

the graphos

December 1994 Volume 78 No. 2 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

What's under the tree for me



Marketplatz Mall is ready for the Christmas shopping season.

by Annie Tietema
Graphos Reporter

With Christmas quickly approaching, trees and houses are being decorated with the vivid colors of the season, and the crazy shopping season has been in full swing. Christmas is something that cannot easily be ignored. In fact, just looking outside at our winter wonderland is enough to paint a picture of what is to come.

For many people, Christmas is a time for family and giving. During the holiday season children and adults are recalling memories of Christmas foods, aromas, and spirited carols. These special memories are what makes Christmas one of the most celebrated events of the year.

Christmas is celebrated in different forms in all parts of the world. For some groups of people, the holiday season is a time for rejoicing in their religious beliefs. This is commonly done by attending church to honor the birth of Jesus. Things such as advent wreathes, candles, poinsettias, and nativity sets are commonplace in most churches.

For others, the Christmas season means grand family gatherings

and festive foods. Egg nog, sugar cookies, and steaming apple cider create that perfect table setting. Gifts are also a sizable part of celebrations all over the world. Presents are responsible for the searching of closets and for keeping children awake on Christmas Eve.

The Christmas season in foreign countries is usually a significant celebration. In fact, Germany began the tradition of having Christmas trees in the house. A form of evergreen trees, called Paradise Trees, was decorated with apples, nuts, lighted candles, and paper roses.

In Spain St. Nicholas Day is observed by children who leave their shoes by the doorstep on the night prior to Christmas. In the morning they awake to candy in their shoes. However, if their behavior was poor, they receive coal.

Americans put a great emphasis on gifts. This emphasis explains why the responses to "what would you like for Christmas?" are so amusing. **Troy Tepley** said that he would be pleased with a Beastie Boys video entitled "Skills to Pay the Bills." **April Meier** simply asked Santa to give everyone in the world something for

Christmas. **Jessica Leske**, on the other hand, took the athletic approach in wanting a **Boston Bruins** jersey and hockey skates. **Amy Johnson** decided that a new Dodge Neon would fit well under her tree. **Katie Schmitz** wants a watch for her Christmas list.

Junior **Kelly Portner**, would like her two front teeth with a gigantic bow direct from the North Pole. According to **Linda Poncin**, Brad Pitt wrapped up in a colorful box would make an unforgettable addition to her holiday. **Dianna Frausto** hopes for a diamond necklace from her boyfriend. **Drew Kersten** said he is about ready to give up on asking for the remote-controlled airplane that he has wanted for nearly 10 years.

Teachers **Jill Curry** and **Carol Ackerson** both want a longer Christmas. **Eric Torgerson** has got his fingers crossed for a boss Harley. **Ed Weber** will be looking for a new pair of brown and white saddle-style golf shoes underneath his tree. **Allen Hoffman** said he wished for "do meces en la playa de Cartagena Columbia." And to complete the Christmas list, **Richard LaPatka** is hoping to discover \$90 million in powerball winnings in his stocking.

Christmas means so many different things to every individual, and the memories created by each passing year are cherished by many. **Frausto** told of the best Christmas she remembers ever having. "When I was in fifth grade my family and I had just moved into a new house, and we didn't have a lot of

money for presents. That was the year I realized that presents aren't what is important." **Schmitz** said her best Christmas memory was "The Christmas of 1989 because it was the last Christmas with my grandpa." **Deinken** said her most significant holiday memory was "When we went to my aunt's for Christmas Eve, and when we came home our tree was lit with the big Barbie dream house that I had always wanted underneath." **Curry** recalled her favorite Christmas: "When I had my son, Eric, on Christmas Eve and he was my special present."

"Four years ago was the last time I was sick for Christmas and my parents went out to look at Christmas lights, leaving me at home to admire the lit Christmas tree. It was then that I began appreciating what Christmas really meant," said **Meier**.



A common symbol of Christmas is the Nutcracker.



Toys are waiting to be wrapped and put under the Christmas tree.

editorial

Kids killing kids



by Betty Wetherell
Graphos Editor

Thursday November 17, 1994, was a dark day indeed. So many lives were changed as a result of a malicious murder.

Mickey Wilfert, a former NUHS student, was shot in cold blood in Hutchinson. He was an innocent victim of what has become thought of as teen violence.

I always thought that kids were invincible. Who would have thought that in a town such as Hutchinson a local boy would lose his life to teenage crime. I live in a sheltered world; no one has ever physically hurt me or hurt anyone I love. But I see that times are changing. Naive people such as myself don't have a place in this new society. Who would want to live in a place where kids are killing kids and guns no longer have water in them.

I don't understand how our generation can be so violent. It is

scary to think that someday one of our peers may take a gun and prematurely end someone's life. Oh, no, this could never happen in a respectable community. People just weren't brought up that way. But, unfortunately, this attitude is not true. If it were true, November 17 would have been just another day.

Instead, it will be remembered as the day that a boy's life was exchanged for a pack of cigarettes and a couple of bucks. What a fair exchange. A life in return for a few dollars. Someone once said that you couldn't put a price tag on life. I think they were wrong.

This new trend of teen violence has got to end. There are no benefits for committing violent acts. The teens responsible for the death of Mickey Wilfert will probably spend the rest of their lives behind bars. They never will have another chance to run around outside or go cruising with their friends.

I will be the first to say that they deserve what they will get. But do the friends of Mickey deserve what they got. I am talking about the hours spent crying, and the pain that envelopes their lives.

I admit I never knew Mickey. I never recall having spoke to him or listened to him play his guitar. I wish now that I had memories of the boy who obviously touched the hearts of so many. It is unfair that those of Mickey's generation took his life. We can only hope that the next generation won't make the same violent mistakes that ours seem to make much too often.

