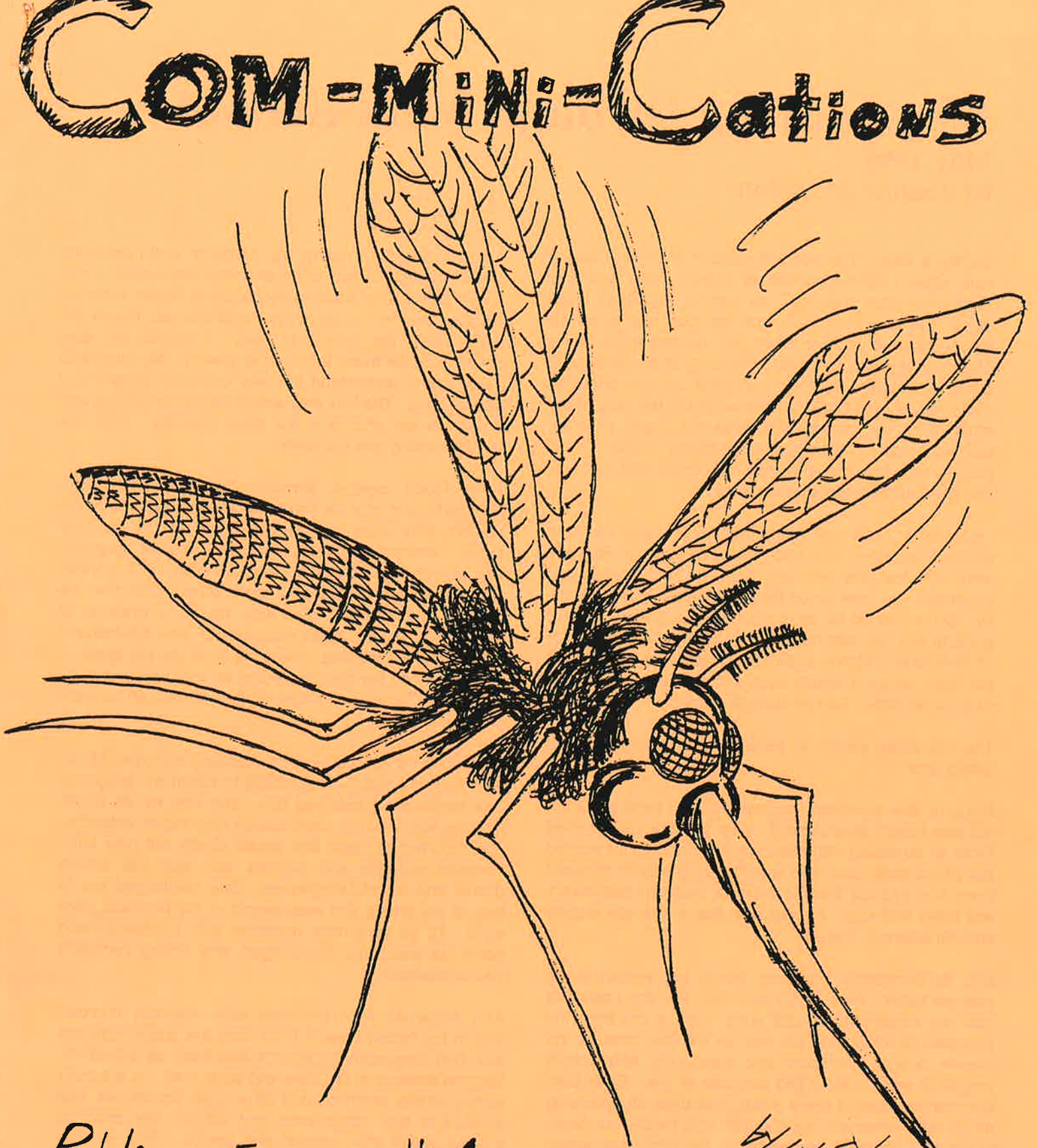


COM-MINI-CATIONS



Public Enemy #1

WASE

Spring '96

Meandering through Mini-School

May 1996

by Joanne Johnston

Go fly a kite! The kids just came in from the baseball field, where I was taking pictures of them flying their "final kites"—the kites they built as part of Ramona's math class. The kites had to fly and the kids had to do the trigonometry to receive credit for the two-week block. They had been out there for three days of trial-and-error-learning, watching kites get up about 20 feet and then dive in circles and crash, adding weight to one side or the other by taping pennies on, adjusting length of string between paper and wood, duct-taping broken cross pieces, and any other means to get those first, second, and third-stage designs up in the air.

I watched the kids work (and play) in pairs, saw them get discouraged when the kites wouldn't fly, saw Ramona work with the kids and bug them to keep trying, and eventually saw how proud they were when their kites did fly. Some flew so far we could hardly see them. It was great to see the kids running and yelling with big smiles on their faces. Mason even ran so hard that when he hit the fence he got a bloody nose and we had to get an ice pack for his knee. And he was still smiling.

The kite class seems to be a fitting metaphor for my school year.

Para in the dungeon downstairs. I think about the last time I wrote Meanderings. That was last spring, when I was so inundated with paperwork I wondered if I wanted this job as para. Last year my challenge was to decide if there was a good enough balance between paperwork and being with kids. I wrote then that it was still a good enough balance. Barely.

But, as sometimes happens, things get worse before they get better. And my job sure did. The day I returned from my honeymoon in late June, I got a call from the principals at MHS. My job was on the line because the paperwork was incomplete and inaccurate. Mini-School and MHS were looking bad because of me. Good-bye, summer vacation. I spent a bunch of days straightening things out. I met with a consultant who helped me begin to put Mini-School's paperwork on the computer, which was overwhelming. I didn't care whether my kite flew or not. I wondered if I could make myself come back in the fall.

I was on probation. Larry, my computer, and I spent the first three months last fall in an office downstairs. I met with principal Amy Mook every couple of weeks while we decided whether I could get on top of this job. I really felt bad. I didn't like coming to work. I missed the kids, getting to know them, feeling their energy. My mind was struggling to understand the new computer programs I was learning. The Mini staff wasn't too happy with no one to answer the phones in the office upstairs. I felt like Mason running into the fence.

Amy Mook comes through for me and Mini-School. Just after the first of the year, I was back in the upstairs Mini office and feeling a part of the program again. I realized the work on the new computer programs was beginning to pay off. The dreaded ALC monthly report that used to take 2-3 work days could now be done in 2-3 hours. Mini's new reporting systems of attendance, credits, class descriptions, and educational outcomes were working. I was happy in my job again. I had time to do the paperwork and be with kids and staff. My kite was flying and I was smiling, even with an ice pack on my brain.

The key to my success was my meetings with Amy Mook. Amy held me strictly accountable to report my progress. She constantly questioned how and why we do things the way we do so we could devise information collection and reporting systems that would satisfy not only Mini-School's students and parents, but also the school district and the state agencies. She challenged me to look at the strong and weak points of my personal work style. I'd go into those meetings with trepidation and come out energized, encouraged, and feeling confident and competent.

Amy Mook did what principals were originally charged with in the "olden days." They were the super teachers who had classroom experience and then, as principals, became mentors to teachers and other staff. In a school setting where teachers and other staff sometimes feel isolated in their classrooms and offices, the principal teacher would offer support and advice. This is what Amy did for me directly and for Mini-School indirectly. She listened to find out about Mini's unique position at

MHS, hooked me up with talented people in the high school, like Glenn Skoy who taught me how to adapt the computer programming for Mini. She helped me help the Mini-School teachers adjust to the changes that made more work for them. Thanks to the Mini-School teachers who lived through these transitions.

Amy affirmed me as a talented, competent person when I was feeling pretty inadequate. She set high standards for me and my job and challenged me, then supported and encouraged me to do more than I thought I could. We all need that, and it is often sadly lacking in a huge school setting, especially from administration. Mini-School owes a big thank you to Amy for spending her precious time one-on-one with their para. And I personally thank you, Amy.

First ever! Mini *doesn't* take a spring BWCA canoe trip. With 18 inches of ice on the Boundary Waters lakes on May 10, Doug Berg and students are canoeing the Big Fork River in northern Minnesota, going north to International Falls. A new adventure for Mini-School and possibly a new regular trip.

Other trips since the last *Corn-Mini-Cations* were the March winter camping trip led by Doug as usual, and the Buffalo River canoe trip in Arkansas, led by Doug and Randy, who haven't been on a trip together for a long time. And Randy took a bicycle trip to southern Minnesota, where the temp was in the 30's most of the time. You'll read more about these trips further in this issue.

Another first ever—Mini limits enrollment to 70 students! Gone are the days when 5 staff members could do a good job with over 100 students. With a waiting list, the following students felt pretty lucky to join Mini this spring: Geno Faraci, Erik Sturm, Dan Oraivej, Erik Ottum, Chris Smieja, Ryan Boyum. Tony and Ann Kohman, son and daughter of Mini alumni John Kohman, are in Mini now. Back from last year are Justin Secor, Jim Zachman, and Angie Peterson.

Third quarter graduates: Casey Wright and Dawn Hesselgrave graduated and are leaving next week to live in Florida. Susan Pipkom graduated on March 13 to beat twin sister Sara, who graduated on April 19. Brandon Petron came back after leaving last year and graduated on March 22. Congratulations and best wishes, you guys! Keep us posted on your travels through life.

Classes and blocks are constantly changing to meet the needs of students. Some of the old stand-bys are

Reading, *Corn-Mini-Cations*, Consumer Math, Newspaper, and Math History. Pauline did blocks on Crime & Justice and Environmental Policy & Debate.

60 out of 70 Mini kids hold down jobs in addition to going to school in the mornings. They get credit for their work experience and learn a lot about working in the real world. Some kids try different jobs until they find one that fits for them. The following kids have worked at the same job for a year or more:

Chris Alexander-Utne	Pizza Hut
Scott Bakkellund	Rubble Tile
Mason Davey	L'il Caesars
Collin Davis	MacDonald's-Excelsior
Marcelle Dorenkamp	Dunn Bros.
Mike Ennis	Cooper's Super Valu
Greg Fasching	Hilltop, City of Excelsior
Lisa Kopecky	Eagle Medical
Emily Matejcek	InHome Personal Care
Matt Morseth	Amoco-Excelsior
Tami Olson	MacDonald's-Excelsior
Grady Peterson	KMart
Will Scheidler	Target-Ridgedale
Justin Secor	Starkey
Christina Sedlak	Hour Glass Cleaners
Nicole Tiggas	Pizza Hut

Congratulations! It's fun to go to a local place and see students there.

Staff doings: Doug and Randy are doing *two* summer school St. Croix/Namekagon canoe trips this summer. There will be 14 kids on each trip, and they'll be from all over the ALC (Alternative Learning Centers) area.

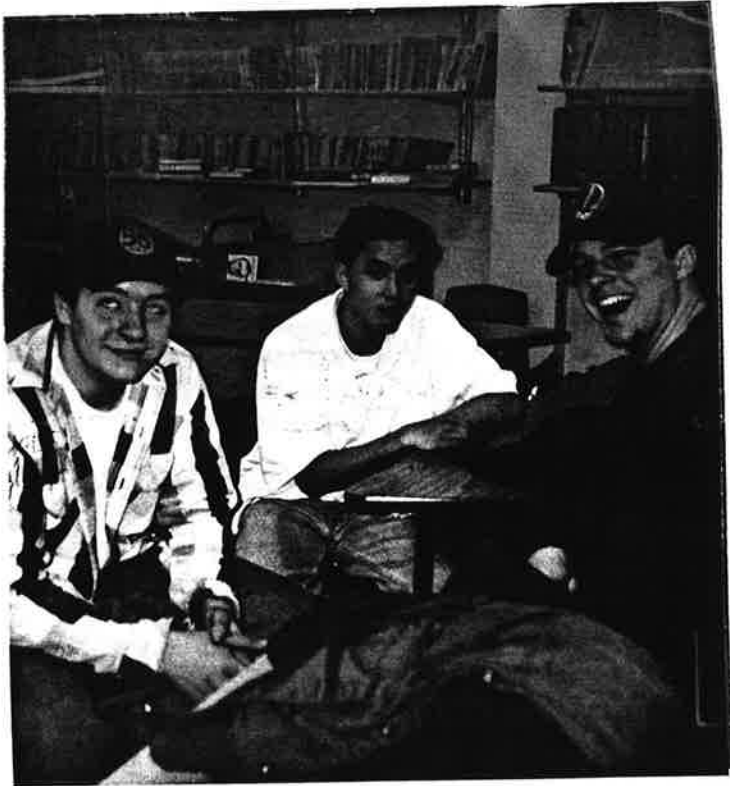
Pauline had her baby, a little girl named Alexandra Rose, and she's a great mom. She seems so calm you'd hardly know it's her first. And Alex Rose is a mellow kid. The staff and kids are happy to have Pauline back. Also, Pauline got tenured this year. Congratulations and good going!

Ramona's expanding the IS (Independent Study) program all the time. Zaccy is almost 2 years old now, and while Daddy George was away on business for 3 weeks this spring, Ramona found out what it was like to be a single mom.

I (Joanne) will be celebrating my first anniversary with husband Brad this year in a new (built in 1900) house! We bought a place out in Minnetrista and will be moving over Memorial Day weekend. We're looking forward to having a big yard and gardens that we missed in the apartment in Excelsior. And as soon as school's out, we'll be at the Humane Society looking for a puppy.

Meanderings (cont) . . .

Seen in the staff bulletin at MHS: Let it be known that the well-oiled machine of Mike Lichty and Doug Berg won the gold medal in their division of the 15 mile Snake River Canoe race in Mora, MN, May 4, and with a blistering time of 2 hours and 28 minutes (the water behind their canoe was giving off steam) were 3rd overall in a field of 80 canoes. These superb aging athletes, these inspirations to the imminent retirees of MHS, will hereafter expect appropriate deference and obeisance.



CHRIS WEGLEZ ↑
MATT MORSETH
SOTHIK ↑ PRAK

❄️ A special thanks to Bev and Carol at the media center counter for being so helpful during the typing of Com-Mini-Cations. Thanks Bev and Carol! ❄️

New Student

By Dan Oraivej

Mini-School, I saw it as a way to get credit for graduation that I failed to get in mainstream. I saw it as a bunch of kids that have too much pride and not enough common sense. I saw it as the easy way out of hard work and an easy way out of high school. I was wrong! I now see real people. I see hard workers at what they do. I see smart people that just thought that this was a better thing for them than mainstream. Some people in Mini-School are in truth to my original thought. They are just looking for an easy way out. They're looking for people to feel sorry for them. They're going nowhere. Mini-School is a great program, but it has been taken advantage of. It's been robbed of its original intentions.

