

the graphos

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Varlands, Akre organize "yes" voters



Teachers honored Carolyn and Ken Varland and Steve Akre for their help in passing the referendum.

by Kari Mehlop
Graphos Reporter

On Election Day, November 3, 1992, an excess levy referendum to provide funding for School District #88 passed by a thousand vote majority.

This was the fourth excess property levy attempted since 1988. Three times the referendum failed. This

time, however, the referendum won broad support. It will provide additional funds to the public school for the next five years.

What made the difference? A factor which helped this referendum was a large, well organized Volunteer Citizens' Referendum Committee that worked several months to promote the school referendum.

The Committee was the joint effort of Carolyn and Ken Varland and Steve Akre. They began by visiting with the Superintendent of Schools to learn the details of the referendum and what attempts were already being made to promote the school referendum.

The Varlands and Akre, along with several other concerned citizens, held informal meetings last spring before beginning in earnest in August.

The Volunteer Citizens Committee for the Referendum organized into several subcommittees: Publicity, Networking, Finance (fund raising), Public Speakers, Letters to the Editor, and Absentee Voters.

The Varlands headed the Networking committee. When they lived in Boone, Iowa, Carolyn had worked with a similar organization to pass a school bond issue. The process that organization used was modified and put into action in New Ulm. Using voter turn-out figures, the Varlands estimated 4,500 positive votes would be needed to pass this referendum. The Networking Committee consisted of Section Leaders, Division Leaders, and Team Leaders.

Approximately 225 Team Leaders selected names from voter registration lists. They then contacted voters until they each had 20 people who agreed to vote "yes" for the levy.

The work of the Networking Committee was tedious and time consuming. For weeks, committee members made phone calls and personal visits seeking referendum supporters. Committee Leaders kept in contact almost on a daily basis to learn how close they were to their goal of 4500.

The committee appreciated the united stand the school board took in favor of the referendum. This was, undoubtedly, a very big asset in achieving a majority of voters.

The committee is thankful to all the citizens who wrote positive Letters to the Editor. It seems the communities in general had a positive attitude toward the excess levy referendum, which passed with 5,500 "yes" votes, and 4485 "no" votes.

All of us students owe a big thanks to everyone who worked together to save our school. Their efforts proved that education is important to our communities.

Family traditions light up the holidays

by Sam Tuttle
Graphos Reporter

Almost every culture has a winter festival or celebration. Originally these winter holidays helped ease the harshness of the long cold months. These ancient winter festivals have now been updated to fit into our lives as well. For instance, a majority of the students in District #88 use December 25 as a day to celebrate Christ's birth, when in fact there is evidence that he was born in March. Why the late December placement? It's the Christian form of a winter celebration.

Because of the history behind winter holidays, there are a variety of ways to celebrate. Here are some of the traditions practiced by NUHS students.

Most people who celebrate Christmas have a tree, one of the major holiday traditions for many kids. In Casie Netzke and Nancy Goering's homes, as with most households, all of the ornaments have a special meaning. This is particularly evident in Netzke's house.

When her parents were first married, they were without ornaments. Instead of buying trinkets, they made their own by blowing out the inside of eggs and decorating the shell. They still hang these ornaments today. Another tradition is St. Nicholas Day. "It's like Easter; we get fruit and stuff that morning," she said.

Everyone seems to spend time with family during the holidays. The Goerings do the same thing. An uncle visits her family on Christmas Day, when they open presents in the afternoon. Then late in the holiday break they travel to Iowa to "see relatives and have another party."

Shopping is also a tradition in some families. T a m m y Altmann's family goes shopping every year the day after Thanksgiving. Brad Koons' family never knows what to get their mom. They usually purchase her gift during the last days of the shopping season. "We ask the clerk helping us if she likes it. If she does, Mom should. Dad uses the Visa so Mom Christmas, continued on Page 3



Window displays portray holiday spirit throughout the town.

editorial

Everyone can make a difference



by Maren Olson
Graphos Editor

It seems fair to say that at some point in our lives most of us have looked at the problem-stricken world around us and wondered, "What good can I possibly do in all of this?" The likelihood of a few people making a difference sounds ridiculous at times. However, history shows us that time after time a few seemingly unimportant people can make big differences. Upton Sinclair changed the quality of the food we eat with one book, *The Jungle*, while Mother Theresa has improved the lives of thousands by performing simple acts of kindness. These successes prove that individuals do matter.

Margaret Mead once pointed out, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Unfortunately many people tend to exclude themselves from this statement. For some reason,

AIDS virus infecting hearts, minds of many

by Allison Koeckeritz
Graphos Editor

AIDS. What is it? AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, which is a disease that causes the immune system to breakdown causing the person to be susceptible to various infections and diseases.

What causes it? The HIV virus is what causes a person to get AIDS. Carrying the HIV virus is very different from having full blown AIDS. The HIV virus may remain dormant for 10-15 years. The person carrying the virus will not have any symptoms. As a result, they can infect a number of people without realizing it. Someone carrying the HIV virus looks just like anyone else. We need to stop assuming that simply because a person "looks" like they're safe means that they are.

almost no one seems to think that they are one of the people who can make a difference.

We need to change our mentality. We can all play the role of the "committed citizen." We can all help to make changes, whether they be big or small. From fighting for fairer conditions in our jobs, to campaigning for a change in the federal government's environmental policy - we can each make a difference.

