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Pictured above is an idyllic setting of a traditional Christmas dinner which will probably be repeated in many homes this year.

Yuletide brings season of good cheer, tradition

by Scott Stuckey

Christmas is a time of year that brings cheer to all. Young and old alike enjoy good yule, good cheer, and good times together. But Christmas is also a time of tradition.

As I walked down the not so empty halls during seventh hour one day, I decided to ask people how they spend their Christmas.

As I passed the library, I spied Ms. Sue Kaltsulas, so I decided to walk in and "pop the question." She told me that Christmas is usually spent with her family. They open their gifts on Christmas eve and also Christmas morning. A turkey dinner follows on the afternoon of the holy day. Activities out-of-doors are also included in the holiday festivities.

Moving on down the hall, I met Mr. Bob Qvale. I thought that he might have been in a cooperative state of mind, so I questioned him on the matter of Christmas. The Qvales have a traditional meal of lutefisk and lefse. Mr. Qvale stated that he enjoys the meal very much. Mrs. Qvale, however, does not agree. She does not appreciate the Christmas eve meal as much as the mister does. She prefers the medium-well done steak. Later in the evening, the family attends midnight mass. Oh, yes, Santa Claus does come in the morning, but they do open some of their presents the night before.

I continued down the hall to my locker. After carefully placing my volumes of forgotten lore in their very special shelves, I saw Sara Wyczawski, who was about to be my next victim.

Sara's family has supper, and after the meal, the girls do the dishes. Mother and

father enjoy the leisure very much. The Wyczawskis open some presents at their grandmother's home and then return to their residence and complete the gift giving. After the mess is all over, pop, chips, and cheese dip are served. On Christmas morning, church is attended, followed by a large brunch and football for the afternoon.

Mr. Gene Brand and family listen for the Messiah on the radio during Christmas eve. This has been a tradition in the Brand family for a long time. The meal on this night includes oyster stew, and "those little round crackers." At night, Santa comes for all. Christmas day includes church and a big meal during the afternoon.

I sped down the stairs, round the corner, just in time to find Mr. Vern Zahn taking a break. The Zahns attend church services at five or eleven p.m. on Christmas eve. The gifts are also opened during the evening. The meal includes the tradition of Norwegian meatballs. Christmas day is spent quietly at home with their children.

After talking with Mr. Zahn, I thought I'd take a little break from my work.

In the senior lounge, I found Big Don Bennett. Don said his family opens their presents on Christmas eve. Christmas day is celebrated by attending church followed "by a really great meal. And a lot."

After conversing with Don, I felt that I had the information I needed for my article. But this reporter had forgotten to talk to the very person who is in charge of The Graphos. Yes, I had forgotten Mr. Weber!

The Webers open their presents on Christmas morning. Mr. and Mrs. Weber attend midnight mass while Nathan and

Garrett are snug dreaming of a jolly old man. Grandma usually spends Christmas eve with the Webers and babysits while Donna and Ed are at mass.

Santa comes during the night, and the children are up at the crack of dawn to see what he has brought. Mr. Weber and his family seem to enjoy the holidays very

much. During the holidays, the Webers enjoy egg-nog as a special drink as do many families.

The Christmas holidays bring happiness to all. Moods are brightened by family traditions and good cheer. I hope you will observe some traditions and spread some good cheer this Christmas.



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the presence of the big Santa Claus in Retzlaff's store window.

editorial

The almighty \$



by Scott Simkins

Call it German conservativeness, stinginess, or whatever you like, but New Ulm voters, with unbelievable consistency, again voted down a bond issue for a rec complex.

Although the rec complex outcome is only one of many examples of penny-pinching townfolk exercising their vote, it is a classic example of the attitude of people in this community.

In the last two decades New Ulm residents and leaders have rejected numerous opportunities for progress. This attitude of penny-pinching in certain areas is holding the town back and forcing it to become stagnant while other communities move on and take prestige and business away from New Ulm.

The people in this town cannot

see beyond their pocketbooks. They do not look at the benefits to be gained from many of the bond issues they have rejected but merely concern themselves with the dollar. Most voters in this town are not willing to sacrifice a few bucks to preserve progress and keep New Ulm from getting "stale."

It is probably this constant rejection of progress that drives some young people away. Those who have any information can see that other towns of equal size offer a much broader spectrum of activities and opportunities while those who remain in New Ulm pick up the "ultraconservative" attitude of the community and unconsciously are consumed by it.

This conservative philosophy has a negative attitude that has also infiltrated the school. Students often see a negative side. Many times our sports teams go into a game beaten before the game even starts. Or if the going gets a little bit tough, our teams usually roll over and die.

The way it stands now, our school has gained a "roll over and die" reputation, especially in sports. Maybe if more of our townspeople could look past their pocketbooks, then maybe something might get done to reverse this negative thinking trend.

Think positive

by Scott Simkins

By now the rock-throwing incident at NUHS's assistant principal's house is history, but the reputation it gained our school lingers on.

The entire incident gained widespread attention as soon as it happened, and the episode that followed was very trying for those involved.

Although the happening may have started as a mischievous attempt at "getting back" at the assistant principal — something not out of the ordinary with the Dave Stead family — it soon turned into a dangerous crime with the possibility of a little girl getting severely injured.

It is a shame when this type of thing has to happen to a man who is just doing his job as he sees fit. Although there is a certain amount of threat that knowingly goes along with an assistant principal's job, there is no reason why something like this should have happened. Running a school takes a bit of discipline, and without this discipline, the school would soon turn into a zoo. It is a

little late to look at it in that light, but that is the way we students have to look at it.

But all told, our reputation as a school is still at stake. Because of the deeds of a few of our classmates, the townspeople have, once again, denounced us as hellions to the core. I know we all have some of it in us, but there is no need for a class or school to be continually ostracized for the wrongdoing of a few.

Again the negative thinking prevalent in this community is at work. As soon as an offense is committed, murmurs spread rapidly denouncing all of us.

Why not look upon the individuals in cases such as this? Instead, people would rather build up a negative image of today's youth. These same people should look at some of the good students are doing instead of always delving into the negative. Many fine students are unnoticeably doing a lot of good for our schools, the community, and themselves. There is no reason why all their hard work should go down the drain at the expense of a few criminal acts.

Diet starting tomorrow?

by Bernadine Hillesheim

I'd like to give you something to think about. How much self-discipline and will power do you have? Do you think you have quite a bit? See how you answer these questions:

- 1) Do you stay in bed in the morning 15 minutes or more after your alarm rings?
- 2) Do your diets always start tomorrow?
- 3) Is there something you really want to do, yet you never put enough effort into it to achieve it?
- 4) Do you ever decide you don't like some things about yourself and definitely decide you will change, yet your firm resolutions last only a day or two at the most?

These questions are just a few that illustrate some of the common faults we all have, but there are hundreds that would show our lack of self-discipline. For example, I and a majority of the girls I know often talk about dieting. The feeling is that we would be so happy and everything would be better if we'd just lose 10 pounds. I don't think this is a false feeling. It would be a very good feeling to lose 10 pounds. This goal becomes very important, yet we can't reach it. Oh, we can, but we don't try hard enough. I think this lack of discipline shows our stupidity because we want something very badly, yet we won't try hard enough to get it.

There are, however, a few tricks to help

us get more self-discipline. Actually, self-discipline wants you to have it, so it helps you get it. For example, all you have to do is start doing something, and it gets easier as time goes on. Habits aren't as hard to break that way. Someone told me if you do something 30 times it will become part of your regular behavior. So if you pig out when you get home from school and you want to break that habit, just don't do it 30 times and soon it will be much easier not to.

Another trick is to get ourselves very motivated. Sometimes I will read an article or a book, and for a day or so afterwards I can live exactly as the article suggested. But after the day or so is over, I lose that motivation and slip back into my old ways so one way to remain determined is to re-motivate ourselves regularly.

I think self-discipline can solve a lot more than just not eating too much or not getting out of bed in the morning on time. I know I'd be a much happier person if I'd do each day the things that come up that I ought to be doing. I'd get a lot more done in less time.

We all could benefit so much from self-discipline that I think everyone should make a serious effort to acquire more of it. All you have to do is try, and the self-discipline you're using for that will help you build up more.

Women just looking for some changes



by Barb Gitter

One of the biggest issues in today's society is Women's Liberation. This issue has often been discussed, so many of us are sick and tired of the continuous bickering about this very controversial matter.

What confuses a lot of people about Women's Liberation is that they are very unsure of what it really means.

To me, it is a setting free from any bonds that have been tied to women. Through the years, we have collected quite a few stereotypes that I feel have to be broken soon or we are headed for real trouble. We need to breakaway and live for ourselves and not for the establishment.

