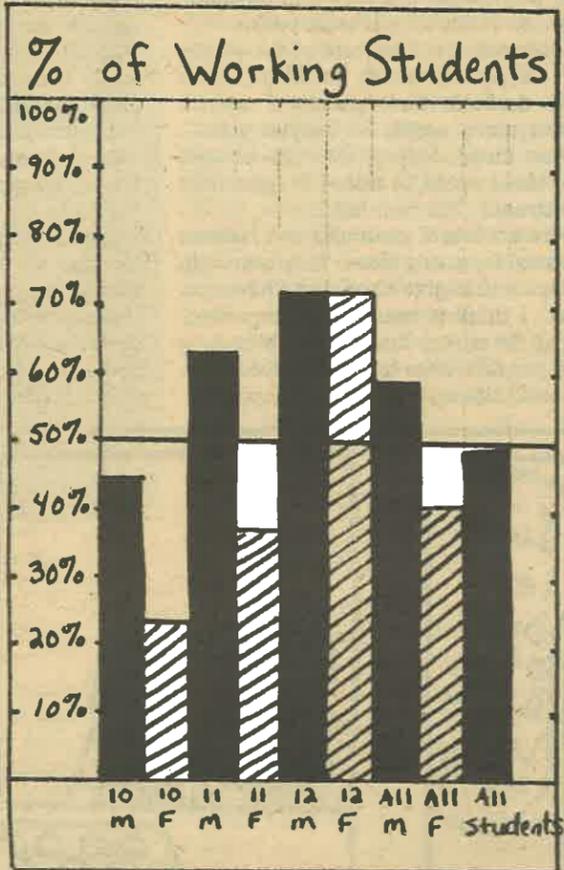


the graphs

March 1977

New Ulm, Minnesota 56073



Bernadine Hillesheim and Terry Alfson are among the many NUHS students employed in grocery stores and other businesses.

50% of NUHS students employed

Jobs affect social lives, grades

by Marcia Quiggle

A few weeks ago I conducted a survey of the student body to find out how many kids in our school have jobs. My results were based upon 519 completed questionnaires. Of the students surveyed, 52 percent were males, and 48 percent were females. All three grades were represented — 37 percent of the total surveyed consisted of sophomores, juniors made up 33 percent, and the remaining 30 percent included seniors.

I calculated the percentages of students who have jobs and those who don't. As expected, employment increased with age. About 44 percent of the sophomore boys have part-time jobs, compared to only 21 percent of the sophomore girls. The amount of junior boys who work is 62 percent, and 37 percent of the junior gals have jobs. Female employment jumps to a whopping 71 percent in the senior class, making the percentage of senior males and females who work exactly even.

On the average more males than females have jobs (59 percent and 41 percent respectively). One of the most startling facts of the entire survey is 258 students have jobs, (49.7 percent) and 261 (50.3 percent) do not. Almost the exact same number of kids in our school do work as don't.

Employing 30 percent of all those working (both male and female), restaurants hire the largest number of NUHS students. Almost 40 percent of the employed sophomores and juniors work in restaurants, but this figure drops to less than 20 percent among seniors who usually find other jobs.

Seniors work in the widest array of jobs

since many employers only hire people who are eighteen or older.

Most males work as farm help. The second largest group consists of cooks or bakers, and the janitors and maintenance crews make up the third largest. Stockers and carry-outs are the fourth most common job among males. The fifth category is auto mechanics and gas attendants. Those who make deliveries are the sixth most common, and waiters or busboys are seventh.

Waitresses are the most common type among all females employed, secretaries are second, and cashiers are third. The fourth largest group is made up of cooks, bakers, and kitchen help. Girls who do cleaning are fifth, and salesclerks are sixth.

Males usually work more hours per week than females. Very few, if any, girls work over 35 hours a week although 13 percent of the guys fall under this category. As the students move from their sophomore year to the senior year, their working hours increase. The average number of hours worked per week for all grades, male and female, is between fifteen and twenty-five hours.

Many students said that their grades suffered because of their jobs. The lack of time is the biggest factor. For the student who works over twenty hours a week and carries a heavy class load, homework becomes almost impossible to complete. Students who work nights and all day on Saturdays find that getting to the library to research a topic is a hopeless task since it is closed on Sundays. A majority of student workers stay up later at night (to finish homework) than they normally would.

This action might allow them to finish assignments, but many are then too tired in school.

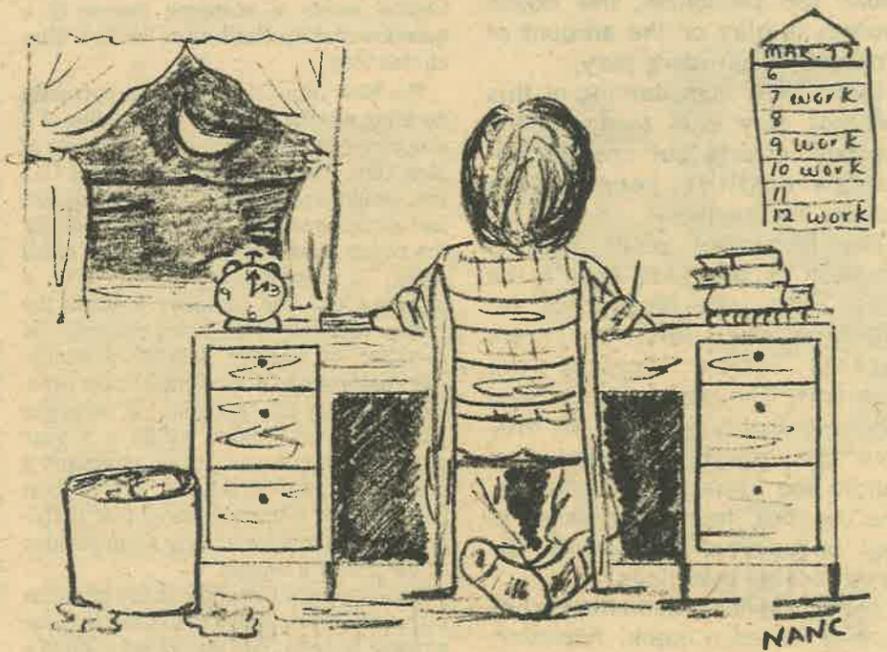
A few people said their grades improved because they work, especially those with jobs that relate to their classes. For example, a farm hand's grade might go up in agriculture, but grades may drop in other classes.

One student said, "I've learned how to use my free days more effectively." But another person wrote regarding homework: "If I was home I wouldn't do it anyway."

Besides grades, holding a job affects a student's social life. A junior boy said it

well: "I have more money to do what I want, but no time to do it." High school kids with jobs find it hard to participate in extra-curricular activities, and working students miss many school events. Kids who have jobs often find it difficult to schedule other activities around their hours. They frequently have to give up something, like leisure time, in order to keep their jobs.

