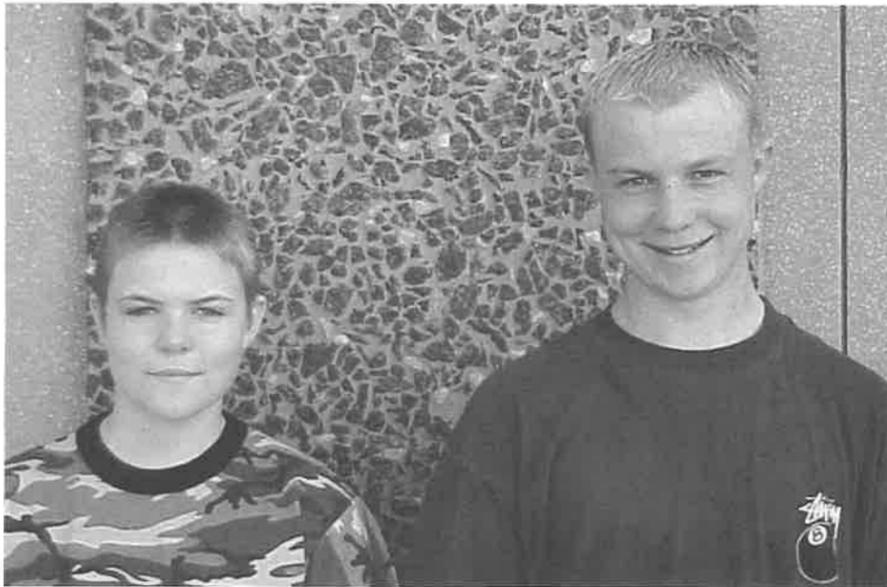


The Graphos

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A World of Difference: A Cultural Journey



By Molly Hoffman

Last July, Theuns Johannes and Mari-lize Crouzer faced an exciting challenge many people would be afraid to consider: they packed their bags and moved halfway across the world, leaving behind friends, family, and the comfort of their native country, South Africa. The offer of a job for their father was what brought T.J., a junior, and Mari-lize, a sophomore, to the United States.

In South Africa, the Crouzers lived in Bloemfontein, a centrally-located town about the size of Mankato. Although the change in size from Bloemfontein to New Ulm is not drastic, T.J. and Mari-lize both agree that New Ulm is much more lacking in things for teenagers to do. The quiet, rural setting of Midwestern towns like New Ulm is described by the Crouzers not as peaceful or serene, but just plain boring. Discos are popular entertainment for teens in South Africa, and T.J. and Mari-lize also had fun with sports like field hockey. They also enjoyed going to the sea with friends and family for vacation, something not so easily accessible in Minnesota.

Not surprisingly, life for T.J. and Mari-lize has changed a lot since coming to the U.S. The harsh Minne-

sota winters will take a little getting used to, since in South Africa snowfalls are virtually non-existent except for in the mountains. Mari-lize comments that school in the U.S. is far less challenging; both T.J. and Mari-lize attended year-round boarding schools in South Africa. School went from January to December, with a two-month vacation during the year and shorter breaks throughout. Language hasn't been too much of an obstacle, since they both took English classes before moving to New Ulm. One of the most frustrating differences between the two countries is how slowly people (old people?) drive in New Ulm.

What do they miss most about Bloemfontein? Friends, of course. They also miss the wildlife of South Africa, where it was not uncommon to see giraffes or zebras along the roadsides while driving on the highway. While speaking a foreign language made it a little difficult to meet people at first, T.J. and Mari-lize have found friends and gotten involved in school activities. T.J. played football for the Eagles last fall, and Mari-lize likes to spend

time with friends. Moving to the United States has provided T.J. and Mari-lize with education most people never understand, and although they often miss South Africa, they are gaining experiences that in the long run will probably be beneficial.

*Just a note:
Don't forget to vote!*



Blood Sucks

The story of a blood drive.

By Molly Babel

Recently, the Future Farmers of America organization here at NUHS sponsored a blood drive along with the Red Cross. Students were given the opportunity to donate their hemoglobin and help their fellow man.

Mr. Stuckey, the faculty advisor of FFA, was very happy with the results of the blood drive. "We had 130 students and staff sign up. One hundred and twenty seven showed up to donate and only 18 people were deferred, mostly because of a low iron count. There were 88 first time donors and a total of 102 units were given."

Judy Slindee, RN, Head Nurse for North Central Blood Services noted, "A very, very nice group of students to work with. The students were well prepared with information about diet and water. Most everyone had ID, one of the best prepared schools that I have facilitated."

