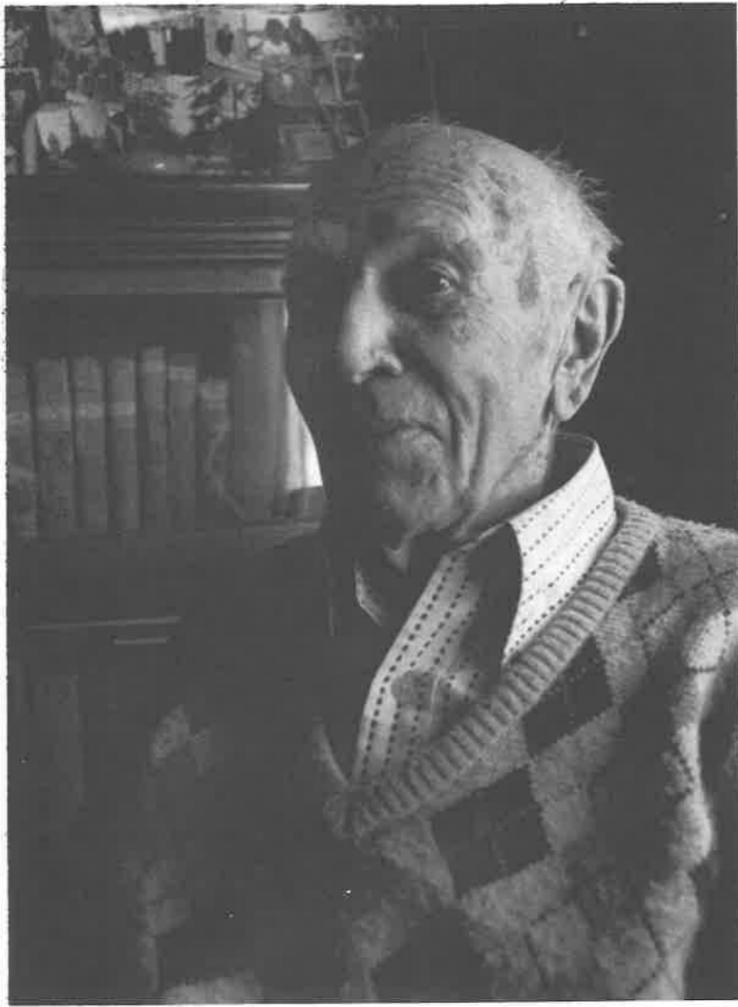
Aaron, a sophomore, says his special interest is music. He started playing trombone in 4th grade and now plays trumpet in the Concert Band. One thing he especially enjoyed about band in Texas was the competitions between bands of different schools. Jeff described Aaron as a "fierce competitor...he doesn't like to lose."

Not surprisingly, some of Aaron's personal heroes are brilliant trumpet players like Maynard Ferguson, Doc Severnson, and Wynton Marsalis. He also cited Ronald Reagan as someone he looks up to because he was always trying to make things better. Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he mentioned Donald Trump because he is "like a king." He also looks up to his dad.

Both guys describe themselves as "floaters" in the social scene. They also said that "being themselves" is very important to them and don't expect any different from the people they meet.



Brothers Jeff and Aaron Spilman are just two of the new faces at NUHS.



"Doc Bell" has a feel for New Ulm and a memory of his uncle's love for chemistry.

Donation helps grads

by Amy Dauer
Graphos Reporter

The interest drawn from the donation will be awarded to a graduating senior beginning in 1991.

Attention all New Ulm High School students! Who is 95½ years old and a retired dentist who could possibly support part of your college education? No guesses? Well, it is none other than **Dr. Kurt Bell**.

Recently a considerably large donation was given to New Ulm High School by Bell and his late wife. The gift was received in two installments of \$5000 each. The money was furnished to establish a scholarship fund known as the "Dr. Richard Fischer Memorial Scholarship." The interest drawn from the donation will be awarded to a graduating senior beginning in 1991. The recipient must be continuing education at a four year college and pursuing a career in science, preferably chemistry.

Fischer, an uncle of Bell, was also very interested in chemistry. Bell commented, "He had 14 nephews and nieces and was very nice to each one of us." The gift of money is a good way

to keep Fischer's memory alive. Fischer was one of two graduates of 1886, the first graduating class of New Ulm High School.

