

the graphos

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Students wrapped up in Christmas gift ideas



Minnesota Street is an easy place to discover the Christmas Spirit - and purchase a last-minute gift.

by Melissa Stolt
Graphos Reporter

Signs of the rapidly approaching Christmas season are everywhere. Brightly-colored lights adorn houses, a fluffy blanket of snow covers the ground, "Santas" everywhere are making their lists and checking them twice, and malls are packed with shoppers looking for just the right gift.

What exactly is the right gift? Or the best? Or for that matter, what is the worst gift? To help all you amateur shoppers NUHS students recalled past gifts given and received.

What was the best gift you ever got?

Rich Walters: "A car last year."

Kristi Debban: "A heart locket. It was the first gift my grandpa gave to my grandma when they were dating. Then my grandma gave it to me."

Ted Wirtz: "In ninth grade I got a new set of golf clubs, the kind that I'd been waiting for."

What was the best gift you ever gave?

Andy Wachholz: "When I was younger, I gave my parents a cheap Santa figurine. My parents just loved it, so I thought that it really great."

Sara Remmert: "A cross stitch that I gave to my grandma when I was 10."

Emily Crabtree: "Well, I guess it would be a picture frame that had all these different slots for different pictures, and I filled it up with pictures and gave it to my friend."

What was the worst gift you ever got?

Laura Guse: "Decorative soap. I was in the third grade and was from someone who drew my name for a class Christmas party."

Lynn Rubie: "An ugly dress that my grandma made and gave to me. I had to wear it every time I saw her, otherwise her feelings were hurt."

Don Pelto: "Underwear from my mom."

Who is the hardest person to buy for and why?

Jim Frederickson: "My dad because he's old and conservative."

Paul Brunner: "My mom. She has everything she needs, so I never know what she wants."

Missy Lomax: "My dad because he only asks for things that deal with fishing. If I do get him clothes, they never fit or are the wrong color."

What do you want for Christmas?

Nicole Portner: "A new car. A '94 Ford Mustang convertible, red with a CD player."

Dave Tasto: "A stereo and a car."

Sarah Oetken: "A letter jacket."

Student Council keeps a busy schedule

by Sarah Henderson
Graphos Reporter

NUHS is a busy place, but that's what makes high school so special. One of the groups behind the fun is the Student Council, which works hard to organize all the memorable activities throughout the year. President and Vice president this year are **Carisa Lindmeyer** and **Lydel Janni**. **Terry Smith** is the Secretary.

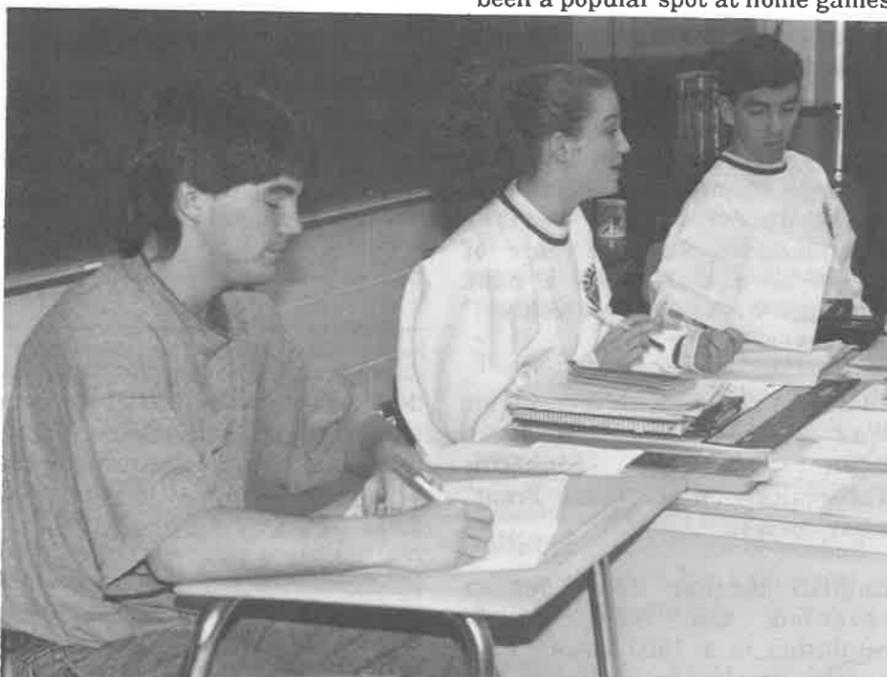
The Student Council has been active this year. They started out with homecoming, one of their biggest activities. "Homecoming was a great success and all of our hard work paid off," said Lindmeyer.

On November 18 Student Council members attended a special meeting of the school board. They discussed new activities and ideas and made the board aware of their activities while receiving input and reactions from the board.

The Student Council has also approved a grant of \$125 to the

yearbook to pay for one of the color pages devoted to homecoming.

The Student Council Stand, which has a brand new look, will be open for business over 20 nights during the winter sports season.



Lydel Janni, Carisa Lindmeyer, and Terry Smith lead a NUHS student council meeting.

Advisor Dave Schmidt built an improved stand on rollers that will provide for easier access and usage. All Student Councilors work at the stand selling soft drinks, popcorn, and various other snacks. The concession stand has been a popular spot at home games.

The council is active in many other winter activities, including Santa's Closet. They are also discussing plans for a week sometime in mid-January with special days, activities, and a dance. Students are excited about this event and hope it will become a tradition. Council members are also starting to plan the Valentine's Day Dance on February 11.

The council has also added something new to the bulletin board outside the office. In addition to the list of the council members, there is a special poster each week that will enhance school pride and spirit.

