







# Mini-School Overview

Mini-School is an alternative program located within Minnetonka High School where tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders are working together with a group of teachers to change their attitudes and perspectives. The students come to Mini-School with a history of not succeeding very well in traditional school. Many of them are dangerously close to dropping out of school. Some have dropped out and are returning to give school one more try. They are tired of failing, tired of breaking rules, tired of being identified as negative people in the mainstream school culture.

At Mini-School they begin to put their lives together—in school and out of school. They become part of a school family where they can be themselves without fear of recrimination. In Mini-School they set goals, share responsibilities, solve problems, learn academic and basic living skills, and have fun.

This supportive family atmosphere encourages students to develop responsibility, accountability, and positive self-esteem. Students are encouraged to view themselves as learners in the holistic sense of the term—intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

Mini-School began in the 1970-71 school year and is still meeting the needs of many students. Mini-School now serves not only the Minnetonka School district but neighboring districts as well, due to its affiliation with the larger Area Learning Center.

If you know of a student in need of Mini-School, please contact us at 470-3574 or 470-3586.





# Meandering Through Mini-School

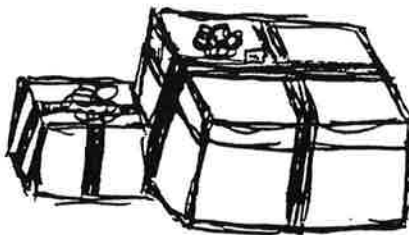
By Randy Nelson

Since this issue is following so closely on the heels of the fall issue of C-M-C, there is not too much to report in Meanderings. The staff is working furiously to work through the holiday mentality -- with only three weeks between Thanksgiving and the holiday break, this mentality seems to have started earlier than usual..... Doug is thrilled to see the early snowfalls hang around and enable him to pursue his favorite outdoor activity, cross-country skiing (and you thought Mini-School canoe trips were his only passion!)....Pauline and Ramona have been enjoying learning the intricacies of the Laser Disc machine and envision its use in their classrooms....we are making sure Joanne keeps in good physical shape with our countless demands on top of her usual coordinating of the program demands -- and she still joins a health club!

Alumni News: Josh Stinson assisted on the recent Grantsburg pre-Thanksgiving Hike in Wisconsin -- he provided shuttle service, encouragement on the trail, and how-to around the campsite -- along with his friends, Sarah and Seven (his dog), he was a great addition to the hike. although the kids paid more attention to Seven -- we always appreciate it when former students come back and help out with the program....Karen Kenefick (mentioned in the last issue) continues to show up and help where needed as well....On the MHS Career Day, five former Mini-Schoolers took time out of their day to give the students insight into their careers and what Mini-School meant in their lives -- Kathy Seamans, Ginny Reifenberger, Ron Byers, Joe Riefenberger, and Brad Johnston gave the students some sound advice and we hope, inspiration (article elsewhere in this issue)....Brad Johnston took over for Jamie Brisley and coached the Mound-Westonka Boys Varsity team this fall -- regretfully, he did not get an opportunity to play his former team and coach, but there is always next year....Matt Morseth is pursuing auto mechanics at HTC while still working at Amoco in Excelsior -- Matt's younger brother, Pat, is one of Randy's soccer captains for the 1997 season....former staff member, Joe Komarek, who now teaches in the Wayzata schools, is the sophomore girls soccer coach at state champion Wayzata -- congratulations, Joe! -- Even parents of former students are getting into the act -- the Mini-staff thanks Mariys Bucher (Scott Hedtke) and Craig Cooper (Patrick) for stopping by and grabbing Weatherguide Calendars to sell to co-workers -- speaking of calendars, present students Kortnie Hansen and Maya Diedrich are challenging reigning sales champion, Phil Lynott, for the most sales -- Phil is going for a unprecedented back to back sales title....Minnetonka staff like Pete Hegrenes and Bud Leak (Super-sub) continue to support the program by overpaying for calendars-- thank you....

Mini-School students do the soda pop can recycling for the building -- while their efforts go largely unnoticed by most staff and students, the administration and Mini-staff appreciate their time and effort -- again this year, these students and Mini-school will contribute \$200 to Sharing and Caring from the money received through recycling -- the mini-staff applauds the efforts and generosity of the students who participated in recycling.

In student news, Tony Cruikshank remains busy -- after performing in Spoon River Anthology this fall, Tony is out for wrestling, which means upon returning from HTC in the afternoon, he still has quite a workout....Another Tony (Kohman) is our key recycler -- not only is Tony quick and efficient, but his enthusiasm get others working with his same positive attitude....congratulations to Tami Olson, Ann Kohman, and Marcelle Dorenkamp for their student recognition for first quarter....Christina Sedlak continues to do well in the post-secondary program at Normandale....Angie Peterson has finished her high school career with Mini -- we wish her the best and will miss her -- congratulations, Angie!....Before this gets too long, I'll just wish everyone a happy holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year -- see you in 1997....



## Mini gets a hand....

December 3, 1996

Dear Mini School Students and Staff -

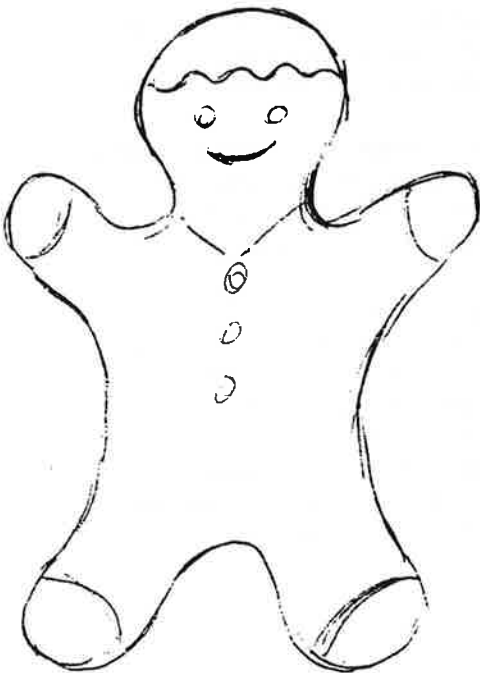
Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the Fall 1996 Com-Mini-Cations. As always, I read the publication with interest and thoroughly enjoyed its many articles, interviews and poems.