Appearance isn't everything

by Troy Tepley
Graphos Columnist

If you read the last edition of the Graphos, you probably caught the article written by **Gabe Kaven**. **Kaven** was given the job that has become a Graphos tradition; he got to rip the sophomore class. I myself got a kick out of the article, and I hope no none took offense to the article because he meant it as a joke.

It did, however, make me raise my eyebrows to the fact that the brunt of his article was directed towards a group of people who dress a certain way. This style has been labeled as "grunge." I see nothing wrong in the way these people dress, and I hold some degree of respect for them because they don't have to conform to the mainstream and have perfectly cut hair, nice shirts that are usually tucked in, perfectly fitting Levis or Girbaud jeans, and, of course, Nike tennis shoes or Eastland boots.

Even though I'm not a mainstreamer, I see nothing wrong dressing in the manner I have just explained because I don't judge a book by its cover. It seems as though many mainstreamers in our school do. Being a student in this school and walking through its halls, I hear many negative comments directed toward the "grunge" group. The comments are usually about their different clothes, hair styles, and hair colors.

I think it is time for some people in this school to wake up. It is very sad to think that some people in this school are considered young adults, yet they still judge people on the clothes they wear. Some people in this school should realize that not everyone is going to fit into their way of life, and

"grunge," continued on Page 3



Be yourself

by Emily Crabtree
Graphos Columnist

Recently I've had the chance to sit back and take a good look at myself and my surroundings. I've noticed the prominence of the emphasis to "be an individual," which I think is great. I see so many people in our society who are searching for something to cling to; they'll do anything to be accepted. If they're encouraged to be themselves, it could be a positive message for them.

There is, however, an all too common negative side to this idea. Being ourself means, to me, that we don't put on an act. We stand up for what we believe and stick to our ideas. I fear, however, that this isn't the message that is most often being presented in this "individualism movement."

I see people, myself included, trying to be different in order to impress a group or another person. We join a certain group or dress a certain way thinking we'll be different, confusing this behavior with being ourselves. Being ourself and being different aren't always the same thing. I often see "being different" turn in to an act of rebellion toward someone or something. Our original motives sometimes get all turned around and we end up contradicting ourselves. I once read the following: "I want to be different, just like everyone else." I think this applies to everyone's life at one time or another. However, these phony acts and affected behavior aren't necessary. It's important to try to be who we were created to be and respect others for who they were created to be.



I'm not claiming to figure out who everyone's true self is. I haven't yet completely figured that one out for myself. I realize, though, that there is a significant message to be heard, and I hope that others realize it too.

Don't try to be different, try to be yourself. If it were possible for all of us to exist as our true selves, it would only be natural that we would all be different.

the graphos

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

The editorial content of The Graphos expresses the views of the writer and the paper and not necessarily those opinions of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, or students of NUHS.

Editors: Terry Smith, Betty Wetherell
Art: Jessica Leske
Photography: Mr. Joel Boehlke, Mr. John Olson, and Russ Schmidt
Advisor: Mr. Ed Weber



A car wash and rummage sale last fall helped support a SADD presentation to the student body.

Drinking and driving don't mix

by Laura Marti
Graphos Reporter

The 1994-1995 SADD chapter is hoping to make an lasting impact on NUHS students. President **Annie Tietema** said, "I would like for more students in this school to be aware of the effects of drinking and driving. I also hope to prevent possible tragedies by educating people in regards to drinking and driving."

The overall goal of SADD is to make students aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. The NUHS chapter has started creating a quilt of paper squares that SADD members have made reflecting their views of drunk driving and its consequences. There will be an opportunity for all students to make a square that will be laminated and connected with all of the other student-made squares. The finished product will be displayed in school as a reminder of drinking and driving.

SADD Week is a mainstay event that the chapter will host sometime in the spring. Each day

of the week will have a special meaning. On Monday, the members of SADD will wear a designated color to represent their commitment to group. Tuesday will be Ribbon Day. Wednesday will probably have a frustration release theme. The SADD chapter has pondered purchasing a junk car to park in the lot for the purpose of selling swings with a sledgehammer to students. A speaker will be Thursday's special event that will be followed by a homeroom meeting. SADD is considering three different speaking groups. They are a MADD impact panel, a police officer, and a couple who perform magical illusions. Friday of SADD Week will be Grim Reaper Day.

Another idea the SADD group has had was speaking to the students at the junior high about drinking and driving. The suggestion has also been made to start a list of students who will vow not to drink or not to drive drunk on prom night. The list would be posted in school.

Virtual reality



by Ryan Nelson
Graphos Columnist

I'm sure by now you've heard of the new technologies of virtual reality and the information of the super highway and how they're going to change every aspect of our lives. But before they were fact they were fiction, cyberpunk to be exact.

Cyberpunk, the literary movement, was started in the early 80's by a small group of writers. The main one being William Gibson. Although Gibson did not start the movement, he defined it.

In his book *Neuromancer*, he combined the punk attitude (that being aggression alienation and anti-establishment) with the idea of cyberspace or virtual reality.

Gibson's latest book is called, *Virtual Light*. While it is not as complex and full of social commentary as his previous books, it is still entertaining.

The plot goes like this. Bicycle messenger, Chevette Washington, from San Francisco steals a pair of special glasses encoding with images of special interest to various big shots in the *Virtual Light*. These big shots in the *Virtual Light* sent their henchmen, one of which is an ex-cop, Barry Rydell. Rydell is to chase after her in Gibson's future San Francisco, which is full of all sorts of strange things.

So if that sounds interesting to you, take a crack at it. Although I should warn you that the way Gibson tells his stories can be confusing because he achieves his unique style by using a great deal of physical detail and brand names that give *Virtual Light* its strange futuristic effect.

