

The Graphos

New Ulm Senior High School

New Ulm Minnesota 56073

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A New Home for the Ninth Grade

By: Graphos Writer
Greg Laffrenzen

1997-not exactly a year that you would think about changes. But there was one major change in District 88- the freshman's move to the Senior High. Normally, the ninth grade class lived their academic life in the New Ulm Junior High, but times have changed.

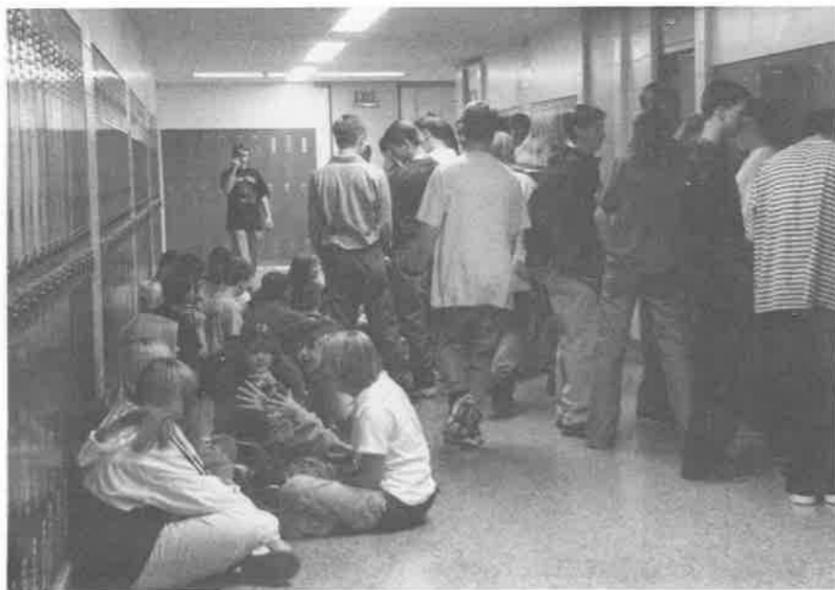
This year, and all the years to follow, the freshman class will be in the New Ulm Senior High School. Should the freshman even be in the Senior High? There are many logical reasons for them to be here, but are there enough? There are more options for ninth graders in the Senior High than in the Junior High, and that is a obvious plus. The Senior High is bigger than the Junior High, so it is more capable to handle the extra load of bodies. Also, the Senior High has better facilities for the students. These are obvious good things, and are great for the freshman class, but the the rest of the Senior High may suffer. The halls are over crowded and there is the possibility that the age and maturity difference may put too much strain on some students. Don't forget that a number of unforeseen problems could arise that no one has thought about.

Students have opinions on the matter, and the freshman class is pretty evenly divided. Cross Country runner **Kyle Schwartz** feels that the move was bad. He

thought the the system was working fine before, so why should it have changed? "I just don't understand why they did it." Another charge against the move is from **Greg Jaminson** who complains that he and his grade can't be "king of the hill" here at the Senior High. **Dustin Maday** isn't in favor of the move either. According to him, the halls are too crowded and the lunch periods are screwed up.

But not all freshman are against coming to the Senior High. **Holly Covington** believes that the change was good. She feels that the Senior High is easier to navigate through and is generally less confusing than the Junior High. **Afton Schrimf** also thinks that the ninth grade class should be in the Senior High. To her, it is "just better" than the Junior High. **Steve Henle** also likes being in the Senior High, but he has "no real reason" for his view. Another freshman, **Andy Achman**, thinks that the change was good for his class. He feels that he has "more options here than in the Junior High." Of course, there are some students who remain neutral on the subject. **Matt Argall** says that he "would be here next year any ways, so what does it matter?"

Were the advisors correct in changing the old pattern? Probably so, because about half of the students questioned agreed with them. And in life, if you please half the people you meet, you did a good job.



(Ninth grade students mingle in the hallway.)