My congratulations to you all for a job well done. The traditions of Mini-School are strong and this is evident in the work you all do in your publications and on a daily basis. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

Daniel L. Jett, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

P.S. Happy Holidays to everyone in the Mtka. Mini-School!



## Christmas

By Tami Olson and Chris Bilger

It was a cozy Christmas eve in an old cottage. The wooden logs held a brown glow around a warm fire in one corner. Sitting in a chair before the fire an old tired hound dog is telling his grand-puppies a story of his puppy-hood.

"It was the Christmas eve of twenty-eight, no, make that twenty-nine that it all happened. Times were hard then, the depression ya' know. I was just a pup like you young rascals. My uncle Rufus bursted into the kennel. Seems the family that was carin' for us lost a boy. The boy run and hid lots-o-times before so it didn't fret us none. But when night fell he was still gone. We began to worry. There was a strong wind a blowin' but the boy never answered when we called. It began to snow lightly, but before long it was coming down so thick that we couldn't hardly see past our snouts. Rufus set out with the master to find him. I was told to stay but I sniffed that boy's leg to much to let him freeze. Once they was out of sight, I set off to find him. The wind and snow was whipping around so hard that I soon found myself lost and cold. But still I ran as hard and fast as I could until I finally found him. He was curled up on the snowy ground under a big oak tree. I barked and howled all I could to get help to us fast, but the wind was too strong and too loud so no one could hear me. I ran to him and started to lick his face and I nudged his hand to try and get him to come home with me. Finally he woke up, and we started back towards home. Finally Rufus and our master found us and he carried the boy home. He never wandered quite so far from home again."



# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

By Kristi Dahl

'Twas the night before Christmas, Scott and Gabe  
are freezing in the house,  
Steve's rat Pinky was stirring,  
It qualifies for a mouse.  
The calendar sales were over ,  
Poor Lynott sold some,  
but challenger Kortnie Hansen,  
sold 200 and won.  
Kris Boatman was nestled, all snug in his bed  
while nightmares of McNutt and Jason terrorized in  
his head.  
Mama Joanne in her kerchief and hubby Brad in his  
cap  
Could not settle down, Hazel won't let them nap.  
When out in the hall Ryan says "what's the clatter?"  
Bobby Lopez' hair was causing all of the chatter.  
Working at Cub, Mike scans food in a flash  
And Clint's down at Frank's making holiday cash.  
Nicole and baby Shay watch the new fallen snow,  
while Pauline and lil' Alex make a snowman below.  
When what to Austin's and Mike's wondering eyes  
should appear?  
Lynott again, now he thinks he's a tiny reindeer.  
But who drives the sleigh with the turbo under the  
seat?  
It's Paul peeling the sleigh tires out on the street .  
Greg screeched like an eagle, his courses they came  
Paul yelled and shouted, calling his reindeer insane.  
On Geno, Eric, on Tami, Matt, and Phil,  
On Angie on Andy, on Eric, Chris, Pete, and Bill.  
We're on top of the land  
We're on top of it all  
Except for Tony and Sothik, still down playing  
basketball.  
But before Paul was able to go full blast and fly, he  
stopped because faintly he heard Anna cry,  
"What do you think you're doing!  
These presents are not enough!  
I must have lots more,  
Or I'll have Kim and Carl get rough!"  
Maya then cracked a smile,  
and laughed with delight,  
she agreed with Anna,  
more presents seemed right.  
So flying from the sky, fell gifts losing their wrap  
Karen managed to grab some,  
Molly had the rest in a snap.  
Elissa's eyes how they twinkled,

Kristi's dimples how merry,  
Sarah's cheeks were like roses,  
Carrie's nose like a cherry.  
Doug stood with his kitty, tied up in a bow  
While Marcelle and Tanya made frozen angels in the  
snow .  
A trick learned from Mark Warren, Emily and Clare  
made a fire.  
Jenny Taylor and brother Mark tried to see who could  
yell higher.  
With Lacey's broad face and Lance's round little belly  
When Randy's done playing B-ball he showers  
cause David and Josh say he gets smelly.  
Jessica and Collin dressed themselves up as elves,  
Grady laughed when he saw them in spite of himself.  
Wegler winked his eye and with a twist of Ann's  
head,  
Tony Cruikshank and Len decide Ramona's hair they  
should dread.  
Ennis spoke not a word, Katti went straight to her  
work.  
Josh Day raided mainstream stockings  
and turned with a jerk  
Geoff looked on with approval  
Justin frozen to the toes  
Audrey giving a nod  
"A toast to Mini-School!" she goes.  
So from all of us here  
The Mini-School clan  
We take the holiday moment  
to give Mini-School a hand.



# On Tradition.....

By Bill Zastera

The Holiday Season is a time of visiting, family members, good food, and a regeneration of life and family values. It creates hopes of grasping the images of long lost coverpaintings of the Saturday Evening Post and fabricates an idea of family strength of work.

I'm not really an avid fan the happy-go-lucky glamour and pizzazz of the holidays but I can see the need for support from the family gatherings we all participate in as well as the feeling we get from exchanging gifts with friends and relatives. But what really gets to me is how the whole season is like watching a bad sit-com rerun, year after year.

Around my house it NEVER changes. Take Thanksgiving for example. Every year the same people come over to eat the same food at the same time to have the same conversations about the same things and it goes on and on. Only their medical problems change.

Why do we put ourselves thru this bothersome push-pull game of repetition? "We must remember our family and ancestry!" But let me ask you.... Have the ancestors of our past achieved spiritual enlightenment through this ritual of tradition?