There are many ways in which we can impact our society. We live in a nation where we are guaranteed certain rights. Two key ones stated in the Bill of Rights are freedom of speech and of the press. We are free to voice our personal opinions. Although all of us might not get the chance to address Congress, we can certainly express our concerns to the school board and the city council. Letters also make a difference. Letters to the editor can express opinions and get citizens' concerns out in the open. Writing to companies can change a practice, while letters to members of Congress can change votes. If enough people believe that their voice counts and thus take the initiative to write or speak, it is possible to cause changes.

We have an important role in society. We must take action as committed citizens by voicing our concerns by writing letters and addressing the powers-that-be. Most importantly, we must believe that each and every one of us can make a difference.

There is no way to tell by looking at someone if they are a carrier of the virus.

More AIDS cases are reported everyday. As of right now, approximately 3,200 cases have been reported in Minnesota. That is just a fraction of the total of 250,000 cases in the entire United States. The numbers are rising as are the numbers of deaths due to AIDS related causes. AIDS itself is not the cause of death. When someone has AIDS, their body does not have the ability to fight off infections and diseases, they eventually die from a disease that they have obtained. As of this date, approximately 150,000 people have died in the United States of AIDS related diseases. The statistic of deaths in Minnesota is 850 people.

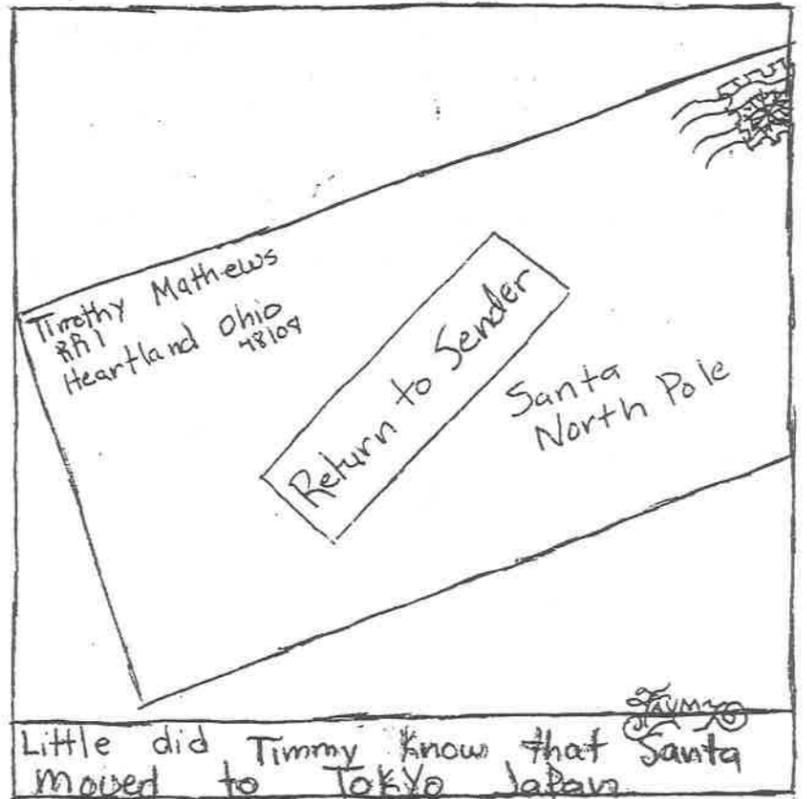
Once a person is diagnosed with AIDS, continued on Page 3

Maybe Not Forever

My heart racing
with so much love,
so much pain.
I need to get away
before he sees the
tears threatening to burst forth
revealing how much I care.

My last glimpse as I run
from my shattered heart
is of a feeble wave good-bye.
He knows the devastation
I have just endured
but does nothing as I leave, forever.

by Alisha Wilke



"Free" public education isn't so cheap any more



by Amy Tobias
Graphos Reporter

Many of us have been hit in the pocket book this year because of the rising costs of public education. Some of these costs are necessity, some are tradition, some are extra-curricular fees.

Everyone starts out the year with new school supplies. We thought they were cool in elementary school, but to most of us now we dread the thought of them. School supplies annually cost us up to \$20. Then everyone needs some new clothes whether it's a pair of tennis shoes or a new wardrobe. New clothing can range from \$20 to hundreds of dollars. Then we can start the school year.

Everyday we have to eat lunch, whether we pack a lunch or eat school lunch. Food can cost about \$5-\$6 a week.

And then there are the "traditional" costs. You know the ones I mean. Senior pictures can easily exceed \$300, graduation announcements range from \$50 to \$100, and another \$20 cap and gown rental, and finally the Senior Breakfast fee. Then you have a cost for

announcements, and thank you notes. That is a great deal of cash spent on tradition, but we all do it when our time comes.

Next we have to pay to participate in extra-curricular activities. Football and hockey players pay \$65. The other sports cost \$60 per season, per person. For those of us in the fine arts, it costs \$25 to play in the pit orchestra or be on stage. And for all you loyal fans the cost of just getting into an event has been jacked up to pay for the programs. If it stopped right there it would be O.K., but it doesn't. Anyone who is in an activity knows how much time you have to take off from work to still participate. That money is not replaceable. And why is this money so important? To pay for the rising costs of our activities.