What has been ignored in this survey report, however, is also very valuable; namely, the responsibility and experience of meeting and working with people. Perhaps a second survey should be made to measure the value of these experiences.



NANC

editorial

"Downtown qb-ing" is sports side effect



by Scott Simkins

High school sports have certainly been a plus for those students involved, but a terrible side effect of high school athletics continually eats away at its benefits.

"Downtown quarterbacking" is what I'm talking about. Some fans regularly get together, whether in the stands at the game or over a cup of coffee at The Palace, to decide what went wrong during the game and why. This form of fan "support" often gets out of hand and evolves into tremendous pressures on players and coaches.

Evident of this pressure is the resignation of two NUHS varsity head coaches this year. I'm sure that behind the desires for a winning season and more time with families, lies another big deterrent to coaching — pressure from the "fans in the stands."

It would be ridiculous to deny that coaches are not involved in disputes with fans. Although some of these encounters rarely go beyond the people directly involved, they do happen. These fans, usually parents of players on a team, frequently complain about the personnel the coach chooses to play or the amount of time some members play.

Every year complaining of this sort not only eats away at the coaches' efforts but creates unwanted hostility between the players themselves.

The important point of this situation is the kids aren't the ones who are bothered by coaching decisions, but their parents often create the problems. The players know who should be playing, and if they aren't playing, they can and often handle the situation themselves. The coaches, too, know whom to play because of their daily observations at practices.

The fans who come to the games once or twice a week, however, are the ones who yell the most and

second guess the coaches' decisions. Many seem to know how to correctly handle any situation. As an injured player sitting in the crowd recently said after a game, "Everyone else seems to know how to do it!"

While the fans in the stands originally meant no harm, it would be much better if these fans would now leave the playing and the coaching to those directly involved.

By giving blood

Take time to help others live

by Bernadine Hillesheim

The Red Cross Bloodmobile's visit to New Ulm Senior High School will be on April 19. This day is a big event for many people, and I hope it will be for you too.

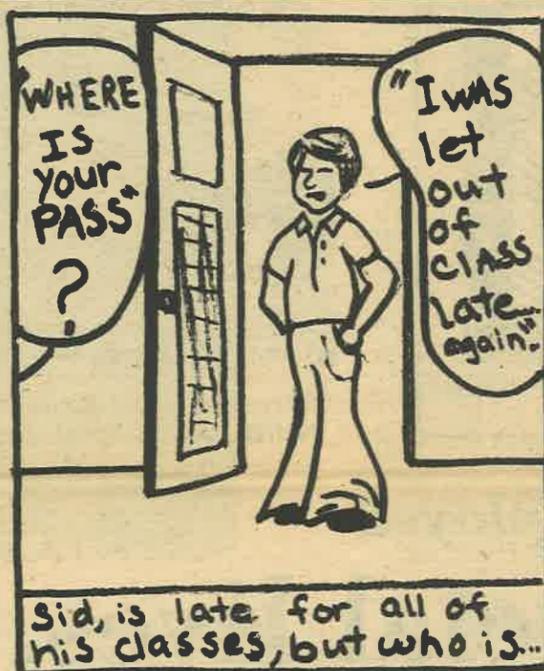
In this country, 3 percent of the people give 100 percent of all the blood that's freely donated. That means if only 1 percent more people — maybe you — became blood donors, over 30 percent more blood would be added to America's bloodstream. Not bad, huh?

There are lots of gimmicks and reasons presented for giving blood. They may help convince you to give blood, but I have one reason I think is much more important than all the others. You actually help save other people's lives by giving blood. One donation helps up to five other people live.

So far I've helped up to 15 other people live. That knowledge makes me feel pretty good.

I guess we all want to be counted among the few in something, and giving blood can be our way. However, this few really ought to become the majority. But don't worry because the number can grow and grow and still be doing something very important and necessary.

As chairman of the bloodmobile for our school, I hope many of you take this opportunity to feel important. Almost all important things are difficult, but giving blood is an exception. I don't think any excuse you can make before you give can compare in truthfulness and importance to the feeling you'll have after you give. We'll make sure you hear about the blood day when it's time. Please sign up to give then.



NU shopping center

To be or not to be

by Dave Mildenberg

It has been said that one would be hard-pressed to find a city the size of New Ulm that does not have a full-fledged shopping center. Perhaps this illustrates Scott Simkin's theory that New Ulm is Stingy City, U.S.A., but more importantly, it suggests the great influence downtown business interests have had on the shape of New Ulm. Whether or not the Polka Capital needs a shopping center is a question making the rounds in New Ulm circles today.

The New Ulm City Council is currently deciding whether to allow the building of a shopping center at the northwest corner of New Ulm. The Ericson Development Co., Inc. would like to build a 243,000 square foot shopping mall at this location. Ideally the center would have room for 45 retail shops, 3 department stores, and a supermarket. The company predicts the center would generate added property tax revenues of roughly \$145,000 annually. Also important to many youths in the area, 350 additional full-time and 100 part-time jobs would be created within a 3 year period. Obviously the company's predictions may be inflated, but Ericson has built over 20 complexes similar to this one and should have a fairly accurate idea of the center's impact.

One of the oddities of the entire situation is that the development firm itself became an issue. Ericson Inc. was all set to build a 1 million sq. foot mall in Tempe, Arizona,

when the project was called off because of "cost overruns." This naturally raised doubts among Council members about the firm's solvency, but the owner came to New Ulm and reassured the Council that all was well. Ericson said some mistakes had been made but essentially the press blew the whole issue out of context.

So now we have all these supposed benefits, an eager development firm, and a town with no shopping center. What, you ask, is holding things up? The answer is that to run a shopping center, basic utilities are essential for heating, lighting, etc. At the present time, however, the site does not have the proper utilities for the proposed center. Thus the city has estimated it will cost \$550,000 to upgrade these utilities. Ericson has offered to pay \$300,000 of the total cost expecting the city to anxiously pick up the rest of the tab. The city, however, balked at this idea, and that is where the stalemate occurs.

It seems to me that the city is simply using the argument over the utilities to buy time to decide whether or not a center should be built. Obviously if the city agreed that all the aforementioned benefits would accrue, there would be no hassle. Yet doubts and fears among city leaders persist about the value of a shopping center.

A major concern raised by opponents of the center is the mass flight by businesses away from the downtown core of

businesses which presently are relatively stable.

Others fear that the downtown businesses, if they do not move to the proposed shopping center, will lose a crucial amount of customers to the center's stores because of the shopping advantages a center offers.

