

# COM - MINI - CATIONS



WINTER ISSUE '96



# Meandering Through Mini-School

By Randy Nelson

Winter is moving along and soon the indoor soccer season, downhill skiing, and winter camping will give way to canoeing, bicycling, outdoor soccer. Doug Berg had his best time ever in the Mora Vasaloppet and is in the final preparations for the North American Birkebeiner...and following his annual foray into the Boundary Waters with Mini-School students for a week of winter camping, he will announce that spring can arrive... Pauline Von Ruden had a baby girl on January 15, and has shown her face around the old haunts a couple of times during her leave and we all wish her well in her next adventure... Ramona has figured out that there are only so many meetings a week she has to attend and rumor has it she actually told someone no the other day... Joanne learned to ski on the recent Michigan trip and gives all the credit to the many students who taught her -- next year they will teach her how to snow board.

Student news: Tony Cruikshank has just completed the wrestling season, wrestling several varsity matches in the heavyweight class-- Tony, a sophomore, feels that the young Minnetonka team will be formidable by his senior year ... several students have received accolades for outstanding performance on the job-- Lisa Kopecky, Emily Matejcek, Kristi Dahl, Sothik Prak, Mason Davey, Cory Clay, Marcelle Dorenkamp, Phill Lynott, Will Scheidler, Tami Olson, et.al....Raymond Morse, Patty Heien, Sarah Iverson, and Elizabth Rossi have completed their graduation requirements-- congratulations!

Alumni News: Second quarter grads, Al Wright and Scott Hedtke, left for Navy basic training at New Year's and have already distinguished themselves -- Al is Petty Officer 2nd class and petty about division leader, while Scott is Petty Education Officer (however, we fail to see what is so petty about an education)... Tom Johnson is one of ten honor graduates out of 128 graduates at United States Army Field Artillery Training Center in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He recently left for Bamberg, Germany. Sally Oakley's mom sent us a note from North Carolina and said Sally recently graduated from University of Minnesota with a degree in graphic

design-- nice going .... Tim Scott is the executive chef at the Dayton's restaurants-- -- he and his wife are living in Eden Prairie with their first child. Dave Sott is a computer analyst and programer, but his real love is buying old cars, snowmobiles, and boats and fixing them up for resale...Jon Clifford gardening..Barb(span) and Rich Reese own ten acres in Carver and Rich has his own custom remodeling business and is also working drywall and Barb is a manager for IMPAC, a plastics company...Dave Zytkoskee stopped by with a demo tape of his radio broadcast performed at Brown institute...Raymond Morse is also attending Brown in the computer field...Although we see many alumni in the area, we encourage all former students to drop us a note to let us know what is happening in your lives...



# Our Boys In Blue

Keith Bartram and Scott Hedke recent Mini-School graduates dropped us a letter from boot camp in Great Lakes.

Dear Mini-School staff and students,

Well I'm still alive contrary to the quality of the food here, but other than that things are really great. Well the news around here! Scooter and I are in the same division. He is the EPO (Education Petty Officer). I am the AMAA (Assistant Master at Arms). We've only ran into Al twice since we've been here. He's doing well from what I here. He actually sent me a letter across boot camp. I was so amused to see that, considering he spent 32 cents to send me a note across the way. Military life is so, so different from civilian life. I mean civilian life seems so unorganized now. A big shock to hear that from my mouth, I mean I was so organized in school. Yea, right. I'll probably get leave after "A" school, but unfortunately that's in July. So I'll miss school getting out, I'll be able to come back for about 2 weeks. It would be nice if I got back before the 4th of July. I'm really looking forward to the full blown Navy life. Even the food on the ships. We get up about 4:00 in the morning and go to bed at about 10:00 at night. We do a lot of physical training. It's been eight weeks since I've had any tobacco and I feel great. Hey Doug, when I get back, we'll have to have a nice little cross country run together. Now that I can run that much. Well, I pass and review March 1st and on March 5th. I go to the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes ILL., for 17 weeks of schooling. I'll send a picture as soon as I get them back. Well I'm going to chow now but I'll write again.

Love, Pugsley

P.S. Hey squirrel mom, squirrely #2 sends his love.