5 Easy Steps on how to Sleep in a Mini-School Class.

By Matt Morseth.

Step #1: Find yourself a comfortable chair. (My favorite ones are the one-piece plastic ones. They are much easier to sleep on.)

Step #2: Next you need a spot on a table. If you can't find one you're screwed, as sleeping on a chair sucks, you almost fall off all the time.

Step #3: Now, there are many different things you can do for a pillow. You can roll your jacket up in a ball and use that, you can use your arms, a book, or you can just put your head on the desk.

Step #4: Where you position yourself is the most important part of the art of sleeping. Most of the time I put somebody between the teacher and me, so I'm hidden. But I always sit away from people, in a corner, or by people I'm sure I can tolerate or are quiet. So I know I'll catch as many z's as possible.

Step #5: Now all there is left to do is sleep, sleep, sleep and sleep. Of course, you should plan on waking up every once in a while. Sleeping in a chair with a jacket for a pillow isn't quite as comfortable as a bed with a real pillow.

The Saga of THE SPOON

By Doug Berg

King Arthur had Excalibur, The Lone Ranger had silver bullets, General Patton had his pearl handled revolver, Dorothy had her ruby slippers, and Mini School has THE SPOON.

About year 15 of Mini-School (this year is year 26), I began to wonder about our talisman. We must have one, I thought. I mean, I had taken Mini-School kids, not always known as the safest, most cautious of people, on canoe trips, bike trips, backpack trips, winter camping trips for fifteen years and no one had ever drowned, fallen off a cliff, frozen to death, been run over by a truck, or been dismembered by a another Mini-School student. What was the good luck charm? In fifteen years Mini School had turned over all its tents, canoes, backpacks, cook kits. What was it that went with me on every trip I did? Then it hit me. THE SPOON!

On the first ever Mini School trip, a canoe trip to the BWCA which I led with Pete Hagemes in 1970, we had nothing. I was scrambling around at the last minute, buying stuff, borrowing stuff. At the last minute I realized we needed a cooking spoon. It was too late to purchase one, so I went down to the Minnetonka High School kitchen, and when the cooks weren't looking, I must confess, I took THE SPOON. It really wasn't stealing, I rationalized, as THE SPOON had been purchased with Minnetonka tax dollars to prepare meals for Minnetonka High School students. Even though it would be doing so in different environments than the MHS kitchen, THE SPOON would be performing its intended duty.

In 26 years THE SPOON has gone everywhere I have gone with the Mini-School kids. It has stirred macaroni noodles in the BWCA, the Quetico, and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. It has served up Dinty Moore Beef Stew along the St. Croix River, in Yellowstone National Park, and on the sands of Florida. It has ladled spaghetti down in the Grand Canyon and atop some of the highest peaks in the Great Smokies and the White mountains. It has withstood temperatures of -47degrees in February in the BWCA and 120 degrees in May in the Grand Canyon. It has had close calls. It has fallen into lakes; it has been dropped into rivers; it has been buried in

snowdrifts; it has been left behind at campsites. On one occasion, Rick Imker dropped it into a BWCA backwoods latrine, known as the Growler. Rick was committing an unpardonable offense, scraping leftover food from the cooking pot into the Growler. THE SPOON, refusing to be used in this manner, left his hand for the depths of the sewage in the Growler. Rick fished for it, but only brought up toilet paper. His friend, Tim Gould, retrieved it by excavating in from the side. We boiled THE SPOON for four hours.

Anyone who has been on a Mini School trip with me in the last eleven years understands the significance and importance of THE SPOON. THE SPOON is carefully cleaned every night after dinner, polished with margarine (it was stainless steel, but the stainless part is ancient history and it must be polished to keep from rusting) and tucked away in the utensil bag. It is treated with appropriate reverence by all Mini-School trippers. No one dares mess around with it, hide it, or joke with it. There is no offense which would more quickly get a student expelled from Mini-School. When THE SPOON is not being utilized on one of my trips, it occupies a place of honor, hanging under lock and key, above my desk. Bunny is responsible for its security.

After all, it is important. It kept Andrea Hamilton from drowning in the Buffalo river. It kept Mike Phelps from hypothermia on the BWCA winter trip. If it weren't along on the Yellowstone trip, Lisa Kopecky would still be trudging along out there, tears rolling down her cheeks as grizzly bears threatened her at every turn. If Adrian Dolentz, the lousiest weather girl Mini-School has ever appointed, had not taken the spoon to bed with her on last spring's Utah/Green river trip, we'd have never gotten out of Nebraska. It is rumored that Al Wright used to sneak into the Mini-School office under the cover of darkness and pray to the spoon for credits to graduate. Against all odds, he did. The spoon saved Lola and Stimpy from the Grand Canyon's man eating squirrels. It's powers are legendary. If it were to be lost, I would take out no more trips. When Toby Marshall and Andrea Hamilton's canoe overturned in the Buffalo River, Phil Lynott did not ask if Toby and Andrea were OK, he did not ask about the condition

of their canoe, he said, "They weren't carrying THE SPOON, were they?"

THE SPOON'S magic does not work for my colleagues. In fact, they won't take it on their trips for fear they might lose it. It is the charm for my trips. It is the most important piece of gear on the trip. It is rumored that if I ever retire, THE SPOON will be bronzed and given to me. I can think of no greater honor. End of article. Thank you.

Mini-School Meetings

By Anna Saclolo

Mini-School meetings are held on Tuesday mornings at 8:15 a.m. This is the time of the week when all of the students come together in room 216. The staff are very open to tell the students about up-coming issues for the week. Such as ... alumni news, letters from former Mini-Schoolers and people we've met across the states on trips with Mini school, any problems that have arisen, also student of the week! Although the meetings seem quite repetitive, it's partially due to a lot of the students short attention spans. The rules come up often as well.

Some of the students don't care that there is no food/ pop in the class rooms. That is probably one of the reasons why the meetings slightly repeat themselves.

At times the meetings are full of noise and very chaotic, when energy levels are high. I'm sure the teachers get stressed. By the end of the meeting air cools. Even though it may be loud and irritating at times, it's a good thing Mini has the meetings. It brings all the students to the same level and we seem to communicate as family. The meetings also set us in a mode to whatever tasks need attending for the week. I know that if it was not for the Mini staff I would be lost.

My View As A New Student in Mini-School

By Geno Faraci

When I first walked through the doors of Mini-School I did not think I was in the right class. I did not belong here. I was asked to stand up in the front of class and answer the question "If I was a musical instrument which one would I be and why?" I did not know what to say. I heard a symphony of laughter and chuckles, that welcomed me to Mini-School.

Mini-School is a great alternative in Minnetonka Senior High. Without Mini-School I don't think I would have had as good of an experience in school, with the teachers and students as friends.

Mini-School is an environment that suits the kind of student I am. The teachers are a great support team for me and all students in Mini-School. The Mini-School program and teachers help to teach you individuality, responsibility, and let you, the student, make your own decisions about school and life. Mini-School is a schooling experience that I will remember most as a student of Minnetonka. Some examples of individuality and responsibility in Mini-School are the trips that Mini-School takes all year, such as the spring canoeing trip. On May 15th 8 Mini students and Doug take canoes and head out for ten days of exploring the unseen, untouched, unpolluted wilderness for a wild adventure in the BigFork River and will have memories that will last forever.

Life is short. Students of Minnetonka remember to explore all the alternatives.

Fabulous Alumni

By Emily Matejcek

Jay Johnson was in Mini-School quite awhile ago, but there are still many memories of him here. He has been very successful after Mini and was very successful during Mini I'm sure.

Before the last issue I found Jay's phone number and tried to get in touch with him, but never got to actually talk with him, so this time I did it the easy way and just wrote a short letter with some questions to answer. This is the letter he wrote back:

Thank you for your interest in what is going on in my life since my Mini School years.

Q: What are you doing with your life now?

A: I moved to Durango Colorado and was a ski bum for three years. Then moved to Kansas City area and have been married to my wife, Beth, for ten years. We have two kids, Charlotte-8 years, and Warren-2 years. I have a business partner, Tony Holland, who is also my best friend. Tony and I formed a company in 1990 called Solid Core Concrete Corp. We have just started a new business, H/J Motorsports, for Nascar Stockcar Racing.

Q: What did you think you would be doing now, when you were in Mini School?

A: Hanging out on the lake, in Excelsior and at T-Wrights and just living for the moment. (None of the answers to question one.)

Q: Did you have any schooling beyond High School? If not, how did you get where you are?

A: None. Lots of hours in banker's, accountant's, or lawyers office's. My partner and I saw a niche in our industry and just worked non-stop for the past six years to achieve what we have. Plus, I never think negatively!

Q: What's important to you? Any pets, hobbies, or interests?

A: My wife and kids are the most important. My hobby is stock car racing. I was a member of a pit crew for #48 Joe Not, on the national televised American Speed Association for the past three

years. Last fall Beth and my partner, Tony bought me a race car to keep me in town on the weekends. I will be racing locally this summer. I have three dogs, Scheaffer, Nikki, and Red.

Q: What do you remember about Mini School?

A: How lucky we were that Minnetonka had a program and particularly the staff to let each kid know they were somebody. And, how when it came down to it, we all stuck together whether it was to vote in a homecoming king and queen or to rake that guy's big lawn when it was 25 degrees outside.

Q: What do you want to say to Mini School?

A: Students that have chosen not to be a part of the mainstream for whatever reason need to realize that they have something that most people don't have, street smarts or the ability to make use of knowledge whether it be in art, music, culinary, business, sports, or computers, but most of all in your everyday life.

Q: What do you want to say to Amy Mook?

A: Well, when her name came up I thought, "Oh Hell" but she is still there so she must be good for the system? This summer at the reunion, Doug and Randy told me of all the success stories that have come out of Mini School. So, Amy Mook, the "Unwanted Step Child" can and has very well proven success. And, oh yeah Amy, I have never been invited to any reunion by you... but you don't have Volleyball anyway.

Q: Describe how wonderfully Doug and Randy influenced your life?

A: Well, when I was in Mini School I broke my leg racing motorcycles. Randy told me that if I would just play Volleyball in Rec., I could get credit for it. It hurt like hell, but I did play everyday. On the serious side, I can't read a newspaper without thinking about Randy's first hour. Randy also showed me how to prepare my income taxes (somebody has to tell you the bad parts of life).

When I think of Doug, I always remember how he could listen to any person one on one and then have this really great thought out answer. Or he may tell

You Are a Typical Minnetonka Prep if

By : Gabe Hargrove

you what you really don't want to hear, but you know he's right. Doug has taught me to really listen, think, and then speak when doing business. Thank you Doug and Randy!

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: I'd just like to say thank you for your interest in what has been going on. If any of you are "Hauling" south, I'm just off of I-35. Stop by! Also, it would be great to see even more alumni and their families at the next reunion. Maybe we could put Gary Will on that committee!

P.S. Randy, I see Matt Crane, who used to play soccer for you (class 1990) everyday. He works for one of our suppliers.

Sincerely,

Jay Johnson

Thank you Jay, for taking the time to help us be inspired by Mini-School alumni's success. Hopefully, in ten years from now, I can be a featured successful Mini School Alumni in a featured article!

10. You refer to chewing tobacco as 'cha' or 'chaski'.
9. You drive your BMW that your Mommy and Daddy bought for you.
8. The only NIN song you know is "Closer".
7. You're actually going to and looking forward to the school sponsored graduation party at the end of the year.
6. You wear a pager at all times, even if it doesn't work.
5. You're good friends with Bob.
4. While leaving school, you make sure to drive recklessly and crank up the bass, so people will make sure to notice you.
3. You think the morning's special announcements are actually special.
2. You smoke Marlboro lights.
1. The pay phone in front of the Pizza Hut in Excelsior is the place to be.



MADONNA

By Cory Clay



Throughout music history, women have always been dominated by men. Many have overlooked their musical talents and achievements; but in the nineties, women have fought back. Never before have so many women dominated the charts, radio, and music videos. The women today are strong, powerful and not afraid to show off their sexuality just like the male rockers. Many wonder how women have suddenly come so far? Well, if you look at the giants of yesterday like Janis Joplin or Diana Ross, they are only part of the roots of female musical history. Janis was wild like one of the boys and Diana was glamorous and had sex appeal. But these women didn't have enough power to actually compete against the male rockers in those days. Today the new female giant Mariah Carey has no problem outselling every musician and dominating every single chart possible. The problem with Mariah it seems, is that she has allowed her fame to get to her head. With her constant self righteousness, she has failed to recognize the achievements of the female musicians who pioneered before her. Mariah has repeatedly trashed and dissed the one woman who opened the doors for her and other diva's such as Janet Jackson and Paula Abdul. This woman is Madonna.



Many would argue to the contrary, but if you look at the female performers of today they all carry traits that Madonna pioneered. Madonna is slutty, trashy, bitchy and at the same time, she's sweet, humorous, and most of all, powerful. She continually changes her style of music and her image, staying fresh and new every year. Critics have always trashed her; but as we head closer to the next century, people are beginning to notice the impact Madonna has made and how she changed society, pop culture, and music itself.

For more than a decade Madonna has held the status of a pop icon. When she exploded onto the music scene with "Like A Virgin" in 1984, few thought we'd be recalling her name even a year later. No one was predicting she'd sell over 90 million records, head her own record company (Maverick), and emerge as one of the most powerful figures in the entertainment industry. No one, that is, but Madonna. "What else was I supposed to do with this name", she said in 1990, "Become a nun?"



She was born Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone and raised in Bay City, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, in a middle class Italian family in 1958. Her parents were strict Catholics; and when she was six, her mother died of breast cancer. That loss, more than any other event, shaped who Madonna would become. "After destroying me emotionally, I sort of

went the other way which was to say, 'Okay, I'm going to take care of myself and never rely on anyone, so I won't be hurt that way again'. It made me incredibly independent," she explained.