Bell is well acquainted with the New Ulm community. Throughout his youth he enjoyed being in the woods. He used to hunt mushrooms and pheasant. Swimming near the dam was another favorite pastime. After being born and raised here, Bell continued his post-high school education in Indiana where he graduated in 1916 with a degree in dentistry. His father also graduated from Indiana in 1889.

Bell was married from 1926 to 1955, when his wife died. "Getting married was the best thing that ever happened to me." They never had any children. Bell used to be active with the Turners of New Ulm and has been singing with the Concord Singers since 1931.

He has done much travelling, both within the United States and abroad. Bell has seen the sights of California over a dozen times and toured Europe several times. He was also stationed in France during World War I with the United States Army.

Thanks to the generosity of Bell, each year a specially selected graduating senior can fulfill dreams created by the field of science.

Heim joins faculty

by Ann Sundell
Graphos Reporter

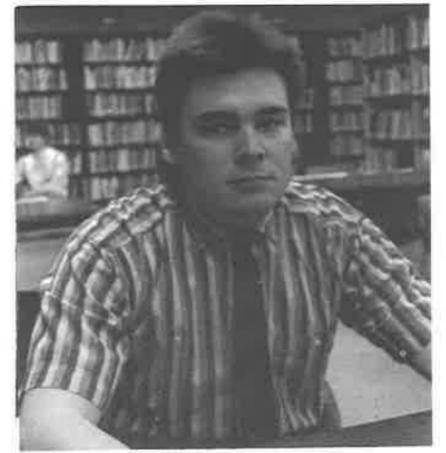
He considers the people with whom he works — both students and faculty — the high point of his teaching experience.

Doug Heim, 24, resides in New Ulm. He graduated from Winona High School and proceeded to college at Winona State University, where he graduated with a degree in mathematics and a minor in statistics.

This year is Heim's first teaching position. He teaches 7th grade general math, 9th grade math, 10th grade Algebra, and Algebra I.

Heim enjoys teaching at both the junior and senior high because it allows him to get a broader look at the district's students. When asked what he enjoyed most about teaching, Heim replied, "Algebra, especially graphing."

Heim's favorite subject in high school was math. He thought that teaching would be a good profession and enjoyable so he decided to become a math teacher. He remembers "bad teachers" and tries not to present material as they did.



Doug Heim

When asked what he considered the strengths of our school system, Heim commented, "The faculty really works together and the administration is always willing to help." He considers the people with whom he works — both students and faculty — the high point of his teaching experience.

In his spare time Heim enjoys playing golf and racquetball, lifting weights, playing the drums, camping, and seeing good movies. A good movie for Heim is either comedy or action. His dream vacation spot is Australia because of the beautiful, wide open country.

Raul offers foreign flavor



Raul de la Cruz

by Jessie Sandau
Graphos Reporter

Raul de la Cruz is a name which is hardly heard around here, but in Mexico, where he formerly lived, it is often heard. Raul was born in Iowa, but lived in Mexico until he was three. It is there that he learned his exceptional Spanish speaking skills.

After graduation Raul will probably

keep his job at The Journal for the summer. He is considering entering the Marine Corps or going to school in Mankato. If he decides to go to school, he is considering taking classes in autobody and/or computers.

In school Raul has taken many business classes. He also enjoys phys. ed. He says that graduation will be the absolute happiest day of his life, although he will miss high school.

Most of Raul's life has been lived in America even though he is Mexican. Before moving to New Ulm in November 1988, Raul lived in Madelia for three years.

He has visited Mexico twice since coming to the U.S. The most recent visit was last September. He plans to return there this summer to visit relatives. He eventually wants to get married and raise a family in Mexico. Raul says he has a girl friend so he's certainly on his way.

"Almost everybody knows everything about me so I don't have anything to say." He did say many of the sophomores might not know who he is, but that's okay because some of them are pretty cool.

Raul is a relaxed and easygoing person; he's easy to like and get along with. Just talk to him sometime; you'll see what I mean.

Vital Stats: Andrew Vorwerk

by Stacy Shablott
Graphos Reporter

Name: Andrew Vorwerk.