The task I place before you simply involves a little change. Find something new this year to celebrate the experience of life (try to avoid spending hundreds of dollars on lights and decorations that have lost all meaning and remain as but a status symbol.) Have the kids take grandma and grandpa sledding. Or have a Hawaiian Luau instead of turkey or ham. Go swimming or have a keg and get wasted..... IT DOESN'T MATTER!!! Enjoy the freedom we have. You have a job to keep the ritual in your life.  
Thanks for listening.



**Announcement!!!**

Mini-School's own Rachael Guffan has given birth to a baby boy, Jordan. We don't have the details yet but we will in the next Com-Mini. Congratulations Rachael!!!



# The Grantsburg Hike '96

By: Angie Peterson

Frozen cheese. Blaze orange. The smell of melting rubber. 190 frozen toes. Put all those things together, and it can only be one thing. The annual Grantsburg Hike. A two day, 18 mile hike along the St. Croix River with our fearless leaders Randy and Doug.

Way before the crack of dawn on the Monday before Thanksgiving, 13 sleepy Mini- Schoolers, alumni Josh Stinson (Stimpy '94) with his girlfriend Sarah, and their dog Seven met at the high school. Doug and Randy were patiently waiting for us. Two people were missing so we continued to wait but not so patiently anymore. Finally, Mike McGinn and Casey Bakken arrived fashionably late. The punishment for holding up a trip is dish duty. Needless to say, Mike and Casey were not "happy campers" that evening. I won't bore with the next 6 hours but to sum it up, we drove, divided food and gear, packed, dressed ourselves in lovely blaze orange sweatshirts and hats. (Thank You Burger Brothers!!) and hiked a few miles.

Lunch on the trail is a messy event. We usually consume a fair amount of dirt with our bagels and pb and j that gets all over our faces and gloves. Trying to cut frozen cheese for 19 people with a pocket knife when you can't feel your fingers is no easy task but this year we had the modern convenience of pre-sliced cheese. It made things a lot easier. At every meal Eric Thomas would say-" Hey Randy! Can I get math credit for dividing up the chocolate?" Seven took care of everyone's leftovers and became known as the garbage disposal.

After we ate we packed up and started hiking again. The early November ice storm made the hiking very slippery.

There was a layer of ice covering the ground with about two inches of snow on top of that. The steep hills are always horrible to climb. The hike down in to the valley usually easier but most of us spent half the time sliding down on our butts. I was told that our "wonderful Navigator," Mike Ennis took a bad fall down a hill, he grabbed Mike McGinn's leg and pulled him down face first in the snow. The only good thing about everything being frozen is we all stayed warm and dry.

As we hike, the group spreads out with Doug leading about two miles ahead of everyone else and Randy bringing up the rear. Usually the trail is clear and we stragglers can find our way, but again, the snow complicated our hike. Everyone knows that Mike Ennis has almost no real sense of direction, but somehow he was leading our small group trying to follow the footprints. As you can probably guess, our "wonderful navigator" got us lost. He was following what must have been a hunter's footprints that went way right of the trail. Randy did his best to lead us back in the right direction but it was almost impossible to find our way through the trees and snow. We were starting to worry about daylight running out. Then we heard Doug yelling from the top of the hill and he helped direct us to a good spot to climb up. Ennis was lucky the campsite was at the top. We would have had to torture him if we had any further to go.

It was only about 3:30 but it was already getting dark. Half the group gathered firewood while the rest of us set up the tents and helped get dinner started. We had a really good group, everyone did their share of work with out much whining and got everything done. We all helped each other and made sure that everyone was taken care of. I was amazed at how well the group worked together and I think Doug and Randy were too.



We sat by the fire waiting for the water on the little stove to boil. I can't even count how many times Doug said "Watch out for the stove! Don't knock the water!" Just as the water was about 1 minute from boiling, Doug stood up and "somehow" the stove just lost it and fell over. He says Seven did it. So we started over with the pot over the fire this time. Doug sang "there's no tortilla" for us while he cooked, and then we finally ate our Mac 'n Cheese, Tortilla's and Snickers. It was delicious.

After everything was cleaned up, we stayed warm by the fire and most people melted their boots. Ennis tried to dry his socks and burned one so bad he only had half of it left, and I managed to singe everything I was wearing. We roasted marshmallows and talked for a while but by 8:00 most of us were ready for bed.

It was a very cold night and most of us woke up with frozen feet. We thawed out, had a few cups of coffee, and ate as much oatmeal as we could handle. Pete Riedel woke up late and missed the hot water so he ate his dry. Then we packed everything up and were on our way.

The second day of hiking seemed to be a lot harder. Almost everyone's canteen was frozen by lunchtime so we were all dehydrated and eating snow by the end of the day. There were two large frozen ponds we had to slide across, hoping we wouldn't fall though. The waist band on Eric's pack was broken and once again our "wonderful navigator" got us lost. At lunch Seven caught a mouse but Bill saved it and kept it in his mug.

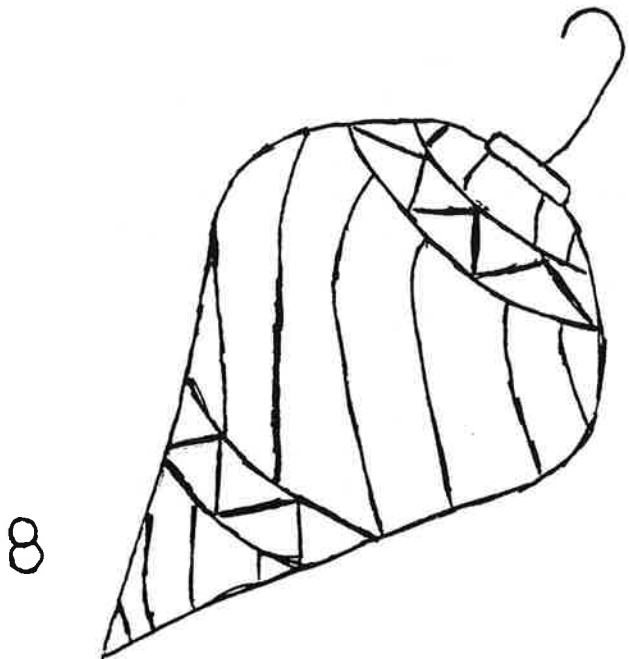
All of us were very sore, tired, dirty, hungry, thirsty, and happy when we finally made it to the end. We were so ready to go home. This was the first trip we didn't have Doug's cabin to go to so we went to Pizza Hut instead. It was fun but the best part of the Grantsburg Hike is having French toast for breakfast in the cabin. But it

was really nice to go home and sleep in a warm bed.