The blood that was given that day was immediately transported to St. Paul where it was processed for use. Most of the blood was treated so that it may be used as plasma, platelets, red cells and cryprecipitate (to be used for clotting assistance in surgery.)

Trivia: Blood can be stored for up to two years because of new freeze-dry methods!

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Remember: Register and Vote on the Referendum!

Opinion

Sucking Up the Dark

By Greg Laffrenzen

Since the beginning of time, mankind has thought that light poured out from a source. New research at Bell Labs has proven otherwise. Evidence now shows that instead of light coming from somewhere, it is really dark being removed from somewhere, making it seem lighter.

Light bulbs, which are generally thought of as emitting light, actually suck dark. Therefore, from now on, "light bulbs" will be called darksuckers. Darksuckers come in many sizes, and the larger the darksucker, the more light it can suck up. A darksucker in a parking lot can suck up more dark than a darksucker in a small desk lamp.

There are also portable darksuckers, which are generally called "flashlights". These portable darksuckers have a very limited capacity for sucking dark. They need a "energy source" to store the dark in. The most common place for a portable darksucker to store dark in is a battery. The larger the battery, the more dark it can hold. But batteries can't last forever. When a battery is full of dark, it will cease to function properly. It is then time to buy a new darkstorer. It is not understood how large, immobile dark suckers transfer their dark to a storage space. But, it is known for certain that electricity plays an important role.

The reason that dark is able to be sucked much easier than light is that it has mass. This is most evident while swimming in a large pool or the ocean. At the top 50 to 60 feet, there is enough dark being sucked by the largest darksucker, the sun, that it is possible to see. But after about 75 feet of water, it becomes impossible for anyone to see anything, due to the sinking dark. Darksuckers that are protected from the water "bring light" to the depths in a small area, but are ineffective on a large scale.

Candles are the most primitive darksuckers. Before they start sucking dark, they have a clean,

white wick. But after their first use, they become dark from all of the dark that they sucked in. There is also no glass or plastic over candles, protecting innocent people and pets from the extreme heat being generated by the darksucker sucking up the heavy dark, a feature common in most modern darksuckers. A candle can only hold a certain amount of dark, and as the candle sucks the dark, it mysteriously becomes smaller.

All darksuckers will cease to function. Candles melt, and "light bulbs" have a large dark spot on them due to all the dark they have sucked up. Even the sun will stop sucking dark one day. Occasionally dark spots on the sun, called sun spots, appear and disappear without warning.

These patches of dark are where the sun tried to suck up too much dark from the surrounding space, and some of it got stuck on the surface. The dark will eventually be sucked into the heart of the sun, where it will join the rest of the dark that our sun has collected. A similar example is a tan on a person. The sun (or a tanning "light") will suck some of the dark from inside a person, but it will get clogged in the skin. With no force to remove it, the dark will stay there, embedded in the skin, for a long period of time. But if too much dark is caught in one's skin, problems like skin cancer will occur.

Dark is all around us. We are surrounded by it, but it is not dangerous to humans. Certain animals need to be surrounded by dark to survive, but humans are not one of them.

I credit this article to Leon H. Raesly, who may or may not have written this article first. Many authors have written about the existence of darksuckers, but I personally was inspired by Leon H. Raesly.

Me, is who they are
not
Me, is most things
popular
kids aren't. Day comes
Day
goes, another bad day
goes
by and goes by and by and
by.
With other kids growing
smarter
and faster and funnier. I sit
and
learn half of what they learn,
I
get no funnier nor faster. I
just
sit there watching the world go
by
waiting and waiting for just
one
good day, and when I have
had it

I'll say now I want another one,
until
one day I can say that I am happy
with
the way my life has turned out,
and
when others will laugh no more,
then
my fear will have left. I will be
truly
happy once again. All I ask is
to be
accepted, no jokes, no
humiliations,
just one of the guys at NUHS. That
is
merely some of the things I would
like
to come true in my life some day
soon.
I am not asking to be cheered on,
or
raised up on people's shoulders.
Just to be
NORMAL!

Drew Henderson



On May 23 - "VOTE,"
that is my quote!