The Student Council meets weekly on Wednesdays during the fall. During the rest of the year, they meet about once a month. If there are any students who are interested in getting involved, elections for next year will be held next spring. Any eligible student may run for office. If students have any ideas or questions, direct them to any member of the council or Schmidt.

editorial

High school students experience activity overload



by Sarah Nelson
Graphos Editor

Doesn't life seem to become more difficult as the years pass? Remember in grade school when all we worried about was whether or not we were going to pass the next spelling test or if we would be able to "play" at our friends house after school?

Now that we've made it to high school, life just seems to be flying by. Everyday we push ourselves trying to make it to practices and meet deadlines. It seems so strange that we put these pressures on ourselves. We choose to be involved in activities until we can't tolerate it anymore or we eventually run out of time.

Some high school students function on only 4 or 5 hours of sleep a night simply because there doesn't seem to be enough time in the day. Many have part-time jobs, sports, and

other extra curricular activities that demand attention everyday.

In addition to these activities, we also must keep up with our school work. No matter what happens, students will always have homework. There eternally seems to be a history test that is impossible to study for or English papers that have been calling our names for a week.

There is also something that always creeps up and can't be avoided. It follows us around where ever we go. It catches up with us at the most inconvenient times... **PROCRASTINATION.** We need to plan ahead. We must learn not to put things off until the last minute.

At times we ask ourselves why we are trying to tackle so much. It could be for self satisfaction, to please our parents, or even pressure from our peers. We are doing something that isn't for self satisfaction, then maybe you should take another look at ourselves.

Most of us learn to have fun with everything we do. We meet new friends, learn different approaches, and strive to be the best we can. We just have to understand that once in awhile it is O.K. to take a break. We need time for just ourselves.

So if you feel over pressured by people and things, maybe it's time to "stop and smell the roses".

Disco, tuberculosis, and basketball fans' attire make headlines

by Maren Olson
Graphos Editor

The following items come from past December issues of the Graphos. . . .

"Disco hustles sales and interest" stated a headline in 1978. America had disco fever, and across the nation record companies were pushing 12-inch "disco discs." Symptoms were beginning to appear in New Ulm. The Kaiserhoff had just opened a new wing, complete with a disco-dance floor, and adult ed. disco classes were offered through New Ulm Public Schools.

Christmas break in 1963 included a tour of Mexico for 27 teachers, parents, and students. The group planned to drive the entire way!

Female fans were reminded in

1943 that "Nothing is more irritating that to see a girl coming to a game in a sloppy sweatshirt and overalls, hair uncombed and shoes unlaced, or the other extreme of very dress-up clothes including earrings, spangles, and too much make-up." The writer recommended "a nice pair of slacks or a skirt with a neat looking blouse or sweater." Whatever!?

1943 also reported an increase in War Stamp sales, and three winners in the "Fighting Tuberculosis on our Home Front" essay contest.

English teacher Bob Jensen revealed his New Year's resolution in a 1963 issue. "I do hearby resolve to smile at the second semester classes, no matter what happens."



Education reaches beyond reading and writing

by Kristie Benson
Graphos Columnist

What is the purpose of high school? I'm probably not the only person to ever have reflected upon this subject. No doubt the concept originates from some ancient form of inhumane torture and is most likely unconstitutional as it could easily be considered "cruel and unusual punishment." However, many would maintain that a school's most important function is to provide students with a basic education in such areas as math, science, and English. While there might be some merit to this argument, I believe high school serves a more significant purpose.

The years spent from kindergarten to graduation are perhaps some of the most important of our lifetime. These are the years that most significantly influence our lives.

Today's schools provide many more learning experiences than simply reading, writing, and arithmetic. Because of the diverse opportunities available, students are able to experiment with various activities and interests. School is a time for growing and discovering. It's a time to develop traits, qualities, talents, and friendships. It is a time for searching and creating. It's this latter education that I believe is the most valuable.

For many students high school has served a worthwhile purpose, but has unfortunately provided

A new, experimental program was designed during 1953. Driver's training and behind-the wheel-instruction would be offered the next year. Total cost for students? \$2.50!

NUHS athletics experienced major changes in 1973. Two girls' sports - gymnastics and track, became interscholastic events. Up to this point only intramural sports were available for girls.



nothing for others. Oftentimes those who gain nothing have contributed nothing. No one can be forced to learn; they can only be provided with the means to learn.

If we do not make something of ourselves, no one else will. Why sit back and let life happen? Everyone has the ability to shape their own future.

By becoming involved and exploring new things, we can establish strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes. If we don't try, we are only cheating ourselves. We shouldn't sell ourselves short. Until we give our best shot, we don't know what we can do. Dreams can become reality but first we have to dream.

While high school may seem absurd in some ways, it definitely has value, especially if we seek to find it. Only by becoming involved in life will we ever live. Everyone has the choice to make something of themselves. Ultimately, we all have to decide for ourselves.

the graphos

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Juniors ponder reasons for existence



by Luke Schmidt
Graphos Columnist

In the senior high there are many diverse groups and cliques. From the preps to the jocks to the people who dress differently. It all depends on your attitude and friends. There is one group, however, that you cannot choose for yourself. That group is your grade. The only escape is failure, not a good choice.

The sophomores are just arriving at a new school and are really excited to meet different people and experience senior high life. They may be a bit naive and some are slightly immature, but, for the most part, they are tolerable. Going from ruling the junior high to being nothing at the senior high may be a bit tough on some of them, and a few still like to think they own the place. A rude awakening for some and a learning experience for others. Many sophomores have made friends in the upper classes through sports or some other activity.

By now the juniors have settled comfortably into the senior high routine. We are still wondering what great thing is happening to us this year. The sophomores are in a new school full of new people. The seniors look forward to graduation in the spring and college in the fall. But we juniors, let's face it, have nothing to look forward to. Sure, we are in the middle of all the

Contradictions spark straight-forward frustrations

To the editors:

One thing that bothers me are all of the contradictions that we use. Unfortunately, contradictions occur everywhere, even in our school paper. In this year's first issue of *The Graphos* the article about sophomore actions contained a contradiction. At one time the article said sophomores went to class too early, but at another time the same article stated that the writer was unable to walk down the halls in the morning because sophomores were always in the way. Apparently sophomores have the power of being in two places at once.