In 1976, at the age of seventeen, she moved to New York with \$35 to her name. After years of studying dancing with the famous Pearl Lange of Alvin Ailey dance theater, she focused more on singing. Madonna auditioned as a back-up singer for Patrick Hernandez, a cheesy disco one hit wonder famous for his hit "Born To Be Alive". His producers promised to make her a disco queen and flew her to Paris to record an album. Six months passed and the producers had not fulfilled their promise, so Madonna packed her bags and flew back to New York. She struggled in various bands for years and turned down a record deal from Gotham Records because they wanted her to sing rock music like Pat Benetar.

By 1982, Madonna had put together a demo of some dance songs she had recorded with a close friend. Warner Brothers liked what they heard and gave her a record deal to record one dance single. She released the disco song "Everybody" and it went #1 on the dance charts. The song never made the pop charts but it sold enough for the company to sign her to a full album deal. In the fall of 1983 she released her first album, *Madonna*, which scored her first hit "Holiday".



Within the next thirteen years, Madonna became the biggest and most successful female singer in the history of pop music. She's sold over 90 million albums, has had 28 top 10 hits (11 of them which went #1, the most for a female) and has broken records set by Elvis and the Beatles. But, the music wasn't what made Madonna a superstar. It was

Madonna herself and her ever changing image. She has the creativity to reinvent herself to fit each new album and project she markets. Her first image was the lacy punk look which millions of teenage girls tried to emulate. From there she was the "Material Girl", where she turned into a Marilyn Monroe. In 1990 she was sporting her famous torpedo shaped cone bra during her *Blonde Ambition* tour. By 1992 it was all the way nude in her best-selling book "Sex". Her new persona is Eva Peron in the upcoming picture "Evita" which is being filmed in Argentina.



Madonna's image may have made her a superstar but it was the controversy that made her a legend. Throughout her career, controversy has always played a major role. She has used her beauty and body to get what she wants: more and more fame. Madonna has mixed sex, religion, homosexuality and bi-sexuality in her work; starting from her early days of wearing rosaries in her "Like A Virgin" era, the controversy of teenage pregnancy in "Papa Don't Preach", to the burning crosses in her "Like A Prayer" video. Then there was her sexually explicit concert performances, the 1990 MTV banning of the "Justify My Love" video due to her lesbian kiss scene, and the controversial concert documentary *Truth Or Dare*. Finally there was her 1992 best-selling book of all time *Sex*, and 1993's erotic film *Body Of Evidence*. Madonna's most recent uproar is in Argentina for the filming of *Evita*.

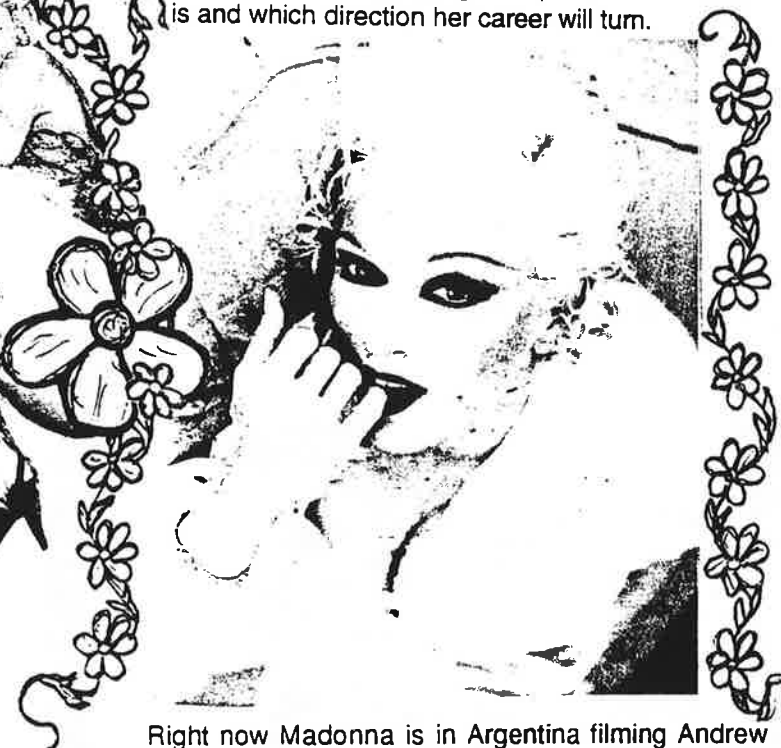


Since her earliest days critics have had trouble seeing beyond the distraction. Somewhere behind all the controversy, Madonna's bigger than life persona, her fashion statements, her sexually explicit performances, and her outspokenness, the music was getting lost. No sooner had her career begun, a cynical music industry started predicting a swift end to her career. "I've always had to deal with this sense of people trying to predict that I would soon fail and I've been dealing with that my entire career. It affects me because it makes me realize how miserable most human beings are and how instead of celebrating that someone could come from nothing and do something with their life, they have to try and tear you down because ultimately people don't like to be reminded of how little they've accomplished in their life."

In the present though, Madonna has toned down her provocative image and shocking persona. As she has gotten older, she seems to have matured emotionally and artistically. With her new record *Something To Remember*, Madonna gives listeners a look back at her enduring career and adds a glimpse of what may be in store for her musical future. *Something To Remember* is a collection of thirteen ballads, ten previously released songs and three new tracks. "I feel my ballads are my best work.

Since my music is more dance oriented, many of my best songs, which are my ballads, were never released. This is a romance album. It's great for lovers. An album you can cuddle to or do you know what". Billboard magazine calls "You'll See", the album's first single, "A stunning effort." Madonna's new, softer image may also be caused by the baby she's expecting in September. She and her

boyfriend Carlos Leon are excited to have this child and this event will change the person who Madonna is and which direction her career will turn.



Right now Madonna is in Argentina filming Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Evita* co-starring Antonio Banderas. The film is the story of Eva Peron who was the wife of Argentina's president in the 1940's. Eva was looked upon as a saint in Argentina and many are outraged that Madonna is playing the part, some going as far as sending her death threats. This movie project had floated around Hollywood for nearly ten years and Madonna was always one in mind for the role. Such top actresses as Meryl Streep and Michelle Pfeiffer were up for the part, but Madonna, who is passionately devoted to playing the character, landed the role after all. "This movie was meant to be mine", she boldly said. Critics seem to agree that she has not found an effective film role since *Desperately Seeking Susan* (1985), and many have written that if *Evita* fails Madonna can say good-bye to Hollywood. "It's very important that the movie does well. If it doesn't, I know I'll go on and find other things to do".

If she is anything, Madonna is a survivor. Few performers who arrived in the '80s have carried a faithful following into the '90s; but with street smarts and strong business instincts, she has weathered the highs and lows of an unforgiving industry. For nearly fifteen years, Madonna's been a pioneer, opening doors for female artists, who until she came along, were given little room to test the boundaries of mainstream pop. Madonna is a legend and she is destined to be remembered as the biggest female

pop star of the 20th century. In death she plans on having the last laugh. "Well when I'm dead they'll finally kiss my a!!. Isn't that how it works? When Marilyn Monroe was alive, they were so vicious and cruel to her. They ripped her to shreds, they wouldn't give it up to her in any way, shape, or form. When she died, everyone's like, 'Oh she's this comedic genius'. I mean excuse me. They do that to everybody. They did it to Vincent Van Gogh. History just repeats itself over and over again that way."



Mini 5

By Anna Saclolo and Toby Marshall

Well it's 11:10 in the a.m., time to go off to work or home right? No, you'll miss Mini 5.

Wait, what do you mean you've never been to Mini 5? Well let me tell you about the party you've been missing. Mini 5 is required for students who are unemployed. It can begin between 11:10 and 11:15, it ends forty minutes from the time you enter the realm of Mini 5. You can work on anything you like, or you can even chill with Randy in the weight room. Sometimes you can even con him into some Basketball. We hope the employed students are interested and jealous. But don't feel too bad, anyone in Mini-School can attend Mini 5, so please don't be afraid to stop in and earn some much needed units.

Top 10 Most Hyper People In Mini

By Andrea Hamilton

1. Anna Saclolo
2. Doug Berg
3. Tony Kohman
4. Andrea Hamilton
5. Dan Oraivej
6. Eric Thomas
7. Emily Matejcek
8. Kelsey Crawford
9. Bunny (Justin Secor)
10. Tanya Schierman

Summer Plans

By Kim Colway

Matt Morseth: Planning on going to an island of Australia for the summer with a friend to live and work there. He will be staying with friends and relatives until he gets enough money and finds a place to live.

Alison Young: Thinks she is going to take over the world this summer.

Chris Utne: Moving to New Orleans to try and live there by himself.

Phil Lynott: Is of course planning on going to Texas to fish.

Anna Saclolo: Said she's going to Australia with Matt to live there!!

Dawn & Casey: Moving to Palm Harbor, FL. with Caseys parents May 31. Planning their future, they're excited and scared.

Doug: Canoe racing and trips to his new cabin.

Lacey Landt: Camping and finding men.

Joanne: Moving into a new house out in the country.

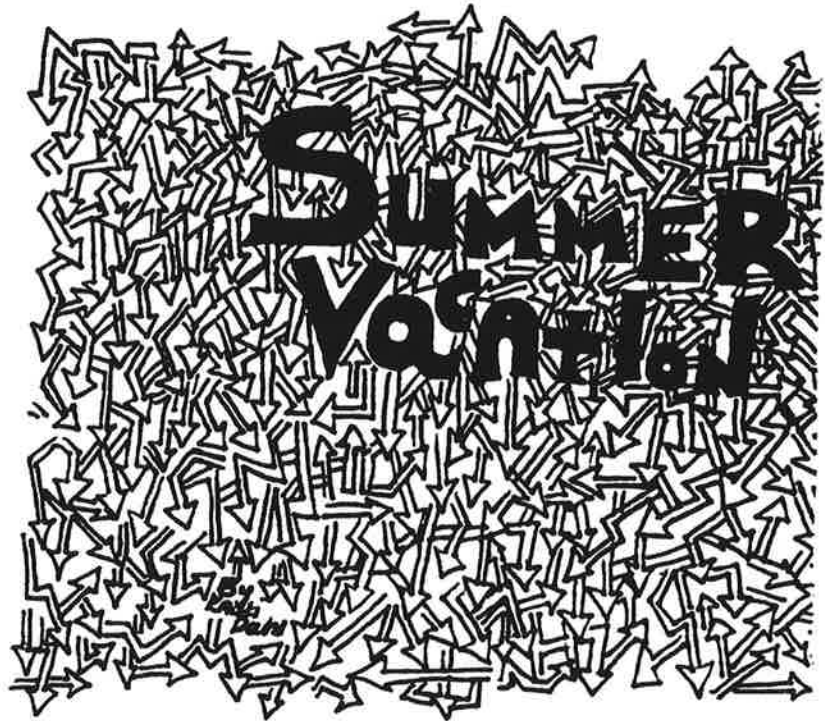
Kortnie Hanson: Going to Kyle's cabin up north and South Dakota. Driving to North Dakota to see her dad.

Collin Davis: Work and pay child support.

Kelsey Crawford: Travel, Rainbow gathering and drive to New Mexico.

Pauline: Class M.S.U., teach Independent study, get a tan and play with Alex.

Tanya Schierman: Travel the country.



Visitor

By Kelsey Crawford

Maybe I did not know you,
Maybe I did.
Who knows?
Where did you come from?
Where did you go?
And I see this girl standing there,
Alone, and happy, and naked, in the middle c
nowhere.
Dancing.
Maybe she's me years from now.
Maybe she's a visitor.
Is she with you somewhere, up there?
Waiting to come out?

What Will Happen to These Seniors

Andrea Tells All

Chris Alexander-Utne- Will knock his head on a rock in the BigFork River forget who he is and will cut out his dreads- grow it back sandy blond, shop at the Gap and join the Young Republicans

Kyle Brytenson- Kortnie will finally realize that he's never going to get out of Mini and break up with him for some educated well dressed yuppie. Kyle- heartbroken will run away to Compton, Arkansas and become a carrot farmer to lead a hermit existence until his cow runs him over to his death.

Cory Clay- Will become the first president coming out of Mini.

Aaron Conner- He will live in Mpls. for the rest of his life as a starving artist- juggling.

Mason Davey - Will finally realize he is Heidi and wear his trip braids everywhere.

Rachael Guffan- Will become more known than Rikki Lake and her talk show will go all the way to Japan.

Andrea Hamilton- Will run away to Gilbert, Arkansas, propose to the cute dead head she asked Doug to bring home for her, buy a house with a white picket fence, have 2-3 kids and a dog named Fido. She will live happily ever after.

Gabe Hargrove- Will graduate!!

Dawn Hesselgrave- (sweetie) and **Casey Wright** (pumpkin)- They will realize they have nothing in common and they hate each other. They will call off the wedding. Casey joins the Navy while Dawn marries some poor bum and lives in a trailer park with nine kids.

Lisa Kopecky- Janis Joplin's soul will parade through her body and she will live happily as a singing hippie the rest of her life.

Toby Marshal- Will become a rich and famous musician and live as a spoiled brat for ten years until his money runs out, his woman leaves him and he finds himself in jail for killing OJ.

Emily Matejcek- In a freak accident her tongue will get cut off and she will never be able to talk again.

Paul Montemayor- Will be the world's first man to have 63 wives and 9,000 children.

Matt Morseth- After his exotic dancing career, he will be the next Dylan on 90210 and have millions of teenyboppers chasing him.

Jed Norman- Will stay awake during the day.

Grady Peterson- Will become the first man to live on the colonized moon.

Sothik Prak- Will become a millionaire and live happily ever after, supporting all the poor ex-Mini-Schoolers (and Doug in his old age).

Anna Saclolo- Will become a therapist and counsel teens with drug abuse problems.

Will Schiedler- Will be Cory's Vice President.

Justin Secor- Will become a bunny breeder.

Christina Sedlak- With no more Dead to follow she will join the Phish entourage and station herself in Oregon.

Chris Smeija- Will be a well educated suburbanite who drives a nice car with a pretty wife and one child. They will be "normal".

Phil St Sauver- Is the trailer park bum Dawn will marry after breaking up with Casey.

Chris Wegler- Will become a professor of car anatomy at Harvard.

Alison Young- After her life collapses, she'll run away to the Buffalo River and find Andrea, will live with her, win the lottery of 40 million build a home and have Mini-School reunions every year at "Doug Land" on the Buffalo River.

Jim Zachman- Will talk.

Bill Zastera- Will come to school awake happy and have a good day.