My personal opinion is New Ulm would be unable to support the type of center being proposed without massive losses by some businesses, possibly by the shopping center itself. Yet I feel that the Ericson Company should be allowed to build a center if it wants to risk this possibility. It should be a basic premise of any governmental body that holding back private enterprise is wrong. Yet that seems to be what the Council is doing. The downtown businesses can stick together even if a center is built. The town will not fall apart if a center is built, and if the demand is apparent and real for a facility of this type, New Ulm could only be helped by its construction. So I urge the City to give Ericson the possibility to build.

graphos

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Goal-oriented students manytimes hard working



Kirsten Mickelson

by Mr. Thomas Wilson
Principal

The world is replete with people who "almost" accomplished some goal. These people cite reasons of bad luck, unfair judges, or some other misfortune to explain why they failed to reach their goal. Thankfully, the world also has many people who are winners who reach their goal, and NUHS has its share of these people. A good example of such a person in our school is Kirsten Mickelson, a quiet, unassuming, hard-working junior. She doesn't expend a lot of energy telling us what she's going to do or why she failed. Instead, she sets a goal and works hard to reach it.

Last fall, Kirsten heard about the Student Page Program and decided to apply. She took the initiative to determine how to win the local competition and then set about to do it. She completed an application, studied the political issues and personnel, and used this information to score well in a selection interview.

As a result of her successful pursuit of this goal, Kirsten spent a week serving as a page in the Minnesota Legislature during January. The week involved a number of group meetings during which officials explained legislative procedures. It also provided for numerous opportunities to run errands for legislators and observe the political process firsthand.

Living in a Methodist girls' housing unit in St. Paul, Kirsten walked the two blocks to the capitol each day. She spent each day with student pages from other towns sharing an experience that most of us will never have. And she gets to go back for another week during March. "I appreciate the chance to represent our school at St. Paul," said Kirsten. "It's a great experience."

Kirsten Mickelson is not the only outstanding student at NUHS, but she is a good example of one who is goal oriented. Others excel in music, sports, academics, drama, declam or vocational education, but these people achieve because they set a goal and work very hard to achieve it.

We are approaching the time of the year when seniors begin considering what awards and scholarships will be awarded to deserving graduates. The awards are highly coveted, and the scholarships can amount to several hundred dollars for the winners. At this time only one thing is sure — these awards and scholarships will be won by those with the initiative, hustle, capacity for hard work and willingness to set a goal and work for it. Do you qualify?

Lounge: senior privilege?

Foosball wizards limited to seniors

by Vicky Helget

The high school senior lounge is a place for fun, rest, and sometimes even work. It is a place where only seniors are allowed to experience some freedom and privileges.

There have been several senior lounges since the Senior High School was built. The first one was begun six years ago and located in what is now the weight room near the boys locker room. This room was a dark, dingy area. Students and faculty felt the location wasn't a good place to have a lounge. That lounge lasted two years until it was moved to room 001 in 1974, its present location.

The senior lounge has several pieces of furniture, two foosball tables, a ping-pong table, and candy and pop machines. A jukebox is a recent addition because the seniors overwhelmingly decided to purchase the jukebox instead of a new TV. In past years there has been an old TV in the lounge, but it was removed when the jukebox arrived. The jukebox was ordered from the Hermel Company, which also supplies the foosball tables and candy machines.

Out of everything in the lounge, the foosball tables are used most frequently. Recently a table had to be removed because of misuse. Assistant principal, Mr. Dave Stead, said the main reason for removing the table was the failure to report damage. He felt by taking the table away seniors would learn to report damage. After a meeting with the seniors,

the foosball table was returned to the lounge.

The ping-pong table is also used often. Before students can play the game, they must go to the office and check out the paddles and balls. Then, after they are finished using the equipment, they must return it to the office. The principals feel this procedure is the best way to keep track of equipment. If students wish, they may bring their own equipment from home.

Of course, the candy and pop machines are often used even though they are off limits during lunch hours. According to state law machines can't be run during lunch because they would be competition with the school lunch program.

Along with all the fun of a senior lounge, Mr. Stead feels its purpose is to give the seniors a chance to manage their own time. For example, they must decide if they need to study during their free hour or to play foosball. It also gives them complete freedom to do what they want when they do not have a class. This freedom can help them use their free time wisely.

"I'm pleased to see how the senior lounge is being run this year," replied senior class president Tim Kohn. The lounge has been closed only once, and equipment is being taken care of much more carefully.

The senior lounge is for playing foosball, eating candy, and just relaxing. It can prepare seniors for their future by providing some fun — and experience in handling these responsibilities later.

the guidepost

by Mr. Jim Zetah
Counselor

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose. There is a time to work, a time to play, a time to study and a time to grow."

Your high school years probably contain all of the above with greatest emphasis on the last three, but students often deny themselves the opportunities and the advantages that are offered at school. Too many students clutter up their high school years with all kinds of distractions. I have seen jobs interfere with students being able to participate in activities or attend functions but, most important, cut into time required to fulfill classroom responsibilities. There is a time for work and a time for school but, whenever possible, let these years be devoted to school work and related activities.

Many of our lives become too hectic and complicated. In the process we fail to take advantage of the interesting moments that come into our lives. Our lifetime is made up of many moments. Some moments come like gifts and are special to us because in them we can see the meaningfulness of life.

The secret is in the seeing, but our eyes need to be open. How often do we look but don't really see or listen but don't really hear? We miss those magic moments because we are too preoccupied or busy with conflicting activities.

Do you really read the novel, short story, or the poetic passage and appreciate what the author is expressing? Do you view the artistic design or listen to a musical composition with the intensity that may be required? Does the math or science assignment receive the necessary attention? The point I'm trying to make is that you need time to do your best in what should be your present full-time job, a student.

I want to use this opportunity to make you aware of a series of six educational moments. A community education program entitled "Living With You and Me" will be presented on six consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning March 22. The program will be held at the New Ulm Junior High School Little Theatre. Guest speakers will lead discussions on the following topics: Me, Myself and I — Self Esteem; Family Relationships; Chemical Dependency; Assertiveness; Coping With Change; and Social Problems relating to child abuse. Ms. Marty Webb and I are part of the organizational committee planning this program. We invite you, your parents, and friends to come and participate.

Irish looking forward to "wearing o' the green"

by Terri Risius

St. Patrick's Day is a religious, political, and joyous holiday which is full of the pleasures of good fellowship. This holiday was first observed in the United States in Boston during 1737.

St. Patrick was born in Wales around 389 A.D. He is commemorated as a saint for converting the barbarous people of Ireland to Christianity and civilization. He also founded many schools and churches. One legend has it that St. Patrick charmed the snakes of Ireland, led them to the sea, and drowned them.

St. Patrick used the shamrock, now the national flower of Ireland, to illustrate the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of the Trinity. It has now become a tradition among the Irish and the non-Irish to wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day. "Wearing o' the green" — green clothes, hats, scarves and

socks also originated from the green shamrocks.

The celebration of St. Patrick's Day, however, is not limited to just the Irish. A growing number of greeting cards are sent each year. Some contain messages of friendship and affection while others are sent as a means of keeping in touch. Each year St. Patrick's Day features parades, speeches, and green beer.