On the way home, Bill entertained us with stories about aliens and the end of the world. We stopped in Forest Lake to call home, and before we knew it we were at Perkins in Minnetonka.

#### Trip Participants:

Carl Anderson  
Casey Bakken  
Geoff Boller  
Josh Chowen  
Kim Colway  
Mike Ennis  
Mike McGinn  
Angie Peterson  
Pete Riedel  
Chris Robertson  
Eric Thomas  
Chris Wegler  
Bill Zastera  
Ann Kohman  
Marcelle Dorenkamp  
Doug Berg  
Randy Nelson  
Josh Stinson (Stimpy)  
Sarah ( Girlfriend of Stimpy)  
Seven ( Dog of Sarah and Stimpy)



# The Smithsonian Exhibit

By Anthony R. Cruikshank

During the Smithsonian Exhibit's stay at the Twin Cities the Star Tribune invited a few schools to a special showing. The Mini-School staff decided that the students should be allowed the opportunity to go. The exhibit was very interesting. Some of the items that were there make you think about how amazing it would be to be remembered forever. Lincoln's hat, a painting of Samuel Clemens A.K.A. Mark Twain, the space capsule, and the Tucker car are just a few of the more memorable displays. The better exhibits were crowded, but the crowd was small compared to the regular showings. I think the students, (See list below), and the staff, Ramona & Joanne, have been enhanced by this experience, that probably won't come again for two lifetimes.

#### Students who attended:

Phil Lynott  
Bobby Lopez  
Andy Miller  
Audrey Lopez  
Chris Robertson  
Mike McGinn  
Justin Streeter  
Peter Reidel  
And I, Tony Cruikshank

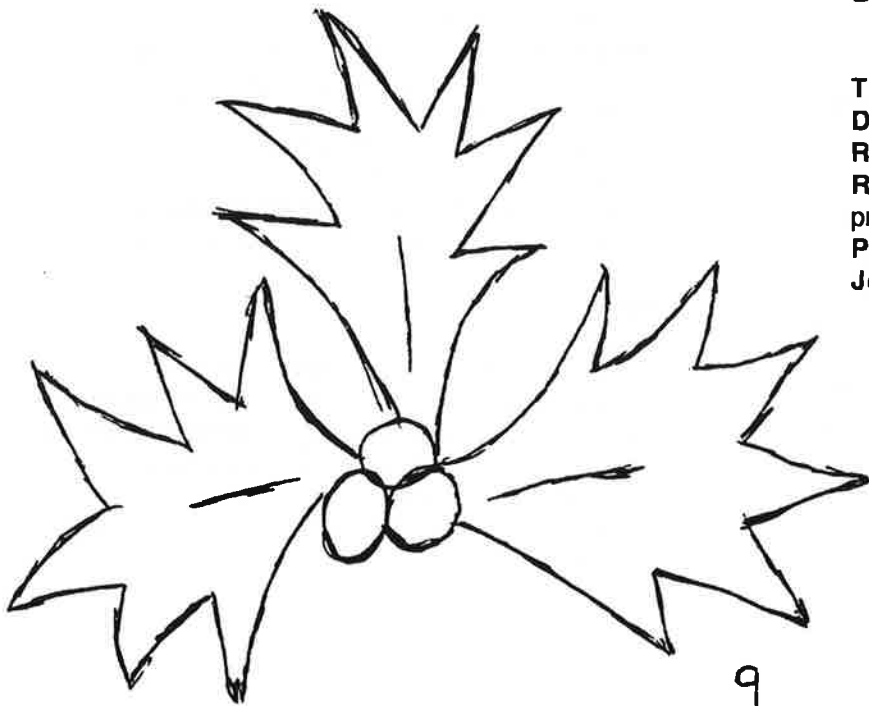
# Holiday Wish List

By Marcelle Dorenkamp

**Carl Anderson-** Snowmobile.  
**Casey Bakken-** To be called Squiggy for eternity.  
**Geoff Boller-** Doughnuts.  
**Kim Colway-** To be the ultimate ruler of the universe.  
**Kristi Dahl-** Oprah Winfrey's paycheck.  
**Collin Davis-** Baby clothes.  
**Maya Diedrich-** A van so she can get out of here.  
**Marcelle Dorenkamp-** To graduate.  
**Mike Ennis-** New wool socks.  
**Geno Faraci-** Hair gel.  
**Clint Fero-** A microwave.  
**Jason Gaasvig-** Someone to argue with.  
**Lance Hamlin-** Someplace warm  
**Kortnie Hansen-** Unlimited boyfriends and a cute little kitten.  
**Ann Kohman-** Chevy Blazer  
**Tony Kohman-** To be able to recycle on weekends.  
**Steve Kopischke-** A \$600 or \$700 snowboard with brand new step-in-bindings and friends to go snowboarding with.  
**Lacey Landt-** Jerry Garcia to resurrect and to take her on tour.  
**Molly Latterner-** BMW 850 csi. Dynan twin turbo, 6 speed, with 5 star alloy and dual chrome tip free flow exhaust and a evergreen tree air freshner.  
**Carrie Tiggas-** To find Waldo.  
**Nicole Tiggas-** A new brain so she can think.  
**Chris Wegler-** To be in Mini-School forever.  
**Len Weissner-** To become the General Manager of Rainbow Foods.  
**Bill Zastera-** His own alphabet.