There have been many attempts to achieve women's freedom, but most of them have failed. Nevertheless, I'm sure that those endeavors will not cease in the future. As a growing woman in a fast moving world, I am as liberal as I want to be, but I am not a "bra-burner."

Being a woman's liberator doesn't mean you have to carry a picket sign and give speeches. One who wants to be a liberator only needs the patience and willingness to deal with people who feel it is unimportant that women should be treated equally. He has to be tolerant and have a broad mind. He is in favor of reforms and changes. He is not afraid to progress with the times instead of sitting back and refusing to let any new ways enter his life.

Women and politics are another big issue of Women's Movement. Many think that it is not right for a woman to run for President of the United States. In past years it was unheard of for a woman to run for any political office. Today we have advanced to where there are a few women in elective office, but no woman has been

seriously considered as a presidential candidate. The reasons for this to me are quite obvious. Men think that women are emotionally unstable and act only on intuition or emotion. Well, I am totally against any man who thinks in such a manner. Some of the men who have run for office and have been elected are hardly the most stable and secure people in this world. They have made as many irrational decisions as any woman of the same character and personality would have made.

Discrimination against women is an old problem. We have suffered since the beginning of time. We have always gotten the raw end of the deal. A very good example of this situation is a common sight in nearly every city. What I'm talking about is the reputation some women have. Once a woman has gained the reputation of being a lady of the evening, she is discriminated and looked down upon from then on. A woman does not become a nocturnal female by herself. The man who picks her up on the street is as sickening as she. But for some reason, people pay little or no attention to the man. As I see it, society accepts man as he is, but once a woman's character is suspect she is publicly open for mistreatment and discrimination.

The intent of this article is not to hurt or ridicule anyone. I am merely stating how I feel about Women's Liberation. I ask you not to agree or disagree with me, but to think for yourself and know how you feel about the issue. You have to get your head straight and know where you stand. For those of you who are against Women's Liberation, I understand, but hopefully in the future you will see how wrong you really are.

graphos

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No "sugar daddy" here New Ulm falling behind Joneses

by Dave Mildenberg

Since this is the last year many of us may be living in New Ulm, there is a natural inclination to reflect upon what New Ulm has meant to us these last 17 or 18 years. Along with this tendency to reflect usually goes "What has New Ulm DONE for us these last few years." I doubt this attitude is because we live in a "hand-out society," yet the fact remains we demand much from our city. One of our major demands is recreation. Thus the fact that a city recreation complex building program always creates a stirring of emotions should surprise no one.

Three years ago New Ulm voters rejected a grandiose \$3.7 million indoor-pool, sports center proposal. After the defeat, a Mankato State research group did a survey of New Ulm voters and discovered that an indoor swimming pool was the type of facility most favored. After the pool, requests for a facility of any kind fell dramatically. The MSU report went unheeded, however, and this past November a scaled-down \$1.5 million indoor pool-sports center proposal lost again by a substantial margin.

So New Ulm is without an indoor swimming pool, an indoor hockey arena, or an attractive auditorium for plays, operas, etc. In another age, this might seem unimportant but to a certain segment of New Ulm's population, this failure is an atrocity.

"New Ulm is the only town in Minnesota with a population over X that does not have an indoor pool." "It's not fair to our hockey team that they have to travel to St. Peter for their home games." "Our dramatic and musical performances

deserve better acoustics than the Junior High has to offer."

We hear these persuasive exclamations everytime a recreation complex is offered to the public. Yet this certain segment of New Ulm has been defeated every time by a low-key, more successful opposition.

The supposed reasons New Ulm has defeated the past rec-complex proposals are numerous and varied. Some will only vote for a pool, others only for a hockey rink. Others blame the parochial divisions in New Ulm. The strong conservatism in New Ulm is also cited.

Needless to say, it is time proponents of a recreation complex change their goals. This could mean building one addition at a time instead of grouping the facilities together. Or it could mean using private financing. New Ulm surely needs more recreational facilities, but as long as majority rule is in effect, we may never have these facilities at the public's expense. It would be frivolous for the city to try to pass another recreation-complex proposal if it is not significantly changed from the first two.

While one could say a lot of nasty, uncouth expletives about New Ulm for its failure to provide more recreation for its citizens, logically one must accept the explanation that New Ulm simply has not "tried to keep up with the Joneses." In other words, while other towns have built facilities, New Ulm has stood still. Whether this inaction is an asset or a liability is open to conjecture, but until a Rockefeller-like "sugar daddy" comes bouncing along, it is doubtful we will be swimming in New Ulm during January or watching our hockey team playing an actual "home" game.

The Guide Post

by Mr. Jim Zetah,
Counselor

Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas season is here. It is a time to reflect on the past and the present and give thoughts to the future. This is the season when peace, joy, love, and serenity all reign. I wonder though just how much of this Christmas attitude we really feel in our hearts? The presence of tinsel, plastics, man-made trees all contribute to the season's artificiality and we find ourselves asking, "What is real?" We can see the hypocrisy in people's actions, thoughts expressed in empty words, gifts exchanged for various motives, and feelings not matching what is expressed. But this Christmas season can be different. We can truly follow through with our good intentions and our realness and allow it to be visible every day.

A brief reading that I recently came upon expresses a true Christmas spirit very well.

I shall pass through this life but once.
Any good, therefore, that I can do
Or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it.
For I shall not pass this way again.

This poem brings me to a project that Ms. Webb and I have been discussing. The idea is to begin a Peer Contact Project. Wow! Sounds great! But what the heck is it? It's kids helping other kids in time of need. To lend a hand, to be there.

For example, each school year about twenty students transfer to our system. The majority do so at the beginning of the year and a few others at various times during the year. They all have one thing in common; they are strangers to our school and student body. We have thought how great it would be if each new student could come in contact with one or several of our students before school would start. We think transition between communities and schools could then be much more pleasant.

We would like to invite volunteers, students who would be willing to serve as Peer Contacts, to sign up in the guidance office. The volunteers in the Peer Contact Project would be involved in a training program this winter and spring.

We see the goals of the Peer Contact Program to be the following:

1. to learn more about yourself and others
2. to develop communication skills and to become more confident in using these skills with others
3. to apply interpersonal skills when helping new students at NUHS
4. to develop the ability to talk with others about feelings and personal concerns
5. to learn to utilize referral sources, such as counselors, teachers and administrators as a source of help for students
6. to be committed to the program of helping others

A time to give; a time to share

by Mr. Tom Wilson,
Principal

Christmas is now only a few days off, and my guess is that your visions of sugarplums have been replaced by visions of mag wheels, pantsuits, sweaters, and socket sets. Christmas has always been thought of as a time to receive nice presents and have fun times.

But, as you grow older, Christmas also becomes a time to find ways to give to others. High school age young people have been "takers" all their lives because they have been young and dependent upon their parents, relatives, teachers, and many, many others.

Now, in high school, you are making the transition to becoming a "giver." It is your turn to return to society what it has given to you. That is the only way our civilization can continue to grow.

How can you give? You don't need a lot of money. You could join a group and go

caroling for senior citizens or work with the Jaycees to distribute toys and food to needy families in New Ulm. Or you could do something as simple as telling your mom and dad that you appreciate what they have done for you. They've done a lot.

It doesn't cost much to make a craft gift for your best friend, and it costs even less to pass along a compliment to a teacher who has been kind of special for you. The opportunities to spread good will abound without limitation.

The very young and the very old are the most logical recipients because they tend to be the most dependent, but anyone would feel good if you thought of them. And you will discover that the feeling of giving is much better than the feeling of receiving. Give it a try.

We'll all be back after vacation to tackle more readin', writin', and 'rithmetic. In the meantime, the faculty of NUHS wish you the best Christmas ever and a Happy New Year. See you on January 3.



The Peer Contact volunteers would have an opportunity to establish a relationship with another student and hopefully be a friend. The Peer Contact would be like the Big Brother-Big Sister concept. I think it is especially appropriate to announce this plan at this time, the Christmas season when we think of others. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Webb or me.

Several reminders need to be made. Registration is now open for the next ACT Test to be given February 5, 1977. Applications are available in the guidance office. The deadline for application for the Minnesota State Scholarship-Grant-in-Aid is February 1, 1977. The Family Financial

Statement (FFS), which is filed at the same time, is also available in the guidance office.

Ms. Webb and I extend to each of you a wish for a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

Throughout the school year, many students' pictures appear in *The Graphos*. Students wishing to obtain the original photographs may receive them free by asking Mr. Weber for them. Preferably the pictures should be requested shortly after the paper is distributed.