When I'm 18

by Sam Tuttle
Graphos Columnist

My mom says that when you turn 18, you're an adult. Well, ya know what?
When I'm 18 I'm going to be the prettiest girl in town.
By the time I'm 18 I'm going to be champion swimmer.
When I'm 18 I will have dated every guy in my grade twice.
By the time I'm 18 I'm going to have my own car - a black sports car.
When I'm 18 I'm going to be the lead in the musical. Everyone will want to hear me sing.
When I'm 18 I will be skinny.
When I'm 18 I will never spend a Friday or Saturday at home.
When I'm 18 I'll never fell alone.
By the time I'm 18 I'll have contacts.
When I'm 18 I'll be taller than Steph Klaviter.
By the time I'm 18 I'll be able to whistle.
When I'm 18 I'll be the most popular girl in school.
By the time I'm 18 I will have been in three movies.
When I'm 18 I will have been accepted to Harvard, Yale, and Rasmussen Business College.
When I'm 18 I will be able to spell.
By the time I'm 18 I will know whether I believe in God.
By the time I'm 18 I will speak Spanish, Russian, and French fluently.
By the time I'm 18 I won't be afraid of that thing in my closet.
By the time I'm 18 my parents will have won the lottery.
When I'm 18 I will get along with my sister.
By the time I'm 18 I will have stopped trying to impress people.
When I'm 18 I'll be top of my class.
By the time I'm 18 I won't be afraid of leaving home.
When I'm 18 I won't be jealous of anyone.
When I'm 18 I'll walk my dog everyday.
By the time I'm 18 I will have presented at International Science Fair.
When I'm 18 I will know where I want to go to college.
By the time I'm 18 I will know who I am.
When I'm 18 I won't crave attention.
By the time I'm 18 I won't have to kiss up to teachers.
When I'm 18 I will be patient.
By the time I'm 18 I won't feel stupid ordering pizza over the phone.
When I'm 18 I'll stay up every night until at least one.
When I'm 18 I will stop complaining.
By the time I'm 18 I won't fear my thoughts.
By the time I'm 18 I will trust my friends.
When I'm 18 I will do my homework.
By the time I'm 18 I will be organized.
When I'm 18 making major decisions won't scare the h___ out of me.
By the time I'm 18 I will have been an exchange student.
When I'm 18 I won't try to start my car when it's already running.
When I'm 18 I won't be thought of as a brain.
When I'm 18 I'll be editor of the Graphos.
When I'm 18 I'll be smarter than Luke Schmidt.
By the time I'm 18 I won't slip on the ice.
When I'm 18 I'll practice my violin.
By the time I'm 18 I will know on which side to put the fork when setting the table.
When I'm 18 I will know my right from my left without having to look at my hands.

My mom says that when you turn 18 you're an adult. I turned 18 November third.
Boy, have I been slackin'.

That's the way the cookie crumbles

by Andrea Bieraugel
Graphos Reporter

It was **raining cats and dogs** when he walked into my life. I had **butterflies in my stomach** and a **frog in my throat** from the first time he said "Hello." I was **on cloud nine** because he was born with a **silver spoon in his mouth** when I never had anything handed to me on a **silver platter**. Before I could say **hold your horses** I had a **bun in the oven**. When I started labor he drove me to the hospital **like there was no tomorrow**. **On a wing and a prayer**, we made it on time. Before labor I was saying **don't make a mountain out of a molehill** although soon I would exclaim, "Why didn't anybody ever have a **heart to heart** with me and explain the **birds and bees**?" **Every cloud has a silver lining** for soon I had a little baby.

Out of the blue my husband became the **thorn in my side** and the **axe in my back**. He said, "I'm taking the baby so **don't give me any lip**."

I explained to my lawyer about the **fly in my ointment** a.k.a. my husband. I said, "Isn't there anything I can do to **tip the scales of justice**?" The lawyer cost me

an arm and a leg and a pretty penny, but he promised me that **justice will be served**.

Court day arrived. I explained to the judge my **cross to bear**. My words were **as good as gold**. I smiled at my soon to be divorced husband and said, "**Men like you are a dime a dozen**."

"grunge," continued from Page 2

just because you have an opinion on how people should dress does not mean that it is the right one. If you don't like nose rings, green hair, or old baggy clothes, then don't pierce your nose dye your hair and don't judge other people for doing so.

I'm not saying that we should all love each other or that we should all try to get along, but I am asking that we act mature enough to respect each other and leave each other alone.

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

Courson stresses computers

by **Connie Miller**
Graphos Reporter

Many of you may have seen a new face around school or during "A" lunch. **Vicki Courson**, the new consumer and business math instructor, is one of several new teachers at NUHS.

Out of school Courson spends her time with her husband Jim and her three year old daughter Alycia. Before she came to NUHS, she lived in Colorado Springs. Her husband was stationed in Colorado while he was in the army. "It was so beautiful there... Pike's Peak was right above us."

Courson grew up in Pine Island, MN, between Rochester and the Twin Cities. During her high-school years Courson enjoyed cheerleading, National Honor Society, and the German Club. In 1990 she graduated from Winona State.

As part of her education, Courson student taught in Plainsview, MN. There she taught consumer and business math. "[It] was a lot of fun," said Courson. Compared to NUHS, the classes were small with about 60 students per grade.

Courson said she was surprised to see how well behaved NUHS students are for such a large school. She is stressing computer application in her classes since many businesses are using computers. "Being computer



Vicki Courson is the new consumer and business math teacher.

literate is very important," she said.

In the mornings she teaches at Washington Elementary school, instructing fifth and sixth graders in keyboarding classes.