The most obvious examples occur on television. It is not uncommon to find violence the topic of TV news. The newscaster might talk about how cartoons or some police

excitement and a small portion of activities like homecoming may rub off on us, but, for the most part, we are bored to death. Not everything is bad about being a junior, however. Just being part of the senior high is excitement enough for some while others find something else to spice up their life.

The rulers of the high school, the seniors, sit back and relax while waiting to graduate. They are generally here to have fun and hang out with their friends. Some come to learn, but most think that was done in their sophomore and junior years. Members of the younger classes look up to the seniors and see themselves acting like that in a year or two. Laid back and cool, the seniors are the envy of the school. While we work like crazy in our required classes, seniors arrange their schedules so they can come late or leave early.

Getting out of here and into college must be an exciting prospect to look forward to, but it's almost a guarantee that the seniors will miss some aspect of the senior high. Whether it's sports, friends, or even New Ulm, something will be missed. Everyone will go their different directions and see each other only on weekends or holidays. The seniors are in for a big change.

Seniors have the most freedom, the juniors, considerably less, and the sophomores are the downtrodden masses on the chain of being. Seniors have the least amount of time left and should make the most of it. They're leaving in the fall and should feel like they made their years in the high school count. As far as juniors are concerned, we have to toil and slave and hope we can make it until next year when we crawl out of the junior cocoon and into the glory of being a senior. Sophomores, have fun while you can because in a year you'll be juniors, and you'll have nothing fun to do except pick on the sophomores.

show have too much violence. After that segment the newscaster might break to a story about a recent murder or accident showing a gory scene that would never be shown on prime time TV. Television news must not be subject to the restrictions of other TV shows.

Contradictions range from school newspapers to TV news.

Name 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.

FFA nurtures leaders

by Sam Tuttle
Graphos Reporter

Tuesday night at 7:30 while the rest of the school is at the basketball game gossiping about the day's events, the members of FFA are hard at work, planning one of their many activities. The FFA is a national organization of more than 57,000 members whose goal is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship.

The president of the local chapter is Nicole Portner, who along with the other members meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 in the Ag Room. The organization, once called the Future Farmers of America, is now simply FFA and deals with all aspects of agriculture from mechanics to wildlife management.

During the year the organization
Continued on Page 6

Tales of the "Young and Restless"

by Andrea Bieraugal
Special Assignment

I met him in Beverly Hills 90210. I was **Sweating Bullets** when I walked up to him, but soon it was **Good Company**, and we started to take it **Step by Step**.

Then, our **Hearts Afire**, we were suddenly seeing **20/20**. My heart had **Wings!** In **48 Hours** we were **Married People**. He was **Out of This World** and it only took **60 Minutes!** All of a sudden we had a **Full House** because we were **Married With Children**. Our marriage was **In Living Color** but he soon pulled the **Evening Shade** on our marriage. He said he was just having **Growing Pains**, but I had **Reasonable Doubts**. I soon realized we were from **Different Worlds**. Once I was his **Guiding Light**; now just one of his **Golden Girls**.

One day I threatened him. I said, "I'll **Fly Away to Gilligan's Island** for some **Northern**

Exposure. Those are the **Facts of Life**, honey. Life's not all **Picket Fences**." Around our house it was **Love and War**.

After that we tried some **Home Improvement**, but we both realized we were **Young and Restless** and would be better off **Living Single**. We went to **The Judge** to settle our **Family Matters**. I was awarded **All my Children**.

A couple of days later I heard he had a **Code 3**. They called **Rescue 911**. He was rushed to **General Hospital**. **Doogie Howser** and his **Nurses** operated on him. He was going to take it **One Day at a Time**. Somebody decided he needed a **Second Chance**. For a minute I thought he was going to take a **Quantum Leap** - if you know what I mean.

I told him I wanted **Happy Days** because we only have **One Life to Live**. Then I leaned over and whispered **PSILUVU**.

Well, **Life Goes On**.

Put-downs anger observer

by Kara Hatle
Graphos Columnist

As I walk down the halls, I see a lot of pushing, shoving, name-calling, and put downs. Just because they are too tall or too short, too fat or too thin, too smart or not smart enough, too serious or too dingy, glasses or no glasses, long hair or short hair, or maybe they just walk funny.

I have to ask myself why? Why do we mock others? Why do we think we are better than others? Why do some people think they are better than we? What makes one person better than another?

These people are putting others down to make themselves feel better, to make themselves feel superior.

I cannot say that I have never called anyone a name or pushed someone around, but I am not so sure that anyone can.

For that matter, I am pretty sure that almost everyone has been called a geek, nerd, dork, sleaze, slime ball, fagot, preppy, or slut.



I think it's time we grow up and accept people for who and what they are.

Within each of us lies a geek, a jock, a princess, a hood, and a basketcase.

So the next time you need to show off or feel the need to call someone a name because they're not cool enough to sit at your lunch table, just remember that the only reason you are acting so stupid is that you need to hurt others to make yourself feel better. In reality you are no better than they are. Maybe worse.

people

Khokholov visits U.S. to study our democracy

by Scott Varland
Graphos Reporter

For those who are taking political science or who remember taking civics in the ninth grade, I've got an opportunity for you.

How would you like to be sent to another country for a year to study their government, get a good idea of daily life, and practice the language? Not bad, huh? What if I told you that the entire trip was sponsored by the country that you're visiting. Now we start to get skeptical; what's the catch, right?

For Yuri Khokhlov, that very proposition was posed to him, and there was no catch. Khokhlov, of Voronezh, Russia, is studying American government and economics while attending NUHS. He is one of 1,200 students selected from the countries of the former Soviet Union to participate in an exchange program set up by the Freedom Support Act (FSA), a legislative program originated by Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey.

