

the graphos

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Minnesotans find warmth in winter



Seniors Karisa Carlson and Dawn Krzmarzick aren't fazed by a recent snowfall.

Melissa Stolt
Graphos Reporter

Right around this time every year, it is easy to distinguish the true Minnesotan from the imposter. The true Minnesotan thinks the weather now is perfect for all those outdoor activities - broomball, sledding, snow fights, and skiing; just to name a few - while the imposter is whining about wanting to vacation in some ridiculously warm place like Florida or California. Of course, the ever patient Minnesotan will set the imposter down and tell them several important reasons why Minnesota winters are something to be cherished rather than feared.

First of all, life during a Minnesota winter is never boring. Each day has new questions to be answered and challenges to be overcome. For example: "Will my car start today or not?" ; or "Will I be able to use those brand new jumper cables I got yesterday?". Naturally the savvy Minnesotan has the inside track for challenges such as these, like knowing that turning your lights on first before starting your car will give your battery a "head start" before turning on the ignition, or that jumping a car without getting electrocuted is as easy as 1)remembering that the cables are always attached positive to positive and negative to negative; and making sure the vehicles don't

touch when using the cables; 2)attach the positive cable (the bright colored one) to the dead battery first, and then to the good battery; 3)attach the negative cable (the black one) to the good battery, and then to a metal part in the other engine. (But *not* to the battery - an explosion could occur!)

One of the greatest advantages to living with Minnesota winters is the almost weekly possibility of late or cancelled school because of the snow, cold, or ice; three things that people in warm states usually never have. Do you think that students in California ever toss and turn in anticipation wondering "Will school be called off today or just two hours late because of the heat?" Without the snow, cold, and ice, fishtailing around corners and spinning "cookies" in parking lots, whether intentional or not, would not be possible. And as every Minnesotan knows, to get the best mileage out of these great winter antics, be sure that your tires have plenty of air because, as any science teacher will tell you, air compresses in these slightly chilly temperatures, which makes your tires vulnerable to flats. Also, make sure that your gas tank is at least half-way full because there's the possibility of the gas freezing and forming water. Yes, yes, it's hard enough getting money to even have gas in the car but make it a family affair. Parents should be good for at

least a couple of bucks of gas money, especially since they should be concerned about your safety -at least that's what you can tell them.

If there is a down-side to Minnesota winters, it would have to be parents and their constant worrying. For example, the flat tire situation, almost every parent is certain that you'll get one in the middle of nowhere and they'll be no one around and if there is, it's most likely the psycho-killer seen on America's Most Wanted last night. So that is why the true Minnesotan is always prepared for such a possible, though melodramatic, situation and has an emergency kit in their car. Emergency kits usually consist of some high energy foods (i.e. candy bars), a brightly colored scarf to tie onto the antennae of a stranded vehicle, candles, and for the pyro in all of us, plenty of matches --all nicely packed into a non-flammable container, like a metal coffee can. And even if you never need to use it, it's always handy if you want quick snack or want to set something on fire if you're bored.

So the next time you hear someone complaining about our Minnesota winters, you can calmly set them down and tell them all about the different reasons why Minnesota winters are so great . . . or you can just tell them to quit being such a wimp.

PDA's : a touchy subject

by Andrew Wachholz
Special Assignment

"Look away if you don't like it," they say. So I try; to no avail. It's not an uncommon sight in our school to see couples holding hands, one arm around each other. Public displays of affection (PDA's) are very common, but when does it become too much? While walking through the hall one day I came upon a very interesting spectacle. Nothing seemed unusual, the couple's arms around each other; then with a second glance it all stopped being innocent and became rather grotesque. (We'll leave the details out)

PDA's disturb both teachers and students. Most opinions about this subject have been negative. Nothing is more disgusting than seeing two people almost engaged

in the "act." Come on, people! Keep it at home. I have nothing against "love," but there comes a time when it starts to disturb others.

I've heard many adverse comments. Some say hand holding is fine while others say that even a peck on the cheek is ok. However, most agree that some PDA's cross the line. On average I witness four to five PDA's a day; most of them offensive. For those of you who are wondering; no I'm not a hermit. I do live in the real world. No I don't have a girlfriend, but, "yes" I do know what love is and it is not groping each other in public. It's fine to enjoy each other's company but keep the passionate side out of the school.



PDA's like this aren't a problem, but where should we draw the line?

You say that's their problem not mine. Well, in perspective it **IS** your problem; you control it. What's that? You don't intend to stop. I understand. It must be a genetic disorder. Recent 'lingo' doctors called it the "24 to 7 illness: The uncontrollable urge

to constantly be in contact with your partner, privately or in public." I realize I may be navigating through forbidden waters, but let's learn to keep PDA's under control. Anyone else care to object? My mouth is shut and my mind remains open.

editorial

Seniors tortured by cruel and unusual punishment



by Maren Olson
Graphos Editor

Application: 1. a form or document which is a request for admission to a school or other training program 2. a cruel and unusual form of torture designed by institutions of education in hopes of driving high school seniors insane.

As I speed to the post office to insure that my stack of college admission and scholarship applications are postmarked by the correct date, I wonder, "WHY? Why are we seniors forced to go through this torture? Why do we have to fill out page after page of bizarre questions? And why, oh why, must they all be due in the same 24-hour period of a 365-day year? What makes February 1 so wonderful? What's wrong with the other 364 days?"

After sleepless nights and hours of thought, I have answered these profound questions. Somewhere there must be a secret committee organized for the sole intent of torturing seniors. The members spend hours and hours synchronizing the application deadlines of every institute of higher learning from University A to Tech School Z. They also create lengthy lists of obscure and perturbing questions for use in applications. The committee's hard work has paid off; application completion has become a stressful, agonizing undertaking.

