

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979

COM~MINI~CATIONS

SPRING ISSUE '90

MINNETONKA

20 YEARS
OF UNIQUE EDUCATION

1970-1990

MINI-SCHOOL

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989
1990

MINI-SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Suburban students do encounter traumatic life experiences which may affect their ability to be healthy learners, just as inner-city students have their special problems of survival. Problems such as transient family patterns and broken homes, alcoholism, failure to compete in the academic race and inability to achieve wants of goal-oriented parents all result in characteristics such as lack of self-confidence, frustration with regular school, lack of motivation and disciplinary problems.

Also, in a large suburban high school, many students seem to get lost in the shuffle. They struggle along, barely passing their classes and not really gaining much from their high school experience. High School for this type of student can be a negative experience as well.

Mini-School is a semi-autonomous, alternative program whose students attend Mini-School classes of Social Studies, Communications, Basic Skills, English, and Recreation in the morning hours. In the afternoon, four basic options are offered:

- 1) being an aide in one of the six elementary schools or two junior high schools;
- 2) employment at any local business establishment;
- 3) attending a regular school class or carrying out an independent study project;
- 4) attending vocational school.

Deviations from this basic schedule are many and varied. One important variation is the Outdoor Survival Education Curriculum in which students and staff share the stress and excitement of surviving in foreign environments such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area trips, rock climbing, hiking in the Grand Canyon or Appalachia, bicycle trips and extended winter camping and skiing. This aspect of the program is vitally important as it allows the teacher and student to come to know each other as people who care. Important to note here is that these outdoor experiences are financed through student initiative which is a learning experience in itself and one that we intend to continue to support in this manner.

MINI-SCHOOL MOTTO

WE THE UNWILLING
LED BY THE UNQUALIFIED
HAVE BEEN DOING
THE UNBELIEVABLE
SO LONG WITH SO LITTLE
WE NOW ATTEMPT
THE IMPOSSIBLE
WITH NOTHING

MEANDERING through MINI - School ^{"LESTER"}

It's hard to believe we've come to the end of the 20th year of Mini-School. I know that Doug has written an article in this Com-Mini-Cations reflecting on this 20th year, so what I would like to do in this Meanderings is focus on Mini-School alumni. I've come across a lot of them this school year and have spent quite some time with a small group of them who have helped with the planning of Mini-School's biggest, best reunion.

Stewart Hanson ('73), Todd Thompson ('71), Kim Wilson Obermeier ('79) and Shelley Mikkelson DeVaan ('76), have been the core group of organizers for the reunion. We've had a lot of laughs reminiscing and coming up with some great ideas for the big event. The reunion's going to be fantastic and it's due to the creative minds and hard work of these successful graduates. I'd like to give a brief rundown on each one of them.

Todd Thompson is alive and well and still living in Deephaven. He has two kids (10 and 11), is a single parent, and has spent hours trying to locate the first batch of Mini-School grads from 1971. I've known Todd since I was about 5. We grew up in the same neighborhood and went to school together all those years and finally graduated together in 1971. Todd still has that wonderful sense of humor and boundless energy and enthusiasm. It's great to see some of us are still doing well.

Stewart Hanson brought his little 3-year old daughter Kelsy to one of our meetings. What a sweetheart! Stewart's still working for Arteka--he's been there since he was a student in Mini-School. He's moved up through the ranks there and is now Vice President of Operations. Stewart's had a lot of enthusiasm for this reunion, too, and he's been one of our main P.R. people. He and Todd make a great pair of organizers, coming up with ideas like "dunk the teachers"--what would we do without them?

Kim Wilson Obermeier keeps herself busy working at a bank full time and caring for her two sons, ages 4 and 7 months. She and Kent Obermeier ('79) are another one of those Mini-School alumni marriages made in heaven. Kim has been a real trooper in the reunion effort and the queen of gathering gift certificates for the raffle to be held the big night. She's also been crucial in designing the new M-S T-shirt and spent five hours drawing that beautiful little bike you will see in the design. Kim's even taking the whole week off before the reunion just so she can spend lots of time on last minute details.

Shelley Mikkelson DeVaan, my long time dearest buddy, is truly the super woman of the 90's. She works on research at Rosemount Corporation, cares for two young kids (5 and 4), husband Gary, thoroughbred Jettters, and spaz dog Luke. Even though her mom died in March of a longtime battle with cancer, Shelley's had a lot of energy to give to the reunion. She's become the media freak of the committee. She's arranged for SAILOR News', Tom Ratzloff to attend the event, interviewed for an article in the Chanhassen VILLAGER and is attempting to interest WCCO and KARE 11 News to come out with camera crews the night of the reunion. We'll see what transpires. I myself would love to be on the 10 o'clock news soaked from dunking in freezing cold water by some of my all-time favorite students. Shelley thought it wonderful media timing when May 13's Sunday Magazine in the Star Trib was totally taken up with an incredible article on our own Mini-School alumnus, U.S. climber, Melissa Quigley.

And now on to other alumnus news: In the sidelines, giving as much time to the reunion effort as busy schedules permitted are Troy and Jess Anderson Wheeler--another set of Mini-Schoolers from the past, now both in the grocery business--different stores, though. They're not sure if they'll be attending the reunion due to good friend and Mini-School alumnus Jill Reno's wedding on June 2. She's marrying almost Mini-Schooler at-one-time Alex Hering. Congratulations!

meandering . . .

Sylvia Flugum's been around for several meetings but since she works at the Race Track, it's been too crazy for her lately. Debbie Johnson Condon is another busy alumnus whose given some help to the reunion, though 3 kids, work fulltime, and schooling at Normandale in an RN program has made it hard for her to get too involved although we'll all appreciate the special assignment she's been working on for the night. (You'll see, you gotta be there to find out!)

Padie Sapp and Brenda Smith attended one meeting. Padie proudly showed me her report card from Normandale with a 4.0 average! I ran into Padie again with Wendy Smith who will finish at Normandale this spring and plans to go on to the U of M for a degree in Japanese. We've also heard that Roy Davis will complete his diploma at Normandale this spring.

Tracy White showed up one day to report she is getting married and wants her soon-to-be-brother-in-law to attend Mini-School. Tracy went through Brown Institute, then on to the U of M for a degree in broadcasting. She's currently running audio at Canterbury Downs.

Doug (Snydes) Snyder went through Vo-Tech's Computer Graphics course and landed a job in the graphic department of his long-time employer the Star Tribune. Sue and Kay Nelson (whatever their last names are) helped out a bit on graphics for the reunion and work for the family business Indenti-Graphics in St. Boni. Sister Michelle has marriage in her plans, has moved to the Big Apple and is designing children's clothes for Health-Tex after completing a degree in fashion design from Minneapolis College of Art and Design. And Tammy Messer Roushar will be doing an incredible job running sound for the Bottle Rockets the night of the reunion.

Carol Lindberg owns her own Hair Care shop and may be given a special assignment shaving Randy's beard the night of the reunion. Randy's agreed to take it all off--the beard he's had since the summer before Mini-School began 20 years ago--grown on an Outward Bound month long course--if enough additional money is raised in a "pass the hat" effort. The compromise, though, is that Randy gets to keep the mustache.

I called former teachers Nick and Linda Douglas Jambeck to personally invite them to the reunion. They informed me that they never travel further north than mid-Florida but they are alive and well and living on Sanibel Island.

And last but certainly not least, I talked with John Eiden, who informed me that he and Sandy Lambrecht Eiden intend to travel up from Louisiana and attend our big event. I do hope they haven't drown yet and will still be able to attend. Their business, "All That Garbage" is thriving with many dump trucks and dumpsters. They've become known for their concerns of environmentally sound waste management. I can't wait to get Eiden in that dunk tank, the water of which by the way, will come directly from Waconia's water tower two hours before we begin. Will it be cold?

I'm not sure, but by the time this Com-Mini hits the news stands, the reunion may be history. We'll have a great story next fall to tell and hope to have some important follow-up info on what more of our Mini-School people have gone on to do with their lives.

Remember, too, if it's not already past, that Mini-School's year-end Recognition Night is Tuesday, June 5, 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the Small Auditorium. It's a great night honoring this year's grads and all present students of Mini-School.

I do hope this issue finds all of our readers healthy and happy and looking forward to the great summer ahead of us. See you all again in the fall!

The Year in Review

And thus another year in Mini-School comes to a screeching halt and all the crazy events that occurred during the 1989/90 school year once again get filed away in the brain's cabinet of memories.

Memories that ranged from the trips and field trips we took to the certain classes and teachers we had; and memories, of course, of the always abundant happenings and oddities that happen throughout the year.

When we remember the year's trips, we remember the year starting out with a bang of a trip and ending with a bang of a trip. The year began with the trip to the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada, where Doug and the students on the trip got a chance to meet up with Mini-School's good friends from New Hampshire, Les and Viv Coit, and do quite a bit of canoeing.

Next another good friend of Mini-School, Mark Warren, came up from Georgia and taught us some of the ways of the Indian at Doug's cabin on the St. Croix River in Wisconsin, and not too long after this trip a large group of Mini-Schoolers went right back to Doug's cabin--only this time to hike the Grantsburg Trail behind the cabin. With winter in it's early months, Doug took a group on the first of the 2 Boundary Waters expeditions to go cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. With Randy finally getting his turn to embark on an adventure he took a group of students downhill skiing at Ironwood, Michigan, but unfortunately they didn't get much skiing in because of the warm weather and the lack of snow.

Even though tough times hit Doug and the group of Mini-Schoolers on the way to Arkansas with an accident including one of the canoes and another car, they still had a great time canoeing the Buffalo River. After this trip, Randy led 5 Mini-Schoolers and Dawn on a bike trip. They got to know Doug's mom pretty well and appreciate her hospitality. The final bang of the year trip was going back to Mini-School's second home, the Boundary Waters, for a 10-day canoe trip. Of course, no year of Mini-School is complete without some field trips.

Mini-School went everywhere for field trips from Lone Lake Park to start the year off, all the way to bowling at Hopkins Bowl and somewhere mixed in the year were two after-hour field trips to Dudley Riggs comedy shop, two field trips to the Science Museum and one field trip to the Minnesota Zoo.

The year in review, unfortunately for Mini-School was without a former long standing teacher and friend, Norm Garneau, because of his plans to teach in mainstream. But, although his shoes couldn't be filled, Mini-School's happy to say he was replaced by a couple of great teachers/friends--Dawn Norton; who teaches science, a fairly new class to Mini-School and also teaches Better Body (a fitness class), and Joe Komarek, who teaches math. Mini-School also had a new class called O.M. (See article on it,) in which Lester taught and coached. Doug not only had Spirit of the Environment offered as a class for a couple of quarters but also teamed up with Randy for the class, On Your Own. Lester also tried her hand at teaching a nutrition class.

What can you say about a group of teenagers and a group of crazy teachers getting together for a year of school? You can say that there will be a lot of weird happenings and a lot of fun memories. Weird events like Sean Armstrong bringing a BB gun to school to scare a kid away. To Dawn's science classes trying to create a scale model of a town which although looked nice and made it half way, ended up being a large craft table, and although it isn't weird it is frightening to see the large population of freshmen entering the program.

With the weird happenings there are fun memories. Memories of the year's graduates. We said goodbye to, including old friends to Mini-School, like Rob Stundahl, Chris Waldroff, Dave Kolstad, Dave Nestberg, etc., memories of the extra visit we had by Mark Warren and how we could share with the rest of the staff and students our friend from Georgia, and how he impressed everyone was not only with his musical talent but also with his knowledge of the outdoors, and last we remember Dave Kolstad's own solo camping trip earlier this year.