Part of the act is designated as an exchange program enabling students from formerly communist countries to study democracy and capitalism in the U.S. The hope is that the students take what they learned back to their own countries. In addition to providing the funding for the program, it provides educational experiences like field trips, meetings, lectures, and even a trip to the capital.

Not everybody who wants to go can, however. Those initially selected must take a test, and only those with the best scores participate. The ratio, Khokhlov said, was about one in eight. In New Ulm, the FSA works in conjunction with the AFS program to provide social and educational events for the participants.



Exchange student Yuri Khokhlov is enjoying his time at NUHS.

Voronezh, a city of 800,000 southwest of Moscow, is over 400 years old. The city has long been known for its shipbuilding and is often called, "The cradle of the Russian fleet." Khokhlov points out that the location of the city is unique because it is heavily industrial; however, the surrounding area is mostly agricultural.

In Voronezh Khokhlov attended three high schools. He attended a main high school called a gymnasium, where he took general classes to prepare him for college. He also attended two "specialty" high schools: a business school where he took classes in economics, English, and other business classes and an arts school where he took drawing and painting.

In his spare time, Khokhlov likes to watch movies. Khokhlov also likes to paint, draw, and design. He has an interest in economics and enjoys discussing economic ideas and theories. He appreciates a good joke and likes comedy. He enjoys talking about his culture but is impressed with the size of New Ulm: "You can walk and get anywhere and it doesn't take very much time."

Wellmann attends Girls' State

by Brian Varland
Graphos Reporter

Would you like to be a part of our government even for a week? Melissa Wellmann of NUHS did just that at Girls' State in June 1993. Wellman was selected to be the delegate from Hanska to Girls' State, June 13-19, 1993.

Wellmann's selection by the Hanska American Legion Post required a qualifying grade point average and writing a letter of application stating the reasons why she would like to attend Girls' State.

Wellmann was elected Nationalist Judge of Elections for her city at Girls' State. She also served as a witness at a mock trial while helping to prove the defendant was guilty of a crime. Wellmann also toured the State Capitol and sang with 450 other girls under the rotunda in the State Capitol.

One bill that was discussed at Girls' State was giving financial aid to farmers whose crops were destroyed by the devastating floods of last summer. This bill particularly interested Wellman



Mark Edwards works on plans for a Super Mileage Vehicle.

Supermileage team drives toward success

by Seth Kersten
Graphos Reporter

Enjoy a fresh challenge? Enjoy working with and/or learning about automobiles? Then maybe you should check into the super mileage vehicle program.

The whole idea behind the super mileage vehicle is to create an automobile that will achieve the maximum miles per gallon. It is a student run engineering problem in which the students are challenged to design and construct their own highly fuel efficient vehicle. The faculty advisors are Jim Pickus and Joel Boehlke.

"They learn a lot of what's involved in automobile engineering problem solving, and it's a situation in which students can make their own decisions," said Pickus about the 10 students whom he and Boehlke supervise.

By December 10, 1993, the students must have their written proposal completed. Then by the weekend before Memorial Day, the participants must have designed, built, and tested their vehicle. Finally, they all travel to the Brainerd International Speedway to compete against other schools to find out who has created the most fuel efficient vehicle.

In the past New Ulm has been

extremely successful. They lost the Traveling Trophy for the first time ever last year. Pickus thinks this year's two groups' chances are "unbelievably good. They have really good ideas, and if ideas become vehicles- 500 miles per gallon is a conservative estimate - which will be extremely successful at the raceway."

The 10 participants are divided into two groups for competition. One group consists of Brett Merkel, Aaron Fortwengler, Javan Blekestad, Mark Edwards, Nate Groebner, and Scott Koopmann. They are all first year super-mileage vehicle participants. Another group is made up of Shawn Fink, Jeff Ahl, Tony Ruiz, and Derek Olson, who have had previous experience.

Fortwengler says he enjoys this activity because "I like working with cars, engines, and their drawings."

Koopman agreed. "I enjoy being able to build an engine which works well," he said.

Although there are 10 people out for the supermileage vehicle project, there is room for more. "Supermileage is very fun and more people should get involved with it. It is very fulfilling to see the completed project, and it will be very exciting when we win in Brainerd," said Ruiz.

because she lives on a farm in rural Hanska.

Wellmann thought her experience at Girls' State was beneficial. "I liked meeting people at Girls' State," said Wellmann. "We had lawyers come in and talk to us about cases for the mock trial. I thought that was interesting."

Even though Wellmann's time at Girls' State was beneficial, she thinks she wouldn't like a job working in government. "I enjoyed working one-to-one with people, and I would much rather work with them than represent them," said Wellmann.



Melissa Wellman enjoyed many aspects of Girls' State.

Musical groups take notable dedication

by Andrew Wachholz
Graphos Reporter

Many of us have at some time sung along with the radio and imagined what it would be like to be a singer or in a band. If you really want to find out, ask some New Ulm area students who know. Being in a musical group is not as easy as it may look. Hard work and dedication are what bring it all together. Former New Ulm senior **Jason Hoffman** said, "We had to practice at least three days a week in summer." Sophomore **Casey Ohotto** said, "We practice three to four nights a week." Practices are not always easy to schedule. **Mandy Weinkauff** said, "It's hard because of conflicting schedules; everyone's going in different directions"

How does a group get started? **Nate Smasal** said that after his band broke up, he was offered to play one night with another group. "I went over one night to 'jam' with them, and just joined!" Other groups have formed because of the school's music program. **Hoffman**

commented that his group got started by "just being a quartet for region competition; and we loved it!"

So what happens after the group gets bored playing for themselves? Well, they go on the road! Groups such as **Smasal's** look for an opportunity to perform. "We've talked to MVL and Cathedral and they seem interested. We're just waiting," said **Smasal**. Some accidentally fall into it. **Ohotto** mentioned that he "never thought we'd be playing the real thing; it just happened!" Other music groups are not ready to go public yet. Sophomore **Mark Bassett** said he's "not quite ready for a big performance. I am kind of a perfectionist."