What am I trying to say? The school district isn't the only ones who have to fork over money for our education. Everything I have mentioned make the three years in high school easier to bare. Because school isn't only about academics; it's about finding yourself and trying to fit in. Sometimes no matter how hard you try, it always seems to come down to money.

the graphos

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Senior privileges seem non-existent



by Tara Gleisner
Graphos Columnist

Come to think of it, are seniors really privileged? We've all heard of "senior privileges" and as sophomores and juniors, we couldn't wait to become seniors so we could find out what the "good life" was all about.

Well, seniors, now we're here. Was the wait worth all that anxiety? Do you feel privileged? I find it hard to feel privileged with some of the regulations that hang over us seniors.

The main issue is study time regulations. Seniors are allowed to eat, drink, and be a little more sociable than in study halls. No complaints there. However, there are strings attached. Take, for example, a senior who has a seventh hour study time. They work a part time job from 2:15 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.-very convenient since seniors with seventh hour study time are *encouraged* to leave after sixth hour.

When quarter grades come out, the

student is failing a class. So much for study time and the job. That student is now confined to a study hall and loses one job hour per day-five hours per week. For a senior in high school trying to prepare for "life after NUSHS," five hours per week means a lot. Placing the student in a study *hall* isn't going to do the trick. What happens when the failing grade belongs to a sophomore or a junior?

By the way, for all of you who don't already know, graduation picture appointments are **unexcused** absences. Since one photo session usually lasts no more than one hour, graduation picture appointments should not be an unexcused absence, especially if

the appointments are cleared with parents or guardians.

Cathedral High School recently handed their seniors a new privilege: open lunch and study halls. They are free to leave the school during their lunch and study halls, as long as they sign in and out during those hours. Sounds like a good way to learn responsibility.

We seniors are told to "set a good example" for the underclassmen because they supposedly "look up to us." Well, I have news for you. We seniors are hardly different from you when it comes to rules and regulations. Don't bother whining about "senior privileges" because the seniors are *barely* any more "privileged" than you are.

AIDS, continued from Page 2

AIDS, they live approximately three years. A cure has not yet been found.

There are many myths as to how this disease is spread. You can not get AIDS by living with a person with the disease, drinking out of the same cup, using the same toilet, or holding hands with someone with the disease. AIDS may be passed by sexual activity, blood transfusions, or sharing intravenous drug needles with someone who carries the virus. Today's society needs to be educated and aware of the causes in order to protect and prevent themselves from getting the disease.

Another very common myth is that AIDS affects only homosexuals, **VERY** untrue. Anyone of any age and of either sex, either homosexual or heterosexual, may get AIDS. The majority of people with AIDS are men, but the number of women with the disease is rising. It is projected that by the year 2000, AIDS will be the leading cause of death for females ages 15 to 44.

Students need to be aware that they are not immune to this disease. If you are sexually active, you are at risk of contracting the HIV virus. The most common age group affected is people 20 to

40 years old. These ages are slowly getting lower.

AIDS is becoming too common, and the number of cases is getting too large to ignore it. The statistics are scary. We need to wake up and learn more about this disease and how we can prevent it.

Please, for the sake of your life, be aware and be careful.

Choir sings at Prep Bowl

by Scott Varland
Graphos Reporter

Have you heard the Concert Choir recently? If you haven't, you should because their reputation is really taking them places. Don't believe me? Did you know that the choir sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" in the Metro Dome before the AA championship game in the Prep Bowl on Friday, November 27.

This is the first time the choir has had an opportunity to sing for such an event. Choir director **Al Hawkins** thought the choir's performance of the national anthem was the only one broadcast that day by the media.

Christmas, continued from Page 1

ends up paying for it anyway," says Brad.

There are some celebrations other than Christmas during this time of the year. **Betsy Pieser** celebrates the Jewish holiday of Chanukah. Contrary what most of us believe, it is not a major event in Judaism. During the time of Chanukah, the eight candles, in a holder called a menorah, are lit. One is lit each day of the celebration. Gifts are given each night of the holiday.

Hectic holidays overlook peace

by Eric Rupert
Graphos Columnist

I think people forget about Thanksgiving. As soon as Halloween is over, stores are decorated for Christmas. Don't get me wrong. Christmas is important, but what about Thanksgiving?

When our Forefathers landed in this strange and harsh land, the native Americans taught them to hunt, farm, and prepare for winter.

About 370 years ago the first Thanksgiving was celebrated. The pilgrims had survived a harsh winter and numerous hardships. The first Thanksgiving lasted three days, and the leader of the pilgrims invited the Indians to the celebration. They were one of the main reasons the pilgrims were still alive.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in peace by two different cultures with two different beliefs. The ideals of the pilgrims were

Sexual harassment must stop

To the editor:

Sexual harassment has become a familiar topic for **The Graphos** articles. The school newspaper is an ideal place to inform the students on the school's policy on sexual harassment. I hope that the students realize the significance of the policy... enough to use it. Too easily and often it becomes a joke. No one should feel afraid or ashamed to report a legitimate problem.

I urge students and faculty to take sexual harassment seriously. For the persons involved in such behavior, sexual harassment may not be the cutting off point. I see a definite connection between sexual assaults/harassment and all degrees of pornography. In Oklahoma, a county's numbers of rapes dropped by 27% after 150 sex-oriented businesses were closed.

College girls **SHOULDN'T** have to be concerned about their safety on the campus or with their boyfriends. Students of all ages **SHOULDN'T** have to be uncomfortable or afraid of their peers or

Traditionally, the Piesers give a gift at least one of the nights to Santa's Closet.

