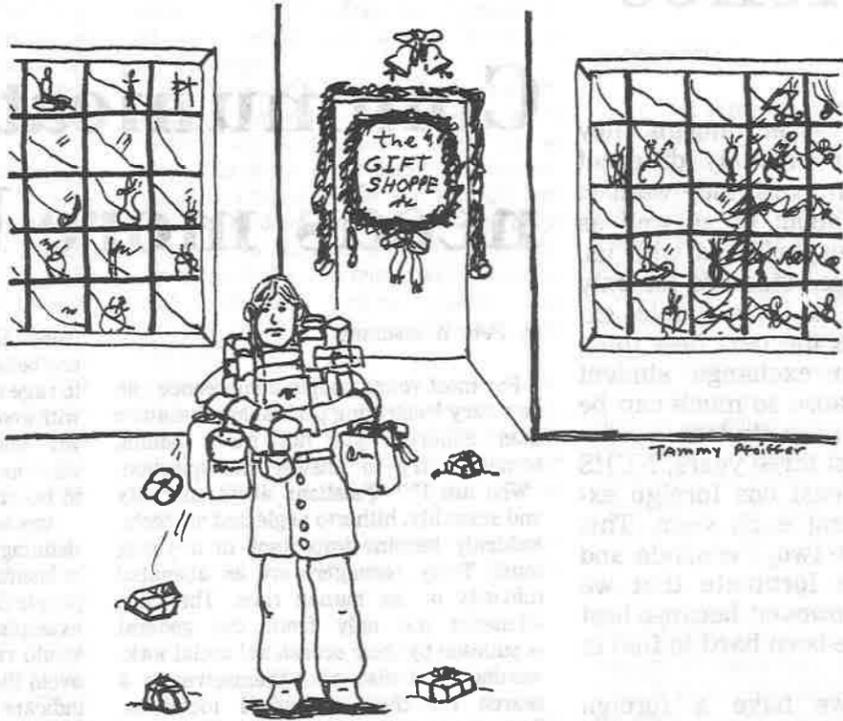


the graphos

December 1977

New Ulm, Minnesota 56073



"AND NOW TO FIND MY CAR KEYS!"

Retzlaff's Santa Claus is a traditional figure in downtown New Ulm during the Christmas season. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)



Christmas rush opens with mobs of frantic shoppers



A time exposure captures the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping at Penney's. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

by Susan Deming

Early "Christmas" shoppers are present again this year during the Christmas rush. Yes, the Early-Bird Syndrome offers an entirely different breed of the basic modern-day shopper. Those afflicted will ransack stores in a maniac rush to be the first ones to say smugly that they have all of their Christmas shopping done. They are found in the usual pre-Christmas mobs of frantic shoppers that crowd into stores as early as MEA break.

They're not hard to spot; they're the ones saying "Oh, excuse me!" to mannequins in their haste to buy one-of-a-kind items before supplies run out. Timely items are their specialty, such as, swimming suits and surfing boards bought in the summer or toys and clothes that are too small when Christmas finally arrives. You may overhear them saying to clerks, "I need to buy a gift for my niece today, but I don't know what size she is or what color she'd like." It doesn't matter, however, what she buys; it can always be returned after Christmas.

Buying with haste is not always advised. As far as store supplies go, no shortages are expected this year unless you wait until the last minute. Comparative shopping is your best bet. Spend money wisely because now is the time that commercialism and advertisement thrive.

When did the Santa Clauses first pop up in the windows this year? Was it before Thanksgiving? Yes, they were there in October among the Halloween witches. Christmas decorations and music are in stores to create the Christmas spirit of buying — I mean giving.

One advantage of early Christmas shopping is the chance to buy items for less than regular price. By shopping at convenient times, money may be saved. Since this year's prices are up on consumer products an average of 6 percent from a year ago, shopping at after Christmas sales for next year's Christmas gifts may not be such a bad idea.

So if you happen to run into a shopper suffering from the Early-Bird Syndrome, don't laugh. Instead help him pick out the baby carriage for that new granddaughter he just "knows" will arrive next Christmas.

editorial

AFS exchange is valuable experience



by Bob Skillings

Approximately three weeks ago five students from Minnetonka High School were at NUHS as part of a short term student exchange initiated by the AFS clubs in both schools.

I was fortunate to host one of the two foreign exchange students participating in this exchange. He was Jeff Catotal from the Philippines. Irit Yaroon from Israel was the other exchange student.

Both of them were very impressed with New Ulm, especially NUHS. They continuously praised our friendliness and interest directed toward them. Both were exceptional speakers and often were asked to speak to various classes and student groups.

These students and all foreign exchange students have so much

to offer us. Even though they come from completely different lifestyles than ours, they want to learn more about us as well as share their experiences with us.

Hosting these students for only a few days is a valuable experience. It's the next best thing to being an exchange student yourself because so much can be learned from the student.

For the past three years, NUHS has had at least one foreign exchange student each year. This year we have two, Fernando and Till. We are fortunate that we have them, however, because host families have been hard to find in New Ulm.

Whether we have a foreign exchange student next year has not been determined because there have not been any families that have shown an interest in hosting an exchange student. If anyone has an interest in hosting an exchange student or would like to know more about it, contact the guidance office or any AFS club member immediately. They will gladly give you the information you are seeking.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The GRAPHOS received a rarity for our October issue, a "Letter to the Editor." We encourage any feedback or reader reaction, however, we publish only letters that have been signed by the writer and have been written in appropriate language.

Snow

snow
softly
drifting
peacefully
to cover the earth in its white splendor
silently
and delicately
slowly
and
downward.

by Lisa Hubert



Communication needs more honesty

by Pete Weissmann

For most young people adolescence can be a very frustrating period. More mature than children, yet not quite adults, teenagers try to answer the question, "Who am I?" Questions about morality and sexuality, hitherto neglected subjects, suddenly become important in a young mind. Truly, teenagers are an alienated minority of the human race. They are alienated not only from the general population by their occasional social awkwardness but also from themselves in a search for their individual identities. Sometimes, however, a young person's quest for his identity may become so self-engrossing that he becomes concerned only with himself. The resultant lack of communication with others is more disturbing than the original problem.

Today's young people typically keep their ideas and philosophies suppressed; they are seemingly trying to emulate television's "Fonzie" in their desire to be "cool." Specifically, high school students do not express themselves openly and honestly keeping their true feelings hidden. The illusion of power through psychological toughness is greatly popularized by the mass media which glamorizes James Bond-type roles.

Oftentimes, many teenagers believe they are alone and have unique problems. Looking at this situation objectively, however, one must remember that a tough uncaring attitude can be a sham, for most young people have feelings about the same general topics, but some are simply embarrassed about their opinions. A rare person consistently states what is really on his mind.

The discomforts people experience when truly expressing themselves are often in direct correlation to peer pressure. The inborn fear of rejection present in all people sometimes causes a person to alter his behavior in order to be accepted by others. In this way a person's values and attitudes are molded by those around him. Despite a desire to be socially popular, which is especially prevalent during the adolescent years, one should look at himself objectively and be honest with himself. A person requires a certain amount of courage and independence for judging his own ideas and then being himself instead of someone else.

Once a person recognizes his own values, he is ready to share them with others. Advancement to this stage is good progress, for being able to discuss a personal problem or idea with an understanding person is vital to one's sanity. When I am deeply disturbed by a personal problem, nothing helps me out of my depression faster than discussing it with an understanding person. Discussing difficulties in a mature manner can help one rationally cope with the friction be-

tween people. Even rational arguments are better than allowing mounting tension to rage unchecked in a situation of conflict with another party. For example, the child who learns to express himself verbally while he is young will probably not grow up to become a wife-beater.

Another manner in which people avoid defining their true intentions is the game of insinuation. Through hints and allusions people can avoid facing reality. Take, for example, the boy who has a girl friend he would rather not date anymore. He may avoid the girl and leave other hints which indicate a dead relationship instead of directly telling the girl that his feelings toward her have changed. In this way the boy may avoid an unpleasant confrontation with his ex-girl friend. The girl, on the other hand, notices these subtle hints, but may not be sure of their meaning. Her resulting uncertainties concerning the changed relationship could torment her for weeks. However, if she had known the truth from the beginning, she could have faced facts immediately and gotten over her lost boy friend in a shorter period of time.

The games people play in dealing with others are often clever ploys designed for selfish reasons. In the hypothetical case cited above the boy did not have enough courage to face the girl and explain his feelings therefore, he chose evasion at the expense of the girl's mental well-being. In order to avoid rudeness much tact is needed for many of life's situations, yet subtlety should not be misleading, the diplomacy should not be confused with deception.

This writer has tried to illustrate how these "games" apply to teenagers, but, sadly, this phenomenon seems to occur more frequently as we grow older. It is truly ironic that people act increasingly uncivilized as they become older and, supposedly, wiser. Despite the fact that one encounters many intangibles when dealing with people, I believe there should be more honesty and frankness in our daily communication. Do not let the possibility of an unpleasant response discourage such candid relations, for experiencing minor emotional hurts is a part of life. I once encountered a verse which reflects my viewpoint: "Don't try, you might fail. Don't walk, you might fall. Don't live, you might die."

graphos

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the guidepost

by Ms. Marty Webb
Counselor

What does it mean to have a friend or to be a friend of someone? Too often in a relationship a friend becomes a possession — something to be jealous of, traded or bargained for, and valued more for the owning than for the person himself.