Goodbye To Mini

Well, where do I start ? From the top ! It was back in eighth grade when I learned what Mini-School was. I had been having a hard time in school since sixth grade. I felt like I didn't belong. Mainstream was not my style and I was always different in some way. Then my ray of hope came and hit me right between the eyes. " MINI-SCHOOL, WOW !" This was my reaction the first time Al (my older brother), also a Mini kid brought me to see Mini. That was the moment where I knew where I belonged. Back then I was so full of energy, but lacked a direction in which to focus on. Then about the end of my freshman year... I got in! It was one of the happiest days of my life. I got to know Doug, Randy, Joanne, Ramona and Pauline very well. Doug is like a dad to me. We have been on several trips together. And Randy is like my conscience, you know, like Jiminy Cricket. When ever I start thinking of doing something mischievous, I hear Randy in my head. Joanne is like a mom to me. She is one of the nicest people I've ever known. As for Ramona and Pauline, what can I say , I've given you hell for the last three years, but you kept coming back. I like that in a person ! Sorry for all the things I got in trouble for and some of the things that you don't know about (Ha, Ha !). I guess I just wanted to write this so that you all know how I feel. You have all been a big part of my life and I will never forget you ! Well, I could sit here and babble on for days but that would waste a lot of time and paper so, I'm off !

Good luck and God bless,
Love Always,
Casey

Welcome to the Ghetto

By Mike Phelps

Welcome to the ghetto
Let's see how long you last
You're being chased already
So you'd better move fast
A gun in your hand won't make a difference
A blade won't stop your death
All it will do is intimidate them
And cause your final breath
No one really gives a crap
Whether you started it or not
Every second is life or death
So watch your chest for that bloody spot
No one will lower a flag for you
No one will cry when you're dead
You won't even know it was your brother
Who shot you in the head
So stay here in the ghetto
Of course you can't get out
But when you're left for dead next week
Don't ask what it's all about
Kids killing kids
A gun in every hand
It's a total stroke of fate
That leaves you face down in the sand.

The Ministry Concert

By Chris Alexander-Utne

It was April first, the day of the Ministry concert. Mini-School had just gotten out and I was planning to go back to Gabe's crib, who I was going to the concert with. There seemed to be a small dilemma, Gabe never came to school that day and Marna, who was going to give us a ride, left after third hour. So I was stuck, not knowing exactly what to do. Then Kelsey, who was going to go with us (she and Marna were going to go shopping in Uptown or something) said that I could go with her house because she would probably hook up with Marna later. We got a ride to Kelsey's house and waited for a phone call from Marna. We waited and waited and waited, watching this movie, Chorus Line" which was Kelsey's favorite when she was younger. It was a really cheesy dance try-out musical.

After awhile we decided the best thing to do or the only thing for me to do was catch a bus to the city. I had to walk into Excelsior which was a half-an-hour walk. We called and checked the bus schedule and I left for the bus stop. After about 15 minutes of walking I realized I had left the tickets in my wallet, which was in my other pants. There was no point in catching the bus now, I had to find a way to get to my place, and then to the city and the only possible way to do that was to find someone with a car. I went to the pay phone at ICO and called the people I knew that lived in that area, but no one was home.

I decided I would try to hitchhike back to my place knowing that no one would pick me up looking the way I do. It was my only choice. After walking for about 5-10 minutes I spotted Nate Clifford in his truck driving in the opposite direction. I raised my arms up and down like I was stranded on a deserted island and I saw a plane that could rescue me, but he drove past me. I turned around hopelessly -"this sucks"- I screamed out. But wait, it's Nate Clifford, he had turned around and come to rescue me. "Yes" I thought to myself. I get in the car, oh yeah, Sara or Susan Pipkorn were in the car too (I can never tell which one's which). Anyway they said they would gladly drive me to my house and Ridgedale because they didn't really have anything better to do anyway. After they drove me to my house and then to Ridgedale, I thanked them with a few dollar bills. I played Virtua Cop for a little bit and then caught a bus to the city.

When I finally get to Gabe's crib, he says Petar, who was

going with us and was the designated driver, doesn't want to go anymore. We needed to find someone who wanted to go and had a car fast, within two hours or something. We called as many people as we could think of with no luck. Gabe's girlfriend wanted to go and then didn't for some reason, so we called Petar, because he said if we couldn't find anyone to replace him, he would go.

Petar finally arrived and we left for the Ministry concert. We didn't make it on time to see the opening band, "The Young God" which I was a little disappointed about, but oh well. We sat on the lower level straight across from the stage at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

The lights went out and Ministry opened with "Reload" from their new album "Filthy Pig." They mostly played stuff of their new album which is a lot more guitar than usual, but it was real loud and still intense and jammed-out. They played some of their old stuff, but not too much. They played "Psalm 69" which kicked butt, and also "Scare Crow." I was a little disappointed because I wanted to hear other older stuff like "Connect the #*!@ Dots!" or "Stigmata" or songs from "The land of Rape and Honey" but it was still a kicka!., jammed out show and even though I was disappointed that it ended way early, they only played for about an hour. I'd rate this concert 7 out of 10 points.

Top Ten Movies

By Dawn Hesselgrave

10. The Truth About Cats and Dogs
9. Dangerous Minds
8. The Substitute
7. Desperado
6. Seven
5. From Dust Til' Dawn
4. The Craft
3. Prophecy
2. Brave Heart
1. Twister

CASEY and Friends

by CASEY

Man look at this. It's the last bit of snow in the white town.



now what am I going to do?



well, I'll sit on this Big Rock in the middle of the Big open Field, Till I think of some-thing!



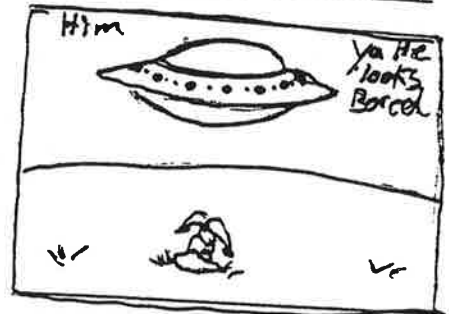
Man I'm Bored!

Let's Go get some one to play with.



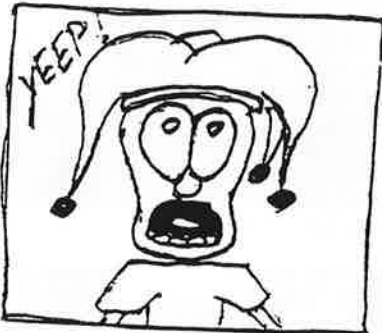
Let's look in that Big open Field

O.K.



Him

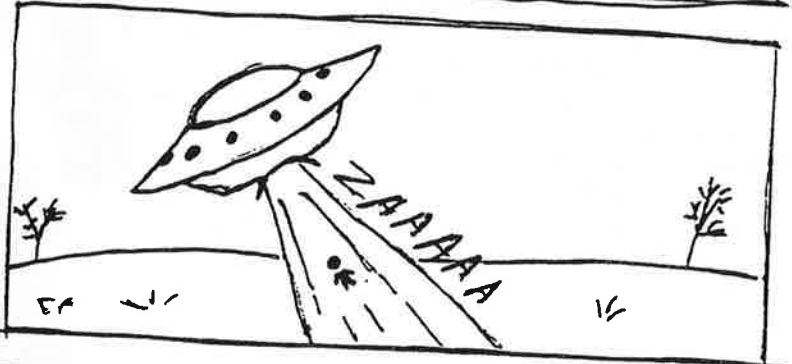
ya He looks Bored



YEEP!



Duuh!



ZAAAAA



So Boys When Do I Get to Fly This thing

ZOOOOOM



BYE. I'll send A postCard from mars!

Love always Billy CASEY

"Trip of the Amorous Candy Bars."

By Lacey Landt

Embellished by: Mike Phelps

BWCA was the trip of a lifetime. It was my first Mini - School trip. A lot of my classmates gave me some weird looks, others actually told me I had a lot of guts to go to the Boundary Waters (in the winter) for my first trip. I felt, no problem, I can handle it.

The first day I practically begged Doug to take me home. After that I got used to the cold and knew how to handle it. We built a huge quinzy, or snow shelter. Originally three separate huts, they eventually became connected to create the Bingshick Hotel. Alan and Bill slept in the smaller portion. Squiggey and Mason in the tunnel, and Mike, Alison, and I in the big room. Doug slept up the hill in a tent. While making the quinzy, to avoid getting our pants wet, we wore our raingear. Have you ever seen Alan fat?!? He looked like Humpty Dumpty with dreads. Mike thought he looked more like Paddington Bear.

We got passed by six hikers from Chanhassen on the way in. One of them was a Minnetonka graduate. They only stayed the weekend up on Jap Lake, and visited us on the way out as well. They gave us some extra (already cleaned) trout for our lunch. Delicious! We also had a visitor named Maury. He hiked out to Jap Lake planning to stay a week, but that next morning we saw him headed right back home again. "I'm 75 years old and I have a pace maker. I don't have nothing to prove to anyone!" he said.

The nights got pretty cold (-30 some nights). Bill said his face felt like one big chapped lip from the cold and sunburn. Everyone agreed that it felt pretty gross.

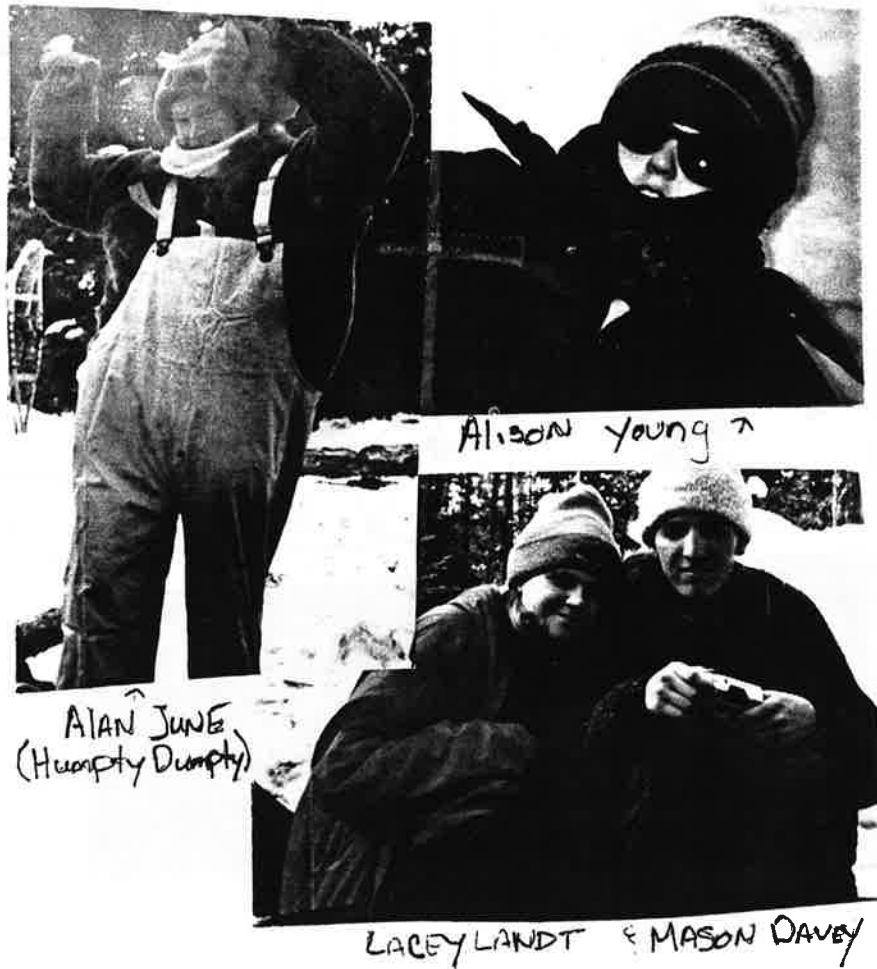
Saturday we all went cross - country skiing. Some of us had never skied before but that didn't stop us from going, even though a couple of us trailed behind at first.

WARNING!! Never eat frozen cheese or salami, ugh! The birds seemed to love it though. They ate right out of our hands. Lunch always consisted of bagels, cheese, salami, and mixed fruit. We learned after the first day, that frozen bagels taste better over the fire, dun! Mason seems to enjoy a little "natural" flavor

with his bagels (his nose was dripping all week).

Oh yeah, the title, sorry to have kept you in suspense. At first Mason put two candy bars in his pocket and eventually pulled out six or seven. He says they mated in there. No wonder I came up short on my portions.

My impression of a Mini - trip was that it was hard, but awesome, and I'd do it all over again.



The Most Unforgettable Character

By Anna Saclolo

There is a security person in this Minnetonka High School, he has long red hair, blue eyes, and a sense of humor that just won't quit. His name, Joe Juranitch. Joe told me he loves working here in Minnetonka. But some students tend to misjudge Joe. I seriously think that it is because when Joe does his job, there is no talking your way out of trouble. Ya see, Joe's job is to make sure that students aren't going to the log to smoke, that students have parking permits, and that students aren't tearing it up, basically.

I interviewed Joe, and we did some talking. I learned that in his life of 34 yrs., (8-17-61) he's had a life of meaningful intense experiences that he has only grown from. Joe was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and lived there until he was 15yrs old. Then his family moved to Eiy, up by the Boundary waters. In school he was the class clown, maybe even king of mischief.

After high school in 1982, he attended Vermillion Community College for one year, then he went Bemidji state for one quarter. In his college days he got caught up in drugs, alcohol, and fights. So his girlfriend Lori.(now his wife) thought that they should move to Minneapolis Minnesota, where her mother lives. They did. Then Joe went to Normandale, because Normandale piaces people with jobs. So he ended up cutting lawns for while. Joe told them to call though, if anything else came up.

In the meantime, Lori had been reading the Bible to Joe, and she at one point said, "Joe, either it's your dope and booze that need to go, or I need to go." Joe had to really think about how he wanted his life to be. He thought of Lori and his well being. It was then he became strait-laced with the help of the Lord, with Lori building his inner strength.

Then Joe received another call from Normandale. They said "How would you like to work security, at a high school?" He said, "Sure! I bet that beats mowing lawns!"

The security company hooked him up with Mr. Boyle here at Minnetonka for an interview. Mr. Boyle hired him and after the first yr. he was asked to stay on full time.