For those of you who haven't had to endure this misery, let me disclose a few of the gory details.

Possessing a good understanding of the three basic types of

questions applications contain is important. The first, *the idiot question*, takes no brain power to answer. (This is the best kind.) Examples include *What is your name?* *What is your address?* and the ever-popular *Are you a felon?* The second, and more advanced type of question, is *the brown-noser question*, which takes some skill to answer. A typical query is "Why do you think we should let you attend our school?" (Basic hint for answering this question: be disgustingly polite about the high caliber of the faculty and be sure to comment on the elegant architecture of the campus buildings . . . even if the 70's-style interior decorating is nauseating.) The third, *the profound yet purposless question*, is by far the most challenging to answer. Questions in this category range from "What is the purpose of life and how does it relate to our school?" to "What is your personal stand on the issue of continental drift?"

Besides being filled with torturous questions, applications are never printed on white paper. That would make life much too simple. Therefore, I'm convinced that when the secret committee is not coordinating deadline schedules and authoring questions they are busy testing new colors of paper. These shades are specially designed so "whiteout" cannot be used without producing a disastrous effect.

To increase the horrors of applications, the committee evidently makes sure no two schools use the same question. There must be a paragraph in the U. S. Constitution stating that seniors should be forced to write a new essay for each application.

Federal offense or not, there are a few tricks to beat the system. First of all, use "the-benefit-of-the-doubt" in your favor. For example, list *basketball* under activities. You did *attend* most of the games. Second, fill *all* the blanks - lots of ink looks good. Besides, who's going to read every line?

Tell that to the Senior Torture Committee!



Hispanics victimized by unfair stereotypes

by Kara Hatle
Graphos Columnist

What is the ethnic background of most of the American media? Hispanic? You and I both know that is not the situation. The vast majority of people who make up the media are non-Hispanic. Therefore, Hispanics have no choice as how they are portrayed in the media.

Hispanics are often portrayed as insitgators of crime by the media rather than victims. They tend to be downgraded because of their ethnic background and professional inadequacies.

Many times when I read the newspaper I see Hispanics being blamed for murders, rapes, disorderly conduct, and public drunkenness. I'm not arguing whether or not they are guilty of the accusations, I'm just pointing out the fact that Hispanics are easy targets for negative publicity in the media.

One of the main reasons I feel that Hispanics are portrayed this way is their lack of educational opportunities. Most Hispanics in the New Ulm area are working for low wages. As a result, Hispanics are being portrayed not only as criminals but also as uneducated, lazy people who would rather not work.

People are influenced enormously by the media. Most Americans automatically believe everything they read and hear. However, they forget the fact that the media's reports represent only a small percentage of the Hispanic population. Society tends to remain ignorant toward minorities and the world around them.



If I have learned one thing from working in the media, it is that everything reported is not always the truth. I've learned not to accept stereotypes. Maybe some day we will learn to open our eyes as well as our hearts and get to know minority communities before passing judgments based on only what we hear, see, and read in the media.

Hispanics are having a difficult time adapting to American culture. Perhaps we can make it a little easier for them by accepting, not rejecting; liking, not hating; and teaching, not neglecting. If we could learn to accept minorities, we would all be much better.

the graphos

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Wins are lost due to lack of support

by Luke Schmidt
Graphos Columnist

Recently I attended a girls' basketball game and was shocked. I arrived at the game to see only five people sitting on one side of the gym. Three were students. This lack of fan support is sickening. Instead of going out to watch a game, people sit at home and watch TV. When asked why they weren't there the previous night, students say they didn't realize there was a game. That's a common excuse from a school which has true fans and also "social" fans who only go to games because their friends are there. These people end up talking instead of watching the game. Instead of coming to the game, why not just sit at home and talk on the telephone? I don't see how we can expect our teams to win with the kind of support they get. Basketball, wrestling, and hockey have done it with the little help they get, but the other teams are struggling a bit. Maybe if the girls' basketball team got an extra 50 fans, they could pull off one of those tight games down the stretch.

In old sports movies like "Hoosiers," the gyms are packed, and people are on their feet. Boys basketball coach James Senske said in the "old days" that the gym used to have an overflow area in the cafeteria. I'd love to be part of one of those games. I guess if I want to see that, I have to go to MVL or GFW where people get excited and actually look forward to every game. There the fans get up and yell with the cheerleaders and have no voice left after each game. Some die-hard fans can't even go out after the game because they are too tired from cheering.

Belonging to a double A school like New Ulm makes attending all



sporting events difficult because of all the scheduling conflicts. I know there are students who wouldn't miss a hockey game for their life, and I also know there are people who feel the same way about basketball or wrestling. There are enough students, however, to split the events and get a good sized crowd at each.

The most annoying are the fans who come to talk to their friends instead of watching the game. When the activity is over, they stand up, stretch, and ask "Oh, did we win?" These people should be tossed headfirst into a snowbank and made to stay there until they sing the school song.

The hockey team is having a great year, wrestling is doing well, and boys' basketball is cleaning house. Gymnastics and girls' basketball just need that extra fan support to land a triple somersault or maybe just sink that last-second shot.

If you're home on a weeknight with nothing to do, check the paper and look for a local activity to attend. Lots of people will be there, and you can bet money that when you tell one of the athletes that you saw them compete the night before, they'll really appreciate it.

continued from below
lengthen the day, we can more efficiently utilize the time we've already been given.

Secondly, we must ask ourselves if procrastination is contributing to the level of stress in our lives.