The largest parade that takes place is the Great Fifth Avenue Parade in New York City. For those local inhabitants who feel a little bit Irish, New Ulm's 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will wind through downtown New Ulm on March 17. Even the green beer of the Irish will be served in various bars in town. So this year, wear your green and shamrocks and have a good time. Everybody is a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Even in New Ulm.





Judging from the expression on his face, Mr. Richard McLean seems to think that our cameraman is a real "boob."

Classroom "boobs," communist plots plague Mr. McLean

by Susan Deming

It is now time to pay tribute to Mr. Richard McLean, this issue's "Teacher of the Month." He is one of the social studies teachers at New Ulm Senior High School. For those of you students who have not had him for Cold War, Current Problems, or Westward Movement, you are definitely missing something. When asked if he has any unique characteristics, Mr. McLean will only say that he is just an average guy who went gray at a very young age. How young he didn't say.

Mr. McLean has taught in New Ulm for twelve years. Prior to coming to New Ulm he taught in northern Minnesota in the Mille Lacs area for a few years. He didn't originally plan on being a teacher, but he had always been interested in social matters so he went to college and became a teacher.

Except on raking days, Mr. McLean is usually well dressed, fully equipped with suitcoat or dressy sweater. On these days Mr. McLean dons his jeans and flannel shirt with rake at his side. Don't be alarmed if he places you into a group and dubs you "Head Knocker." This title merely means that you must get your group to rake the allotted property, obtain transportation to and from its site, have bags, rakes etc. Finally, the "Head Knocker" must make sure that nobody in his group sneaks off somewhere and gets killed. That's all.

On "normal" days in Mr. McLean's class, however, the activities consist of reading, listening, watching films, trying not to act like boobs, doing research, presenting oral reports, or working in small groups.

On days that oral reports are presented, the wise student offers to give his report right away so he doesn't have to sit in apprehension for an hour wondering when he will be called on to "volunteer." Also, this wise student will have the added attraction of being able to sit back and enjoy the show presented by the giggler, the speed reader, or the slow non reader who reads his few lines at 15 WPM in order to make the report last the minimum of three minutes. One usually catches a glimpse of a smile on Mr. McLean's face while

grading oral reports.

Group presentation days are also great fun. Group leaders experience surprises and express concern when it is realized that one member of his group doesn't have a report ready. Another member of his group has looked up the wrong subject and says it doesn't matter "cause nobody ever listens to oral reports anyway." Another member copied an encyclopedia article but can't read or pronounce what he has written. Between the group leader's report and the member with a legible report, there are only two and a half minutes of material, just a fraction of the required time. On these days Mr. McLean's evaluations are pure enjoyment.

Mr. McLean has a sense of humor. He has to. He feels that too much in life is taken seriously. "I don't think of myself as having a really good sense of humor. But I enjoy people who approach life that way, seeing the humorous side of it. So much of what people are like is really kind of laughable. A lot of us go around taking things seriously that are a joke when you think about it."

He likes students who pay attention and show an interest in a subject. McLean looks for students who want to learn and make an effort to do so. He feels that he uses an easy-going approach and doesn't believe in making threats unless he really plans to carry them out.

When asked about any pet peeves he might have, Mr. McLean stated he did not like people who blamed others for their own difficulties.

His interests include hunting, reading, fiddling with his car to some extent (to the extent that he is able), and going on walks for exercise.

As far as future plans are concerned, Mr. McLean says that after both of his kids finish college he and his wife may do some traveling. "Retirement is a long way off."

The answer to the question we've all been waiting to hear is now available; namely, what kind of toothpaste does Mr. McLean use? Well, it seems that Mr. McLean is a Crest man. Oh, well, nothing is as it seems, is it?

Alateen helps children of alcoholics

by Kathy Rathmann

Joining the ranks of Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon is a group for teenage children of parents who have problems related to the excessive use of alcohol. Alateen was initiated in New Ulm by Steve Schneider of the Brown County Family Service Center.

Because alcoholism affects all the members of families with drinking problems, Alateen attempts to help children of parents who are attending AA meetings and have controlled their drinking or who continue to have drinking problems and aren't involved in AA.

The Alateen meetings in New Ulm are held each Monday evening at 8:30 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and are open to any youth between the ages of twelve and twenty. The program began in October 1976. The meetings are held at the same time and location as the AA and Alanon meetings so families can come together.

The format followed at each Alateen gathering is somewhat similar to AA meetings. The participants decide what will happen each week. Although Schneider is the Alateen sponsor and provides guidance when needed, the group

is quite independent. A chairman is elected each month to choose the topics to be discussed.

Past meetings have involved discussions among the participants dealing with the frustrations and problems involved in living with an alcoholic parent. Guest speakers or other activities may be utilized in the future.

The response of the participants has indicated that Alateen has given them much help in understanding alcoholism and improving family relationships. In many cases members have changed their attitudes and behavior through their involvement in Alateen while the problem drinker in the family has also improved his handling of alcohol.

Any teen whose parent is a problem drinker is encouraged to contact Schneider to find out more about the group or to come to an Alateen meeting. There are no fees charged and transportation is provided. Everything that takes place at the meetings is confidential, so there is no need to worry about being known as the "child of an alcoholic."

Alateen encourages any new members to join the group; people are ready and willing to help.

Budget cuts sting

by Naomi Isenberg

During the past months there has been much news about schools and their budget cutting efforts. Although some of these problems might be caused by mismanagement or the economic problems plaguing our country, most problems spring from UFARS.

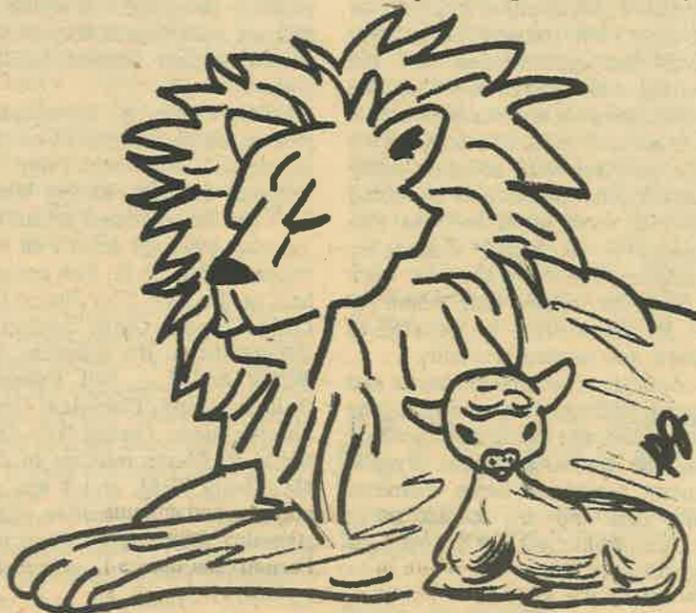
UFARS stands for Uniform Financial Accounting Reporting Services, which is a uniform system of accounting for the state's 439 public schools. A legislative mandate requires that by July 1, 1977, all public schools must have switched to UFARS. UFARS will provide the state with quick, accurate information. Unfortunately, UFARS will be a giant financial headache for NUHS and approximately 300 other schools.