Age: 16 years old.

Birthplace: Madelia.

Occupation: Works at McDonald's.

Current home: New Ulm.

Best job I've ever had: McDonald's.

Worst job I've ever had: McDonald's.

Last good movie I saw: UHF.

Favorite performer: Def Leppard.

Favorite childhood memories: Playing basketball in a playoff game, and I kept hitting the rim.

Personal heroes: Eric Davis and The Joker.



Andrew Vorwerk

Every New Year I resolve to: Do better in school.

I wish I could: Own my own business such as a baseball card shop.

I've never been able to: Play baseball.

If I were going to the moon, I'd take: Baseball cards with me.

If I could change one thing about myself, I would be smarter.

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: Stay out of trouble.

What difference is there between New Ulm and Spokane, Washington, high schools: We all ate lunch together and then could go to the library after eating.

What is the most valuable baseball card that you own: Ryne Sandberg worth \$60.

If there's one thing I'd like to be it's: Famous.

What are your plans after high school: Attend college and be either a teacher or own my own business.

People who know me in school think I am: Shy.

I'll know I am grown up when: I have a good paying job.

Post-Secondary Options creates opportunities

by Chris Christenson
Graphos Reporter

Post-Secondary Options is a program that gives juniors and seniors in high school a chance to earn college credits free of charges for books and tuition. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous education pursuits and provide a wide variety of options for the students. The student can go to any college either full or part-time and receive credit for both high school and college at an eligible post-secondary institution.

To be accepted, you must apply to the college or AVTI and fill out some forms provided by the Department of Education. If your application is accepted, so are you.

One class that she is taking at MSU that isn't offered at NUHS is French.

This year **Jody Schiltz** is the only senior in the program. She is attending Mankato State University in the afternoon. One reason she decided to attend was that she didn't feel high school had anything more to offer her. One class that she is taking at MSU that isn't offered at NUHS is French. Schiltz is only going part-time so she is still involved with activities at the high school. "I get the best of both worlds," she said. One drawback that affects her is that she has to drive to Mankato and back everyday, but overall she feels it is a worthwhile experience.

There are several juniors this year who are considering going to college early and missing their senior year. Two who have already been accepted at MSU are **Stacey Deopere** and **Autumn Huiras**. Both of them like the idea of getting college credits for free and being on their own. It really didn't bother them if they would miss their senior year of high school. "It won't really bother me because I'm ready to be on my own, and I can always go back to New Ulm to see my friends."

The student can go to any college either full or part-time and receive credit for both high school and college at an eligible post-secondary institution.

Assistant Principal Dick LaPatka thinks that the post-secondary program is a good deal for the student who is beyond the high school curriculum, but he doesn't understand why anyone would want to miss their senior year in high school. The senior year is supposed to be your best year and you only get one shot at it. Some students use this opportunity to make a transition to college by going only part-time, and others just leave high school totally behind. One of LaPatka's worries is that a student will go to college and not make it and then drop out of high school without a diploma. The student may not be ready for college responsibilities.

The Post-Secondary program has its good and bad qualities. You receive a free year of college and you will be farther ahead than other students your age, but you may also be missing the best experience of your high-school life.



The dance line gave home basketball crowds a preview of their routine choreographed for state competition.

Danceline kicks through season

by Jenny Retka
Graphos Reporter

The New Ulm Senior High dance line has been busy these past winter months. They were working hard to participate in the Minnesota Association State Dance Line competition on February 24 in the cities. There were 19 teams competing; some teams had more than 45 members. The competition in Minnesota is divided into four classes. The New Ulm line performed in Class A.

"...it gives me the feeling that New Ulm has the potential to do better in next year's competition."

The girls have been practicing since August under the direction of Jill

Curry. They practice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 a.m. A month before the competition they were at school every morning at seven. The entire dance line choreographed the song "Dreams." The outfits were in school colors — purple and white — with lots of gold sequins.

There is stiff competition at this contest. Some of the schools we compete against treat dance line as a school sport. They work everyday after school for two hours. In some schools, dance line is started in elementary school.

The New Ulm Dance Line placed 12th out of 19 teams. **Jill Hendricks** and **Mary Andryk** said their enthusiasm increased once they performed a routine for the fans at a home basketball game. "They were very supportive. They made us feel like we did a good job."