Year in Review...

The year was very successful in many ways but as far as students entering the program, we started the year off with an all time low of 34 and by the end of the year we doubled that.

Although I listed just a handful of events that occurred throughout the year in review like the trips, the field trips, the teachers, the classes, and a whole lot more, there still were many more individual memories, and what more to end a year of memories than by celebrating 20 years of Mini-School and its students and its memories.

Reflections ON 20 YEARS OF Mini - School

by Doug Berg

There is an old cliché about "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Over 20 years the world, the country, the Minnetonka Community, and Minnetonka High School have changed dramatically--a Rip Van Winkle would think he was on another planet. Mini-School has changed too, but through 20 years the program continues to believe in the essential goodness and ability of kids, it continues to provide a safe harbor for them in their seas of difficulties and continues to give them opportunities to challenge themselves and grow academically, physically, culturally, and socially without fear of censure or rejection.

For me, and I think I speak for Randy and Lester as well, Mini-School long ago became more a part of my life than I thought any job ever could. Sometimes it's difficult to tell where Mini-School ends and my "personal" life begins. The twenty years have been good, fulfilling, satisfying and rewarding.

The 1989-90 school year ends the 20th year of Mini-School. I guess that's a milestone but it's difficult to tell, in this program, where one year leaves off and another begins. They run together' there are no strong ends and beginnings. That's good, I think, because education is a process that is ongoing--it does not end with a graduation or an award or a rite of passage. So it is with Mini-School.

I am thankful for 20 years of Mini-School. I know the program has helped hundreds of kids through some tough spots in their lives and I'm glad to have been part of that. Mini-School has been a good place for me; it's fit my personality and style, it's given me a sense of purpose, a meaning to my work.

The program, I believe, is stronger than it has ever been. Mini-School gains a broader base of support with each passing year. Support is growing within the school, in other districts, and in the community.

Another 20 years? Who knows? Yet I am convinced there are no better programs that deal with kids who are disenchanted with traditional school. There is a magic here, a way of learning that is unconventional, sometimes hard to understand, yet which works. As long as the magic is there--and it's a constant struggle to keep it there--Mini-School will go on. I'm proud to be a part of it.

Beyond Mini

By:
Rhett
Rasmussen

Beyond-Mini is a great chance for all the guys in Mini-School to get together. The guys in Beyond-Mini are a breed apart. They are serious about weight-lifting, but they don't get so involved with their workouts that they have to ignore the other Mini-Madmen.

Randy is always around when you need a helping hand or advice on weight use. Occasionally, he's busy doing paper work, but most of the time he's right in there with the gang. Randy does his best to keep up with the rest of us, but he's getting old and somewhat weak. He does his best to hold his own.

Science I

By: Aron
Vick

Mini-School Science I is taught by Mrs. Dawn Norton and we've really learned quite a bit. In third quarter, we worked on the elements a lot. In fourth quarter we worked on water samples. We tested the water in our homes and found some that was bad, but most was just fine. For the rest of the quarter, we are working on radioactive plates.

And everyone is having fun.

On Your Own

By:
Scott
Theisen

In this class of "On Your Own" Randy and Doug try to help us realize what it's like to live on your own. They tell us what it is like by telling us how much it costs to live on your own, who to choose to live with, and what kind of environment you would like to live in. Since I've been in this class it makes a lot of sense. Doug and Randy know what they're talking about.

The cost of living on your own is not cheap. There are things I never really thought about that I have to buy--like life insurance, plates, silverware, pans, couches, furniture, appliances, etc. Young people that just get out of school really want to leave home. If they have all of the things they need and enough money saved up with a good job, maybe they can do it. But there are other things to take into consideration.

Who you choose to live with is very important. Most likely if you choose your best friend to room with it is not such a good idea. Randy says that if you room with your best friend you will put up with their goofing off more than you would with someone you don't know as well. If someone you don't really know doesn't pay his half of the rent you won't have any problem kicking him out, but if it was your best friend you won't want to kick him out because you care about him.

Your environment is very important. If you don't like what or who you're living with, you're not going to live there very long. You have to get yourself a nice environment and a place you like because you're going to be there a lot of time.

Living on your own is a very big step. If you're going to live on your own, take a really good look at what you really need to do. Have a back-up plan in case it doesn't work out. It's not easy at first but if you have things planned out and you know what you need to do--The BEST OF LUCK!

WOMAN STUDIES ^{by: Leibe} NORTH OVERNIGHT

Recently, the Mini-School Women's Studies Group have become closer and bonded. As a fun project, we met on April 2nd and had an overnight at Heather Naegele's.

Some of the activities that we pursued (for fun) consisted of hot tubbing, dancing, facials, hairstyle experiments, manicures and pizza and movies. But, on a more serious note we had long, in-depth discussions about personal, pressing issues.

But, this time gave us the opportunity to become closer to other female Mini-Schoolers. Friendships grew and prospered. Communication and openness improved.

The only bad thing about the overnight was when Lester had to be brought to the hospital for stitches. She cut off the tip of her finger while preparing a flower arrangement.

Overall, the chance to bond some friendships was a blessing, as we all seemed to enjoy a nice night. Many thanks to the Naegeles for hosting our overnight and to Lester and Dawn for making it possible.

WOMAN ^{By: Leibe} STUDIES ^{NORTH}

Every Tuesday after Mini-School meeting, you see the females in the program separate from the guys and go to Women's Studies. Women's Studies is held at one of the student's homes or another designated spot. When we arrive we settle ourselves and prepare ourselves for Women's Studies.

We start with one person saying how we would rate our week 1 to 10, ten being best. And in some cases 10+ or a zero. But, after you say how your week went you can bring up topics or problems that are bothering you. For example, if one week you had problems with your parents and you discussed it, the next week someone will probably ask you how that was going. We often cover subjects of parents, school, boyfriends, friends, jobs, drugs, self-esteem, suicide, deaths, feelings, caring, trust and problem-solving. After everyone has said everything that's needed to be said, we all pack up and go back to school--often with smiles and better feelings about ourselves and others.

I think without Women's Studies I would be completely insane, stressed out and would never have gained the closeness I've gained with the other Mini-School girls, as well as teachers Dawn Norton and Lester Hughes-Seamans.



Over the course of this year, basketball in Mini-School has become something more than an alternative to volleyball in Rec. It has become the driving force behind the ball players' Mini-School day. The participants: Randy Nelson, Doug Berg, Bob Colehour, Merton Clark, Dan Nestberg, Freddy J. Dayton Bjork, Rodney McCormick, Jerie Meakins, myself (Greg Anderson), Rhett Rasmussen, Josh Kraemer, Chris O'Dell, newcomers Erik Peterson, Bonzai, Hopkins, and Suzanne Ward, graduate Chris Waldroff and Mini-Math teacher Joe Komarek make guest appearances every now and then. →

Basketball...

The teams usually consist of the old vs. the young. Doug and Randy are always on the same team with a couple of us youngsters with them. Team number two consists of all kids. Some days the old guys win and other days the youngsters win. It depends on who's shooting well one day and who's not the other.

Randy has great days and not so great days. Randy is my favorite player to watch. Doug would have to be the three-point man. He hits the three pointers better than anyone.

Coley rarely misses a bucket and rarely misses a rebound. Slam it Coley! Slam it! Nestberg and Merton are pretty decent shots on the inside and the outside. We almost lost Merton in a game last April when Coley came down hard on Merton's shoulder. Now, Freddy J., he's a play maker. He has moves and makes passes that you'll only see in the NBA. Dayton has an awkward shooting style but somehow often manages to make three pointers and shots on the inside. Peterson's new and has a lot to learn but he's an aggressive, physical player and that often pays off for his team.

Rodney and myself don't play every day but when we do it's usually fair. Rodney's a better shot than I am but I manage to sink a few. I think Randy would agree that Rodney and I are the best cheerleaders Mini has ever seen. Rhett and Josh don't play everyday either, but when they do it's good play. O'Dell is a team player. He passes a lot and when he shoots he usually sinks them. Waldroff is a veteran Mini-Basketball player and is an excellent shot inside and out.

All these guys playing together makes for a good game. I think soon we will all be ready to play any NBA team and give them a run for their money. I want to see a slam contest between Coley and Jordan--Just slam it, Coley!

Sports Talk

By: Chris
Waldroff

It's the spring of a new decade and a new decade of baseball is on its way.

A lot has happened, like the owners' "Lock Out" on the players. The teams lost their time to get the season going -- a week late on opening day. The teams were granted an expansion of players on the opening day roster. Instead of the usual 24 it went to 27 until May 1st.

The Twins are probably the only team to have to wait almost 2 weeks for their home opener which was April 20th.

The salaries for the majors went from the minimum of \$62,500 to \$100,000 which was a concern with the owners in the "lock-out."

Earlier on in the winter, Mark Langston became the highest paid player, earning at least 3.5 million a year. That changed. On opening day, the Yankees announced that Dan Mattingly will earn 19.3 million over 5 years; it was no surprise to anyone!

If you want a prediction for the teams of October, they are: AL West - Oakland or Angels. AL East - Toronto or Boston, and in the NL West - Cincinnati or San Diego. NL East - Chicago.

Surprise sluggers in the American League this season will be Dante Bichette of the Angels and Ken Griffey, Jr. of Seattle.

In the National League, Ryne Sandberg will bat at least .310 and will get a chance at the MVP award.

An obvious prediction in Texas is that Nolan Ryan will get his 300th career win this year. I'd say about August or early September.

This will be the year of the long ball!!

Come on Cubbies!!

* WINTER * Trip *

by:
Derek Benson Matt McCrady

On the 27th of February, eight brave, strong Mini-School men set forward on a winter camping trip to the Boundary Waters. This outstanding group was composed of: Aaron Vick, Matt McCrady, "Bonzai" Scott MacKinnan, Heather "Growler" Holste, Derek "Hopkins" Benson, Chris "Odie" O'Dell, Rob "Stundy" Stundahl, and Doug Berg.

We left Minnetonka at 8:30 a.m., all piled into Doug's van. We drove for 2 hours, hit Tobie's in Hinckley, ate lunch and stretched our legs. After lunch we piled into the vehicle and were off again. We drove through beautiful country until Duluth.

In Duluth a funny thing happened. Doug had his small canoe on top of his van because a guy in Grand Marais was going to make a cover for it while we were on the trip. As Doug drove through Duluth, he was pulled over by a cop. He couldn't figure it out, as he wasn't speeding or anything. The cop walked over to the van asked for Doug's driver's license and what he was doing. Doug told the cop about the trip and what he wanted to know. Then the cop asked about the canoe on top of the van, which everyone had forgotten about. Doug told him why it was there and asked why he'd been stopped for carrying a canoe. The cop said that the lakes were pretty hard this time of year and there had been several break-ins at nearby cabins where canoes had been stolen, so a canoe on a van in February was suspicious. Doug showed him the registration that proved the canoe was his, we all had a good laugh about it, and took off again.

Our next stop was Grand Marais and the East Bay Hotel, an old hotel where we would spend this night before getting into the woods. At the hotel the main attraction was the hot tub. For dinner we walked to a nearby restaurant called Swen & Ole's where we had pizza and subs.

