

The Graphos

New Ulm Senior High School

New Ulm Minnesota 56073

April 1999

Volume 81 Number 3

Retiring Teachers of 1999

By: Graphos Writer
Anna McGraw

Imagine yourself fresh out of college, starting a new career. Can you see yourself working at the same place for over thirty years? Probably not, but if you enjoy your career, then thirty years might not be such a unfavorable deal.

At the end of this school year four extremely respected teachers will be retiring from the Senior High school. They have all been teaching in District #88 for over thirty years. **Mr. Senske** has taught Western Civilizations, Geography, World History, and Ancient History/World Religions. **Mr. Peterson** has worked with students in Physical Education and has also had some experience teaching Geography. **Mr. Demming** has been teaching Biology and Zoology, as well as Astronomy. **Mrs. Wirtz** has taught almost everything. Included in her array of classes are Special Education, English, German, American History, Drama, and much more. This is Mrs. Wirtz's first year at the Senior High.

While recently speaking with these future retirees, many of them had similar responses to the "usual" questions. All four agreed that one thing which made teaching special was the students. Mr. Demming has enjoyed sharing the process of science with his those in his classes. Mr. Senske's comments seem to follow along the same line. "It becomes a way of life." Senske states that he will miss everything; the students, colleagues, and extra-curricular activities.

What will not be on the list of things to be missed? According to Mrs. Wirtz, Graduation Standards. I am

sure that feeling is mutual with all of her students. Another activity to be gladly left behind will be the meetings and deadlines. Mr. Demming included the late nights correcting papers.

Now that you know some of the memorable events in the lives of the teachers, why not find out what has made the teachers special to their students and fellow teachers? Every teacher says "If I reach but one student, I have done my job." This statement is so true. So what did their students have to say? Mr. Senske stated that, one of his greatest memories will be that of having seen the kids discover things for themselves, and knowing that he was the one who helped them.

Mr. Senske has worked with many students in his classroom, and on the baseball field. Those around him know that he is formal, forward, and proper. A former student has noticed how he always acknowledges his students from the past and present. **Mr. Weber** voiced that all he needed to describe Mr. Senske was two words, "Work Ethic". One afternoon Mr. Weber was walking in the hall and he overheard Mr. Senske addressing his class. Senske expressed "You don't get good sitting on the couch eating potato chips!" Obviously, Mr. Senske knows that you need to work hard to achieve goals. His words of advice for students and faculty alike are to be enthusiastic about whatever you do, and good things will happen.

According to **Mrs. Aufderheide**, Mrs. Wirtz could best be



Senior Jedd Haynes takes time out to donate blood to the New Ulm Bloodmobile.

summarized under the word "trooper". Mrs. Wirtz is amazingly patient and understanding. It can be seen that she truly loves what she does, and she does it well. One student explained that she felt Mrs. Wirtz is "the best teacher in the world, she gives us the freedom to be creative". Mrs. Wirtz also had some wisdom to share. "Follow your dream, no matter what it is, or you will regret it."

As soon as you walk into the biology rooms you can see that major dedication to science has taken place. Although it may not be the best illustration, many students and teachers say they have seen Mr. Demming walking down the hallway, with pails of swamp water in hand. **Mr. Olson** feels that Mr. Demming is the reason our high school has such a great biology program. Mr. Olson also stated that Demming constantly impresses him. "He is always prepared and has many new ideas." One thing that many people might not know is that Mr. Demming has coached many grand-award winners at the International Science Fair. Mr. Demming has accomplished numerous tasks in his years of teaching.

Who can forget the annual speech that Mr. Peterson gives at the Senior Awards Ceremony? If you have not heard it or you don't remember, here is a refresher. "Keep on moving!", Mr. Peterson states. He then continues with how our livers, kidneys, and stomach are sagging more and more as we sit in our chairs. Other memories from former students include the fact that he appears to constantly wear shorts, even in the winter! More students commented on that they have never seen Mr. Peterson in a bad mood. "He seems to always have a smile and hello for everyone he meets."

Teachers have an impact on the students they teach as well as their colleagues. Wherever they may be after retirement, whether golfing, traveling or just relaxing, it is positive that these teachers will be missed, and their years of dedication will have paid off. The best of luck to Mr. Demming, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Senske, and Mrs. Wirtz. Thank you for all that you have done.