Out of the classroom Courson is assisting the Stable Program. When all the applications came in from about 200 students, the tough job for her was narrowing the number to 130. If the decision were up to her, all the students would have been accepted; however, the lack of funds prevented that from happening. Courson is using traditional classroom activities since the program has been successful for so long. In addition to Stable, she is also coaching the cheerleaders.



The new superintendent of schools is James Merritt.

Merritt new sup

by **Travis Karstad**
Graphos Reporter

Most of us usually don't make the walk to the annex building very often, but if we did, we probably would not notice a lot of changes since last year. Except for one person in the superintendent's office, **James Merritt**. As of July 1, 1994, Merritt has been serving as the superintendent of schools following the retirement of Dean Risius last year.

Merritt grew up on a farm near Whiting, Iowa (located south of Sioux City), where he graduated from high school. Originally, Merritt had planned to pursue a career in farming, but due to the unfavorable condition of the agricultural economy at the time, a career in education looked better.

Following his graduation from Whiting High School, he enrolled in Wayne State Teachers College, but soon found out that education wasn't a lot more promising. When he was applying for one of his first jobs, there were as many as 15 others applying for the same job. That experience helped him decide that he would have better luck teaching and coaching at the elementary level rather than in the secondary schools.

One of his first teaching jobs was at Freemont Elementary School in Freemont, Nebraska, teaching history and coaching several activities. Merritt later became the principal at Freemont Elementary School. He later served as superintendent of schools at Geneva, Nebraska, before returning to Freemont as the superintendent of the Freemont School District.

Even though he has only been in New Ulm since July, he has already formed a very positive opinion of the community. Merritt said that he was very impressed with the clean and friendly environment New Ulm has to offer. He also complimented the staff and teachers of the district for the quality of education they are providing.

Every time a new superintendent comes into a community, we are all anxious to find out what they plan to do while they are here. Merritt plans to continue working with the staff to improve the quality of education and the overall performance of the student. He also intends to work with the community to provide facilities and support for education.

Even though it seems that he has an overwhelming job, Merritt still manages to find time to spend with his five children, and two grandchildren, and to explore a wide variety of hobbies. When he isn't spending time with his family or at work he enjoys reading and studying anthropology and Native Americans. Another area of interest is remodeling and interior decorating. Sports also take up a big chunk of his leisure time. Hunting, fishing, and spending some good quality time at the golf course are usually where you will find him when he's away from the job.

The superintendent of schools is the type of person who is concerned with the quality of education and the people providing it, and that's exactly the type of person Merritt is.



Kelly Langley, Barb Skodje, April Deinken, and Laura Howk were selected to edit the '94-'95 Eagle yearbook.

Making memories

by **Mandy Weinkauff**
Graphos Reporter

This year's yearbook staff is already off and running. Senior editors **Laura Howk** and **April Deinken**, and juniors **Kelley Langley** and **Barb Skodje** are hard at work.

Yearbook editors are selected by the advisor **Ed Weber** after they have shown interest in the position. This year, two seniors were chosen as chief editors. The two juniors are in on all the planning and are being prepared to be the senior editors next year.

When the planning started at the beginning of the school year, two main objectives were established. "The first," said Howk, "is to make this year's yearbook more exciting. Second, we want to add

new things and make this yearbook longer."

yearbook, which was around \$40 if purchased in the fall, has been an issue the past few years. The editors plan to add 10 to 20 pages to next year's issue without raising the price.

Funding for the yearbooks come almost entirely from sales. The Student Council has donated money for the colored homecoming page, and last year's prom colored pages were donated by the prom committee.

In these early stages of the process, the homecoming and fall sports pages are being completed. One of the new items being planned is a section honoring athletes and teams gaining post season recognition or state tournament participation.



Jenny Bleick was named lead flute in the Mankato Symphony Orchestra.

An achievement of note for Bleick

by Brian Varland
Graphos Reporter

Sophomore **Jennifer Bleick** was recently selected to be in the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra.

After hearing about the orchestra, Bleick obtained music for an audition, which is necessary because only a certain number of instruments can be in the orchestra, and many musicians want to belong. Auditions often include playing solos, scales, and sight reading for judges. Bleick auditioned and was named lead flute for her section of the orchestra.

The orchestra plays a variety of music including classical, jazz, and modern. Currently they are playing music from the Nutcracker Suite. Bleick recently won a concerto competition among other orchestra members at Gustavus Adolphus College. She will play the

concerto with the orchestra accompanying her at the upcoming Christmas Concert.

Bleick enjoys being in the orchestra, "I get to meet people from all over southern Minnesota. I get to play music that I'd never get to play in other places." Everyone is in the orchestra because they want to be in it.

"I would like to play the flute as a possible career, so being in the orchestra would be a good experience," said Bleick. She also sees teaching music as another option in her future.

The orchestra's season lasts from September through March. Practices are held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and they present four concerts a year. Its upcoming Christmas concert will be on December 18 at Mankato West High School auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Jardin prepares for exam

by Shannon Clobes
Graphos Reporter

When **Rafael Jardim** arrived at NUHS in early November, many of us wondered who the new guy was. Raff, as he is commonly known, is a 17 year old AFS foreign exchange student from Tupã, São Paulo, Brazil.

He is currently living with Steven and Delores (Dee) Brandel and their children Jennifer, Christina and Steve. He's enjoying his stay because he likes his new host family.

The reason why he started school here so late was because he transferred from Waterville High School. He liked Waterville because of the friendships he had made; however, he is adjusting well and thinks he will also make friends here given some time.

Jardin noted many differences

between the school systems in Brazil and America. "It's a lot easier here." He said math is much harder in his country and a more extensive study in geography is conducted. Since college is free in Brazil, they must pass a very complicated exam to be able to attend college. The exam covers everything they have ever learned. He plans to take this test when he returns. They must also take all required classes and do not have the opportunity to take elective classes as we do in the U.S. He took advantage of this difference when he signed up for choir, which he had not participated in before he arrived in the United States.