Basically, UFARS will limit the amount the school can spend to the amount it receives. To keep the school's deposits and receipts in balance some reduction in spending will be necessary.

The school board and superintendent have been examining several methods of reducing educational expenses. These are some of the possibilities currently being considered:

1. Elimination of all free admissions to school events for faculty, school board members, clergy, etc.,
2. Cut down the number of athletic events,
3. Begin an intramural program for 7th and 8th graders instead of interscholastic competition,
4. Schedule B squad, junior varsity, and varsity games on the same night to cut transportation costs,
5. Charge a fee for participating in any activity or varsity sport. A \$15 fee for the first activity and \$10 for each activity thereafter have been suggested.
6. Eliminate free food now provided at board meetings, faculty meetings, or other functions.
7. An increase of the student-teacher ratio would be the final alternative and would be used only if absolutely necessary because it directly affects education.

Superintendent T. R. Olson will recommend what cuts should be implemented, but the board of education will make the final decisions. Independent School District No. 88 is much better off than many of the schools in Minnesota, but the financial problems we're presently experiencing are here to stay.



"Angels" success due to sex appeal



Charlie's Angels, Jill, Sabrina, and Kelly, look heavenly on or off camera, one of the prime reasons for the show's spectacular success.

by Scott Stuckey

Television has opened many doors: the bays of many ports, the secrets of science, and the realms of space. This year's open

door has led to the hottest thing on or off the tube, "Charlie's Angels." Yes, Charlie's Angles — oh, excuse me, Angels — is ABC's answer to unanswered

popularity ratings.

The demand for action-adventure shows like "Starsky and Hutch" and "S.W.A.T." led two producers to ask "Why not women?" So that seed took root and has blossomed into a show which, according to the Nielsen ratings, has 59 percent of the TV sets in the U.S. tuned to "Angels" on Wednesday nights. This figure represents about 23 million households watching the program, the same number that watch the World Series.

A few oddities of the show are it ranks first in the popularity polls, fourth among all shows in metro areas, and seventh among people with college degrees and people with incomes over \$20,000. For the ABC network, advertising time runs \$100,000 for a one minute commercial message.

A typical episode of "Angels" makes sure one of the stars strips down to a bikini or a gownless evening strap in the first ten minutes of the show. Also, Farrah Fawcett-Majors has been braless on every show. One producer has said, "They like to get them wet, because they look so good!"

Farrah Fawcett-Majors is married to the Six Million Dollar Man, Lee Majors. (Now you know where she got the two last names.) Before "Angels," she had no acting experience other than the Noxzema or Mercury Cougar commercials. Her contract specifies that she may keep any wardrobe items that seem to strike her fancy, and because she does, her co-stars

have the same right.

Jaclyn Smith plays Kelly on the "Angels." She got an audition for the show because she was dating the producer Rick Husky. She also had no previous acting experience before the show. Ms. Smith lives alone in a Beverly Hills mansion she recently bought as an investment.

Kate Jackson plays the leader of the "Angels," Sabrina. She is the only "Angel" who had previous acting experience. Ms. Jackson was the "wife" of one of the policemen and a nurse at the hospital during "The Rookies." Kate gets \$10,000 a show because of her seniority factor. Farrah and Jackie get a mere \$5,000 per episode.

The "Angels" put in a twelve hour day which starts at 5 a.m. so the hairdressers and makeup artists have enough time to get the girls ready. The "Angels" often stay late to try on and select the next day's costumes. All this commotion leaves very little time for the actual taping of a week's show. They try to get the lines correct the first time if possible, for retaping scenes takes precious time. The scenes are admittedly simple, but no one apparently cares.

It is possible that the show could be just a passing fancy, but it's certain that millions of TV watchers love it. As long as Farrah smiles, Kate keeps her wit, and Jackie continues slipping into her bikinis, "Charlie's Angels" will be the hottest item on or off the tube this season.

"Roots" blooms in America

by Roxana Peterson

A few weeks ago over 100 million Americans tuned in to ABC's presentation of Alex Haley's *Roots*. The show drew comment from many quarters and has been hailed as a monument in television history, or as one writer put it, "The biggest thing since Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Roots was already on the best-seller list at the time of the television production, but since then, book sales have increased at a staggering rate. Bookstores are frantically trying to obtain enough copies to meet demands, and those people fortunate enough to possess a copy find themselves swamped with pleas to loan it.

Roots has great popular appeal because it is a fascinating study of the black American. Spanning 200 years and over six generations, the book focuses on Haley's family, beginning with his great-great-great-great-grandfather, Kunta Kinte, a Gambian native kidnapped and sold into slavery at the age of sixteen.

Kunta is by far the most intriguing and developed character in the book. His life alone spans nearly two-thirds of the book, and it is through him that many of the book's main points are developed. Slavery takes on a new light seen through Kunta's eyes. Most people consider it to be the most shameful period in American history.

The experiences of Kunta and the next three generations of his family who were born into slavery seem to imply that the greatest crime of slavery was the destruction of black history. Kunta discovered that most slaves feared what they called his Africanisms, which were forbidden by the whites. The rich cultural background of Africa was an unknown, and most slaves felt fortunate if they knew who their parents were, much less their ancestors. As a result, the family as a unit was often unstable and broken, and only Kunta Kinte's determination to preserve his family's link with their African heritage enabled Haley to write this book.

The description of Kunta's early life in Africa was one of the most informative

sections in the book. We often make the mistake of describing the native Africans as savages. Haley presents the contrary, by revealing African society as orderly and culturally rich. In fact the average African male of the mid-18th century was often better educated than many of the so-called superior white population of the period.

Kunta's capture and subsequent voyage to America is a powerfully written segment that displays Haley's sensitivity and identification with his character. If anyone felt indifference toward the slave trade, the description of the deplorable conditions and inhuman treatment found on the slave ships would dispel it.

Perhaps the book's greatest triumph is its ability to make slavery real to the

reader. Our only contact with slavery is in the history books, and much of that history is statistics clinically dissected according to economic values. As a result we often forget, perhaps on purpose, the thousands of individuals involved. Alex Haley has renewed our sense of horror that such a situation, the buying and selling of human beings, existed. One might assume that the book was depressing since much of it dwelt on the cruelty of the slave years, but this assumption is inaccurate. It is a heart-warming story of how one family overcame the degradation of over a century of slavery and the problems following the Civil War to become successful in the modern world.