What is the key to overcoming the fatigue of high school life? Unfortunately there is no fool-proof plan or simple solution. There are, however, some actions we can take to decrease the stress.

Putting tasks off until the last minute increases the amount of stress. When we procrastinate, our ability to produce quality work is often inhibited. By simply giving ourselves enough time to complete assignments and other responsibilities on time we can remove some of the stress in our lives.

Besides organizing our time and eliminating procrastination, we need to examine our priorities. Sometimes no matter how well organized we are, there simply is not enough time to do everything

we want. It then becomes necessary for each of us to decide what is most important. There are many interesting and awesome activities to choose from, but no one can do everything. By committing ourselves to too many activities, we spread ourselves so thin that we miss out on a lot of the enjoyment and rewards these activities have to offer. We need to decide where our greatest interests lie and do those things that will bring us the greatest amount of satisfaction. Choosing is never easy, especially if there are interest in many areas. If we become committed to too much, we haven't enough time to devote to anything. We burn ourselves out quickly and in the end defeat the purpose for doing them at all.

It's important to remember we all need time to refuel and relax. It's okay to occasionally be lazy just as long as we remain in control of our lives. We need to take time to be with our friends and learn not to put too much pressure on ourselves. Life is too short not to spend every moment living.

The Shoe Box

As I lift the shoe box cover that opens
up my past,
I think of all those years that slipped
away so fast.
Inside the tattered box there's a pile of tickets
to movies, concerts, and even teen night
clubs.
In the dark corner, hidden in camouflage,
sits a fragile, dried-up wrist corsage,
the one I received at a Friday night dance,
when I discovered true romance.
I look in the box where my memories are
piled,
And I see pictures of me when I was a child,
things from the seashore, like colorful
rocks.
Then I think of the present and close up
my box.

by Melissa Roiger

Students struggle to manage over-booked schedules



by Kristie Benson
Graphos Columnist

Are you feeling tired, depressed, and worn out? Has winter, school, and life got you down? Are you constantly running but often forget whether you're coming or going? Does life seem to leave you with more problems than solutions?

If the previous description fits

your life, you need not feel alone; there are many who are in the same shape. For many high school is filled with seemingly endless expectations, responsibilities, and commitments. While being involved in school has its rewards, it also weighs many students down. Too often so much time is spent running that there is no time left for friends and fun. Many students are often pulled in a zillion different directions at once. Splitting time between part-time jobs, home-work, friends, extracurricular activities, and other responsibilities becomes a delicate balancing act that can leave a student exhausted, frustrated, and trapped.

First, we must look at how we use our time; is much of it wasted? If so, better organization might be helpful. There are only 24 hours in a day and while we can't
continued above

FLA organizes bloody affair

by Betty Wetherell
Graphos Reporter

Once again students who are at least 17 years old and over 105 pounds got the opportunity to save someone's life. You're wondering how they can do that? They just showed up for this year's bloodmobile sponsored by FLA.

Student guidelines for giving blood included age, weight, and diet. As much as the Red Cross needs blood, deferrals will be made if temperatures or iron levels are unacceptable.

This year's goal was 125 units of blood. President of the FLA chapter, **Jamie Fortwengler**, believed that this goal was attainable. Fortwengler said that Cathedral High School and the alternative schools were also encouraged to participate in the blood drive.

Giving blood does not require a major commitment. It takes approximately 45 minutes to give blood. After giving blood students are encouraged to eat, have a glass of water, and relax for a

while. In approximately six weeks the blood loss in your body is restored. Most people have no reaction to the blood loss, but occasionally someone will have a reaction.

Andy Wachholz still remembers the taunting he received last year after becoming dizzy after giving blood. He remembers getting suddenly hot and seeing objects spinning rapidly. Even though he had such an unpleasant experience last year, Wachholz said he would give blood this year because "it is a good cause."

The California earthquake has caused a current shortage of blood, and Red Cross authorities have been asking other blood banks around the country to come to their aid.

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

Rolke points out differences in cultures

by Scott Varland
Graphos Reporter

Having lived in New Ulm for the last nine years, I've become accustomed to its German-Bohemian heritage. However, recently talking with **Florian Rolke**, I learned that the Germany of today is quite different.

Rolke, an exchange student from Ahrensburg (a town of 30,000 near Hamburg), says that New Ulm is definitely German but much more traditional in its heritage than the Germany of today.

However, Rolke's day-to-day life has not changed too much. School days in Germany are shorter so the students get out at about two o'clock in the afternoon. Eating at school is a new concept as well. Most students in Germany go home to eat.

In Germany, classes were shorter but there is more homework and studying expected of the students. Rolke's own schedule was filled with classes such as physics, chemistry, biology, math, and English.

Rolke has quickly molded to an American lifestyle and spends his spare time in a variety of activities. He enjoyed scouting in Germany and has become active in Troop 25 in New Ulm. Living with Dave and Carol Cook, who live near the senior high tennis courts, he gets to indulge in another favorite activity: tennis.