It often seems that the number of friends a person has indicates that person's value. The more friends; the more you are worthwhile. People end up trying to be friends with everyone, which is a very nice goal, but also quite unrealistic. What usually happens when you try to be friends with every one you meet is that you end up trying to change yourself to meet everyone's approval. We forget that "a friend is someone with whom you can be yourself." You shouldn't have to pretend to be someone you aren't just to get or keep a friend.

A friend isn't something that we can order around or make demands of. A friend is simply a person with whom we can share and who cares enough about us to share also. Being a friend comes naturally. There are certainly some things that we can do to be a friend, but friendship is really something that has to develop on its own; you can't force it. It's like planting a seed; we can certainly help it along with fertilizer, water and sun-

shine, but if nothing develops there's little we can do about it.

One mistake people make in their relationships is to try to force things to happen. I'm sure you've all heard the old line, "If you really liked me, you would" countered with "If you really liked me, you wouldn't ask me to." These comments come in many variations but are heard at all age levels and in all kinds of relationships.

The important thing is that they indicate a lack of respect for the other person's feelings. It's like putting a price tag on friendship or the other person's behavior. A friend is not someone you turn off just because she does something you don't like to happen to disagree with. It's at times like these that a real friend will be able to deal with the behavior openly and honestly, not by trying to bribe him into changing.

Obviously, being a friend involves work. It's a demanding job; it's time consuming, but it's also quite simple. All you have to do is be yourself; be honest with your feelings and try to use that Golden Rule as much as possible.

The holiday season is especially a time for friends. We in the Guidance Office ask you to:

Pause —
To see more and be more;
to renew the spirit;
to rekindle love and friendship —

And have a very merry holiday time!

Stead's seminar gives students chance to sound off

by Lynn Ludewig

Mr. Dave Stead has been supervising informal seminars this year involving various students. The purpose of getting these people together is to discuss different subjects concerning NUHS.

The meeting begins with Stead handing out cards which the students address to their parents. These are sent to inform parents that their son or daughter has attended the meeting. Mr. Stead then gives a brief explanation of the purpose of the seminar and what the students are expected to do during the meeting.

The students then decide what topics they would like to discuss. These subjects may be questions or comments about anything concerning NUHS. Usually no more than three subjects can be covered because the meeting is limited to one hour. After the topics have been selected, discussion begins and several ideas and questions are exchanged. Subjects range from such things as school lunch programs and the senior lounge to school policies, rules, and regulations.

The participating students are chosen completely at random. Each person has a

number which corresponds alphabetically with his last name. In other words, the first person in his grade alphabetically would be number one, the second person number two, and so on. Five numbers are selected from each grade. Each number is then matched up with the student's name.

Mr. Stead says that he welcomes any suggestions and hopes to provide answers about anything that comes up in the discussions. He essentially wants "to provide a greater number of students with information about anything they wish to know concerning NUHS."

Stead thinks that these meetings could be something like an extension of the student council. He believes that students have ideas which are not always relayed to student council members, and perhaps these meetings will give those students more opportunity to talk about their ideas. Another possibility is that students may come up with something they want to discuss during the course of a meeting while listening to the different opinions of their peers.

Stead hopes the meetings will definitely encourage more students to express ideas and opinions. He thinks these seminars may be a way of improving our school.

Upcoming semester requires frustrating registration procedure

by Mike Matz

The first semester of the 1977-78 school year is quickly coming to a close. For seniors it means that we will begin our last semester of our high school days. Juniors and sophomores, though, may look forward to a few more semesters before their high school careers are over.

Upon the completion of the first semester comes the good and the bad. The good news is that we have struggled through half of the school year, and we have only a half year left until those glorious, sun-filled days of summer return. The bad news is that we have to schedule classes for the second semester.

Scheduling. For some students it's a four letter word in their vocabulary. For others it's a synonym for such things as violent loss of hair, trimming of fingernails to the bone, extreme frustration and other forms of self-inflicted pain and torture. (Just the thought of scheduling is severe punishment in itself.) Still others vainly ask why we don't use the computer since we've invented the stupid machines.

In general scheduling day is a day of chaos and confusion. Teachers, in an attempt to make the problem somehow magically disappear, hide their heads behind the cabinets containing the computer cards trying to imitate the ostrich's method of avoiding a dangerous situation. Who can blame them though? Who likes to see hundreds of frantic maniacs rushing towards you like chickens with their heads cut off demanding computer cards for a class before it closes?

Even if a teacher's job during scheduling is not all peaches and cream, compassion must be felt for the student. Being a teacher during this catastrophe is worth at least time and a half, but pity the poor, defenseless scholar. Problems are inevitable for the student during scheduling. Sure as the sun will shine and the temperature will dip below zero during

a Minnesota winter, something will go wrong.

What usually happens is that everything goes beautiful until it is time to pick up the last computer card. Somehow it's always that last class that closes. No matter how hard one cries and pleads, the teacher stands solemn and stoic, refusing to acknowledge your show of emotion. So he must start all over again, most likely to find another class closed. Sooner or later one runs out of his four planned schedules and makes another effort to prepare new schedules.

It has been rumored that some dejected, frustrated, and confused students have found a secluded corner and drowned their sorrows in tears after going through the vicious cycle three or four times. They never did master the scheduling process and therefore left their second semester schedule in the hands of their friendly neighborhood guidance counselors.

Amidst all the pessimism during this wonderful break, there are a few bright spots in an otherwise dismal ordeal. For instance, self-scheduling provides the student the opportunity to be in a class with his girlfriend. But this situation is not always ideal either. What happens if you break up with your mate before the class is over? Then you're stuck in the same class with the lousy mongrel.

Another, more important, advantage of this system is the preparation for similar registration procedures required at the college level.

Scheduling may not be the most fun day of the semester. In fact it could be the most frustrating day of the entire school year, but keep in mind the benefits and look at the situation optimistically. Confront any dilemmas with vigor and energy common in students at New Ulm High. And remember, one out of every ten persons requires some psychiatric help during his lifetime — scheduling day could be your time.



Pinball flips into popular game

By Kris Wilner

Buzzers, bells, and lights flashing. That is the world of pinball, and pinball wizards love it. Some people think all that excitement over a little silver ball is strange.

Today playing pinball is one of the most popular ways for kids to spend their free time. There is real excitement and enjoyment when the lights of a pinball machine flash, the bells ring, and the points mount up.

Pinball can be habit forming. When one really starts to concentrate on playing, it is almost as if he leaves the real world and his troubles behind. All he cares about is making that little silver ball go where he wants it.

The different names for pinball machines are endless. For instance, some popular ones are Tunnel of Love, Billy's Fireball, King Kool, and Super Star. There is also one called Captain Fantastic, which is endorsed by the Pinball Wizard himself, Elton John.

Pinball is called by some as five and ten cent bowling. The usual price for playing a pinball machine is ten cents for one game or three games for a quarter. The player usually gets five balls per game, and the object of the game is to keep that silver ball hitting as many bumpers and discs as possible. Each time something is hit, points are scored.

Two flippers located at the bottom of the playing area keep the ball in play. The buttons controlling the flippers are on the outside of the machine. If one misses the ball or hits the flipper too late, he loses that ball and has to use the next one. The real goal of most pinball players is to score enough points in a game to win a free game. To win consistently, one needs a lot of skill and practice.

To help the ball a little, one can use some body english. A little hit or a nudge can do wonders, but it can also be very embarrassing. If the machine is hit too hard



Future pinball wizards enjoy a game at the New Ulm Recreation Center on North Broadway. (Photo by Todd Putnam)

or in the wrong place, all the bells stop ringing, the buzzers stop buzzing, and the little silver ball is gone. The worst result of all, however, is when huge red letters spell out the word "TILT."

Pinball machine manufacturers say that most devices that light up the tilt sign are located on the left side of machines, so do your hitting on the right side.

Some people consider pinball a type of solitaire because it is usually played by one person. There are, however, more advanced and complicated types of pinball where up to four people can play at one time.

Pinball is not a new game in the United States. The first pinball machine was built in 1898 and called the Log Cabin. It was made of wood with a lot of holes in a playing board that had wooden peg-like bumpers stuck in them. The machine was run manually; no electricity was used.

Not long ago game rooms with pinball machines were considered dens of sin. Mothers wouldn't allow their children to enter. People's ideas have changed concerning pinball, but still a person must be 18 to legally use pinball machines in many states. The reason for this legislation is these state governments consider pinball a

game of chance so it's gambling. Many people think this interpretation is unfair.

There is a type still found in Nevada that is gambling because the players are paid money if they win a game, but most pinball enthusiasts say this type of game bears little resemblance to the common pinball machines in which the winner gets either an extra ball or a free game.