Hey everybody - like Pugs said we're almost done. They work us hard, but if we get back to play volleyball for rec. We'll be your most awake students, except for Berg. I miss most of ya, Especially Z. I heard Joanne went on a trip without me! Oh well, I can still go as an Alumni! (Right?) After I leave here, I'm headed to Memphis/Mollington for approximately 11 (or so) weeks. I hope to make it back to Mini before school is out. I'll see ya when I see you later.

-Scooter

# Mens Issues

By Casey Bakken

Mens issues is a group where men can go and talk about anything. Mens issues is totally confidential. You are kicked out if you say anything outside the group. The group is held every Tuesday during hour 3 thru 4-5. There are no leaders in the group, but there is a man named Rob (intern social worker) who helps us keep things under control and make it possible to have the group. Everyone wishes Joanne was still in the group because taking her away was like taking away our big sister. The reason she can not be there is because she has too much paper work and not enough time to do it all and run the group. It is not the same without her. It makes us feel kinda trapped. So if you are a man and this group sounds like it might interest you, then wait until the end of the quarter and then you can join.

# Farewell Mini

By Patty Heien

It's been four years and a lot of growing up, but I did it! I finally graduated. I will miss all of you very much. I feel that I have gotten to know all of you at least a little bit, and have become great friends with some of you.

To the staff, I will never forget you, and I hope you realize how much you have touched my life. I promise to visit as much as possible. (When I'm not sleeping in). In more ways than one, Mini has changed my life forever!

Love always,  
Patty

# The New Political Update

By Mike Jacobson

-Rejection 96'-

Hey there you sweet, innocent voters everywhere! It's that time of the leap year again where we must carefully analyze and nitpick away at the candidates for the next human pinata of the White House. Now more than ever, we must quench our thirst for making big hairy deals out of little, insignificant peachfuzz. (Did you catch the play on words? I sure wasn't taught to be so brilliant). So let's strap on our dunce caps and take a look at the two early front-runners in this race for the presidency.

Bob (Smiley) Dole- A man of sure stability, great respect, and apparent senility. He wants to put a V-chip in your TV., in your children's heads, in your head, in your cat, your toaster, your mother-in-law, etc. Denies being spawn of Satan, though ideals and actions show otherwise. His good friend and former keebler elf, Newt Gingrich, is a good example of politics the Dole way, with the exception of not having a group of vultures hovering above.

Bill (Waiting to exhale) Clinton - A thoughtful, loving and caring big lug. Uses bigger words to impress more people. Uses shorter speeches to comply with our lacking attention spans. Dances and sings along to really God-awful Fleetwood Mac songs and even instigates a reunion of the original band all the while claiming he never inhaled?!!! Oh, and best of all, much like our Lord Jesus Christ, HE FEELS YOUR PAIN!!!

Well, that was fun. Bye.

# Baby Update: Erica Gysland

By Kristi Dahl

Erica is a former Mini- School student who gave birth to a handfull named Joel in July.

Joel will be seven months on the twentieth and when I asked her if he was all she'd thought he'd be when he was born she said, "everything and more."

I didn't know what kind of individual questions to ask her about Joel so she just told about him...

Joel has two teeth. He won't sleep in his own crib because he wants to sleep with me.

He is a night owl but when he goes to bed he sleeps through the night.

He can crawl in his own sort of way. He eats like a horse and then some!

He's a pro at baby babble, but can say da da.

That's about it for the baby, Erica is now working as a manager at McDonalds.

## Fashion

By Stephanie Dean

To all my mainstream comrades , here's a tip for you.

**Fashion** - 1. The way in which something is formed; configuration 2. Kind or variety; sort. 3. A manner of performing ; way.

Fashion in this school . . . . yeah right!