Although Malaysia has no winter, people still have a celebration in what we would consider winter. This holiday takes place later in the season, and is called Hari Raya Aidilfitri, according to AFS student, **Hanita Sayuti**. Traditionally this day of celebration takes place after a month of fasting.

Of course, the best tradition in NUHS is enjoying Christmas vacation.



soon incorporated into the culture of our country.

As Americans we should take pride in our country's ideals (not always our country's actions). We should give thanks for our rights and freedoms. Our goals as Americans and members of the world community are to accomplish a true peace, the kind of peace that was celebrated over 300 years ago. So remember Thanksgiving and what it symbolizes, peace.

elders because of sexual harassment. Education and awareness of these problems can only do so much. If we reduced the amount of accessible pornography of all degrees, perhaps we would find improvements in people's conduct and reasoning.

What about freedom of speech, expression, and the press? If people would rather have the exploitation and degradation of women and children as a form of entertainment for many Americans, don't expect to see any improvement in the fabric of American lives.

This letter was signed but the name is withheld upon request.

Letters

The Graphos welcomes the opinions of our readers in letters addressed "To the Editors." Each letter must be signed by the writer. It should be short and to the point in order to ensure their publication without condensation.

people

U.S. experiences thrill Hanita Sayuti

by Kristie Benson
Graphos Reporter

Despite the hustle and bustle in the hallways and classrooms, you may have noticed an energetic, smiling addition to the student body this year. Eighteen-year-old **Hanita Sayuti** is an AFS exchange student from Malaysia who is staying with Ingrid and Lowell Liedman.

She has experienced several things for the first time since arriving in August. For Sayuti, the first snowfall of the year was especially exciting because she had never seen snow before. She also had never flown in an airplane, nor had she watched a football game before.

School in Malaysia, according to Sayuti, is different than school in the U.S. The students in her school are required to wear uniforms. She said wearing uniforms was easier because you didn't have the burden of picking out what to wear in the morning. The school also did not have lockers. Instead of having the students move from one class to another, the teachers rotate from classroom to classroom. Choices of classes are different, and in Malaysia there are levels instead of grades. To move from one level to the next students must pass an exam administered by the government. Despite these adjustments, she likes school at NUHS. Her favorite classes are history, American Government, and art.

In addition to academic differ-

ences, there are differences in school activities. In Malaysia she participated in volleyball and a sport called net ball, which is similar to basketball. Last fall she played on the volleyball team; and even though she has never played basketball, she is out for it too. Besides sports, her other interests include cooking, reading, and art.

Like many other seniors, Sayuti is thinking of her future. She plans to return home and attend a college to study law or possibly art.

Deciding to be an exchange student wasn't easy because she left behind many friends. She has a large family, five girls and four brothers. As much as she misses them all, she is enjoying her stay in New Ulm and is happy that she came.



Hanita Sayuti has enjoyed her experiences at NUHS.



Tanah Janike teaches students to be independent after they leave her classroom.

Janike enthusiastic about teaching position

by Christine Schmidt
Graphos Reporter

Tanah Janike recently graduated from MSU and already has a job she enjoys. She works with students who are the Educable Mentally Handicapped (EMH) in the senior high. Janike's job is to assist them in becoming more independent by teaching them basic job and living skills. Learning pedestrian safety, how to write checks, and going shopping are examples of some skills she will be teaching them throughout the year.

"You can't take everyday things for granted. You have to praise the little things they accomplish," she said.

Although her major was elementary education, she student taught in Elementary Special Education in Mankato as well as in a fifth grade class. Now that she is teaching the high school EMH class, she is more aware of the different level of teaching needed for the differing age groups. In the younger classes, the students are taught academics. The older students receive more exposure to the care of basic needs and independence. "My students are eager to learn and work hard at what they do. I enjoy seeing them progress," she said.

This first-year teacher isn't the first, however, to teach in her family. Her mother is an elementary teacher, who raised her and her younger brother after her father, an industrial arts teacher, passed away. Janike's interest in elementary education developed through her own experience in high school rather than her mother's teaching.

Janike has helpful advice for students who are considering a similar career. They should try to work with the handicapped and young children. Such work requires valuable qualities. One needs to have patience and compassion. "You

need to be an advocate for the kids. You have to be able to stick up for them."

Janike comes from a town of approximately 250 people. During her school days Waldorf was consolidated with Pemberton. Both are now joined with Jaynesville. While in high school she was an active student, participating in volleyball, basketball, band, jazz band, and helping out in an elementary class.

She also found time for teaching piano lessons. "Teaching piano lessons was a good experience. I was able to make my own hours and received good pay." Aside from teaching lessons, Janike was a personal care attendant for those who needed help within their homes. It is easy to see why she was elected as a homecoming queen candidate in 1987.

Janike continues to enjoy playing the piano but doesn't have a favorite style of music. "I like all music," she said, "except country. It depends on my mood." Thrillers, such as "Silence of the Lambs" are her favorite type of movies. As for books, she prefers Danielle Steele type romances. "I also enjoy yardwork and just being outside."

It is no surprise that Janike's favorite sport is football. While a senior her high school 9-man team came within one game of going to the Prep Bowl with her husband as the quarterback.

Presently she is a June newlywed, married to her high school sweetheart. They operate a small dairy farm just outside of Waldorf. Janike's job involves an hour's drive to and from work. She appreciates the fact that even though she gets up at five in order to leave around six, she isn't the first one up. Chores begin around five for her husband.