* A special thank you to Mrs. Aufderheide's fifth hour class!



New Ulm High School says goodbye to the four retiring teachers.

What's Cooking Inside?

- * Prom thoughts, then and now. Ever wonder what Prom was like 50 years ago, tune into page 2.
- * Horoscopes from the all famous Madame Petruski. Tune into page 3 and 4 for the inside.
- * Early season analyst on spring sports. For all the information on Softball, Girls Golf, Baseball and Boys and Girls Track, tune into page 4.
- * Senior Column. For all you seniors coming down to the wire, don't miss the Senior Column on page 2 and 4.

Opinion

Prom 99- One Female's View of the What, Who, Where, When and Why here at New Ulm Senior High

By Graphos Editor
Kelly Neidecker

What: What exactly is "prom?" To many students, prom is a yearly extravaganza full of glitz, glamour, fun, and romance. Highly regarded as the social event of the year, students begin contemplating and attempting to snag the perfect prom date months in advance in many instances. For many, this is a day for compassion, love and closeness. For others, it is simply a fun event meant to be spent with a friend who will most definitely, to their knowledge, probe themselves quite worthy of their company and entertainment. According to the majority of students attending prom, this is an extremely important day, thus stating that much planning is in order. The girl will in many cases begin looking in hopes of finding the perfect dress sometime within the month of January. Of course, this time is crucial. One must find not only a dress that is beautiful, perfectly fitting and worthy of adoration from her date, but also one which will defend her in the all time prom disaster of, gasp, being cloned. Yes, it seems dreaded, but lets face it. It will happen. If I recall correctly, my sophomore prom resulted in three girls with the same dress as myself, and my Junior year, two. And of course, someone has to look the prettiest, someone has to look the skinniest, and boo hoo hoo. Unfortunately, that person was never me, but I went on with prom knowing that on Monday, when we were all back at school, the pretty girls were still going to be pretty, and the skinny girls just that, so it wasn't worth whining over for one night.

Following the dress decision often comes time for tux consultation. (Finally, the boys get to feel special; although, the girl will most likely get her way with the tux as well) One of their few moments in glory, measurements are taken, a shoe and jacket are tried on and it is up to the girl once again. The decisions are endless. Bow tie or no? Cumberbund or vest? Tails or straight jacket? Will this color coordinate with my dress? Most likely, unless he is high on fashion

and has quite opposing views, the guy will not argue with the girl about her tux choice. After all, she knows what will look the best.

Tanning appointments are also being made within this time. Potentially cancerous? Absolutely. But so many of us, myself included, fall and indulge in the desire to look like Hawaiian hula girls with their bronzed glows.

The Preparation: Amidst the fake baking, other arrangements are made for dinner, pictures, post prom plans, ect. Not to mention the decisions for flowers and vehicles and the fact that a girl can not simply attend prom in only her dress. She must accessorize! Oh, the list goes on and on. Shoes? Flats or heels? Purse. Yes or no? Jewelry. Rhinestones or Pearls? Hair appointments. Nails. Nylons. Glue for the fake nails. Makeup. Perfume. Undergarments which will not be visible beneath her dress. I recall the day that my boyfriend and I went shopping for accessories. He returned to my house that night and told my dad that he had just the worst day of his entire life. But what can we say? they do it because they love us and want to make us happy. After all, we do pick out their tuxes for them.

Following the preceding preparations, the tickets are purchased. (\$30 bucks a couple) Is it worth it? I don't know, you make the call.

Who: Ohh, here comes controversy. Prom is open to all Juniors and Seniors and to sophomores if asked by an upperclassmen. Freshman are not allowed to attend under any circumstances. Why? Who really cares? Maybe its because we already have close to 300 couples signed up and don't want Grand March to go on for 5 hours. Maybe its because of the fact that, had they not moved to the Senior High, the question would be undisputable and irrelevant anyway. Or maybe its because of a million other reasons. Who knows? All there is to say is that none of us upperclassmen were allowed to attend prom when we were freshmen. But don't worry. It will only be a year and you will be able to fake bake to unrealistic appearances and spend hundreds

of dollars on a High School event that lasts a mere 24 hours.

Where: In company with the site of photos, dinner, parties, ect, the actual "prom" takes place none other than in the heart of our spectacular location of learning and education broadening-the New Ulm Senior High Gymnasium.