Joe has been working here ever since 1986. I definitely have a couple more things to tell about Joe...he sent in a resume for mascot of the Minnesota Vikings in 1993. They called him and asked for a photo. Once they saw the photo he was hired. He also holds the world record for shaving with an ax!!! WOW! By going through these life experiences, Joe Juranitch has become quite an unforgettable character.



Joe Juranitch

Arkansas Trip '96

Written by the whole group,
interpreted by Anna Saclolo, Andrea
Hamilton, Alison Young, Toby
Marshall and Eric Thomas

There is a place where earth meets sky, water meets earth, and we meet the elements. It all started on a cold, dark, snowy morning at 6 A.M. on April 15th. 16 of us, droopy-eyed and excited, climbed out of our sleep and sheltered lives (cars), and started packing the van for an adventure where we would learn about ourselves, our Earth, and the love shared between people.

We were all a little weary of each other in the beginning, we being Mike Ennis, Andrea Hamilton, Anna Saclolo, Alison Young, Kim Colway, Eric Thomas, Chris Wegler, Emily Richards, Casey Wright, Dawn Hesselgrave, Phil Lynott, Matt Morseth, Toby Marshall, Scott Vetter and our fearless leaders Randy Nelson and Doug Berg, but Doug helped restore faith by saying "This group has the possibility to laugh in the rain!" Little did we know it was true.

After we got packed and as settled as 14 kids could get, we headed off for our mysterious destination; Arkansas. We spent the morning lumbering through the vast fields of southern MN and Iowa. Somewhere along the corn we stopped for lunch. The further south we went, the snow faded and the sun appeared. In Doug's van we were enjoying the sounds of Bob Marley. Suddenly "Buffalo Soldier" blasted over the speakers in a way that none of us had heard it before. Anna described the song as being sung by a chipmunk with burrs in its tail. Meanwhile, in Randy's van, Casey, Dawn, Andrea, Matt, and Chris were discussing the "mountainous bayou in Iowa" and Matt started chanting "Ola, Ola, Pepsi Cola!" We reached Knob Noster, Missouri sometime in early evening. It was 75 degrees and the sun was shining. We camped in a state park right outside town and the 16 of us, complaining and cramped, started to organize and set up camp. Some of us looked at each other with the knowledge and fear that this was going to be a chaotic trip. None of us had ever been gone for 2 weeks with such a large number of wild, cranky kids. We couldn't have a fire because of the dry weather, so Doug amused us with Journal assignment #1, interview someone we

don't know very well. After our Dinty Moore dinner, we somehow pulled together and ran wildly around the forest, all ending up as a group stumbling and hopping across rocks to a little cove where we all sat and enjoyed each others company. It was here that Mike and Chris transformed into Kermit and Christina Stumbles. They were never to return.

We awoke to find our loving teachers gone and two wild woodsmen in their place. Anyone who has been on a trip knows what we are talking about. We were jolted from our dreams of sugarplums and cars and thrown into the vans to continue our trek to Arkansas. On the way we encountered a confederate flag, 138 southern Baptist churches and an "Adopt a Highway" sign endorsed by the KKK. We knew we were no longer in our Yankee territory.

As we descended through the giant hills of the Ozarks, down a windy gravel road, we came upon what was to be our home for the next three days. As the sight of the green lushness overwhelmed us, we were filled with a new joy and a sense of freedom. While we were all climbing excitedly out of the van and running barefoot through the grass, Alison and Anna were off catching the first glimpse of the turquoise path that would lead us on our journey through the Ozark mountains, ninety miles down the Buffalo National River. Our numbed society stricken, city minds were already beginning to change.

After we settled down, we started our dinner of baked beans and hot dogs. The conversation over dinner consisted of Doug bragging about his "best damn weinie roasting stick" and how this was Emily's first experience in the art of cooking hot dogs in the great wide open. Tonight was our first night we were able to have a fire. Around the fire is were we started finding each other. As we sat on the beautiful sand bar which had become a place for bonding and being one with the earth (hee, hee!), we opened up to each other. It was here that we learned that Ennis howls at the moon, Casey has a lot of war stories and Anna chased the eye stinging smoke away by

chanting " blue bunnies go to hell ". Later that night after most of the group had resorted to their tents, Alison, Scott and Anna, the fire tenders, lay down in their bags, on the sand under the trees and watched the numerous falling stars as they drifted off to sleep.

" Hey, lets go get some wood you moron!"

" Whatever geek!" These were the words we heard as Mike and Phil went to get wood this morning while the rest of us prepared for the hike that afternoon. Our canteens were full, our tents were secured and tidied, and the food was put away and organized. Toby and Wegler had the privilege of seeing Mike and Phil baptize themselves in the river and sacrifice the first paddle to the river gods. Put in Phil's words " Mike had this great idea to bring the canoe to me at the end of the island, so we wouldn't have to carry the wood to the canoe (Lazy fools). So Mike starts showing off trying to paddle upstream to me all of a sudden the canoe starts to tip and Mike just jumps out. What a moron!" So when Ennis came lumbering up over the hill soaking wet we all had a good laugh.

Doug and Randy broke us in with today's charming three mile hike through Lost Valley. The first natural impression we came upon was the Siamese Beech trees that had grown together about 20 feet in the air. We would have easily passed had we not taken the time to stop and look. The next sight we came upon was the jigsaw blocks which are massive rectangular rocks that had fallen off the bluffs above creating natural bridges across streams. We each went our own direction, exploring Cob Cave and Eden Falls, that eventually led us up a windy path to Eden Falls cave. Inside the cave an underground stream enters the cave by way of the 35 foot waterfall which spills from the top of a circular room in the rear of the cave. On the way to this room we started walking through the cold stream encountering bats, then eventually had to crawl 100 yards through water, keeping low so not to disturb bats. Once in the room, the stinging of our soggy knees receded and the roar of the waterfall hitting the floor of the cave drowned out all other sounds. Put in the words of Matt Morseth, "This is the most kick ass thing I've ever done."

We awoke to the soothing sounds of Doug and Randy grumbling and shaking out sleeping bags, all the while moaning about how early it was. Doug made us a feast of pancakes and bacon for breakfast. When camp was picked up and put away we headed

off to Ponca the town right outside Steel Creek, our campsite. From there we were on our way to the start of our 11 mile hike through the Ozarks to our end point Compton, Arkansas. We arrived at the head of the trail and patiently waited for Doug and Randy as they shuttled the van. When they got back we grouped up and started down the trail. Dawn, Casey, Andrea and Phil were ahead of the group and were the first to have the pleasure of seeing a snake. Casey, being the brave one, chased it away with a stick. After about three miles down we stopped for lunch at Big Bluff. Big Bluff is a immense overlook about 400 ft. above the river. We explored around the rock formations for about half an hour then ate, all the while gawking at the view which was miles and miles of spring freshness in the hills. The weather was hot and the sun was beating down on our sweaty, unshowered little bodies. We kept hiking and ventured to Granny Henderson's cabin, which is one of the last houses to be occupied in the area. Soon after we came to the river and we met a bunch of Okies puffing on their Marlboros. In other words, it was an alternative program from Oklahoma, just like us, canoeing in the wilderness, and their administration let them SMOKE! Fresh out of water, we headed for Hemmed in Hollow, but decided to take a 45 minute detour around a mountain, through some trees, over a stream that Alison so gracefully bailed into. Then we all decided to freak out at each other. Andrea starts her emotional scale for the rest of the trip by crying because we were lost. After we established where we were and calmed down we finally found Hemmed in Hollow, the most serene, gorgeous place in the world. It's a natural amphitheater 200-300 ft. up with a waterfall that you can stand under and take a natural shower. We soaked our feet and relaxed while Chris, Eric and Matt scaled the rocks to about halfway up. We all knew the last leg of the hike would be a treacherous 2.9 miles, equivalent to 2200 stairs, uphill. Some of us kids hauled with Doug and Randy, while some of us lagged, hot and dehydrated, behind. Andrea was the last one up and after Eric came and took her pack, like the gallant knight he is, she sat on a rock and thought she was going to die from sunstroke. Emily, Lynott and Alison were not too far ahead of her and Alison kept yelling words of encouragement to her. When we finally reached the top of the mountain, exhausted and thirsty, Andrea looked at everyone, sat down and bawled. This hike was not only physical but emotional and a great learning experience. After today, we all know we could do anything together. The first thing we all did when we got back to Steel

Creek was throw ourselves into the cold river and wash the sweat, warmth and tears from our bodies. On the drive back we noticed a lot of small fires and by night they had turned into blaze across the night sky. We were forbidden to have a fire because of the dry weather so we amused ourselves by wandering aimlessly around our campsite. Alison and Anna heard some elk and were completely startled by them. The rest of the group night hiked and we all went to sleep, Alison, Anna, Scott, Matt, Eric, and Wegler trying to sleep in a hammock ,but he gave up and slept on the sandbar with them while Toby, Andrea, Dawn, Casey, Emily, Phil, Mike and Kim went to their respective tents and we fell fast into dreams.

We awoke nervous, because today was our first day in the canoe. We packed all our gear into the vans and passed time running around and hanging out on the sandbar while our teachers shuttled to our next campsite, Erbie. Then we all got together before we all got in our canoes. Doug gave us a thrilling if not tantalizing speech on the J and C stroke. Some of us were pretty confused. A lot of us had never been canoeing on a river. Emily and Mike were the first and most frequent to capsize, and Ennis got a lot of heat from Doug for donating paddles to a tree. We pulled up to a discerning rapid and only the lucky few made it through without a spilling. Emily, Matt, Mike, and Chris met a snake in the river and when Andrea heard about it she kept thinking that every stick was a snake. That's when Toby started calling them the "Arkansas poisonous biting sticks." The scenery on the river was awesome and we were sharing the river with natives of Arkansas. It was a day of laughing and learning about the river. We arrived at Erbie early evening. Our spirits were as high and bright as the sun. We ate dinner and sent Doug and Randy on their way. Our job was to waterproof our personal gear and organize the food while they were shuttling the van. In the mean time the 14 of us were lounging around camp, bitching and moaning about everything everyone was doing wrong. Irritation was flowing through each of us. We just weren't getting anything accomplished. Then the dark looming horizon rolled in and covered up our sweet sunshine. We all scrambled to get everything done. Rain was on its way. We all forgot that we hated each other and helped get the group gear organized then flew into our tents as the rain began. Anna, Alison and Scott refused to be forced into a tent. Because of the rain the three of them ventured off and got wood. They met up with a ranger while they were

trying to get a fire going. He warned them of the impending severe storms and tornados and bid us a good night, meanwhile Doug and Randy were having troubles with the van. When they arrived back at camp the rain was gone. Doug complimented us on our ability to pull together. From here on we were more sensitive to each other's needs and feelings. We were beginning to care about each other. We were all forced to sleep in tents that night because of the rain.

This beautiful morning we got wild and had an exciting breakfast of oatmeal. Bergie and Uncle Randy took off to shuttle the vans to Buffalo Point. Buffalo Point was the final destination in the Ozarks. We spent the day, packing, water proofing, relaxing, and watching a rescue team simulate a rescue. Doug and Randy arrived back at camp and we were on the river within an hour, with very little hassle. We had an enjoyable five mile float to our next stop, Ozark. This was a day to soak in the Arkansas forest and landscape that was unfamiliar to our Minnesota eyes. It was a content time as we got acquainted with our home for the night. Doug entertained us with a story about turtles, and assigned us two journal writings:

1. Find something never seen before. Describe it or draw it in great detail.
 2. How have you become more in touch with nature?
- The evening was filled with singing, playing, and dancing, with some of the locals.

The day started earlier than usual. It was 30 miles to the next site, Mt. Hersey. We were the only people on the river this quiet morning. As the day progressed our A.D.D. kicked in and our voices carried through the hills. Mt. Hersey wasn't what we had expected of it, so we ventured on down the river 100 yards to a gravel bar where we unloaded. Everyone was tired from the long haul that day. The weather had been grand. After dinner and a story around the fire we retired to our sacks. Alison, Anna, Casey, Dawn, Toby and Scott confusingly scrambled in to the tents when the rain awoke them around ten p.m.. The next morning we awoke omery and wet. It had rained all night and was still going. We canoed all morning in the rain, the river was rising and the rapids going stronger. We stopped at Woolum for lunch and pulled our canoes up on shore. We walked up over a small hill and went to the bathroom, put on warm clothes and ate. As we were coming down over the hill, Eric told Doug he had met pine trees smarter than Phil. When Doug looked up laughing, he startled some of us by yelling and we realized the water had risen so fast, three of our boats were floating away down river. Some of us ran after them

and Scott, Dawn and Casey jumped in to get one of them back. It was mass confusion. Doug and Randy had to speed down the river in their canoe to grab one it was so far down. When we all calmed down and got our canoes back we were on our way. We were kind of lagging because of the cold and Doug kept yelling at us to stay together. Casey, Dawn, Scott and Ennis were leading the way with Eric, Kim, Phil and Emily close behind, with Alison, Anna, Andrea, Toby, Matt and Chris bringing up the rear. Because the river was so flooded no one had any indication where to go, so we were left guessing. The rain created two channels in the river and they were divided by raging current, flooded sandbars and treetops. Kim, Eric, Phil and Emily were maneuvering through the trees and Alison and Anna pulled off some tricky turn to avoid going in the river which had reached flood stage by now. Seconds later something took a turn for the worse. Everyone heard Andrea screaming. No one could see Toby and the Red Devil was laying on its side. Everyone realized they had tipped and the canoe was pinned up on some trees. Eric and Phil yelled to each other, landed the canoe, threw out the girls and gear then paddled over to help. Chris and Matt were behind Andrea and Toby so they landed on a sandbar to give some assistance because they were closest. So the 4 guys were trudging through the cold angry river to save Andrea and Toby. It was almost impossible to get your footing, keep it and walk against the current, so they had to hold tree branches when they could. When Eric and Phil made it to where we were, Matt was pulling Toby out and wrestling the cooler out of the river and on to dry land. Andrea was screaming for help, clinging frantically to the top of the tree. All that was going through her head is that she was going to die. When cool, calm, Chris came to get her in the water all she could do was bawl and say "I'm sorry" over and over again. She finally got her footing and Chris stood there as she flipped out in the middle of the Buffalo River. He told her to take his hand and led her to shore. The guys hung on like flood victims on rescue 911 but there wasn't going to be a helicopter, just a few scared, wet, kids, with a canoe pinned against a tree with a cracked gunnel and a Duluth Pack in it full of gear. Everyone was exhausted, freezing cold and had been in that raging current way too long. As they (Eric, Phil, Matt and Chris) stood there they realized their mission wasn't over. They had to get the canoe off of the tree before it snapped in half. So as they struggled and used every last bit of energy to remove the 1000 lbs force canoe from away from that tree, Phil grabbed the Duluth pack and started floating down river with it. Eric screamed at him to let

go because he'll kill himself, but Phil just said "It's Andrea's stuff, she'll kill me", so Chris, Matt, and Eric screamed and fought to get that canoe out of the tree and stay alive. Alison was yelling at Andrea and Doug yelled at Andrea to tell them what's going on. All she could do was cry. Toby gave her a big hug, then came the other guys with the Red Devil. What an adventure. The group pulled over to make sure everyone was all right. We were all cold but all o.k. We got clothes for Eric (who was unusually cold) after he changed and walked around for a while he was fine. It scared us though. Doug gave us the option to camp right where we were for the night and make up the extra miles the next day. None of us wanted to stay there we all wanted to push on - so we did. Dawn helped calm Andrea and everyone was a little freaked. As we were leaving the landing, Andrea was sitting in her canoe crying and Toby was in the back singing Elvis, "I'm all shook up, uh huh". This made everyone laugh because Toby was making light of the situation.