NUHS gains Spanish teacher, assistant coach

by Sarah Henderson
Graphos Reporter

Some of you may have noticed a new face on the second floor. **Eric Torgerson** is the newest addition to the Spanish and English departments.

He attended Alexandria High School where he was active in football, band, and school plays. Torgerson then went to Fergus Falls Community College for one year where he played football



Eric Torgerson has received a warm welcome from students.

before transferring to Concordia College in Moorhead.

Torgerson initially became interested in Spanish because of a college professor, who supervised student tours to Mexico including Guadalajara and the Yucatan Peninsula.

Education appeals to Torgerson because he believes that education develops tomorrow's leaders. He thinks it is very important for kids to set educational goals. Learning to appreciate other cultures is another result of a good education.

In addition to his teaching duties, Torgerson is also the 7th and 8th grade football coach. He enjoys that very much and hopes there are other coaching opportunities available later in the year.

New Ulm is the biggest town Torgerson has taught in so far. His impressions of New Ulm and the senior high have been good. The students are cooperative and hard-working.

The next time you see Torgerson, say "Hola!" and welcome him to NUHS.



NUHS pom pon squad requires commitment and hard work.

Pom pon dances their way to the top

by Michelle Anderson
Graphos Reporter

Dance line is fun for the squad, but there's commitment and hard work involved. This year's squad is once again lead by **Jill Curry**. The girls practice about three to four times a week from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. **Rachelle Newman** said, "Trying to get 21 girls to agree on something at 7:00 in the morning can be difficult at times, but we try to compromise." Practices are also scheduled during the summer.

Everyone in the squad contributes their ideas for new routines, which helps them pull together as a team. **Alisha Wilke** said, "Pom Pon has taught me to work with other people and to accept their ideas." The squad must cooperate as a team in order for their hard work to pay off. They especially enjoy performing at basketball and hockey games. "Pom Pon gives me the chance to perform in front of my peers and family

members," said Newman. The squad does their best in designing their dances to please the crowd.

On February 26 and 27, the dance line will offer a pom pon clinic for students in grades kindergarten through third grade. This event encourages young kids to try out for dance line. Another big event was the state dance line competition. It was held in the Twin Cities at the St. Paul Civic Center on December 11.

The dance line designed new outfits for this event and choreographed new routines. A high kick dance was performed to the song "Panama" and a jazz dance was also introduced. The dance line needed smooth performances at the state competition to do well. "We're still working on finishing the routines, but what we have so far for both dances is great," said **Renee Purrier** before leaving for St. Paul.

PIP teaches people skills

by Sarah Clyne
Graphos Reporter

Partners In Prevention (PIP) is a peer group that helps others cope with problems and family living.

The group puts on a family sculpture skit in all health classes. It's based on a family centered around an alcoholic father. The presentation portrays the different aspects of the family members and how each one deals with their problems. The purpose is to help those who might be in a similar situation and to make them see that there are people who can help.

PIP also goes on weekend retreats at other schools. Weekend activities include energizers, activities to start out the day; large group sessions about helping peers with problems and

accepting yourself for who you are; and skill groups that teach how to deal with problems. There is also free time to relax and do what they want. There's a Saturday night dance so everyone can get to know each other. When Sunday comes around, it's time to say good bye to the new friends that were made.

Rachel Jutz joined PIP because "It's a good experience. I learned that I'm OK and that there are others out there who are like me too. I like meeting new people but saying good bye is my least favorite time."

PIP is a great group of peers who help others in times of need. If you ever need a friend or a shoulder to lean on, you might want to talk to someone involved in PIP.

Zins gains insight from another culture

by Casie Netzke
Graphos Reporter

"Well, miss, can you tell me where the Dominican Republic is?" To be sure, senior **Nicky Zins** is perhaps the best one to answer that question.

Zins lived on the island between Jamaica and Puerto Rico for 11 months last year. She stayed with a host family including a mother, two sisters, ages 15 and four, and two brothers, ages nine and one.

Her first choice was not the Dominican Republic. "I wanted to go to Great Britain, but I got chosen to go to the D.R. I thought it couldn't be that bad because it was in the Caribbean," said Zins.

In the years between 1930 and 1961, the Dominican Republic was dominated by the repressive dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. Although his leadership maintained internal stability, managed to pay off the national debt, and introduced a measure of prosperity and modernization, the human costs were extensive. Today large numbers of Dominicans live in misery and feel their situation worsening.

At a comfortable 77 degree average temperature year round, it's hard to complain about your day. A day in her life for those months started with school at 8:00 a.m. School days lasted only four and a half hours, ending at 12:30 p.m. Returning home for a lunch of rice and beans was the norm in her host home. Most of the time, television occupied the time between lunch and the reopening of businesses at 2:00 p.m. "After that, I'd just do anything I would do here, like go shopping or to a park," said Zins.

The Dominican Republic and the United States vary in many ways. "The D.R. is a third world country so they didn't have all the fast food places, and there was only one big mall on the island. There were

only two classes of people, rich or poor, no middle class, and rules weren't enforced." She said that coming home from her stay in the Dominican Republic made her appreciate the things she has. "You really don't know how good you have it until you see how bad some people have it. I had no problem adjusting to life back in New Ulm."