#### Teachers:

**Doug-** Personal record in the Birkie.  
**Randy-** His own basketball team.  
**Ramona-** For Mike to replace my broken protractors.  
**Pauline-** A new car with 2 working headlights.  
**Joanne-** Snowshoes.



# Career Day

By Tami Olson

November 13th was Career day at Minnetonka High School. Mini-School had 5 alumni (Ron Byers, Joe Reifenberger, Ginny Reifenberger DeMun, Kathy Seamans Wilcox, and Brad Johnston) come in and talk to all the students about their time in Mini-School and what they've done since then.

Ron inherited the Glen Lake Bakery from his parents 3 years ago.

Joe went to Dunwoody Institute and now works fixing refrigerators, air conditioning, and ventilation systems.

Ginny is a registered nurse. She went to Minneapolis Community College and Normandale.

Kathy is an office manager for a finance company.

Brad (Joanne Johnston's husband) makes things like you would see in the Rainforest cafe.

Doug asked the students to come up with some questions to ask everyone. I did the best I could to write down everyone's answer:

1. What did Mini-School provide for you?
2. How did you get involved with the careers you're in?
3. Is a Mini-School education good enough for college?
4. Any advice for us?
5. What kind of problems did you have?  
Were any of you involved in any drugs?  
How have you changed?
6. A lot of people criticize Mini-School, because they say there's no real work and the teachers are too easy on us. What do you think?

## Ron-

1. The teachers were great. I really bonded with the other students, especially on trips. I was ready to drop out of school when I went into Mini. It helped me a lot.
2. He had no idea he was going to work in a bakery. His mom remarried to her new husband and he bought a bakery. When they retired Ron inherited it.
4. You have to work for everything, nothing comes easy.
5. He only drank on the weekends.

6. It was nice having someone to rely on. I realized that things work better if you work together. Mini really helped him prepare for the real world.

## Joe-

1. Mini really helped him stay in school. He had a lot of trouble in his life. It would have been easier to walk away before he went into Mini-School.
2. He did not go to college until he was 26. He really wanted to work with machines. He likes his job because he gets dispatched from home.
4. Stay in school and finish up- you'll be done before you know it!
5. His motivation went way down when he smoked marijuana.
6. It's good it has alternatives like this. It helps kids make it through the rough times.

## Ginny-

1. The trips helped her a lot. Teachers were a big reason why graduation came so easy for her.
2. Still has to take 30 hours of classes every year in order to keep her license. A big reason she got into medicine is because almost everyone in her family is.
4. Concentrate on getting done the things that are most important. You won't believe how fast time goes by.
5. I look around me now knowing that like 15 of my friends are dead, and I think of how lucky I am.
6. She realized she had to take care of herself. It was hard for her to go to school. Just getting there was a really good thing for her.

## Kathy-

1. The structure of the class was more relaxed, unlike main-stream. Mini helped her get interested.
2. She worked at a bank for 10 years, then she worked at a car dealership. Then she finally got to where she is now. She says she would not mind working at McDonalds if she had to.
5. She says she did not get into drugs really. Her main problem was alcohol.
6. She said that Mini helped teach her that when you get knocked down you can get back up again.

## Brad-

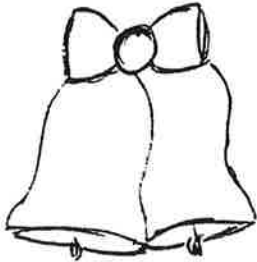
1. He felt out of place in school. Then he got kicked out because he missed 3 weeks of school.
2. It started when he was in treatment. He realized he liked to paint. He was thinking he wanted to get into social work, but someone said that would not be a good profession for him.
5. He smoked pot in high-school, but the 6 years in the Marines got him drinking. He was in treatment for



3 months after he got out of the Marines. He's glad he's not a teenager anymore. Times were tough then.

Everyone had the same answer for question #3. Everyone agreed that what you want to do and what you're forced to do are totally different and that's why they liked college. Getting into college or Vo-Tech was no problem for any of these people. They all did real well in school because they were motivated. Mini-School taught them how to stick to things and apply themselves.

I would like to take this chance to thank all of you for visiting us. And we all hope you will return again someday. We enjoyed your presentation!



## 5 Steps to healthy Holiday Shopping.

By: Molly Latterner

Holiday shopping- the most fun activity around the holiday season. Yeah right !! I would rather... well. we don't need to talk about that. Shopping for the holidays can be very, very stressful for one who is not ready for it. Here are some steps to prepare for holiday shopping- (in no particular order)

### #1 Be prepared with comfortable shoes and clothing.

Too many times have people come into the store that I work in and complain about how warm they are or how uncomfortable their shoes are. Pick shoes with soles that have padding in them, and don't go for looks as much as comfort. Wear light clothing that isn't going to make you freeze but that isn't going to make you die of heat stroke

### #2 Eat before you leave.

Mall food is expensive and you're there spending money anyway. Also the fat content in fast foods is much higher than most things that you could whip up at home. (If your shopping day is going to be long, bring a snack.)

### #3 Try to be confident in which things that you are there to buy.

Admit it, half the time you don't know exactly what you are looking for. Those of you who do, Congratulations, you're way ahead of the rest of us. Malls are cluttered with people who don't know what they're looking for. If you know what you are looking for, the shopping will go much smoother and a lot faster.

### #4 Be nice to the employees.

During the holiday season employees are under a lot of stress. Most people who work in retail, work on commission and the holiday season is a big time to rake in the cash. Since the employees are trying their best to help everyone, please be patient with them. Being mean and demanding could make them grumpy for the rest of the day creating a glooming non-holiday atmosphere for later customers who may dare to enter the store. Besides being happy and wonderful to other people can only make your day better.