Belonging to a group takes a lot of work and requires the dedication of all the members. **Bassett** said that it's "a lot like a family. You all have to get along or it just won't work out." **DeEtte Tobias**, although, has a lighter side to her story. She said, with a smile, that her group is "too good for that (practice)!"



Molly Mammen, Mindy Schmidt, DeEtte Tobias, Mandy Weinkauff, and Melissa Larsen form "No Limit," one of the many student-organized musical groups at NUHS

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

O Fruitcake, O Fruitcake
So colorful and bright
Sitting under my tree
This very Christmas night.
Who gave you to me
I will never know,
But I don't really care
'Cause in you go.
Sitting in my fridge
'Till next year comes round
I'll give you away
To some other foolish clown.
They'll do the same the
very next year.
O Fruitcake, O Fruitcake
No one holds you dear.

A.P.W.



The bowling team strikes a pose.

NUHS bowling team uses spare time

by Drew Kersten
Graphos Reporter

NUHS has a bowling team, but it is not supported by the school or sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League. The team simply uses the school name and mascot.

The bowling team is sponsored by Concordia Bowling Lanes. Most of the bowlers found out about the team through their involvement with bowling.

According to team members the sport narrowly missed induction as a Minnesota State High School League supported activity earlier this year. Therefore a bowler can not letter in the sport.

The bowlers started practice in September and the season came to

an end last month. They practiced for about an hour on Friday afternoons while the meets were usually held on Saturdays. The team's coach was **Dean Torvick**.

New Ulm competed with eight other area teams. They placed second at the district bowling meet. Therefore the team qualified for the MIT tournament. Had the team placed first at either the District of MIT meet, they would have been eligible for the state meet.

One of the unique things about the sport is that both boys and girls compete together. "It was really fun because you got to meet a lot of different people," said **Toni Schmeling**.

"There was a very enjoyable atmosphere at the meets," said bowler **Jeremy Todd**.

Bode helps keep NUHS running smoothly

by Keri Bunkers
Graphos Reporter

Any student of NUHS has certainly had to visit the main office at one time or another. One of the smiling faces they've met there belongs to **Bonnie Bode**.

Bode has worked as a secretary at NUHS for 16 years. Her busy day starts at 6:30 a.m. and runs until 3:15 p.m. All day, she helps students, administration, and faculty by arranging for substitute teachers, processing paperwork, dealing with the public, answering phones, typing, and doing other secretarial duties.

Bode enjoys her job and working

with the students the most. Along with **Jill Curry**, Bode helped coach the NUHS Pompon/Danceline squad for three years.

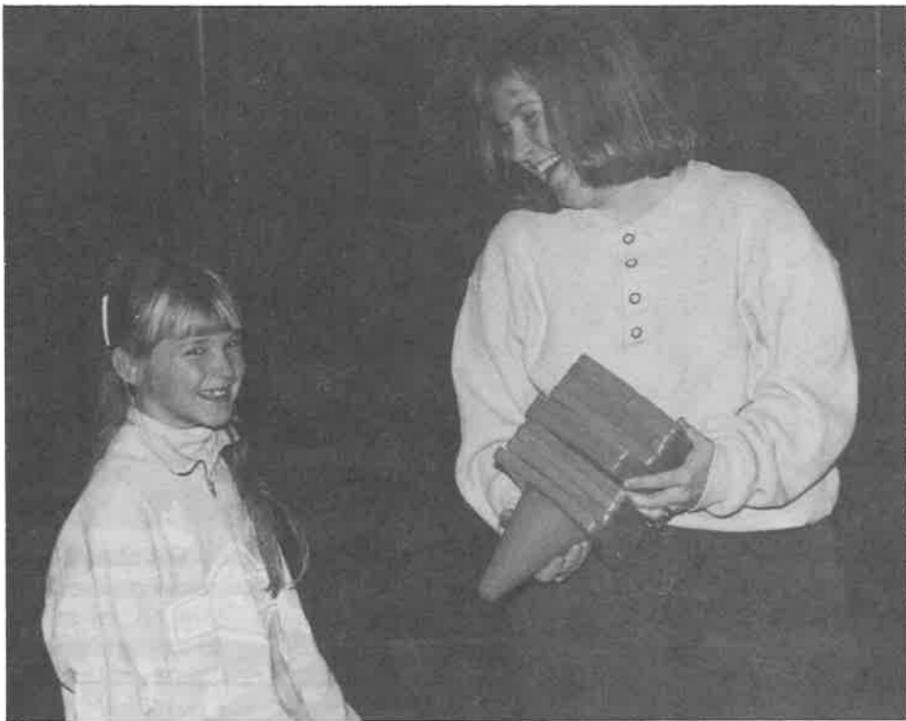
Married and the mother of two sons, Bode is a graduate of NUHS. She has lived in Courtland for years and in the New Ulm area her whole life.

In addition to her work in school, Bode also works part-time at the Sioux Valley Hospital in the dietary department. In her spare time, she loves to read and knit.

Everyday, Bode is one of the people making sure NUHS runs smoothly.



Secretary **Bonnie Bode** always has time for a smile.



Phys. Ed. Apprentice Jen Fritz shares a laugh with an elementary student.

Wanted: students willing to tackle small children

by Mandy Weinkauf
Graphos Reporter

Help wanted: brave high school seniors to tackle some loud screaming kids ready to play. Apply with the Physical Education Apprentice Program at NUHS.

The basic purpose of the apprentice program is to allow students to assist the teacher in a physical education class while learning about and observing young people at the same time. According to instructor Rich Peterson the program has been around for more than 20 years. It is limited to approximately 14 seniors per semester. Selected with teacher approval, the students need to be enthusiastic and able to deal with children.

