

the graphos

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Seasonal decorations have become a yearly tradition with the Merlyn Boeschs at 520 South Broadway. Whether it is Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas, their house is always covered with a variety of lights, colors, and figures.



Christmas Eve Scheme

He crept so soundlessly out of his bed,
He was sure that his folks wouldn't hear.
The excitement of Christmas had filled his young head —
Why, for this he had waited all year!

As he came to the top of the steps he but paused
To reflect on this scheme that he had.
Perhaps, this just might upset poor old Claus,
Being caught in the act by a lad.

He went a step further and thought harder still —
Then guilt began setting him right.
With a sigh and a shrug that defeated his will,
He retired for the rest of the night.

by Kristi Zimmermann

Christmas traditions fill New Ulm

by Kim Schmiesing

"New Ulm is truly a Christmas tradition" is a statement that many have heard Bill McCleary say on Channel 12 television about our city. But there is more to that statement than comes to mind right away.

Naturally with the holidays just around the corner, we see many traditions, especially in New Ulm. Just about everywhere in the city there is some kind of holiday tradition evident.

Every year around Thanksgiving, the city erects a tall Christmas tree in front of city hall on Broadway and First North Streets. This tree is one of New Ulm's oldest and perhaps most obvious traditions. New Ulm's first municipal Christmas tree was put up in 1914 by the Commercial Club Committee, which consisted of five prominent men in the community at that time. It was located at the intersection of First North and Minnesota Streets. As the automobile became more widely used, the busy intersection became an impractical location for the tree.

Today New Ulm's "tanenbaum" is donated by someone in the community who wishes to have the tree removed. City employees cut down the tree and put it on display.

The city's unique decorations strung across Minnesota street add holiday atmosphere to the downtown business district. They are made of fresh garlands and neon bells and stars. This tradition dates back to at least 1938 and is much more attractive than the artificial decorations used in other towns.

Of course, the city's decorations are not the only ones visible around town. Many private homeowners decorate their houses for the holiday season. Before the energy

crisis, many residents went all out decorating their homes because of a community sponsored contest. The city was divided into sections for the purpose of judging which home decorations were the best.

Since the energy crisis, fewer families decorate their homes; however, there is one home in particular which is always attractively decorated for Christmas and other seasonal holidays. That home is owned by the Merlyn Boeschs at 520 South Broadway.

This year, the Boesch home is decorated with lights and a beautiful scene portraying children decorating their Christmas tree.

At the city museum an old fashioned Christmas display is the tradition. The display is observed through a window and shows an old-time tree made of chicken feathers.

What would Christmas be without Santa Claus?! Everyone knows that he is the big man of the season. He seems to be everywhere this time of year. He waves to all the passersby from the window of Retzlaffs' hardware store on Minnesota Street, holds children on his lap and listens to their Christmas lists in the arcade of the Citizens' bank, and even visits the children in the schools during that last exciting week before Christmas.

In the schools, Santa delivers treats to the children, and this year he will make an appearance at a senior high assembly. The choir will present a shortened version of their holiday concert for the student body.

Yes, many things happen at Christmas time to make New Ulm a holiday tradition. It happens all over town in big and little ways, in the home, in the school, in the church, and most of all — in the spirit. Merry Christmas everybody.



This lamp arrangement is just a small part of a beautiful Christmas scene in front of the Merlyn Boesch home.

editorial

Students swallowed in drinking pastime



by Mike Engel

In the past teen-agers have discovered many ways of having fun. Many fads arose, but most became uninteresting in a very short while. Then one day an ingenious person invented something called the six pack, which soon found its way into the hearts (and mouths) of America's youth.

The six pack really was a handy little item. It was easily carried, making it perfect for picnics, the beach, driving around with a carload of friends, or a thousand other such outings. Young people bought mass quantities of these canned consumables and soon the six pack had surpassed even Frisbees and hula-hoops in popularity.

Bayer, Anacin, and other aspirin companies cheered the creation of the six pack as their weekend sales soared to all time highs. Alka-Seltzer also showed substantial profit gains. The six pack was here to stay.

The natural thing for most high school students to do after a football or basketball game or on any given weekend is to go partying. And what should show up at the party but that handy little invention, the six pack.

Short, fat, intelligent, or good looking; all types of people drink.

Why? "It's what everyone else is doing and I want to be in with the crowd," responded most high school students.

It takes so little effort to be a follower. If you don't feel you should be drinking, be a leader, show people you can have just as much fun without it. You may be surprised how many people feel the same way you do.

"But if I stop drinking I'll lose all my friends." If you lose friends just because you quit drinking, they really couldn't have been very good friends in the first place. Besides, if you choose to be a leader, people might just respect you for taking a stand and you could end up with more friends than you ever had.

"What's wrong with those darn kids, drinking the way they do?" asks the father finishing his can of beer after a hard day at work. Then adds the mother just home from her martinis at the country club, "I know my children would never even think of drinking."

In no way are we placing all the blame on the parents, but they are, however, partially at fault. By drinking in front of their children, parents give them the impression that there is nothing wrong with it. Then there is the parent who feels there is nothing wrong with drinking and even encourages his child to go to parties. Other parents play the ignorant role, crossing from their minds all ideas that their children could be drinking.

Parents, if you fall into any of these categories, you had better think what the possible dangers to your children might be. It is your job to teach your children right and wrong. Setting a good example for them is a good start. How can you expect them not to drink if you yourself are drinking?

Campaigns bought votes with false advertising

To the editors:

Reading newspapers and watching TV have thoroughly convinced me that certain government elections are near. Being underage, I was not overly concerned about who's running for which office or what organization was endorsing which candidate. Consequently, all the publicity was becoming rather boring. Aside from the annoyance of campaign publicity, what bothered me most about the recent elections was the deceitful ways in which candidates tried to capture the public's attention.