(Cast members show expression in their performance)

Tragedy performed With Beauty

By: Graphos Editor
Kelly Neidecker

Tragedy is, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the most powerful and compelling form of Drama. It is within tragedy that we experience and witness death, sadness, fear and fright. this intriguing type of Drama has moved audiences from the early times of the Greeks and Romans to modern day contemporary styles of writing. One piece of tragedy which has become somewhat of a legend in the land of musicals is *West Side Story*. Several students here at NUHS recently performed this highly regarded musical with grace, beauty, and the true understanding of tragedy in our every day lives. *West Side Story*, a tale of two lovers, played by **Sara Steffl** (Maria) and **Mike Schmitz** (Tony), is carefully woven together as a story somewhat similar to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Tony and Maria meet under uncomfortable circumstances and are forbidden true love by their friends and families. Two rival gangs, known as the Sharks and the Jets, are throughout the musical constantly at each other's backs with threats of violence and murder. This makes for a difficult love between Tony and Maria, and the true tragedy begins to unfold. Bernardo, played by **Zack Krzmarzick**, who is the frightening leader of the Shark gang and the extremely overprotective brother to Maria, seemed to live without a soul or conscience. Anita, Bernardo's girlfriend, portrayed by **Heather Larson**, is a strong willed friend to the love stricken Maria, but insists on what is best for her-to find a boy of her own kind. In the instance of *West Side Story*, that is Puerto Rican. Riff, the rambunctious leader of the Jets, played by **Carl Wacholz**, gave the audience

an opportunity to relate with the feelings of one who wishes no harm upon anyone, but will resort to violence if it means protecting those he cares about. In a very moving finale, yes, someone dies. Someone has to in a tragedy. I will not report which character this is, all in respect to those of who have missed out and have not yet seen *West Side Story*.

Many stunning performances were given by all members of the cast. From ballet dancers to vibrant Puerto Rican girls to adorable "bad boys" to a quirky High School Principal who would go to her wits end to keep the two gangs from fighting, members of the musical showed audiences what talent can be found within our school walls. Unlike sports, the importance and dedication with a musical often times goes unnoticed until our actual performance. Although we don't give performances weekly like the basketball, volleyball, or football players do, we still practice for hours every night and give up every Saturday to be at rehearsal from nine in the morning until the early evening. The work is not easy, as actors and actresses find many difficulties and discouragements in what is demanded of them today as ourselves. We have our own personalities and beliefs, strengths and weaknesses. Trying to turn ourselves into characters whom we are is where our jobs get stressful. But at the same time, that is when acting becomes beautiful. When we find within ourselves the ability to truly become someone else, we have met our goal. It is truly amazing, the talent at this school. Especially that which is left virtually unnoticed until another musical rolls around in two years.

A huge thanks to all that helped with the musical. Especially the Director, **Mr. Hawkins**. He was wonderful, and we thank him.

Opinion

Do you bleed purple or savor the flavor of cheese?

By Graphos Writer
Jennifer Harmening

Baseball has been labeled "America's favorite pastime," but especially in the Midwest, it appears that football is truly the all-American sport. Even at New Ulm High School, the rivalry between the Minnesota Vikings and the Green Bay Packers has given cause for fans to passionately voice their loyalty to their favorite team.

The tension before the October 5th Monday Night Football game sparked many hallway and in-class debates over predictions of the outcome of the upcoming event. In the end, however, it seems that against all odds (outdoor play at Lambeau Field while being rained on, use of a back-up quarterback, and the pressure of both teams tied for the NFC Central lead at 4-0, 4-0), the Vikings and their fans came out on top. The final score was 37-24.

The week following the big game, I was able to interview several football fans and get their comments on their favorite teams.

Cari Hoffmann has been a loyal Vikings fan for four years and has witnessed the team steadily improve. She feels that this year the leadership of Red McCombs has brought about more team spirit. When I asked for her opinion on second string quarterback Randall Cunningham, Cari said that she thinks "it is his experience that has helped him assume the first string position really well." She finds that Minnesota's strong point is our ability to score on the opening drive -- much due to our possession of the "most-feared wide receivers in the NFL." After Monday's win, Cari said she hopes "now people will take Minnesota's team more seriously." Cari's fellow sophomore, Packer fan **Holly Hartz**, says that she's especially loyal to Green Bay's team because she is actually from Wisconsin. She finds that NUHS is truly Viking Country at heart, but she continues to have faith that

her team of choice will reign victorious.