In his Brazilian school, passes are not required in order to leave school. Students can come and go whenever they please. "It's up to you if you want to learn or not." It is not necessary to turn in

Cheerleaders sport positive attitudes

by Char Tuttle
Graphos Reporter

It's the big game tonight. The adrenaline is pumping as a NUHS student dons the purple and white. The hopes for victory are strongly felt. A last minute check to make sure the uniform is on right and the shoes are tied, a cheerleader bounds onto the court to whip up the crowd's enthusiasm.

The cheerleaders practice at least three times a week and make sure that everyone is together and precise. They have enjoyed watching sports all their lives. "I like seeing the faces light up in the crowd when we cheer," said **Leah Eckstein**. Most have wanted to become cheerleaders for all their lives. "I wanted to follow in my family's footsteps," said **Sarah Tarbox**, whose mother was a cheerleader. The cheerleaders also get many personal rewards, including meeting new people and making new friends by supporting the team. They all like the excitement of the game.

As many people know,

cheerleaders haven't always received the respect they deserve. "Everyone needs to respect the cheerleaders more and realize that they're helping the team," said a cheerleader. The spectators sometimes ignore the cheerleaders. "It's really hard when the fans don't cheer along," said **Yvette Anderson**. But they deal with it well and keep trying. "You need a positive attitude," **Tonya Soukup** said.

The cheerleaders hope to have more advisors, one for each sport. **Vicki Courson**, their coach, advises them in the cheers but lets the experienced cheerleaders teach the new cheerleader. When the cheerleaders asked her to be their coach, she said she always enjoyed cheerleading and thought being the coach would be an enjoyable experience. Courson hopes that, with the help of the cheerleaders, the entire school will "get more school spirit" and build together.



The cheerleaders are fired up for the winter sports season.

homework either. They have the more important issue of studying for the college entrance exam.

As a result of the large emphasis placed on this test, sports do not play a big role in students' lives. They are not part of the school day. Even though he plays soccer, there isn't much time for it.

Jardin spoke of his dislikes and likes of America. One thing that bothers him about America is gossip. "People don't have to talk about your life." He is not used to as much gossip where he is from. He also finds it disturbing when people are ignorant about his country. "People ask me if we have TVs and cars. Of course we do." However, besides those few things, he likes "everything" about America. He appreciates the way Americans "show their friendship" by talking and asking questions. He also said, "I like American girls because they are more outgoing."



Rafael Jardim is an A.F.S. student from Brazil.



Zack Lindberg enjoys his favorite winter pastime.

Winter wonderland

by Navada Hillesheim
Graphos Reporter

When we see snow covering the ground, we usually come to one conclusion: winter. We Minnesotans are part of an elite group of states that can truly say we actually have a real winter. For many people, winter is the perfect time to get involved in their favorite winter activities.

For the athletes of our school, the winter sport they participate in is the most enjoyable and important thing they do during these snowy months. For **Jared Budenski**, "Basketball and wrestling are two of my favorite things to do in winter." For instance, there are

many sports that would be almost impossible to play if there wasn't any snow or ice. Hockey is one sport that needs ice.

Another enjoyable thing students like in winter is the little bonus vacations during school. Life in Minnesota is never boring because there is always a possibility of school starting late, called off early, or even cancelled. Just sleeping in or getting off a day of school is a pleasure that breaks the monotony of winter.

However, a majority of the people want more traditional things to do for fun during winter. **Linda Poncin** said, "Sledding and

being with my friends is always fun." The top rated "winter activities" among students at NUHS are sledding, skiing, snowmobiling, snow football, and ice skating.

Some students enjoy the magical and memorable winter activities, which include making snowmen and snow angels. German teacher **Peter Engeldinger** said, "Shoveling snow at my house will be fun this year." People really do find joy in the simple pleasures winter has to offer. Winter can be really fun just sitting back and watching snow fall to the ground or noticing that each snowflake has a different pattern to it.

Another enjoyable thing for students to do is to escape to another place. Many winter travelers find themselves going

somewhere "up north" where there is usually more snow and ice than "down here." One of the most popular things to do "up there" is ice fishing. Also, cross country skiing play a major part in the winter fun for many.

To make a long story short, winter is enjoyable for most students, although some students have found unusual ways to occupy themselves for winter fun. **Jared Visker** said, "For fun Adam (Horton) and I like to go caroling and then go home and bake cookies. We also like to go sledding naked." Wouldn't that be an interesting sight to see. Also, wouldn't they get cold? Many people have the most fun when they are with their friends and acting silly. Although how silly is sledding naked in the snow?



Jamie Matter tries a new move.

Teaching isn't just uno, dos, tres

by April Deinken
Graphos Reporter

The program started off slowly with a few volunteer Spanish students to teach the kindergarten classes at Jefferson Elementary. The Jefferson teachers and their students were very excited about this new program, which quickly gained popularity. Expanding to other grades, the program added more volunteer Spanish students to teach. The program soon became the highlight of the kids' school week.

The idea for Spanish teachers at Jefferson evolved about nine years ago. A young girl from Chile who spoke only Spanish attended Jefferson as a kindergartner. **Al Hoffman's** wife thought knowing some of this girl's native language would be a wonderful learning experience for the girl's classmates. Little did she know the program would become so successful.

This Spanish program, which is completely volunteer based, is introduced to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year Spanish students. The students are grouped in pairs to teach once a week during the school day. Whenever possible, the students teach during their study hall. If the students do not have a study hall, they may teach

during their Spanish class. There are props the teachers can use for visual aids, which are very helpful when working with younger kids. The student teachers are also given various songs and activities they can share with their kids.