Roots really applies to all Americans,

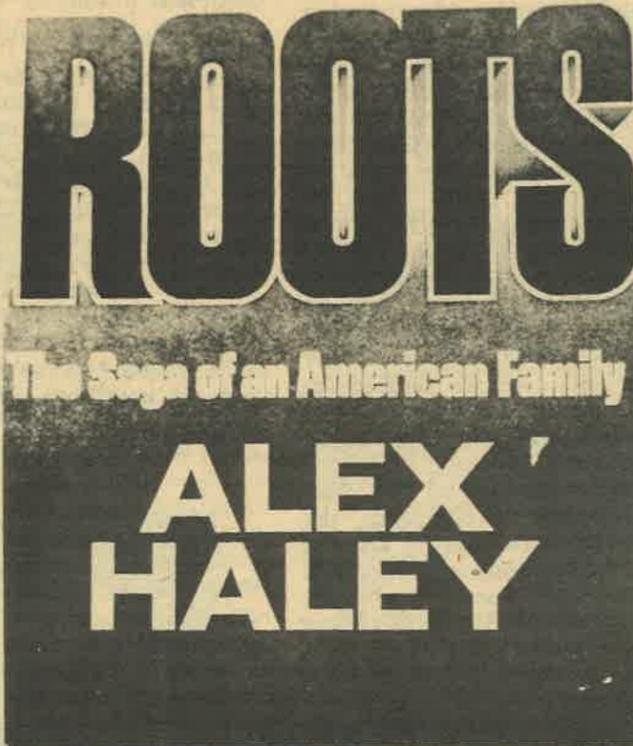
for it tells of a struggle for freedom and the accomplishment of a dream, a situation most of our forefathers faced, black or white.

The vividly painted characters, such as the illustrious Chicken George and his quiet, dependable son Tom, give us a picture of a society that the passage of time has erased and aid us in understanding today's black Americans. Haley should consider the twelve long years spent completing this book well spent, for he has created an enduring epic about his family and thousands of other black families in the United States. He has given them back a piece of their heritage and a pride in their past. *Roots* has reawakened in all of us the desire to explore our own cultural background.

As often happens in movies and television, *Roots* underwent some minor changes in its progress from book to television show. The book, unlike some segments of the TV show, did not rely on maudlin sentiment or distortion of fact but on carefully researched information. Because detailed data was difficult to find, Haley filled in the gaps with his own imagination, resulting in what he calls "faction," a blend of fiction and fact. Despite his painstaking research, some critics find fault with his historical facts. Others claim the book places all the blame for slavery on the whites instead of placing the blame on both races.

However, the criticisms seem paltry when compared to the lavish praise most critics afford Haley's work. The book is extremely readable, interesting and exciting. Whether you have seen the television production or not or even if you dislike reading, *Roots* is an experience too good to pass up. Alex Haley has created a book that is probably destined to become one of the greatest literary accomplishments of the age.

For those of you who are waiting for the paperback edition (the hardcover is \$12.50), it is scheduled to come out in October. Don't pass up *Roots*, for you will be passing up a masterpiece in American literary history.





Lisa Shea Coleman, a character in "As the World Turns," is played by Eileen Fulton. As is characteristic of many soap operas, Lisa blossomed from a plain, awkward redhead into a glamorous blonde.

Soaps make for network nausea

by Johanna Johnson

When it comes time for the Emmy Awards, they are known as daytime dramas. But everyone else knows them by another name, soap operas. The plots of these soap operas are generally scandalous, sordid, and downright nauseating. If these characteristics typify the TV soap operas, why are they so popular?

They are popular because of the very qualities listed above. Today's society, especially the men and women who have nothing to do all day but sit and watch TV, love entertainment that involves scandal. There is nothing that bored housewives or husbands like better than watching someone else's torrid romance unless maybe it is having a torrid romance of their own. Since many of these people can't have their own scandalous love affairs, they vicariously enjoy someone else's. Besides, half the fun is being aware of the details of something that should be private.

"As the World Turns" had a typical scandalous love affair that illustrates my point. Jay Stallings and Natalie Hughes were having an "extra-marital affair." Natalie was married to Tom Hughes at the time, and Jay was married to Carol Stallings, Tom's ex-wife. Well, Tom found out about Natalie's playing house with another man and promptly divorced her. Jay, however, managed to keep the news from Carol for a time. Then Natalie, for revenge, told Carol all about the affair. Presto, another divorce is in the making. Sad, isn't it? And all because Natalie and Jay were indiscreet.

The fact that the shows are conducive to nausea also adds to the enjoyment. It's always fun to laugh uproariously at the total stupidity and unreality of television programs, but credit has to be given to the imaginations of the soap opera's writers. They manage to come up with some of the most far-out situations and give them believability. They also manage to take the most common-place problem and dramatize it into a near-disaster.

For example, the writers for "As the World Turns" (one of my favorites) have turned a very minor incident into a major calamity. Lisa Shea Coleman, the star, is a nosy glamor girl who loves to gossip. Well, because of a certain indiscretion on her part, she was rebuffed by several people. In fact, one afternoon she went visiting and six different people were all too busy to talk to her. Naturally she became hysterical and cried on her husband's shoulder. You know that the world has

come to an end when nobody will talk to Lisa.

Another attractive aspect about soap operas is that no matter how many problems you might have, they seem insignificant compared to those of your favorite soap opera characters. You can look at them and say to yourself, "Heck, I've got it easy." Someone on a soap opera always has more problems than you do.

Take, for instance, the long-suffering Nicole Travis Drake from "The Edge of Night." She loved Adam Drake for years and years and patiently waited for him to propose. He finally married her, but when they were on their honeymoon (a Caribbean cruise), someone planted a bomb in their boat because he wanted Adam killed. Well, he survived but, alas, Nicole was lost at sea. She was held captive on an island in the Caribbean for six months before she managed to escape.

She became ill, however, and fell into a coma that lasted over a year. She was kept in a hospital in Paris. Well, miraculously, Adam found her, but when she awoke she had amnesia and could remember nothing. Adam took her home with him, but her troubles weren't over. She suffered torturing hallucinations and nightmares that nearly drove her crazy. Then just as she was getting over these calamities, several attempts were made on her life. Well, finally everything was cleared up. Her attempted killer was caught and the mystery of the six months in the Caribbean was cleared up. She even became pregnant! Could it be that Nicole will live happily ever after?! No way, baby. As of this writing, she has been kidnapped and is about to be poisoned.

Soap operas also allow a great release for emotions. Any frustrations that have been building up can be unleashed while watching a soap opera. You can rant and rave at the villain, offer advice to the poor, misguided, innocent teen-age girl and get everything out of your system without bothering anyone. If you need to cry, a soap opera gives you ample reasons to shed a few tears; afterwards you often feel much better.

Because of their almost universal appeal, soap operas are undoubtedly here to stay. One particular serial just celebrated its 25th anniversary. If you are one of the minority who scorns the soap opera, I challenge you to watch one for at least a week. I'll bet that you become an addict along with the millions of us who are already addicted.

Pressure makes job hard

Head coaches commended for efforts

by Bob Skillings

New Ulm High School has had many fine athletic teams in the past due to their very fine coaches who have done an excellent job. The head coaching position is a difficult job, and the people who have held these positions should be commended.