Holly, however, had "no comment" on the October 5th game. She believes that the Packers have a lot of stamina, but need a better game plan than relying on Brett Favre's good arm. Holly did (perhaps shockingly) admit that the Vikings are a good team. She later said, "If they beat Green Bay, they've got to be good."

Amber Degner, a junior at NUHS, believes that the Green Bay Packers have more potential (than Minnesota does) to win because of their previous outstanding record. She has witnessed that the Packers have a tendency to underestimate their opponents, but are most successful when they stay focused on the game and work as a team. At the end of the interview, Amber made it clear that she meant it when she said, "I back my team up 100%."

NUHS teacher **Mr. Gaudette** has been an avid Vikings fan since he was five years old. His love for the game originates from the time when Dave Osborn (former Viking running back) lived two houses down from him. Somewhat unfortunately, Mr. Gaudette went to college in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, and was forced to listen to large numbers of "cheeseheads" proclaiming their team's greatness. It's no wonder that he feels that maybe other Packer fans should migrate to Wisconsin, also. "This season will be different [from other recent seasons]," said Mr. Gaudette, "the Pack is on the downswing." Let all Green Bay fans be warned, I don't think Mr. Gaudette will have any problems fulfilling his promise to rub in the Vikings' glory all year long.

Expressions of fan's loyalty can be pretty intense and I don't see either Packers or Vikings followers backing down any time soon. Even after the Minnesota vs. Green Bay rematch on November 22nd, the rivalry will be far from over.

Hey Students!

What do you think about the Vikings? Are you a loyal fan, or are you a bonified cheesehead? Do you feel that the Vikings' exceptional record will continue, or do you think they will falter? Leave your opinions on the Vikings or the Packers in the Graphos Box in the office. Opinions will be printed in the next issue of the Graphos.

In Loving Memory of Miranda Rae Engholm Kollman



(Miranda Rae Engholm Kollman 1982-1998)

Written By:
A loving friend

On October 31, 1998 **Miranda Rae Kollman Engholm** died in a tragic accident. She attended the High School as a Junior and unfortunately at the young age of sweet 16 she passed away.

Those who knew her, knew what she wanted to do with her life. After high school Miranda wanted to go to college and become a premedical student. The day before Miranda passed on she went to the college fair in Mankato. I remember her coming back to school as excited as can be for college. After college she always said she wanted to start a family. She always talked about having one boy and one girl. Who could ever forget the creative names she picked for the kids (Opie and Orpa)! Of course that was when she was little, so she said!

Whether or not you know Miranda, she touched our hearts in many ways. This tragedy has brought many of us closer together. We must start to appreciate if we haven't already, the relationships we have with our friends and family. Life is short and we don't always realize what we have until it is gone.

Acknowledge the people around you, I understand we all get wrapped up in our own little "clicks", but learn to include other people too. Miranda's friends knew that she didn't like people to be excluded, so we all try our best to include everybody.

Try to make the most out of life because you will never know what is going to happen. The most precious things can disappear from life with a blink of an eye.

Until We Meet Again

By: Karl Pagel

Here we sit in grief stricken sorrow
waiting for the funeral tomorrow
sitting staring softly swearing
asking why they had to die
saying nothing, asking why.

Memories I must embrace
can't hear her voice or see her face
this is what I will miss most
as the *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

lifts her to a better place
with softer walls and a kinder face
now I sit and talk with friends
reminiscing, remember whens,
pictures of a broken past, a life that
ended all too fast
memories that will never die
I only wish I could say,
GOOD BYE



(In loving memory of Miranda, students painted the rock and the ground surrounding it.)