Semi-Daily Dose of Destiny

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - You need to confide in somebody. You need to let the cat out of the bag, it won't hurt anyone it will only help them. You seem to be in a sticky situation and letting the truth out will surely help.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - Quit being such a creep! Your attitude is out of line - if you would mellow out all would improve. Someone may lay the smack down real soon. Be aware of a potential outburst.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) - Along with your neighbor Taurus, you need to chill out. Deadlines at work and school are taking their toll and you feel a freak-out session coming on. Do something nice for someone else and the favor shall be returned.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) - You are the monarch of your own world, and of someone else's. Don't let it get to your head, stay humble and it will get even better. You are problem free and loving it.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - Quit comparing your new lover to your old one. They are different people, remember that. Your physical fitness is at its low point. Go to the weight room, not only will you get buff, but you may meet someone.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) - You are falling hard for a co-worker. The feeling is mutual. If you do the right things the relationship may evolve to something substantial. Don't be jealous when you catch her flirting, she has eyes only for you!

Libra (September 23 - October 22) -

Don't let a problem at home affect your school work. The two environments are separate, keep them that way. Parents may seem a burden now, but their financial assistance is sorely needed in the near future.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) - Do not fret about your current lover, he may be young but he sure is a good time. Scorpios, you are getting stressed. Take a bubble bath and soak away your troubles - they will evaporate.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) - Get off your high horse. Money is not everything and your obsession with it is annoying. Relations would improve if you stopped focusing on your problems and started caring more for others.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) - Your silence is sexy and appreciated. Shut your mouth more often and the opposite sex will flock to you. People admire your mystery and intellectuality. WOW.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) - Everything seems great now, but it may all be too good to be true. Be cautious with money, you are far from frugal. Ladies, if you bat your lashes, he will surely come.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) - Seize your next opportunity to get out of your current relationship. Your partner is dragging you down - and it is not necessary. For those who are single, or about to be, a new lover is out there - waiting for you!

Sports



Senior wrestler Shane Gulden takes down his opponent.

A Winter Season Wrap-up A Season Filled with Ups and Downs

By Matt Schmidt

The boy's varsity basketball team came into the season with high expectations. They were returning five letter winners from last year's squad and also had a solid group of juniors joining them.

The Eagles were led by tri-captains Jeremy Fluegge, Evan Jacobs, and Mitch Stueber. Other major contributors to the team included Brent Farasyn, Isaac Larson, Paul Scheman, Matt Wise, and Matt Schmidt.

The team traveled to Hutchinson for their first game and were handed a ten-point loss, courtesy of the Tigers. However, they rebounded the next game when a pair of Isaac Larson free-throws lifted them to victory over United South Central. The Eagles then

The Marshall Holiday tournament was an adventure for the Eagles, who were without three of their

starters. Stueber and Schmidt were out due to injury, and Fluegge was sidelined with the flu. Despite the setbacks, the team played hard but lost



two close games to tough competition.

The Eagles came out of the holiday tournament with a 2-4 record on the season. They went on a four-game skid, losing in overtime to Blue

Earth and being embarrassed by St. Peter with a 25-point loss. The team then came home and lost two tough games to Waseca and LeSeuer-Henderson.

The record fell to 2-8, but they won four of the next five to improve their record to 6-9. Those four wins were against Fairmont, USC, JWP, and St. James, with the loss against Willmar. Blue Earth got the Eagles again in their next game, beating them by ten points.

Once again the Eagles rallied and beat St. Peter before coming up with their biggest win of the season. Trailing Waseca by 12 with 1:30 left in the game, the Eagles came back and handed the Blue Jays their

only conference defeat for the second straight season.

With the momentum, the Eagles beat Fairmont and wrapped up second place in conference.

Grapplers Faired Well

By Shane Gulden

The New Ulm Eagles wrestling team capped off the season by sending seven individual wrestlers to the State Tournament. Four wrestlers placed at state: Josh Luneberg (2nd), Shane Gulden (3rd), Eric Miller (3rd), and Pete Zangl (4th).

The Eagles came up short of sending the team to state. They lost to Mankato West 27-24. The Eagles soon rebounded by placing ten individuals in the section tournament and sending a record seven to the Big Dance. The qualifications for state were Josh Luneberg (112), Pete Zangl (119), Shane Gulden (130), Eric Miller (140), Bill Bastian (152), Andy Bernard (171), and Gus Martens (189). Dan Mielke and Rob Gieseke each earned third place, just missing the trip. Nate Gieseke had a fine showing, placing fourth. Travis Hermel, Tony Ruch, and Korey Anderson also competed in the tourney. The Eagles ended their dual meet season at 22-2. Five Eagles won the respective award of the 100 win mark. They were Pete, Shane, Eric, Bill, and Gus. Once again, many records were broken and Eagle wrestling became more exciting. The senior class ended their high school career with over 700 wins!