The next morning Doug got us up at 5:30 and we hit the Blue Water Cafe at 6:00 for breakfast. We all ate as if it were our last meal.

After filling up, we drove out the Gunflint Trail for an hour to the Kekekabic Trail. We packed up and started trekking in on skis and snowshoes. It was a super day--about 25°, bright sunshine, an inch of new snow on the trail. We had a lot of trouble with sleds breaking. This slowed us down. Also, the snow on the lakes was deep, with slush under it, which made for slow going. Doug and Chris were first at the campsite on Bing Schick Lake and they returned several times to help us slower ones. After Derek and Aaron arrived about 4:00, half-way dead, we were all there. After a short rest we shoveled out the fire area, the food storage area, got wood, made a fire, fixed Mac 'n Cheese, set up tents and crashed.

On Thursday, March 1st, we woke up, ate, and split into groups to make quinzees (snow shelters). The groups were: McCrady and Heath, Rob and Chris, and Scott, Derek and Vick. It got hot today--up to 50°--not the best for quinzee building. We did it anyway and had success, except for Derek. After making a huge pile of snow, Derek started digging it out. When he was into it about 5 feet, it collapsed on him, so he kicked his way out. He was pretty upset about it. We could tell by his language.

By then it was getting dark so we set up dinner. We hauled in many dead trees for Stundy and Doug to chop up for our wood supply. After dinner we sat around the fire, talked, looked at the stars, and drank hot chocolate.

On Friday we got up to a -22° morning. After breakfast we gathered our cross-country skis and set out on the "Berg-a-beiner." Over, around, and through snowdrifts, brush, trees, and lakes. Berg led us on an 8-mile adventure up to Jap Lake and through various swamps. I'm glad he knew where he was going. That night we finished our quinzees, ate chicken noodle dinner with mashed potatoes and bread, howled like wolves and tried to get wolves to howl back at us, and crashed.

On Saturday, Doug set us out on solos around 10:00 a.m. It was an experience that was different for everyone. Doug explained that the purpose of the solo was to get back in touch with nature and ourselves. He said that in our world today few people are ever really alone, away from traffic noise, radio,

MINI-SCHOOL 1990 WINTER TRIP continued.....

TV, books, other people and only in touch with the earth, which keeps us alive. It was kinda cool to think about it, and after people figured out how to stay warm, it was neat to get into it.

Around noon, the people soloing near the lake saw 4 people snowshoeing, looking at the scenery. We saw them, but they didn't see us. Doug talked to them and found that they are part of a group that hike and maintain the Kekekabic Trail every year. The trail is not maintained by the State anymore, but these people love the trail so much that they take care of it.

We all came back from our solos around 1:00 and had the standard Mini-School trail lunch of Marlene Berg's flapjacks, salami, cheese, peanut butter, jelly and chocolate bar. After lunch some of us put the finishing touches on our quinzees, some cut wood, Rob and Odie went fishing (no luck.) Around 4:30, visitors Dawn Norton, Mini-School Science teacher, and Jerry Wilkes (MHS Science teacher who works with Dawn in mainstream) arrived and got settled in--Jerry in the "back 40" quinzee with McCrady, and Dawn in the lakeview quinzee with Derek, Vick and Scott. Doug and Jerry spent late afternoon skiing, but skiing was lousy--really icy--since the warm weather.

We had mushroom pasta with peas in it for dinner. Then Doug led us in some activities that made us think about our values. Jerry told some great stories, we all laughed at McCrady a lot, and turned in. It was a cold night.

Doug got us up the next morning to an excellent pancake breakfast with sausage, syrup and all the trimmings prepared by Doug. Then we helped Dawn and Jerry get packed up and sent them on their way. Shortly after that we embarked on Doug's snowshoe "boonie bushin" expedition. No trails this time. Right through the swamps and into the woods. No hill too steep, no snow too deep, no woods too thick. We saw moose tracks and wolf tracks and shortly after that we found ourselves on an uncharted lake. The cries of "Are we lost, Berg?" echoed through the forest every once in a while, but we found

our way. After our long trek, back to camp, we had a fettucini dinner, a very good one at that, I might add. We all turned in pretty early because the temperature was really dropping fast. It got down to -21° that night.

It was Monday, our last day in the woods. Mixed feelings. We were all anxious to get going because we were heading back to civilization. But on the other hand, it was a bum because it was so beautiful and peaceful up there. We made it back to the van in two hours because of the super trail that was packed down by now. But we were "trackin'" the whole way out! Then we drove back to the East Bay Hotel, got cleaned up, and went out for dinner. We came back to the hotel and all of us crashed out in front of the TV.

On Tuesday we got up, got packed, and got going. We saw quite a few deer along Lake Superior and had a terrific breakfast at Miller's Cafe in Two Harbors. It was a drag coming back to the city, but we had to do it sometime.

All in all, we had a great trip and we all hope for the opportunity to go winter camping in the Boundary Waters again.



Michigan Trip

By: Suzanne Ward

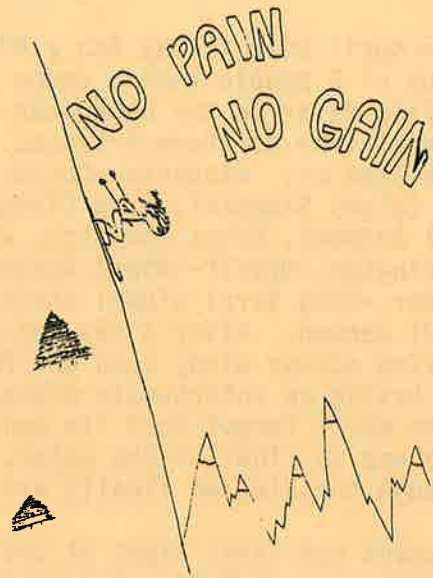
In March, at 11:00 a.m., a group of 7 students and 2 teachers left from Minnetonka to go to Ironwood, Michigan, for a week of skiing. The people that went on the trip were: Randy Nelson, Joe Komarek, Trish McGuire, Amber Nustad, Suzanne Ward, Derek Benson, Matt McCrady, Vince Moreno, and Rhett Rasmussen.

We arrived at Circle Hills Lodge that evening and unloaded our belongings. All we really did that night was get settled in, and tentatively plan the agenda for the week ahead of us. Randy explained that there would be some homework involved; such as a daily journal, and 2 Time magazine quizzes.

The next morning, over breakfast, Randy reported that most of the resorts near us had rather bad skiing conditions because of the warm weather. Blackjack and Powderhorn were free, but Whitney and Indianhead were charging full price. We decided to go to Powderhorn.



Matt McCrady



Nothing at Powderhorn was in very good condition for real skiing. Most of the day, especially the latter half, we were just kind of sliding around in slush. It was rather disappointing.

The second day we went to Indianhead. It was really a better place to ski. Things never really got to the point where we just didn't want to ski anymore. The temperature really got up there that day. In the afternoon, it reached somewhere between the mid-50's and low 60's.

Then, that night, it rained, and rained and rained. None of us were really too surprised when Randy said that we were not going skiing. So that day we went into Ironwood and learned a little cultural history.

The next day, we visited Copper Peak. Copper Peak is considered the best ski-jump in the country. There was no snow on it, but it was still pretty neat to see.

We decided to head out a day early, so on Thursday morning, we headed back. Over all, it was a good trip in spite of the lousy snow conditions.

Mini-School Arkansas Trip

By: Rhett
& Rasmussen
Doug Berg

From April 24th to May 4th a Mini-School group of 9 people took a canoe trip on the Buffalo River in the backwoods of the Ozark Mountains in northern Arkansas. The group consisted of: students--Chris (Odie) O'Dell, Rob (alum) Stundahl, Greg (Treatment) Anderson, Karl Rehpohl, Brent Thompson, Jarrett Harrington, myself--Rhett Rasmussen; staff member--Doug Berg; alumni assistant--Jim (J.J) Jensen. After a day and a half of driving across windy Iowa and Missouri and having an unfortunate mishap with a canoe which forgot that its main purpose in life was to float on the water, not fly through the air, we finally arrived.

We spent our first night at Lost Valley campground near Ponca, Arkansas, only a mile from where we would begin canoeing. We set up camp and immediately took to the trails. We followed a stream and came to a couple massive caves. After exploring the biggest we saw some waterfalls and went back to camp. We all pounded down several helpings of franks and beans and then it began to rain--on occurrence which was to become all too common in the days ahead. We made another hike back to the cave in the rain, but after some actual encounters with bats and some imaginary encounters with dens of vicious rattlesnakes, we came back to camp and crashed out. During the night, some were awakened a time or two by what JJ referred to as the "hounds of hell"--a good old Arkansas coon hunt, with the coon hounds practically going through the middle of our camp. I slept through it all.

After breaking camp the next morning, we set out for the Buffalo River. The river looked great--clear, blue water, high, huge bluffs, hawks and vultures circling high above. It was also running pretty high--covering the roots and bases of trees and brush along the shore, flooding small islands, but it looked canoeable. We were psyched to get out there, but once again we had to wait as Doug and JJ shuttled the van and canoe trailer 100+ miles downriver

to Buffalo Point campground, where we would end our paddle. This job took until mid-afternoon. We then got underway, paddled for a couple hours to get used to the river, missed our campground due to some mis-communication, paddled, portaged, and waded 1/4 mile back against the current to the campground, set up, went swimming and fishing, had a good mac and cheese dinner, had a good campfire session until the rains began again, then crashed.

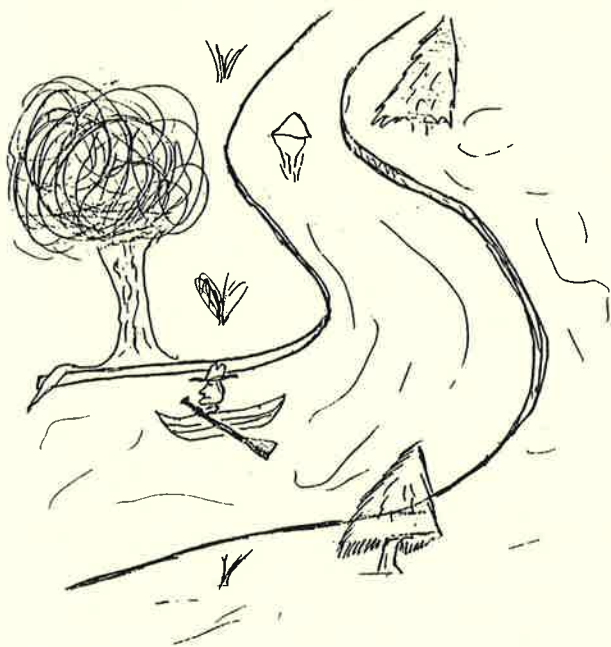


The next day was cloudy with periods of rain. It was a hard day, but beautiful. We hiked up on a 500' cliff on the "goat trail", we ran many rapids, we hiked around the lush, green countryside in an area called "Hemmed-in-Hollow", a natural amphitheatre with a 200' cataract of water plummeting down. We felt we were in a magical place much of the time, paddling beneath the massive cliffs, lush, thick green forest and jade-colored water. Late in the day, our luck turned. Doug was paddling his little solo canoe, his Merlin, a canoe not built for whitewater. He had been doing fine, taking in a little water once in a while, but not enough to need to put on his canvas cover for the boat. Then came Grey Rock Rapids and we were in them before we could do much about it. We all took on water, but it was

Arkansas...

too much for Doug's boat. Some standing waves filled his canoe and he swamped, banging his expensive Kevlar canoe on the rocks as he rode it down. Doug suffered no damage, the boat some damage, and the camera total damage (no slides this trip.) Then the rains came--hard. We lucked out and found a good, but trashy campsite, cooked dinner under a tarp and crawled into wet tents, damp sleeping bags, and damp spirits.

