

The Graphos

New Ulm Senior High School New Ulm, Minnesota 56073
June 2000 Volume 82 Number 3

Area Voters Crush Referendum

By Molly Hoffman

In an attempt to raise funds for New Ulm Public Schools, School District #88 held an excess levy referendum on Tuesday, May 23. The proposed referendum would have raised spending \$450 per student over the next five years beginning in May 2001, equalling a total of \$6 million.

District #88 targets the need for a referendum as a combination of decreasing enrollment and decreasing funds. New Ulm voters decided against the referendum by a wide margin, 3,700 voters compared to 2,100, although only half of the registered voters in the district voted. Already approved is a total cut of more than \$500,000 for the 2000-2001 school year, but the cut is not big enough to balance the budget. Now the district will be forced to make additional cuts for the 2001-2002 school year.

NUHS students voiced their opinions on the referendum's failure. "I didn't really expect it to pass in a retirement community like New Ulm" said Patrice Kahler. Julia Nierengarten thinks "People should have made an effort to change things before the referendum got voted down." Danny Kitzberger was upset by the referendum's failure and said "I wish people would look at the purpose of the referendum and think about the value of education compared to lawn ornaments they so eagerly spend money on."

The End of an Era

By Molly Babel

With the budget cuts ahead of the District #88 School Board, among the items to be exempted from next year's budget is this newspaper. *The Graphos* is older than the halls we walk through, older than Mr. Dallmann, and yet more alive than most chemistry experiments. Digging through the library files issues as old as 1917 can be uncovered. For a business in its eighty second year it is a pity to see such an heirloom fall through the cracks and loopholes of the generosity of the people in this town.

This precious newspaper knowingly has had some pitiful editors the past few years, and apologies are extended. However, years ago there was a journalism class that produced *The Graphos*. Back in that day the paper was saturated with tasteful, high quality journalism and was put out twice a month. Through the

years, due to numerous budget cuts and failed referendums, *The Graphos* has evolved into an extra-curricular activity that does not receive ample attention. This year's current staff consists of basically two individuals who are far from miracle-workers in an editing room. It is a pity that the posterity of NUHS will not have the opportunity to be a part of the legendary work of art. Whether they would make it a success or a mere lamentable attempt, sadness overtakes this editor at the loss of a chance.

Tears stain eyes when they read what was dedicated to *The Graphos* future editors by *The Graphos* staff of 1940-1941.

To you — the future producer

This article is continued on page 3.

INDEX

Page 1

- *A last farewell to Menagerie
- *Tyson Goold's "real-life experience"
- **The Graphos*: End of an Era

Page 2

- *Just what is ISICLYATWR?
- *Some thoughts on Senior life after graduation
- *The race is on: 2000 presidential candidates Al Gore George W. Bush

Page 3

- *A tribute to a valued teacher
- *Candid moments from some of NUHS's memorable events

Page 4

- *Sports, of course

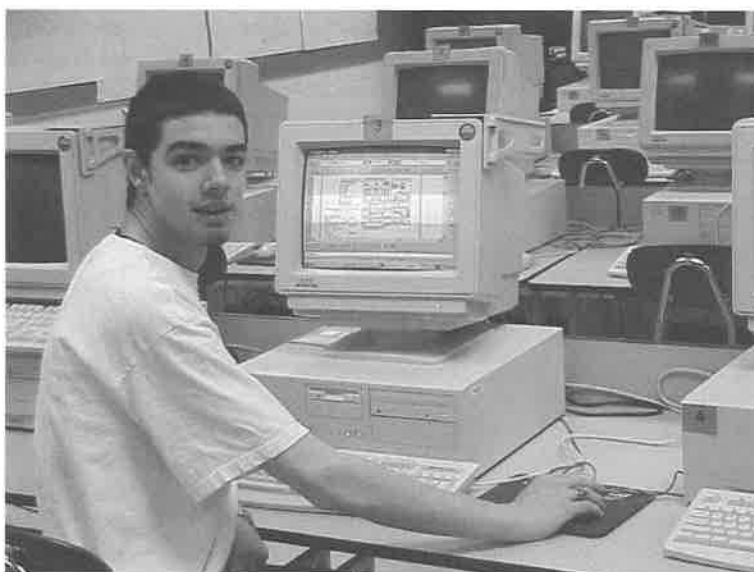
A Chance to Excel

By Mike Neveln

Tyson Goold recently had the chance to excel in the art of architectural drawing. He just completed a five month long program with BRW. It was a program where students were chosen to complete a number of different projects relating to real-life situations.