Getting used to American music has not been a problem either, and he enjoys music from Stone Temple Pilots, Metallica, and the local band Ballistic. Though he usually just listens to music, he

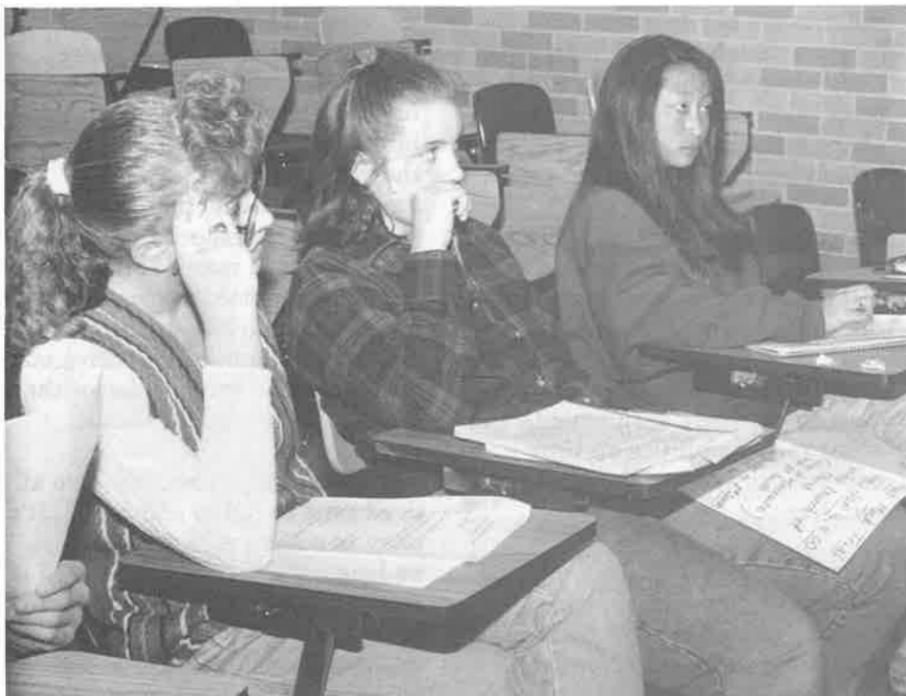


Florian Rolke is enjoying his stay in New Ulm.

With his new friends Rolke enjoys to "go cruising." He says that the people of New Ulm are very friendly.

Traveling has always played a role in Rolke's life, and he has travelled throughout Europe. In the U.S., he has been to Oklahoma with his host family and will later take a six day trip to New York, Chicago, and Washington D.C. with the YFU. The YFU is a German organization that is parallel to our AFS. When he finishes with school in Germany, he plans to take a year off and travel extensively.

He will have to wait a while, however, because he has three years of high school left in Germany. After that, he has to fulfill a 10 month government service requirement although he does have a choice as to whether he will complete this in the military or through social service. He plans to serve in social service, helping in hospitals and youth hostels.



Mock Trial members Mindy Schmidt, Amanda Furth, and Angie Clobes review details of their case.

Students take law into their own hands

by Keith Carlson
Graphos Reporter

Mock Trial was created by the Minnesota State Bar Association eight years ago, but this is the first year that NUHS has participated in the activity. Local Boy Scout troops with the help of some local lawyers have previously been involved with Mock Trial.

The students have four attorneys as coaches: Joel Dahlgren, Kurt Johnson, Susan Nierengarten, and John Rodenberg. These attorneys contacted elementary teacher Barb Fenske, who organized the activity and recruited interested students. The attorneys help students understand the legal questions involved in the fictitious case and assist the students in their preparation for the court room trial, which sometimes is presented before a real judge.

Pat Haimes needed work done on his basement so he called a work center that finds temporary employment for delinquents and individuals with criminal records. Haimes gets Jordan Davis to do the work. The two do not get along and continuously argue. During one argument Haimes shot Davis because Haimes thought Davis was carrying a knife. Haimes pleads self defense although Davis had no weapon in his possession, and Haimes' hand gun was unregistered. The case is based on gun control issues, a topic of recent political discussion. Rodenberg said, "The ideas are all current and in the public import."

The mock trial scene resembles a real court room, and the students must dress and act like lawyers.

Don't stop them now!

by Ellen Kuester
Graphos Reporter

Don't stop them now! This year's pom pon squad is excited and ready for a successful year of dancing.

The pom pon/danceline squad consists of 19 high school girls, advisor **Jill Curry**, and assistant **Kari Blakely**. Every spring tryouts are held and any girl entering tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade can display their skills.

Many students think that the girls simply prance around. Well, they're wrong. They have to learn to work together and put in many hours of practice. Advisor Curry said, "We practice every Monday and Friday morning and



The danceline kicked their way to a fourth-place finish in one category of state competition.

Wednesdays after school. And sometimes even on Tuesdays and Thursdays depending on how things go."

Practices and performances are led by the two captains who are in charge that week determined by a rotating schedule. Every week one senior and a junior or sophomore, are responsible for completing various duties associated with that week's schedule. Everyone has a chance to lead the group.

Pom pon requires hard work, dedication, time and a little flexibility. Any member will tell you it's not as easy as it looks. **Carisa Lindmeyer** said she has "learned a lot of skills, how to work as a team with 20 other girls and how to compromise."

Pom pon is also a learning process. "I've learned to pick things up fast," said **Lisa Ahlbrect**. Sometimes there are

only a few days to learn a routine before a performance. Being a quick learner definitely helps. Several members also commented that they have to learn to get along with people. "Nineteen girls don't always get along at 7:00 in the morning," said one member.

Besides performing at half time and sideline routines at sporting events, pom pon also competed at the state on February 25 and 26. The girls will be participating in both Jazz Funk and High Kick events. The High Kick line will perform to "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen, and the Jazz Funk will dance to "Boom," a mix of songs put together by senior **Sarah Nelson**. Nelson, along with **Jessica Heuchert**, **Keri Bunkers**, and **Jessica Leske** created choreography for the two numbers. Heuchert said, "This year we hope to place in the top six and make it to finals."



These students attended the Dorian choir festival.