If it excites you to see lights flashing and hear bells ringing, maybe you are a potential pinball wizard or at least a casual player. For a handful of quarters, you can get minutes of enjoyment from playing pinball.

Success doesn't always require good grades

by Vicki Helget

Grades raise question's about importance, fairness, and procedure.

"An age-old conflict" were the words principal Mr. Tom Wilson, who thought grades created problems ever since he can remember. Students can be graded on two different levels: students against each other, known as the curve, or students against their ability. Although educators have been left with this conflict to resolve, it hasn't been done and both forms are still being used.

How important are grades? To the majority of senior high teachers and Mr. Wilson, not terribly important. "New Ulm Senior High has no policy on grades; it has a policy on learning," replied Mr. Wilson. "When I talk to teachers about their classes, I don't ask what grades they're giving, I ask them what they're teaching." Mr. Wilson is saying that learning is more important than getting a good grade, and most teachers agree.

To many students though, grades seem much more important. How many times have you asked or have been asked about an easy class to take for a good grade?

Several students said the reason they

worry about good grades is because they think it will help them get into a college. Others didn't worry about college because they figure if they took easy classes just for A's, they probably wouldn't make it through college anyway.

The importance of grades is different to all people, just as how they are arrived at is different to all teachers. But the most common ways of arriving at a grade are using percents and curves.

Both Mr. Lowell Liedman and Mr. Jim Senske use the percent form to come up with grades for their pupils. The interesting part is to see the difference in the numbers for a passing and failing grade.



Liedman



Senske

They both like to see 90 percent or better to receive an A, but Mr. Senske will pass a student with 40 percent while Mr. Liedman doesn't like to pass anyone with lower than 50 percent. One of the reasons for this difference is the contents of their tests. Perhaps Mr. Senske gives harder tests which explains the lower curve.

Senske said he arrives at a final grade after looking at these four qualities: tests, assignments, class participation, and oral reports or projects. "Even if a student would fail every exam, if he did the other three elements well, he would pass with a C or D." Many students find Mr. Senske to be a tough grader, so if you want to know what it takes to get an A, read carefully.

"In my view an excellent student is one who understands the subject matter well and in doing so is rewarded with an A."

Mr. Leidman determines a final grade much the same way as Mr. Senske does. When grading themes he said he doesn't look for only quality but also neatness, grammar, and correct style.

Many teachers grade many different ways, but all are faced with the same problem — coming up with a final grade. Many students think it is really hard to get an A at New Ulm Senior High while many of the faculty think it is much too easy. These figures available after the first quarter give an idea of how teachers grade in the Senior High. There were 776 A's, 1741 B's, 1633 C's, 723 D's, and 182 F's. There were also 120 "passes" and no "no passes."

If the Senior High School would go according to the "Bell Shaped curve" you would see a lot less A's and a lot more F's. The bell shaped curve works in this manner. There are to be as many A's as F's, as many B's as D's, and the majority should be C's. But as you can see from the above figures, this curve is not followed at all.

Although good grades are nice to have, they don't necessarily mean you will be successful throughout your life. Sometimes grades aren't everything!

"Tree of Life" symbolizes festive season

by Randy Hartten

The Christmas Tree is a festive symbol. Today Christmas trees are seen in many homes, churches, courtyards, schools, and various other places.

The widespread popularity of the Christmas tree was only attained during the last hundred years. Its origin is not really known. There are many theories and legends as to how the Christmas tree came about.

Martin Luther is accredited for starting the custom of lighting Christmas trees. He was impressed by the beauty of the evergreens under the light of shining stars. He could not explain this beauty to his family in words so he went out and cut down a small tree and placed lighted candles on it to represent the starry sky. His idea spread slowly throughout Germany, and eventually the custom reached other countries as well. The first decorated Christmas trees in America were said to have been set up during the American Revolution.

After the Christmas tree was firmly established as a custom, people began taking great pride in decorating their trees. At first the decorations were very, very simple: strings of popcorn, fruit, nut shells, and paper ornaments. Small wax candles were also placed in holders and clamped onto the tree branches. In more modern times people started using electrical lights, tinsel, and fancy glass ornaments. Today some people decorate artificial trees in place of natural ones.

As the demand for trees grew, some people began to worry about how our forests would soon be ruined if the cutting of Christmas trees continued. President Theodore Roosevelt, who was concerned about our natural resources, went so far as to ban Christmas trees from the White House. Finally, some professional foresters explained that the proper cutting of evergreens is in fact helpful to our forests. Conservationists began to study



Mr. Ken Rolloff and son Nathan get their Christmas tree the old fashioned way. The Rolloffs live at 1116 Crestwood Lane. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

how to cut trees properly so that our Forests will always be replenished, and soon the Christmas tree business was booming once again.

Mr. Arno Bergstrom, an area Christmas tree dealer, says that the demand for natural trees is very high. An estimated 20 percent of his customers each year are people who used to have artificial trees but decided to switch back to natural ones. He noticed that people take great pride in selecting their trees. They usually want large trees. This demand sometimes poses a problem for dealers because it is not economical for them to raise large trees. The increased time and necessary care

increase costs.

The most popular tree bought by people around New Ulm is the Scotch Pine. Mr. Bergstrom made an interesting observation, "Christmas trees are like people, no two are alike and none of them are perfect."

Each year the Christmas tree brings joy to millions of people. Its sparkling lights and dazzling ornaments make it a spectacular sight. The most wonderful thing about the Christmas tree, however, is its true meaning. The Christmas Tree is a symbol of Christ. Sometimes called the "Tree of Life," it represents Christ's gift of life.

Student Council eyes school lunches

by Cindy Sperling

This month the student council had a guest speaker at their regular meeting. Mr. Earl Williams, cafeteria supervisor, spoke to the student representatives about school lunches. He had many interesting things to say. For example, he explained some of the many regulations the school has to follow in making the lunches and planning the menu. Every meal has to have at least two ounces of meat served (New Ulm schools get three), and every meal has to have vegetables, and or fruit, and a bread product. The government also sends the school food it is required to use. In fact the school has to report how much food is actually used. As a special touch to the meals served, the catsup is homemade.

The meals are also limited by cost. This is one reason that pizza and other such meals are only served once or twice a month. The average meals cost the school between \$.80 and \$1.00 to prepare, yet the cost to the student is only \$.45. New Ulm has one of the least expensive lunch programs in the state. It also provides one-third of the daily required nutrients except fats and sugar.

Mr. Williams makes up monthly lunch schedules. He bases these schedules on what the students indicate they like. He has records of how many people eat hot lunch each day, and which meals are most popular. The schedules for each week are never exactly the same. Some schools have a rotating menu in which they get the same meals every two or three weeks. One school even serves the same meal every day. Next year the law will require students to help plan the menus. New Ulm has a head start on this requirement and is going to let students plan menus this year.

The student council also talked of other things. They have plans for a dance before Christmas vacation and formed a committee to starting planning. They also talked about sponsoring buses to sporting activities. They are limited in the number of buses they can sponsor and have to decide which games to attend. What games depends somewhat on student interest and ticket sales.

Holidays mean good food, relaxation — and vacation

by Sandy Hindermann

A holiday is any day on which people lay aside their ordinary duties and cares. The word comes from the Anglo-Saxon "halig daeg" or holy day. These occasions are usually religious celebrations that express men's joys, fears, and feelings of gratitude.

When a high school student knows a holiday is coming up, he usually looks forward to a few days out of school, a big dinner, and a lazy weekend. Since Thanksgiving was just celebrated, many of us are trying to get into the routine swing of things and shed a few pounds gained after stuffing ourselves with all the holiday foods.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is usually a family day, celebrated with big dinners and joyous reunions. The very mention of Thanksgiving often calls up memories of kitchens and pantries crowded with good things to eat.

Christmas is another traditional time

when families gather to exchange gifts and share their happiness. Many people have their Christmas dinner in the afternoon. The family dinner usually includes turkey, chicken, duck, goose, or ham. Steaming bowls of potatoes, sweet potatoes, green vegetables, dressing, and gravy crowd the elaborately set table. Dishes of cranberry sauce, nuts, and fruits add a festive air to the meal. As a final treat, everyone enjoys a large slice of fruit cake, plum pudding, pumpkin pie, or mince pie.

Since most of us are not familiar with the holiday customs in other countries, we tend to think that our traditional foods are what everyone else is eating also. Other countries have some very appetizing and mouthwatering meals.

For instance, in Great Britain, an old English dinner includes brawn (head-cheese), roast peacock, boar's head, and mutton pies. English cooks originally baked the pies in the shape of a manger. Plum pudding also originated in Great Britain. It contains currants or raisins, dried citrus fruits, beef suet, sugar, and spices. Scottish bakers use griddles to

bake oatmeal cookies called bannock cakes which are served at Christmas time as well as on other occasions.

In Germany some people have Christmas trees for each member of the family. "Lubecker marzipan" is a favorite candy for the tree. Marzipan is a kind of almond candy that can be shaped and colored to look like meat, fruits, or toys. Many Germans enjoy roast goose for Christmas dinner.