Tyson was given an imaginary plot of land and was told to complete architectural drawings similar to those real life. There were limitations as to what he could draw and what he could develop. There were certain plots of land and wildlife habitations that could not be touched. He was to first make a composite drawing of the development and then a rough draft of his project. The final copy was drawn to scale and had roads, residential areas, commer-

cial and parks. When asked what he thought about the project he said, "I think this was a great opportunity



that contained real world problems that will help during college and a real job."

Tyson began working on the BRW project in October and completed it in March with a final presentation. Although the students were competing when they met once

a month they were able to critique and help each other. Each monthly session offered new advice and an opportunity to learn new things to add to their projects. Though this was a good opportunity, it was a very time consuming process. "I spent over four hundred and fifty hours on this project, although it didn't really seem like work, because it was a fun activity. I do plan on attending a five and a half year program at NDSU in the field of architecture or architectural landscaping."

This program offered a lot of benefits to those who enrolled. Upon completion of this project, three Minnesota competitors were given certificates of recognition and a letter of recommendation to their colleges.

Tyson credits Mr. McClellan for introducing him to the BRW program.

Editor's Note:

Correction - the FFA is not Future Farmers of America, but rather the National FFA Organization. It's not just for farmers anymore. Sorry!

Menagerie's Final Summer

By Molly Babel

This summer after the second weekend of Heritagefest is in the record books, Menagerie will come to an end. Menagerie is a service oriented youth choir that focuses on delivering Christian messages. However, Menagerie goes beyond preaching about religion, rather it reaches out and simply teaches people about being humanitarian and caring for the human race.

Bob Wirtz is the creator of Menagerie. Back in 1970, several youth approached Bob about organizing a folk singing group. Menagerie was thus conceived and has maintained its profile throughout the past thirty years.

Made up of youth ranging from sophomores to seniors from any school in the community, Menagerie has affected hundreds of kids. And, through the various road trips that take Menagerie around Minnesota and the triennial tours of Europe, thousands of lives have been influenced.

Bob Wirtz is retiring as director of Menagerie after this year, and that is the reason it must conclude itself. The members of Menagerie realize that the group would not carry itself in the same manner under the direction of any other individual. Many alumni and current students at NUHS have been involved in Menagerie and are depressed about its closing year. Many people of the community will also mourn the loss of such an exceptional group.

Opinion

ISICLYATWR: What are you?

By Greg Laffrenzen

Santa Claus. Amish. Strom Thurmond. Ouija boards. Factorials. Space Ghost. Leprechauns. The Easter Bunny. 4 of the Jackson 5. The Tooth Fairy. Parakeets. Supreme Tubas. Flan. My left retina. Carbonic acid. Ol' Yeller. Orson Scott Card. Electricity. Flesh-eating birds. Tall, dark, and handsome men named Adrian. Typewriters. Six-fingered monkeys. IRS auditors. Paper dolls. Silk ties. Poems that don't rhyme. E flat on the treble clef. Freshly minted coins.

What does this list have in common: they're all magical beings. But three of them really stand out. Whose childhood would be complete without Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, and six-fingered monkeys. Oops, scratch the last one. But the first three, or The Big Three, as the International Society of Imaginary Creatures and Lies You've Always Thought Were Real (ISICLYATWR) commonly calls them, play an integral part of most people's childhoods. And for a good reason. They are the ones who give away free stuff. I don't remember getting anything from flesh-eating birds, do you? But my question is: Why is my shirt on backwards? No, seriously. Why do these three magic beings constantly give something for nothing? There must be some benefit in it for them. Let's take a closer look.

Santa Claus. This man, totally isolated from society and probably tax exempt due to his living situation, delivers toys and candy one night a year. He is also above slave labor and handicap regulations. This overweight man breaks into houses, uninvited, and expects milk and cookies. Theft doesn't seem to be his motive, as I have yet to hear about someone being robbed by Santa, but something must prompt him. I believe it is his desire to help out humanity and promote communism. By using elves and reindeer as indentured servants, Mr. Claus is capable of producing large amounts of brand-name toys to give away to the children he spies on.