Look out for loose lunatics

by Kathy Rathmann

Deep within the walls of NUHS, insanity is reaching out to strangle all imprisoned occupants. After a brief observation of NUHS students, one can be quite sure that the Dean of Lunacy is on a marble-stealing streak.

Neurosis, a stepping stone to mental illness, is defined as "repeated, involuntary mechanical reaction to fear- or anxiety-provoking situations," or simply "compulsive behavior." The senior lounge has caused neurotic behavior as vending machines cry out for customers and chocolate bars grab money and demand to be eaten. Some seniors are compulsive machine operators and have become turned on to the action of the delicacies slipping down the chute. Neurotic foosball players also prevail, not to mention those addicted to the fifteenth series of "Lucy" reruns. Compulsive talkers can be heard everywhere as they take on the responsibility of acting as official school Ambassadors of Hospitality and Gossip. Motor mouths possess an irresistible urge to exercise their vocal chords and have a knack for being dismissed from the library.

Phobias, irrational fears, are found in forms other than the common ones, such as claustrophobia and acrophobia. Typing students often develop a finger-feeling phobia, an acute terror of typewriters and a need to remain in view of one's hands. Juniors afflicted with Senske-phobia ex-

perience qualms and quivers when the words "test" or "lecture" are mentioned. Sophomores suffer from senior-phobia, an inability to utter more than a squeak in the presence of a senior.

Three of the major symptoms of emotional maladjustment, frustration, aggression, and depression can be found among students.

Frustration is found in the English student who, when given an in-class essay assignment, spends fifty minutes thinking of a unique topic and five minutes writing the essay. The end of the quarter brings frustration in many forms. A classic example is the person who spends six hours studying for a history test only to discover on Monday that the test was scheduled for Tuesday. The chemistry test, which he never thought about, was on Monday.

Aggression, a result of frustration, is evident throughout the school. One look at the drag-racing in the parking lot after school is an indication of the aggression students repress throughout the school day. The student council has felt it necessary to sponsor arm-wrestling and volleyball tournaments before school to help rid students of any excess psychic energy.

Depression sets in when procrastination is used to an extreme. The student continually avoids studying and has a complete homework breakdown. He needs a semi to carry his books home. His agenda includes studying for five tests, writing three research papers, and finishing two novels for which book reports are due, in addition to attending a three-hour session with his speech therapist.

When emotional maladjustments become severe, one is said to be mentally

disturbed, or to use more technical terms, "become unhinged, have a screw loose, or have bats in the belfry." Some examples of emotional disturbances include kleptomania, hypochondria, and perfectionism. Kleptomaniacs are quite abundant at NUHS and snatch everything from algebra solution keys to football jerseys. Hypochondriacs, those who complain about imaginary physical illnesses, seem to become sick whenever tests are given and papers are due. Perfectionists are constantly studying and fear missing a point on a test or using an eraser.

When one is past the stage of being "emotionally disturbed" and the marbles are completely spilled, he is said to be mentally ill or schizophrenic, a word known to drive throngs of people insane. Some symptoms of mental illness include disorientation and delusions of grandeur or persecution. Disorientation, defined as not knowing who or where one is, is a characteristic of a Chem I student as he walks out of class in a horror-stricken daze. Chem. II students are victims of a superiority complex and have delusions of grandeur as they create egotistical, idiotic, and juvenile bulletin board notices. Paranoid creatures have delusions of persecution and cautiously walk down halls expecting fiendish hoods to pop up behind them. Upon nearing their locker, they spread a six foot square of newspaper on the floor and grab a box of tissue expecting the worst. They kick, knock, sniff, and peak through the vents before opening their locker.

A serious discussion on psychology such as this cannot be complete without mention of the theories of the "father of psychology," Dr. Sigmund Freud. Freud developed the theory of the use of psychological defenses to protect one's ego. Regression, defined as "going back to an earlier stage of life," is a psychological defense quite evident in school. Seniors are trying to cling to their childish ways as long as possible by proudly displaying their carefully colored Christmas pictures. Letters to Santa may be featured next on the lounge blackboard. Rationalization, the ego defense of excusing one's actions with false reasons, is a common way of dealing with undone, overdue assignments. Excuses include such effective phrases as, "It's against my religion," "My dad thought it was a Sears and Roebuck catalog and I won't say what that's used for," and "My piranha fish got loose and ate it."

Yes, insanity is clutching at us more and more each day. We are doomed to graduate as lunatics. Whoever said high school is the best time of life had to be insane!

From time to time The Graphos gets letters from students that aren't signed. Newspapers don't publish unsigned letters, but they do publish letters that have been signed, and the writer's name has been withheld at his request. The Graphos will honor the wishes of any contributors, but all items must initially be signed!

Bicentennial year ending

Lying in wait for the Tricentennial craze

by Naomi Isenberg

After months of seeing bicentennial shoes, dogs, houses, T-shirts, ties, and commercials encouraging me to eat bicentennial cereal, I was sickened at the mere mention of the word "bicentennial."

Then one night I was awakened to an eerie rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever." In the far corner of my room appeared an apparition dressed as the Statue of Liberty.

"I am the ghost of centennial past," it said. "Follow me."

The ghost and I walked through the wall and suddenly we were standing in the middle of a fairgrounds. Women, wearing long dresses with bustles, accompanied by their bearded husbands and impish children, trudged through the quagmire made by a previous rainfall. The mud brought to mind tales of Farmfest '76, but I decided not to mention it. My spectral companion motioned for us to move on and I found, to my relief, that the mud had no effect on me and everyone was oblivious to my presence.

"We are at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia" my leader explained. "It's opening day May 10, 1876."

"Oh, no," I thought, "One giant centennial commercial." I began to change my mind, however, as we went into the first exhibition hall.

Before me were exhibits from 49 different countries. There was British fur-

niture, French woven material, and Krupp artillery from Germany, but by far the most unique exhibition was from Venezuela. It had sent a portrait of George Washington woven from the hair of their ruler, Simon Bolivar.

There was still a great deal to see so we soon moved on. While walking to the science hall I noticed that President Grant had gotten lost in the crowd. To help the president find his way back, his aids had the band play "Hail to the Chief."

The science hall was the most impressive exhibition hall. In that building people were able, for the first time, to see a telephone refrigerator car, air brake, self-binding reaper and the latest thing in false teeth. I was not done looking when my mentor took me to another strange sight, a pavillion with the forearm of Frederic Bartholdi's unfinished Statue of Liberty as its center.

When I had had enough of being inside the huge, metal arm, we went to the grandstand to listen to the "Centennial March," which Richard Wagner had written for a mere fee of \$5000. Beside us, Henry W. Longfellow was still fuming about losing his reserved seat to a lowly squatter while only a few feet away police were trying to bounce Frederick Douglas from his seat of honor.

I began to get tired from being kept so long from my sleep so I begged the ghost to hurry through the last exhibits. Before I could blink, we were standing in the art

gallery. The first thing to catch my eye was a melting statue of the head Iolan, the maid of butter. One of the sturdiest art forms was a replica of the liberty bell consisting entirely of tobacco plugs, but the most popular piece of all was a rather risque statue of Cleopatra.

I was wondering where we were going next when the ghost said, "The people in this time have their problems too. The wounds of the Civil War are still festering, the scandals of the Grant administration

have been discovered, yellow fever, TB, and diphtheria are on the rampage, the average life span is 40 years, but the people are still celebrating. They are celebrating their accomplishments, something we often ignore."

I was about to reply that I agreed when I was suddenly returned to my room. I waited the rest of the night for the ghosts of Bicentennial present and Tricentennial yet to come, but they never came for I had already learned my lesson.

Test Prayer

Now I lay me down to study,
I pray the Lord I won't go nutty.
And if I fail to learn this junk,
I pray the Lord that I won't flunk.
But if I do, don't pity me at all,
Just lay my bones in the study hall.
Tell my teacher I've done my best,
Then pile my books upon my chest.
Now I lay me down to rest,
To pray I'll pass tomorrow's test.
If I should die before I wake,
That's one less test I'll have to take.

by Nanc

Hiding behind whiskers

Bearded wizard sets world afire

by Marcia Quiggle

Many students have been lucky enough to have had Mr. Podolske as their chemistry teacher. Dedicated to him, this article can amuse small children for hours.

Does anyone really know what Mr. Podolske does with all of the broken glass he gathers? Rumor has it that besides being an esteemed member of the world famous Concord Singers, he is also a skilled glassblower in disguise. Under that beard it's hard to tell. It is believed that Mr. Podolske reforms hundreds of broken test tubes and beakers back into a useful state only to be shattered into a million pieces again. Do you believe in reincarnation? The test tube you broke yesterday just may have been a beaker from another life, or at least from another class.