### #5 Avoid market researchers. (a.k.a.: "Do you have 10 spare minutes?")

Granted their purpose is valid, but they can be very annoying when you are in a hurry. One excuse I found to be very effective is - "I just ate and I really need to go to a restroom." They have no counter attack for that one. Talking to them can only hold you up and cause massive brain tumors from all of the stupid questions they ask.

In conclusion holiday shopping is very stressful to a person who is not prepared. In following the instructions I have given you things may improve. If not I suggest there is no hope for you and that you should hibernate until February.



# Women's Issues

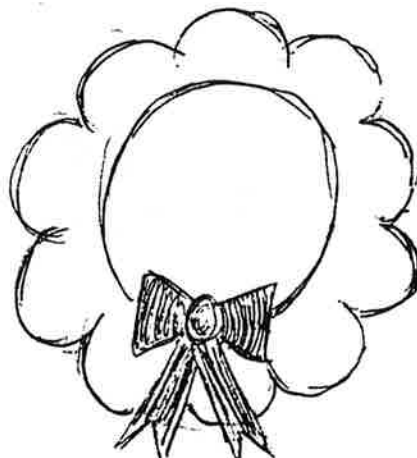
By Carrie Tiggas

Women's Issues is a group of about 15 women who get together every week on Tuesday to just talk. We can talk about anything from our problems to the good things in the week. I personally am very glad for this time. Very rarely are you able to get in a group of women and talk without feeling like everything you say will be tomorrow's news. But in issues we have a strict confidentiality rule. If anyone is caught telling anyone anything (outside of group,) the group decide whether she has to leave group or if she can stay.

The women in Issues are:

Kim Colway  
Kristi Dahl  
Maya Diedrich  
Marcelle Dorenkamp  
Sara Goudy  
Elissa Johnson  
Lacey Landt  
Molly Latterner  
Clare Meyer  
Tami Olson  
Emily Richards  
Tanya Schierman  
Carrie Tiggas (me)  
Nicole Tiggas (my big sister)

Issues is important to me because you see the people side of the teachers. It makes me respect them and try to understand if they're having a bad day. They do the same to us students. So I'd just like to say Thanks Ramona and Pauline. I look forward to issues every week. Since I'm new in Mini I needed to feel like I belong. Like the third week I was in issues I felt like I had been in a long time. The women in Issues make you feel welcome. So in closing, Thank you to all the girls in issues, Thanks for listening.



# The 12 Days of Shopping

By: Carrie Tiggas and Molly Latterner

- The first day of shopping I found this at the mall  
a blue light special in aisle 3
- The second day of shopping I found this at the mall  
2 Santa's laughing
- The third day of shopping I found this at the mall  
3 crazy shopping carts
- The fourth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
4 kids shoplifting
- The fifth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
5 golden shoes
- The sixth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
6 knocked over sale-racks
- The seventh day of shopping I found this at the mall  
7 open parking spots
- The eighth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
8 broken escalators
- The ninth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
9 occupied toilet stalls
- The tenth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
10 screaming babies
- The eleventh day of shopping I found this at the mall  
11 mothers going mental
- The twelfth day of shopping I found this at the mall  
12 cashiers cashiering

12



## Holiday Recipes

### Grandmother's German Holiday Cookies

By Anna Saclolo

2 3/4 cup of brown sugar

1 cup Molasses

1 cup warm water

1 1/2 tsp. soda dissolved in warm water and molasses

Rind of 2 lemons

1/2 tsp. cloves

1/2 tsp. allspice

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 lb. ground citron

2 cups walnuts chopped

5 cups flour

2 eggs beaten well

Mix above well and roll balls of dough the size of a walnut.

Put on greased tin and flatten slightly with the bottom of a floured glass.

Put on cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake at 350 degrees until firm on top.

Cool on waxed sheets and then ice with a mixture of lemon juice and powdered sugar, spread very thin.



### Holiday Bread

more from Granny Gammon

Mix- 1 (1/4 oz) active yeast and 1/4 cup of warm water- let rise.

Add- 3/4 cup of milk, 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup of golden raisins, 1/3 cup of slivered almonds, 1/3 cup of chopped mixed fruit, 1/4 cup of sugar, 1/2 a stick of margarine, melted, 1 egg, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon cardamon, 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind.

Beat- at medium speed for 2 min. or stir well for several min.

Add- Enough flour- 3 1/4 to 3 3/4 to make dough easy to handle. Turn onto floured board and knead for 5 min. Place in a greased bowl and let rise to double, about 1 1/2 hours. Punch down and make into round loaves. Brush with melted butter and let rise until double, about 1 hour.

Bake- 350 degrees- 365 degrees for 40 min.

Glaze- when baked: 1 cup of powdered sugar , 3-4 teaspoons milk.

YUMMY!! YUMMY!!

### Granny's Sugar Cookies.

Courtesy of Granny Gammon

1 cup of powdered sugar

1 cup margarine or butter

2 eggs

1 cup white sugar

1 cup of vegetable oil

1 teaspoon vanilla

5 3/4 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon soda, 1/2 teaspoon of cream of tartar. Mix well.

Make into small balls- press down with the bottom of a sugared glass on cookie sheet.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 min. Do not let cookies brown.

### Christmas Jewels

40 saltine crackers, rolled  
3/4 c. chopped walnuts  
1/3 c. coconut  
6 egg whites, room temperature  
1 1/2 c. sugar  
18 candied chewies, halved

Combine first three ingredients and set aside, beat egg whites till soft peaks form, gradually add sugar beating until stiff. Fold in reserved ingredients. Drop 1 y tsp on brown paper lined cookie sheet an top with chewy half. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 min. Cool for 5 min. before removing from sheet. Store in air tight container.