Some of the schools we compete against treat dance line as a school sport.

Every year the dance line improves. They gain more experience each time they perform. Hendricks added, "I've been in dance line for three years. I feel very satisfied with our performance. I think we pulled it together better than in past years. The squad will be able to improve each year." Andryk described her feelings in this way: "This is my first year on dance line so it was exciting because it was a new experience. After all these months of practice, it's hard to believe that it's over. Yet with what we've accomplished, it gives me the feeling that New Ulm has the potential to do better in next year's competition."

Curriculum, continued from Page 2

has just so much money in its budget.

Almost everybody would like to see a class in one of their favorite activities or something new in the old registration newspaper. Course content has changed due to recent events or up-to-date textbooks, but the same classes have remained. There are already over 100 classes offered at NUHS, and only a few of them are required. How many more courses can be offered to a student body of 620 by a school already short on cash?

There are already over 100 classes offered at NUHS, and only a few of them are required. How many more courses can be offered to a student body of 620 by a school already short on cash?

The rapid changes in today's world and the arrival of new technology need a response from the schools in the form of changes in course content of existing classes or possibly adding new classes. No matter what you think about how many courses should be added or dropped, it's a fact that the curriculum will have to change to some degree to accommodate the new information and technology being developed today.

As a student, you have a say in what

students, the class will not be offered that year. Courses that consistently classes are offered at this school. If enrollment for a class drops below 15 have only a few people sign up for them will eventually be dropped from the curriculum. You also have a role in determining if a course should be added to the curriculum, but it is not quite as large as your role in the dropping of a course. The devising of a suitable curriculum, including the addition of new courses, is a very complicated process. The school board, the

A possible new class in Family Living is currently being debated in committee. This is an example of the system at work.

principals, the director of curriculum, and various curriculum committees are all a part of the decision of what should be taught. A possible new class in Family Living is currently being debated in committee. This is an example of the system at work. If the committees, administrators, and teachers think it would be a worthwhile course, it could be required for graduation for incoming sophomores next year.

If you or a group of friends have an idea for a new class, talk to a teacher, principal, student council member or a school board member. If you can show that there is a need for the class, they

could have it discussed in one of the curriculum committees.

In the end, we students have some input into how many and what kind of classes are taught at our school; whether we use it is up to us. After all, we're the ones taking the classes.

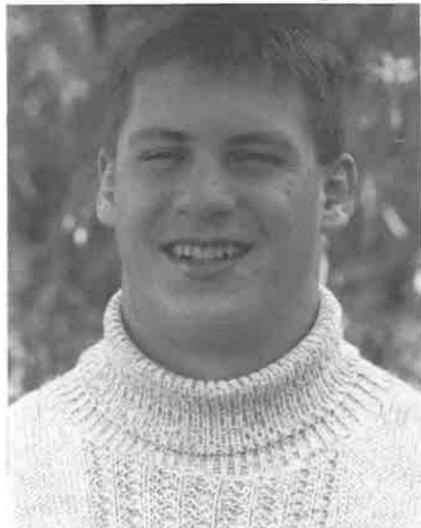
The Power

Take me to a place,
A place where I can go,
To spread my wings
And learn to fly,
A place where I can grow.
Send me back in time
To an era of mystique,
Where love was like a magic spell,
A treasured secret to keep.
Give to me a present
Of a wealth that is untold,
And grant to me the power
To keep it, have and hold.
Yet never let me wander
So far as to forget
That all these things are deep inside
For me to reach and get.

by Angie Schilling

sports

High school sports offers pure competition



by Josh Crabtree
Graphos Columnist

If a person wants to see competition in its purest form, they should watch high school athletics.

The rumor around the locker room these days is that the varsity baseball players will not play this year unless they get more water breaks during practice, have oxygen at second base, and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders at every game. Coach Jim Senske has also said that he will not coach unless the players pick up their towels in the locker room.

Now these situations are totally absurd. There would be a mighty uproar from New Ulmites if this would ever happen. In my opinion the professional baseball lockout is about that silly. After all, why are these professional prima donnas playing baseball

anyway? And why do these owners have clubs? The purity and competition has been taken out of the game of baseball.