The next day was clear and much cooler, warming up as the day went along. We paddled hard all day and met Mark Warren at Carver Campground. Mark drove all the way from Georgia to meet up with us and paddle the river. Doug, Rob, and Odie know him real well, JJ knew him a little, and most of the rest of us had met him when he did a concert for Mini-School in January. We were all looking forward to getting to know him better. We played football and Frisbee at the campground. Then we were later joined by Mark's friends Chatty Wight and her daughter Caroline. They were really interesting people. Chatty is finishing college in Prescott, Arizona, an environmental college that really does a lot of trips and really sounds cool. Her daughter, Caroline, is a graduate of the University



of North Carolina and just finished an 80-day course with the National Outdoor Leadership School. Her course was a sailing and sea kayaking course in Baja, Mexico. She told us all about it, about getting right up next to huge whales and their babies, about NOLS' philosophy on low-impact camping. She was really a neat, intelligent person and we were all glad to get to know her and hear about her adventures. Caroline and her mom, Chatty, were on their way home to Atlanta from out west. Mark had been in contact with Chatty and had told her about the Buffalo River trip. They arranged to meet him and us in the middle of the Ozarks on this day so Chatty could canoe with us. Caroline would drive the rest of the way to Atlanta and Chatty would go home with Mark after they were done canoeing.

The next day of paddling was hot and harsh. The sun really beat down and sunburns, especially mine, started to rage. Mark told us about a plant called goose grass that you could make a wash from that would soothe it. But mostly we suffered. We camped near a place called "The Nars" (Arkansas for "Narrows.") We called it bat house, as across the river were bluffs and small caves. We camped on a sand bar. The swimming was wonderful and the river currents did incredible things here as they swirled through and around the caves. Stundy amazed us all with his culinary achievements as he put together a vegetable stew from scratch with dumplings yet, that couldn't be beat. Doug topped it off with an apple muffin for all of us, baked in the trusty Mini-School bakepacker. Brent amazed us all with his fishing patience. We spent a great evening around the campfire, lying in the sand, talking about activism and people power with Doug. Mark amazed us all day with his knowledge of plants and their uses. Chatty was fun to get to know, and after only one day of canoeing we felt like we had known her a long time.

The next day was cloudy and muggy with fewer rapids on the river. Karl and Greg had a mishap with one as their canoe got tangled in some brush and capsized. All was O.K. except the seat on the canoe. We camped near the tiny town of Gilbert where there was a store. It was great to have a

Arkansas...

carbonated drink again. After another great dinner--chicken fettucini topped off with a spice cake--some of us fished, with some luck by Brent. Oh yeah, our campfire was made this evening by Odie and Mark. Mark made a board from a dead cottonwood branch and carved a small depression and a notch in it; then he made a drill from a mullein stalk. Odie and Mark rapidly rotated the drill between the palms of their hand and it spun in the depression in the board. Soon smoke started to rise as a small coal accumulated in the notch. The coal fell onto some highly flammable tinder which Mark had made from juniper bark. He blew the coal into flame, the tinder lighted and burned, he placed the tinder under a teepee of kindling which he'd assembled before, and **Viola!** Buffalo River Fire. It was a good fire. Mark told us a cool story around it about how the first beaver came to be. In the story we also learned about sycamore trees and other animals of the woods. That night, toward morning, it poured. The rain kept us in our tents an extra hour or two, which upset everyone terribly.

In the morning, J.J. talked to a ranger who said the river was predicted to rise 15 to 20 feet overnight. We got going to paddle the 23 miles to Buffalo Point before the floods came, looking over our shoulders all the while for a 20 foot wall of water to come bearing down on us. We made it. It rained hard again that night at Buffalo Point and the next day the river was a brown raging torrent with trees floating down it. We ended our canoeing adventure just in time as the whole state of Arkansas flooded the next time.

After Doug and J.J. took Mark back to his truck at Carver and got J.J.'s truck, they came back and we got underway. The ride home was rainy and uneventful and it was good to get home and get dry. The trip was excellent. We had some tough times but we didn't let them stop us. We saw some great country, we got to know each other better, and we got to know Mark and Chatty, 2 great people.

O.M. By:
Dan
Fish

"What is Odyssey of the Mind" you ask? What's basically involved in being on an O.M. Team? Well let me tell you.

Once you've picked the project you're going to work on from a list of about 6-8 problems, you then proceed with completing it by using a combination of thought/imagination and by following the rules and regulations. It also is not a bad idea to practice short term speed round problems. Your goal is to complete your problem before the pre-competition to test it out, and then go on to the real competition.

You will compete in your own problems category at regionals with your surrounding cities schools. Next at Nationals the winners from region tournaments all over the U.S. compete against one another, and if you're lucky enough you'll make it all the way to world competition. There never is a lack of people competing and there are always large crowds.

This is basically (though not this simple and/or fast) the format for O.M. This is what Mini-School decided to be a part of this year. Although this creative problem game, if you will, was presented to Mini-School in 1988, it was still fairly new to Mini-School because in 1988 it didn't get much farther than just plain discussing it. Our team this year made up of our coach/teacher Lester and our team members Chris O'Dell, Kurt Loewen, Stacy Caton, Tammy Duncan, Patti Weist and myself weren't just talking about it, we actually were involved in every aspect of it and planned to go all the way with it. The purpose of the project itself was threefold: to gain credit for graduation and, most importantly, to learn and have fun at the same time.

What was usually offered as an extra-curricular activity, Mini-School was lucky enough to offer as a class for credit, so the advantages of having O.M. as a class were not only to get credit for what we were doing but also to get a chance to meet as a team a whole lot more than most teams would have a chance to.



O.M....

The most important reason for the existence of O.M. probably is to learn and learning we did. We all learned how to stretch our imagination and some of us actually found out that we had an imagination. We learned, as good tools for life, teamwork and how to deal with people you're given in any situation no matter if they're your favorite people or not. We learned that everybody has an idea or an opinion and that the ideas or opinions of everyone were always good. We learned how good we were with our hands, given the situation.

Along with learning and doing work we found out how much fun O.M. was and once you get to competition, the fun really is all captured in your project. At even the bad times in working on the project we would still never lose that element of fun.

Fun to me in O.M. is thinking and imagining, then making what you thought up and imagined and then dressing up on competition day and taking a look at what you accomplished from what you were given on paper.

Last but not least, fun in O.M. to me is performing in front of an audience, a skit you've created with the finished project involved.

Although we did not complete the designated project, we did meet the challenge by learning what we learned by having a good time, and by leaving with the thought that each one of us, if given the chance, would be a part of O.M. again.

WONDER by Amber Nustad

The blue sky
The sound of the wind
 rummaging throughout
 the particles in the air
The sound of a crying baby
The whispers of children
The sounds of violence
The scenes of crime
The sunrise
The nightfall.

Dear
Stacy...
Stacy Bohdan

Dear Stacy,

I have a problem--I like two different guys. One I've know 4 years, the other I've known only 6-7 months. What should I do? Give the 4 years another try?

--Lost in Love

Dear Lost in Love--

Which one do you care about more? You can't have them both--that's wrong. So you have to let one or the other go! I can only wish you the best of luck, not tell you which one to go for. Good Luck!

Dear Stacy,

I've been seeing a guy for the last 2 months. He means a lot to me and I love him but, soon enough he has to leave for the Army. He will be gone for about 5 months at a time. I want to wait for him and have or continue my relationship with him when he returns but it will be hard to let him go. Lately, I've been unconsciously pulling away, so that the pain will not be as harsh. Am I doing the right think:

--In love and scared.

Dear In Love-Scared--

Are you willing to wait 5 months at a time? It's only been 2 months; don't commit yourself if you're not ready! You may end up waiting for nothing! You're just too young to wait for awhile. You should feel free to see other people! It doesn't mean you don't care if you want to see other people. Don't just pull away, he might get the wrong idea. Good Luck!



Dear Stacy,

I know this person and I have for a while, more or less she's like my best friend (or she at least used to be). Well, her really good friend told her to do something (which wasn't nice) and she is really upset.

Should I help her?

--A caring friend

Dear Caring Friend--

Maybe you should talk to her, explain your feelings, and if she keeps doing what her other friend tells her, maybe she needs some serious help. I guess all you can do is try. Good Luck!

Dear Stacy,

I really like this guy. I went on a school trip with him and I kind of have developed a crush on him. He's not that good looking and I don't know that much about him, but he's got a great sense of humor and he can be a nice guy. I don't want to tell him I like him because he hangs around totally different people and his friends would probably think really bad of me. But I want to tell him how I feel, but I want to know what he thinks of me. What should I do?

"Raider"

Dear Raider--

I think you should tell this guy how you feel, except don't keep ragging on him, maybe if he knows how you feel, he'll open up to you more. If he lets his friends judge you, he's not worth it. Good luck!

Mini- Horoscopes

By: Suzanne
Ward

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Interact with old friends today. You might find companionship with someone in authority to you. Be careful though--you can't afford any more double-whammies.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): It's time to stop mourning about the past. Look around; you have been closing your eyes toward romantic opportunities.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Save your strength for the Boundary Waters Canoe trip. You'll need it. Don't concentrate so much on the obvious, but look underneath things for a deeper meaning.

Leo (June 23-August 22): You are a highly visible person. That is not always good. Relationships will make your life more enjoyable. You have a lot to live for. Do not lose your temper.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Get financial debts paid now before it's too late. Pay attention to things that are needed around the home. A loved one may need your support.

Libra (September 23-October 23): Follow your heart when it comes to making important decisions. Splurge today on something for yourself--you deserve it.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21): Complicated relationships are not up your alley right now. Instead of rebelling against the authority of a hall monitor, just listen for once.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Finish what you start. Go on your intuition, it will most likely be right. Someone of importance will soon enter your life. →

Capricorn (December 22 -January 19): Hard work is in store for you this month. You may not be able to get away with as much as you have in the past, so be cautious.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Finances may improve for you this month if you work for it. Take some extra time to listen to your friends.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): This may be the time to look for a job that you really enjoy. Your love life will spice up soon. Although a teacher may be nagging, don't get discouraged.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Be yourself--that's the most important thing now. Have confidence in yourself. Money will come from an unusual source.

FOR - SALE



FOR SALE: Imitation Les Paul guitar. Needs parts. \$50 or best offer. Chad 442-4930.

FOR SALE: Three 14" used Radial tires and rims. Best offer. Doug 470-3574 (w) or 474-7706 (h).

FOR SALE: Dog house for medium sized to large dog. Made from old whiskey barrel. Fiberglass lined. Doug. 470-3574 (w) or 474-7706 (h).

FOR SALE: Boat. Bayliner 23½' cabin cruiser. \$19,900 or best offer. Engine V-6 Volvo in-outboard. 225 hp. 35 hours on it. Scott 475-2938.

FOR SALE: '88 Mercury Scorpio. Black. 13,000 miles. Call Ron Vick 934-8255.

FOR SALE: Downhill skis - K2 Sport FX (all around rec ski.) 180 cm. Drilled once. No bindings. Joe 553-1443.