In Italy the people go with little or no food on the day before Christmas. The Italians like baked Magi cakes (small wagers) with fried eels, chicken, and pork at Christmas.

Many Swedes enjoy fish as the main dish of their Christmas meal. They prepare their "lutefisk" (cod fish treated with lye) from the finest catch and serve it with a special sauce. The Swedes also enjoy "Jultrot," a pudding made of rice and milk.

Norwegians bake cakes, especially for St. Thomas on Christmas Eve. A Norwegian Christmas pudding contains an almond. They believe that the person who

gets the almond in his portion will be the next to marry. Other holiday foods enjoyed by Norwegians include lefse, a soft, flat bread rolled up; rosettes, which is a type of french-fried cookie; and green grout, which is rice pudding.

Seribans in Yugoslavia have a Christmas cake, called "chestnitsa," which contains a silver coin. The coin is supposed to bring good luck to the person who finds it in his piece of the cake. The Serbs serve roast pig in honor of Bozhitch, an ancient sun god whose name now means Christmas.

The people of the Philippines call their favorite Christmas dish "colacion." They make it by cooking fruit with various root sprouts. The Aremnians eat fried and boiled spinach on Christmas Eve. Christians in Iran eat no meat, milk, or eggs for the first 24 days of December.

Holiday foods vary throughout the world. So whether your family enjoys the traditional turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie meal or some other special ethnic dish, enjoy the remaining holidays and eat hearty!

people

Successful coach sees first ball at 19

by Dave Traurig

One November afternoon included the privilege of talking with Mr. Joe Harman, former coach and teacher at New Ulm High School.

Mr. Harman's interest in athletics started back in his high school days. One day he saw a poster advertising for players on his high school football team. He decided to give it a try. At the age of nineteen and having never seen a football, Mr. Harman started his athletic career.

Later he attended Gustavus Adolphus College and majored in English and physical science. He also was on the football team. Initially a tackle, he was later moved to quarterback and eventually named to the all state team by the St. Paul Daily News.

His teaching career began in 1926 at Elmore, Minnesota. In 1928 he came to New Ulm and stayed until his retirement in 1966. Mr. Harman taught almost every subject through the years but never his college major, English.

His coaching career at New Ulm High started in 1929. Mr. Harman coached football, basketball, baseball, and track at the varsity level for many years. Later he supervised the junior high program. Many fans still believe that Mr. Harman is one of the best coaches in NUHS history.

When coaching he liked to win and to

have fun. Mr. Harman stressed the basics, the fundamentals and the details of the sport he was coaching, but most of all he demanded perfection.

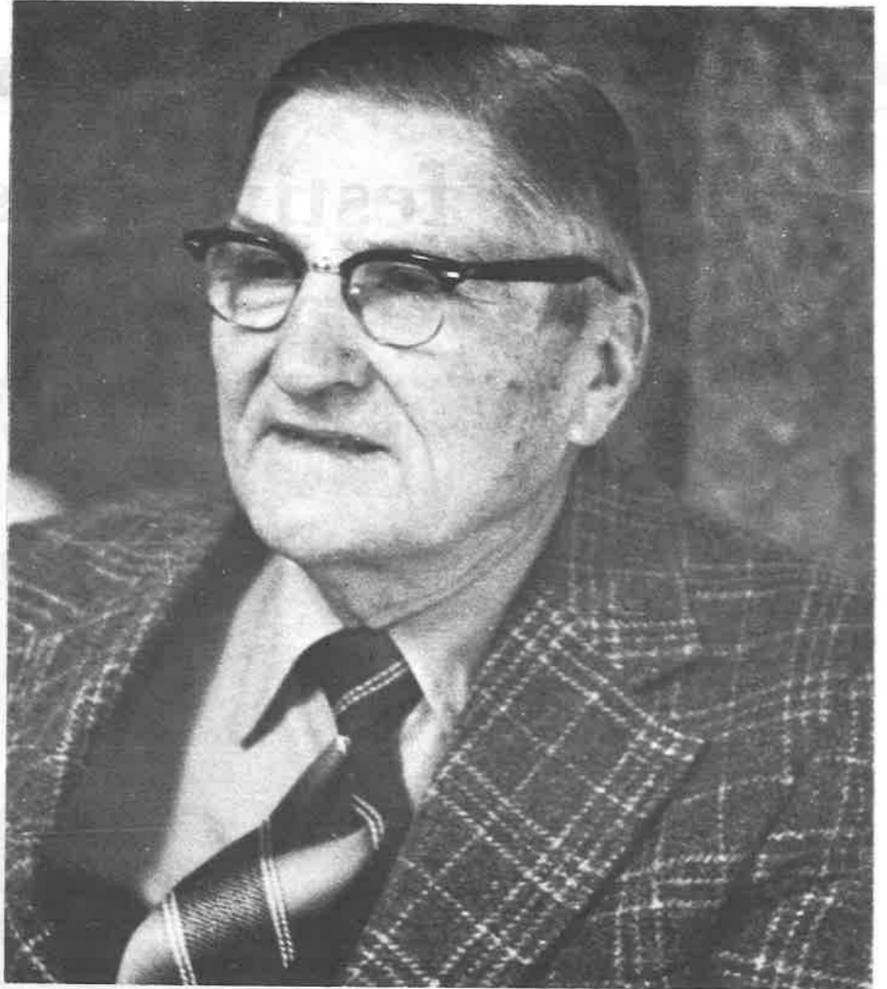
Mr. Harman's players had to prove they were the best at the position they wanted or he would find them a position they could play. His players also respected him. They proved their esteem by the many championships, state tournament trips, and awards won by them and Mr. Harman.

Mr. Harman feels the best all around athlete he coached was 1937 graduate Doug Kuske but added that he had many other good athletes also. Doug played a back in football, center in basketball, and high jumped in track.

"If you needed an extra yard, one more basket, another base hit or just one more point in track, Doug would get it for you," Harman remarked.

The best all around year for NUHS teams, according to Harman, was in the 1936-37 school year. The football team lost only one game, the basketball team made it to the state tournament, the track team won it all, and the baseball team beat Mankato State with a no hit, no run game.

Harman's philosophy has always been simple to express: "This is not one big game but a small one between you and the man across from you on every play. If one of these small games is lost, then we will not gain."



Joe Harman, NUHS's most successful football coach, recalls the days he compiled an 81-59-12 record in 19 seasons as head coach. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

He enjoyed playing football. He also enjoys watching pro football and basketball on TV. He is "Fascinated by the size and speed of these pro athletes."

He seldom misses an Eagle home football game and goes to as many home baseball games as he can.

Mr. Harman started the baseball program in New Ulm with the Legion team in 1933. High school baseball followed in 1934. He also started the recreation program for New Ulm in 1934 and remained involved until 1966.

Besides the many championships and excellent teams, Mr. Harman has been given many awards. In 1939 he received

the Glueck Sports Award, given to a great Sports person in the state by George Higgen of WTCN radio. He is also listed in Minnesota's Who's Who.

He also has a great interest in growing roses. He set a personal record this year by picking his last rose on November 7th. He also owns and operates Joseph A. Harman Realty.

It is often said that a coach can never make a great player out of a youngster who isn't potentially great, but he can make a great competitor out of any child and make a man out of a boy. Mr. Harman has helped many New Ulm boys become men.

Big man on Campus

NUHS's own Billy Jean King loves sports



Senior Monica Tauer takes a breather from basketball practice for a quick picture before returning to what she likes best. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

by Kim Schmiesing

First it was Babe Didrickson, then it was Billy Jean King, and now we have Monica Tauer as our female sports heroine. Monica is a senior who is very involved in girls' athletics. She is also very good!

"Whenever I'd go over to Tauer's place, Moni would always be playing baseball or football," says a friend of Monica. Monica's strong interest in sports is not hard to understand when the size of her family is considered. There are fourteen kids, five sisters and nine brothers. With that many brothers one can hardly avoid playing football or some back-yard sport. Monica says she likes a large family. "I don't know what a small family would be like."

Some of us also remember Monica's older sister Diane. She was also involved in sports when she was in high school and received much recognition.

Monica lives on a farm near Hanska. She is glad she grew up on a farm but doesn't think it contributed to her ability or interest in sports. She just enjoys being able

to go home to that type of rural homelife.

Volleyball, basketball, and softball are the sports in which Monica participates. "Basketball is my favorite," says Monica. "I started basketball when I was in Junior High, volleyball when I was a junior and softball when I was in the ninth grade, but there wasn't a team when I was in tenth grade."

Monica believes the New Ulm athletic programs for girls could be better. One way of improving the program would be to work harder. "I think we've sloughed off too much. If we hadn't, maybe we'd be better and go more places."

The sports program should include more girls and treat them more fairly. Monica says girls' athletics don't get as much equipment as the boys' programs and "...it bugs me when someone says the reason for this is that we're 'only girls.'"

In the summer months Monica keeps up her athletics by playing softball with a women's softball team at Stark.

Monica's plans after graduation are to work although she doesn't know what she will be doing.