A new idea in the program this year

is allowing the apprentices to prepare lesson plans and teach the class themselves for a week. Jenny Fritz is looking forward to that week. "I really like working with kids, and I know this week will help me because I want to be a teacher."

Another major enjoyment for the seniors is the impact they have on the elementary students. Amber Kraals said, "I love seeing the kids out of school, too. They are always so excited; you can really tell you mean a lot to them."

Help wanted: some loving, enthusiastic high school seniors to spend some time with young kids while earning and having fun at the same time.

Solution: the Physical Education Apprentice Program at NUHS.

Skaja divides time between classroom and court

by Ellen Kuester
Graphos Reporter

New Ulm High School needed a new math teacher and a volleyball coach. The administration added these needs together and came up with one solution to their problem - Tracy Skaja.

She is one of many new faces at NUHS this year. She was hired to teach geometry, Consumer Math, and Business Math. She also is the girls' head volleyball coach.

Skaja graduated from Mankato State University in 1993 with a major in mathematics and a minor in coaching. While attending college she participated in intramural volleyball. Even though being involved wasn't necessarily important, she said, "It did help to break the monotony. It helped to go out and do something other than being a book student."

Former math teachers led Skaja's interest in math. She said there isn't anything that she dislikes about teaching. She enjoys everything but mostly, "dealing with the kids. I just like being around kids."

While in high school, Skaja participated in volleyball, track, cheerleading, pep club, student council, and German club. She enjoys her job at NUHS. "The staff and kids are nice." Skaja currently lives in New Prague with her husband. In her free time she enjoys water sports and crafts.



Tracy Skaja is a new face in the NUHS math department.

Continued from Page 3

is involved in many different types of community activities, including the charity drive they just completed to benefit Camp Courage. There are also competitions involving the various aspects of agricultural science, more than 89 different competitions. The National FFA is split into sub sections by name, from smallest to largest, Chapter, District, State, Regional, and National.

Last November the local chapter sent Pat Norman and Bonnie Berneck to the 66th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Norman said that the

trip was a "valuable experience. It taught me how to lead a group, adjust my way of thinking, and grow as a person."

Basically anyone who has at least a semester of any agriculture course during that year is eligible to participate in the FFA program. There are also many levels of involvement so one can become as involved as they wish or just participate in the local chapter's activities.

FFA has been helping members build leadership, societal and agricultural skills for a long time and will very likely continue to do so for years to come.



Even our local clinic will be affected by the Clinton health care plan.

Health Care is a terminal issue

by Betty Wetherell
Graphos Reporter

Health care has become a political issue and may be losing its real importance. President Bill Clinton's plan presents the nation with a new system of health care. Time will only tell if the system will work or is just a political maneuver by the President.

Robert Stevens, the administrator at Sioux Valley Hospital, clarified what changes will be made under the new health care proposal. Many aspects of the plan won't go into effect until 1997 or 1998. According to Stevens, Clinton's health care plan will change the way Sioux Valley Hospital and other hospitals deliver health care.

Doctors will now be able to concentrate on keeping people healthy instead of helping people after they have become ill. People will be encouraged to change their lifestyles. Some changes include getting people to eat right and exercise more.

By concentrating on wellness hospitals will see a decline in the amount of people seeking medical attention. Some hospital nurses will be removed and assigned to

home health care where they will be working with people in their home environment. Hospitals will also be changing their format.

One of the biggest changes that hospitals will have to deal with is a closer integration of physicians. A seamless system will apply no matter where you go to seek medical attention there will be patient information available to the doctor. This information will be kept on electronic medical records to which all hospitals will have access. Small community hospitals will probably have to close because of the lack of updated health records.

Stevens said that the cost of health care will never go down. The plan will probably only slow down the rapidly rising cost of health care, but, more importantly, it will make health care insurance available to more people. Under the proposed plan people without insurance will have the opportunity to have health care at a reasonable cost.

Stevens said that the Clinton health care proposal is only a step in the right direction. Universal health care needs to start somewhere, and we might have, at last, found the footholds to a workable system.

sports

Now showing at NUHS: Young Guns 3



by Betsy Pieser
Graphos Columnist

Last year the boys' basketball team sneaked up on the opposition with its version of "Young Guns."

The Eagles surprised the South Central Conference with a 9-3 record and a second-place finish. New Ulm edged New Prague in the opening round Region 2AA game 46-43 before losing to the eventual section champion Chaska 72-38.

That was then, this is now. The Eagles are one year older and they no longer can rely on the premise that they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. The Eagles have gone from the hunters to the hunted.

Can they deliver?

The Eagles return three starters in juniors **Jared Visker**, **Rod Swenson**, and **Luke Schmidt** and part-time starter senior **Steve Wisniewski**. New Ulm will have to find replacements for graduates **Kurt Moelter** and **Steve Schmidt**.

Swenson, a 6-foot-3 wing, led the Eagles in scoring last season with a 14 point per game average. The sophomore rookie also ranked first in the SCC with a 60% field goal percentage.

"No one thought the sophomores would do that well, and this year we're expected to deliver," Swenson said.

Visker, a standout in treys and passing, collected the Best Passer Award last season. He finished with 18 three-pointers and 108 total points.

Schmidt averaged 12 points per game and feels the pressure. "Last year's end-of-the-year success raised everyone's expectations. This year, the pressure is on us," Schmidt said.

Who can fill Steve Schmidt and Moelter's shoes? Somebody with big feet. Steve Schmidt finished the SCC season with 77 rebounds, only second to brother Luke with 88.

In "Young Guns," Emilio Estevez takes the law into his own hands. And he finds an eager group to help, the Renegades. Wisniewski mirrors Estevez, thanks to last year's experience. "Moelter and Schmidt provided great leadership and as a senior, I hope to follow their example," Wisniewski said.