### Dutch St.Nicholas Cookies

1/3 c. butter or margarine	1/8 tsp. baking powder
1/3 c. brown sugar	2or3 tbsp. milk
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	1 c. flour
1/4 tsp. ginger	package choc. fudge frosting
1/4 ground clove	whole almonds
1/8 tsp. nutmeg	
1/8 tsp. salt	
1/8 tsp. pepper	

Beat butter or margarine with sugar until creamy. Beat in spices, salt, pepper and baking powder. Beat in 2 tbs. milk and gradually beat in flour. Fill some dough into cookies press or a fitted cup a rosette plate. Press out on greased cookie sheet. If dough is too stiff add another tbsp. of milk. Bake cookies at 350 degrees for 15 min. Cool. Prepare frosting mix. Spoon a little into center of each cookie. Press almond into frosting. Makes two dozen.



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### Crunchy Peanut Butter Bars

Cookies:  
1/2 c. butter  
1/2 c. crunchy peanut b.  
1 1/4 c. brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1 1/2 c. flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt

Glaze:  
3/4 c. confection sugar  
1 tbsp. light cream  
1/4 tsp vanilla extract  
chocolate ribbon  
1/4 c. choc. pieces  
1 tbsp. butter

Cream butter, peanut butter and brown sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, blend into mixture. Spread into buttered 13' by 9' dish and bake at 350 degrees for 30 min. Glaze, mix ingredients and spread over warm cookies. Cool. Melt chocolate pieces and butter. Drizzle over cookies. Cool. Cut into bars.

## Calendar Update

By Carrie Tiggas

The Mini-School calendar drive started out in full force. Calendars were selling like crazy. But now as the end draws near sales are slowing down. Our total right now is about 400 calendars, which is about \$1,900 profit for Mini-School.

This year our own infamous Phil Lynott (who sold 75 last year) has a challenger, Kortnie Hansn. They are neck and neck. But as of December 3, 1996 Lynott is in first selling 48, Kortnie in second selling 47, and Maya in third selling 24 calendars.

Even though Lynott is doing good, I don't think he is going to make the 150 calendars he promised Doug he would sell to double his last years sales. But there is still a couple weeks left so Lynott we wish you luck.

We only have a couple of weeks to reach or surpass last years sale's which reached about 2,400, So buy your calendars, wall \$12 and desk \$13, to support Mini School, The Science Museum, and the Freshwater Foundation.





## Dear Dr. Nicole by everyone

Dear Dr. Nicole,  
I have this overwhelming compulsion to cross-country ski all the time. I ski and ski. My legs get so tired I can hardly climb a flight of stairs, yet I still want to ski more. I awake in the middle of the night wanting to ski. What can I do?

Sincerely,  
Doug

Dear Doug,  
This is a really big problem. What I think you should do to overcome your overwhelming compulsion to ski all the time is that you should wear your skis all the time, 24 hours a day so you get so sick of them that you never want to see skis again.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nicole

Dear Doctor Nicole,  
I have this thing about orange. I wear orange all the time. I drink gallons of orange juice. O.J. is my favorite criminal. I eat only carrots and squash. Halloween is my favorite holiday ( pumpkins, you know) and I love to go on mini school trips because Doug feeds us so much macaroni and cheese. I wish deer hunting season lasted all year. I don't think I have a problem but my parents think I do. What shall I do.

Sincerely,  
Lynott

Dear Lynott,  
First of all, what's so great about orange? There are tons of other colors out there. Most are a lot better than orange. Your parents are right when they say you have a problem. What you need to do is wear a different color everyday. And try to stay away from orange. That way you will realize that orange is not the only nice color.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nicole

Dear Doctor Nicole,  
There are too many women in my life. I live with a wife, two daughters and two female dogs. I work in a program with 3 women. One old guy works there too, but all he talks about is skiing. All these women are nice, but I need some good "man talk" in my life, you know, talk about snowmobiles, ice-fishin, football , stuff like that. I've had about all I can stand of "babies" and "boys." Please help.

Sincerely,  
Randy

Dear Randy,  
Your problem is big but easy to solve. What you need to do is get a bunch of your guy friends and go on a vacation, and do lots of man stuff. By the time you get back you will miss all the women.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nicole

Dear Doctor Nicole,  
I have this problem with time. Sometimes there is too little of it. Sometimes there is too much. Sometimes things never end. Sometimes they end too soon. My colleagues have noticed this about me and are concerned. What can I do?

Sincerely,  
Ramona

Dear Ramona,  
You have a really bad problem. What you need to do is organize your agenda so you don't have too much stuff on one day and not enough stuff to do on other days.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nicole

Dear Doctor Nicole,  
I have this problem and I just don't know what to do. I love to draw evergreen trees. I want to draw them everywhere. On the walls, in the bathroom, in Corn-Mini, on the ceiling, and even on the floors of the school! I really like to draw evergreen trees with lights on them and other decorations! But the principal says I can't. What should I do?! Please help me!

Sincerely,  
Tami

Dear Tami,  
I think the only way to resolve your problem is for you to draw your trees everywhere and don't let anyone stop you. That is the only thing that will make you feel better, and that is the only way your problem will go away.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nicole



The product includes a Troy Aikman poster which Lacey will be receiving in the mail. They also make massive amounts of pamphlets, brochures, calendars and books. We were then given a tour of the printing press facilities but before entering we were given a nifty set of yellow earplugs. We saw 100 foot long presses which hold about 6,000 feet of paper. A guy explained how to mix colors in a 5 gallon bucket. We saw the cafeteria where you can get really good food (like Haagen Das Ice Cream.)

One of the bonuses of working for the Press is "Employee of the Month." If you achieve this distinction you get your picture on the wall, the first parking spot closest to the door and qualify for an all expense paid trip to Florida for a week.

The Press would be a cool place to work because it's got a nice facility and nice people.

## Winter Mirror

By Kristi Dahl

Mirror glass ice glaze,  
Cotton white snow  
Lays a chilled blanket  
On the wonders below.

The moon casts a shine  
On the cold winter night  
Making it sparkle,  
And shine with delight.

Trees shelter the ground  
Where the fawn nestled tight  
Amongst all the snowflakes  
Sleeps warm through the night.

In the holiday season  
Snow makes it complete  
Covering all  
A diamond covered sheet.