NUHS's enthusiastic pom pom squad are all smiles as they line up for a Graphos photographer. Pictured from left to right are Raelee Klotz, Dawn Knutson, Deb Genelin, Kris Knutson, Cindy Burris, Teri Reiter, Leslie Dietrich, Lisa Huber, Lisa Vath, Kim Boelter, Tammy Vogel, LaNaye Kral, Darcy Knutson, and Diane Menk. Not pictured is Nancy Smesmo. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

Pom Pom squad crazy about enthusiasm

by Bob Skillings

Few people know, but there is a group of gals at New Ulm High School that are "crazy" about representing our school; they are the NUHS Pom-Pom Squad.

"Crazy?" Yes. They are excited and enthusiastic, and that is the way they describe themselves. One senses their enthusiasm just by the way they conduct themselves during practices. Led by co-captains Lisa Vath and Kim Boelter, the girls work on routines trying to get them just right.

Every spring for the past five years approximately forty to fifty girls try out

for the pom-pom squad. Five girls are chosen from each class, one as an alternate. This year's lively squad consists of sophomores Deb Genelin, Tammy Vogel, Cindy Burris, Kris Knutson, and alternate Raelee Klotz; juniors Daun Knutson, Nancy Smesmo, Darcy Knutson, Leslie Dietrich, and alternate Teri Reiter; seniors Lisa Vath, Kim Boelter, LaNaye Kral, Diane Menk, and alternate Lisa Hubert. They are a close-knit group and consider their selection to the squad an honor.

At tryouts in the spring, the girls are selected by eight judges. Mr. Curt Iversen, their advisor, the senior squad members from the present year, and two others those seniors feel could be adequate judges, usually coaches or former pom-

pom girls. The girls' abilities in marching, splits, kicks, and conformity are vital abilities affecting the selection process. However, a girl's appearance and facial expressions are the most important qualities she must have to make the squad.

The pom-pom squad is a part of the band and being on the squad earns them points toward a band letter.

Their routines are a combination of many different styles. All are created by the girls themselves. They placed sixth in a danceline contest at the University of Minnesota earlier this fall and are not even danceline performers. This spring the girls hope to host a contest of their own to motivate more interest in groups such as theirs.

"It means a lot to me to be part of the

pom-pom squad. To be part of our school activities is lots of fun," Lisa Vath said about the squad. Kim Boelter added, "The girls feel that it is a great thrill to perform and have the fans full of spirit. It makes us just tingle."

The girls really look forward to performing, but only if they are fully prepared. There is so much competition between them that they all have to work hard to stay on the squad. They have a lot of pride and "feel good about what we are doing."

Incidentally, pom-pom is supposed to be spelled pom-pon, but the girls made it a point to tell me that they preferred it the other way because pom-pon girls tend to have more cheerleading routines which they do not use at all.

New Ulm FFA one of the biggest and best

by Julie Blomquist

The New Ulm FFA chapter is one of the largest in the state of Minnesota. The Willmar FFA chapter is larger than New Ulm's by four students, but the New Ulm chapter is regarded as the top organization in the state. The New Ulm FFA chapter is the fifth largest in the United States. Because this unit is so large and outstanding, one would think that New Ulm people would know all about FFA. Surprisingly, local citizens don't know too much about it.

There are two branches in FFA that a person can select. One of them is Ag Production, the branch in which most of the farm students enroll. Ag Production teaches the students about farm crops and livestock. They learn how to care for their crops and develop ways of getting the best yields from them. They also learn how to care for and raise livestock in order to

get the most returns from them. Ag Production is a great experience and opportunity for a student who is considering farming as a career.

The other branch in FFA is Ag Occupations, the branch in which most of the city students and girls enroll. In this branch a student learns how agricultural businesses are operated. The student has classes about businesses in the 11th grade. In the 12th grade a student may work for a half day on some type of business relating to what they have learned in the classroom. Ag Occupations seems to be very rewarding and very helpful in preparing a student for the world of work after they have graduated.

Each student, whether he or she is in Ag Production or Ag Occupations, has a project to do throughout the entire year. An Ag Occupations student may be furnished with a record book and keep track of all the jobs he does concerning Ag Occupations. An Ag Production student may have some crop or livestock as his

project. He may raise something, for example, and keep track of its expense and growth.

Most of the FFA students are involved in extra activities besides these basic areas. New Ulm's very involved in public speaking and many contests are held in our area. There are also several judging teams in the chapter.

Whether the students are in Ag Occupations or Ag Production, they can take the Farm Mechanics class, which teaches students different skills like welding, blow torching, and fixing machinery. This class seems to be very helpful for all of the students, especially the ones who want to go into career farming. These skills always prove to be very useful.

FFA doesn't end after high school. Graduates are also involved. For example, last year a New Ulm graduate was one of the vice presidents of the Minnesota State FFA chapter. This year a New Ulm graduate is the president of the state chapter. These graduates enjoyed their

offices very much, but they also say that it involved a lot of work and time to keep active in FFA.

As was stated in a letter to the editor in the October issue of *The Graphos*, "The department teaches not only academic skills but also human relations in life-time skills which are needed to survive in the world after graduation. We all understand that these skills are needed because life does not end after high school. It is the beginning and what we learn in this department (FFA) gets us ready to go out and start our future."

This year's officers for the New Ulm FFA chapter are the following students: President: Brad LeGare
Vice President: Randy Rasmussen and John Mohr
Secretary: Dean Binder and Maggie Fleck
Treasurer: Randy Paulson and Randall Stuckey
Reporters: Tom Haubrich and Paul Fritsch
Sentinels: John Kral and Bob Gieseke

Snow Day Policy truths revealed

by Lisa Isenberg

It's nothing new on a day when the weather looks threatening to walk down the halls of New Ulm High School and hear someone say, "I hope we have a blizzard and get out of school!" This year, though, there is a new comment circulating through the school, "Why should we be let out? We'd only have to make it up in June."

The state is cracking down on the number of school days in session in all Minnesota schools, and NUHS is beginning to feel the pressure. Although everyone

seems to be in the dark about the situation, here are the facts regarding school closings:

The District No. 88 Snow Day Policy has not changed from that of past years. There are six basic points to the Snow Day Policy. If inclement weather or the threat of it exists:

1. Both rural and town students will be dismissed from school. Years ago, only rural students were transported to or kept at home if there was a blizzard. Town students were asked to attend school. Today, in a like situation, all students are

dismissed.

2. The Superintendent and the owner of the bus lines will, before the start of school, decide whether school should be cancelled.

3. Announcement regarding the cancellation of school can be heard over KNUJ, WCCO, or KEYC.

4. Parents may take their children from school at any time if they feel it necessary.

5. If the weather is too bad for bussing students home, they will be kept at school. This is especially important for smaller children who, if both their parents work, could get lost in the snow.

6. Rural students will go to their storm homes. In the elementary schools, storm homes are required; in the high schools, most students co-operate and have one.

Now for the new, confusing, and comparatively strict guidelines set up by the Minnesota Department of Education. This policy went into effect at the beginning of the 1977-78 school year. Many points have remained unchanged from previous years, but some new points have emerged and old ones have been modified.

The state requires every public school in Minnesota to be in session for a minimum of 175 days or the equivalent in order to receive full state aid. If a day is missed and the school wishes its state aid, it must do three things. First, it must present proper evidence that the day was missed because of a situation beyond its control. Next, it must prove that it made a sincere attempt to make up the lost day. This includes cutting out or shortening Christmas and Easter vacations or spring break and going to school on Saturday or into June. Finally, the school must make a formal request to the department for the lost state aid. Needless to say, this is a

very bothersome business and most schools will go to great lengths to avoid it.

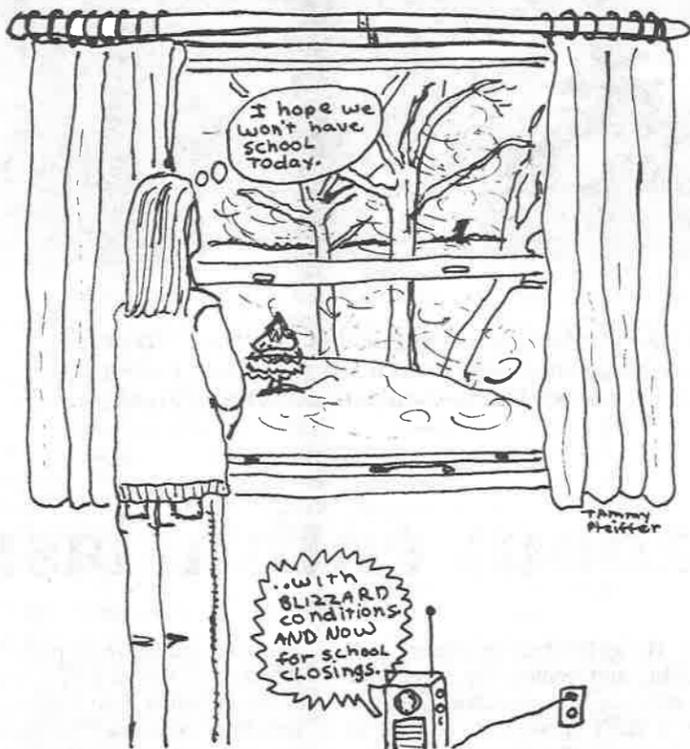
A minimum of 170 days must be instructional days. On these days students are required to attend school for the full time; early dismissals are not counted as full days. This runs contrary to the old 51 percent rule, which stated school could be dismissed one minute after the half way point in the day and be counted as a whole day for state aid purposes.