The Easter Bunny is similar to our red and white northern neighbor. He comes out of his hole once a year to check his shadow. Whether he sees it or not he'll come out, unlike the other lazy rodent we rely on...cough...stupid groundhog...cough. The Easter Bunny also hands out candy, but he isn't nearly as selective as Santa Claus. He has no desire to spy on ignorant little children. But the primitive urge hidden deep inside all of us to distribute wicker and sugar to

children is more than the rabbit can bear. So let him have his fun, because he isn't hurting anyone, and the kids DO like it.

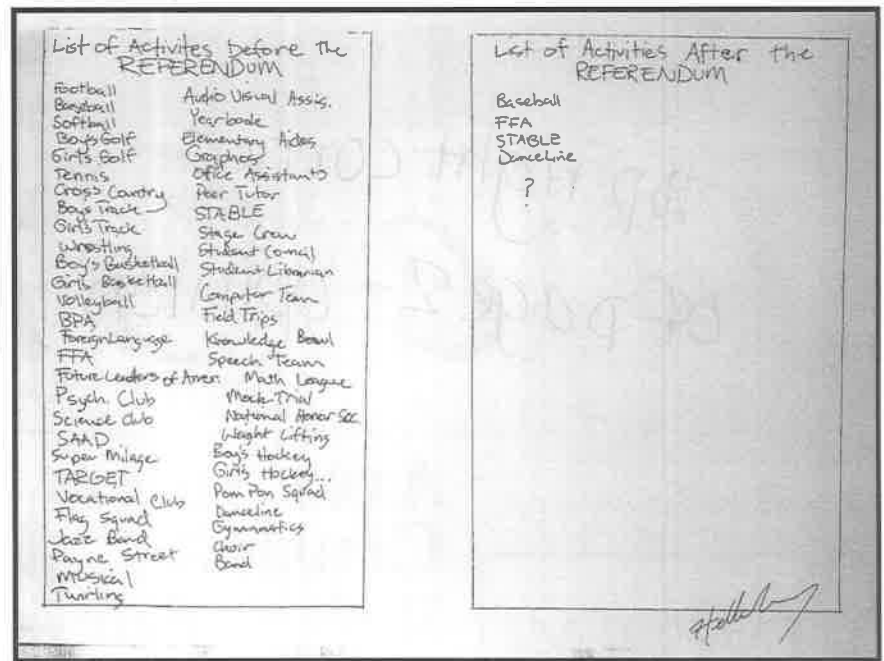
The Tooth Fairy, of all the Big Three, scares me the most. Unlike Santa and the Easter Bunny, Jenny (the Tooth Fairy's pseudo name) isn't confined to one night a year. No, she decided her job should last year-round. The Tooth Fairy is the only one of the Big Three to take something before she gives. Santa only requires good behavior, but Jenny demands her goods in cold, hard calcium. Because Jenny's job is a very successful online day-trading business, all she carries are large bills. When she's commuting to get milk and .009 size dresses (man, she's got some of the widest hips!) custom made to fit her large wingspan, the toll booth returns Jenny's hundred dollar bill entirely in quarters. The Tooth Fairy then uses this large amount of heavy metal to pay for the tooth some bully punched out of your face.

What does she do with the large pile of teeth?! Does she have some strange medical condition that she needs to eat teeth? Or, is it possible that the Tooth Fairy has an entire house built of molars. Chairs made of K-9's and closets built from bicuspid. Her bed sheets are made of plaque, and futons from chipped wisdom teeth.

But let me paint a darker picture of the Tooth Fairy. This magical fairy flies into your home, uses her supreme strength to lift your head, and takes dead parts of your body without waking you. Does that worry you? Do you find it scary that a flying woman smaller than your palm paid 50 cents for your ENTIRE GENETIC CODE? It sounds like something the government would try to pull off during the Cold War.

What if the Tooth Fairy has more magical powers besides tremendous strength, the ability to fly, and the power to create floral decorations that rival Martha Stewart's? It's possible that she can create clones from, say, teeth? Entire legions of everyone in the world over 6 years old lay in wait for the perfect moment to attack.

All I can say is that from now on, I'm going to hide in my sheet rock bomb shelter. Would someone please tell Santa Claus about my address change? (he can't see through plaster). But don't let the Tooth Fairy onto our little secret.