When: May 1, 1999

Why: Here we come with the biggie. Why do we have prom and why do so many students choose to attend? Why do we spend the cash and time and effort on something that is so short lived? For some, it may be the thrill of being beautiful for one day. For some, it may be for romance and love. And for some it may just be a search for a good time. In a number of ways, prom can be quite a frustration. How many times have you heard one of these? 1) My boyfriend and I broke up but we're still going to prom together. 2) I got a prom date one weekend and a boyfriend the next. Who do I take? 3) I want to break up with him, but I have to wait until after prom. 4) I don't want to go with him anymore!

Regardless how wonderful or dreadful prom seems to anyone of you, prom will, if nothing else provide you with memories which can never be taken away. And for those of you who are not taking your true love as your date, Cupid will most definitely be doing his job on a night like this one.

Most importantly, although, amongst the fun and excitement of prom, we must be responsible and safe. Take care of yourselves, your dates, your friends, and have the best prom imaginable. And just think, if any of you thought prom preparation was tough, picture what planning your wedding is going to be like. When you reach that point, prom will have seemed like a walk in the park.

Seniors - We are looking for input for the Sophomore/Freshman slam. Please turn your ideas into Steph Marquardt or Nikki Firlle.

Worthy Pointers For Junior-Senior Prom

This is an article that has been taken from a Graphos in 1949. Notice the difference in their article compared to ours. This was fifty years ago.

The big night is only eleven days away! Now's the time to start getting ready for the prom. A little forethought can prevent a lot of embarrassment and help to make the evening a success.

Boys, by all means ask your date what color her dress is before you order flowers. You might be shocked at the result, other wise. Yellow snapdragons might not look too well with a **pink** formal.

If you are doubtful about any phase of table etiquette, it won't kill you to stick your nose into an Emily Post book and read up on the subject.

While we're on the subject of etiquette, don't forget about such taken-for-granted duties as opening the car door for the lady gents.

If you are worried about your "activity" on the dance floor, get busy instead of wasting precious time worrying. If you haven't danced before, your date will probable be more than willing to spend an evening or two helping you with the fundamentals. If you never could do justice to a fast number, the night of the prom isn't the best time to start learning. Taking advantage of some handy chairs would be more comfortable for both of you than sweating blood through the inevitable struggle.

There should be no reason why anyone should have to leave before the prom is over. This is neither thoughtful nor proper, and if your dance program is filled it causes a lot of unnecessary confusion.

Come donned with your best manners, then once you're there, have a good time.

Senior Column

By: Graphos Editors
Nicole Firlle and Stephanie Marquardt

Okay. So we know that college isn't for everyone, but since the majority of graduating seniors are headed off for another two to six years of school, we decided to give you some tips on how to prepare for your first month at school.

First of all since most of you are going to be sharing anything and everything with a roommate or everyone, you might want to consider buying some "bare" essentials. When using a public shower, make sure that you wear shower shoes because you can catch some pretty nasty stuff like warts, athlete's foot, or regular toe fungus. Don't forget to take a shower period. College life can get stinky, and you don't want to be the one smelling. By the way, a shower is not a public laundromat so those of you who are planning on saving a few bucks by bathing in your clothes, think again. Your attire may be clean but your body won't be.

Roommates. The very word gives us the shivers. But, they aren't as bad as you would think. Just imagine them as a young sibling. One you can talk with, share feelings with, beat up! Roommates can really get on your nerves. But college life will 100% better if you try to get along with them, even if

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Features

Rocking with "Steppin' on Norm"

By Graphos Writer
Jennifer Harmening

On stage, the members of the alternative/ska band Steppin' On Norm seem to have their act together. I recently had the opportunity to catch a behind the scenes glimpse and interview with them to see how genuine they really are.

Who is Steppin' On Norm? All of the band members make up a lengthy list of talented sophomores and freshmen. **Charles Ganske** is responsible for vocals and playing bass guitar while **Michael Larsen** entertains the crowd with his inventive drumming. **Matt Olson** and **Brady Steffl** both maintain enthusiasm as they share the responsibilities of vocals and lead guitar. **Shannon Gorres** adds her extensive trumpet playing experience to the sound of the band. **Dave Hinz** involves both his trombone and availability to play back-up bass guitar whenever he's needed. **Shaun Luker** is a very flexible member of the brass section, playing either the baritone, trombone, or trumpet according to the needs of each particular song. If you hear the sound of a tenor saxophone amidst these other instruments, it will be coming from the direction of **Matt "Mutsy" Pearson**. **A.J. Schmucker** manages to play the trombone and carry on energetic vocal work, as well (though obviously not at the same time I'm assuming). **Raya Voth** has also contributed to the group's vocals whenever she can. (At a recent performance, **Shannon Johnson** and **Sadie Harsha** appeared as guest vocalists.)