Can the hunters keep up with the competition? The deer hunting season has opened, and the basketball season arrived on November 22. So Wisniewski and the Renegades moved into town on December 4 to open the season. They took the game into their own hands, finishing off Mankato East 67-58. Renegade Swenson returned with his 14 points per game average and Schmidt blew into town with 12. So they begin again.

Foreshadowing the future? In March 1989, a group of sixth-grade boys coached by Lee Visker and Dave Schmidt placed fifth in the first statewide grade-school basketball tournament in Elk River.

De je vu all over again.

Above right:
Tara Lentz
perfects her
pirouettes.

Below left:
Juniors Jared
Visker and
Luke Schmidt
outdo the
competition.

Gymnasts balance power and precision

by Eric Quiring
Graphos Reporter

Snow is covering the ground and the days are growing shorter, but the sure sign of winter is that the winter sports season is in full swing. Images that come to mind might include a slam dunk, grappling wrestlers, or a vicious check into the boards. The one sport often forgotten involves tumbling, flipping, and vaulting. That's right - gymnastics.

Too often gymnastics is overlooked and under-appreciated as a varsity sport. Most people

don't know just how difficult the sport is. Gymnastics must combine power and precision as they compete in four different and distinct events. The girls' performances are scored on a scale of one to 10. Judges base their scores on the individual's overall performance. Small errors or slips in the routine can cause major deductions in the score.

The floor routine combines dance and tumbling within a 40 by 40 foot area. Style and poise are qualities necessary for success. The uneven parallel bars is an event including two bars set at different heights on which the gymnasts must perform. Upper body strength is required. Without it, the gymnast may find herself flat on her face.

The four inch wide beam stands four feet off the ground, but the entrants are only actually expected to stay on it while performing their routine. Obviously, balance and coordination are essential. The fourth event is the vault. Gymnasts run full speed and jump on a springboard over a padded "horse." When things go right, they land on their feet.

New coach **Vicki Tamborino** and her young squad are looking to improve on last year's record. "We would like to complete a successful South Central Conference season since we are hosting the conference meet this year," said sophomore **Stacy Lauwagie**. The team would definitely appreciate everyone's support as they tumble through the season.



Boys' basketball team shoots for goal

by Ben McAninch
Graphos Reporter

The Eagle Boys' Basketball Team turned a lot of heads last season and is looking to do the same this year. Last year New Ulm was picked to finish dead last in the South Central Conference. They ended up winning one tournament game after taking second in the conference with a 13-8 overall record.

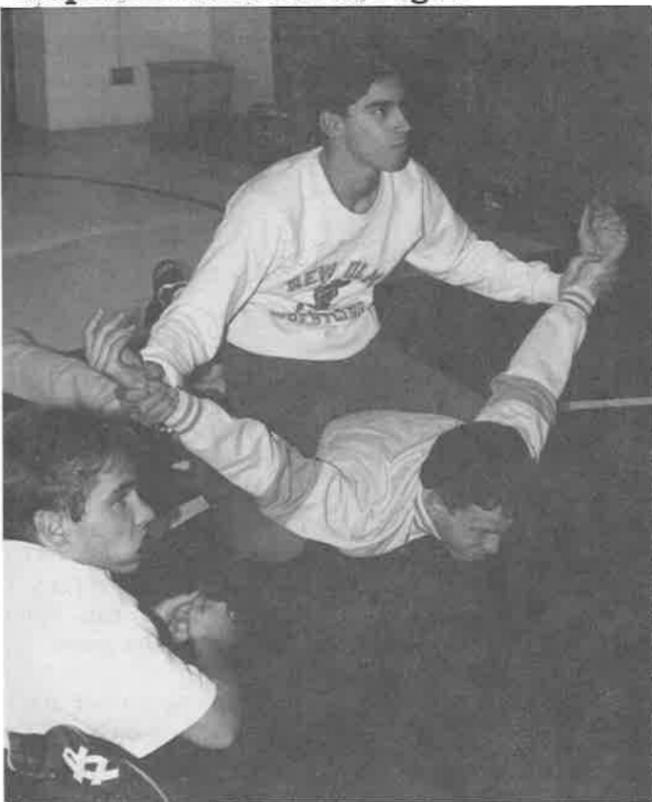
Waseca won the conference title last year and that's who the Eagles will have to battle this year. Most of last year's team is returning except for starters Steve Schmidt and Kurt Moelter. "We're going to miss Kurt and Steve, but we should have a good season," said junior **Luke Schmidt**.

Returning is All-Conference performer **Rod Swenson** as well as

Schmidt who earned honorable mention honors. Juniors **Jared Visker** and **Gabe Kaven** and senior **Steve Wisniewski** round out what looks like the starting five. **Pete Kluge**, **Mike Trapp**, and **Jeremy Lingl** are the only other seniors on the squad so the underclassmen will have to be ready to step in. New Ulm is one of the teams favored to win the conference. Their goal is to take the conference title and win a few post season games. "We have as good a chance as anyone to win conference," Swenson said. "It'll be close between us and Waseca, and Fairmont should finish third."

The team has been getting ready for the early games as well as for the long season ahead. "The practices have been kind of hard, but we know we have to do it if we want to win," said Wisniewski.





Co-captain Brian Zitzman helps another wrestler stretch out during practice.

Wrestlers pinpoint goals for the season

by Melissa Lemcke
Graphos Reporter

If you happen to be walking down the hallway between November and March and you see a guy with a growling stomach grinding his teeth and looking as though he might pin someone for a candy bar, you can be pretty sure he's a wrestler. On some days they lose that extra pound on the day of a meet by running up and down the hallways bundled in sweatpants and sweatshirts. They then return to the locker room to see if they lost it, and back to running if they didn't.