Thoughts on Life after Graduation

On June 2 the NUHS class of 2000 will embark on the greatest adventure of their lives. Having graduated, high school will be a thing of the past, like Skip-its and Tonka Trucks. Many graduates will take the road out of New Ulm this fall to college, technical school, and out-of-town employment. They will leave the simplicity and innocence of high school behind them and have a culmination of excitement, fear, and anticipation muddled up inside.

Some graduates will run away in clumps under the safety and guidance of their closest friends, many will even live together. Others will go where no NUHS student has gone before, or at least not for a long time. Choosing the road less traveled the latter graduates will be on the adventure of a lifetime daring the dastardly and mastering the mindful. The former are a little cowardly, at least for the

time being. Someday, hopefully, they will spread their wings and fly to greater heights - alone.

Conformity began in junior high, lightened up in high school and will disappear in college. No more will men and women be so hard pressed to fit into the norm and the elite social circles. The individuality of the graduates will surface. It is unfortunate that these diversions will not have the opportunity to debut in high school.

To those graduates who are entering the work force: Good luck. Be sure to do something exhilarating sometime in your life.

To those students who are getting married: WOW. Good luck and have fun, do not allow your significant other to make you grow up too fast.

To the Class of 2000: Do not let life pass you by. Take chances and become individuals.

Bore versus Shrub

By Amanda Huginkis

In November of 2000, many of this year's seniors will have the opportunity to vote for the presidential election for the first time. Some may be excited about this, others could not care less, and then a few others may not even know it is an election year. For those who are suffering from malnutrition of political knowledge I will happily give you the DL on the two main candidates, George W. Bush and Al Gore. As a side note, this information is coming from a Bill Bradley fan, a Democrat who lost to Gore in the primaries.

George W. Bush is the former governor of Texas. Now, many may think that being the governor of such a large, prominent state would be an honor, or a worthy position. O, how contrary! Texas' state government is run somewhat differently than ours. The governor of Texas does little to nothing, the lieutenant governor has the authority and power in the state. I once heard a Texan man describe Bush as "nothing but a shrub." One thing I know Bush did as governor for a fact is he signed a bill allowing concealed hand guns legal throughout the state of Texas. Uhhgg. Bush is a standard Republican. He is against abortion but would happily kill the killer. I for one have never understood the contradiction of Republican views on abortion and the death penalty. As president Bush promises to give more public

monies to private educational institutions; he feels that education should be a priority. However, last fall I recall reading a newspaper article regarding the failing grades of many football players in some Texan school. The school administration saw these boys' failing grades and noticed they would not be eligible for any football scholarships when their report cards were smothered in Ds. So, last fall Ds were omitted from that school's grades and all Ds were changed to Cs, no questions asked. Sounds like a state that truly values a good education.

Al Gore, current vice president, is on the opposite end of the scale. A liberal Democrat, Gore is often a little dry and lacks much flare and appeal. However, Gore has been a very good vice president, and that at least gives him some nice experience in national politics. Gore has an open mind and believes in giving a woman the right to choose what to do with her body and in giving an assassin the right to live. A avid supporter of education, Gore defends a more federal education system. Lately the Democratic party has been cracking down on crime, and Gore would continue that into his presidency as well.

Neither candidate is very desirable. Nevertheless, as an American citizen it is my right and duty to take part in the presidential selection process and vote for whichever candidate is more worthy. All of the green eighteen year old people in the senior class please remember to register and vote in November.

Features

The End of an Era, continued from page 1.

ers of our long famous Graphos — we turn over this 1940-41 volume. The product of our nine months' tireless sweat and toil.

To be frank, these months were hard but happy months, packed with the rush and worry common to the journalist, as well as the joy and laughter characteristic of our staff members.

We sincerely hope that in the years to come our Graphos may, through the efforts of this high school's future journalists, reach the highest peak of perfection and become an invaluable asset

to this school and community.

Through many of *The Graphos* years businesses from the community sponsored the paper and the class, donating money and receiving free advertisement. Unfortunately, that true community feeling blew the dust off this ratty ol' town somewhere down the line. Perhaps there is a large corporate sponsor out there waiting for the opportunity to make the day, week, and month of two lovely ladies by rescuing this paper from the dogs?