# Movie Review: Seven

By Emily Matejeck & Lisa Kopecky

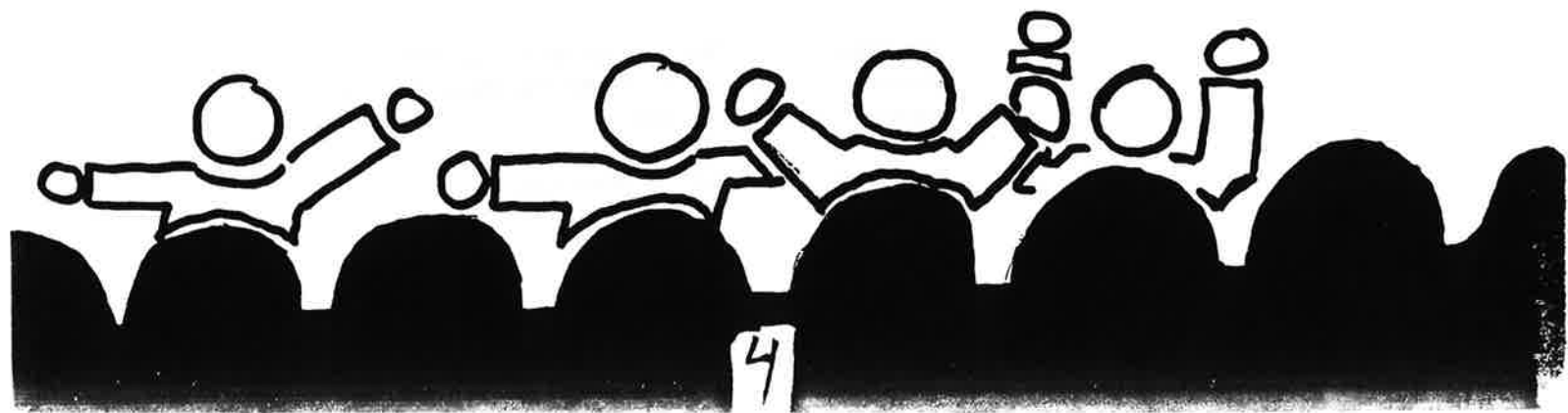
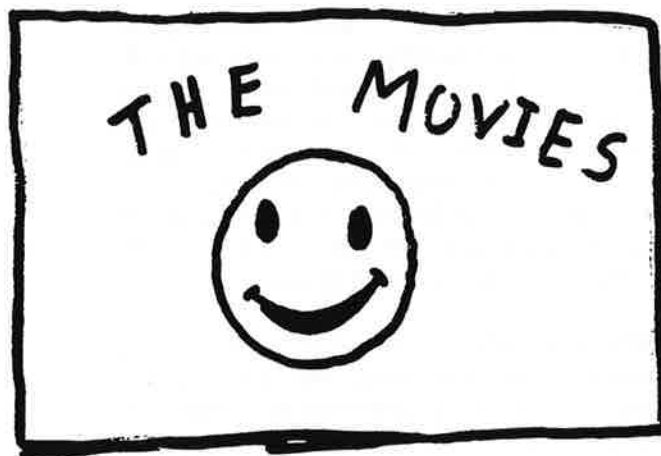
We left the theatre feeling down, yet with introspect. Seven focuses on each of the seven sins and their supposedly just punishments. The first crime found the killer forcing an obese man to eat until his stomach burst. That represented Gluttony. With the second crime Greed, a high prestigious lawyer was made to decide which part of his body was disposable. He chose his love handles and then bled to death. Then they found a man who had been tied to a bed and starved to death for a year. Following that they discovered a prostitute who was grotesquely murdered by a man who was forced to kill her. The fifth murder was a woman who suffered from pride. She got her face cut off and had sleeping pills glued in one hand to end her suffering and a phone in the other hand to get help and be not beautiful. Finally the killer had envy of the cop with the perfect life so he killed his family and the cop killed him and therefore committed the seventh sin, Wrath.

The whole movie was overly graphically violent and perverse. Lisa and I felt very depressed after the movie which was luckily the \$1.50 kind. Do not see this movie. It was a quality made movie, but not one I would suggest for the general public.