Features

Senior Column

By: Graphos Editors
Nicole Firle
Stephanie Marquardt

College! Applications! Scholarships! Grants! Student Loans! Graduating! Hey seniors, have you given these any thoughts? Well, you ought to because these things are coming up sooner than you think. With graduation just around the corner, many people are going to start demanding that you make some pretty big decisions. Have you thought about anything besides what's for lunch? We know. Who cares? We have so much time! But, you really don't, because before you can say, "Soy burgers again. Yummy!", we will be out of here. Did you know that most financial aid packets and applications are due before the beginning of spring? And the average cost of a four year university is \$2,525.00 per year and a two year college costs about \$1,995.00 per year, without fees, room, and board. Now, we know you have probably heard all of this ten zillion times before, but now is the time to start cracking.

The earlier you apply to colleges, the better chance you have of getting in and getting the classes or programs you want. You have to apply for grants at the end of January when your parents file their "W-2's" (that's tax lingo for those of you who have sleeping all your life). When you don't apply for grants early, you could lose out on some cash for college. Also, there are many scholarships available that NO ONE applies for! Wanna know why? Because people didn't know they existed!

But, don't let all this information get you down. We still have five to six more months until we graduate. So have fun. After all, we ARE seniors and we are fortunate enough to have THREE other grades to torment! Look for more valuable hints and information about senior life in upcoming editions of The Graphos.

Corn for Camp Courage

By: Graphos Writer
Katie Hoffman

On October 7th, FFA sponsored a Corn Drive to raise money for Camp Courage. It is a 45 year-old tradition of the FFA to sponsor such a drive, and since 1953 the organization has earned 2.7 million dollars.

Camp Courage is a camp for the disabled and people with impairments. It is just west of the Twin Cities and enrolls around 1,200 campers per year. Here at Camp Courage, kids and adults have fun participating in arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, hiking and much more.

Mr. Olander and Mr. Stuckey were leaders of the this drive, and through them I was told how this operation works. FFA members go to various farms in the surrounding area to ask for donations of corn. Upon reaching a farmer who was

willing to donate, the members then helped load the corn and thanked the farmer for his donation. After the corn had been loaded, they then proceeded to the grain elevator where the wet corn was weighed in for the price of dry corn.

A lot of organization, planning and hard work went into this years corn drive, and it seemed to really pay off. There were a lot of youth leaders who were deeply involved with the planning along with their adult supervisors. One FFA member, Aimee Shilling, says she likes the drive because, "it gets us out in the community and promotes the FFA program."

The FFA students and their advisors have truly shown how to give to others, by giving of themselves. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I'm certain that the campers at Camp Courage are very grateful of their help.



Cartoon by:
Jenni Brown

Skanking with the Edibles

By: Graphos Writer
Shannon Gorres

In an interview set up by Angie Schaumann, I got to experience a really cool thing- what goes into a ska band.

You can feel heart pounding, body shaking vibrations pulsing through you. For a moment I am not sure whether it's the wall or me that is throbbing. I lean forward to sense the jolting beat as it intensifies with the music. I think the wall is shaking, too. Zack Krzmarzick leans into the microphone and starts with lyrics. His voice is barely audible, but I can make out some words. The beat I feel is coming from Sam Nilson on the set. His feverish arms drive the music on, while his face is solid with determination. Somehow he appears relaxed and totally into what he's doing. Mike Heuchert seems calm, where as Jim Wirtz is excited. When Jim's not playing his trumpet or mellophone, he is skanking, a popular dance in ska. After the song ends my ears ring and the silence is deafening.

The next song they play is "Country Roads", by John Denver. Other songs they play are from bands such as the Supertones, Reel Big Fish, and Us and Jake. When they finish "Country Roads", they debate doing "Unity" by Operation Ivy. Before they start, Sam comments, "This is going to suck, so" and before anything else happens, a pulsing sensation fills the room. As they play, I can't help wondering what's wrong with it. I thought it sounded good, but I laugh as I hear, "Told you it would suck."

Their criticism was not harsh. During some pieces they'd stop to fix something but no one really had a problem accepting ideas. While they threw around comments, Zack and Mike's fingers played various melodies that no one seemed to notice. Their hands appeared to be addicted to their strings. They said this is how they start writing their own songs. One person is jamming with the band but starts in another direction. They each write their own parts, and then one person writes the lyrics. This is how "Palmer" and "Talk It Away" were made.