Dorian festivals make notable impact

by Mandy Weinkauff
Graphos Reporter

As the snow falls during the cold of winter, many people think of heading south. Some lucky NUHS students got the opportunity to do just that but not to the warm waters of Florida beaches. Twelve student musicians were selected to attend the Dorian Band and Choir Festivals at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

The eight vocal members who attended included **Staci Baker, Paul Brunner, Jessica Heuchert, Brian Jamison, Melissa Larsen, Casie Netzke, Andy Wacholz, and Ben Wallner.** After meeting local requirements, each student had an audition tape sent to the festival. All eight were accepted.

The festival took place in January. Remembering his overall impression of the experience, Wallner said, "It was great singing with all those people. It was the largest select choir ever in the United States." In fact, 1400 students took part.

Those weren't the only lucky people at NUHS, however. In February, **Matt Jacobs, Derrick Jaeger, Ellen Kuester, and Maren Olson** took part in the Dorian Band Festival, also at Luther College.

Each year the band sends four students from New Ulm to the Iowa festival. These seniors are selected because of their quality of playing and leadership contribution. Auditions will determine their placement and parts within their instrument sections.

Once they arrive, the students will spend all of Sunday and Monday rehearsing. They will take part in the concert Monday night.

Unfortunately, not all of us get to go south in the winter. We're sure the students will enjoy their experience, but there is a positive side for all of us left up here in "da nort." Probably the warmest waters they will ever find will be in the Holiday Inn swimming pool.

Math + NUHS = a winning season

by Drew Kersten
Graphos Reporter

On a cool and eerie October morning, all of the school's finest mathematicians gathered in math teacher Wayne Luepke's room. After hearing the announcement of a Math League. All were pumped and ready to duel on paper against any school in Minnesota, though they lacked their brave leader. Captain **Nick Born** was nowhere to be found. Some of the young warriors were worried, but the older scholars knew that Born would be around for meets and that there was nothing to worry about.

That was four months ago. The math warriors have since fought many battles, and many teams have fallen to their quick pencils and strong minds. But there is one dragon, Mankato East, that just won't fall. Even when the brave Ulmers come close to winning, the evil beast finds some way to mix up the records in its own favor.

The math leaguers practice their skills every Wednesday and Thursday morning in Luepke's room. Then, when all the reviewing has been completed and all are ready to go, they head off to a meet. Many times they even get to leave school early to fight great battles of the wits. On the bus ride an atmosphere of hope and enthusiasm surrounds the mathematicians. The great coach Luepke gets the team pumped by telling jokes and keeping spirits up.

Once the team arrives at the battleground, they enter the building and feel the tension in the air. They then split up to take the individual tests. The tests are based on difficulty level, the "A" test being the easiest and the "D" being the hardest. Most often older warriors tackle the "D" test, but some of the young braves are also willing to risk it all for just a

few points and a lifetime of glory. After the individual test comes a team test in which all the team's gladiators fight to stop the other teams' onslaught.

The leaguers will round out their season with a meet in Blue Earth, giving this year's 10 seniors their final opportunity to battle for the NUHS Math League.



Members of the NUHS Math League attend early-morning practices to perfect their skills.

Butler sparks excitement in the chemistry department

by Seth Kersten
Graphos Reporter

If you are making your way around school some day, and you notice some smoke billowing out of the chemistry lab, ignore all the screams. Why? **Steve Butler**, one of the latest additions to our school is probably just demonstrating a lab to one of his favorite students. When asked why he chose teaching as a career, Butler said, "I enjoy tormenting kids!"

Butler is originally from Laramie, Wyoming, where he graduated from Pine Bluffs High School. He then moved to Gustavus Adolphus College for post-secondary work. There, Butler majored in psychology and met the soon-to-be-Mrs. Butler. After his graduate work in chemistry at the University of Northern Colorado, he and his wife decided to settle down, so Butler sent letters to every school district in Minnesota. New Ulm Senior High was the first to respond. He was hired as our new chemistry teacher. Coaching wrestling is another of his commitments in New Ulm.

Butler is content with his job, saying, "students are wonderful and extremely conscientious." He chose high school teaching in hopes that he could "make a difference in the students' futures."

In his spare time, Butler enjoys mountain biking, reading, and



Chemistry teacher Steve Butler and foster son Isaiah are new faces in the chem lab.

blowing glass. His glass blowing includes some lamp work and creation of small animals. As for reading, he enjoys the works of Orson Scott Card. Butler rarely misses an episode of "Quantum Leap", and his all-time favorite movie is "The Never-Ending Story."

Butler wishes to "hopefully teach chemistry in New Ulm until I'm about 65." He also plans to continue to further his education in all fields of science. He currently has taken extra classes in physics, geology, and biology. As for chemistry, Butler has already taken every available course.

So the next time you encounter the man who claims to be having a "bad hair day" every day, say "hello" and ask him kindly not to burn the school down . . . at least not while we're in it!



The cast and crew of the One Act Play competed in regional competition.

One Act members play emotional roles

by Sarah Henderson
Graphos Reporter

According to Webster's Dictionary, acting is "to play the part of or to assume the dramatic role of." But, to a small group of NUHS students and their 2 directors, acting became a way of life for 4 1/2 weeks.