The republic's economy is based primarily on agriculture. Sugar, tobacco, cacao, coffee, hides, fruits, and tomato paste are the most important exports. Many natural resources have not yet been highly developed commercially. The country has a population of approximately 4,000,000. The government is moving in a democratic direction but is still in a vicious cycle of dependency, authoritarianism, and underdevelopment, conditions mainly caused by a lack of social organization.

Zins is back home but has not forgotten her friends in the Republic. "I write them as often as I can and plan to visit them sometime in March."

Zins experienced a whole new way of life for those 11 months, a memory she will carry with her always.



Nicky Zins has returned after a year in the Dominican Republic as an AFS student.



PIP members include, L to R, Nancy Marti, Joni Blekestad, Erika Holm, Melissa Wellmann, Naomi Grant, Pat Jutz and Rachel Jutz.



Students risk dough with hopes of a raise

by Travis Sletta
Graphos Reporter

Economics teacher **Ed Weber** has found a way to increase student interest while they learn. When teaching students about corporations and stock ownership, Weber offers his students an opportunity to actually invest in the stock market. They take all of this very seriously because they use their own funds instead of playing the market with Monopoly money.

Weber, who worked in an investment company for over two years in the mid 80s, has the final say regarding what stock the students buy because at the end of the semester he buys out the students' investment at market price. If the selling price is lower than the purchase price, they still break even because he guarantees the original amount that each student contributed. Weber then keeps the shares for his own personal portfolio. "This class project creates a teachable moment," said Weber. Such moments allow him to demonstrate economic principles in a realistic manner.

The project has grown from a \$250 novelty in 1987 to this year's total of \$650 of student money. A few

days after the first purchase in 1987, the stock market dropped 508 points, the largest decline in the history of the New York Stock Exchange. October 19 became known as Black Monday, another example of what can happen in the real world of economics.

Previous classes have purchased shares in companies like Jostens, Hormel, McDonald's, and Wal-Mart. This year, after some discussion and hesitation, students purchased shares in Home Depot, a chain of self service lumber companies headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. The classes also considered investing in Chrysler, but Weber argued that "the long term prospects of American auto manufacturers is not good." Since the purchase date, Home Depot has appreciated approximately 12%, but Chrysler has grown over 30%. Some students now wonder "Why didn't we buy Chrysler?" A question Weber usually pretends he doesn't appreciate.

All of the stock purchases made by previous classes have turned out to be keepers. The two best stocks have been McDonald's and Wal-Mart, both of which continue to be valuable investments, just like the lessons learned from this class project.

Math team counts on a winning season

by Ellie Graves
Graphos Reporter

NERDS OF THE SCHOOL!!! That just may be what first runs through your mind when you hear the dreaded words, **Math Team**. But this math team is nothing like your regular nerd brigade.

This reporter approached math team coach **Wayne Luepke** with a little apprehension, assuming that his words would bring instant boredom, but he almost talked me into being a full fledged member.

The inside story on the Math Team is basically your typical team saga. There is the same format from year to year, although the tests tend to get harder as the year progresses. There are four different levels of tests, A, B, C, and D. A is the most simple and D is the hardest. These tests are taken primarily in small groups.

Luepke, who has been the senior high coach for two years, commented on the fact that his basic job is to tutor the students on what they don't know.

The team consists of seniors, juniors, and sophomores. Luepke jokingly explained that what the team lacked in expertise they made up in numbers, and they all don't have IQs of 160 or above. Your semityypical geek pack they are not.

Some sophomores remembered being overwhelmed and surprised at some of the things that they were learning. They arrived at their first meet with high expectations but soon discovered that they were not as well prepared as they thought.

Junior **Sarah Henderson** was also intimidated at first, but is now used to it. She wondered how she would compete with the other students. "Getting to be great friends with everyone is a great treat," said Henderson. "It's nice to see that we are confident in our math abilities."

Luepke hopes for some team success as younger members make their way to the top of the competition.



This year's Math Team has attracted many new members.

Renting videos becomes "Basic Instinct"

by Sarah Nelson
Graphos Reporter

It's Saturday night and you have nothing to do. You want to go to the theater and catch a movie, but the price turns you away. You decide to rent a movie.

Renting a movie is a great alternative for movie goers. There are many benefits. You are in the comfort of your own home, it doesn't cost an arm and a leg, and if you don't care for the movie, you can always turn it off.

Weekends bring in the most movie rental business. Movies are rented by and for all age groups. On weekdays, many adults stop by the video counter after work and rent a movie to keep the kids occupied. Fridays and Saturdays

attract many college and high school students to check the latest on the video scene.

Sometimes it's a problem determining what movie to select from the many types and titles. Action, drama, comedy, horror, classic, and children's movies are the six basic types. There are many movies that fall into each category. New rentals come out weekly so the "most watched" list changes regularly.

Currently, "Basic Instinct" is the number one film rental locally, an action-thriller involving a serial killer. Filling the number two position is the comedy "Sister Act." A lounge singer witnesses a

murder and seeks protection in a convent. "Fried Green Tomatoes," a heartwarming drama holds strong at number three. It illustrates the life of a middle aged woman who finds refuge with an elderly woman. "Final Analysis" is a chilling, action packed film that occupies the number four place. It depicts two sisters who plot against a psychiatrist with seduction and murder.

At number five stands "Medicine Man," an adventure about finding a cancer cure in the Amazon jungle. The comedy "My Cousin Vinny" is in the number six spot. A lawyer defends his cousin from a crime he didn't commit.