With that I bid the readers of *The Graphos* farewell, the Class of 2000 good luck, and the miserly, ignorant, and inconsiderate referendum downers good riddance.



Jeff Reiter, Jared Schiller, Megan Sandquist, Amber Domeier, Sky Royston, Adam Reinhart, BJ Rewitzer, and Cody Reinhart take some time off their feet while awaiting the Grand March on May 6.



A devastating scene from the mock car crash co-sponsored by SADD and the New Ulm Area Police Department.

Congratulations Mrs. Ackerson!

By The Graphos Editors

This 1999-2000 school year, English Department Head Mrs. Carol Ackerson was named first the senior high and then District #88's Teacher of the Year. A member of the District for somewhere between thirty and forty years (We don't really know), Ackerson has positively influenced many of her students. Mrs. Ackerson has supposedly even lectured Mr. Don Potter on literature, composition, and proper rhetoric.

Mrs. Ackerson is the smartest woman we editors know, and we know a lot of people. Her knowledge makes her slightly intimidating but do not fear Carol. She is on your side.

Mrs. Ackerson is very creative and tolerant. A cat lover, she even lets her kitties name themselves.

In a roundabout way, Mrs. Ackerson is a billionaire. She is the president of the Retired Teachers Association of Minnesota and is the sole voice in where the money goes.

Congrats Mother A!



Mrs. Carol Ackerson ponders her major award.



Missy Martens looks on as elementary children admire the animals during FFA's annual Ag Show.



These Seniors received awards on Senior Awards day: Chad Walden, Shane Gulden, Robby Gieseke, Niki Brush, B.J. Rewitzer, Gus Martens, Pete Zangl, Molly Babel, Jessica Schaezke, Isaac Larson, Drew Waibel, Meghan Chamberlain, Tamara Wellmann, Heather Rewitzer, Amber Ahl, Ruth Schlumpberger, Jessica Gieseke, Nikki Dauer, Kelly Karstad, Mandy Lentz, Mike Burt, Mike Meyer, Pat Commerford, Brad Martens, Jake Holm, Evan Jacobs, Kasey Wieland, Al Wurtzberger, Nate Burkhart, Colin Haley, Jessica Paulson, Brian Sprenger, Kim Wendinger, Justin Rios, Bridget Batzlaff, Lauri Moll, Jenni Brown, April Schneider, Amy Hildebrandt, Laura Sellner, Angie Weisensel, Michelle Urberg, Ryan Klinkner, Jenny Reger, Travis Johnson, Kyle McClellan, Maizie Randall, Laura Guggisberg, Erin Pickus, Shelly Gramentz, Mindy Berdan, Bethany Carlson, Stacy Gramentz, and Amanda Christle.

Sports

Track: Words Can't Describe

By Angie Schauman

The 1999-2000 boys and girls track teams have had a very eventful year. With the boys taking first at the Waseca meet, both teams were pumped to take their victory lap. The girls are under the leadership of Kim Wendinger, Jessica Schaezke, and Joni Krapf. "Even though our team is small, we pulled through," LeAnn Brudelic said about the season. One big event of the year was when Schaezke broke the school record in the triple jump.

The boys had some strong and weak points in their season. Many of the boys have changed their personal bests dramatically this year. With the commitment of captains Chad Walden, Mike Meyer, and Derek Neidecker, the boys have excelled in many events.

The track teams will be losing many valuable seniors after this year and hopefully the juniors will be able to step up to the challenge of helping the teams with another successful season next year.



Senior Ryan Wellmann is looking coy as he prepares to deliver a pitch.

Eagles Hardball Having Another Solid Season

By Daniel Kitzberger

The New Ulm Eagles baseball team is faring well in yet another season after a somewhat rocky start. After losing ace Ryan Walters, shortstop Travis Fleck, first baseman Brandon Zenk, and DH Mark Boettger, there was some concern about the 2000 season. Returning players are plentiful, however, with Ryan Wellmann, Drew Waibel, Al Wurtzberger, Jason Schmitz, Micade Thordson, Mitch Stueber, Scott O'Brien, Evan Jacobs, Isaac Larson, and junior Travis Boddy all back for another attempt at a State title.