Mr. Dick Werdahl was and is one such coach. When he came to New Ulm in 1962, he inherited two head coaching jobs, basketball and tennis. As if that was not enough, he also was an assistant coach in football. In 1965, Mr. Werdahl resigned from his job in tennis and became the head golf coach. He continued as head basketball coach until 1969. He still is head golf coach and is looking forward to his twelfth season this spring.

In March 1975 excitement overwhelmed NUHS. The basketball team had won a birth in the state tournament. Proudly leading the way was head coach Mr. Jim Senske; it was the highlight of his coaching career. Mr. Senske had coached basketball for seventeen years in New Ulm; eight of them as the varsity head coach. This past season marked the end of a very illustrious career for Mr. Senske.

He began playing basketball when he was about eight years old and has been involved with it ever since playing through grade school, high school, and three years at Hamline University.

Baseball has also been a big part of his life. He has coached baseball for seventeen seasons at NUHS, fourteen as head coach. He will begin his fifteenth season as head coach later this month.

During the past two decades NUHS has produced many fine athletes who have continued their athletic careers in college. Mike Leach, Steve Martinka, Bill Reitter, and Dan Hirth are a few among many. Some of these former NUHS athletes were under the direction of Mr. Don Varpness, head football coach from 1965 to 1972. Now he is an assistant coach at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Mr. Varpness has been an assistant track coach at NUHS for the past twelve years working with the weightmen. Before coming to NUHS, he was head football and track coach at Gibbon High School.

Being a head coach in two sports is a tough job. There is much time and hard work involved with those responsibilities. However, there is a man in the New Ulm School System who has been a coach in three sports, four within a ten-year period, and was the school athletic director at the same time. Mr. Skip Davis coached baseball, track, football, gymnastics, and was athletic director at Wabasso before coming to New Ulm. Here he has also been very active in athletics, head coach in track for the past ten years and four years of football before announcing his resignation this past season. Mr. Davis has also worked with the weight training program the past couple of years.

Since Mr. Davis and Mr. Senske have announced their resignations this year, it is an appropriate time to find out from them and others their reasons for leaving their sports. When asked why he gave up his basketball job, Mr. Werdahl explained that he wanted to spend more time with his family. Mr. Senske stated the same reason, but Mr. Varpness, on the other hand, said that his goal was to coach college football and that was his reason for resigning his head football job at NUHS four years ago. Mr. Davis had many reasons, but this was his major one: "I thought that the program needed a change and that if I stepped down, it would be a step in the right direction." Resigning, however, was a big decision for all to make.

A head coach is faced with many pressures. The community, administration, and the newspapers apply some pressure, but most of the pressure is what a coach puts on himself. These four coaches said pressure is why their job is so hard. The head coaching job drains one physically and mentally also.

Each one of these men is still in coaching because they all enjoy it very much. Mr. Werdahl said, "It is very satisfying to see athletes that I have coached become first-class citizens."

Athletics is vital to our lives today. We depend upon it for recreation, education, and even, in some cases, jobs. These fine men and coaches, deserve recognition once again for the job they are doing and have done for New Ulm Senior High School athletics.



Pressures and too little time with their families are two of the reasons for the resignations of coaches Skip Davis, left, and Jim Senske, right.

sports



Kay Buysse, 51, fights for a rebound as Joanne Steinbeck holds off a Cathedral defender.

Dismal support hinders girls' BB

by Kirk Gregg

The girls' basketball team hasn't produced the best win-loss record this year for New Ulm High, but with the fan support and sarcasm directed at the team, what can you expect?

The "know-it-alls" in school and around town have already analyzed this season's team effort. The girls would rather be defended than take verbal abuse as a result of the apathetic view of the community.

The girls seem to be looked upon as objects or things rather than individuals. The team is commonly ridiculed. This attitude is easily recognized in those who do not participate in basketball or any sport at all.

When observing a typical audience at a game, you wonder how many people of the small crowd are worthy of being called fans, especially after the team is down by ten or twelve. Usually the fans in the student body see who can yell the loudest. The big mouths in the crowd play that new game growing in popularity called "Diigg Me."

If you take time to look for them, there are actually three kinds of individuals at a girls' basketball game.

The school needs more of the first kind. They yell their lungs out and give the team all the moral support they can offer.

The second kind come merely to show their presence. They go through the

motions to be able to say they attended a game.

The last group of people are those who make all the smart remarks to attract attention.

Smart remarks usually start on the court and are discussed in school or around town behind the basketball team's backs. When the number of losses increases and the morale dips, you'd think that encouragement for the girls would become a necessity. But then what happens? The sarcasm becomes more open and even gets a little ink. The coach must be very frustrated as the community support lessens while he demands better performances.

Girls' basketball is in a state of rebuilding. People are either too narrow minded to recognize this situation, or they are so busy spouting off at the mouth they don't want to think about it. The girls are under a new coaching system. Programs have begun in the lower grade levels for girls' basketball. The results of these programs will bring more discipline and self esteem to future girls' basketball teams. If the attitude stays the same, the younger participants don't have a chance.

George Eliot said, "There is a chill air surrounding those who are down in the world, and people will be glad to get away from them, as from a cold room."

This quote sums up the problem in NUHS. If the current apathy doesn't change, fewer people will consider going out for girls' basketball.



Tim Steinbeck breaks past a defender in an effort to center the puck so it is in scoring position for a teammate.

Mid-season game costly Pucksters lose player as well as game

by Tom Wyczawski

When St. Peter was upset by Red Wing, it gave New Ulm a great chance to become the Minnesota Central Hockey League champions of 1977. Arch rival St. Peter and New Ulm had been tied for the conference lead. Then, when underdog Red Wing faced New Ulm, all New Ulm had to do was win and they would be assured of a conference tie, but again Red Wing pulled an upset when they won 3-2. Red Wing scored a short-handed goal with only 28 seconds left in the game and won themselves a conference championship.

The Eagles have only two other losses in regular season play. One of the losses came at the hands of Faribault in an overtime thriller. Faribault scored on a fluke play but nevertheless came out on top 2-1. The loss of the game was more than what it seemed. During the game, Tom Steinbach, the team's second leading

scorer behind his brother Tim, broke his arm. He is out for the remainder of the season.

The team's third loss of regular season play came against a fine Apple Valley team. One explanation of New Ulm's loss could be that Apple Valley's new school has a hockey arena attached to it, and they have all the ice time they need. On the other hand, with the recent warm weather, New Ulm had skated very little prior to the game. They had used up all the ice time the school had scheduled at Lund Arena before regular season play began.

New Ulm went into tournament play on February 28 against Prior Lake with an impressive 17-3 record in only its second season of interscholastic competition.

If the Eagles win their first three games in tournament play, they would finish the semi-finals of region play at Metropolitan Sports Center in Bloomington.