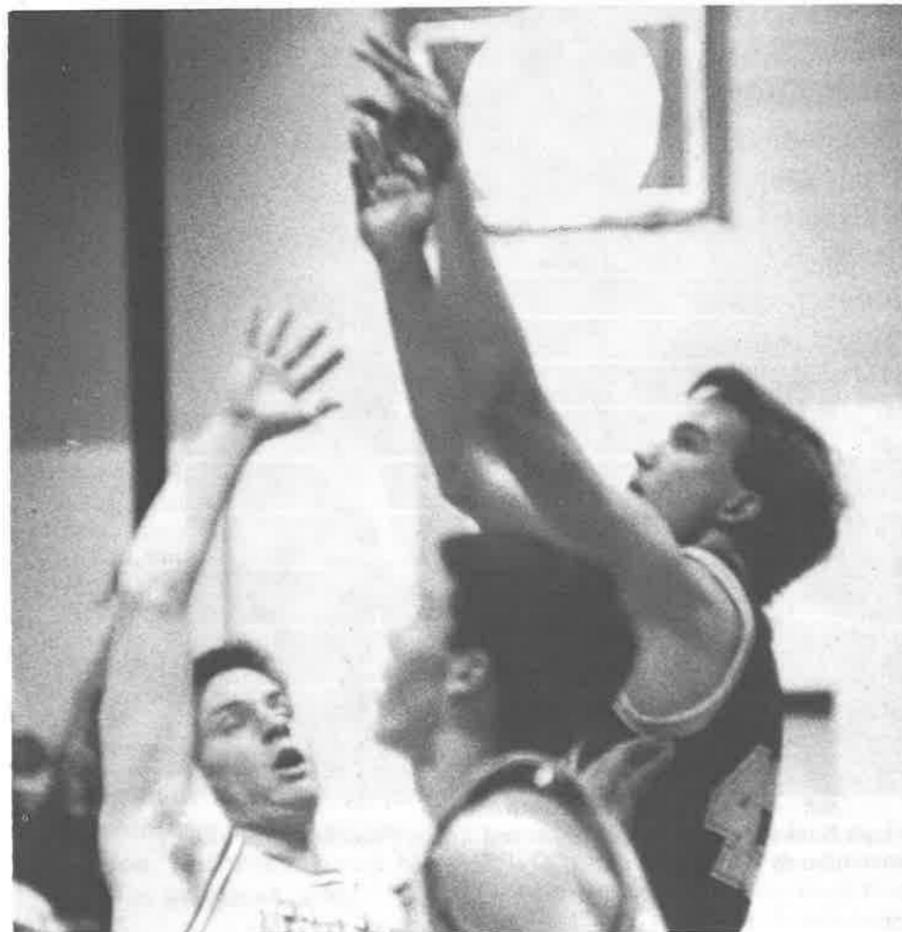
If a person wants to see competition in its purest form, they should watch high school athletics. People never have to worry about not having high school sports because of contract disputes.

If there is a legitimate reason for their having this lockout, I can't understand what it is.

Every time I strapped on my football pads or put on my baseball uniform I felt that the guys I was playing with were there because they loved the game and wanted to be there. I know some professionals really love the game, but things like this lockout make me wonder if they all are out there playing because they love the game or because they love the cash.

I realize that baseball is the livelihood of these people, but I can't imagine a better way to make money than to play a game and get paid for it or have television stations pay me to have my team televised on their channel. If there is a legitimate reason for their having this lockout, I can't understand what it is.

One thing I hope we can count on is that high school sports will always be present. There aren't any big bucks, contract disputes, or endorsements to distract the athlete from the purity of the contest. Another thing we can count on in high school sports is that in every minute of every play of every game, the athletes and coaches will be doing their best because they want to do it for the love of the game.



Junior Ben Fraunholtz will play a key role in next year's team.

Eagles take conference title

by Ryan Love
Graphos Reporter

It's here! After 21 seasons, New Ulm boys' basketball has brought home a conference championship. Although the Eagles tied for first, they beat their co-champs (Fairmont) twice, which in their minds makes the Eagles outright champs.