Five minutes after departing we all looked up and noticed that it wasn't raining anymore and the sun was coming out. The Gods love us! Our moods were great. We spent the rest of the afternoon smiling and laughing. We arrived at Tyler's Bend early evening. We spent the evening drying gear and taking care of ourselves. Some wussies even showered. We all slept outside together that night. The next 2 days we were stuck at Tyler Bend. We knew we weren't going anywhere the first day because the river had risen far too high. When we woke up it was completely clear and blue and sunny. Doug and Randy seemed kind of antsy because they had 14 kids and no agenda. We all did our personal stuff that morning. Then we sat down and had a totally intense emotional discussion about the book we were assigned to read "Where the Red Fern Grows". It made some of us really think about how we live and what we take for granted. As we were talking, an older man named James sat down and befriended us. He was there for the rest of our stay at Tyler Bend. We walked up to the Tyler Bend Visitors Center and looked at all the displays on the nature, animals and natives of the land. We then watched two informational movies on the river's history and what it took to keep the river flowing because some people wanted it to be dammed. We met a wonderful lady, Roxanna, who is a park ranger and some of us hung out with her during our stay. After lunch everyone except Eric and Andrea, who were feeling ill, went on a nature hike with James and Roxanna and learned about muscle wood and how baby diapers can be made out of moss and many other facts about the plant life in the area. We

cleaned up the pavilion and relaxed for the rest of the day. The next morning we were hopeful about getting back on the river and had we left ten minutes before, we would've gone, but Roxanna told us not to otherwise we would get arrested because the water was still up fifteen feet and the natural river was closed for canoeing. After much vacillating through our options, we were forced to stay put. During the day we met some kids, read, played, tanned and relaxed. Doug and Randy shuttled the vans to Tyler Bend because we were forced to end our trip 30 miles early. Knowing the trip had ended early there were a lot of mixed emotions within us. We hadn't been able to finish what we started. But we realized that wasn't true. Physically we didn't get there, but emotionally we did. We were proud of ourselves and each other.

That afternoon and night, we had so much free time we weren't sure what to do. The incident that sticks out the most was "Sweetie" (Dawn) slowly turning "Pumpkin" (Casey) into pumpkinhead, meathead, then a word I cannot print. We had our last fire, shall we say bonfire, that night. We laughed alot and talked about the trip. Slowly we drifted into sleep.

We got up in the morning, packed, and drove into Gilbert, Arkansas, to the Riverside Cafe for breakfast which was delicious and served by a sassy Arkansas waitress. After breakfast we all did some wandering around the "town" (43 people). Toby made friends with the dogs that peed on Alison and Andrea fell in love with a cute deadhead boy. We got into the van to leave Arkansas behind. Most of us were sad, but in a wonderful, sunshiney way. We made it back to Knob Noster, set camp, then zoomed off for a Royals/ Orioles baseball game in Kansas City. It was a good time but way too long. There we learned that "Royals kick butt" and permed ten year old girls are evil. It was later when we got back to camp and most of us went to sleep right away.

We ate breakfast in a small diner in Knob Noster that morning, then drove home to Minnesota. We got to school, unpacked, got some pictures taken of us sunburned and happy, then went home and back to the normality of it all. We went away, loving each other, and knowing life was never going to be the same.

We all came home better from the experience. We learned what life is really about. We are human beings, we were made to live in harmony with the

earth, the trees and the water, these things and companionship are things important, not money, fast cars and big houses. The 16 of us were completely free. We had no boundaries to stop us from growing.

We lived every one of these 14 days to the fullest. Now our challenge is to take what we've learned and apply it to our lives here. None of us can go back to the way things were before. We can't let our dreams die.

Love,

Mike Ennis "Ennis to Society and Kermit"
Andrea Hamilton "Red !*#\$, Red Devil, Red Wonder"
Anna "Whatever" Saclolo
Alison "Forever" Young
Kim "Lightning Bolts" Colway
Chris Wegler "Christina Stumbles"
Emily Richards "Weather Wench"
Casey "Pumpkin" Wright
Dawn "Sweetie" Hesselgrave
Eric "The Bike Man" Thomas
Phil "Why Not, Lyna, Phillis" Lynott
Matt "We wear short shorts" Morseth
Toby "Music Man" Marshall
Scott "Scotty" Vetter
Doug "Bergie" Berg
"Uncle" Randy Nelson

Trip Quotes:

"Kill it!! Kill it!!!"

Stumbles on everything that moved.

"I love rock and roll, put another dime in the juke box baby."

Anna every five minutes.

"Hey guys, let's skip rocks."

The boys at every stop.

"Phil wins the prize for the lousiest rock tower!!"

Doug on Phils attempt to build a rock tower.

"Andrea, you have the most interesting talent, you can go from ecstatic to severely depressed in less than five seconds."

Doug on Andrea.

"Here we come, we are the b!@#%ds!!"

Anna and Alison on the river.

"Kim, your bangs look like lightning bolts."
Andrea giving Kim her nickname.

"Whatever and Forever"
Doug affectionately referring to Anna and Alison.

"Lynott!! Get up before I kick your butt!!"
Doug telling Phil that it is time to roost.

Trip Song

Change- written by Shannon Hoon

I don't feel the sun coming out today, it's staying in,
gonna find a better way. As I sit here in this misery I
don't think I'll ever know lord seen the sun from here.
And oh as I fade away, they'll all look at me and say
and they'll say, "Hey look at him, I'll never live that
way." and that's o.k. they're just afraid to change.
When you feel life ain't worth living you got to stand
up and take a look away, look way up to the sky. And
when your deepest thoughts are broken, keep on
dreaming boy, "cause when you stop dreaming it's
time to die.

And as we all play parts of tomorrow some ways will
work and other ways will play. But I know we can't all
stay here forever, so I will write my words on the face
of today. And then I'll paint it.

And oh, as I fade away, they all look at me and say
"Hey look at him, and where he is these days."
When life is hard you have to change.

About A Man

By Anna Saclolo

I see the sand driven mountains and the wind blown
sea,
I hear the birds over head in the sky towering trees.
There's a man over yonder where the sky is painted
red,
Yes his skin has been tom and his eye's have bled.
He looks to the sky as he falls to the ground,
He reaches to his mind for a savior that's not yet
been found.
So he crawls to the mountain, there's a cave where
he can go.
And on his way he had stopped where the river
flow....
Then the wind blows stronger and he's again on his
way,
Up to the mountains, it is there he will lay.

MATT MORSETH AT
Big Bluff, Arkansas



Looking Back in Mini-School

By Doug Berg

20 Years Ago - Spring '76

Tom Lambrecht did the artwork for the cover (he was the '76 version of Casey Wright). Carla Schiro and Mike Rishavy wrote some good poetry.

A winter trek to Wolf Lake Refuge was undertaken by teachers Doug Berg, Randy Nelson, and Nick Jambeck and students Steve LePage, Gail Logelin, Betty Pfiffner (Josh Day's mom), Roger Ruther, Lynn Sevey, Andy Korn, and Brett Otterson. The article states that "Betty Pfiffner's main contributions were jolly complaints and bitches."

An article was written about the 1st (5 year) ever Mini-School Reunion. \$240.00 was donated by the alumni for the current Mini-School program.

A big group of people went to the Grand Canyon. The staff were Linda Douglas, Nick Jambeck, Lester Hughes-Seamans. Alumni and students included Darnelle Dallman, Steve LePage, Larry Deerson, Jim Jensen, Martha Nevin, Roger Ruther, Rob Rehberger, Rick Geyen, Scott Rand, Brett Otterson, Dirk Dehnel, Leigh Farrell, Rick Rogney, John Laughlin, Drew Anderson, Mike Weitalla, Danny Zoellmer, Ginnie Reifenberger, John Meakins, and Argus.

15 Years Ago - Spring '81

A backpack trip went to The Great Smoky Mountains. Participants included Doug, Joanne, Marty Cook, Tim Scott, Dave Scott, Lisa Hastings, Tami Gerhard, Jeff Kinzer, Kirk LeBlanc, and Lynn Parkhurst.

Mini-School had an awesome softball team - undefeated, this spring against several other schools. Spring outings to the Zoo and the Omni Theater were reported on by Roger Anderson and Andy Lippler.

10 Years Ago - Spring '86

The following students' picture graced the cover of this issue: Mark Erickson and Tamy Anderson, Vo-Tech award winners. Also Mini-School's championship volleyball team: Linda Peterson, Kent Knacke, Chris Peterson, Stacy Neils, John Goggans, and Kris Henning.

Troy Wheeler was the featured student in this issue, recognized for his good performance in Mini-School, his musicianship, and his fine work on his job.

Ryan Ward and Lesley Zaun reported on the Mini-School trip to Florida, led by teacher Norm Garneau and participated in by students Scott Plzak, Kelly Puett, Edie Berglund, Mark Eriksson, Ryan and Lesley.

Jennifer Bormes wrote about her job at Rolling Acres, John Noren wrote of Mini-Schooler's favorite rock music, Mike Matsunaga wrote some good poetry, and Mike Lewis reported on The BWCA winter camping trip, participated in by Doug, Linda "Spud" Meissner, Padie "Flash" Sapp, Rob Welch, Don Doty, and alumnus Jim "JJ" Jensen.

5 Years Ago - Spring '91

Matt McCrady designed the cover for this issue, a surreal Mini-School canoe paddling off into the wilderness.

Josh Rockstad wrote some good poetry and conducted an interview on the Gulf War with 1990 Mini alumnus, Dave Nestberg, then a marine who was there.

Herman the Mouse wrote a long article about the Florida bike trip, led by Doug and participated in by students Steph Tucker, Chad Zaback, Terry Vincent, Matt McCrady, Brian "Young'un" Nelson, Zack Benway, Chris Schueneman, Brent "Drifty" Thompson, and Josh Rockstad.

Chris Bagdons wrote a terrific poem, "Ode to Da Barge."

Matt "Meatball" Richard wrote a featured student article on Brian "Young'un" Nelson, commending him for not getting a big head after receiving the Student Recognition Award.

Together Dawn Norton led a trip to the Northwestern artificial Limb Company in Minneapolis. Lisa Meskin,

Steve Bauman, Natasha Copeland, Mike Persson, and Karlene Knacke attended.

Josh Rockstad wrote a top 5 laziest Mini-Schoolers of the year, Steve Bauman made all 5 spots.

Heather Downs wrote of Lester and Dawn's diet and nutrition class, vowing to cut her Big Mac intake from six per week to four or five.

Mini School Recognition Night

By Kristi Dahl

On Tuesday June fourth at 7:00 pm, it will be the annual Recognition Night, a time for parents, relatives and friends to join Mini-School in acknowledging its awesome students and their accomplishments.

Every year students spend time preparing the slide show, background music and awards given to students for their achievements.

Last year we had a special speaker, just like we do every year. Our speaker was Jim Klobuchar. This year our special speaker will be Lester Hughes-Seamans, a close friend of the Mini-School staff and students and also a former Mini-School teacher.

Students put hard work into Recognition Night, and so does the staff. Recognition Night is Mini-School's own way of saying congratulations to each and every student individually.

Please come join Mini-School for this special event on June fourth. Thank you!

Graduates

By Nicole Tiggas and Molly Latterner

There are a lot of Mini-Schoolers who have graduated or will graduate this year.

Jeff Dack, Scott Hedtke, Raymond Morse, and Al Wright all graduated in November.

Also these people graduated later this year :
Brandon Petron, Z Rossi, Susan and Sara Pipkorn, Sarah Iverson, Patty Heien, Casey Wright, and Dawn Hesselgrave.

And there are quite a few people who will graduate at the end of this year:

Chris Alexander-Utne

Cory Clay

Rachael Guffan

Gabe Hargrove

Lisa Kopecky

Emily Matejcek

Matt Morseth

Jed Norman

Will Scheidler

Justin Secor

Alison Young

We would like to congratulate all of the graduates or soon to be graduates and wish them lots of luck in their futures.

Love-Mini- School's
Staff and students

Guitar Lessons

Acoustic, Electric and Bass

*Thirty minute or one hour private lessons in my Minnetonka studio
Saturday and Sunday times available
All levels of playing including beginners*



Styles Include:
rock
alternative
jazz
blues
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Exciting bass playing techniques including: slapping, popping and 2-handed tapping

26

"Master Theory, technique, sight reading, ear training and improvisational skills

*Learn to play all your favorite songs and write and record your own
For further information or to schedule a free trial lesson ::
Contact Jenny at 927-8145—your call will be returned promptly*

New Student Profile

By Andrea Hamilton

In talking with the new students I realized that they are all cool, have many interests and that most everyone thinks marijuana should be legalized.

Here are the questions I asked and all their responses:

- (1) What was your first impression of Mini-School?
- (2) Do you plan on taking trips or have you been on any yet?
- (3) How do you feel about anarchists?
- (4) What's your worst fear?
- (5) What's your biggest goal - what do you see yourself doing in five years?
- (6) Do you have a crush on anyone in Mini? (You don't have to name names.)
- (7) What's your impression of Doug?
- (8) Should it be legalized?
- (9) What's your thing?
- (10) Do you believe in vampires or God?