FOR SALE: Schwinn 10-speed bike. Call Dawn 470-3560.

FOR SALE: Infant car seat. Like new. \$25. Angie 474-6333.

FOR SALE: Grandfather (Gramps) - 67. Best offer. 474-6333

FOR SALE: '75 Olds Cutlass. Best offer. Troy 473-8473.

FOR SALE: 1981 Dodge D150 Conversion Van. Excellent condition, well cared for, clean vehicle. Slant 6 engine, air conditioning, AM/FM cassette stereo--front & back speakers. Doug. 470-3574 (w) or 474-7706 (h).

FOR SALE: Flopeared rabbit. \$30. Angie 474-6333.

FOR SALE: '79 Dodge Colt. \$450. Troy 479-1865.

FOR SALE: B.C. Rich "The Outlaw" lead guitar. Floating Floyd Pickups. \$400. Bill 472-4230.

Inflation

By: Suzanne Ward

The package hides the product
As they sometimes say
Better check the merchandise
Before you start to pay.

He loves me, he loves me not
We said when we were kids
Now the price of love's gone up
And there are no more bids.

Your flower's gone now
No more petals to pull
Why am I feeling so empty
When I thought I'd be full.

Yesterday could be tomorrow
For all the years to come
Better ask for forgiveness
Before your time is done.

Puzzle

B	A	G	N	O	L	A	N	U	R	T	O	E
E	S	K	I	D	D	O	O	L	A	A	E	I
A	F	F	O	Z	Z	U	B	C	E	R	O	T
T	F	S	H	O	O	P	S	L	E	A	A	A
I	O	H	K	O	C	H	I	H	O	K	Y	K
T	G	F	N	E	O	G	F	D	E	W	A	E
I	U	P	F	V	D	O	F	A	L	T	M	A
S	B	O	E	O	T	A	P	R	E	S	O	W
E	C	O	R	U	K	O	D	O	I	O	O	A
N	F	R	O	A	W	C	P	D	L	L	S	L
F	T	T	A	D	E	I	A	O	L	T	E	K
C	E	L	E	M	T	L	G	B	C	E	I	R
G	I	R	O	P	C	L	C	E	I	G	G	O

BACK OFF
BEAT IF
BLOW
BUG OFF

BUZZ OFF
CLEAR OUT
GET LOST
GET OUT OF HERE

LEAVE
RUN ALONG
SCAT
SCRAM

SHOO
SHOVE OFF
SKEDADDLE
SKIDDO

TAKE A POWDER
TAKE A WALK
VAMOOSSE

* COMMUNICATIONS

Scoops the STAR & Tribune Doug Berg

MY Meeting with the President By: Heather Naegele

Flying down the Potomac before landing at Washington National, I realized just how much needed to be done. There were some parts of the river that were breathtaking; clean, natural, simple. There were other areas, however, that were polluted. Tires were piled up along the bank and oil was floating near the shore. Downtown D.C. didn't look all that much better. There were areas where the lawns were well-groomed and everything was neat, and there were areas that were overrun with litter.

I spent most of the next morning in meetings and the late morning and the early afternoon at the Air and Space Museum. That evening, I had the opportunity of a lifetime. My evening meeting was in the East Wing of the White House. While I was there, I learned a lot about the history of the White House and I was able to talk with many interesting people.

Near the end of the evening, we all gathered in the East Room. After a few moments, the President entered, went to the podium and began his speech. After he completed his speech, he made his way slowly through the audience. Mr. Bush walked past me, turned around, and shook my hand.

"Oh, Hi Heather," he said.

"Hello, Sir," I replied.

I was amazed that he knew who I was. Then I remembered I was wearing my name tag.

The Sunday magazine section of the May 13, 1990, Minneapolis Star & Tribune devoted its cover story to Melissa Quigley, one of the top women climbers in the nation and Mini-School graduate. It was a thorough, excellent article which chronicled Melissa's development into a "star" in her sport.

The article also points out that "It was on a week-long (it was 2 weeks) canoe-bicycle trip with fellow Minnetonka High School students to the Boundary Waters that Melissa became reacquainted with the great outdoors." So, an allusion to Mini-School is made.

Of course, the last issue of Com-Mini-Cations contains Dan Fish's excellent article on Mini-School's "famous" alumnus once again, a journalistic scoop for Com-Mini-Cations.

SAVE the LAKE? By: Jason Nolen



The level of Lake Minnetonka was 925.74 feet above sea level this April. In May of 1986 it was 930.4 feet above sea level. Due to the drought, the lake level has dropped greatly in the last four years. Because of this drop, many lake businesses have suffered, and lakeshore homeowners have had to extend their docks and beaches. Even though April's precipitation was 2.3 inches above average, the lake level did not rise much. This is because the ground is very dry and soaked up most of the rain before it could run off into the lake.



The Lake...

Lakeshore homeowners want to take nature into their own hands and raise the lake level. A group of them have proposed that Hennepin County tap some wells that have lain dormant since the 1930's to pump 5 billion gallons of groundwater into the lake annually. This action, they contend, would raise the lake to normal levels, keep property values from dropping, improve the business of lakeside marinas, restaurants and bars, improve the fish and vegetation of the lake, and make everybody, especially these homeowners, happy.

Their idea does not seem to be going over too well with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District who has control of the wells. This agency and others say that there is not enough information available to justify tapping these wells. Some evidence shows that if the drought continues, the water would all evaporate anyway. These wells all would draw off the underground Jordon aquifer which provides drinkable water for 14 cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka.

It just does not seem like an intelligent idea to use drinking water to fill Lake Minnetonka so wealthy property owners can have more water to pollute with boat exhaust. Lakes and weather all go through cycles. We're in a dry one now. Leave the lake alone, treat it with care and it will come back. If this is the greenhouse effect and not just a drought, then the groundwater is necessary for greater purposes than filling a lake for recreational and economic purposes. The ground water is more important in any case.

Earth Day
By: Chris O'Dell

Thoughts of clear water and clean air fill my head.

Sights of dirt and trash appear instead.

What can I do; what can ten people do?
Is there anything we can do?

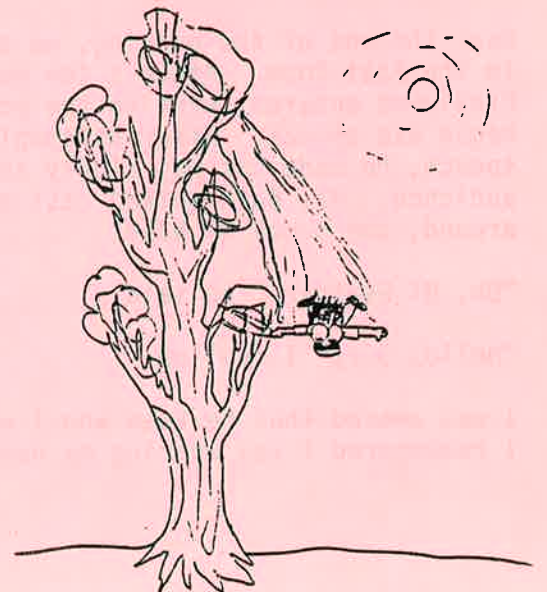


A quiet breeze blew as I stood beneath the stairway to the sky. I grasped the first step. I could feel the strength of the tree's arm as I pulled myself upward. Trusting every limb, I worked my way skyward to sights of untellable serenity. The ground far below seemed to be a desolate place where no one would want to be.

The sky looked more and more inviting as it became closer and closer. I viewed the sun in its full rites as it started its descent into tomorrow. I secured myself steadily on a limb that seemed to be built for watching the sun go down.

I eagerly awaited the arrival of evening and the colors that the sun would produce as it disappeared. The sunset was incredible. The night air overtook the country like a dark blanket.

As I made my descent, the ground somehow started to feel much more welcome.



A FLORIDA TRIP

OR

Keeping A

TRADITION

Alive

BY: Chris Waldroff

Well, the day was here for the somewhat annual Florida trip. Dan Nestberg, (Beefy) Jeff Rohr and I (Chris Waldroff), decided to have our own trip this year--since Norm is not able to do the trip anymore.

Dan and I picked everyone up: Jeff (Beefy) Rohr, Christine Ottum (Chris' girlfriend), Amy Blessing (Dan's girlfriend).

We left at 6:10 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Dan started out on his first shift (Dan and I did the driving.) He drove until about 12:45. Our first shifts were 6 hours long. It was no biggy, except that I didn't sleep a wink. When I took over, Chrisie said she would stay up with me, but she conked out along with the rest of them. At about 7 or 8 (EST) the sun rose. I took a glance at everyone and said, "Isn't that a beautiful sunset (kinda sarcastically!)" But actually I was talking to myself or the cars around me. During that first shift since everyone was sleeping, I ended up driving past Louisville (7-8 hours), and having conversations with myself.

So far we had travelled 2/3 of the way. Then, in the mountains, the car overheated! We thought we busted a hose, but the radiator was dry, due to a not so tight radiator cap. We waited a half hour and filled it up, then drove it down a ways to a gas station to have it checked out. The guy filled it and we were off! Even though we lost an hour, 20 minutes later we were in Chattanooga having lunch.

Dan, Beefy and I were thinking we shouldn't stop for awhile so we could make up the time. Dan and I were driving 80-95 mph (burried needle) until Macon, Georgia, which by then we made up about 45-60 minutes. We didn't stop for a while. You could kinda tell it was a long drive because our rear-ends were all sore.

The weather was really nice during the day drive Friday. Temperatures must have been in the mid 70's. At about 1 a.m. we arrived at the Florida Welcoming Center. It's where Norm always has that group photo in front of the sign.

We arrived at "America Outdoors" campground about 9:00 a.m., Saturday. Our campground area was a bit better than the year before. It was five sites from the beach (4 sites closer than last year.)

Day 1: Most of Saturday we set up camp and we all sweated a lot too. The weather non-complainable: mid to upper 80's, mostly sunny.

Day 2: Sunday. We all went to the beach and relaxed. Later, went to Shell World to shop. About 8 p.m., called Tower of Pizza.

Day 3: Monday, the 26th. We went to Key West for the day. Roamed the town until sunset time. Watched it go down and also the side shows. They had one of the best side shows I had seen. It was some trained cats owned by some Frenchman. They leaped through hoops and fire rings. It was pretty cool.

After all that, we went shopping a bit through those ronchy T-shirt shops. I had a few made and Dan had the best but ronchiest one made.

It was getting late, so we headed on back to the campgrounds. But, we had a bit of trouble getting out because of Dan's navigational skills. It really didn't matter, we were having fun with it.

Day 4: Tuesday. We all laid out again. By the end of the day everyone was burnt somewhere except for Dan. He rubbed it in, too! Later on we called Tower of Pizza again! After a while, Beefy wandered aimlessly on the beach until 2 a.m. Oh, I forgot, we also played an intense game of volleyball with some other dudes.

Day 5: Wednesday. We all felt pretty comfortable once again. So, we hit the beach. The girls sat out on the raft, and us boys played some paddle ball in the water. A bit later we went to the store to find something to cook for dinner. When we got back, we watched the sunset, took some pictures,

Florida...

then made dinner. At about 10 p.m. we called Tower of Pizza (they messed up our order), and watched the rain come pouring down for two hours. During the rain, we had a little visitor come in our screen tent. It was a cat that ate weiners. Ya, it is kinda funny if you think about it. The cat was better than those pesky squirrels.