This basketball season was led by three players: **Scott Arlandson**, **Matt Senske**, and **Josh Crabtree**. These three, and the Eagle team came on strong at the end of the season. They were also the three top scorers and, on the other end of the court, these three played tough defense.

While talking about Arlandson, Senske, and Crabtree, we can't overlook another important player, **Ben Fraunholtz**, a 6'1", 170 lb. junior with great hang time. Fraunholtz felt he had to rise to the challenge of playing varsity basketball. Playing with seniors forced him to turn his playing ability up a couple of notches. He felt that the pressure of playing with an older age group didn't really bother

him since he had already dealt with that in football.

Coach Jim Senske likes what he sees in Fraunholtz. He says the best thing about his style is his great leaping ability. It allows him to get a lot of offensive rebounds. Senske added that Fraunholtz's skills have not yet fully matured.

Although the Eagles tied for first, they beat their co-champs (Fairmont) twice, which in their minds makes the Eagles outright champs.

Along with the conference championship, the Eagles' other goals included an improved defense and a winning regular season. Senske said that the team played up to his expectations. He stated that because of the team's good work ethic, they came on strong at the end of the season and was the key to their success. They deserved the conference title.

The Eagles enjoyed this season along with their fans. Arlandson and Crabtree best summed up the season with "We're going to Disney World."



Senior Laurie Koss strongly believes in teamwork.

Season was learning experience

by Jon Drill
Graphos Reporter

The girls' basketball season could have been better. Unfortunately it wasn't; and as hard as they tried, it turned out worse.

Many reasons contributed to the unsatisfactory season. One reason was

the number of losses by one or two points. Many of the games were decided in the final minutes of the game.

Even though the season wasn't all that great, they did improve their record from four wins last year to eight wins this year. When asked if the season was still fun although the record

wasn't the best, **Laurie Koss** added, "Yes, we always have fun. We're all very close and can relate well to each other. That's what makes a team." **Jen Lomax** said, "The team really improved their ability to play as a team, to rely on each other. That's a big plus."

During the course of the basketball season Koss said, "The one thing I learned the most over the year is that being the best isn't important. It's being a team that's important." Lomax said she improved her shooting as well.

When asked what the team could have done to make the year more successful, Lomax commented, "I don't think you can determine a successful or unsuccessful season by wins or losses. I believe we all learned a lot and had fun playing ball together."

Everybody's big question is what the

One reason was the number of losses by one or two points. Many of the games were decided in the final minutes of the game.

future holds for the girls' basketball program. Koss thinks "The team has a hard and difficult future. I feel the team will have to rebuild right from the start. It will be fun to see how they do." Lomax added, "There will be a few experienced players back and a lot of B-squaders coming up. I believe their skills are good; they just need some varsity experience before they will do O.K."

"The team really improved their ability to play as a team, to rely on each other. That's a big plus."

Who or what are the key points that may contribute to a future successful season? Koss thinks, "The team will be a fast breaking team with quick people coming up. **Tricia Reinhart** will be a big plus underneath; she already has a year of experience." Lomax added, "There is a six foot sophomore coming up to varsity, **Alissa Swenson**, and also **Tricia Reinhart** is a sophomore and a returning starter who will make a big difference."



Steph Soukup demonstrates grace and balance on the beam while coach Sandy Fritz looks on.

Gymnastics' prospects bright

by Eric Crabtree
Graphos Reporter

As every coach knows, leadership and motivation are important parts of a team. **Sandy Fritz**, the girls' head gymnastics coach, feels this will be one of the strong points of the 1990-91 season.

The past gymnastics season had some excellent leadership from the seniors. Those leadership shoes will be hard to fill for next season. The 1989-90 season was lead by senior **Stacy Earl** who had a good season by advancing to regional competition. Earl was backed by several fine athletes, some who were seniors and some who were underclassmen and will be returning next year. The 1989-90 gymnastics team was hit by illnesses that held them back. Coach Fritz said, "I wish the team could have avoided the illnesses so the girls would have been able to realize the team's full potential."

Next year's gymnastics team, according to Fritz, will be a motivated group with a lot of potential. One of the leaders and possible standouts for next season is **Sara Peterson**. She is a junior and according to coach Fritz will be the spark for next year's team.

Another possible standout is **Nikki Fluegge** who is a freshman. "There are many girls returning who have a lot of potential," said Fritz.