Not more than five days may be non-instructional days. Noninstructional days are those when all or part of the day is spent on things such as parent-teacher conferences, teacher's workshops, and M.E.A. conventions.

Events that count as neither instruction nor noninstructional are numerous. Final test days and tournament festivals are among some examples. While senior skip days are also unacceptable, things such as graduation practices and senior breakfasts can be counted if they are arranged in such a manner that a total of six hours is spent on a combination of these activities during a day. Most importantly, registration days cannot be counted. This causes a problem for NUHS, which takes two days a year for registration. The administration hopes to find a way to solve this problem so that NUHS students may continue to construct their own schedules.

NUHS is in session for 180 days. Since only 175 days are required, we have five days for blizzards, registration, and other activities. Teachers must report to school on all these days to fulfill the requirements of their contracts.

Now that the facts are known, many questions that have been floating in the back of students' minds are answered. Remember these answers the next time we have a blizzard.



DECA activities are numerous

by John Niehoff
DECA Publicity Chairman

D E C A stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America. It is the nation-wide youth organization for students in Distributive Education programs. Distributive Education is an education program which teaches marketing, merchandising, and management. DECA is designed to develop future leaders in these three areas. DECA is often described as being to distributive Education what FHA is to Home Ec and FFA is to Ag.

The local chapter is headed by seven officers who are assisted by other chapter members serving on such committees as Leadership, Publicity, Social and Fund Raising. These committees give every DECA member an opportunity to participate in various activities throughout the year. Since DECA is designed to develop leadership qualities in its members, the chapter attempts to get and keep everyone involved.

Anyone in the New Ulm Distributive Education program is eligible for membership in DECA. The chapter is off to a good start with 100 percent membership in both junior and senior classes this year. Getting 100 percent membership is a goal most chapters work for, but not all achieve.

There are 38 members in our DECA chapter this year. Chapter officers are President Nancy Hanson, Vice President Patti Klingler; Secretary Sheryl Hosto,

Treasurer Larry Zimmerman, Parliamentarian Karey Kroells, and Historians Pam Kral and Wayne Roddy. These officers were recently installed at a candlelight ceremony held at the Kaiserhoff.

Another recent activity was the annual Fall Leadership Rally held at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis on November 4 and 5. Advisor, Mrs. Pat McDonald, and 24 DECA members attended the rally, which was to provide an opportunity for chapter officers to participate in officer training sessions. There were also sessions for other DECA members to attend such as competitive events, publicity, and fund raising. The sessions were designed to be informative and helpful in maintaining an active chapter.

During this past National DECA Week, November 14-19, the Senior DECA members hosted their training sponsors and other guests at a breakfast at Madsen's. An official proclamation was signed by Mayor Carl Wyczawski, Assistant Principal Dave Stead, Viking Vocational Director Ed Fier, and Advisor Mrs. McDonald. Other guests included Advisory Committee members Dave Brown, Hazel Meine, Dan Poppen, Pat Patterson, and Bud Braun. Also, during the week Bonnie Hartfield, Kathy Woratschka, and Mrs. McDonald were on KNUJ's Community Affairs to promote DECA and its activities.

For a Christmas activity DECA members are going to donate and decorate a Christmas tree for the Day Activity

Center in New Ulm and bring gifts to the people there. A chapter Christmas party will be held at the home of Patti Beranek.

The biggest competitive events of the year are coming in February and April. These competitive events give all DECA members an opportunity to compete with other DECA members on a District, State, and National level. District events are held in Mankato, State events in Minneapolis and National events in Washington, D.C., this year. Competitive events give students an opportunity to test the skills and knowledge they have learned

throughout the year in D.E. I and D.E. II. Areas of competition include Apparel and Accessories, Food Marketing, Food Service, Petroleum, Studies in Marketing, Public Speaking, Sales Demonstration, Job Interview, and Chapter of the Year. These events give D.E. students an opportunity to earn individual recognition for their accomplishments and serve as a reward for all their hard work.

These are just some of the activities that our DECA members have and will be participating in this year. As you can see, there's something for everyone!



SEASON'S
GREETINGS
FROM
DECA

NUOC

sports



Senior Winger Pat Davis cuts between two Northfield defenders in pursuit of the puck during New Ulm's 4-3 tension-filled must win over the Raiders.

Pucksters hope to continue success

by Kevin Oklobzija

The 1976-77 Eagle hockey team was propelled by three Steinbach brothers: Tom, and Terry. Well, Tim is gone, but Tom and Terry remain to carry the Eagles into a new season.

Certainly the Eagles will miss Tim, but Tom and Terry just may be able to take up where Tim left off, who is now playing for the University of Wisconsin at River Falls hockey team.

Tom Steinbach, a junior, centers the first line which consist of senior wingers Pat Davis and Mike Hitchcock. Meanwhile, brother Terry plays between Pete Macho and Mark French.

Last year, Terry finished second on the team in scoring with 27 goals and 19 assist for 46 points. Tom closed out his second year of varsity hockey with 11 goals and four assists but missed several games due to a broken arm.

Both Steinbachs, along with the entire team, have one common goal — to reach

the Region semi-finals. "We don't have any personal goals, we just want to win," said Terry.

Tom also added another plateau which the team wishes to attain. "We want to beat Albert Lea twice and get revenge on Apple Valley."

In 1976 New Ulm outscored opponents 144-44, but the Eagles were also aided by an excellent defense. The Eagles scored 6.5 goals per game while yielding just two per game.

Coach Tom Macho doesn't expect the high scoring output to continue this year, but he does expect another good defensive year. "We may not score as many goals as last year but we'll be consistent. We are a solid defensive squad. We couldn't ask for two better goalies in (Jeff) Schugel and (Bryan) Dahl."

New Ulm's third line will have junior wingers Randy Paa and Steve Sturm with senior Dean Laraway in the middle.



Senior defenseman, Captain Scott Fischer, skates the puck to center ice during the Northfield game at Lund Arena.

Scott Fischer and Tom Leske team up for one defensive line while Bill Fischer pairs with Paul Macho for a second, and Jeff VanKeulen and Gary Hogan will be a third.

Three freshmen will also make their first varsity appearances for the Eagles.

They are Bryan Stuckey, Mark Thompson, and Jeff Sevick.

The Eagles have a two year record of 35-6, and the 1977-78 squad has the potential to keep up the winning tradition. Only time will tell whether the Eagles reach the Regional tournament at Bloomington.

Brothers battle boldly for grappling squad

by Bill Ostrom

Two bright spots of the New Ulm Eagle wrestling team are Rich Hoffman and his brother Doug.

Rich is a junior and wrestles in the 145-pound weight class. Doug is a sophomore and wrestles at 98 pounds. Both have lettered for the varsity wrestling team since they were in seventh grade. Because they have lettered so many times, they have gained valuable wrestling experience which gives them an advantage over many of their opponents.

As of this writing in the 1977 season the Hoffman boys are undefeated. Rich obtained his most impressive victory this year in the 1977 New Ulm Invitational. He reversed Tom Molitor of Marshall with less than thirty seconds to go in the match to win the 145-pound championship. In the same meet Doug notched a thrilling championship victory when he broke an 8-8 tie with a Wabasso foe in the final minute.



Doug Hoffman



Rich Hoffman

For an athlete to excel in his sport, he should set a goal for himself so he will want to improve. This goal should require hard work and determination to obtain. Rich and Doug Hoffman have set getting to the regionals as their goal for the 1977 season. This task will not be easy since they will have to overcome many formidable opponents to get to regional competition.

The Hoffman brothers reside on a farm outside of New Ulm. During the offseason they keep their wrestling muscles in tone by doing chores on the farm. These chores require a considerable amount of physical labor which prepares them for the stress and strains of wrestling.

The Hoffman brothers are two hard-working farm boys who make their hard work productive when they wrestle. Both Rich and Doug have similar goals and are striving to reach these goals. Each should make remarkable contributions to the New Ulm Eagle wrestling program.

Young, but experienced, girls' team possesses potential

by Scott Werdahl

Although the squad is very young, the NUHS girls' gymnastics team has high hopes for a very successful season in 1977.

This year's team consists of 28 members, an impressive number. Leading the team are seniors Nancy Backer, Karen Crowl, and Susan Deming; juniors Cindy Dittrich and Beth Rasmussen; sophomores Karen Altmann, Tammy Current, Barb Nupson, Cathy Gulden, Pattie Wieland, Denise Gieske, Kim Horner, Denise McKenzie, and Larissa Klassen. There are also 12 freshmen girls on the squad. The team is coached by Mrs. Sandy Fritz and is assisted by Mrs. Cindy Theophilus.