A political commercial that most of us have seen referred to Senator Anderson's lack of attendance in the Senate. This advertisement promoted Rudy Boschwitz's cause before the elections, but it will be of no concern to anyone after the elections should Boschwitz win. Anderson's lack of attendance at Senate sessions does not reflect on his qualifications or competence in the office. Therefore, I feel this commercial was only a clever criticism of a political opponent.

Another example of political deception concerned taxes. The most common pledge of a candidate was to lower taxes. This promise is a trap because people are never told of the consequences that may follow a tax cut. Some undesirable results could include less government aid, fewer government services, and poorer health programs. Not realizing some of these public programs would have to be reduced if a tax cut were adopted, the voters often feel deceived by their representatives who promised them a tax cut.

Tax reduction talk is a trap because taxes are rarely lowered anyway, no matter who is elected.

Finally, something that not many people are aware of is the "buddy system." It is a tricky way of campaigning because candidates say they are friends of a well-known person. If the voter likes the reputation of the "well-known" person, he may be more likely to vote for the candidate simply because of the candidate's "buddy."

We all know that election campaigns cannot last forever, but I think many of us were satisfied to see the old mouth wash commercials return to the tube. It is my wish that political campaigns will soon become more informative and rely less on tricks and deceptive advertisements.

Ann Forst
Class of '81

Christmas meaning sometimes lost in modern traditions



by Vianne Friesen

Christmas is a beautiful and joyous time of the year. It is a time of fellowship among family and friends. A time to show love by giving. It is also a time to be thankful to God for all his blessings.

There are several versions of Christmas. One has to do with Old Saint Nick, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and many other fictitious characters — all of whom help make Christmas special.

Everyone has heard the real Christmas story involving the birth of Jesus in a manger. Led by a star, shepherds and wise men later came from afar to honor the child. But many times it seems as if the real meaning of Christmas is forgotten in all the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping.

Christmas has become very commercialized. It is no longer centered upon the true Christmas meaning. More emphasis is put on giving and getting, which of course is a big part of Christmas, but perhaps to many people it is the

biggest part. But isn't giving the whole concept of Christmas? To give because God gave his gift of love by sending Baby Jesus? What would Christmas be like without both — the giving and receiving?

Many activities celebrate Christmas. Christmas parties, family reunions, caroling, and visiting the shut-ins and elderly people in hospitals and nursing homes are the usual formalities.

Christmas time is also a break from the school routine. It is a time we look forward to from the first day we step inside the school doors. Visions of sledding, skiing, and snowmobiling dance through our minds each time we peak out the window and see the snowy bounds beyond.

These activities help make Christmas a special time of year. People of all ages are drawn together to create "Peace On Earth" and "Good Will To Men" in their many varied ways.

Let this Christmas be your best time, and in all the excitement let's remember the true meaning of Christmas.

the graphos

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the guidepost

by Jim Zetah, Counselor

In the last issue of the Graphos, I wrote about the PEER program that Mary Swenson and I planned to develop. We had a good response to our request and the program will begin soon.

The information about PEER and peer relationships leads me to a topic I wish to consider with you. It concerns the number of breakdowns in peer relationships that have occurred this year at our school. While some might call them physical disagreements, there have been an alarming number of fights between students (peers) this year.

I suspect there could be any number of reasons why the fights started, but I would like to venture a few guesses. I could be the jock vs the non-jock; this crowd vs that crowd; boyfriend and girlfriend problems; the smart-aleck clown vs the more serious type; attractive vs not-so-attractive; or the aggressive vs the passive type. Consider the above contrasts and I think you find one that fits your situation.

It is unfortunate that disagreements, misunderstandings, and even fights occur over such matters. Rather than attempt to reach an understanding, it appears that the aggressive nature takes over and fists fly. The distressing thing is that while the physical scars heal, the same can't be said about the emotional scars. The feeling that a relationship has been strained to the breaking point hurts.

It is oftentimes easy to single out an individual or individuals and continue to pick on or take advantage of their passive

nature. It reminds me of chickens taking after one of their own kind and not letting up until the passive one is destroyed. I hope that we as humans can be above the behavior often found in animals.

I recognize that in peer relationships there will be some personalities that will not mesh. If we realize that and not go out of one's way to force a confrontation, then those people can live with one another in a peaceful manner.

Perhaps it is appropriate to the Christmas season for all of us to reflect on our life and examine our relationships with family and friends. Where there is a need, let the Christmas spirit allow for forgiving and forgetting. Resolve to end your differences and build a new relationship based on respect and love.

Mary Swenson and I want to extend to each of you the hope of a blessed and joy-filled holiday season.

SENIOR NOTES:

1. The ACT will be given at NUHS on Saturday, February 10, 1979. The April and June tests will be administered at Mankato State.
2. We will sponsor a parent information workshop on financial aids in January. The FFS (Family Financial Statement) is now available. It must be completed by March 1, 1979 to qualify for the Minnesota State Scholarship and Grant-In-Aid Program and other financial aids. Your parents will need their 1978 income tax information.
3. Please be aware of your credit count and successful completion of required credits as you plan for graduation.

NUHS evaluated by NCA

by Mike Engel

The strange faces you saw roaming the halls and sitting in on classes belonged to members of a North Central Evaluation team which visited NUHS November 28, 29, and 30.

The purpose of the evaluation, which takes place every seven years, is to make the school look closely and critically at itself. A year ago, in preparation for the evaluation, faculty, student council members, parents, and people from the community assembled to discuss strong points of our school as well as areas that needed improvement.

This "self study" is aimed at helping the school determine what it is doing for its students and what it could do to better the students' educational possibilities. It also makes the faculty aware of more efficient teaching methods.

Once this self study is completed a North Central Evaluation group, composed of

teachers and administrators from around the state, come to the school for a three day visit in order to see if the school's self study is an accurate picture of existing conditions.

The team meets the first day to plan the method they will employ to evaluate the school. On the following two days the group spends their time examining the building, talking to teachers and students, and observing actual classroom situations.