RYAN BOYUM - SOPHOMORE

- (1) Mini was different that he expected - he had a bad impression of Mini from his sister - who used to go here but now that he is in he feels differently and he likes it.
- (2) Next year he wants to go on lots of trips, especially BWCA and the big spring trip.
- (3) He thinks anarchy wouldn't work because there would be no law.
- (4) Being dropped from Mini and school.
- (5) He wants to do something with his hands, something that makes him happy.
- (6) No.

(7) He's funny and easy to get along with.

(8) Uh, yeah, I think so - it's something to smoke and it's natural and think of all the medical purposes.

(9) Sports.

(10) No / yes.

GENO FARACI - SOPHOMORE

- (1) I didn't think I was going to like it or fit in.
- (2) He's leaving for the Bigfork River trip on May 15, and wants to go on lots of trips next year.
- (3) I have no opinion on this subject.
- (4) Flying in planes.
- (5) Maybe a mechanic, I like to work with my hands.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) He's cool, hopefully we will have fun on the trip.
- (8) I believe so, there's so many people that do it anyway.
- (9) I'm in the middle of everything.
- (10) He said he's sure there are people who are vampires but he's never met any, and yes he believes in God.

ANN KOHMAN - SOPHOMORE

- (1) She thought it'd be easy with no work. There's a lot more than she expected.
- (2) She definitely plans to take trips next year.
- (3) She doesn't pay attention to it.
- (4) Never getting married.
- (5) Graduating / no idea.
- (6) No.
- (7) He's cool.

- (8) Yes.
- (9) Music is my life.
- (10) Yeah.

TONY KOHMAN - SOPHOMORE

- (1) Cool.
- (2) Yeah a couple next year.
- (3) (laughs) I don't think they are right.
- (4) Burning to death.
- (5) He wants to make lots of money to support a family (if anyone will marry him).
- (6) No.
- (7) Oh, I like Doug a lot, he's really cool. I like all the teachers.
- (8) Yes, definitely.
- (9) Cars / work / girls.
- (10) No, people can be vampires but I don't believe in them. Yes, I believe in God.

DAN ORAIVEJ - SOPHOMORE

- (1) He thought it was crazy and he hated it - it's much better now.
- (2) He wanted to participate in trips but now he's moving and can't.
- (3) He says it's their opinion and he thinks it's be cool.
- (4) He doesn't know.
- (5) He said he'd work, probably not at the best job, but a job.
- (6) No.
- (7) Doug's cool - a little weird.
- (8) Maybe in someplaces.

- (9) Sports.
- (10) No / yes.

ERIC OTTUM - JUNIOR

- (1) Easy, I guess.
- (2) He's going on the summer canoe trip.
- (3) Dedicated yet misdirected.
- (4) To be helpless.
- (5) He wants to be the same person.
- (6) No.
- (7) He thinks Doug is young for his age.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) He's really into martial arts.
- (10) Yeah, both.

PETE RIEDEL - JUNIOR

- (1) He thinks Mini is cool.
- (2) Yeah, he wants to go on trips.
- (3) I think it's dumb. If there's no government you're screwed.
- (4) I don't know.
- (5) He wants to be an aviation mechanic.
- (6) No.
- (7) He's a nice guy.
- (8) No.
- (9) He works all the time.
- (10) No / no.

CHRIS SMIEJA - SENIOR

- (1) He said he thinks people in Mini are nicer than mainstream.

(2) I haven't been on any yet.

(3) He thinks anarchy could be good with no government but if people started little governments, that would be no good.

(4) Drowning.

(5) He sees himself being a psychologist in 10 years.

(6) No.

(7) He is loud and outgoing.

(8) Yes.

(9) I'm a people person! I like people.

(10) No / yes.

Possibilities how Hall Monitors Became Hall Monitors.

By Gabe Hargrove

5. They got so attached to high school, even the thought of leaving was incomprehensible.
4. They couldn't make it as cops.
3. They never grew out of that childhood phase of playing commando with walkie talkies.
2. Through pathological complications they thought respect would be a huge factor involving their job.
1. They were complete degenerates as kids. They somehow need to get back at this cruel, mean world. Through a spiritual awakening, they found that the field of hall monitoring was perfect for them.

Featured Teacher

By Anna Saclolo

Mrs. Tabbot was my choir teacher for three years. She teaches at Rockford High School. Mrs. Tabbot has been teaching at Rockford for 13 years. I met her when I came to Rockford in 1990, to start 8th grade. At that time choir was a required class. I really didn't like it at first because I was the rebellious type and didn't get into old fashioned, "old style" music. I was more into Megadeth, a heavy metal band, or at times considered rock. HA! HA! As the year went on, I grew to like the music as Mrs. Tabbot introduced it to me. All kinds of music. From Pop- to- Jazz- to-Opera- to- classical. I enjoy singing, and that had something to do with it. Mrs. Tabbot showed me the meaning behind the different styles. What I got out of it was the way I felt singing after understanding the different styles. I felt awesome, after choir I felt good from the inside out. I'm sure all of her students have benefited from the knowledge she's shared. THANK YOU MRS. TABBOT!

I live for the night,
Stalk you for your fright,
And drain you ~~of~~ your blood,
Then toss your lifeless body into the mud,
Feel the horrific power run through my body,
Yes, God I have been very naughty,
But what are you going to do?
Nothing, because I own you.

By: Chris Utne

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS, WE GET STACKS AND STACKS OF LETTERS. SOME OF THEM....

Dear Mini School Staff and Students,

Thank you so much for the Winter 1996 issue of Com-Mini-Cations. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the articles and poems in this edition. I also appreciated the reminder about Recognition Night and have put June 4 on my calendar to attend your celebrations that night.

Congratulations to you all on a very entertaining and honestly written publication. I found it to be very refreshing reading following a busy day doing routine office work.

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

Doug,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Winter Issue of Com-Mini-Cations. I especially enjoy reading the trip summaries and the profiles of students. Please convey my congratulations to your student editors Emily Matejeck and Alison Young. I know these are a fair amount of work to pull together!

Mike Lovett

Dear Joanne,

Thanks for the letter and the references from Doug. Please thank Doug for me, it's wonderful. I was going to stop by this week, then I realized you are on spring break!

I'm now on a regular schedule at River Falls. If you need a sub, most of the time I can work until 11a.m except for Fridays. If you need a sub in advance, I think I can switch to a later shift, presently I work 12:30-pm Mon-Thurs and 9:30-5 p.m on Friday. I was offered a job in Equador, but I turned it down. Hopefully I won't regret this.

Thanks also for the latest issue of Com-Mini-Cations. It's great. Hope all is well with you, the staff and students.

Thanks again, Josette

Boys in Blue

Dear Mini-School staff and students,
Greetings and salutations guys and gals. All right that was a terrible opening, but what do you want? "Have a great Navy day?" Anyway this is just another note from one of your boys in blue (really they're black). Well, Scooter and I went our separate ways March 5, I'm up the street at the naval training center, Great Lakes, IL. Right now I'm in basic engineering and in about 5-6 weeks, I'll be in gas turbine systems school. I've gone to Chicago several times now, such an interesting city. I went to the Museum of Science and Industry, Buckingham Fountain, Rockefeller Cathedral, and of course a tattoo shop. (Sailors and tattoos, go figure!) Plus a numerous amount of other places. I myself haven't heard from Al or Scooter, but I'm sure they are doing fine. My mother sent me the winter issue of Com-Mini. Very nice issue, except whoever wrote the "Winter: Damn it's Cold" article, you have no idea until you have to march in it. I appreciate you guys putting my letter in Com-Mini. I ended up moving to master-at-arms, and received a metorius paycrode advance from my division commander. Welcome back Anna, it's just not the same without my hair. Congrats to Pauline and welcome aboard Josette. Mini-School is a really great program, enjoy it while you're there. Hey Leroy, I'd ask God "Why can't I wear f@#!\$n civilian clothes yet!?" Just thought I'd include that. Other than that, not too much new here, so I'll finish my letter with "Billy, you had better write me before I kick your civilian butt all over the place!"

Love, Pugsley
Class of '94

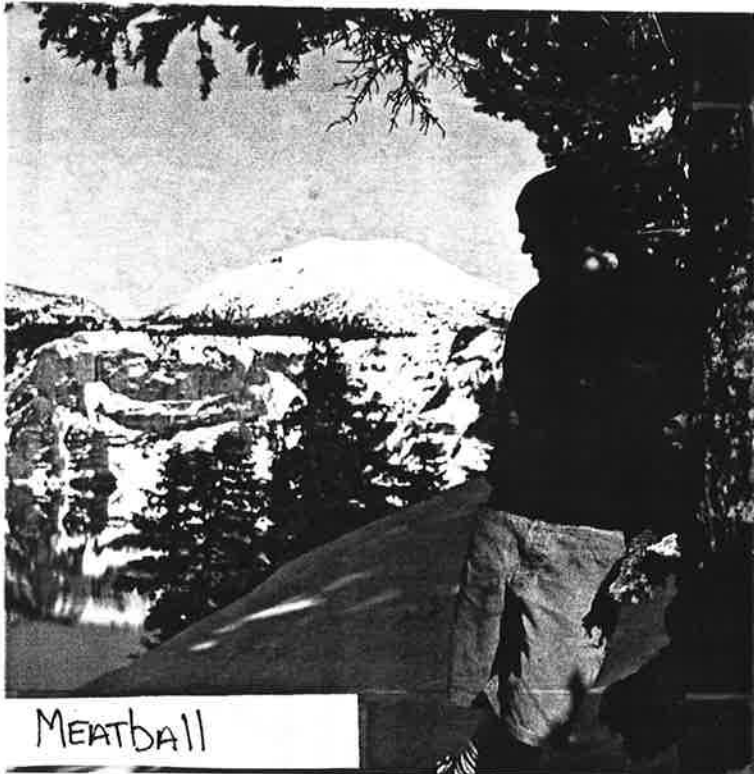
FA Bartram, Keith 042720904
SSC BEQ 837 WC252 RM 325
2603 Sheridan Rd
Great Lakes, IL
60088-5400

Hey Mini-School!

It's me! Chris! Well, here I am at Fort Campbell, KY., and I thought I'd drop a line since I missed most of you when I was on leave. Right now I'm sitting at this neat little cafe...."The Retro Caffe." (There are two f's there.) The first coffee house in Clarksville, TN. Whew. They let me read poetry on Tues. and Fri. nights, here.

Army life is treating me all right. Well, at least the pay is steady. They even let me fly helicopters, every once in a while (not officially, of course). Tomorrow, I get to jump out of an airplane, getting paid \$330.00 to do so. I get to play with expensive toys that make outrageously loud noises. They even let me sleep in to well past five in the morning! They're talking about sending me to the field for a month, to live in a tent, backpack half the forests of Southern U.S.A. The only real differences between there and Mini trips are: I wear a uniform, no canoes involved, and we don't have "The Spoon." Of course Army cooks are slightly less talented than Doug. But hey, if it gets too bad, I'll break out an M.R.E. (meal ready to eat) and be living the highlife!

I'm outta here,
Chris Wilmont



Dear Mini,

Hey y'all, this is Matt (Meatball), still lovin' it out here in Oregon. (Proper pronunciation: O-rah-gun). I just finished another term in school and now I have turned my brain off for the next week so that I may live in blissful ignorance once more. I've been doing real well in school, in fact I've been maintaining a 3.3 GPA ever since I started last year. I took an educational theory class this term and wrote a paper entitled, "What do we need to change? A look at making schooling more relevant to Social Experience." It mainly focused on applying the Progressive Education theory put forth by J. Dewey to the goals set forth by modern day policy makers. O.K., so this entire paragraph was meant to impress upon you the idea that I'm really doing something.

I haven't been able to snowboard this year, or play soccer, because this f*!?!+@dips!*!?! kicked my knee out at a soccer tournament last year. The only good side of my new-found disability is that I'll be coming home next year (for yet another surgery) and my studies were probably helped because I wasn't snowboarding everyday like I should have been.

Here is a pretty scary thought; Matt Richard will be a student teacher next term. Yes, that is right, next time I enter a high school classroom I will be on the other end of the room, not hiding in back next to Oafie with the doughnut and pop I so stealthfully snuck in. I'm pretty freaked but I'm looking forward to the experience.

We got the latest shipment of Com-Mini-Cations and I will begin to deliver them on my way to work today. This last issue was great, I never really read "Meandering through Mini" until I graduated, but now I love to hear what is going on with everyone. I really like the articles by Mike Jacobson, he's a real funny guy.

That is about all from Bend. Lola is in Minnesota right now, so I'm sure she has already said "hi" and everything is just peachy. So you all take care of yourselves and don't let "the man" bring you down.

Love always,
Meatball

Editor's note: We can only hope that Meatball's class will be filled with Rockstad's, Zaback's, Tucker's, McCrady's, Oafies's, Terry's, and Young'uns. What goes around comes around.

D.B.

WORD FIND



Picnic
Sun
Blossom

Rain
Buds
Beach

Flowers
Spring
Summer

By
Christina

Recovery

By Andrea Hamilton

As I sit in a coffee shop, my primal existence place, I sometimes wonder how I got here from where I was one year ago. I was angry, sick and frustrated with life. I had few values or morals, and the ones I had accumulated had vanished. My integrity was gone and I hurt inside all the time. I cannot begin to tell you the demon I had become. Since I was twelve I had been using drugs on a weekly if not daily (which it became) basis. I went through treatment, hoping to "get better" in my sophomore year. My family was hopeful of having a relationship with me again and me hopeful of getting my life back. I stayed sober for six months, still angry, afraid and lonely. I could not see what would help, so I started using again.

The next eight months were awful. When I was 16 I dropped out of the Arts High School (which could have started my career) and left my house. I couch hopped for awhile, stayed up all night in 24 hour restaurants, because I had no place to go, but I always had my drugs. I moved in with my friend for four months. I could never pay my bills and never saw sunlight, because I was up until dawn and got up at dusk.

I went to North Carolina to visit some friends and thought about staying because life here sucked. But I knew it would follow me. I came home and for the next three months cried myself to sleep. I went out to dinner with my Mom and Dad and all but got on my knees, and begged to come home. They agreed so long as I was sober. So I lied and told them I had been sober. I lied to get whatever I wanted. I came home and two weeks later they told me to get out or change. I changed.