And what about the distillery in the back of his office? Our honest-faced chemistry teacher claims that he is distilling water, but where does his ample supply of ethyl alcohol come from?

Mr. Podolske possesses a very special talent. He has the ability to completely baffle an entire class with a single lecture. My only explanation for his behavior is that he is in a contest with Mr. Ferret to see who can fill the blackboard the most times in one class period.

Our beloved chemistry teacher is indeed a true scientist. Nicknamed "Iron Lung," Mr. Podolske is able to withstand poisonous gases that send his students flying out into the hall gasping for air.

He always prepares very well for experiments. He writes the lab procedure on the blackboard, places chemicals to be used on a cart, and even tests the matches to make sure they light.



Gazing through the inevitable speck of dust on his glasses, a light comes into Mr. Wes Podolske's eyes as he contemplates his next twelve-page "powertest."

Obviously not an ecologist, Mr. Podolske prints schedules, runs off worksheets, and types tests on reams and reams of paper. Since many students lose their schedules, make paper airplanes out of their worksheets, and never even get to the last twenty-nine pages of their tests, he can be accused of deliberately wasting a valuable natural resource.

Ask Mr. Podolske about his national heritage sometime. He will make it clear to you that he is barely a Pole and almost a Russian, since the Podolske homeland is very close to the Russian border. He can talk about the communist plot for at least forty days and nights.

Podolske, also known as "Coach" gives his students these wise words of advice: "If you want to be cute and drink out of the eyewash fountain, be careful not to rinse out your ear," and "In the heat of battle don't try to cool off under the emergency shower, but take two aspirin and get a good night's rest."

Some people may get the wrong impression of Mr. Podolske's desire to make all of his students into chemistry experts. Believe me, he has an ulterior motive. In case any of his students make millions on a scientific discovery, Mr. Podolske has already claimed ten per cent off the top.

Super-human Mr. Podolske does not make mistakes. Occasionally, however, a speck of dust on his glasses may cause him to write something wrong on the blackboard, but it is never his fault.

Amidst Redox equations, Avogadro's number, gooch crucibles, and covalent bonds, Mr. Podolske can be overheard saying a variety of four-letter words like read, work, gram, test.

To make a long story short, a minute or three after seventh hour terminates Mr. Podolske will say to himself, "Self, let's call it a day," and he will migrate home to dream about tomorrow's effort.

NUHS caste ladder

by Matt Dahl

I cannot accept full credit (or blame) for this item; the basic idea came from something I saw on a college bulletin board. However, in my opinion the idea applies to NUHS rather well.

The Principal

- is faster than a speeding bullet
- leaps over tall buildings in a single bound
- is more powerful than a railroad locomotive
- walks on water
- often converses with God

The Teacher

- is almost as fast as a speeding bullet
- leaps over low buildings in a single bound
- is more powerful than a semi-truck
- walks on water but gets his feet wet
- occasionally converses with God

The Senior Student

- can barely keep with a speeding B-B
- leaps over very low buildings in two or three bounds
- is about as powerful as a Volkswagen
- has to use water skis
- is sometimes addressed by God

The Junior Student:

- doesn't even try to race with B-Bs
- has to walk around buildings
- has trouble holding his own with a power lawnmower
- gets his feet wet crossing small streams
- is rarely noticed by God

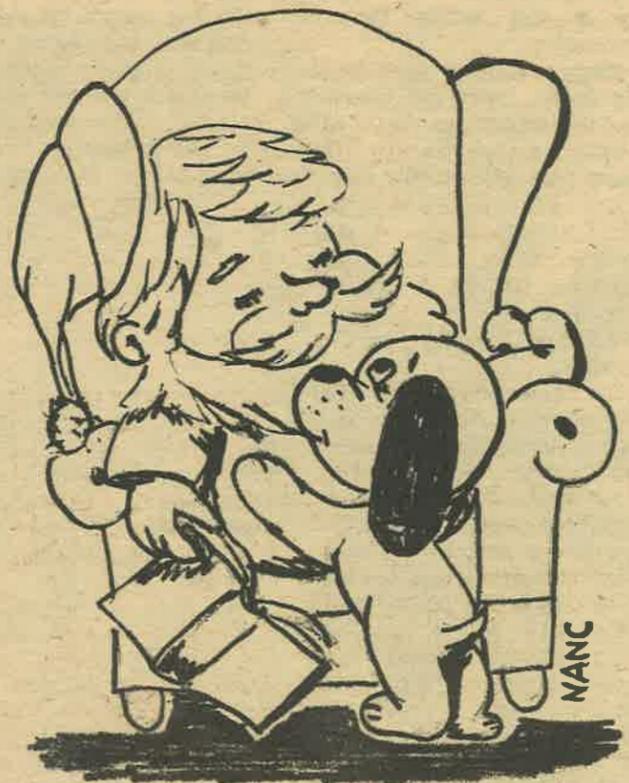
The Sophomore Student:

- is barely fast enough to get to school on-time
- can't find his way around buildings
- can't compete with a speeding tricycle
- falls into mud puddles
- doesn't even exist in the eyes of God

But the Assistant Principal

- catches speeding bullets in his mouth and eats them
- smashes through tall buildings
- kicks locomotives out of his way
- parts the water in front of him

He is God!





Common worship brings together best of two countries

by Dana Heymann

Several years ago my family traveled in Mexico during December. Arriving in Taxco for Christmas, we had a rare opportunity to participate in a typically Mexican Christmas eve celebration. With only a few exceptions, we found the Mexican Christmas customs markedly different from the traditions of my family.

As we strolled around the main square Christmas eve morning, we noted that shop windows and streets were unadorned with yuletide decorations. As people moved about their business, the scurry of last minute Christmas shoppers was missing.

Soaking up sun by the pool that afternoon was an unusual change of pace. On December 24th our home is a flurry of activities. I am usually amidst the clutter of bright ribbons and paper busily wrapping Christmas gifts while Dad warms the car in the driveway waiting to deliver the last minute packages. Tempting aromas waft from the kitchen as Mom whips up yummy concoctions for the evening meal and calls to Johnny and Patrick not to wrestle with the dog under the Christmas tree.

It wasn't until we entered the dining room of the hotel for our evening meal that we felt that Christmas had arrived. Although the familiar reds and greens were missing, the rainbow colors of paper streamers, mobiles, and flowers of all sizes provided a festive air, and we all agreed that enchilladas were more appropriate in this setting than our traditional turkey.

After dinner we joined other families gathering in the courtyard where we recognized the familiar melodies of carols being sung in Spanish by three troubadours with guitars. We hummed

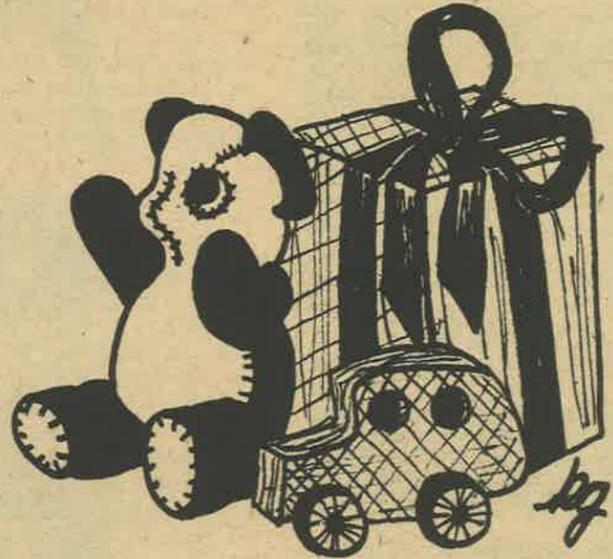
along enjoying what was for us an unusual accompaniment while at the same time translating the lyrics in our minds. Soon a young Mexican Mary riding a donkey with her young Joseph walking along side arrived. Candles were distributed to everyone and lit as we formed a line behind Mary and Joseph. The procession followed a candle lit pathway ending in the courtyard where a pinata had been hung in the midst of the paper streamers.

Pushing and shoving each other, children eagerly anticipated their turn to take a swing at the pinata. Each in his turn was blindfolded and twirled around so that he would beat the air in all directions. To prolong the survival of the pinata so everyone might have a turn, it was maneuvered to be always just out of range. When at last it was broken and the goodies came toppling down, youngsters tumbled helter-skelter to gather up all their little hands, cheeks, and pockets could hold.

Had we been at home that evening, we'd have gathered together near a crackling fire in the fireplace with the gaily decorated fir tree close by while we exchanged gifts with each other.