Upon completion of the evaluation the North Central group writes a report and presents it to the faculty and administration. In the report a general appraisal of what they have seen concerning both strengths and limitations of the school is given. The team also recommends possible solutions to problems the school may be encountering and attempts to stimulate concern in areas that need improvement. The NCA's report on their evaluation of New Ulm High School is expected before Christmas.



Although Star Wars toys and computerized games seem to have taken over the Christmas gift market, the traditional do-nothing dolls are still surprisingly popular in New Ulm's stores.

Mispelling rate increases

by Mary Manderfeld

"You don't have no rite to critize my writting." The preceding sentence is an example of how many high school students write today. Is poor grammar and poor spelling increasing in today's schools? About 60 percent of NUHS's students feel that it is, but several people feel that it is only an existing problem that has become more evident.

The air is filled with comments from businessmen, parents, and teachers who say that students just don't know how to write. From a random survey taken of students at NUHS, the following results were derived: a majority of the students surveyed said they thought their grammar and spelling abilities were between fair and good. About 15 percent of the students said their abilities in these areas were poor, and another 15 percent said their abilities were very good.

When these same students were asked "Do you think that students' abilities in spelling and grammar are decreasing?" about 60 percent of those surveyed said yes. Twenty per cent of the students surveyed said they did not think their abilities were decreasing. Another 20 percent of the students said they didn't know.

Of the 60 percent of the students who said that the average high school student is

becoming more ungrammatical and a poor speller, the following questions was asked: "What do you think is the main cause of this decline in these abilities?" Not enough emphasis on spelling and grammar in classes was the most common response by 24 percent of those surveyed. The lack of reading by many students was cited by 23 percent of those responding. Fourteen percent of the students surveyed said that the increased amount of time students watched television affected their writing ability.

Most people agree that there is an excess of poor spelling and ungrammatical writing, but is it getting worse? Otto Werner, an English teacher with NUHS for many years, stated, "High school students are no worse spellers or more ungrammatical than say 18 to 20 years ago." When asked why the problem is becoming more evident, Werner stated, "Because of the paper war. Businesses today need to keep better and more accurate records than years ago, so employees are expected to write and speak more correctly."

In the past few years there have been several changes in NUHS's curriculum to improve students' spelling and grammar so they will be able to handle the "paper war." These changes include more writing and reading assignments in English classes. Also more emphasis is being placed on correct spelling.

Santa sophisticates children's playthings

by Jyneal McCrea

"With curly-head dolls that toddle and coo, elephants, boats and kiddie cars, too, Santa Claus is comin' to town..." These toys from 1934 may be a bit outdated in this modern age of sci-fi, so what will Santa be bringing this year?

By far the best and hottest seller in Toyland is the Star Wars line. Several Star Wars characters are available in large and small forms. Also strictly Star Wars are light sabres, remote controlled R2D2's, Darth Vader punching bags and all the vehicles, from Luke Skywalker's hovercraft to the X-wing fighters that destroyed the Death Star. There are board games too, including one with a working garbage compactor.

Electronic games are super sellers. Many of these hand-held versions of the popular TV games are filled with flashing lights and sound effects. One can purchase

a bowling game that keeps score automatically and has the "sounds of real bowling."

A big hit this year is computerized questions and answer toys. One such item can ask up to 1,001 different questions. Another sings a tune when the questionee chooses the correct answer and buzzes when the wrong answer is picked. Yet another not only asks questions but plays games and sings songs with its owner.

Remote controlled toys are also popular sellers. Planes, robots, cars, and semis can be maneuvered without being touched.

Dolls are still favorites. Surprisingly, the soft, cuddly, do-nothing dolls are selling better than their walking-talking-wetting-crying-eating counterparts. The latest trick for dolls is a diaper rash that instantly disappears when a special lotion is put on its "skin."

"So, you better watch out, you better not fight... Santa Claus is comin' to town..."

people

AD directs opinions on athletic program

by George Hudak

Cliff Anderson has hung up his gym shorts and whistle for a new job as New Ulm High School's athletic director. Anderson started his new job on November 6 replacing Vern Zahn who has taken a leave of absence preceding his retirement.

The job of athletic director has many responsibilities. Anderson is in charge of scheduling and coordinating all athletic activities from grades 7 through 12 and also helps with scheduling some athletic activities in grades 5 and 6. Most of the scheduling is done two years in advance. He is also responsible for arranging bus transportation for all the teams and getting officials for home events.

Regarding the problems in New Ulm's athletic program, Anderson felt the lack of facilities, especially in winter, is a major obstacle. An example of this problem would be the lack of an indoor ice arena in New Ulm for the hockey team plus the lack

of gym space for practice at convenient times.

"The three sport athlete is becoming a thing of the past. Each year the athletes become more and more specialized, going out for only one or two sports." Anderson also stated that the number of athletes is increasing in New Ulm's public school system. There are 1,293 participants involved in athletics in the school system. A student is counted as more than one participant if he engages in more than one sport. Because of today's tendency to participate in only one or two sports, as opposed to the athlete of the past who often participated in several sports, the number of participants indicates more students are going out for more sports.

Anderson feels that the choice of participating in after school activities should be left to the students. He realizes that because of the large amount of working



Cliff Anderson, recently appointed NUHS athletic director, feels a lack of facilities is a major obstacle to improving New Ulm's athletic programs.

students, sometimes it is impossible for some students to become involved in school activities.

"The most important item stressed in athletics is personal growth. Anyone can handle winning, but can they handle losing?" Accepting defeat is what Anderson says should be learned by students participating in athletics. He feels that the

development of new skills is also important.

Anderson has been teaching in New Ulm since 1959, when he was hired as a social studies teacher, wrestling coach, and assistant football coach. Since then, he has changed his subject to Health and Physical Education. For the last seven years he has been New Ulm's athletic trainer.

BWOC "lights" school with talent and attitude

by Mike Ostrom

All right, gals; you got your way. After two consecutive BWOCs the Graphos decided to flip the "M" to make this month's student profile BWOC.

The recipient of this month's honor is an obvious choice, Laurie Alwin, the well-known heiress to the Alwin Electric dynasty. Be it music, athletics, or academics, Laurie strives for nothing less than excellence and usually achieves it.