## The Press

By Emily Richards and Tanya Schierman

The Press is a local business located on the corner of hwy. 101 and hwy. 5 in Chanhassen. They are one of the fastest growing companies and are always looking for new employees. Pauline took a small group to go tour the plant. When we got there we were brought into a conference room with big huge comfortable reclining chairs where Joleen Zastera, Mini-School student Bill's mom, and a lady named Michelle gave the low down on the company. Then she gave us a presentation showing us examples of what the company produces.









CHRISTMAS WORD FIND

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 I O K C S L A N T K T P A B B G F C R V M F U G  
 V O U T E C L A N Y X T P Q I N K T Y L Q Z P L  
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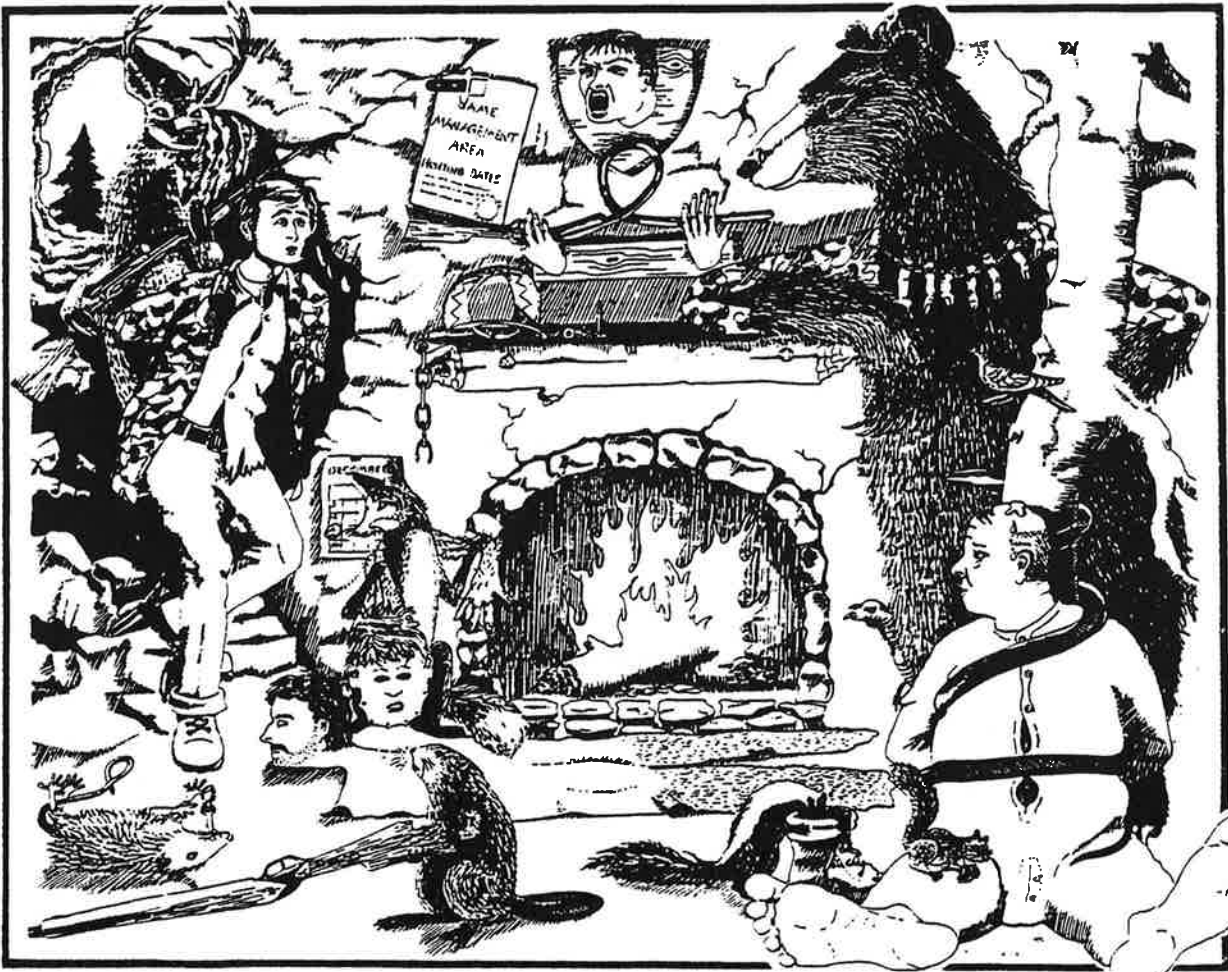
Can you find these words?

SNOWFLAKES  
 MISTLETOE  
 REINDEER  
 WREATHS  
 LIGHTS  
 HOLLY

ORNAMENTS  
 FIREPLACE  
 PRESENTS  
 CANDLES  
 ANGELS  
 SANTA

FRUITCAKE  
 CHRISTMAS  
 STOCKING  
 CHIMNEY  
 SLEIGH  
 ELVES

For All Our Hunter Friends



answer key  
 for word find  
 will be in the  
 next com-  
 mini-cations!



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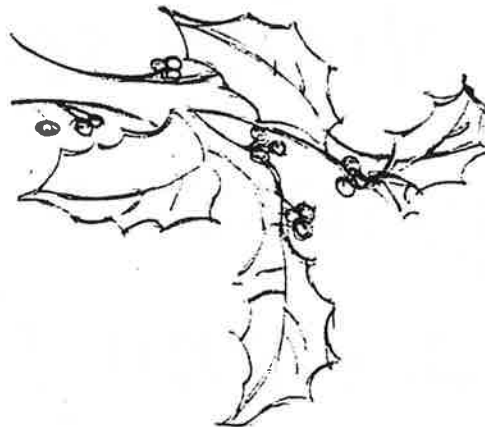
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Address Correction Requested

*The Mini-School  
students and staff wish  
you a holiday season full  
of joy, love, wonder,  
peace and fun!*