Crowl, Beth Rasmussen, and Pattie Wieland have the most experience. The team is young and has great potential for future success. Coach Fritz says "that I can't promise anything but if the team sets some new goals there may be a few surprises." She cites Fairmont as the team's toughest competitor.

There are four events in girls' gymnastics: the un-even parallel bars, the vaulting horse, the balance beam, and the floor exercise, which was a strong event in the past for the girls although the un-even parallel bars could be their most impressive event this year.

Coach Fritz sent three girls to the state meet last year but wishes to send the whole team someday. The team graduated four girls last year, including the two Spelbrink twins, Jean and Jane, who were two of the three who went to the state. The other was Nancy Backer, who along with Karen

The coaches and girls realize that the team has some potentially outstanding capabilities and talents. They also believe that with the necessary practice and desired support from fans and followers, they can become individual and team champions.



Junior Jody Johnson eyes the basket as senior Monica Tauer defends during a scrimmage.

Promising team could lead to exciting year

by Eric Senske

With four returning letterwinners from last year's squad, the girls basketball team, coached by Mr. Lyle Sparrowgrove and assisted by Mr. John Ferret, seems to have a promising season before it. Three of these letterwinners were starters on last year's team. Although that team finished with a poor record, the season was not a complete loss. The girls gained experience and poise, and with the capable help of the other members of this year's varsity, the outlook for this season is good.

The returning letterwinners are Cindy Hoffrogge, a senior forward who was named All-Conference in the South Central last season; Monica Tauer and Joanne Steinbach, both of whom are senior forwards; and Kay Buysse, a junior center. These girls will be backed by senior Anna Achman, juniors Lauri Alwin, Jody Johnson, Lori Tyler, and Cindy Sperling, and sophomore Carla Windschitl. Other help may come from sophomores Terri Brudelic and Kris Bloedel, who are now on the B-squad.

This year's team looks stronger overall than last year's team. Although both starting guards from last year were lost to graduation, girls from last year's varsity, B-squad, and freshman teams are expected to step in and ably fill these vacancies.

Anna Achman, Joanne Steinbach, Monica Tauer, and Cindy Hoffrogge, the team's four seniors, all feel that this year's team is improved over last year's. They think it is more aggressive, experienced, and organized than last season. The girls'

goal is to finish near the .500 mark and improve as the season progresses.

Coach Sparrowgrove, now in his second year as the girls' basketball coach at NUHS, sees an improved team this season. He thinks that improvement is needed on the girls' defensive, ball handling, and rebounding skills. His goals are to have a winning season and finish somewhere near the middle of the final conference standings. He is pleased with the girls and says they work very hard.

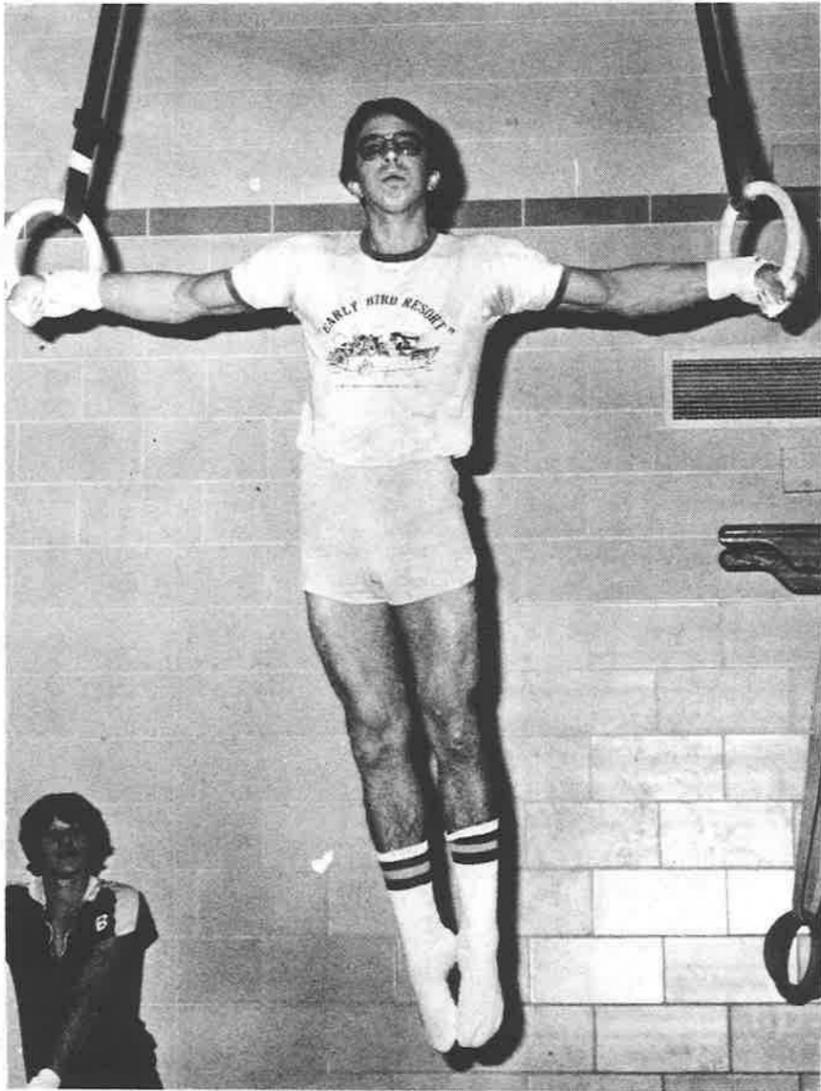
The South Central Conference looks quite strong this year. Co-champions Wells and Blue Earth along with Fairmont and Waseca appear as the teams to beat. There is a double round robin schedule in the conference for the first time this year, but Coach Sparrowgrove and the players are confident that they will finish respectably.

The schedule for this season consists of 17 games. The number of non-conference games has dropped from nine last year in a 15-game schedule to five this year, but these five include strong opponents such as Mankato East, Mankato West, and Redwood Falls. Still, the mood of the team is optimistic, and time will determine the outcome.

With a year behind them coaches Sparrowgrove and Ferret, along with the players, seem ready for another basketball season. Since girls basketball is a relatively new sport at NUHS, the team needs your support and enthusiasm. So come out to as many games as you can. It should prove to be a very exciting year!



Senior forward Joanne Steinbach gets ready for a possible rebound if the attempted shot misses. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)



State qualifier Jim Wilfahrt practices an Iron Cross on the Still Rings as Kevin Kretsch watches. (photo by Karl Schroeder)

Gym team sends three to state meet

by Brad Berentson

The New Ulm boys' gymnastics team turned in a good performance in the region meet Saturday, November 26, at the Rochester Mayo High School gym. They finished third as a team, which was not high enough to qualify for the state meet, but three individuals qualified. They were Jim Wilfahrt, Steve Beyer, and Pat Wesselmann.

Wilfahrt, Beyer, and Wesselmann are the first gymnasts from New Ulm to qualify for the state meet since Brian Benson went as a sophomore on the pommel horse, so these three going to the state is a pretty big feat.

Coach Earl Neist, however, expected two more to go to state. "Besides the three that made it, I really expected Brian Benson and Chris Lohman to qualify, too. Chris couldn't compete because he was in the hospital and Brian just had an off day."

Senior Jim Wilfahrt scored a 6.60 on the still rings which gave him a fourth place finish for the meet. Jim seemed pretty happy about going to the state meet because as he said, "I really didn't feel I

would make it." Most people did expect Wilfahrt to make it because he has turned in good scores on the still rings all year.

Steve Beyer came through with a 7.50 on the floor exercise which was third best in the region. "I knew I had a pretty fair chance to make it, but I am still really excited about it," Steve remarked.

Pat Wesselmann will be competing in the state meet in all-around and floor exercise. Wesselmann scored a 7.35 in the floor exercise and a 33.95 in all-around. Both scores got him a fourth place. Wesselmann was confident going into the regional meet. "I expected to go to state in all-around, but the floor exercise was a surprise."

Neist expected the three to be in the state meet and remarked with a big smile, "I expect those guys to have a good time, they earned it." Neist also mentioned that it is really hard to tell how well they will do at the state because they have not seen many of the people that these three will be competing against.

The New Ulm boys' gymnastics team had a great season and seniors Brian Benson, Jeff Hoffman, and Jim Wilfahrt are finishing their gymnastics careers at New Ulm High School in fine fashion.

Weightlifting muscles way into athletic program

by Randy Stuckey

Weightlifting has become an important part of a successful athletic program, and New Ulm High School's program is no exception.

The NUHS Winter Weightlifting and Conditioning Program was begun before Christmas because of the great interest in the weightlifting. In former years the program started after the holiday recess. Mr. Skip Davis, the program's supervisor, said, "We are starting earlier this year because the kids are really interested and want to start earlier."

The program's purpose is to build strength, improve body flexibility, and develop the cardio-vascular system. The program is also an activity for those who are not participating in a winter sport. Many weight-lifters will agree that it is more of a sport than an activity.