Laurie is extremely active in NUHS's music department. She has been a member of both concert band and concert choir for two years.

Laurie is first alto sax player in both Concert Band and Swing Band. She is a rare three year member of the latter. Earlier this fall she was also selected concert band secretary, a very prestigious position awarded by receiving the most votes, excuse me, votes from her fellow band members.

Band Director Curtis Iverson says Laurie "has an unflapability about her that is just amazing. Whenever music is lost, people are late for performances or other chaotic circumstances arise, Laurie always maintains a level head and does whatever she can to alleviate these problems. Her composure sets a fine example for the younger members to help them through their hectic band years."

In the other half of Laurie's musical life, she is an alto in the NUHS concert choir and the popular Payne Street Singers. Dan Digre, director of both singing groups, praised Laurie. "She is an invaluable asset to our music Department. Her experience and leadership enabled many of the new members to fit in rapidly." He also added, "Laurie has put in much time with Better Half in preparation for our Christmas



Combined with her "electromagnetic" personality and academic skills, Laurie Alwin's participation in band, choir, Better Half, and athletics has made this month's BWOC an easy selection.

Concert. Many of the sets are extravagant and took time to construct, but there were never any complaints from Laurie."

Laurie's hard work over the years in band and choir have not gone unnoticed. At the Region 2AA Music contest last spring Laurie was awarded a four star rating, a symbol of excellence in musical performance. She received two stars for Payne Street Singers and two for sax ensembles. This bevy of awards was one of the top performances by any student in the music department.

Although music consumes much of her time, Laurie's true forte is athletics, which includes volleyball, basketball, and track.

Volleyball is Laurie's favorite sport; however, she finds it frustrating. "It's difficult to work all those hours and never see any dividends." (The volleyball team failed to win a match during Laurie's two previous varsity seasons). "Coach Sparrowgrove, his assistants, and all the girls worked very hard, and I feel it's just a matter of time before the program turns around."

During the cold winter months, Laurie spends much time perfecting her basketball skills on NUHS's girls' basketball team. Laurie is considered in basketball parlance to be a power forward. She must not only be able to aggressively rebound in a crowd but must also have the ball handling, passing, and shooting skills of a guard. This position is considered by many the toughest in the game. Coach Lyle Sparrowgrove believes that Laurie is one of the best around and relies on her skills very much.

This spring Laurie will compete in her final track season, primarily as a shot putter. Laurie, who has had a very successful track career, feels this year will be her best track season ever. Laurie will also be running a relay this year. Her versatility is amazing because it is rare that you find a shot putter who possesses enough speed to run a relay race.

Although Laurie's high school career will end with the conclusion of the track season, she hopes to continue participating in athletics in college.

"Right now I'm looking at Gustavus, Augsburg, or Winona State because of the excellent medical training." Laurie plans to pursue a career as a medical technician. "These schools also offer excellent athletic programs."

Regarding what she would miss about school after she graduates, Laurie said, "I'll miss those special relationships I had with so many of the teachers. They realized that we were just a step away from adulthood and treated us accordingly."

Well, Laurie, when you go, the school will miss you a great deal too. Not only will the school be losing a fine young woman, but even more distressing is that old NUHS just won't be the same without the "ELECTRIC" Alwin personality.



Robert Kuhlman, the new phys. ed. and health teacher at NUHS, is active in many sports. He hopes to coach someday.

Faculty member added to NUHS

by Lisa Isenberg

For several weeks there has been a new teacher in New Ulm Senior High School. If you don't already know who he is, that person is Robert Kuhlman.

Kuhlman has been teaching Physical Education and Health since November 6, the first day of the second quarter. He took over Cliff Anderson's job when Anderson became Athletic Director. Prior to that, Kuhlman student taught at Alexandria, Minnesota. In addition to his teaching duties, he also acts as a trainer for various sports. Although he doesn't coach, Kuhlman would someday like to coach.

Originally from Louisville, Kuhlman plans to move to New Ulm in the middle of

December. Last spring he was graduated from the University of Minnesota at Morris with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education with a coaching certificate. He is presently a member of the University Alumni Association. In his spare time, Kuhlman enjoys several outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and golfing.

When this reporter asked if he would like to comment on any aspects of New Ulm High School, Kuhlman enthusiastically replied that he likes the kids. "They are cooperative and easy to work with." He shares a friendly relationship with both the faculty and students who have gotten to know him.

Captain Charlie "quik" with generosity

by Mark Hulsey

Charles Nelton, commonly recognized as Captain Charlie, owner-operator-manager of the Quik Stop fast-food restaurant is a generous and hard-working man.

Captain Charlie purchased the Quik Stop in 1972 but has been affiliated with fast-food restaurants since his high school graduation. Captain Charlie completed his college education in three days and began working at McDonalds after his brief college career. While employed as a McDonalds' manager for several years, Captain Charlie became aware of New Ulm's Quik Stop and bought the franchise.

Since the announcement of his recent remodeling, he noticed his business has increased 40-60 percent. And, of course, this increase in production means that Captain Charlie must now work at least 80 hours per week. But a heavy work week does not trouble him, for he feels he is working full-time, and those working 40 hours per week are only working part-time.

As owner-operator-manager of the Quik Stop, Captain Charlie has been active in sponsoring many organizations. He has donated money and or provided the Quik Stop as a facility to such groups as the Menagerie, Dollars for Scholars, Boy Scouts, FFA, DECA, and the Jaycees. Captain Charlie has donated a half of a day's receipts to both the Menagerie and the Dollars for Scholars. He has also

provided the Quik Stop as a place for the crippled children of New Ulm to hold a car wash. Captain Charlie thinks all businessmen should help out various groups throughout the community.

As a personal thought about his job, Captain Charlie says, "I really enjoy my job. It keeps me on my toes. The fast-food business is lively and full of excitement." He cited the incident of streakers dashing through the Quik Stop a few years ago as an example.