Occupying the seventh position for weeks has been "Prince of Tides." Two people meet at crucial times in their lives. Newcomer "Lethal Weapon III" fills in at number eight. Similar to I and II, this Lethal Weapon is another action packed thriller.

Haven't got anything to do this Saturday night? Check out one of these top eight titles at your local video rental counter and enjoy and inexpensive, entertaining evening at home. Now you can't beat that, can you?

sports

Big athletes demand big bucks



by Steve Schmidt
Sports Communist

There were days when professional athletes played for the pure enjoyment of the game. Today it seems as though the athletes are overcome by the materialistic attitude of society. Sporting events are a popular form of entertainment in America today and those with superior ability take advantage of this by demanding higher salaries each year.

Free agency has been present in Major League Baseball for years and, after a court decision, is now allowed in the National Football League. Free agency has permitted athletes to leave the team they were currently playing for and search for the highest bidder. Instead of being content with the high wages they are paid initially, they are driven to acquire more wealth because some teams are willing to pay more.

The price to watch a professional sporting event increases in order for the team to meet their payroll. For example, a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball ticket ranges from \$8 to \$21.50.

Negotiations in contracts are based on the athlete's selfish desire and greed. The average athlete works hard, and the competition for success is great; however, no one is worth millions of dollars annually. The typical person may work his entire life and not attain the wealth that an athlete acquires in a single season of his career. Those who are

physically skilled beyond the average person are blessed with a gift not everybody received, but this does not mean they deserve to live any better than the rest of society. They continually compete to beat each other for playing time and don't stop when it comes to contract negotiations. The race for the highest paid athlete is evident, and the athletes tend to seek the highest offers.

Television coverage is a major contributor to the high prices in professional sports. Athletic events are run as a business, and all businesses need income to continue their existence. Television coverage provides advertisers a market, and the players are used to attract viewers who watch the games and buy their products. The owners are focused on the success of their team and the revenue raised. The majority of the people associated with professional athletics are not in it because of their love for the game. They are looking to make money, and there is plenty available.

The Minnesota Twins have won two World Series in the last five years. After their last successful season their ace pitcher, Jack Morris, left his home state to obtain more money offered by Toronto. Recently, John Smiley, a starting pitcher for the Twins became a free agent and signed with Cincinnati where he is to be paid \$18.4 million in a four-year contract. The large sums of money have even tempted all-star center fielder Kirby Puckett. He is a free agent and is shopping around for a contract that satisfies him financially.

The overpaid professional athlete is not entirely at fault for monopolizing millions of dollars of the American economy. We fans patronize the athletic apparel stores and regularly attend the events regardless of the high prices demanded. Professional athletics will continue to demand higher salaries year after year until the fans discontinue their support.



The Schmidt brothers, Luke and Steve, fight for the rebound.



Nicky Fluegge begins her routine on the uneven bars.

Gymnasts stretch skills for competition

by Seth Kersten
Graphos Reporter

If you happen to hear music coming from the Jefferson Elementary gym, don't worry; you're not imagining things. It's the girls' gymnastics squad striving for finesse and perfection in their routines. While it is possible to compete in all four areas of gymnastics (**floor, beam, bars, and vault**), most girls choose just two or three in which to compete.

All the events are scored on a scale from 1:00 to 10:00, the same as in the olympics. It is possible to earn extra points by completing certain skills, but a slight mishap in the performance lowers the total awarded by the judges.

A **floor** routine is a combination of dance steps and tumbling passes, such as hand springs, cartwheels, aerials, and flips performed to an instrumental selection lasting from one to a minute twenty seconds. Staying within the designated area, approximately 40' by 40', is another requirement of the exercise.

Another event is the **beam** on which many of the floor skills are also performed but in a much

smaller area, 4", 16 ft. long, and 4 ft. off the floor. Gymnasts are required to perform three passes on the beam, which must be completed within one minute to one minute thirty seconds.

Uneven parallel bars is a third part of girls' gymnastics. As one can tell from its name, the bars are parallel and can be set at varying heights. The eight skills required include the same skills for the beam except a trick may be repeated. The routine must be continuous and fluid because points are deducted for pauses or breaks in the performance. The bars are a difficult routine and demand a lot of upper body strength.

The **vault** is the fourth area in girls' competition. Entrants are allowed two attempted vaults, which are executed by running to a spring board and leaping across the width of a "horse," a padded apparatus. Most gymnasts try layouts, hand springs, and half twists off the spring board. Gymnastics requires discipline, devotion, and desire. So the next time there is a home meet - there are five this year - watch the girls demonstrate their skills in these four routines.

Boys' basketball shoots for good season

by Ryan Raschke
Graphos Reporter

The current basketball season will be different from previous years because of the number of underclassmen on the team. Sophomores **Luke Schmidt, Rod Swenson, and Jared Visker** add height and scoring potential to the Eagles offensive plans. They will fill in for the scorers who graduated last year. The only players returning from last year who had any significant playing time are **Kurt Moelter** and **Steve**

Schmidt. Also returning with some experience is **Dan Pearse**.

The lack of varsity experience is a factor that Eagles Coach **Jim Senske** is concerned about. "We have a hard working group of kids that know how to play basketball but are lacking in experience," said Senske.

The team's emphasis on defense to win games was obvious in their defeat of Mankato East in the first game of the season. The Eagles Basketball, continued on Page 8



Coach Arndt and the wrestling team anticipate another Eagle pin.