Returning pitchers Wellmann and southpaw Waibel have taken the place of Walters, although Waibel has had a bothersome arm injury. Senior O'Brien has been seeing some time on the hill, and is also returning as a starter at second base. Don't forget the talented youth this year. Solid pitching as well as some contribution at the plate from junior Andy Stolt and Craig Spelbrink has also helped the Eagles' campaign. Sophomore Jamie Hoffmann has replaced Fleck at shortstop, with Stolt seeing some time there as well. Junior Robby Geistfeld has been sharing time at first base with Larson and Stueber. Travis Thorson, Micade Thordson, and Stueber have been dividing time at third with Wurtzberger and junior Paul Yager behind the plate. Junior Matt Schmidt, Boddy, Jacobs, and Schmitz have been rotating in the outfield.

The Eagles managed a mid-season 13-game winning streak including big wins over metro teams Edina, 8-7, and Park Center, 7-2. The streak ended with a tough loss to last year's state champion team, Hastings, by a score of 10-6.

Under the legendary Jim Senske and fungo expert Dave Curry, the Eagles baseball team should be high in the running for the conference as well as section champions, possibly even another bid at that coveted state title. With the season at the midway point and State just around the corner, look for the Eagles to step it up another notch.

This has been an exciting season for the Eagles, and we at New Ulm Baseball would like to thank the fans and parents for their support. Come out to the park and cheer us to victory!

Youthful and Exuberant

By Sam Schaezke and Matt Wieland

The golf season that is in

progress right now is a great sign of what is to come in the future. We are stocked with young talent ready to bloom and lead the

golf team to a great showing this year and in the years to come. We are loosing one senior, David Sellner, next year and even though he is a great asset to the team, there is an abundant number of junior varsity talent to fill the team's vacant spot.

So far this year we are 9-2 with the conference meet still to come. There have been many different leaders in each meet and it goes to show that a team effort is the best way to win. The tournament team that will go to

conference, sections, and maybe even the state meet is a variety of ages. The team consists of Sellner, juniors

Jeremy Anderson and Paul Holm, sophomores Matt Wieland and Tyler Hirth, and freshman Ryan



Herzog. This team has a very good chance of winning the conference meet and with a good showing take the momentum into sections to post some good scores as well.

The main goal for the team this year was to win conference and post a good showing at sections. This is a very accomplishable goal for the young and talented team. Individually, the team could easily send one or more people to the state tournament, held June 5-7.



Christine Wendinger anxiously looks on during a girls' softball game.

Neon Balls Bouncing Over the Net

By Tim Hellendrung

"The best part of tennis is really getting to know your teammates." These are the words of #1 doubles player Nick Johnson. Overall, the boys tennis team had a good season with the youngest team of guys in years. One could say that the members have natural talent, or possibly one could argue that we were propelled by unity. The team was held together by the only senior on the team, captain, Nate Burkhart.

"Nate was our spiritual leader. He supported us, he picked us up when we were down, and he brought the women to the home meets," says Jimmy Vancura.

The team consisted of 13 members this year, one short due to an unfortunate elbow/arm injury by usual #1 singles player Matt Olson. The team fared well though with all sophomores or younger at the first three singles and consisting of the five of six double players the same.

Playing #1 singles this year, for the most part, was sophomore John Witt. John started with a very good

season, but slowed down towards the end due to a back injury.

Playing #2 singles was eighth grader John Hildebrandt. John had a great season with few losses and many



valuable wins.

Playing #1 doubles this year were sophomores Nick Johnson and Tim Hellendrung. Although it was a tough year due to inexperience, going from #2 double on junior varsity to #1 doubles on varsity, they did well and tried hard.

Playing at the #2 doubles for most of the year was the team of

Michael Larson, junior, and freshman John Christenson. They had quite an impressive year, with many key wins.

The only Cathedralite on the team this year was freshman Jimmy Vancura. Jimmy did very well this year and had fun doing it.

At #4 singles this year was senior Nate Burkhart. "I had fun this year and will take the experience with me to college," says Burkhart.

Finally, rounding up the varsity team was the freshman/sophomore duo of Ryan Berndt and Jared Wachter at #3 doubles. This spot was mixed up a bit due to absences and was filled in by the three junior varsity players, Dustin Maday, Dave Luchsinger, and Jamie Paulson. "I had a lot of fun this year and gained valuable experience," says Dave Luchsinger. "I hope to be able to go to the Olympics," Dave charmed.

The tennis team is filled with easy-going guys just having a good time playing to their ability and beyond.