Even though his business can be lively and full of excitement, Captain Charlie says it can have its annoying moments. "It's tough to stand at a counter for ten minutes holding a smile for a little old lady," said Captain Charlie. "And then after studying the menu, she asks me if we have hamburgers."

An increase in industry and the construction of a new mall in New Ulm would please Captain Charlie. He feels with New Ulm's population steadily rising, the community must adjust to accommodate more people. The proposed family recreation center is a worthwhile structure according to Captain Charlie. He believes the family recreation center is needed in a town New Ulm's size because the community does not have any other such facilities available. Captain Charlie does not feel the proposed Glockenspiel is necessary in New Ulm because the price is unjustifiable, and the cost seems to be constantly rising. The money could be used for more constructive purposes in the community.

Disco hustles sales and interest

by Lorie Mogen

Perhaps the most important factor that has changed recent American dance is the disco. This contemporary style of modern dance has made its way to every dance floor in the country.

Even New Ulm has seen the signs of disco-fever. The recently opened addition to the Kaiserhoff has been furnished with a dance floor. Many young people have been bumping and hustling to the latest disco tunes played by several guest bands.

Originally disco was created for the dancer who only had access to records for a source of music. The word disco shows the connection between the name and the shape of records.

The first disco was actually started by a French woman in the 60's who loved to dance to popular music but had little or no access to a live band. She opened an abandoned warehouse and supplied music with records and a phonograph. She called it le discotheque. From there the disco rush started. Eventually it spread to the U.S., and since then discotheques have sprung up all over the nation. The overall gross of these dancing places is nearly four billion dollars a year. This industry is second only to television in gross receipts.

But discos provide the party-goer with more than a dancefloor. Most discotheques also house bars, cars, art galleries, and beauty parlors. As Keith Alexander, a New York disco owner, put it, "Our aim is to make something substantial that will last a long time. We look at the needs and

wants of the American public and use it as a base for current and future discotheque designs."

Perhaps the first real disco sounds came from Van McCoy with his hit recording of the "Hustle." From there Boz Skaggs took the scene with his hit album. Such groups as the O'Jays, The Spinners, and The Originals also dominate the music selections at popular discotheques. One of the top disco groups is The Brass Construction. They now have two albums out which are selling like mad in New York and Los Angeles.

Disco music is becoming so popular that every jazz group around is mimicking the beat. Even record companies are pressing special 12-inch "disco discs" with the high quality sound technology necessary for increased volume levels of disco music.

The real center of attention in the disco is the disc jockey or "deejay." How good and popular a club is depends on how well the deejay senses the dancers' moods. "He's the entertainer. He sets the mood. But basically you play for the people. You try to pick up on what the people are into, and then you go from there," commented Thomas Pearson, New York disco deejay.

Disco people are into dance music: beat-heavy and uptempo, with a predominance of strings and some lyrics. But mostly it's the exciting surroundings and lavish atmosphere that draw the big disco crowds.

The New Ulm school system is even getting into the groove by offering disco lessons through the adult education program. A group of hip couples can get together and learn a few of the basic disco steps in a night class.



Warming hearts and filling stomachs, Captain Charlie Nelton feels all businessmen should help various groups and organizations within the community.

In Season

Soundless it falls and weightless it flies,
Obscures every vision and darkens the skies.
It stops up the traffic, makes driving a chore —
It sticks to the windows and blocks the front door.
It keeps one a-shiver through layers of clothes
And freezes the ends of one's fingers and toes.
A delight to the young and a memory to old,
It comes with the season of Christmas and cold.
Of what am I speaking? By now you must know
For it comes every year without fail — the snow.

by Kristi Zimmermann

Christmas form letters find all in super shape

Darlings,

Deck the halls with boughs of Holly! Another year finds us thinking of you and yours and wanting to send our brief resume of events. It was a great, great year. Little Penny's body cast will be removed the day before Christmas. Great Aunt Gracey, she's in a home, you know, was so pleased when we all got together for a visit for twenty minutes.

We've got such a busy, busy schedule with all our family achievements. Ronald is captain of Shady Valley Rock Hound Club and dear little Mary, remember how worried we all were about her? Well, she's now at THE TOP of her section in reading skills! David has been promoted to a very important position with The Company. He got home for Thanksgiving this year. He's such a good father; he calls the children every second Thursday at eight. The housing is shining with new paint, and the new furniture finally arrived! The Decorator is so pleased with the results, and the private entrance to the basement is such a help. The children never have to come through the upstairs! David and I decided this year to have a tree downstairs for them.

My schedule is full as I'm sure you dears know. I've always felt one must give, give of one's self to church and community, the back bone of our very existence. We held seventeen bazaars this year, but the big project was May baskets for the poor little children in Beroog. All that work was wasted when the sprinkling system went berserk on board ship. But the joy is in the giving, giving, giving.

I forgot to mention baby Arnold. We have a veritable gem of a sitter for him. I called her yesterday and would you believe he is already walking.

One sad note. Our dog Trixie passed away, apparently the deworming was too much of a strain on his heart. Oh, yes, grandma died too. She was just going in for routine surgery but some mishap occurred. The oxygen catheter got hooked in the I.V.'s or some strange thing. I never was one for details. We buried Trixie on October 3, right after we saw Great Aunt Gracey. She looked so poorly it reminded Mary that we had forgotten to bury Trixie. Grandma went to her reward sometime in August. We had to come home from the lake, but the family comes first in our lives.

So, dear ones, as the year draws towards the end, our home is bustling with preparations. I must find the punch bowl, pine scent spray, and the artificial evergreens. We all wish you a year full of the real and the good, but I must dash now, pot pies in the oven, note to the children on the fridge and instructions to Ronald on bedtimes, etc. I'm off to a meeting of our newly organized meditation group on family unity. Reminder to follow for the new year, GIVE, GIVE, GIVE, equals JOY, JOY, JOY.

Hugs and Kisses,
Margaret Bentwood Kloop

by Kris Knutson

Farmers plow under old image

by Randall Stuckey

Farming and agriculture have been an important and rapidly changing industry in the New Ulm area.