The wrestling team would like to thank all the fans and people who volunteer to make Eagle wrestling as successful as it is.

Girls' Basketball Leaves Much to be Desired

By Molly Babel

This 1999-2000 basketball season the lady Eagles had far less than a triumphant season. With a dismal record of 2-20, the girls basketball team did not succeed in playing very skilled ball throughout the course of the year.

Senior tri-captains Jessica Schaezke, Emily Hamann, and Kim Wendinger led the team during this year. Schaezke finished the season with All-Conference Honors, the lone Eagle named to the team.

Other seniors on the squad were Heather Rewitzer and Molly Babel. Up until the very end of the season Laura Meier and Britta Rieke were also part of the team.

The sole junior on the 1999-2000 squad was Janel Budenski. Sophomores Brittany Gorres, Liz Dannenberg, Amanda Rosenau, and Amanda Paa also contributed heavily to the batch of basketball girls.

A few fans attended a few of the games, the young women are forever grateful for their attendance.

Two Titles Highlight Boys' Season

By Mike Neveln

The New Ulm Boys Hockey team set a number of goals this year and spent this season working to accomplish those goals. That is exactly what they did. According to the coaches and the players the season was an overall success. This year the Eagles took both the South Central Conference (6-0) and the Central Minnesota Conference (9-1) titles. Coach Tom Macho said, "The whole New Ulm Eagles hockey program has had a successful season."

Along with both Conference titles the Eagles had a 17 win regular season. Also, by the end of the regular season they were ranked number fifteen in Section 1 Class A. There were a number of things that made the season, and one of them was the support of fans at the games. Coach Macho said, "After the Litchfield/Dassel/Cokato game there were one thousand people in Vogel Arena. It has been excellent throughout the season."

Senior Captain David Sellner said, "We had an excellent season. We

played solid hockey and beat teams we weren't expected to beat. We worked hard in practice all season long." He went on to say, "We had a good team chemistry on the ice. There were a few games that stand out this year. That was beating Rochester Lourdes and Mankato West at home." There were a few games this season that came down to the wire including an overtime win



against LDC. Coach Macho said, "You never know what will happen until the buzzer sounds at the end of the third period."

"Overall we had a successful season. The seniors gave the team very good leadership. We also had a great sophomore class that stepped up and played a big role this in the success of the season," said Senior Captain Al Wurtzberger.

The team came within one goal of going to the Section 1 Class A Title game with a 5-4 loss to Albert

Lee. "One of our goals that we had set was to make it to the 'Big Show' and compete in the State Tournament. We fell just short of that goal this year," Al commented.

Unfortunately the season came to an end earlier than the team had hoped for. The Eagles had hoped to still be competing into March at the State Tournament. They came close, but just missed the tournament this year. In the end they still had an excellent season. Two Conference

Titles and a state ranking. A congratulations goes out to everyone on the team.

Features



Michael Larsen and Rachel McLuen portray children convicted of witchery in the One Act production of "After Midnight - Before Dawn."

One Act Takes the Stage

By Molly and Molly, Hoffman and Babel, respectively

On January 29, 2000, the New Ulm High School One Act team performed for the general public two outstanding productions.

The first show of the afternoon was a lighthearted comedy titled *No One Wants to Know*. Lead characters Amy Hildebrandt and Ace Harting, along with Sarah Steffl and Justin Rios, showed the audience the simple truth that love can not always defeat your troubles but that it remains the medicine of the moment.

Second in the line was the morbid drama titled *After Midnight - Before Dawn*. A bonechilling tale of the seventeenth century, the play depicted the unjust accusations made in the Salem Witch Trials. The dreary

interior of a prison cell sets the stage for a self proclaimed witch's attempt to trick the remaining five innocent victims into actual Satanic witchcraft. The story offered a the viewers a frightening and realistic portrayal of an actual period in history.

Cast members all agreed that One Act was both fun and educational. Thespian Sarah Steffl thinks, "One Act really gives you a feel for trying something new, different, unique. You know what I mean. Getting out of your shell, if you will, is great. Its just really cool."

Colin Haley adds, "This is the kind of stuff I will miss when I graduate. Its been real."



Former Cathedralite, Pat Commerford, aka Cummy, was expelled



Jacob Loetscher, Cummy's accomplice, has many radical notions.

These Catholics Went Unforgiven

By Shannon Gorres

In mid-December while public students were constructing time lines and laboring over thesis papers, two CHS students were writing a newspaper that got them kicked out of Cathedral High School.