The Eagles' varsity wrestling squad consists of 13 members, who range from 103 pounds to heavyweight. The Eagles' will be strong again this year with four seniors returning: **Joey Wendinger** 125, **Brian Zitzman** 130, **Chad Wilson** 160, and **Scott Wendinger** 171. Senior co-captain Wilson said, "We should have a pretty good season. We had to replace three good seniors with younger wrestlers, and they are doing a good job at stepping up and filling the spots." Wilson was 30-7 last year and received pre-season ratings as high as fifth in the state.

"Seeking out your opponent is the name of the game. Once you figure out who he's beat and what his record is, you can then compare him to your conquests of other wrestlers," said Joey Wendinger, who was 16-16 last year. His goal is to earn 20 wins this season.

This year's line up includes eighth grader **Nick Rush** at 103, the lowest weight. Sophomores **Mike Weber**, **Scott Olson**, **Dave Reichel**, **Toby Hermel**, and **Jesse Matter** are filling the other positions on the team. **Ryan Altmann**, **Brad Weber**, and **Brady Ranweiler** are returning as experienced juniors.

Wilson and Scott Wendinger are looking forward to another good season after winning sixth place in the state tournament. Senior co-captain Zitzman said, "The state tournament is definitely in my eyes." Scott Wendinger said, "When I first got my shoulder injury while playing touch football, I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to wrestle this year, but after lifting weights and working with it I think I will be able to wrestle to my fullest potential."



Above right: A NUHS goalie blocks the shot.

Below left: Senior Renae Reinhart aims for the basket.

Pucksters have high hopes for winning season

by Terry Smith
Graphos Reporter

Two years ago the Eagles' hockey team set the town on fire with their remarkable run to the state hockey tournament. Last year's goals were set high due to the late season success they had the year before. However, their lofty goals were ended abruptly, with a season-ending loss to Mankato West.

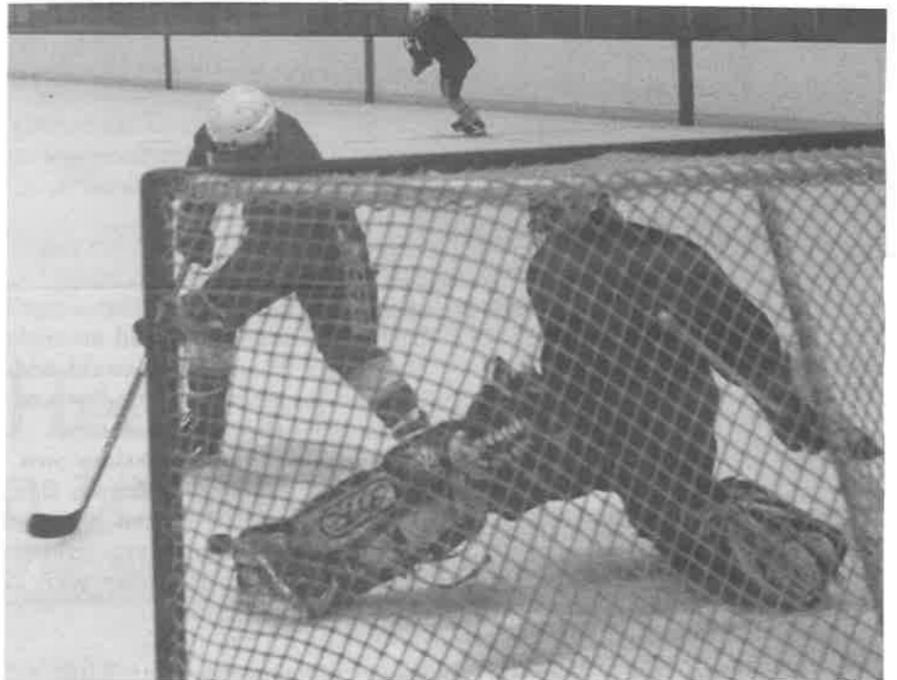
This year's team looks to improve on last year's showing. First of all, the team is hoping to make a run at the Central Minnesota Conference Championship. Their first line looks to be as tough as anyone's. Senior captains **Landon Rathman** and **Scott Abraham** are the chosen leaders of this year's team. Senior **Nate Smasal**, Junior **Scott Macho**, and Sophomore **Ben Dier** return with considerable experience under their belts. Senior goaltender **Duncan Larson** will try to put the team in a position to win every game.

Lack of depth and inexperience may haunt the Eagles, however.

The team's second and third lines are untested and must adjust to varsity level competition to make this team successful.

The other areas in which the team are likely to improve is team unity and making the season fun. Captain Rathman said they're "... more of a **team** rather than a bunch of individuals." With no internal conflicts, the Eagles expect to pull together and become the best team they can be. All the members of the team are out to have a fun and record a competitive season. Macho said the team will "... have as much fun as anybody and surprise a lot of people."

Look for this hockey team to be entertaining and competitive in every game. Larson said the team will be "...tough as nails in both offensive and defensive perspectives."



Basketball team hopes to rebound

by Eric Lindquist
Graphos Reporter

The girls' varsity basketball coach **Dave Janssen** plans to rebound from last year's 4 - 17 record by using his coaching experience to find a winning combination. Janssen has coached a total of 11 years at different levels. Including a few years with elementary students and two years at the college level. At NUHS he is starting his second season as the girls' head coach.

The Eagles, who lost three key seniors due to graduation, will return with scoring potential and leadership in players such as **Shannon Clobes**, **Kim Drill**, **Patti Pontsler**, **Renae Reinhart**, **Bridgett Saari**, **Polly Stark**, and **Julie Wojciak**. All are letter winners and plan to see the majority of playing time. "A big goal for us this season is to get a

bid for a home playoff. This will definitely add excitement," said Janssen.

The team's emphasis on defense will be tested early against a highly rated St. Peter team. "Blue Earth, St. Peter, and St. James will be highly favored in the South Central Conference. St. James starts out the year ranked seventh in the state," said Janssen.

Because individual abilities are fairly equal, several players will be rotated in and 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 Janssen expects this team to be competitive and improve as the season unfolds.