The small family farms that this area has known might someday become a part of a large enterprise farm. With the large food demands that the American farmers have been required to meet, many small farmers cannot compete with the "big guys" or large farmers.

Large enterprise farmers and changing methods of farming are forcing some small farmers out of business. Computer printouts are being used on large farms for improving efficiency in planting, controlling weeds, insects, and disease, harvesting, and conserving fuel to save money that might add to the farm's profits. Small farmers who do not have the opportunity for this technical approach are rapidly leaving the land.

The high price of farm machinery, fertilizers, and tools have also forced many small farmers off the farm. A tractor that sold for \$16,000 in 1974 costs \$36,000 today. Other farm equipment has also doubled in recent years, and the need to borrow money has become a necessity for most farmers. Borrowing money at

high interest rates while crop and livestock prices fall causes many small farmers to quit farming.

According to a recent article in Time Magazine, there were around four million farms in the U.S. in 1960. Today there are only around 2.7 million farms left. In April of 1977 only one of every 28 Americans lived on a farm, one out of 21 in 1970, and one in three at the turn of the century.

Although the big business farms are taking over the production of food, production efficiency has not fallen. The United States leads the world in the number of people fed per farmer. Today one farmer in the U.S. feeds 60 other people. The Soviet Union feeds only 10 people per farmer. These figures show how the U.S. farmer leads the world in agricultural production.

These large farms are operated just like a large factory or business. People are hired to do the farm jobs while a farm might have several managers to supervise the workers and the farming procedures.

It takes knowledge to operate an American farm today. It is just like any business except the farmer cannot put his own price on the items he produces. Before it might have been said that if you weren't very intelligent, you could be a farmer. Today things have changed!

Christmas togetherness impossible for some

by Lynn Ludewig

Christmas is a holiday traditionally celebrated among family and close friends. But what about people whose circumstances make it impossible to spend the Christmas season with their families?

This reporter spoke about such situations with a nurse employed at Loretto Hospital, who asked that her name be withheld. This particular nurse has volunteered her services on Christmas Day for the past few years and will do so again this year.

When asked why she volunteers to work on Christmas Day, the nurse replied that she realizes the patients need her attention. Besides being extremely dedicated to her work, she thinks of volunteering her time as a way of keeping with the Christmas idea of giving. "It makes me feel good to be helping other people on Christmas or any other day," she said. She feels that most hospital workers share her opinion, no matter where they are employed.

Christmas is just like any other day at the hospital. The patients must be cared for. Doctors visit and examine every patient at least once a day, and Christmas is no exception. The nurse mentioned that it is unpleasant for one to be ill at any time, and it is not necessarily more unpleasant during the Christmas season.

The nurse then expressed the view of the people confined to the hospital because of illness. Most patients, she said, are visited by their friends and family. But even the few who have no visitors don't seem to feel especially lonely, for there is usually a prevailing holiday atmosphere throughout the hospital. Wishes for a "Merry Christmas" are extended to patients by hospital workers and among the patients themselves. Various public and religious societies present gifts to the patients. Santa Claus usually makes several visits during the Christmas season to share his joy with the patients and the hospital staff. Christmas carolers are also a familiar sight during the yuletide, and their singing is greatly appreciated by all the patients. While these customs may differ among the local hospitals and nursing homes, there is usually some type of Christmas spirit present.

Although the services provided by hospital cooks, janitors, and medical personnel may affect a larger number of people, there are also other community services that must be kept going during the holidays. Policemen have their regular duties. Firemen are always on call in case of fire or some other emergency. Tow-truck operators need to be available for someone who may have car trouble. All of these people give their time to provide services that make it possible for others to have a more pleasant Christmas.



AFS members experience exchange

by Cindy Sperling

Six students from New Ulm recently had a taste of John Marshall High School in Rochester through the AFS student exchange program. The six students were Kari Fossen, Vianne Friesen, Liz Burdick, Joan Johnson, Mary Fee, and Mary Runge.

One student's opinion of John Marshall was that "It's a lot bigger than New Ulm. There are too many kids."

John Marshall offers a wide variety of courses. Some of these classes are Astronomy, Swimming, and Horticulture. The Horticulture class landscaped the grounds around the school as a class project several years ago.

The school has a student lounge in which one can buy candy and pop, but it's open to all students, not only seniors. It also has an

open lunch program. Each student may eat in the cafeteria or leave the building and eat elsewhere. The lunches offered are varied too. One has a choice of three lunches: a salad bar, a cold lunch, or a hot lunch.

John Marshall has a parking lot designated for smoking, but most of the bathrooms in the school are locked so students can't smoke in them.

Rochester's school day begins at 8:10 and ends at 3:05. Each class is 55 minutes in length, and there's a five minute break between each one.

Memberships in clubs range from the usual school activities to the Aquatics Club, the Grappling Club, and the Theatre Guild.

As Vianne said, "There's always something going on."



Senior Gary Hogen No. 8 is trying to clear the puck despite some questionable checking by a Montgomery player. New Ulm easily won 9-1 for its first win of the young season.

Pucksters set Civic Center as goal

by Dave Traurig

Last March our Eagle pucksters' dream became a reality when they played in the Section One semifinals at the Met Sports Center.

The dream remains the same, but the Eagle ice men have also set their goal one step higher, the St. Paul Civic Center and a trip to the state tournament. Six members of last year's team have graduated, but returning are 14 experienced lettermen along with some additions.

Leading the rink rats are seniors goalie Jeff Schugel, center Tom Steinbach and forward Mark French. Schugel anchors a strong New Ulm defensive unit from his goalie position. Schugel, considered by many to be one of the top goalies in Minnesota, has been named captain for the 1978-79 season. He feels it is a little too early to tell how the season will turn out. "It's too early to tell, but the enthusiasm on the team is very high."

Boys shoot for a better season

by Dale Walston

The key to any success the boys' basketball team might enjoy this year comes down to one thing: optimism.