Day 6: Thursday. This was our last full day in Key Largo. We all got ready and hit the beach for the last time. After a while we all went and laid on a wooden raft they had. After a half hour of that I couldn't stand it, my stomach felt like hot coals. Chrisie and I went back to camp to get ready to go out while the others were sleeping on the raft.

Since we thought we were going to leave about 6 a.m., we started to pack a few things early but we had to do one more thing for the last time: Call "Tower of Pizza."

Day 7: Friday. We all woke up at 4-4:30 a.m. to finish the rest of the packing. We got it done and were out of there (I didn't want to leave) about 6:30. We all decided earlier in the trip that we would go to Busch Gardens instead of Disney World (it gets old after 20 or so times.)

We arrived at Busch Gardens about 3:00 p.m., then found out it was only open until 7:30 and the Morraccan Village until 8 p.m. So, we paid \$23.50 for 4 hours.

The last time I was there was when I was 14 or 15, but for some reason I found that it was a lot better than last time. One thing was the same: The tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery! Did you know they pump out 1,350 cans a minute? That's just cans!!

If you don't know what this place is, it is an amusement park and zoo. It consists of mainly African animals. Since this is the "Dark Continent" they do have a lot of cool looking animals. The rides are also cool, except it has some lame ones, too. They have a lot of gift shops--like if you want a big 7 foot beer bottle (blow up), or just a 3 foot beer bottle (piggy bank), they're available.

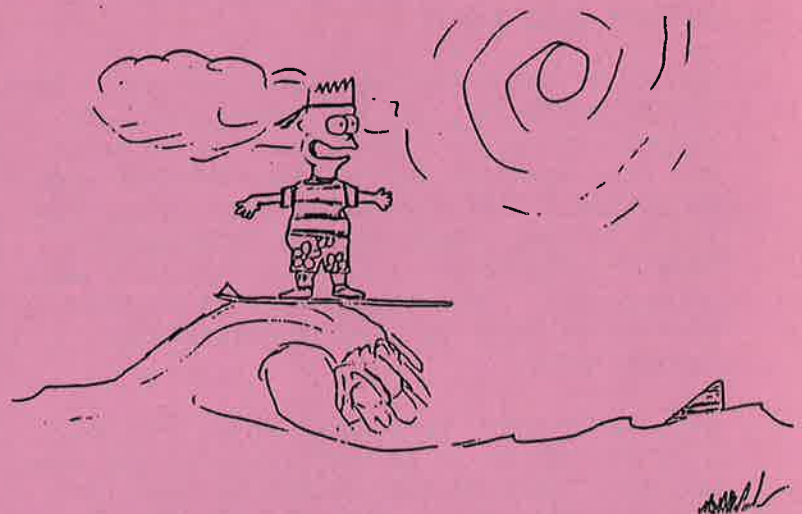
We did see all the animals and managed to go on most of the rides in 4 hours. We planned to be on the road by 8 p.m., which we were.

The trip home shouldn't feel long because we left from Tampa.

The highlights for the ride up north were: heavy rain in Florida and Georgia, heavy enough that you couldn't see an inch in front of the car. Average speed home 75-80 mph. We saw sun for a half hour, but that was at sunset in Wisconsin. In Kentucky, a cop was coming up fast on my tail (85-90 mph). I was thinking I'm toast. He flashed his lights, so I moved over. The cop just kept on going, I guess that's the normal speed for them!

Last, but not least. We were all excited. There were 36 hours before we were home and we overheated somewhere by Eau Claire. We did the exact same thing we did in the mountains. But, we finally got home about 11:30 p.m. on Saturday!!

Overall, the trip was pretty fun! I figure I'll do it again within a year, because it's an annual thing, you know!!



SPRING BREAK IN Atlanta

By: DAN
Fish

At 6:35 on March 28th, Dan, Jenny and myself sat and watched in frustration as our train left the depot. The frustrating part was that our 4th party, Keith, the one who was late, was the one that assured us that he was the best man to hold on to our tickets and then it didn't seem like a bad idea.

Well, there was no time to waste; after discussing the options with the conductor, the only option that would keep us on track the rest of the trip was to drive to Chicago, so drive we did. We all packed into my Scirocco and drove 6½ hours to Chicago.

Once we got into Chicago we had about 2 hours to spare before our train left so we looked at the city a bit and then sat in Union Station and waited out the rest of the time. That night on the train we partied it up in the Observation Car which had an all-glass roof.

The next morning we awoke in Washington, D.C. for a 6 hour lay-over. We thought we would use the time in D.C. to our advantage, so we saw the town. We went to the Capitol, saw the Washington Monument, and went through the Smithsonian -- all before we had to leave. After we got everything settled on the train Jenny, Dan, and I thought we would head up to the lounge and talk with some people while Keith got some sleep. We met a man named Sandy who was doing the same thing we were and headed the same way so we spent the night talking with him.

We arrived in Atlanta about mid-afternoon the next day. This day was mostly set aside for getting settled in our hotel and learning the area. In a relaxing way it was the most un-fun day of the trip. Although to make it not a total eventless day something had to happen and it did. Late that night Keith got mugged. He got \$40 stolen and got beat up, but nothing real serious happened to him.

On March 31st, we decided to see this new shopping center in Atlanta called the Underground and then head to this town outside of Atlanta called Little 5 Points for this festival that was going on there. The Underground was nice and had a lot of really

cool shops. On our way there we even got to hear this outdoor gospel group. We didn't waste much time at the Underground so we could spend most of the day and night at the Festival. The Festival consisted of a lot of people partying, shopping and/or selling anything and listening to good live music, like the Indigo Girls and a Grateful Dead cover tune band called The Grapes. Later, after the last band played, Dan and I got to sit in with a group of 6 bongo players and played till our hands hurt while people crowded around and watched. Later that night we went to a lame party in Atlanta and then went to The Omni where The Grateful Dead played and watched all the people start coming in.

Finally, what we actually went to Atlanta for, the day of the first show. The hotel we were staying at didn't have any open rooms, nor did any hotel and our last day was the day before, so we scrambled for an idea. We ended up renting about a 20 foot long Ryder moving truck for the rest of the trip, so we would have a place to sleep other than the street. The Ryder was great because we had lots of room plus we had transportation. This is how we spent the first part of our day, just looking for a place to stay but the rest of our day was like it was the next two days of shows with the exception of a little change here and there. The main objective was to find a ticket for the shows because the stadium only holds about 18,000 people and there were at least 25,000 people who wanted to get in every night, so tickets were hard to find. Once you had your ticket, if you were lucky enough to get one, then you could relax and enjoy the rest of the day before the concert started.

I forgot to mention that the night before the first show we found a couple of our friends from Minnetonka, Erin and Paul, so they stayed with us in the Ryder the rest of the trip. The days also consisted of walking around and meeting people, watching or playing in huge 20-60 people bongo jams, buying all sorts of Dead related stuff or selling Dead related stuff, and like I said earlier, just enjoying the day. →

SPRING BREAK IN ATLANTA -- continued

Compared to Minnesota, the weather in Atlanta was heavenly. I was just happy to hear and see any live Dead but out of the 3 shows, my favorite had to be the last show. I got a chance to see all the shows and although they played a bunch of songs every show that I wanted to hear, the last show was the best and the scariest. The songs played that I remember best of the first two shows were "Candyman," "Athea", an excellent "Stella Blue," and a fantastic "Ship of Fools" during the first night. The second night had just as good a first set as the third. The second night they played "Red Rooster," the band's song "The Weight," "The Other One," and probably one of the best songs I've heard played live, "Can't Stand the Rain." The only way to explain the third night is to go through and write down the set lists, so here goes:

(open) "Shakedown Street", "Hell in a Bucket," "Sugaree," "We Can Run," "When I Paint My Masterpiece," "Row Jimmy," "Picasso Moon," "Tennessee Jed." That's the first set. Here's the second set: (open) "Estimated Prophet," "Scarlet Begonias," "Crazy Fingers," "Playing in the Band," "Drumz," "Space," "I Will Take You Home," "Feelin' Bad," "Throwing Stones," "Not Fade Away," and then as an encore "Bid You Good Night."

All the nights after the shows were big parties and real crazy, but the night after the third show was the best because that night the Dead played a good show and they played the last show of the tour so everybody was generous with what they had because they were going home after a long tour. We stayed up all night with everybody around us and enjoyed a campfire.

The next day we slept till late and then got what we needed done to make our train that night. We had to do some laundry and clean and take back the Ryder. As fate would have it our clock in our Ryder was slow so the time that we allowed to get from the Ryder station to the train depot, we didn't have anymore, so we missed our train by 15 minutes. We next train wasn't going to come for 10 days so we quickly ran to the Greyhound station and caught a bus back. Although more expensive, the bus ride back to Chicago was much faster. We got back to Chicago a day earlier.

The day back in Chicago wasn't a fun one because we found out we had to pay a lot more than we not only had, but also expected to pay, so we had to wire Keith's dad and we didn't get the money until 6 hours after we arrived in Chicago, but finally we were headed home.

We drove all night and made it home about 7:00 in the morning.

All in all, it was a fantastic trip. I got to see 3 fabulous Grateful Dead shows, ride on a train, meet a lot of nice and interesting people, see Atlanta, Washington, D.C., national capitol, the Smithsonian, the Washington Monument, and last but not least, stay in a Ryder moving truck. What more could you ask for?

CHANGE by Stephanie Tucker

Change,
Why do things have to change.
Before there was laughter,
Now there is tears.
Before there was happiness,
Now there is sadness and anger.
Before there was peace and teasing,
Now there is violence and hatred.
When will it end?
Wishing it would end now.
Hoping it wouldn't go on forever.
Knowing it probably will?
Things just seem to keep on changing.
Hoping for the best,
Thinking for the worst.
But the changes seem to keep on
going deeper and deeper.
Before there was hope for the future,
Now there is nothing.
There are no smiles,
No laughter,
No happiness,
Or peace.
It is all but a memory.
Now there is pain,
Heartache,
Sadness,
Hatred,
and bloody tears.
Now change is all but a dream,
That may never come true.

The End

PROS AND CONS:

By: Leibe NORTH

"Living on your own"

Living on your own has it's pro's and cons. Everyone thinks it's so great and no problems; others think no way, that's too hard. But, I've done it.

PROS:

Just think--you sit on the couch as close to the TV as you want, you eat as much as you want, stay up until you want, watch the show you want. It would be the life. You can have as many of your friends over, when you want, to do what you want. You learn responsibilities and ways to save money. You can feel like an adult, take care of yourself. But it's not that easy.

CONS:

When you get brought back to the real world, you see there are bills, responsibilities, and setbacks. Your free time slowly diminishes as your work load increases. You start to notice that the costs of household items as well as luxury items suck away all your cash seconds after you receive it.

There is no mother to take care of you when you are sick. No one tells you when to do something, so often it never gets done. You suddenly notice that you seem to go to your job, come home and clean and sleep, then back to work. You can't take a day off too often because bills pile up. Often, room-mates become hassles with property fights, personal issues, and messy rooms.

Basically, living on your own is a lot of work but, if you put in a lot of your time and effort, it can pay off with freedom and the realm of new responsibilities. You've go to be ready though.

EDITORIAL: SKATEBOARDS ARE PEOPLE TOO

By: DEREK BENSON

The other day I was skateboarding in Hopkins with some friends. Three squad cars pulled up, turned on their cherries, and told us to get off our boards. We weren't in some apartment's pool--we were on the sidewalk.