Suddenly the sky exploded with a brilliant fireworks display. Startled, we gave questioning looks to each other. It was more like our noisy July 4th celebration than the soft white quietness of home where the solitude of our wooded yard was only occasionally interrupted by the sounds of muted church bells. Joyously clanging church bells soon added to the bursting noise of the Mexican sky. Heading toward the local Cathedral for midnight mass, we were joined along the way by Mexican families. As we entered the church together, we realized that in spite of our different customs one which we had in common was to worship the same Lord on the night of His birth.

Homemade gifts stretch your dollars



by Deb Bowar

Along with the Christmas season comes the spirit of giving. Unfortunately a person's spirit of generosity often outruns his supply of money. A way to make what money you do have go a little farther is to make some gifts yourself. Not only is this a way to save money but also a way to personalize your gift and add your own special touches.

The types of gifts you can make for someone special on your list are endless. Kits are available for almost anything in many variations of difficulty.

A few ideas for gifts are to knit or crochet anything from a sweater to mittens, embroider a shirt, hook a rug, make pictures in crewel or needlepoint, or make an afghan. With the plant craze we have today you may consider a macramed plant hanger. A popular gift item this year is a heritage box. It's a gift almost anyone would enjoy, and its possibilities are limited only by one's imagination. Candles can be made free form or with molds.

Quilling (winding thin strips of paper on a pin) is an interesting craft that can be used to make Christmas decorations or wallhangings. Other tree decorations are available in kits to paint, decoupage, color and bake to shrink, needlepoint, and bead. Without a kit you can make toy soldiers from clothespins, straw ornaments in shapes of stars or angels from straw, drums from styrofoam and covered with colorful paper, or figures such as snowmen from different sized pom-poms.

This list of possibilities is only the beginning. There are endless ideas. If you would like to find more ideas or get more details on an item mentioned see the local hobby shop. Books are also available on just about everything. They give step-by-step instructions and ideas you can use in the making of a special gift or decoration.

A homemade gift is special because you took the time to make something unique for that important person on your Christmas list.



One of New Ulm's Christmas traditions is the Christmas tree that is erected annually in front of City Hall.



Christmas basket project spreading good cheer the Jaycee way



by Roxana Peterson

The month of December is the season for gifts and giving. The New Ulm Jaycees are once again into the Christmas spirit with their annual Christmas Basket project.

The basket project involves the distribution of toys and food to needy individuals in order to brighten their Christmas holiday with things they may otherwise not have been able to afford. The baskets are completely funded through donations of toys and money from various organizations and individuals.

Several area businesses and organizations are offering their services in this year's drive. The Journal office is serving as the center for money gifts, both those received in the mail and those brought in directly.

The Quik Stop restaurant is offering a

free hamburger to anyone bringing in a toy or gift before December thirteenth. Another New Ulm restaurant, the Sportsman's Grill, is offering half prices on meals to anyone donating a toy in an effort to encourage contributions. The Welcome Wagon offers its yearly mitten tree, and the Farmers and Merchants Bank will be holding the deposited funds.

John Erickson, manager of Champion Auto of New Ulm, was appointed chairman of the project by the Jaycees. Mr. Erickson is very enthusiastic about the program and hopes to complete and distribute 80 to 100 baskets. (The exact amount of baskets is determined by the amount of money received.)

Last year donations were received after

the deadline, and this extra money was used to purchase about fifty fruit baskets which were distributed in area nursing homes. This year, however, Mr. Erickson states that if the money received by December 15 does not meet the 80 basket goal, the Jaycees will meet the bill. Thus any money sent after the deadline will be used to pay them back.

The families receiving baskets are chosen by Brown County Family Services. Each basket will be made up to meet the needs of its recipient; for instance, an elderly person would receive mostly food while a family with small children may receive toys, food, or clothing. The Christmas baskets were assembled on the 16th in the senior high Ag Room. Deliveries were made on the 17th with the help of approximately 20 JC volunteers. The families were notified in advance, and if they were unable to be home, the baskets were left at Brown County Family Services where the family can pick them up.

The Jaycees only reward for their hard work is the thanks of those receiving the baskets, but in their opinion this is reward enough. Mr. Erickson mentioned a letter received from a young mother last year. She stated that she had no plans for buying her children any toys for Christmas, for she simply couldn't afford any. She and her children were overjoyed by the toys included in their basket, and she just had to express her thanks.

The happy ending of that story is just one example of the success of the Christmas basket program. The Jaycees will attempt to cheer the holidays of 80 more such families this Christmas, and with the generous contributions of others, they'll succeed.

Foreign Christmas for Tughan won't be lonely

by Susan Deming

With the Christmas season upon us, some of us may wonder about Tughan Alpat's thoughts on Christmas. Tughan Alpat, an A.F.S. student from Turkey, will be spending Christmas in a foreign country, the United States. Will he be lonely or miss a festive family gathering?

Well, no, not really. Christmas is not a major celebration in Turkey as it is in the United States. Christmas is primarily a Christian holy day in its religious sense. The Christians of Turkey celebrate Christmas, but they are a very small minority. Ninety-eight percent of Turkey is of the Moslem religion. Moslems, as a rule, do not celebrate Christmas so Christmas is not celebrated to any great extent in Turkey.

Tughan says his family celebrates Christmas, however. They celebrate it as

the beginning of a new year and not as a religious observance. For instance, last year Tughan and his family visited Tughan's uncle in Istanbul where they drank champagne at a fun get-together. When asked if there was any exchanging of gifts in his family at Christmas, Tughan said, "When my sister and I were little, our parents would give us gifts at Christmastime. But now there is not much of that anymore since my sister and I are both away from home. My sister goes to the University of Istanbul so she is not home much."

This year Christmastime for Tughan will probably not be lonely even though he is away from his family because of the excitement, commercialism, and obvious importance (religious or otherwise) that we, as Americans, place on Christmas.



Although Christmas is not customarily celebrated to a great extent in Turkey, Tughan is not finding it difficult to be swept into the Christmas spirit.



As can be seen by this arrangement, stacking the beer cans for display may take as long as collecting them.

Farmfest cans valuable

Polka, beer capital lure can collectors

by Bob Skillings

New Ulm, known to many as Minnesota's beer capital, very appropriately has been caught up in one of the latest American fads, beer can collecting.

Many students in New Ulm High School have beer can collections. "It's a good hobby," Pat Simon, a junior, remarked when asked why he collected all those seemingly worthless cans. "And it is worthwhile; some are worth money and all are interesting to look at."

Pat has been collecting beer cans for three years and owns a very fine collection. He puts a lot of time and effort into the care and displaying of his collection. He belongs to several beer can collectors clubs, among them the most prominent in the United States, Beer Can Collectors of America (BCCA).

The BCCA, founded in 1970 by seven men in St. Louis, Missouri, holds many "conventions" during the course of the year. A "convention" gathers members of the BCCA together to display their collections for the public, talk shop, and trade. It is a well organized club and has the most members of any beer can club in America.

Mark Stoering, a sophomore in NUHS, also belongs to BCCA. He is an avid collector and has an excellent collection. He pointed out that "A collection will be

worth as much as you put into it." He also added that a can's value is determined by age, condition, and the number of cans made. Mark has been collecting for four years.

Todd Boelter, also a sophomore in NUHS, began his collection three years ago. He likes the hobby and enjoys the different types of cans. He trades with collectors all over the country and has many different styles and sizes of cans.

All three agree that without Schell's Brewery in New Ulm, their collections wouldn't be as good. Schell's has been a significant factor in the success of beer can buffs in and around New Ulm. They are easily obtained and make good trading material with non-resident beer can collectors. The Farmfest '76 beer can Schell's produced commemorating Farmfest is of even greater value because so few were made and it was a commemorative issue. The Farmfest cans aren't easily obtained, and many collectors are tightly holding on to them.

Schell's is only one of about 12,000 domestic beer labels made since 1935. In 1935 the American Can Company introduced the first beer can for the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company. Ever since, names such as King Snedley's, Cloud Nine, Tube City, and Schlitz have been appearing on the faces of metal beer cans.

Band notes

by Kathy Rathmann

Eight students from New Ulm High School attended the nineteenth annual Concert Band Festival at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, November 19 and 20.

Those who participated in the festival included Scott Hogen, Roxanna Peterson, Chris Dewanz, Sue Swenson, Kathy Rathmann, Sue Albright, Kristi Eilers, and Cindy Sperling. Mr. Curt Iverson, director of bands at NUHS, accompanied the students.

At the festival students rehearsed in concert bands composed of high school band members from Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Dr. Frank Bencriscutto, director of bands at the University of Minnesota, was the guest conductor at the festival. Several students from New Ulm rehearsed with sight-reading bands and practiced the skill of performing music without previous study.