One would not think the Eagles have much optimism after last year's disastrous 0-19 record. However, Coach Dave Hartmann feels the team attitude is good, and they have something to prove. He also feels the early season optimism will change to confidence if some wins develop. Certainly the first coaching victory for Hartmann, which ended a 23-game losing streak, is a step toward the confidence the Eagles seek.

This change in attitude is only a small portion of the difference between last year's and this year's team. The differences are so big that Hartmann calls them "the difference between night and day. We have more weapons, we are quicker, and we have five starters who can potentially score 20 points a game."

Those five starters are sophomore Dave Filzen at center, juniors Steve Hage and Mike Ostrom at the forwards, and seniors

Alternate captain Tom Steinbach plays the center position on the second line. This is Steinbach's fourth year in high school hockey, and he is coming off an excellent junior year. Steinbach led the team with 26 goals and 20 assists for a total of 46 points. He was also named to the all-conference team. French, the other alternate captain, returns for his third season as a New Ulm Eagle. French has been a surprise to many people this year with his much improved play at right wing on the first line.

Last year the pucksters outscored opponents 134-69, and returning to this year's team are four of the top five scorers of last year. Three of these leaders are on the first line centered by junior Terry Steinbach, left winger Pete Macho, and French.

According to Coach Tom Macho time will determine the outcome of hockey's fourth season at NUHS. "We're strong up the middle, at our center, defense, and goalie positions. "We look very good on paper," he concluded.

Eric Larson and Doug Bastian at the guards. This line-up shows that the Eagles are young and will most likely provide a good basketball future for New Ulm.

Hartmann also has confidence in his bench. He feels that "we have four or five guys who can come off the bench and do the job. Eric Senske, Brad Wieland, Todd Boelter, and Laine Sletta can all come into a game and spark us."

Hartmann sees a tough schedule ahead for the young Eagles. The South Central Conference is usually strong with Fairmont, Waseca, and Wells as the probably favorites. He also added that the non-conference games will be more challenging because the Eagles play several "AA" teams such as Marshall, Mankato East, and Mankato West. Against these odds, Hartmann and his basketballers are shooting for a .500 season.

He has confidence that this goal is within reach. He feels if many of the younger players can get over their early season jitters, the team could jell later in the season.

sports

Girls dribble into a tough schedule

by Dana Heymann

As the new winter sports season opens, the New Ulm women's basketball team looks ahead to a better season than last year.

Letterwinners returning this year include seniors Lauri Alwin, Kay Buysse, Jody Johnson, Cindy Sperling, Lori Tyler, and junior Carla Windschitl. Juniors Kris Bloedel, Terri Bruderie, Jennifer Coyle, and sophomore Kris Traurig complete the Eagles' varsity squad.

Because of the lack of facilities, the men's and women's basketball teams have been practicing on a split-shift basis. The first shift begins at 3:40 p.m. and the second at 5:10 p.m. Each session runs for approximately 90 minutes. Every week the two teams trade shifts. When this reporter asked Coach Lyle Sparrowgrove how he felt about this arrangement, he replied,

"Because of the facility crunch we have no choice. We get used to it. It's especially hard on the kids, but hopefully they use the free time in between to study." Despite the disadvantages, the split-shift provides equal practice time for the two teams.

This season looks to be one with tough competition for the girls, but Sparrowgrove commented that they have been looking good in practice and show signs of developing a winning attitude. "How the team does overall will depend on how we perform early in the season," he said. "We face outstanding teams this year, and in order to win any games we will have to play good basketball."

Every team on this year's schedule had winning seasons last year, and the strong schedule is a major concern of Sparrowgrove. The Eagles face all the South Central Conference foes and two of last year's state tourney competitors, Redwood Falls and Mankato East.



Going in for two points is junior Steve Hage. Eagle fans saw their team defeat Sleepy Eye for New Ulm's first win.



After months of practice and hard work this group of NUHS gymnasts turned in a successful season by winning the region and participating in the state gymnastics meet.

Gymnasts vault to a state tournament

by Jeff Abrecht

It had all the features of a typical New Ulm vs. Fairmont grudge match. Fairmont, trying to avenge an earlier season dual meet loss to New Ulm, competed with New Ulm and seven other teams in the region meet to earn a spot in the state gymnastics tournament.

Both teams were evenly matched, although Fairmont was slightly favored because of the home court advantage. However, prior to the meet Fairmont's second best all-around competitor injured himself in the warm-up drills. New Ulm was not guaranteed a victory, though, because nothing can be assured in gymnastics competition where a major mistake can be costly.

"Instead of giving us more confidence," said Pat Wesselman, "the injury to the Fairmont gymnast put more pressure on us. We were now expected to beat them easily because they lost one of their strong competitors."

When the meet was over, New Ulm was on top by a comfortable margin, and the team had earned a spot in the state gymnastics meet. Fairmont was still New Ulm's closest competitor, but this time New Ulm beat the Cardinals by 11 points. This margin is large compared to their two previous dual meets when one point

separated the first and second place finishers. New Ulm's winning score was 124.83, their best total of the season.

Individually New Ulm received many honors. Steve Byer was named the outstanding senior floor exercise performer. Todd Olson was the outstanding senior parallel bars performer, and Pat Wesselman received the same award for his performances in the all-around competition. These awards were given for the most consistent performances throughout the regional meet.

Individuals from New Ulm who were finalists at the region and qualified for state individual competition were Scott Fruhwirth in the high bar and Mark Roeder in the all-around competition and the floor exercise. Wesselman qualified for the all-around competition and also competed individually in every event except the pommel horse. Byer, the winner of the all-around competition at the region, competed in everything except vaulting at the state meet.

New Ulm did not do well at the state meet and finished sixth among the six teams competing. Individually, Pat Wesselman placed fourth in the floor exercise, and Steve Byer was fifth on the high bar. Todd Olson was unable to participate because of an injury sustained during the regional.