Is this collaboration of New Ulm Senior High School students sounding familiar? You may also recognize them as Vedas (which was their former band name). At the beginning of April, it was decided that a change of title had to be made to a name that was a better representation of the band itself. One day, several of the band members stopped in at the Texaco Super Stop and Wash for their traditional cup of coffee. Brady's taste is perhaps a little out of the ordinary. He enjoys too much non-dairy creamer and too much sugar added to a comparatively small amount of coffee. The rest of the present band members thought this concoction sounded like an excellent idea and therefore decided to try it for themselves. Suddenly, an elderly man whose name was Norm proceeded to ask them if they were being wasteful and abusing their rights and labeled them "menaces to society." A consequent argument ensued. Behold! The idea for the name Steppin' On Norm was conceived.

Giving the proposal further thought, its potential increased due to its capability for a second meaning as "being new, and different from what is ordinarily considered 'normal'." Henceforth, the band would be known as Steppin' On Norm.

Taking this second interpretation into consideration, it seems that originality is pretty important. This could be why numerous band members are working on composing and writing their own songs to be played in addition to the other artists' music (such as that of Reel Big Fish, Smashing Pumpkins, and Green Day) they've already covered. Last fall, ska styles were incorporated into the alternative sets played since the spring of 1998.

Keeping any band together can be challenging, but it would seem that the large accumulation of Steppin' On Norm members could make maintaining general contentment a sometimes difficult task. Shannon tells me that, "As in every band, there are some personal conflicts, but for the most part we're doing fine." She also pointed out that some of the tension that does arise is a result of prioritizing playing to improve the quality of the music for the audience or playing simply for the fun of the band members. Dave mentioned, half-jokingly, "For many of the guys, the band is the only thing they take seriously," while Brady bluntly stated, "If it wasn't fun, I wouldn't be there." Michael views each point as having influence over the other. As he put it, he's trying to "equally entertain the crowd with both visual effects and sound quality because crowd involvement gets the band pumped, too." A.J. expressed the overall underlying search for a balance between both of these mentalities.

So although being in the band takes a considerable time commitment with three hours of practice every Sunday and two hours of practice the night preceding each performance, its not all just business. It is evident that there is a lot of friendship emanating among the members of Steppin' On Norm -- a phenomenon Brady likes to call "fraternal camaraderie." Hopefully, this is what will make it more fun.

While Steppin' On Norm reviewed their most recent performance at the Fourth Annual Rez Dance which was held at the local armory, it appears to me that these musicians could very well be their own worst critics. I was certainly impressed. I'm sure that the next time you go to hear Steppin' On Norm play, you will be equally impressed, as well.

Madame Petruski Strikes Again!

By: Madame Petruski

"Give me a quarter, and I'll tell you your fortune. What's that? You say you're broke? Well, I already knew that, and since I know your future is so good, I'll tell you for free. Now, come closer and look into my crystal ball...."

Taurus (4/20-5/21)

This is your best time of the year. So enjoy it. Because the rest of the year sucks. Happiness: You and your sweetie will grow closer as you both anticipate a summer together. Beware: Don't be surprised if the relationship is over by the end of May.

Gemini (5/22-6/20)

Do not go through with that new 'do. Remember Tina Turner's hair back in the eighties? I assure you that was no accident. Happiness: Be glad you didn't start that new band you were hoping to start. You would have sucked. Beware: Besides, pots don't make good drums.

Cancer (6/21-7/22)

My crystal ball reveals that you will receive a large amount of money. Happiness: That secret wish will come true. Beware: You know that mole on your back? It's sproutin' a hair.

Leo (7/23-8/22)

Roarin' like the lion you are will prove to be successful this time by getting you what you want. Happiness: As the end of the year approaches fast, you will find out a long kept secret that will change your attitude. Beware: This secret will not only mess up your whole summer, but next school year, too.