To conclude the festival, a concert was given by the Augustana Concert Band and two of the student bands under the direction of Dr. Bencriscutto.

Musical in spring

One-act play brings child's memories

by Terri Risius

The winter season of school activities has begun once again at NUHS, and it seems that major topics for discussion are the big games and meets that have already taken place or will take place in the future. But one activity most of the student body overlooks is the upcoming Sub-Region, One-Act Play Contest on January 22, 1977.

A one-act play is exactly what it says, a play consisting of a single act. There is no scenery in the play so improvisation is a necessary element in the production. Lots of imagination must be used when presenting a one-act.

There are many types of plays including

comedies, musicals, and tragedies. Very few restrictions govern one-act plays, but a play cannot have more than nine characters and may not last longer than thirty-five minutes. Two or three professional judges evaluate the competition. They judge the plays on stage presentation, quality of acting, and originality of directing.

Like athletic contests through the state of Minnesota, one-act plays are given the opportunity to advance through sub-region, region, and state levels of competition. Participating schools in the Sub-Region contest on January 22 at Marshall are Marshall, Fairmont, New Ulm, Mankato East, Mankato West, St. Peter, and Worthington. All these schools belong to Class AA. Competition will begin at

10:00 a.m. and New Ulm will perform at 11:30. If anyone is interested in attending, spectators are permitted. The top two plays selected will advance to the Regional Contest at Mankato West, January 29, 1977.

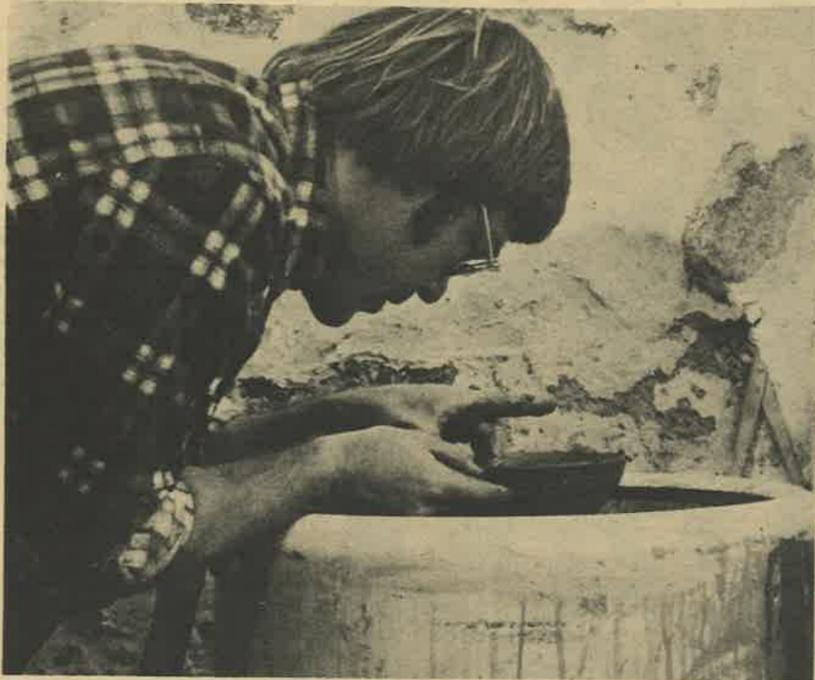
This year's cast will perform a play entitled "The War on Tatem" by Mark Medoff, who is, according to Mrs. Carol Ackerson, a brilliant new writer. The play is a simple story which takes place in the Tatem Waterway Apartments. The story is told by an adult who relives a childhood experience; this experience is a gang fight in which the little villain gets hit on the nose with a cap gun. The play becomes quite funny since the actors must pretend they are between the ages of six and ten years old.

There are eight characters in the play which will be directed by Mrs. Ackerson. The cast includes Mark Pizel as Louis Dunbar, Keith Scheible as Prince Herman, Wayne Roddy as Eddie Berkowitz, and Randy Hartten as Boysy Dunbar. Johanna Johnson will play the role of Sissy Frankle while Shelley Reinking will be Richard Richard. Also appearing in the play will be Tom Thompson as Murray Moskowitz and Todd Horner as King Myron.

Let's wish the cast and Mrs. Ackerson lots of luck in their upcoming performance. Also, as a reminder to other actors and vocalists, don't forget that NUHS will be presenting a musical this spring. Use your talents and get involved. It should be a memorable theatrical experience.



Aufderheide; 'going to pot'(s)



Plagued by problems with proper thickness when he began, Mr. Aufderheide takes meticulous care when shaping his pots today.

by Vicky Helget

Mr. Jim Aufderheide is not only the English teacher some of you know, but he's also a very fine craftsman. His skill is pottery.

His interest in pottery started five years ago while Mr. Aufderheide was teaching at St. Cloud Apollo. He says his wife got him started because she was the one who was interested in clay. Since the art class Mrs. Aufderheide wanted to take was 30 miles away, he decided to drive her there. In doing so the teacher talked him into taking the course. This was the only class he took, but he enjoyed it and continued to work with clay.

"I learned about clay through reading and trying things out. Also, art teacher Mr. Lloyd Marti has been a great help." Mr. Aufderheide felt reading wasn't the ideal way of learning how to make pottery. In his first two years of making pots, he saved only two. He would complete a pot, cut it in half to check the width of the walls, and continue to work on it until he was satisfied with the pot.

Mr. Aufderheide seldom makes anything without using his homemade potter's wheel and feels the hardest part of working with it is getting the pot centered. His potter's wheel is not the only hand-

made equipment he has. Wire mesh shelves, the cement top table, and all his glazes are also homemade. The only purchased equipment used in his hobby is the kiln, an oven used to bake and harden the clay.

Pottery may seem to be a rather expensive hobby, but Mr. Aufderheide stated that he makes enough money selling his work to meet all expenses. The most costly item needed is the kiln and the glaze. The clay itself runs only about \$10 per 100 pounds.

Mr. Aufderheide enjoys making large pots but says he must make what sells the best which is hanging pots and cups. One of his favorite pieces of work is a windchime 48 inches high and 12 inches wide. In the future he hopes to have more time to do this type of work.

Aufderheide feels he had an exciting experience selling and demonstrating pottery at the Heritage Fest this summer. Not only did he sell his pots, but he also set up his equipment and demonstrated some of his work.

After five years of working with clay, Mr. Aufderheide has become quite skilled. He enjoys his hobby and says, "My biggest goal is to get a pottery shop of my own set up."



From useful bowls, vases, and cups to decorative hangings and ornaments, almost anything can be made from clay. Pottery can also be a tremendous idea for Christmas gifts.

U.S., homeland share problems

by David Mildenberg

When a person dreams about traveling to England, he conjures up pictures of Big Ben, Parliament, Windsor Castle and the other world-famous images of Great Britain. I know that is what my anticipation of my trip to London consisted of. Yet, one month after the trip ended, I am struck by the fact that what has impressed me the most was not the beautiful buildings, art objects, and scenery I saw but the attitudes and problems of the British people I met.

This impression does not degrade any of the attractions that drew me to England in the first place. In fact, there were some amazing things I saw, such as, Stonehenge, a burial ritual grounds which is many hundreds of years old.

Observers of England surely know the economic mess England finds herself in today. Because of this mess, English people discuss the economy probably as

much as Minnesotans discuss the Vikings. Since I was in London on a political science trip sponsored by Mankato State University and the course consisted of lectures by leading British figures, these problems were brought to light even more than usual to me. We attended talks by university professors, members of Parliament, union and business leaders. Many lecture sessions dealt with England's combination of high inflation and unemployment and low productivity and growth. Despite this predicament, the general attitude of the speakers was that England's economy was improving, although much of this improvement depended on the economy of the United States.

Likewise, the general attitude of the people I met at bus-stops, on subways, and in parks was that things are improving. One of the reasons for this feeling was that, unlike a few years ago, the government and the unions are now cooperating to a greater extent. This cooperation is essential in England, where the unions hold a virtual check over any govern-

mental decision because of their enormous power.

Another important issue in England today is nationalized medical care. In England doctors are paid by the state to the tune of 4 dollars per patient per year. That figure does not vary due to the number of visits by a patient. Thus doctors must have 2,000 patients on their lists to make \$8000 a year. Not being a very profitable profession, many highly-educated students pick other vocations than medicine to work. Hence, doctors are not the "cream of the crop" as we like to think they are here.

It would be unfair to talk about England's National Health Service (NHS) without giving a few of its advantages. For one, a person does not have to pay high insurance bills in case he gets hurt as one does here. These low rates are possible because the government pays the entire bill for any injury except a nominal fee.