Grapplers can't always "eat 'em up"

by Sue Kunz

When you see Mel Rewitzer, Jay Sievert, and John Legare walk by the lunchroom, you can tell that once again wrestling has started at NUHS. These are just a few of the guys who may have to skip a meal or two to stay at their wrestling weight for that evening's match.

Wrestling is a sport in which one competes with someone of similar size or weight. To make it an even match, every wrestler has to weigh-in before each meet. If over the required weight, he either exercises until he's down or doesn't wrestle that night.

Coach Rich Peterson feels that keeping a certain weight is more tough mentally than physically. He said it becomes difficult for the guys to walk by candy machines and places like the Paper Mache. Peterson doesn't think it's harmful for the guys to put on a couple of pounds because this weight can be shed easily through water loss.

As the season progresses, the grapplers are allowed a few extra pounds. On January 1 they may be two pounds heavier, and on February 1 they can add another pound to their original weight class. Around March 1 or the state tour-

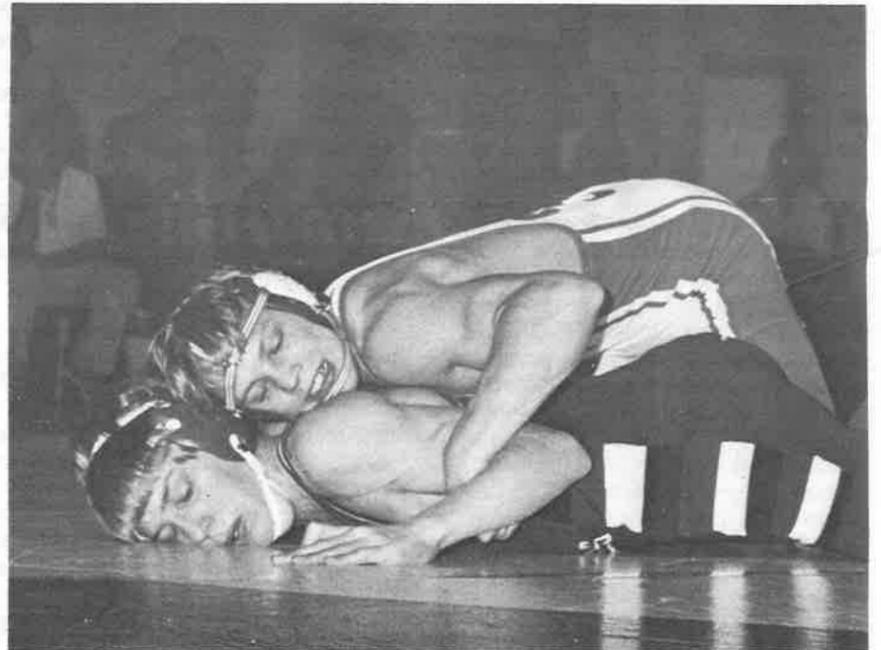
naments they are allowed one more pound. Also, when a tournament lasts two or more days, they can add one pound each day. When two meets are scheduled in a row, they are allowed an extra pound for the second meet.

Wrestlers have different ways of staying within their weight limits. Jay Sievert, a junior, tries to work off any extra pounds at practice. He also watches his food intake a day or two before the meet.

Loren Guggisberg, a sophomore, said he also watches what he eats. "You worry mostly about the quantity of what you eat more so than the calories." Loren said he's always made his weight, but one time he came close and was running off a pound while teammates were weighing-in.

John LeGare, another junior, doesn't eat very much a day or two before meets and sometimes eats nothing on the day of the meet. Because they weigh-in an hour before dual meets and three hours before tournaments, he might eat something after weigh-ins.

Most of the wrestlers agree that shedding a few extra pounds isn't too difficult and worth the effort when it makes the difference between wrestling and not wrestling.



Junior wrestler Doug Hoffman seems to have his opponent right where he wants him during New Ulm's dual meet with New Richland.

Senske's Sports Sense

by Eric Senske

As most of you know, the major league baseball home run king, Henry Aaron, was in New Ulm on November 28.

Aaron is one of the biggest celebrities ever to visit New Ulm. He came for the Magnavox Company to appear at The Music Store, the local Magnavox dealer. While in town, he found time to speak to the New Ulm Rotary Club in the afternoon, and at the Legion Baseball Banquet later that evening.

Listening to his speech at the banquet that night, I was impressed with what Aaron had to say. One of the points which he stressed was that it is essential for athletes to set goals for themselves. Though this is true in nearly all walks of life, it is especially true in athletics.

There are many different goals which should be set. First of all, an athlete should have some kind of goal concerning his



status on his team. For example, he may wish to start on the team, or maybe he just wants to make the team.

Secondly, an athlete must have goals directly concerning his team. Common team goals could be to win a conference

championship, go to a state tournament, or have a winning season.

Also important for athletes are personal goals. These should outline his team contributions and personal achievements. These goals, of course, would vary with each sport. A baseball or softball player may wish to lead his team in hits, a football player in touchdowns. A player may also wish to be named all-conference or even all-state.

In his speech Aaron stated that an athlete's goals must be set very high. Failure to set high goals usually results in the athlete not working very hard and settling for less than what could have been achieved.

An athlete who does not set high goals is actually wasting his time, energies, and talents. Aaron declared, "I've seen too many people who have talent just let it go by the wayside because they did not set their goals high enough."

Aaron illustrated his point by telling the

crowd of leaving his Mobile, Alabama, home to play baseball in 1952. He left home with two dollars and four sandwiches, and vowed he would come back with \$100, three suits, and four pairs of black shoes. These were high goals for a young black man from the south in the early 50's. He came back with \$200, and although he lost his black shoes in his hurry to return home, he had achieved his goals.

Another reason for setting high goals, said the homerun king, is the self-torture one might go through if he doesn't. He said that many times he had thought he could have hit many more home runs if he had just tried a little harder. Setting high goals makes it a little easier to live with yourself in these times of self-doubt. Whether you are an athlete or not, high goals are very important.

Perhaps Henry Aaron put it best when he said, "You've got to have a goal when you leave home." That just about says it all.