Currently, they have some songs that are still being toyed with. A song that promotes Schells, our local brewery, came up, but they added that they didn't mean to imply that they or anyone should drink beer. Zack also mentioned some lyrics for Christian music.

The Edibles try to practice once a week in Sam's garage. With school, sports, jobs and the musical, it's valuable time. That's why this night Andy Christensen and Steve Guse are unable to be there, making four out of six members of the band present. Also in the garage is Eddy, their checkered rhino mascot. Lucky for them, Sam's neighbors have never complained.

In September of 1997, Zack, Mike and Andy starting playing together while the rest of the band joined in October. Jim, being the oldest, was on a menagerie bus trip to Chicago Lakes. He had been traveling with Up With People for a year and was interested in their ska band. He simply asked if they needed a horn player and they did. Right now they're looking for a tenor sax player.

They knew that ska was a growing trend and it was going to be their style from the start. They pulled their name from a "Better Homes and Garden" magazine, and presto- a band.

They first played at Zack's birthday party. Afterward, they got gigs in New Ulm like playing at the Youth Blast. In Mankato, they had to have their parents let them into Busters, a bar, so they could play. After performing at Patrick's, another bar, they were kicked out. They have played for free on occasions and for money. One commented that one time they made more money passing a hat around than what they were getting paid. They want to get more gigs out of town, Jim says. They also want to stay together after high school, but they know it will be tough. Sam adds, "If we don't have to, we won't go to college."

Their last performance was at Christines on October 30.



(Members of the Edibles pose for a quick group picture.)

Sports

Volleyball: Season of Fun

By: Graphos Writer
Molly Babel

The best word to describe the 1998 Eagle Volleyball season would have to be **awesome**. Although the Eagles failed to achieve a winning record, the fun that was had and the memories that were made were enough to make the season great. Being the best of friends off the court makes being on the court a lot more enjoyable, which may have been what helped the Eagles through their rather difficult schedule.

The Eagles, ending the season 3-11 overall and 2-3 in conference, were led by senior co-captains **Kim Roberts**, setter/hitter, and **Beth Pehrson**, outside hitter. Dominating from the middle was **Jessica Schaetzke** and **Britta Rieke**. **Laura Meier** and **Allison Boddy**, a freshman who joined the Eagles at the middle of the season,

hit from the outside position.

Bethany Carlson and **Lisa Tauer** were the main passers for the Eagle squad. Hitting from the right side was **Erin Pickus** while the other half of the Eagles' setting was done by **Molly Babel**. At the end of the season, B-squaders **Tiffani Altmann** and **Jill Heitzmann** assisted the varsity with their skills of middle hitting and passing, respectively.

Many high and low points were seen throughout the season, high points being defeating Waseca on Parents' Night during Homecoming week. Low points do not need to be mentioned. Too much fun was had by the Eagle Volleyball team during their '98 season. It will not be forgotten.

Swinging Rackets and Bouncing Balls

By: Graphos Writers
Holly Schuck and Amber Fisher

Led by senior captains Amber Fischer, Kelly Gorres and Holly Schuck, the Eagles' Girls' Tennis team finished their 1998 season with an outstanding 13-5 record. They were eliminated 5-2 by a tough Mankato team in play-off action. However, the Eagles were able to send three players to the State Tournament, representing section 2AA.

Amy Hildebrandt, the #1 singles player, finished her year during the first round of the state tournament with an excellent record. The dynamic doubles duo of Fischer and Schuck finished their senior year with a record of 20-3, falling to Bloomington Jefferson at state, who later on finished second in the state.

Highlights of the season include winning the West Invite, a feat which New Ulm had never accomplished, winning the Buffalo Tournament and the East Invite, and winning the Section 2AA academic award with an average GPA of 3.89.

The Region Team, consisting of

seniors Sara Fenske, Amber Fischer, Kelly Gorres and Holly Schuck, juniors Amber Ahl and Amy Hildebrandt, sophomores Shannon Gorres, Leah Pederson, Theresa Schuck, Alison Sprung and Alisha Witt, and freshmen Meghan Reedy and Brittany Gorres, finished third in the conference with a record of 4-2. In the conference tournament, Fischer, Hildebrandt and Schuck all received gold medals, Shannon Gorres came away with a silver, and Kelly Gorres earned bronze medalist honors.