Psycho is key word for wrestling team

by Betsy Pieser
Graphos Reporter

psycho: (si-koh) having to do with the mind; mental - see the 1992 wrestling team

Wrestling has always carried a lot of weight at the NUHS, and this year is no different.

Under the coaching of Darwin Arndt, captains Pat Altmann and Brandon Reichel are ready for this season after spending a lot of time off the mat preparing. Whether it was at camp or lifting weights, they're psyched and ready to go.

Altmann has been wrestling for five years and is presently wrestling at 140 pounds. "It's all psychological," said the King of Psycho. "The mental game is very important."

Maintaining the appropriate weight is a constant struggle for wrestlers. Rather than eliminating poor eating practices, wrestlers now cut down on salt because it retains water in the body and thus adds weight. This

year's team does not see a great problem with weight loss or making weight at the time of a meet. With people vying for positions, maintaining weight is an important factor in putting together a competitive team.

Sophomore Lydel Janni has been wrestling for three years and is presently competing at 135 pounds. "It's really mental concentration, but physical fitness is important too," said Janni.

Junior Brian Zitzmann travelled to University of Iowa to attend Dan Gable's wrestling camp. "It was hard but it helped a lot. Gable really rocks. He works on your physical and mental game."

Wrestling is truly a sport combining mental and physical talents. Although wrestling is sometimes overshadowed by basketball and hockey, some people prefer the individuality of the sport. Wrestling fans like the sport because it's one-on-one. You rely on yourself for the win or loss, and no one else matters. That's the way the Eagle wrestlers like it.



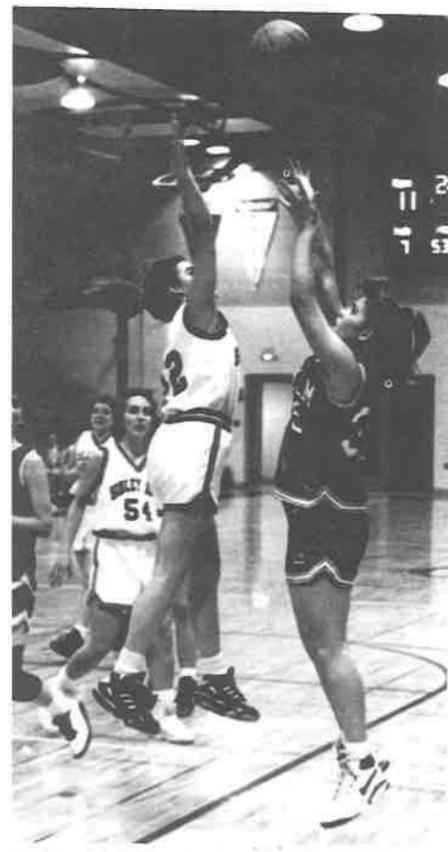
Scott Macho chases after a loose puck.

New coach brings new goals

by Pete Kluge
Graphos Reporter

The varsity girls' basketball team lost four starters to graduation from last year's team, and only three seniors and several underclassmen return who have any experience. The girls' team goal is to improve on last year's 9-14 overall record.

Dave Janssen is the new girls' basketball coach. He has coached at the elementary, junior high, small college, and now high school level. Coach Janssen says the Eagles' strengths this year are tough defense and a good understanding of the game. The weaknesses are their lack of size and the fact that they are learning a new system. He thinks that Blue Earth is the team to beat in the South Central Conference with Fairmont and St. Peter providing tough competition.



Polly Stark puts up a jump shot against Sibley East.

NUHS hockey team awes future members

by Sarah Henderson
Graphos Reporter

If you attend an Eagle hockey game at the Vogel Arena, there's no doubt that there is a lot of student support behind the team from both Cathedral and public. What we don't always pay attention to is all the young kids who are there and how much they look up to the high school hockey players.

After losing four seniors to graduation last year, the kids are looking to this year's team for new heroes. Jason Waldner, who is 8 years old and plays for the Kings, looks up to many of the Eagle players, one of whom is Sam Jacobs. He likes the way he plays and the way he is treated by Jacobs off the ice. Corey Schnobrich, who is also 8 and plays for the Maple Leafs, likes to watch the team in action. He admires their passing techniques

and would really like to meet some of them in person. Too often high school athletes don't realize the great impression they leave with young players, a wonderful opportunity to do good for someone else's benefit.

At this writing the team has played six games, winning two and losing four. Head coach Tom Macho said that the team has been playing "the way we expected." They have some veterans and some new faces who are starting to play well together. He would like to see them improve as players and have a positive attitude on and off the ice. He'd also like to see them become more responsible citizens and return to help out in other parts of the hockey program.

There are 12 seniors on the team, including Jacobs, David Bonni-field, Shawn Ennis, Travis Leskey, Chet Peterson, Eric Seterholm, Bryan Stolt, Mike Treml, Jamie Wieben, and captain Lonny Rathman. Macho wants them to be the focal point for the younger kids and "lead the way" to a better hockey program in New Ulm.

Basketball, continued from Page 7
out scored the Cougars 24 to 3 in the fourth quarter.

Because individual abilities on the team are fairly equal, several players will be rotated in out of the games on a regular basis. This strategy will be used until the coaches find a winning combination.

The Eagles have some height this year, but the competition is also taller. Coach Senske expects this team to improve and be competitive as the season unfolds.