There are a lot of cruisers in this town who pollute the air with their cars, driving up and down the boring road. Do the Police ever do anything to them? Barely ever! It seems they'd rather hassle a skater than a crack dealer, especially since a skateboarder is an easier target than a crack dealer.

The hassling probably has to do with the false image of skateboarders as skate punks. Most skateboarders are not punks. They're just normal people who skate for fun, not for image.

This article was not meant to offend anyone. It was just meant to show that people who skate are not criminals. They're people, too.



WAYZATA'S FOCUS PROGRAM

By:
Amber
NUSTAD

Dudley Riggs

by Suzanne
Ward

In April a group from Mini-School took a trip downtown to see a show entitled "Sex, Pies, and Video Games" at the Dudley Riggs theatre.

Our group of fourteen included, Derek Benson, Heath Holste, Freddie Johnson, Shane Muensch, Autumn Murphy, Leibe North, Amber Nustad, Troy Odean, Rob Stundahl, Suzanne Ward, Doug, Randy, Lester, and Dawn.

The performance was based on many short skits that combined humor and satire into one terrific performance. The entire cast consisted only of 6 members, but each of them was extremely talented

One particularly funny skit depicted a kindergarten teacher and her 3 students on the first day of school. The skit gave a little background on the students; one boy always imagined the worst because of his parents' paranoia of life. Another was just a rather quiet, sweet boy. The third was a little girl from a farm. Through the skit, we saw how all three of them viewed life and in the end, they all learned to relax and have a little fun. The one thing that really stood out in this skit was how they portrayed the children. They really did a wonderful job.

This show really is something to see. The price isn't too steep, the acting is really good, and it really is hilariously funny. It's a good time.

Mini-School and Focus (the Wayzata alternative program) exchanged students for a day in April. Focus sent three of their students to our program and three of our students went to their program for the day.

Jerie Meakins, Chris O'Dell and myself participated in the exchange program. The day started with getting familiar with the teachers and how the classes work. Their classes start at 7:30 and end at 11:30. Focus classes are 25 minutes long and a 5 minute break is given between classes. During class, if the students wish to leave, they must punch out on a time clock and write down where they went. They have the basic classroom activities like English, history, etc., then they have several different support groups which they call Families. Different students participate in different groups.

We might do another exchange for the day but I think it will be with teachers next time.

MINI-SCHOOL TRIP to WALKER ART CENTER

By: Stacy Bohdan

Edgar Heap of Birds. That's the name of the artist whose work about 10 Mini-School students saw with Lester.

We learned a lot of what paintings meant, we looked at sculptures of many different things. At the end we looked at a big fish-like sculpture that was surrounded by water and trees.

Many of this man's ideas were different-- his sayings and drawings. To me his paintings looked like he threw paint on a piece of paper. But a lot of others got more meaning out of it than I did.

We really enjoyed the time we got to spend over there. It was a little cold in the sculpture garden, but I'd go again. Thanks, Mini-School, for making it possible to do!

Protect Yourself

By:
Scott
Theisen

Mini-School took a field trip to the Teen Clinic. It was very interesting, especially when it was originally set up for Women's Studies and more guys went than girls. When we got there, there was a lady who was ready to inform us on STD's (sexually transmitted diseases.) She was very helpful on informing people about all kinds of birth control as well.

The lady speaker explained what they do at the Teen Clinic. What they do is give physicals, test for STD's, AIDS, and pregnancy. If a person tests positive to any type of STD or pregnancy they offer types of counseling and give advice. The Teen Clinic is very confidential. If you have some type of problem like pregnancy or some type of disease they will not tell your parents unless you want them to. The physicals cost \$10 if you have the money, but if you don't have it they won't charge you.

The Teen Clinic sells all types of birth control. The best type or most effective type of birth control is the pill. The only problem with the pill is that it doesn't protect you from STD's. The safest protection next to the pill is the condom. This is a good type of protection because it protects you from STD's. It is 100% effective if you use the condom correctly. There are many other types of birth control but these are the most effective.

About twenty years ago there was nothing to be worried about when people had sex except pregnancy. Now there are a lot of different and deathly diseases out there. It is very important that you take care of yourself and be very careful. Before you have sex with someone, get to know them and how they feel about it. Most of all, be careful.

That's what we learned at the Teen Clinic.

THE OMNI THEATER

by Aaron Vick

On Thursday, April 12, Mrs. Norton and Lester took Dave Webster, Ann Voegel, Suzanne Ward, Nichall Barth, Justin Weitnauer, Jerry Erickson, Heather Naegele, Bob Colehour, Ami Mueller, Trisha McGuire and myself, Aaron Vick, out of school. We went to the Country Kitchen for breakfast.

Then we went to the Omni Theatre at the Science Museum to see the movie "To The Limit." Before we saw the movie we went up to the second floor and looked at the Bear Exhibit.

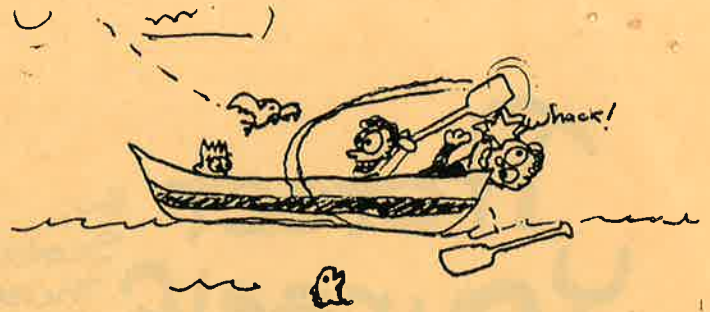
When the movie was over we all met in the lobby. Some people stayed with Lester and the rest went with Mrs. Norton back to school. We got back around 11:30. Everybody had fun.

MOM (written in 8th grade) by Steph Tucker

When I was little,
You showed me the way,
And made me what I am today.
For all your guidance, caring and love,
I thank the lucky stars above.
I caused you problems long ago,
For that I'm sorry, I hope you know.
You taught me how to stand on my own.
If only then I wished I'd known.
There were times when I was mad at you,
For little things you made me do.
But you were always there for me,
Yet let me be what I wanted to be.
I love you more than words can say,
And learn new things from you each day.
You're someone whom I can depend,
You're more than my mother, you are my
friend.

I hope that someday I will be,
As good a mother as you are to me.

A Flash from the PAST



Anyways, say HI to everybody from the Lindquists. Gotta go.

Friends always,

Tim and Pam Lindquist

Dear Doug, Randy, Norm and Lester:

Thank you for sending me this survey. It is kinda nice to hear from you guys, even though it's a survey. It's been a long time since I have written also, in which there is no excuse. I have a lot to tell you about.

I suppose I could start by telling you that I did get my G.E.D. I took the test about four months ago. Did really well on most of the test, although writing an essay was not my strong portion, I passed it.

I guess you know by now, there is a Mrs. Lindquist! We got married in Reno on February 11, 1989. Her name is Pamela. She is from Ashland, Wisconsin. She is really beautiful, in all ways. We met after I got out of treatment. At that time she was seeing someone else, while I was admiring her from a distance. After the guy broke up with her, we became best friends. We still are.

Enough about the love of my life. In the survey I got from you it asks a lot about job, career goals. My career goals are not as clear as I hoped they would be by now. I always have the option to make the Navy my career, although I would rather get a degree and work in the civilian environment. I do have a lot of different choices to make these days. I am going to re-enlist for 4 more years. I plan on using the Navy Champus to pay 85% of all college courses while I am still enlisted. Then I will also have my G.I. bill when (and if) I get out.

P.S. Sorry it's so short. Please write back.

2458 B Kearsarge Cir.
Lemoore, CA 93245

A NOTE FROM DOUG SCRIBNER, '86 MINI-SCHOOL GRADUATE IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE:

Yo guys--

Only one more year in the Air Force. Has it been that long?

I'll be going today to Florida to help at the TAC talent training camp in April. This is the Tactical Air Command talent show. The winners or other participants selected get to go to worldwide competition (Tops in Blue) or go on a 4 month tour (U.S.) with the Stars of Sound. I went on tour last year and was invited to audition the band this year!

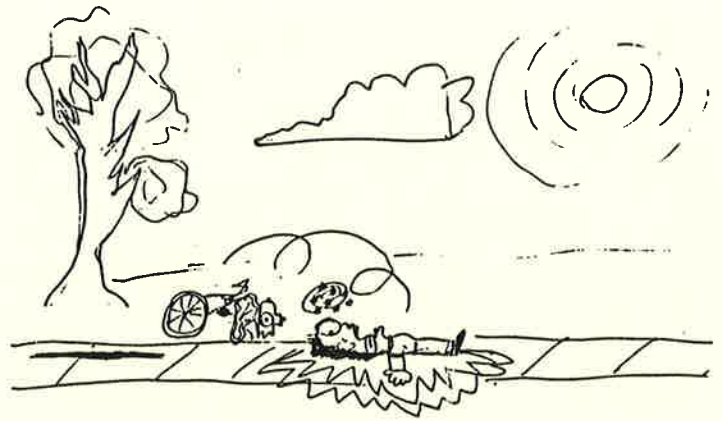
I have no idea what to do after I get out. My mom and older sister moved out here also, so I guess CA is my home now (I really miss the color Green.)

Jerry Puckett moved to Texas and is doing very well with the restaurant he moved there with!

Adios,

Doug

Extra! Extra!
This just in from
Mini-Schooler-in-
treatment,
Mr. Greg Anderson...



HELLO
MINI SCHOOL,

HOW ARE THINGS GOING
AT MINI? I JUST WANTED
TO WRITE AND TELL YOU HOW I'M
DOING AND TO SAY HI TO SOME
OF MY FRIENDS. THIS PLACE IS
GREAT I HAVE MY OWN APARTMENT
FULLY FURNISHED AND A BLOCK AWAY
FROM THE TREATMENT CENTER. I GO
GROCERY SHOPPING EVERY WEEK AND LOAD
UP ON STEAK AND LOBSTER. THERE IS
NO CURFEW SO YOU CAN BE OUT ALL
NIGHT PICKING UP CHICS. I HAVE
TWO GROUPS PER DAY. MY GROUP IN
THE MORNING SUCKS BUT THE GROUP
AT NIGHT IS A GOOD ONE, THE
COUNSELOR IS REALLY COOL. I'LL BE
BACK IN SCHOOL JUNE 5TH. DOUG
THANK YOU FOR CALLING ME THE DAY
BEFORE I LEFT, THAT WAS REALLY
COOL. SAY HI TO RANDY, LESTER
AND DAWN FOR ME. GIVE A SPECIAL
HELLO TO JOE AND TELL HIM I LOST
HIS PHONE NUMBER SO I WILL CALL

TO GET IT. SAY HI TO RODNEY
DAYTON, PERSSON, TIM, TELL COLEY
TO SLAM ONE FOR ME SAY HI
TO MY ARKANSAS TRIPPERS, REMIND
RHETT NOT TO LOOSE MY N.W.A.
TAPE. TELL EDIE THAT I'M ENGAGED
TO MELANIE ~~AND~~ THE WEDDING IS
JULY 7TH AND HE IS MORE THAN
WELCOME TO ATTEND. SAY HELLO TO
FREDDY J AND ANYONE ELSE I FORGOT.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT J.J.
DAY, TALK TO HIM FOR ME AND
SEE IF HE IS WILLING TO DO IT
EITHER JUNE 5TH OR 6TH I'M GOING
TO GET HIM A TROPHY OR SOMETHING
AND PREPARE A LITTLE SPEECH FOR
ME TO READ ABOUT HIM. NOW YOU
MIGHT THINK I'M KIDDING BUT I'M
SERIOUS ABOUT IT SO TALK TO HIM
AND SEE IF HE IS WILLING TO
COME IN FOR IT. I WILL SEND YOU
AN ARTICLE ABOUT TREATMENT SOON
AND I WILL CALL SOON.