"There are many girls returning who have a lot of potential," says Fritz.

As you can see, there are high hopes for next year's team. Coach Fritz says, "Our competition, as far as teams go, will be difficult. Eden Prairie is always tough in team competition because of their large numbers of girls who try out. If we want to get very far in the post-season, we will have to beat them and that will be quite a challenge. Team advancement is a major goal along with individual advancement. "It is always nice to have a couple girls do well in the post-season individual events."

There will be a lot of youth on the 1990-91 girls' gymnastics team as there are 12 returning freshmen along with some juniors and sophomores. If the youth can come through next year, the season could be a successful one. If the youth, motivation, and leadership can come together in just the right way, the 1990-91 season could be a whole lot of fun.

Managers provide essentials

by Bobbi Jo Drum
Eagle Editor

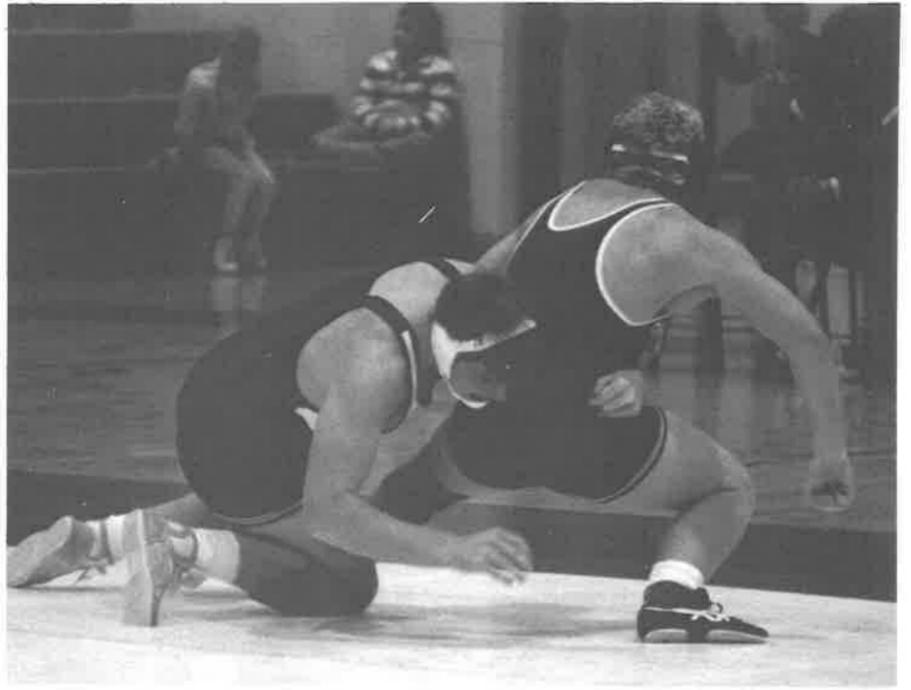
The first to be yelled at for missing that awesome three point basket and the last to be thanked for a job well done. I'm sure this description sounds all too familiar to team statisticians and managers.

Although they don't always receive the deserved recognition from the players on the teams, they are an essential part of every athletic event. Statisticians record important individual and team statistics while managers are considered a team's most loyal fan. They attend practices, scrimages, and games providing the team with tape, water, and moral support.