The student teachers are greeted enthusiastically by anxious young students wanting to learn a second language. When one student was asked about her experience with the program, she said "It's kind of a break for the teachers and the kids. They're happy we're there." For the fortunate young students, this is a wonderful opportunity. For the student teachers, the program is a chance to actually teach what they have learned. When the students teach they are, in essence, improving their language skills.

The student teachers are given the opportunity to use their Spanish language outside of their classroom. On the success of the program, Hoffman said, "I think it's been a very successful program not only for the Jefferson kids, but for the senior high kids, also. The senior high kids feel a real sense of accomplishment."

During the first few classes the Jefferson kids are taught to count up to 10 or learn the colors. Teaching Spanish to young kids

is much harder than it seems. Much review and also a considerable amount of patience are needed. One subject may have to be reviewed every time the teachers visit. On the other hand, some Jefferson classes learn the basic subjects so quickly reviewing is often unnecessary.

As the kids start to catch on to the language, the student teachers may introduce animal names, parts of a house, or teach them Spanish songs. The Spanish teacher may also plan various other events. The traditions of Saint Nicholas or Christmas in Spanish-speaking countries are explained to the kids. The kids may make stockings for *San Nicolas* to fill or throw a party in honor of *Papá Noel*. These events give the kids a small glimpse of Spanish *fiestas*.

The Spanish program has proven to be a success for both the kids being taught and the kids doing the teaching. The volunteer Spanish students/teachers are giving the Jefferson kids a break from the normal routine, and the Jefferson kids are giving the student teachers a chance to use their language outside of the classroom. As they say in Spain, *¡Adios!*

Unknown athletes

by Terry Smith
Graphos Editor

Everyone knows the football, volleyball and cross country teams all had very successful seasons. However, perhaps the most accomplished of all the fall sports teams was the bowling team. The members of the bowling team are the most skilled athletes you've never heard of at NUHS.

The bowling team was the only fall sports team who qualified to participate in a state tournament this season. They competed in Minneapolis on December 10.

Bowling coach **Dean Torvik** has led his team to two straight conference titles. Unfortunately, this success has gone virtually unnoticed. Not only are students unaware that the bowling team did so well, most students don't even know there's a bowling team at all.

Great individual performances keyed the team's 10-2 record this year. Four athletes were named to the all-conference team. Senior **Brad Moos** was honored for the third straight year, sophomore **Jeff Moos** captured his second straight award while senior **Mike Groebner** and Cathedral sophomore **Aaron Reinhart** were both chosen for the first time.

Looks like a good year for winter sports season



by Luke Schmidt
Graphos Columnist

Now that the winter sports season is in full swing, I want to remind all of you that there are activities almost every night of the week. Wrestling, hockey, boys' and girls' basketball, and gymnastics all play during the week. I'm not here to report as some people do. I'm here to voice my opinion on a plethora of things. As many of you know, our fan support at NUHS is nothing spectacular. People feel that sitting at home watching TV is more important than cheering for their classmates. I, for one, am not one of those people. Any event I get to I make sure to help the fans in their effort to cheer our teams. Whatever sport it may be, I yell at the refs, cheer on the competitors, and generally make a nuisance of myself. Let's take a look at the teams when we break it down.

Since girls' basketball starts their season first, I thought we'd give them the first glance. I figure I'll recap one of their first games since the vast majority of you weren't there. It was a tight game against Sibley East with New Ulm leading the majority of the game. In the end it came down to free throw shooting, which the Eagles just couldn't handle, going 3 for 20 in the stretch. The high point of the game was the long-range bombs of the Eagles when they netted more threes in one game this year than they did all of last year. They lost by 2 points. This promises to be an exciting year with the Eagles on the brink of breaking the curse with veterans and young players alike taking up the cause.

Next we'll hit wrestling. The Eagles lost a lot of experience in their graduated seniors. This year will be a partial rebuilding year at some of the lighter weights with the seniors holding down the middle to heavyweight spots. The South Central Conference is extremely tough in wrestling any year, and this year will be no exception. The guys are getting restless and will be ready to do some serious wrestling as soon as they stop complaining about their new singlets.

How about some hockey? The boys are ready to go with a couple of scrimmages and by now several games under their belt. They return a big scoring punch in their veteran forwards and some good backing in defense. The

Defending conference champs are charged up

by Missy Fluegge
Graphos Reporter

Last season, the Eagles basketball team soared to success, finishing the season with an impressive 19-4 record and capturing the South Central Conference title with a perfect 12-0 conference record. This year, the sky is the limit.

Consisting of 11 seniors and 2

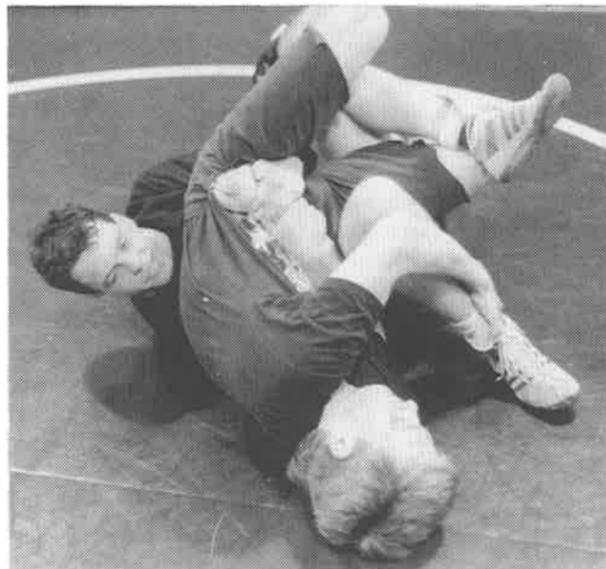
juniors, this year's team has advantages in height, strength, and, most importantly, experience. With the loss of only one graduated starter, the Eagles have a well-rounded team full of experience on the court. Seniors **Luke Schmidt, Rod Swenson, and Jared Visker** have seen considerable varsity action to lead the team through another winning season. "This team has



The sky is the limit for this year's boy's basketball team.

goalie, as always, makes or breaks a team, and both goalies are varsity rookies who will have to grow up fast to survive. The Eagles have a solid nucleus around which to build and should be fun to watch this season.