The next day I went to an AA meeting, which was the start of my recovery. Since that time, I've gotten my integrity, my honesty and my love back. I've found spirituality and the relationship with my family has improved ten fold. It's not always perfect, because I'm human and so are they, but there's love and communication that wasn't there for years. I have friends like you wouldn't believe, close, caring, full of life, love and laughter. I am happy, in school, on my way to a diploma, getting a job, money and most of my dreams and goals are back.

Being in Mini School has helped a lot of this along,

with my parents, my sober friends and meetings. I have learned not to be ashamed of my past because it's made me who I am and I have learned what's really important in life. Life hasn't been easy in the last year, but I'm still here, alive and sober for one year on May 26th. Life's always going to have its struggles, but I know I am strong and willing to believe God and the human race. I know that being honest and true to yourself will bring many things.

I want to thank my Mom and Dad for giving me not only a second chance, but a 16th and 17th chance. I'd like to thank all you in Mini, my teachers and friends for your love, belief in my ability and support.

I wish I could give back all that I ever took from everyone, but what's awesome is that I'm trying and you can see that and it feels good to know you are proud of me and support me even if I make mistakes. Sometimes I miss the partying and "freedom" from responsibility, but life is so fun and I am more free than I ever have been before. Thank you all and I love you.

Staying Warm and Dry with Bunny

By Bunny

You are on the Minnesota bike trip and it's pouring rain, it's been raining for days. Luckily you're keeping dry. This is because some Mini students took time to get out of class to seam seal these tents.

Since I'm the resident chief seam sealer I was entrusted with educating future seam sealers on Monday, May 6. I took Will Schiedler, Mike Phelps, and Tony Cruikshank.

Seam sealing is an art. First you get a new clean brush. Then you put it in the seam sealer. You have to work it in the seams to do a real good job. Then you let it sit for a couple hours. You can also close yourself in the tent with the seam sealer. This works real good if you are looking for a buzz.

That's all that there is to seam sealing tents. If you are going to do this, it takes lots of practice. Have fun sealing.

Need a Plastic Thing?

By Emily Matejcek and Lisa Kopecky

Randy Bedford graduated in 1971, the very first year of Mini-School. Twenty six years ago. Chris Bagdons who was not even born in 1971 graduated from Mini in 1993. These two characters, believe it or not, are now working together and have a great relationship with one another.

So we had this interview to do. We hopped in the car and went to Prototype Products. The point of us going there was to talk to Randy Bedford and Chris Bagdons and here their story. We got there and ended up waiting around, but we were early, so it wasn't Randy's fault. He gave us a tour of his work place, where we found out how to make plastic parts. First, he told us about how people use aluminum molds instead of steel molds when they want to make thousands of molds real fast. Steel molds are better quality. To make a mold they make a design on a computer which goes on a floppy disk. When you put the disk in a molding making machine it automatically makes a mold.

Some molds are used 10 thousand times a year, others like molds used for measuring rivers by the natural resources are only used 50 times. Then there's the Dirt Devil company who spent \$80,000 just to make a few parts which were only used once. Some of the plastic products they made were things to help mute people talk, and special little police talkie things that made Randy confess that he doesn't like authority figures.

Randy got to his job as a purchasing, ordering, finding best supplier, making sure things come on time project manager, by doing just about everything. Chris got to his job as a shipping, taking care of hazardous waste and recycling, driving and quality control, by doing everything under that first category also. As you can tell they are both definitely not slackers.

Chris started working for Randy after they had an interview in the Mini-School office. Randy hired someone else for the job that he had originally wanted someone for, a press operator, but hired Chris anyway, because of his positive attitude. The press operator ended up to not be such a good choice, so Chris was moved up. The first press operator got a Christmas bonus and only worked

there a week and Chris didn't happen to get one. We sensed some unhappiness about this situation.

Both Randy and Chris got a lot out of Mini-School. It prepared Chris for the service and it helped Randy to appreciate the environment, have a better outlook on life and develop values. They both thought of Doug and Randy as more than role models, but friends. As Randy quoted, "Mini-School is an environment to develop human potential". Chris's comment was, "Randy Nelson's radio voice". They seemed to have the same views about the administration in that they think that as Randy put it, "they should appreciate what they have". All in all, the interview was very successful. Thank you Randy and Chris for your input and tour.

Top Ten Ways To Get Rid Of Stress

By Geno Feraci

10. Fill your inner soul with incense smoke.
9. Go to a happy place.
8. Watch Snow White.
7. Talk with animals.
6. Be one with change.
5. Study the existential imagination.
4. Count to 100 (if you can not do that count to 10 ten times.)
3. EAT
2. Get intimate
1. Sit in the Yoga position and say "Ommmmnoonm" for an hour

Festival of Nations

By Kelsey Crawford

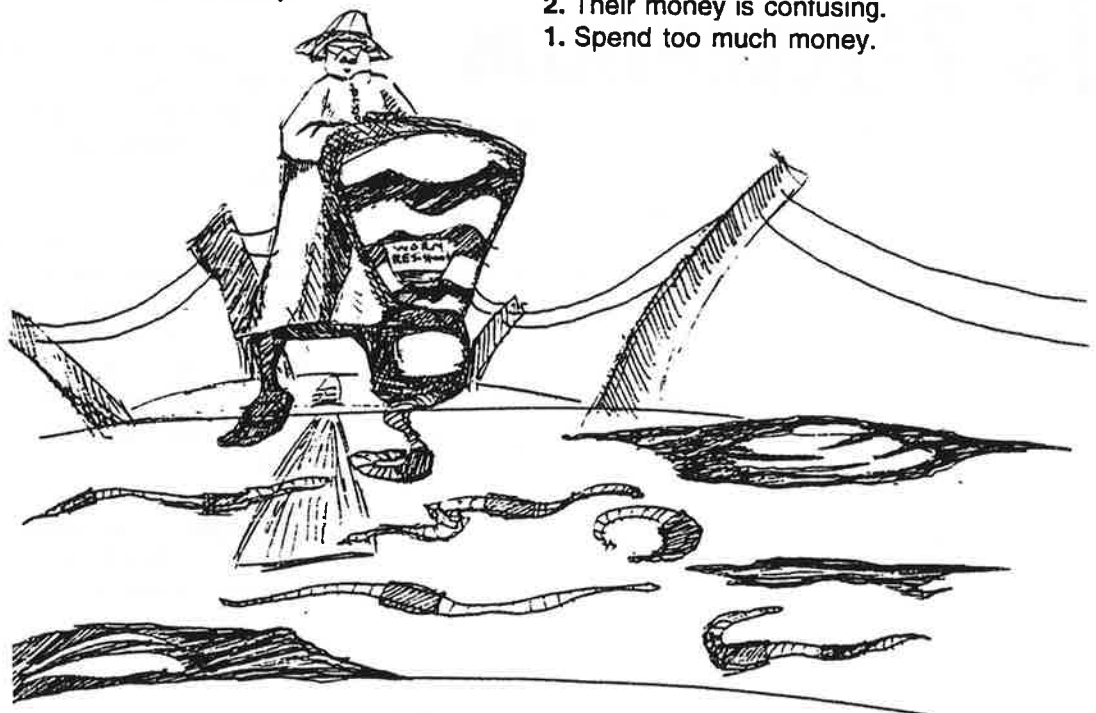
On Friday May 3rd, Toby, Matt, Jed, Mike, Lacey, Eric, Kim, Clint, and I, Kelsey, went to the Festival of Nations. It was really great just like last year. The only thing that really stands in the way of having a good time is the crowd of people. It was so crowded (but having a good time is a frame of mind.) There were hundreds of people from all over the world. They had a court with tons of food from Europe, Australlia, Canada, South America, Africa, Australia, Central America, and Asia.

They had a replica of a market, stands from every country with jewels, clothes, dishes, books, bags, hats....etc.

I don't know what everyone's favorite was, but I got sucked into the booth from Egypt, a bunch of gypsies dressed in gold and crimson red were selling intricate chain mail jewelry. I bought a necklace for \$8.00 there. Then I bought a necklace made from Porcupine quills for \$5.00 from Peru. Last year my favorite booth was one from Tibet, where I bought a velvet top hat made by a Tibetan monk from Katmandu.

Anyways it was crazy like always. We were all surprised to see Mason, Sothik and K.C. pay us a visit. Lacey actually talked me into going on stage and do an Ethnic dance from Poland in front of thousands of people.

So if you ever feel the need to get away you can go to Poland, Jamaica, Peru, Egypt, Australia, Nicaragua, Switzerland, Tibet, Africa, Ireland....all in one day!



Top 10 Least Hyper People in Mini

By Anna Saclolo

10. Jed Norman
9. Matt Morseth
8. Kim Colway
7. Casey Bakken
6. Cory Clay
5. Toby Marshall
4. Lisa Kopecky
3. Mike Ennis
2. Lenny Weissner
1. Jason Frank

Top 10 Reasons Not to go to Mexico.

By Matt Morseth

10. Bushes are too nice to just walk by.
9. Bus drivers won't let you sleep.
8. You should never be alone.
7. Drinking age is 16.
6. Too many bars.
5. Very crowded.
4. Getting sunburn sucks.
3. They speak Spanish, I don't.
2. Their money is confusing.
1. Spend too much money.

The Referendum

By Tami Olson

On April 23, 1996 the referendum passed with only 303 votes. A lot of people feel that it would not have passed if it weren't for the students votes.

Remodeling will start this summer and continue into the next school year. During the school year sections of the schools will have to be closed to prevent any possible injury, and when they are doing the second floor of the high school the classrooms directly below will not be able to hold classes because of the noise level and again-incase of injury.

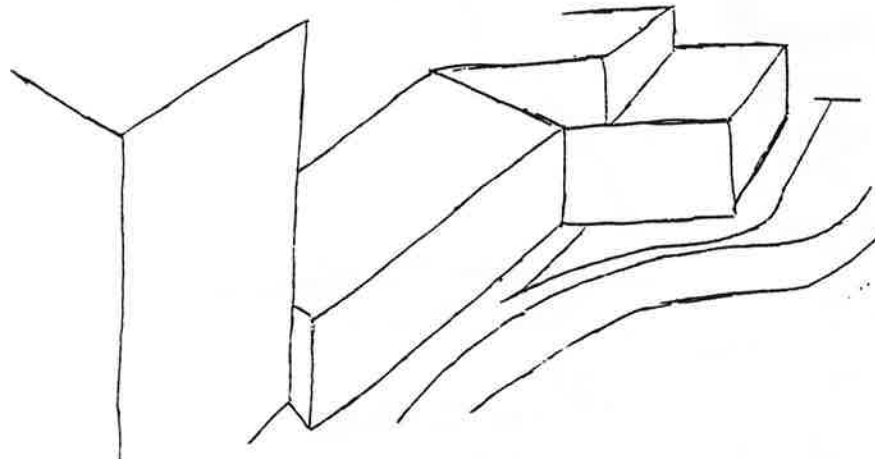
When I talked to Dr. Mook she said they were uncertain as to what they would do if the referendum did not pass. One possibility would be putting up portables around the lot which would result in less parking space for students.

One question that is frequently asked is what will happen to Mini School. Dr. Mook said that they plan to try and leave Mini just as it is. The only change will be the possibility of losing our storage room and we would have to move our stuff downstairs to the main storage area.

We will definitely be benefiting from this. The construction will be inconvenient for all of us, but in the long run we will all be a lot happier.

1996, REFERENDUM

MINNETONKA SENIOR + JUNIOR SCHOOL



Want Ads

By Kristi Dahl

For Sale: 3 all white wooden dressers, one long, one tall, one average, best offer. For info. call: 474-9153.

For Sale: A 10-speed Huffy road bike with drop bars. Best offer, call: 933-0313.

For Sale: 1989 Ford Conversion van, \$8500, 5.8 liter, 79,000 miles, power windows, locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, front & rear heat, t.v., 4 captain seats (flex sted), burgundy with graphics, too many options to list - if interested call: 474-3500 ext. 782 or see Frances at the locker office.

For Sale: 1989 Ford probe Lx, \$4400, 2.2 liter, 83,000 miles, 5 speed, sun roof, digital, instrumental all power options. Color - white with red pin stripes, if interested call: 474-3500 ext. 782 or see Frances at the locker office.

For Sale: Sony computer, Pre/286, 19 inches, black/white monitor, \$25.00, also for sale by Frances: 474-3500 ext. 782.

For Sale: Guitar, cherry wood, great condition, two flaws, small nick by the head and small nick on the back, dual humbucker pickups, tremmo, midrange and rhythm switch, 4 volume and tone knobs, brass bridgings, for more info. call Collin: 474-1176.

For Sale: 93' Cannondale v-700, front adjustable shock, shimano deore XT components, \$650, also roll bar with one Hella light and front kc lights, for roluger, Dakota, S-10, etc. \$250, for info call: 474-3164.

For Sale: 94' Izusu red pickup, 30,000 miles, tinted windows, alarm, locking fiber glass bed cover, stereo, ~~\$7800~~ 7200, call Joanne: 474-6351.

For Sale: Uncool car but excellent reliable transportation to get you to school on time, 87' Honda Civic hatchback, \$2700, call Joanne: 474-6351.

For Sale: Bike racks, 2 different styles, \$25.00 for one and \$50.00 for the other. Fits anything, call Joanne: 474-6351.

Festival of Nations

Grand Marais

Woolum, Arkansas
Cumberland, Wisconsin
Gunflint Trail
Ozark

Paulson mine

LOOK WHERE

Kaufman Stadium

Wind in the willows

Timberland Hills

Beaver Dam Creek

St. Louis River
Ponca, AR

Been Falls Hollow

MINI-SCHOOLS

BEEEN THIS

YEAR!

Knob Noster

10th Valley
East Bay Hotel

Erbie

Colter Peak
Indianhead

Old Faithful

Mt. Sheridan

Hemmed-in-hollow

Yellowstone River

Hansons ranch
Bingshick Lake

Cob cave

Kekekabic Trail

Billings, Montana

Aukitti'Dane

Buffalo River

Dacotian Tent Arkansas

Carlton, MN
Steel Creek

Heart Lake

Yellowstone Lake

Cody, Wyoming

Gilbert, Arkansas

Bossmar, MI

Saw Trail

Sioux Falls hiking trail

Mini-School Program
Minnetonka High School
Minnetonka School District # 276
261 School Avenue
Excelsior, MN 55331

U.S. Postage Paid
Excelsior, MN 55331
Permit #66

May 1996

Address Correction Requested

Have a great summer!
Love,
Mini-School