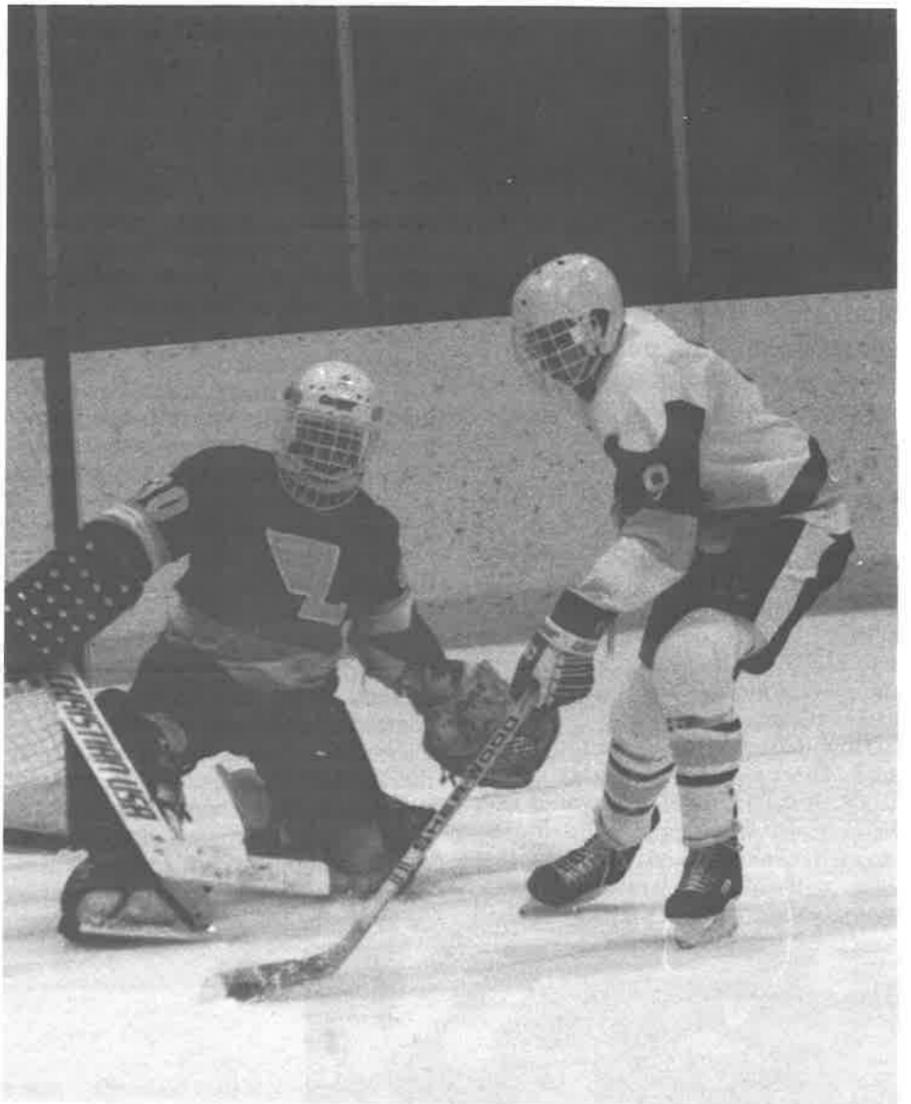
So next time you blame the statistician for missing your outstanding rebound or assist, just think what it would be like not to have one at all.



Boys basketball manager Tim Kruse takes care of the team's needs.



Heavyweight wrestler Paul Jakes was an important element of the Eagles wrestling team.



Nico Nussbaumer came to the U.S. this year to play high school hockey.

American hockey played German style

by Rick Kobs
Graphos Reporter

Their main reason for coming to America was to play hockey.

Nico Nussbaumer and **Phillip Melzer** are from Ravensburg, Germany. Klaus Jung, who lives in Edina, had been trying to get Nussbaumer and Melzer to come to the U.S. to go to school and play hockey for a year. Jung, formerly from Germany, started calling schools to find one that was good in academics and hockey. He then found New Ulm. Nussbaumer and Melzer are not on any type of program. Their main reason for coming to America was to play hockey. Nussbaumer said his season went pretty good, but he was a little disappointed at first because of the wait. Both players had to wait 90 days from the start of school to play varsity. Nussbaumer felt that, considering everything, he had a good season. He finished with one goal and one assist

on varsity and 15 goals and 15 assists on JV. Melzer thought his season went all right too. He really liked practicing every day and said that it helped his game a lot. He felt that he got more than enough playing time. Melzer finished with two goals and one assist on varsity and 10 goals and 15 assists on JV.

When this reporter asked them what they thought of New Ulm, Nussbaumer said, "It's kind of boring but, it's a nice town with some German elements. I can't complain." Melzer commented, "It's pretty good size... it's more strict than Germany."

Both players had to wait 90 days from the start of school to play varsity.

While here, they have been keeping busy by going to the State Fair, Twins, North Stars, and Timberwolves games. They plan on going back to Germany the first or second week in June unless they extend their visa for another six weeks.