A third major issue dominating conversation during my stay was race relations. When England's former colonies became independent, people from the

Commonwealth nations could freely immigrate to England. So when one walks in London, you see many Indians, Pakistanis, and West Indians, most of whom hold low-paying, service-type jobs. The relations between these foreigners and the white Englishmen are strained since the Englishmen feel it is unfair that these foreigners have all the benefits of England's welfare state when they have not contributed much. During the time I was in London, a large-scale riot took place between black West Indians and white London policemen.

This problem has gotten so extreme that one ultra-right organization has urged the removal of all unemployed, non-white foreigners.

So although the British are different from Americans in pace, style and attitudes, we share common problems that have difficult solutions. My trip to England heightened my awareness that this world of ours is interrelated. As Englishman Isaac Watts said before the invention of the 747, "Nothing tends so much to enlarge the mind as traveling."

sports

"Balanced" hockey team hopes to upend foes



Jim Schwarz prepares to take a face-off during the Hutchinson game, which New Ulm won easily.

by Tom Wyczawski

This year's Eagle hockey team will be facing new challenges and more pressure than ever.

After a fine 17-2 record last year, the team will have a tough time improving that record, but all the players and Coach Mr. Tom Macho will sure give it a try.

This year's team consists of 12 returning lettermen and 9 newcomers. The returning lettermen are seniors Tim Steinbach, Brian Meyer, Scott Simkins; juniors, Pat Davis, Dean Laraway, Scott Fischer, Bryon Dahl, Mike Hitchcock, Jeff Van Kuelen; sophomores, Gary Hogen, Tom Steinbach and Randy Paa. New additions to the team are senior Jim Schwarz, sophomores Jeff Schugel, Bill Fischer, Mark French, Steve Sturm, Tom Leske, and three freshman Paul Macho, Peter Macho, and Terry Steinbach. The team will be cut to 18 members later.

Last year the Eagles relied quite heavily upon its first line of Tim Steinbach, Doug Gulden, and Tom Hengel. This line scored a total of 225 points for the year out of the team's 320. Coach Macho said, "This year's team will be more balanced than last year, and we'll rely on four strong lines instead of last year's one."

Of the returning lettermen, Tim Steinbach had 88 points, brother Tom 23, Pat Davis 19, Mike Hitchcock 17, Scott Fischer 9, Brian Meyer and Gary Hogen had 2 each, and Jeff Van Kuelen, Scott Simkins and Dean Laraway had 1 point apiece. Randy Paa failed to score. Bryan Dahl was the leading goaltender with 331 saves during the season. That gave him an outstanding goal point against average of only 2 goals per game. Jeff Schugel will be

battling with Dahl for the starting position this year.

New Ulm will be playing in The Minnesota Central league this year consisting of Faribault, Prior Lake, LeSueur, Montgomery, Red Wing, St. Peter, New Ulm, and Northfield.

New Ulm will be playing all its home games at Lund Arena on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter.



Tension and fatigue show in the faces of the players and Coach Senske during a time-out in the Sleepy Eye game.



Tim Steinbach's booming slap shot has already resulted in several goals for New Ulm this season.



New Ulm's South Central All-Conference football players are, from left to right, Dana Bloedel, Scott Stuckey, Dan Walden, and Jeff Sievert.

Woman-to-woman defense

Coaches pushing BB girls, improving daily

by Kirk Gregg

The new head basketball coach for the New Ulm Eaglettes, Mr. Lyle Sparrowgrove, says "It won't be easy for the girls to adapt to a new coach and his ideas, but the girls are working hard."

Sparrowgrove commented on five major areas in his basketball program for this year: conditioning, offense, defense, experience, and strategy. Starting with conditioning, Sparrowgrove explained, "Running is very good but I try to work this into drills where more than just running and conditioning are accomplished. Many girls' teams run out of gas in the 4th quarter, and I believe conditioning is the reason why."

The new coach feels that his offense will vary from game to game depending on the type of defense he runs into. So far the coach plans on running two basic offenses, the 1-3-1 rotating offense and a screen and roll woman-to-woman offense. When the team gets into good condition, it will be fast breaking also.

Defensively, Sparrowgrove will be playing the girls in a 2-3 zone, 1-2-2 zone, and a woman-to-woman defense. The Eaglettes will not be very tall this year, but will try to be very aggressive on defensive attacks. Also, if the situation arises when full court pressure becomes

necessary, the team will be prepared to use it.

The team will be rather inexperienced this year, and the new coach stressed that the girls will have to spend time adjusting to a new coach and his way of coaching. Naturally different coaches have different ways of teaching their players basketball techniques.

Seniors Sara Wyczawski, Maria Achman, Deb Kramer, and junior Cindy Hoffrogge had some game action last year but still are not fully experienced.

Coach Sparrowgrove added, "There is really no strategy unless the other team has a weakness and you take advantage of that weakness."

Mr. John Ferret is also a new face in the coaching department in the school system this year. Ferret will be assisting Sparrowgrove in coaching the Eaglettes to a desired winning season. Both coaches have been putting the girls through heavy workouts and have liked what they've seen. Sparrowgrove observed that "we're inexperienced and young but the attitudes are good. Our season will depend on how well we get our defensive and offensive fundamentals down. The girls are showing improvement daily, but there is always room for more. The conference is going to be tough and we hope to finish near the middle."



Part of the heavy practices that Coach Lyle Sparrowgrove advocates involves frequent shooting drills which Patty Tauer's efforts illustrate.

Lean with experience, grapplers hope to pin down titles

by Bill Ostrom

Because New Ulm's wrestling team has 8 returning lettermen, it should be fairly experienced. Experience is important because confidence, which plays a vital role in success, results from the experience.

John Dietz, a senior who wrestled last year for the Eagles, is one example of how confidence can help win a match. Dietz had "fire in his eyes" as he was sure of victory in his match with a Gaylord opponent. With his experience Dietz was

more confident and poised and these advantages enabled him to pin his opponent.

Sophomore Rich and freshman Doug Hoffman, are also returning to the Eagles with wrestling experience. Doug, who wrestled as an eighth grader, compiled a 4-10-1 record, but with the assistance from his experience he will probably improve. His record so far is 3-1 this year.

Rich Hoffman, who had an excellent season last year for the Eagle varsity, is also starting out well with a 3-1 record. Last year when he was only a freshman, Rich achieved 14 victories for the Eagle mat men.

The team has also given other wrestlers a chance for varsity competition. With Terry Kuck, an eighth grader, and sophomores Jeff McKenzie and John LeGare wrestling on the varsity level, the team will have three wrestlers who will do nothing but improve over their next few years.

By combining the new and old faces of this year's wrestlers, the team should also get better as this season progresses. In fact, it looks as if the wrestling program can look forward to several fine years of wrestling success because some of the current varsity members are not even in senior high school.



Bob Gieseke, above left, appears to be trying to knock some sense into his opponent's head while Mike Hoppe, above right, expresses the "thrill of victory" as he puts his opponent in a near-fall position.