In accordance with common courtesy, I figured I had better write about the gymnastics team. The only reason I state it as such is that I know absolutely nothing about them except the amount of physical and mental strength it takes far exceeds any of the other sports. If you don't believe this, simply do a back hand-spring and show me how easy it is. I give the gymnasts my best wishes for the season and apologize for my ignorance.



David Reichel and Toby Hermel practice their moves before the next meet.

I saved boys basketball until last because I could talk for hours on the subject. Since I also play the game, this will be the most thorough preview of the teams. We return four starters from last year after a 19-4 record and a perfect 12-0 conference championship. This tends to cause pride to swell within us basketballers. The conference won't be that easy this year. It will depend on the defensive strategy of the team. If we hold them to 50 points we should be able to outscore them.

This winter sports season looks to be a good year for the Eagles and a not so good year for the opponent. But when it all comes down to it, isn't that what we want?

The mat is where it's at

by David Galvin
Graphos Reporter

The New Ulm Eagle wrestling team is coming off its best season under **Coach Dar Arndt**. They posted a record of 11-6, grabbed a third place finish in the conference, and placed sixth in the region. The team is returning a solid nucleus of experience wrestlers who hope to contend for the conference and finish high in the region.

The team will look for leadership from senior captains, **Ryan Altmann, Brad Weber, and Damion Spilman**. The starting line-up could also include up to seven other returning starters in **Mike Weber, Nick Ruch, David Reichel, Brady**

Ranweiler, Jesse Matter, Wayne Gieseke, and Mike DuBeau. The big question is whether or not the newcomers can have a good season. Altmann said, "Our young kids need to be consistent throughout the season." Weber agreed, "Our strength will be the experience we have from 140 pounds on up, but the question is the youth we have in the lower weight classes."

With all the returning experience, Altmann has high expectations for this year's squad. "I think we can finish second in the conference behind St. James, can place high in the region behind Buffalo, and I also think we can have a few individuals go to the state tournament."

a good inside game with Rod Swenson and Luke Schmidt," said varsity coach **Jim Senske**. Senske feels this advantage separates this New Ulm team from those of the past. "**Adam Horton, Jared Visker, and Gabe Kaven** can shoot from the outside." **Matt Hauge, Brad Moos, Tait Nelson, Rob Poncin, Joe Tietel, and Brady Windschitl** round out the senior roster. **Andy Kitzberger and Derek Volz** are the lone juniors on varsity until Christmas, when two more juniors will be moved up to the varsity level.

During practice, emphasis is placed on conditioning and "lots of scrimmaging," said Schmidt. Rather than relying solely upon running, drills that utilize a number of important skills are the focus of the hours spent in the

gym. Outside of the regular basketball season, several of the players have spent time on the courts, participating in the Cathedral League and AAU tournaments.

The Eagles know where they have been and realize where their potential can take them. Team goals for the season include contending for the South Central Conference Championship title. "Last year we won the conference with a 12-0 record," said Senske. "We realize that will be tough this year, but it is possible." Senske and the Eagles also hope to "win a couple of section games and take our team to MSU," the location of the Final Four playoffs this season. Fairmont and Waseca are expected to be the Eagles' toughest competition in SCC play.

Gymnasts vault into action

by Keri Bunkers
Graphos Reporter

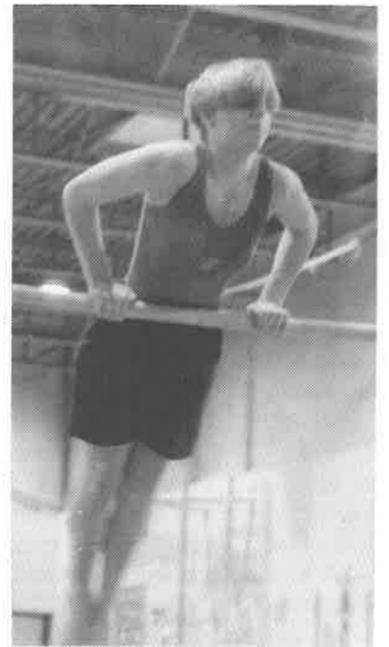
The winter season involves many sports. One varsity sport that often gets overlooked is gymnastics.

Many people don't realize how difficult the sport is. Its participants are required to be strong, coordinated, fearless and flexible as they display their skill in four different events.

The beam is four inches wide and stands four feet off the ground. To complete an entire routine on this apparatus, the gymnast must be balanced and extremely proficient. Success on the vault must combine speed and strength. The gymnast's goal in this event is to run full speed toward the "horse," complete the maneuver and land firmly on their feet.

The uneven parallel bars prove to be very difficult as they require a great deal of upper body strength in order to maneuver around them. And finally the gymnast shows off her dancing and tumbling ability with a floor routine. This routine is done in a 40' X 40' area and must include a certain number of moves based on the level of difficulty.

At the meets the opposing teams rotate events so that both teams are not competing in the same event at the same time. Gymnastics is a competitive sport at the team and the individual levels. Each



Gymnast Stacy Luawagie works on improving last year's score.

gymnast is scored on her performance in each event, the highest score possible being 10. Errors in execution mean deductions. Everyone's scores are added to obtain a team total. This total determines which team has won the meet.