As one of their sub-region judges said, the story is actually happening more in the audience's mind than on the stage. The plot makes them think and connect things together on their own. The play is about Emma (**Casie Netzke**) a girl who has lost her brother. His death affected her very deeply, causing her to withdraw from the real world. The only people she actually relates to are her imaginary friends - Julie (**Kristi Debban**) and Maggie (**Sam Tuttle**). In school, Emma's English teacher, Olivia Chandler (**Maren Olson**), thinks Emma should enter one of her essays about her brother's death in a local contest. This close attention from Chandler forces Emma to relate to a "real" person, while Julie and Maggie help Emma through this vast transformation. Eventually, Emma realizes opening up is something she must do. Maggie and Julie help her by gradually leaving her, forcing Emma to relate to "real" people. Mrs. Chandler would like to help her, because she had similar problems when she was a young girl. Along with the help of her

husband, Keith Chandler (**Andy Wachholz**), she gets Emma to open up and enter her essay into the contest.

Auditions were held at the end of December, and the cast of five was chosen. For the next 3 weeks, the students worked diligently, rearranging schedules to prepare the play, "Landslides" for the sub-section competition held in Monticello on Saturday, January 29. The production received 2nd place. The top 2 plays from each sub-section advanced to the Regional Competitions which was held in Hutchinson on Saturday, February 5. "Landslides" tied for 2nd place at this competition, but was given 3rd place because of judge's preference. Even though the group didn't advance to the state competition, there were few hard feelings amongst the cast and crew. They received rave reviews about many different aspects of the production, including "effective noiseless scene changes" by the stage crew, which included **Ellen Kuester**, **Melissa Stolt**, and student director, **Sarah Henderson**. The lighting, done by **Paul Brunner**, also aided in bringing across the message of the play.

Most importantly, this production was a wonderful experience for all who were involved. They learned a lot about acting and all that's required to produce a play. Director **Al Alvig** complimented all the students who represented NUHS with a fine effort.

Winterfest thaws "mid-winter blahs"

by Keri Bunkers
Graphos Reporter

Nothing is worse this time of year than the "mid-winter blahs." We feel that things are getting a little boring; we're in a "rut." In the fall we can rely on the excitement of homecoming. In the spring the arrival of warm weather and the passing of another year bring smiles to our faces. Other than Christmas and New Year's, what's exciting about winter? Why, Winterfest, of course!

During a week in January NUHS students beat the mid-winter blahs

with a special activity called Winterfest. The week called for student participation. Monday was a normal school day. Tuesday, on the other hand, was anything but normal as students dug out their craziest slippers and wore them to school! The halls of school were host to miniature versions of animals and cartoon characters displayed on festive feet. Some of the best were furry, comfy Teddy Bears, gorillas, and, of course, Mickey Mouse! If this week becomes traditional, it may be a good idea to award prizes for the most unique slippers.

Valentine's Day ideas are from the heart

by Melissa Larson
Graphos Reporter

Love isn't like a reservoir.
You'll never drain it dry.
It's much more like a natural
spring.

The longer and farther it flows,
the stronger and deeper
and clearer it becomes.

-Eddie Cantor

Do you have a favorite poem for your special someone on Valentine's Day? Unappealing as it may seem, guys, history has proved poetry works. Juliet was wooed and won by Romeo. NUSHS girls also like the idea of the rhymed verse. It could win many a heart.

But if your talent lies a little short of literary expression, both the guys and girls agree chocolate is definitely the way to go. Chemistry teacher **Steve Butler** says guys appreciate, "a two pound chocolate bar."

Well, they say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. But, guys, there are very few women who can withstand the sight of a decorated box of "Fanny Farmer" chocolates.

If you're stuck on what to give your "special someone," here are some ideas from a variety of students and faculty.

First, guys, here are some hints. The majority of women just wanted "A special day...doing something together, something special," according to **Jessica Heuchert**.

But if you don't have a lot of time on your hands, especially since Valentine's Day falls on a school night, you can try something sweet and fragrant, "flowers" for instance, as **Mindy Schmidt** dreamily wished for. Or as

Bridgett Sarri said, "Someone just showing up with roses."

If flowers are not for you, **Kristi Debban** thought the perfect Valentine's Day gift would be "My favorite dinner at my favorite restaurant... It would be a surprise if I were taken blindfolded!"

Now comes the hard part. What do you give your man? Some guys just tend to laugh off the entire day as **Missy Fluegge** noticed when she said, "Guys obviously don't believe in Valentine's Day." Some guys tend to get a little uncomfortable about the whole idea.

But of course that's not the entire population. Don't worry, the romantics aren't dead yet! **Rich Flores** spoke for some of the guys when he said he wanted, "A surprise or romantic night. Someone picks you up and you don't know where you're going-preferably your girlfriend."

Social studies teacher **Jim Senske** had a different idea: "Ten million dollars like the couple who won the 'Publisher's Clearing House' contest."

Terry Smith more than likely mirrored most guys' wishes by dreaming of "a car" for Valentine's Day. Unfortunately most guys "just don't know" -like **Keith Carlson**.

So, girls, rely on your imagination for Valentine gifts. If poetry doesn't come easy, or your budget tends to be a little low this Valentine's Day, you can still do something.

Luke Schmidt said, "I'd like to spend Valentine's Day just being with my girlfriend."

Simple is good!

Wednesday was the day the phys. ed. students went to Mount Kato for their skiing trip. Some of them came back wired, others winded! On Thursday students were asked to wear white in observance of "Snowflake Day." The week ended with "Accessory Day" on Friday when students sported hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and earmuffs. An after school snow sculpture contest and a dance following the evening's basketball game were scheduled to top off the week's events. Unfortunately, extremely cold

weather forced the cancellation of both events.

The success of Winterfest can be determined by how well it was received by students. The response was fairly positive. Senior **Sarah Henderson** said, "I thought Slipper Day was a lot of fun." Others thought the week may have been more special if participation was more widespread. "It would have been nice if more people would have gotten into it," said sophomore **Michelle Newman** and junior **Sara Nurmela**.