Previously on the staff of *Pinpoints* (CHS' newspaper), Pat Commerford, Jacob Loetscher, and several other students put together "Pinpoints", a National Enquirer-like paper full of shocking articles. They sought to transcend *Pinpoints*' "half-baked works of journalism" and create publication "keeping it real for the masses", as quoted in *Pinpoints*. Other articles included the praising of "Rage Against the Machine", coverage of a fake nursing home sex scandal, and Fascists attacks at CHS. Many entertaining and degrading accusations were made against CHS' system of education and past teachers. Besides intriguing stories, *Pinpoints* also contained harsh pictures of leaders with guns.

Placed together on home computers, the articles were copied into papers at a local business. They were distributed in school the next day

to students and undoubtedly ended up in the hands of faculty. The principal ordered a meeting where he threatened to cancel all activities including sports and prom unless the authors turned themselves in. Seniors, Commerford and Loetscher were the only humble souls to confess, taking the blame for the other journalists so CHS students could retain their privileges.

Some discrepancies over the handling of the situation remain. According to Commerford, he and Loetscher were expelled for CHS' handbook policy against distribution of posters with out permission, not the writing of the articles. Yet would a distributed newspaper filled with gardening advice and Biblical stories have been a cause of such action? Also, many copies are still floating around, even in the hands of grandparents who are still chuckling.

So apparently while public kids were "getting creative" and "using their intelligence" to write reports and essays, some CHS students were brilliant and radical enough to get their school riled up and themselves expelled.

You be the judge of which is more impressive.

Sports, Continued... Girls' Hockey is on the Up

By Shelly Gramentz

A fifth place tournament finish, playoff victory, an even 500 record, and a South Central Conference crown are many of the accomplishments the New Ulm Girls Hockey team walked away with, leading to their most successful year so far.

This year, the Eagles were led by Jocelyn Janni, co-captain Shelly Gramentz, Nikki Williams, Ashley Dietz, Stacy Gramentz, and Tammy Cordes.

The strength of the defense department was held by co-captain Abby Johnson, Caitlin Nelson, Michelle Urberg, and Melissa Stolt. This year's returning senior goalie, Angie Weisensel, was aided by freshman goalie Jenny Neveln.

The biggest Eagle victory of the year was against Fairmont. On Senior night, the Eagles showed Fairmont they were deserving of the SCC crown by winning 4-3, after losing earlier in the season by a 8-1 margin. The Eagles went on to capture a first-time playoff win, beating Hutchinson 3-2 in double overtime. In the second playoff game, New Ulm's season came to an end when Chaska defeated the Eagles 5-2.

Finishing with a record of 11-11-1, the Eagles continue to grow

strong and improve from year to year. And with the determined youth on the team, the Eagles will easily repeat another good season.



Eagle gymnast Beth Kluge executes on the bars during a home meet.

The team was led by captains Nicole Brush, Meredith Jones, & Jessica Paulson. With a final record of 8-2, the Eagles claimed the SCC crown Jones, Christine Otis, and Jenny Berg were named to the All-Conference team, while six members of the team were named All-State, including, Jones, Otis, Julie Peterson, Beth Kluge, Ashley Portner, and Amber Bianchi.

Sweat and Smile - The Dance Team Motto

By April Schneider

Pain, sweat, and tears are just some of the words that describe the dance team. Dance team is not just smiles and tight outfits. It takes dedication, ambition, and most of all, hard work to become the great dancers we all strive to be. I feel we did just that with practices after school daily, some morning practices, and weekend competitions. With limited gym time and space we all tried our hardest to achieve and at the end of the season it showed.

This year the dance team rules for going to state changed. Twin Cities teams were split up into sections, and the top four teams of each section would go to state. New Ulm was just three points away from going to state. That would always be apparent in the team members' minds, especially for the six seniors: Stephanie Biv, Nicole Dauer, Amber

Degner, Amanda Lentz, and co-captains Jenny Krueger and April Schneider.

This season the dance team wanted a different style of music and dance. The goal was met with the purchase of new outfits and choreography to "Rafiki." Those who have seen the red and black leopard pants can see the change! The music was also different. It consisted of many types ranging from African to New Age to rock.

With Angie Otto as the new coach, the dance team did excellent. With her dance background and energetic personality, she was a great help. By the end of the season, the New Ulm dance team came home with two first place trophies and one third place trophy, out of four competitions.

The Junior Varsity also had a competition this year, which they did well at. They received a third place trophy.