In J.V. action, the team also finished with a respectable record, and won the East Invite. Team members include: Stacy Helmstetter, Tracy Schuck, Jennifer Harmening, Cari Hoffmann, Sara Davis, Lauren Hofmeister and Katie Prochniak.

The season was one of many firsts, and hopefully next year, the young team will continue the tradition of great tennis. Swinging Rackets and Bouncing Balls

Sport or Not??

By: Graphos Writer
Kyle Schwartz

Most people think running isn't a sport. They think it's something you do in your spare time and that you would have to be crazy to join the sport of cross country. Well, cross country members beg to differ.

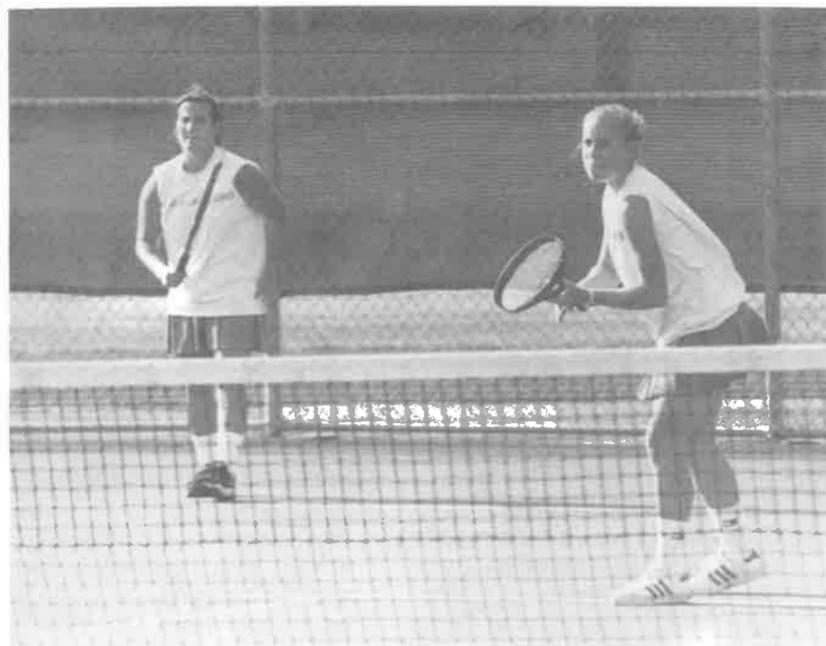
Cross country has been a sport here at New Ulm Senior High for 30 years. As the 30th year is coming to a close, runners competed at regions on October 28th which decided their ticket to state. The team was coached through this event by **Jim Pickus** and **Rich Peterson**. The team had been doing fairly well but was not favored to win.

The team takes part in about 12 meets a year, and with a smaller sized team of about 30, it can be tough to compete against some of the larger teams. Even though we have a small team, we still have enough to make the bare minimum to compete as a full team, which is seven members for varsity. On the average, the guys run about a 5Kilometer race and the girls run about a 4K (or about three and two miles). If you're wondering how to score a race, the first five runners

on a team qualify, and their places are added up. The lowest possible score is desired.

Although cross country is often made fun of with jokes such as "Run for Fun", the runners don't mind because if we didn't like it we wouldn't be participating in it. Also, most people are under the impression that cross country is a wimp sport, but this is not true. It can be just as demanding as let's say football because you are running with herds of people, whether it be in the blistering heat or pouring rain. You also have the risk of injury in CC. It may not as strenuous as a contact sport, but how would you like to get trampled on by spikes and shoes? Though once the race is over everyone feels good about themselves.

Maybe now you will have a better idea about what cross country is all about and have a change of mind. You might even consider joining the sport. It's a great way to get in shape for a winter sport, and the team can always grow. A saying from a teacher that I once heard and liked is, "Don't criticize the sport unless you've tried it yourself."



(Girls' tennis team members Amber Fischer and Holly Schuck prepare for a serve.)



(Eagle's football action kept the crowd on their feet during every game.)