Virgo (8/23-9/22)

Do not procrastinate this month. The extra time given to you is vital to your schoolwork. Happiness: You'll find easy ways to get more

cash. Beware: You'll blow it on stupid junk like always.

Libra (9/23-10/22)

You are going to actually pass this year. Yea, that even includes you sleepin' in the back. Happiness: That smell that was permeating through my crystal ball has finally subsided. Beware: Don't let that smell conjure up again. You're killing the cosmic waves with that stench.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22)

Your parents will surprise you with a new pet. Happiness: It's a new car! Uh, maybe not. It's still that old beater you're drivin'. Beware: Your car is on it's last leg. 200,000 miles is NOT a thing to brag about.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21)

Save those well earned dollars and buy something nice for yourself for a change. Happiness: Your parents will give you more freedom this summer. Beware: You will be robbed! Nah, I'm just kidding. It's just your sibling stealing your money.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19)

Last month, you were having financial troubles. Well, this month, it's relationships. You just can't win! Happiness: You will find out, though, that a good friend once had a crush on you. Beware: Raindrops keep fallin' on your head. So put up your hood.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18)

From staying away from the school's processed food, you have lost weight. Happiness: Your new body will keep you on the go. Beware: Those of you who still eat at school should know that even the lunch ladies don't know what they're serving.

Pisces (2/19-3/20)

Now that the weather is taking a turnaround, take advantage of your water sign and dive in at the local pool. Happiness: Someone that you haven't heard from in years will contact you. Beware: They have changed so much that you probably won't even recognize them.

Aries (3/21-4/19)

Madame Petruski Continued on Pg 4....



The official logo of the Band Steppin' on Norm, formerly known as The Vedas.

Sports

Softball starts with Big Bang!

By: Softball Player
Amber Fisher

The Eagles softball team has a lot of rebuilding to do. The Eagles will have to fill the absence of eight starters from last year's team. So far the Eagles have done the job. The Eagles are 2-1 on the young season including an 11-inning triumph over St. James in the season opener. The Eagles have also beaten St. Peter 6-1 and have their only loss thus far to Waseca in a ten inning marathon.

The Eagles will be lead by a strong pitching duo of sophomore **Laura Schaefer** and senior **Jaime Soulek**. Laura has two years of varsity experience behind her and Jaime, a transfer from LeCenter, will definitely be a strong asset to the team.

Returning from last year's team, are senior tri-captains **Kenzie Schuetzle** and **Amber Fisher**. They will be the leaders on and off the field. Other players returning with varsity experience are juniors **Nicole Lomax** and **Erin Pickus**. Juniors **Mandi Lentz**, **Jenny Brandel**, **Shelly Grametz**, **Michelle Paulson** and tri-captain **Emily Hamann** will be competing for a variety of varsity positions, along with sophomores **Alisha Witt** and **Tashi Meyer**.

As of yet, the Eagles do not have a set line-up. They will be trying many people in many different positions. The Eagles look for the competition in the South Central Conference to come from Waseca and Blue Earth.



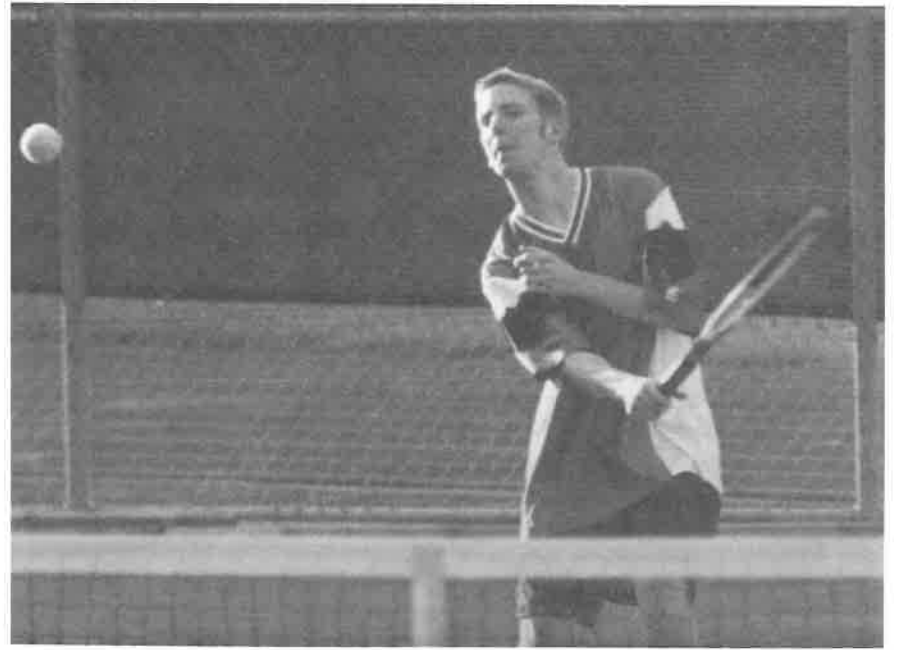
Junior Erin Pickus shows top form in a recent Eagles Girls softball game.