All of the 15 members of the varsity and JV teams combined and their coach **Vicky Tamborino** have high goals for the season. This year's co-captains are junior **Stacy Luawagie** and **Christine Boettger**, who is the team's only senior. As always, one of the biggest goals of the season is to improve on last year's scores. Sophomore **Annie Jaeger** said, "We definitely want to win more meets!"



Goalie Ty Raitz blocks this shot on goal.

The puck stops here

by Brad Weber
Graphos Reporter

As the NUHS Eagles skate headlong into the 1994-95 hockey season, one quote will be firmly implanted in their minds to guide them through the season: "We will win if we score more than they do."

New Ulm will be returning six letterwinners to the ice this season, including captains **Dayton Larson** and **Scott Macho**. Other seniors joining this duo are **John McKinzie**, **Corey Schaefer**, and **Ryan Swenson**. The juniors who are on the squad include **Andy Brand**, **Ben Dier**, **Jerry Fromm**, **Matt Holm**, **Jerad Portner**, **Dana Leonard**, **Josh Mueller**, **Ty Raitz**, **Josh Retka**, **Mark Steinke**, **Tom Tasto**, **Justin Rewitzer**, **Aaron Wilfahrt**, **Justin Wilhelm**, and **Mickey Wiltscheck**.

This year's team will rely on their speed and puck handling skills to down their opponents. Larson said, "Our ability to skate and handle the puck will help us score at any point in the game."

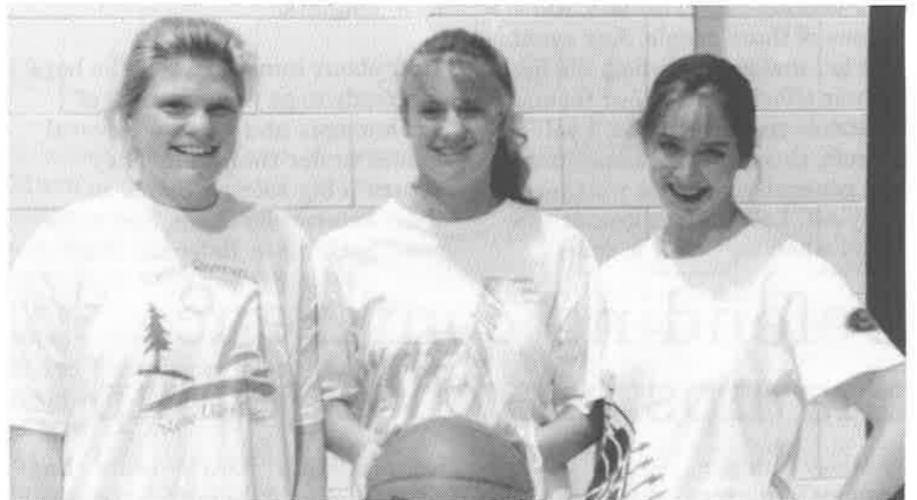
As most teams know, a great offense alone cannot guarantee wins. In hockey a strong defense and miserly goaltending are very important aspects needed to win the close games. Juniors Raitz and Retka will both be vying for the starting goaltender position, although both will probably see considerable ice time.

New Ulm will be returning six letterwinners to the ice this season, including captains

Dayton Larson and **Scott Macho**. Other seniors joining this duo are **John McKinzie**, **Corey Schaefer**, and **Ryan Swenson**. The juniors who are on the squad include **Andy Brand**, **Ben Dier**, **Jerry Fromm**, **Matt Holm**, **Jerad Portner**, **Dana Leonard**, **Josh Retka**, **Ty Raitz**, **Josh Mueller**, **Mark Steinke**, **Tom Tasto**, **Justin Rewitzer**, **Aaron Wilfahrt**, **Justin Wilhelm**, and **Mickey Wiltscheck**.

Because the Eagles have a majority of juniors, cooperation, communication, and teamwork are all aspects of the game that will need to progress throughout the season in order for them to be successful. Captain Macho said, "We have to start playing more hockey with each other so we can get to know our linemates better."

The Eagles, who play in the Southern Minnesota Conference, know that in order to win the conference title and earn a trip to the state tournament, it will take a lot of long hours of hard work. "We like to dig in the corners, work hard, and get things done," said Scott. Head coach Tom Macho concurred. "The kids have a pretty good work ethic. Our seniors are setting the stage for the younger players by providing leadership on the ice." As far as going to state, Coach Macho said, "Our key personnel is ready to take us to the level of competition needed to enter the state tournament. We need our juniors to replace the seniors we lost to graduation. They don't necessarily have to be as good as last year's seniors, but they have to be able to fill in so we can get our first liners a break."



Tri captains Kim Drill, Shannon Clobes, and Beth Green are all dedicated to the game.

Shoot for more in '94

by Carla Bode
Graphos Reporter

The shrill squeal of a ref's whistle and the screeching of skin sliding on the gymnasium floor are sounds all too familiar to the group of 12 talented girls who make up the varsity basketball team. Head coach **Dave Janssen**, along with assistants, **Katie Anderson** and **Dan Janke**, hope for a successful season. Janssen's goals are basically to "start strong early in the season." He also hopes to play at least .500. Janssen plans on using a "more wide open style with more three point shots."

Captains for this year are **Shannon Clobes**, **Beth Green**,

and **Kim Drill**. The team also includes an array of juniors and one sophomore. "This year's team has a lot of height and speed," said Janssen. "They're not as experienced yet, but that's something that will come in time."

Dedication is the key in this physical game. Practices are usually an hour and a half long every day to build up their endurance. Technique is also stressed, along with many drills on the basic plays.

When asked how he thought the season looked, Janssen said, "it's a tough conference. Blue Earth always plays a good game."