THE NEXT MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE
WORLD
GREG

Recognition for the MONTH: MEL COLE

By: Heike
North

Mr. Mel Cole of Excelsior is very well known by Minnetonka High School students, especially Mini-Schoolers.

Mel, otherwise known as Gramps, is Angie Cole's grandfather. He offers daily rides to work from MHS, mental support and a friendly smile for all. The only payment he receives for his duties is the casual "thanks" and/or a friendly wave or nod.

Everyday, "Gramps" takes an average of 5 people to work, or home, or to other important engagements. Besides his physical help he also offers mental support and will give you advice. He's an all-around awesome person and this recognition time is for him.

So, next time Gramps takes you to work or school or home or whatever--just remember to show your appreciation.

Thanks for everything, Gramps!!!

FEATURED TEACHER: JOE KOMAREK

By: Greg
Andersen

I was feeling a bit down one morning in Com-Mini-Cations class. Doug was going over articles that he wanted written for this issue and none of them seemed to interest me. He didn't want me to write anymore boxing articles, so I was at a loss on how I could contribute to this issue. Then Doug mentioned that the featured teacher for this issue would be Joe Komarek and I immediately said I would take it. I had gotten to know the "KOM MAN" over the course of the year and had really taken a liking to him. But I wanted to get to know him a little better and doing this article was a perfect opportunity.

Joe is 26 years old and was born in Golden Valley, MN. He attended Armstrong High School and graduated in 1982. He then moved on and enrolled himself in 5 years at St. Cloud State, and now is renting a basement in Plymouth.

When I asked him what he was doing now for work, I figured he would say "I teach math in Mini-School," but to my surprise that was just the beginning. He also substitute teaches here at Minnetonka, Hopkins and Robbinsdale. He coaches Varsity Soccer with our own Randy Nelson. He coaches 7th grade girls BASKETBALL, Ski Club, Hopkins JV baseball and in the summer he teaches Minnetonka Summer School math and is a bouncer/bartender at Lord Fletchers. →

Joe...

With all that, how could he have time for any free-time activities? But that guy does it all. He plays on and coaches an amateur baseball team called the "Hopkins A's." He also enjoys swimming and lifting weights.

It's obvious this guy's a baseball nut so I asked him his favorite baseball players. He told me Jim Eisenreich and Bo Jackson. The Bo Jackson motto, "Just Do It" is also Komarek's motto. Judging from all his jobs and activities, he is doing it.

I had to end my interview by asking Joe how he felt about his first year in Mini-School. Joe's answer, "An absolute pleasant, incredible experience." He wished to thank the Mini-School staff for giving him the opportunity to use his teaching and social skills to do his own thing and to teach his own way. He enjoys the students in Mini but says he experiences some frustration when he sees some kids showing negative attitudes and "Just not doing it" in their school work. But all in all, he enjoys working in Minnetonka and would like to continue teaching Mini-School in the mornings and mainstream in the afternoon. I'm happy to have gotten to know Joe this year and I know the kids in Mini-School would like to continue having Joe working in Mini. "Just Do It!"

NORM By: MARK Bloomdahl

Mr. Norm Garneau taught in Mini-School for the nine years before this one. There are still plenty of kids in Mini-School who knew him, liked him, and miss him. He went back to teaching mainstream English classes this year. Some of the students in Mini-School were wondering how he's doing and how the year has been for him. This interview should bring everyone up to date on Norm.

Q. Norm, why did you decide to teach mainstream this year?

A. I found Mini-School very interesting and challenging but it was time for a change. I needed a change of pace.

Q. What do you like about Mini-School as opposed to mainstream or mainstream as opposed to Mini-School?

A. Mainstream is more academically oriented than Mini-School and parents of mainstream kids often expect more. The attendance problem is about the same in each program. Mini-School teaches more self-reliance and is more concerned with all aspects of the student than just academics.

Q. Do you ever plan to return to Mini-School?

A. No, I don't think so. I only plan on teaching two, three, maybe four years more. Mainstream is my final resting place as far as school is concerned and it's very disruptive to the administration if a teacher keeps switching classes.

Q. How do you feel about the way Mini-School is run and organized?

A. I've always thought it was a good program. It fills a need for a lot of kids. Doug, Randy, and Lester are great people and very dedicated people. Mini-School couldn't be done any differently or better than it's being done.

Q. What are your plans after you retire?

A. I'm going to get a 26-foot recreational vehicle and travel 6 to 8 months of the year with my wife, Jane.

Q. Jane is retiring too?

A. Yes. She told me she won't work a day longer than I do.

Q. I know your son, Joe. Do you have other kids?

A. Yes, Jane and I have eight. Joe is the youngest and he's graduating from Minnetonka this year and is going to college. So after this year all my kids will be out of the nest.

Q. What's your idea of the perfect student?

A. One who is interested in learning, has goals, and most of all has an active mind that is always open to new things. So many students close their minds and say, "It's BORING."

Q. Who is a person you really look up to?

A. Tom Bauman. He is principal at Hopkins. He used to be a student, teacher and principal at this school. He was a good person, was always fair, and was really interested in how education was progressing into the 20th century. I don't think education has progressed much since the 18th century and I find that pretty depressing.

We're all glad to hear that things are going O.K. for you, Norm. That mainstream isn't driving you crazy. Thank you for all you added to Mini-School in the years you taught here. Hope you can make it to the Mini-School Reunion and Recognition Night.

GOODBYE
C.J. ANDERSON } DOUG
BERG

1990 marks the twentieth year of Mini-School. 1990 also marks another milestone--the retirement of Curtis J. Anderson as Assistant Principal of Minnetonka High School.

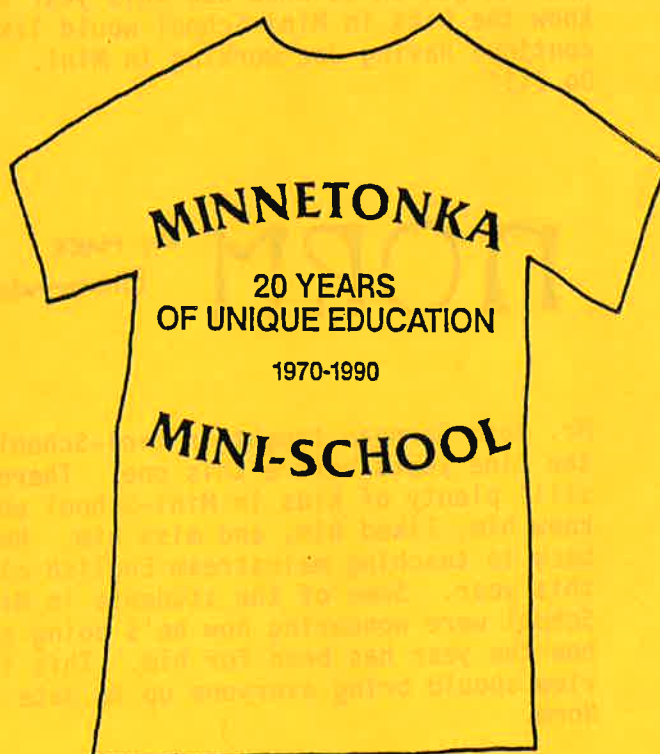
Administrators come and administrators go, but C.J. has been the one constant through all 20 years of Mini-School. He helped the program through its early years, he's criticized the program when it needed it, but through 20 years he's stood steadfastly behind Mini-School and its people.

Most of the students over the 20 years of Mini-School history have had occasion to get to know C.J. Not all of the meetings have been pleasant. Yet, I've never heard a student say that C.J. did not treat him fairly, did not hear him out, did not treat him in anything but a dignified manner. The kids have always known that C.J. has their best interests at heart and wants the best for them.

Thank you, C.J., for all the help over the years. The support, the concern, the care. You've been a principal to all the kids.



Here's the new Mini-School T-Shirt designed by Kim Wilson Obermeier ('79). They will be available at the reunion and to others soon. We'll keep you posted!



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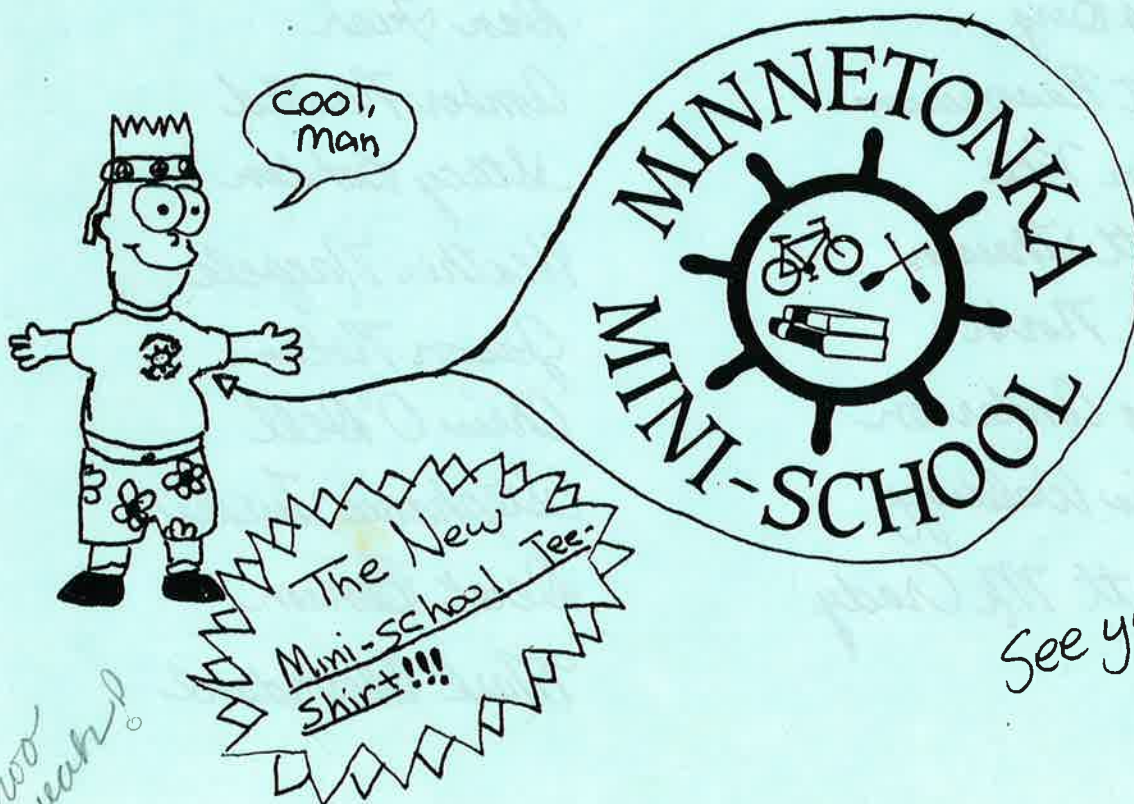
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See you next fall!