Fuzzy faces like these were spotted during Slipper Day.

sports

Parents live dreams through their children



by Betsy Pieser
Graphos Columnist

*The old get old
And the young get stronger
May take a week
And it may take longer*

"Five to One" by Jim Morrison and
The Doors

Whether we choose to believe it or not, many parents live vicariously through their children. I see it happen in sports, school, and careers. I have personally experienced it, just as many others have.

The opening stanza from the song "Five to One" by The Doors suggests that old people continue to grow old while the young can only get stronger. There is no time limit; it "may take a week and it may take longer." While I am aware that Morrison took a liking to sex, drugs, and eccentric actions, I agree with his opinion. The old cannot turn back the hands of time; they cannot become the baseball star they always dreamed they would be. Can their children?

NUHS gymnasts' attitudes score perfect 10

by Eric Quiring
Graphos Reporter

Success can be difficult to measure, especially for this year's gymnastics squad. Their record meet doesn't begin to tell the story. While the team's win total isn't impressive, there have been positive aspects to this season.

The Eagles have worked hard since the first day of practice. A clear sign of their dedication is the fact that they have compiled higher team scores at each meet throughout the season. "We've really improved since the beginning of the season," said senior Kristie Benson.

The team has faced stiff competition and haven't backed down. They have managed to

I recently attended a fifth-grade boys' basketball association game. Parents filled the bleachers. The fervent mothers and fathers shouted encouraging words and clicked cameras. Flashes lit up the room while a single voice rang out, "Come on, Rex, follow your shot! Get the board, you can do it!" Follow your shot? Get the board? Those skills aren't learned in elementary school phys. ed. They are taught at home and at programs such as Saturday morning basketball and Super Hoopers. Sisters, brothers, friends, and parents encourage these young athletes. The "premature Jordans" listen to their elders and give these activities their all. I witnessed positive encouragement and support by parents at the game. The successful kids were congratulated and recognized.

Of course, pleasing everyone IS impossible. I remember playing Legion softball as a seventh grader and as I looked into the crowd, I noticed a parent screaming at his daughter. I thought my stunned reaction would quiet down the obnoxious parent, but I was wrong. The parent continued to yell until his daughter approached him and requested him to stop. Embarrassed, she took his advice to heart and changed her method of playing.

Whether it is a pom-pon clinic, the fifth-grade basketball tournaments, Legion softball, baseball or the Turner Hall gym program, opportunities await those who desire. Parents are just the match lighting the tinderbox of youth. But just like any other pressured situation, things can go wrong. Hopefully kids compete because they want to, not just to please someone else.

keep their spirits up throughout a difficult and trying season.

Leading this year's squad are co-captains Sarah Nelson and Christine Boettger. They have done a good job providing leadership for a very young team, which has gotten surprising contributions from the junior high, a good sign for the future.

Hopes for better things to come have been increased with the strong showing of the Junior Varsity. They have amassed an impressive record to offset the disappointing varsity record.

Coach Vicky Tambornino can be proud of her young team's positive attitude and continued strong effort. No matter how anyone measures it, this year's gymnastics team has been successful.



Senior guard Steve Wisniewski drives for the basket.

Balanced Eagles complete perfect conference season

by Ben McAninch
Graphos Reporter

If there is one thing the Boys Basketball team has proven this season, it is that they have balance.

The Eagles completed a perfect record in the South Central Conference and are winning without heroes.

Luke Schmidt and Rod Swenson have been the dominant force inside for the Eagles. The junior duo have compensated for one another all season long.

"If they take away either one of us the other one will score," Schmidt said of himself and Swenson.

"When Luke is double-teamed, we can give it to Rod or shoot from outside," senior wing Steve Wisniewski said. If the opponent, by some miracle, shuts down both inside players, Jared Visker, Gabe Kaven, or Wisniewski can knock down a 3-pointer.

"You might be able to stop our inside game, or you might be able to shut down our outside game, but you're not going to be able to shut down both.

Coming into the season, the Eagles knew they had more weapons offensively than in the past. One any given night, one of

the players could score 20 points. As well as being a potent offensive machine, the Eagles have worked hard on improving their defense.

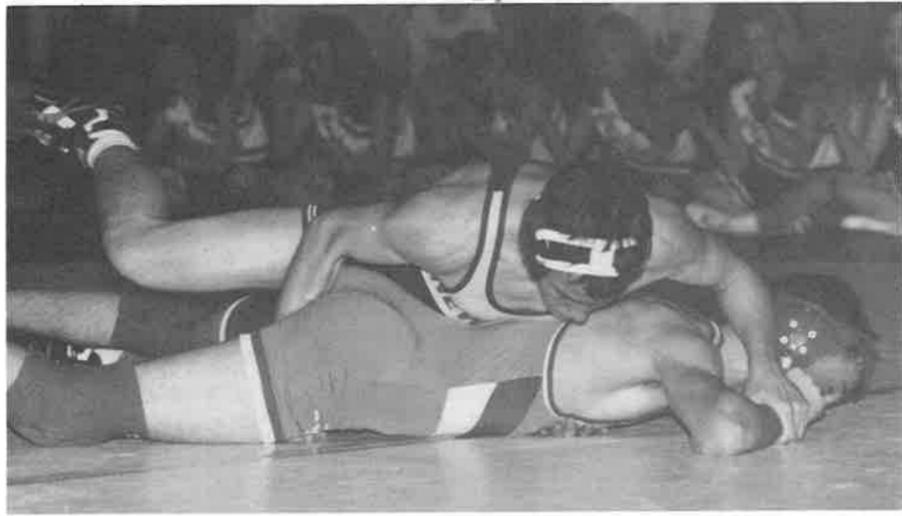
"When two strong teams are playing neck and neck, defense is what wins the games," coach Senske said.