A typical workout consists of stretching, weightlifting, and running. Most of the stretching is done before lifting to prevent injuries. The weightlifting consists of different lifts: the bench press, incline

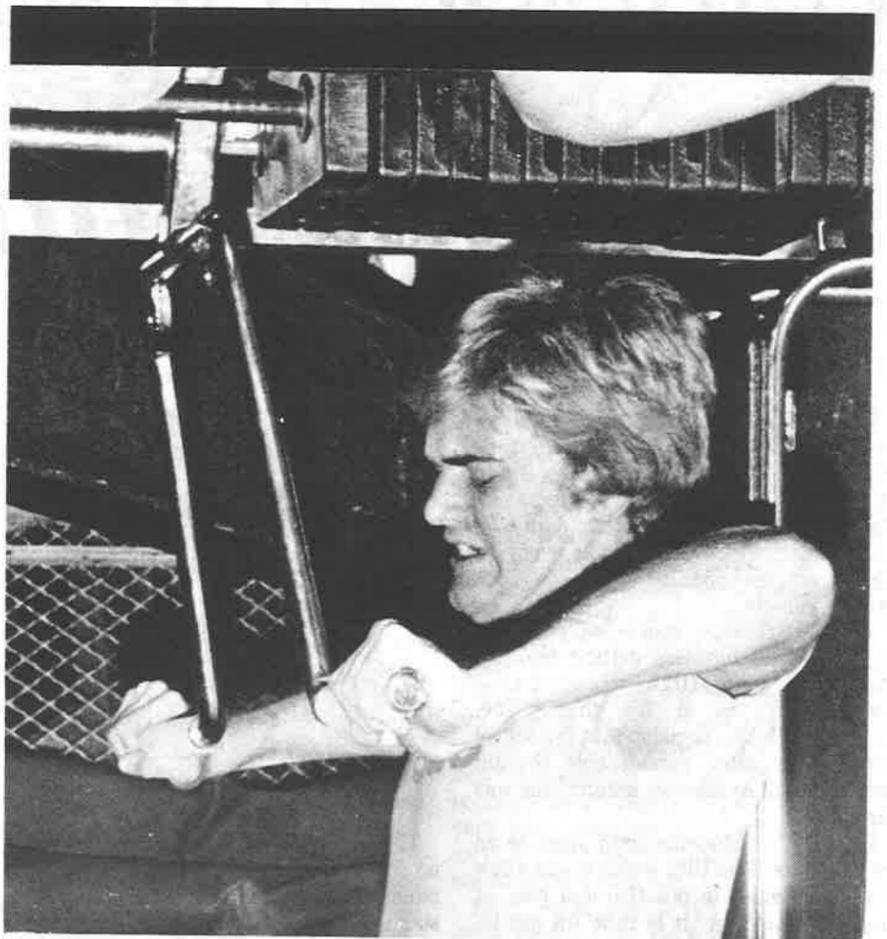
situps, leg press, arm and knee curls. Running is also done before and after the lifting part of the conditioning to warm up and get physically prepared for the weightlifting.

Weightlifting is done every other day to give the muscles a chance to build up and heal. Many students will run on the days that they do not lift to keep in condition and remain flexible. The program is for both girls and boys, but even though their programs differ, the results are the same.

The weightlifting and conditioning program was started in the mid-1960's by Mr. Don Varpness primarily for football players. Mr. Davis has continued the program and has expanded it for all students in NUHS.

Many of the weightlifters are conditioning themselves for a spring sport, although others just want to stay in condition and physically fit. Mr. Davis commented, "Many girls are starting to express interest in the program, even at the ninth grade level."

The weightlifting and conditioning program will continue to early March when many of the spring sports will start.



Senior Pete Weissmann grits his teeth hoping to get that 195 lbs. up "once more." (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

Fans anticipate another region championship

by Mike Engel

Since the beginning of Region Three in 1931, only two New Ulm basketball teams have won the regional title, the 1937 and 1975 teams.

Of the ten members of the 1937 team, five still reside in New Ulm. They are Dick Eichten of Eichten Shoe Store; Howard Korth, a chiropractor; Ronald Spelbrink of Spelbrink's Clothing Store; Otis Loose, Brown County Auditor; and Robert Aufderheide of New Ulm Brick and Tile Yards. Their coach, Joe Harman of Harman Realty, also resides in New Ulm. Although many New Ulm residents know these men, they are probably unaware they were members of the 1937 state tournament basketball team.

Other members of the team were Richard Spelbrink, brother to Ronald and owner of Spelbrink's Clothing Store in Mankato; brothers Doug and Bradley Kusske, both doctors in St. Paul; Delford Precht, and insurance executive in Illinois; and Robert Buenger, a commercial pilot.

The team won the district play-offs and advanced to region play. In the Region Three tourney New Ulm was pitted against Hutchinson and won the game 23-21. New Ulm went on to defeat Tracy in the championship game 28-19 and earned the chance to travel to the Minnesota State High School Basketball Tournament with a 19-4 record.

The first round of the state tournament found New Ulm slated against Tri-Mont. New Ulm fans, 500 or more in number, watched as their team overtook their

opponent 29-26 and advanced to the semifinals. New Ulm's dream of winning the title vanished as they fell to the eventual state champions Minneapolis Edison 62-23. The high scoring game was unusual for that era. New Ulm lost their consolation game with Thief River Falls 31-24 yet finished with a respectful fourth place in the state.

The only other New Ulm basketball team ever to win the Region Three title was in 1975. The team, coached by Mr. Jim Senske, consisted of Paul Wyczawski, Bruce Johnson, Tom Schrader, Steve Altmann, Ron Starke, Ken Hagg, Jim Henning, Monte Mecklenburg, Dave Loucks, Kevin Wilner, Guy Tostenrud, Jay Hamann, Larry Guggisberg, Dave Miller, and Brian Shay.

The team defeated Gibbon for the District Ten Championship and traveled to Montevideo for the Regionals. New Ulm outlasted Clara City 44-41 and advanced to the final game with Renville. The Eagles captured the Region Three title by stunning Renville 48-39 and earning a trip to St. Paul and the 1975 Minnesota State High School Basketball Tournament with a 21-4 record.

The Eagles faced Chisholm in the first round of the state tourney and, much to the disappointment of the 1000 plus New Ulm fans on hand at the Civic Center, the Eagles were overwhelmed 66-55.

These two examples demonstrate that New Ulm can have a championship basketball team, but if they win the region only once every 38 years, it will be the year 2013 before they go to the state tournament again. It's something to look forward to.



Junior forward Laine Sletta puts up a soft jumper during an afternoon practice session. (Photo by Karl Schroeder)

Looking ahead in athletics

Tom's Sports Stories

by Tom Wyczawski

What a pity that for the third consecutive year, New Ulm high school hockey fans will have to journey 60-round trip miles to cheer their favorites. As everyone knows, New Ulm High plays its home games at Lund Arena in St. Peter, and as everyone also knows, the hopes for a local ice arena remain remote.

There are those, of course, who say that NUHS had no business getting into the Minnesota State High school league hockey program in the first place. However, it was a decision that the school board made after considerable thought and research. At least we assume this was the case.

What can we students do to promote an ice arena for New Ulm which would allow the local Eagles to practice and play at home? I would say it is time we get involved. Recently there has been some talk in the community of a multi-purpose building which could serve as home for the skaters.



The mayor tells us the city presently has no definite plans for a multi-purpose building unless the majority of citizens stand up and request such a facility. Last spring New Ulm taxpayers approved a \$1,250,000 indoor swimming pool. This will be built by tax dollars and should be ready for use by 1979.

New Ulm will also receive some federal revenue sharing dollars in the next three years, and this money could be used for such a multi-purpose building. It is up to those of us, especially the 18-year-olds, to convince our city council that New Ulm needs such a facility. It is reliably reported that at this stage two members of the council favor such a building, one opposes it, and two remain undecided.

Even though Coach Tom Macho has one of Southern Minnesota's finest prep hockey machines this year, we will again travel to St. Peter to watch them play a "home" game. Perhaps within a few years New Ulm hockey fans will be able to stay "home" and cheer the Eagle icemen. We hope so.

Coach Dave Hartman is in his debut season as head basketball coach, and I wouldn't expect too much in the way of victories this season. With a very tough schedule including games against a contending state tournament team

Fairmont and 1977 state participant Redwood Falls, the Eagles seem to have their share of problems ahead of them.

This year's team has to be one of the youngest ever. It consists of three seniors, seven juniors, and one sophomore. New Ulm probably will not be a factor in the South Central Conference race this year but could conceivably score some upsets as the season progresses.

Coach Rich Peterson hopes to rebound with a winning wrestling program this season with veterans Mark Palmer and the Hoffmann brothers, Doug and Rich, plus the surprise junior Heavyweight Brad Portner paving the way with early season success.

The grapplers should enjoy some fine post-season tournament success.

As for girls' sports, the basketball team should have a better season than last years 1-15 record while the gymnasts will not be as strong as in past years but should be interesting to watch.