Final boys' BB game brings mixed emotions

by Larry Gluth

The 1976-1977 basketball season for the Eagle boys ended on February 21 against the Worthington Trojans.

The Eagles were out of the game after the first quarter. The team was hampered by recurring injuries all season, and their playing ability was adversely affected.

The end of the season came with mixed emotions for many cagers. Said one Eagle player, "I'm glad that the season is over, but I know I'll miss it too."

The Eagles struggled through a dismal season and suffered defeats by close margins and some very wide point spreads.

And then the night of February 8 arrived. The number 1 seeded team in district 10, Redwood Falls, was the Eagles'

foe. It was a perfect night for an upset. The team was fired up and the fans were more rowdy than usual. It was the last home game of the season for the senior team members. The Eagles played their best game of the season and knocked off the highly favored Cards. It was a much deserved victory for the Eagles. They were able to avenge an earlier loss to the Cards, and the win was appreciated because they defeated a close rival.

The Eagles also saw their coach resign. Coach Senske decided to step down after 17 years. He will be remembered for his contribution to the NUHS basketball program, but it is regretful that a winner like Mr. Senske closed out his basketball coaching career on such a poor losing season.



One of the Spelbrink twins gracefully executes a back walkover on the balance beam.

Gymnasts edgy *Strain of tourney action building up*

by Mark Fodness

Pressure is a word that the New Ulm girls' gymnastics squad didn't have much exposure to during the regular season.

The Eagles cruised to a perfect 10-0 mark easily defeating most of their opponents. In fact Fairmont was the only team that offered the girls any real competition. Because of the lack of pressure, the Eagles took a slightly different approach to their meets.

"To psych yourself up for a meet when you've been scoring 30 points more than the other team isn't easy," said Eagle head coach Sandy Fritz. "Instead of psyching themselves up for the win, the girls psyched up for their personal scores."

However, now that the regular season is behind them, the squad is starting to feel the strain of the tournament action they've waited for all year.

"We wouldn't have been too upset if we'd lost to Fairmont during the regular season," said Fritz. "The pressure for us wasn't to go undefeated; the pressure is for us to go back to the state meet."

It isn't that the Eagles aren't used to play-off pressure. The seniors Karée Rasmussen, Robin Berg, and Jean and

Jane Spelbrink look forward to performing in their third consecutive state meet. But for these four graduating gymnasts this is their last chance to compete in high school. With this last opportunity in mind, there has been a change in the teams' attitude.

"Now we're working hard for team spirit," explained Fritz. "Everybody is helping each other improve her routines to get more points. The pressure is building and I can really tell it in practice. The girls lose their tempers more often when they do something wrong, and if somebody criticizes their performance, they practically bite off the person's head."

Fritz is quick to point out though that the squad's poor temperament isn't caused by friction between the gymnasts but that it is more of a response to the team's nervous tension.

"We're not more of a team now than we were during the regular season, we just have more team spirit," said Fritz. "It's always been there but now nobody can let up."

The Eagle squad begins the road to the state tournament on March 5 in the Sub-Sectional Meet. If they pass that first test, they would advance to the Sectionals on March 12. After that time, the Eagles are hoping they'll be in the State Meet March 18 and 19 for the third consecutive year.



Jeff Sievert, left, attempts to counter the take-down move of his Redwood Falls opponent.

Wrestling:

Team ends poorly, individuals surprisingly

by Bill Ostrom

New Ulm's wrestling Eagles had a very poor year, but a few of the wrestlers surprised the Eagle fans with excellent finishes in the Sub-Region 2AA individual tournament. In order to advance to the regions a grappler has to finish in the top four for his weight class. Five of New Ulm's wrestlers accomplished this feat and competed in the regions at Mankato West High School. The five wrestlers are Mark Palmer, Jim Burdick, John Dietz, Doug Hoffman, and Rich Hoffman.

John Dietz was the only Eagle to earn a first place finish. The match was nearing its end when Dietz's opponent used an illegal hold which affected Dietz's breathing. The referee called the match giving John the first place medal. Because Dietz was seeded third, his first place victory was a happy surprise for many Eagle fans. When asked how he felt about the region tournament Dietz replied, "We all feel confident and look forward to the

higher levels of competition in the region tournament."

Jim Burdick finished third and Mark Palmer, Rich Hoffman, and Doug Hoffman finished fourth in their respective weight classes.

"I was really surprised that I did advance, but I felt confident about my match," proclaimed Mark Palmer. Mark has a knee problem, but he tried to forget it and concentrate on his matches in the tournament. He also says that he appreciates the strong support Mr. Rich Peterson gave him during the season. Mark's moving out of town will be a great loss to the Eagles next year.

Dietz and Palmer seem quite confident in their ability to advance in the region tournament. They agreed that Mr. Peterson is an inspirational force in their efforts by giving them the confidence they need to be winners.

Perhaps with plenty of hard work and confidence these guys will reach the state tournament, but if they do not, they deserve a big fat "A" for effort.

Bits from B.S.



by Brian Shay

The winter sports season is nearing completion, and it obviously hasn't been an outstanding season for NUHS. The girls' and boys' basketball teams have a combined record of 4-30, and the wrestlers have been beaten regularly by nearly every opponent.

There are, however, two teams doing very well. The girls' gymnastics team was undefeated after nine meets going into the South Central Conference meet, and the boys' hockey team was sporting a fine 17-3 record going into the sub-regional play against Prior Lake. Both of these teams are hoping for a berth in their respective state tournaments. For the gymnasts it would be the third straight year.

A well-deserved thank you is in order for all of the NUHS students who continually supported the boys' basketball team throughout the year despite a very poor won-loss record. The final home game of the year against Redwood Falls had to be the highlight of more than eight years of basketball in the NUHS system for the

graduating seniors. The entire night was special for the senior players and head coach Jim Senske. All were making their final appearance at home, and the team responded with their best game of the year, a 66-60 win over highly regarded Redwood Falls. The tournament atmosphere created by the fans that night will be a pleasant memory for the players for many years.

It may be a little premature to be looking ahead at spring sports, but there is much more promise for success this spring than there was this winter. The baseball team will be very young but has an excellent chance to do well in the South Central Conference. The team's success will very likely depend on the pitching. Senior Tim Steinbach will anchor the pitching staff and will likely be a leader in the hitting department also. The golf team returns five out of six starters from last year's team which was the best in twelve years, so the possibility of success is very high. Both the girls' and boys' track teams will be experienced and, as usual, very tough. The girls' golf team is still building and will likely find some tough going, but improvement is the main objective for the girls in these first years of their program.

I hate to finish with words that are not directed in a positive direction, but the article which appeared in The Journal recently degrading the NUHS basketball team was the type of publicity that ruins high school athletics. We may never know the motive behind that article and possibly wouldn't like to know, but if Mr. Higgin thought he would inspire us, he was dead wrong. The article was hideous and uncalled for. Hopefully we've seen the last of such articles.