Lady Golfers strike the fairways

By: Girl's Golf Players
Angie Weisensel and
Michelle Urberg

As the snow melts and the fairways become green, the New Ulm girl's golf team became eager to begin their season. The team is trying to improve on their impressive performance last season, when many of their former records were broken. Through the first two meets New Ulm is (2-0) and had one win for the record books. The girls have posted their best team score at the New Ulm Country Club, under the direction of John Ingerbritson, since 1985. The team score they posted was 181, which broke the previous record by ten strokes. The team's scoring was lead by Freshman **Amanda Paa** with a 41, and **Shelly Stueber** with a 44. Behind them was **Anna Metzen** and **Leah Pederson** with 48's.

This season looks to be very promising for the Eagles girls golf team. The Eagles are lead by senior co-captains **Anna Metzen** and **Anna Otis**. The team is composed of many younger golfers who have the skills and for some, the experience that can help take this team to state this year. The girl's golf team has not been to state since 1982, but the team is optimistic that this season could be their year to make it there.



Senior Mike Schmitz, rips a killer fore hand for the New Ulm Eagles tennis team.

Boys Baseball wants to be ahead of the game

By: Baseball Player
Evan Jacobs

The New Ulm Eagles Baseball Team has high hopes this year despite many key losses to their lineup. There aren't very many teammates who had playing experience prior to the season. Those who had playing experience are expected to lead the path back to the State Baseball Tournaments. Seniors **Mark Boettger**, **Travis Fleck**, and **Brandon Zenk** are three players who have played at the varsity level. Although there isn't much experience yet this year, we feel confident that the Eagles can lock up a conference title, but teams such as St. Peter and Waseca stand in the way, and it will only be a matter of time until we see who will come out on top of the pile. The Eagles will rely on good hitting and pitching to make it through the season, and with the help of Coaches **Jim Senske** and **David Curry**, we plan to travel a long way in the playoffs.

Weather a big hurdle for Track

By: Girl's Track Athlete
Holly Schuck

Five or six days week, one can see the Eagle track squad running, jumping and throwing, overcoming the rain and snow, all in search of a few first place finishes. The Eagles' team has begun their season equipped with some new coaches and new uniforms. Despite having lost many talented athletes to graduation, the young Eagles' teams. Are working hard and improving greatly. This year, the girls' team with be in the top three in the conference meet, while the boys' team is anticipating a better place finish. This year, the big conference meet will be hosted by the Eagles on May 11, giving them a home track advantage.

The Eagle girls' are led by a number of veterans from the last years' team, who placed second in the conference, while the boys' team also has a number of athletes returning from last year's 6 or 7 place team, who will be relied upon to score points.

Hopefully the two teams will be able to advance a few athletes onto the 2AA Division meet, then to the Section Finals and possibly the State Tournament.

Senior Column continued from pg 2

they borrow your shower shoes while washing their clothes. That brings up another point: always sterilize your shower shoes before and after each use.

One last tip: DO NOT GO CRYING HOME TO MOMMY AND DADDY! You are an adult and no matter how lonely you get for your little dog Rover, you must stay strong. A better life is awaiting you. And although we may all get a wart or athlete's foot from time to time, there will always be those times when are feet are clean. Of course, if you really are a good child, you

will visit your parents every few weeks just to say, "I love you and miss you." So Seniors, don't be bummed about having to go to college so soon.

Madame Petruski continued.....

The bad dreams you have been having lately, will finally subside when your major problem is solved. Happiness: That major problem will never be solved. Beware: See happiness.

I hope that my tips will help you along the way darlings. Good Luck and see you next time.....