BB: optimism and improvement

by Tom Rodenberg

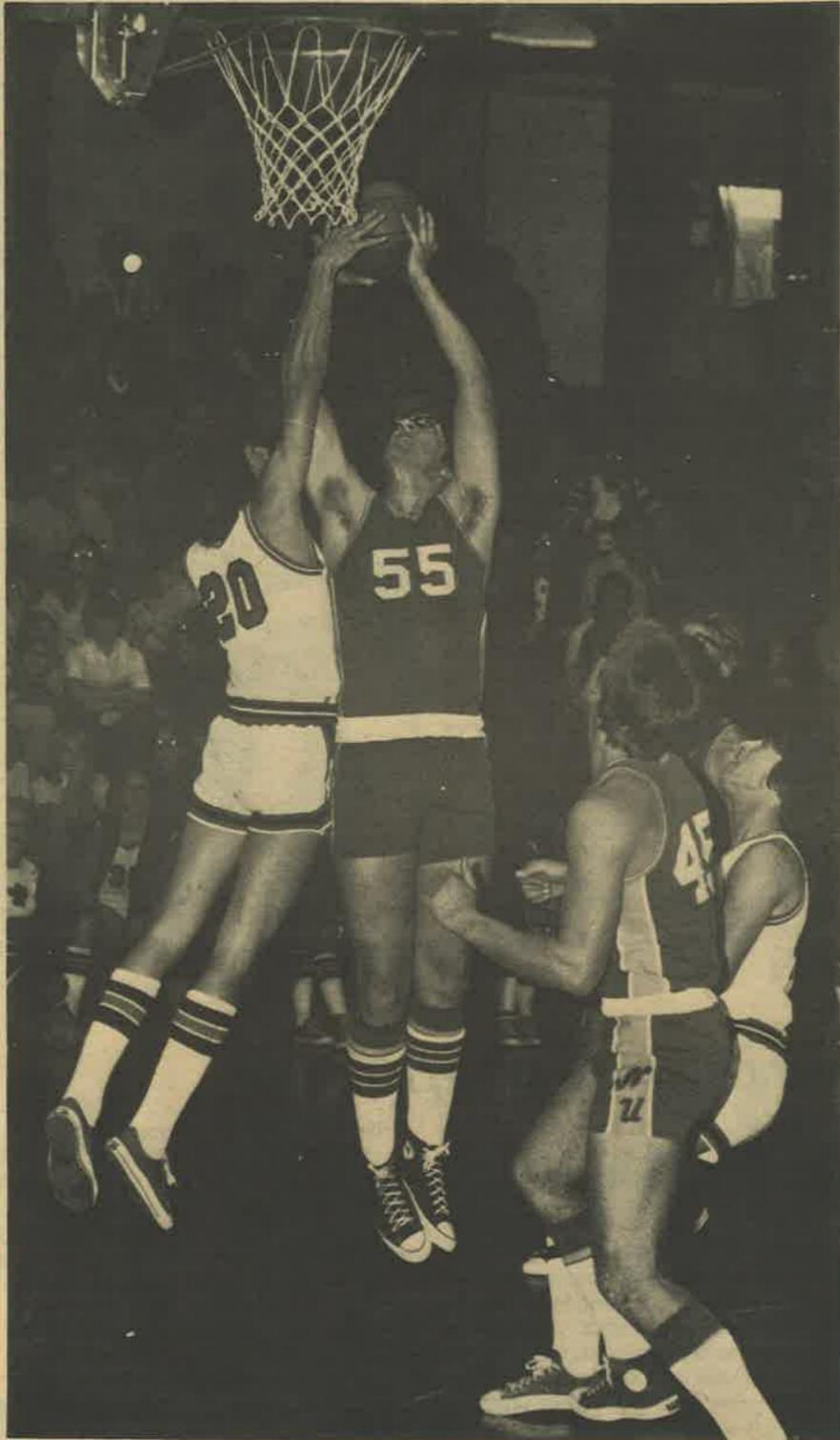
Despite their unfortunate early season upset, the Eagles enter the 1976-77 basketball campaign with an optimistic attitude for a marked improvement over last season. The Eagles are a tall team this year and have adequate experience to go a long way this season.

New Ulm coach Jim Senske has formulated a double post offense to take advantage of the Eagles' strong points this winter. The primary attributes of the Eagle squad appear to be the tremendous outside shooting ability of their forwards, the strong rebounding of the posts, and the quickness of the pointman, or "team quarterback" of the offense.

Returning lettermen 6'3" senior Brian Shay and 6'2" junior Randy Ulrich are the starting forwards. Shay saw quite a bit of action last year and some as a sophomore making him the most experienced player on the team and a likely candidate to provide the Eagles with some leadership. Ulrich, the lone junior, also saw considerable playing time last year as a sophomore. Shay and Ulrich have displayed a deft outside shooting touch and are very likely to be the biggest scorers on the team this year.

The post positions are also filled by returning lettermen in 6'6" Paul Thiede and 6'3" Dave Hanson. Both are seniors. With this good height underneath, the Eagles are expected to beat most teams on the boards and the presence of these two big men will cause problems for the opposition in trying to drive the lane on the Eagles.

Kirk Gregg, another returning senior letterwinner, will quarterback the team from the point position. Gregg's quickness and pinpoint passing figures to set up numerous open shots for the other Eagles. Although Gregg saw limited action last year as a junior, he has demonstrated fine playmaking savvy and a tremendous defensive ability which have made him a vital cog in the Eagles' game plan. In addition to these returning lettermen, there are a number of other Eagles who will play key roles in the Eagle attack. Brian Patterson, a 5'11" senior, seems to be the most capable reserve and may help out at either guard or forward. Juniors who are likely to see action are 6'2" Bill Ostrom, 6'2" Jon Brudelle, and possibly Joel Hartfiel. Ostrom and Brudelle will



Paul Thiede, 55, stretches high for a basket while Dave Hanson positions himself for a possible rebound.

help at the forwards and the quick Hartfiel will be a guard. Sophomore Dave Kaiser may be brought up from the B Squad. The 6'5" Kaiser will be the backup for Theide at the post.

Prior to their disappointing opener, the Eagles had compiled a good record in scrimmages against some respectable teams. Facing an extremely tall Sherburn unit, (3 players at 6'5") the Eagles came very close and lost by just six points.

New Ulm also took on Litchfield and a highly rated Glencoe squad and won handily in each of these two contests. In a Mankato doubleheader, New Ulm handled East quite easily but was beaten by West when the Eagles were unable to adjust to a full court press.

The only defeats of the pre-season came against an enormous Prior Lake team and against Gibbon, who played only a select group of players.

In some early season games involving South Central Conference teams, St. James showed their expected weakness as they edged Lakefield by only one point. Wells defeated Sherburn, who defeated the Eagles in a scrimmage, by a score of 71-61. Waseca appeared to be a very promising team after they crushed Rochester John Marshall, but were unable to manage Fairmont in their conference opener. The Cardinals' 6'7" junior center Winzenburg played outstanding defense and poured in 26 points for the Cardinals in that game.

The Eagles are expected to finish in the middle of the South Central Conference this season with Fairmont and Waseca being the only other teams expected to be "out of our class." Fairmont and Waseca are expected to wage quite a battle for the conference crown as was indicated by their overtime opener. The Cardinals have the conference's tallest man in 6'7" junior center, Bob Winzenburg. Meanwhile, the Bluejays are also a relatively tall unit and return five lettermen to the starting lineup.

The Wells Wildcats and St. Peter Saints are expected to be about on par with New Ulm. St. Peter compiled a very poor record last year (2-19) but returns two key starters and looks to be very much improved. Wells has seven returning lettermen from last year's 9-12 team, including two 6'4" seniors.

St. James and Blue Earth, meanwhile, figure to battle it out for the cellar position. Both teams have many positions to fill in their starting lineups due to heavy graduation losses.

Bits from B.S.



by Brian Shay

To many of you students who have never participated in an extra-curricular athletic team, the many hours of practice and conditioning by the athletes go by unnoticed. These long hours can only be appreciated by those who have to build their entire schedules around them, the players, their parents, and the coaches.

The coaches of the various sports are perhaps the least enviable individuals in our athletic system. They must dedicate themselves to a winning effort or be subject to local criticism and pressure which many times leads to resignation. They do this by being away from home and family perhaps four or five nights every week because they are coaching or scouting a future opponent. An example of this nightly activity can best be seen in our head basketball coach, Jim Senske. He is a man who lives by the success and or failure of his team, and you'll rarely find a high school coach more dedicated to his players and to winning than he.

As far as the players go, the sport they are participating in becomes more important than anything else they do. As a basketball player I saw myself and my teammates go through better than thirty hours of conditioning, practicing, and scrimmaging in preparation for our first game, only to throw the ball away 24 times and lose by four points to a mediocre team.

That hurts. Anybody who has ever wanted to win more than anything else and ended up losing knows the feeling. Losing is not an enjoyable feeling, but it is one that rekindles the desire to win the next game.

There is another person in our athletic department who doesn't receive the credit he deserves. That man is Cliff Anderson. He's the guy who every athlete in school goes to see for aid and advice after an injury. He's always there to tape an ankle, wrap a knee, or set up a whirlpool and yet he seldom gets a "thanks." It's time for every NUHS athlete to appreciate and respect the man who cares about everybody and could some day make your injury a lot less painful.

Maybe it's time to look at the brighter spots on the sports scene at NUHS and give some praise to the boys' gymnastics and wrestling teams. Mr. Earl Neist has done

an excellent job in putting respectability back into NUHS gymnastics after some very average seasons by mixing youth with experience, a combination that rarely fails.

Meanwhile, the wrestling team is loaded with talent and also does a lot of winning on sheer hard work and determination. It's also good to see the renewed enthusiasm in the stands at wrestling meets. The fans are almost as avid as the participants and what could be more inspiring than an excited crowd.

I'd like to make a plea to the student body to not lose faith in the basketball team after that opening loss to Sleepy Eye. We're not loaded with basketball talent, but we're a closely knit team with a lot of pride. So hang in there. We will. Nothing can tear the guts out of a team faster than dissatisfied fans. We'll win some games this year if we get the support that is needed to be competitive. If we don't win by finesse, we'll win by hard work and determination.