The Eagles have changed the practice routine from past years to accommodate this year's squad. They start each practice with fast break drills and convert from defense to offense. The Eagles are running a numbered fast break where each player is assigned a lane to cover. If one of the New Ulm five beats one of the opponents down, that player is expected to take the shot. The Eagles have also been working on footwork drills for the inside players to improve quickness. The third thing New Ulm has focused on is sharing the basketball. Moving the ball around is many times a problem on teams with a lot of offensive potential, but not with this squad.

The Eagles have settled in at the top spot in the South Central with Fairmont sitting in second place. New Ulm's goal this season was to win the conference and win a couple of section games and they are right on schedule.



Getting good position for a rebound is an important part of basketball practice.



A New Ulm wrestler takes control of the situation.

Seniors lead wrestlers in post-season competition

by Melissa Lemcke
Graphos Reporter

Dedication, enthusiasm, energy, and spirit are the words that accurately describe this year's wrestling squad. Whether in practice or in a gym packed with fans, these guys never quit. Their enthusiasm is always visible despite the hours of practice, hard work, long bus rides, and weekend tournaments. They have helped each other strive for their best and have driven the spirit level of wrestling fans sky high.

the mat, the wrestlers are determined to complete another successful season. Now that they've started post-season competition, they are ready for the opportunity to wrestle, once again, at the state tournament.

The team's enthusiasm is visible in everything they do, especially among seniors **Joey and Scott Wendinger, Chad Wilson, and Brian Zitzmann**. They have contributed a lot to New Ulm wrestling and have also carried the team to some exciting victories.

In the stands, on the floor, and on

Eagles rebound against tough opponents

by Eric Lindquist
Graphos Reporter

The New Ulm girls' basketball team is showing obvious improvement as the season progresses. Playing tough against conference favorites is a good example of their progress. The state ranked St. James Saints struggled against the lady Eagles before holding on for a slim victory. Blue Earth, another

power in the conference, tipped the Eagles in double overtime earlier this year. Showings like these suggest the Eagles are a solid ball club.

Seniors and returning letter-winners **Patti Ponsler, Renae Reinhart, Bridgett Saari, Polly Stark, and Julie Wojciak** give the team leadership and poise. Underclassmen like **Shannon Clobes** and **Emily Crabtree** turned in strong performances early in the season.

The Eagles are now working on putting teams away, an essential element to winning. Many of the games have been decided in the fourth quarter, when some leads have slipped away.

The goals at the beginning of the season for coach **Dave Janssen** were to be competitive and get stronger. "The girls have been playing well. They have a great attitude and work ethic," said **Janssen**, who has coached at the elementary, junior high, small college, and high school level. He is in his second year as girls' coach at New Ulm.

Another of the team's goals for the year was to become more competitive against conference teams. Using last year's experience as a base, the girls' basketball team has the talent, dedication, and desire to continue their improved play.



Polly Stark tosses the ball to a teammate.

Cheerleaders help to keep fans involved

by Brian Varland
Graphos Reporter

Cheering for a team can be an important part of any game. The cheerleaders at NUHS cheer on our teams while keeping the crowd in the game.

The cheerleaders practice on Mondays and Wednesdays for upcoming sporting events. The practices include various exercises and routines in preparation for the game. They also make posters to use during games to cheer on the Eagles.

The cheerleaders also do many things during the games. They get the crowd involved in the game, keep energy levels high, and build confidence in the Eagles.

The new advisor for the cheerleaders is Michelle Walzein, who said, "I like it a lot, but it's definitely a challenge." Walzein instructs the cheerleaders on what cheers look good and

helps out as a spotter on dismounts. She said, "The girls have worked really hard and we're starting to see results in their mounts and their cheers. I've liked the girls' enthusiasm and willingness to try new things."

The cheerleaders have had many good things to say about cheerleading this year. Basketball cheerleader **Jessica Schlottman** said, "We varsity basketball cheerleaders are very energetic about this year's basketball season." Hockey cheerleader **Susan Flygare** said, "We've tried new things on the ice (like jumps and splits) and it's been fun incorporating pom poms into our cheers." Fellow hockey cheerleader **Melissa Wellmann** said, "Hockey cheerleading is the best. The game is fast and the crowd is energetic." Cheerleader **Tanya Soukup** summed it all up by saying, "Cheerleading is exciting."



Hockey cheerleaders wait for the team to hit the ice.

Hockey team skates way to a winning season

by Terry Smith
Graphos Reporter

Duncan Larson and **Nate Smasal** have put away any doubts about their athletic ability. In a year when it was thought that the underclassmen would have to step up in order for the Eagles to have a

successful season, these two seniors have been the key to the team's success.

When asked what the key to their season has been, every hockey player mentioned **Larson**. His teammates have nothing but praise for him. He has been the cornerstone of the defense. With no varsity experience prior to this season, **Larson** has earned the respect of his own team and opponents. Defense wins games, and **Larson** has become the key to this year's winning Eagles.



The NUHS hockey team achieved a winning season.

Although **Smasal** didn't start for the Eagles until a month into the season, he has proved that he is more than deserving of his first line position. After the season-ending knee injury to co-captain **Scott Abraham**, the Eagles were in desperate need of someone to spark the offense. **Smasal** is the player who has taken his game to another level. Whether he is shooting, passing, or handling the puck, he has become a true leader on the ice.