## Top 10 Movies

By Molly Latterner & Clint Fero

10. Amadeus
9. The Hunger
8. 12 Monkeys
7. Untamed Heart
6. Heathers
5. Dead Man Walking
4. Fair Games
3. Natural Born Killers
2. Friday
1. Tank Girl



# What Would You Ask God

By Mike Jacobson

Once upon a time, I was sitting at my house, bored, watching Oprah. My brain seemed to be quickly slipping into a somewhat comatose state, never to return. (At least not until I had to go to the bathroom.) Just then, like a kid eating a pillowcase of twinkies, I was hit with a sudden jolt of cheap enthusiasm. Oprah had just posed a question that I knew would make the perfect rip-off for a Com-mini-cations article, "What would you ask God?" Okay, so it's a question that most conservative minds would answer with some cheesy, sentimental value to it. But if you put it in the hands of a smart-aleck Mini student, let them juggle it awhile, the answers come back being only cheesy. Here they are: (all statements included.)

Casey W.- What does Randy look like without a beard?

Doug - Casey is a wuss for not going on the winter camping trip.

Bill Z.- What the F@\*#!?

Pat M.- Where can I get those sandals?

Patti H.- I wouldn't?

Z R.- What religion do you believe in?

Andrea H.- Why this broad expanse of life? O yeah, what happened to the goddess?

Dan S.-What ?

Allison Y.- Can I get some new shoes?

Randy - Why do bad things happened to good people?

Lance H.- You can't ask a question to someone who's not there.

Aaron C.- Can I get back to you on that?

Lisa K.- Can you give me a van?

Me- Do you have a god complex?

Group question- Do you like cockroaches better than us or something?

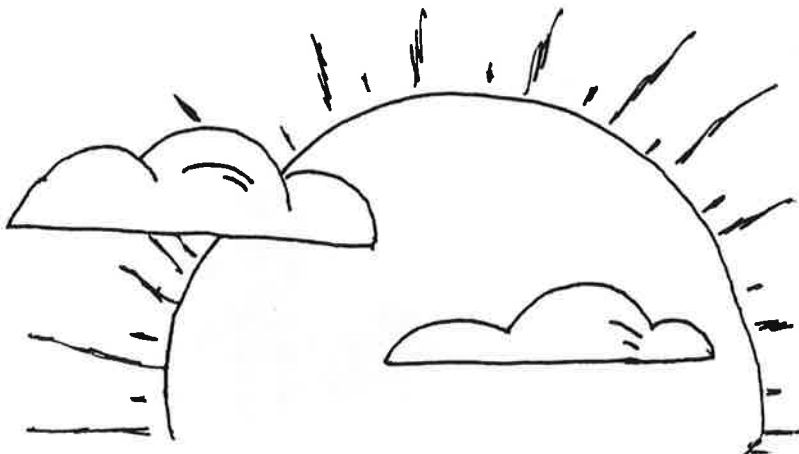
# My Family History in Mini School

By Josh Day

When I started Mini School a week or two ago, Doug approached me and ask me if i had anything I would like to write for Com-Mini-Cations. I said I would have to think about it. I thought about it the rest of the class time and went home with still nothing to write about. The next day I came to class and Doug suggested since I have such a great deal of family members that have been through the program, why don't you write about them. I thought about it for a minute and said, "Sure." He told me that my Mom, Betty , my Uncles, Ted and Frank Pliffner had been in the program, along with my Dad, Roger and Uncles, Mark, David and Boone Day had been in it. He also said that that is the most family members that anyone had ever had in it today.

I got home that day and asked my mom, "What did all of you do in there?" She said that they went on camping and biking trips and got in trouble. My mom also said that she would have never of made it through high school without Mini School. She really enjoyed Mini School, the trips and the people in the program.

Some people say that you can't get an education through Mini School. But my mom said that everyone she can think of from Mini has their own business and is doing well. The others have secure jobs. She said she has more friends now, having gone to Mini School then she would have with Mainstream.



# Top 10 Reasons Why Mainstream is a Drag

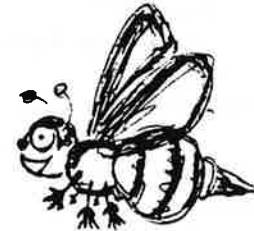
By Josh Day

10. There are no moose jaw bones hanging on the flags.
9. Too tense.
8. No fun.
7. No movies.
6. School gets out at 2:40.
5. No trips.
4. Lots of homework.
3. No good class discussions.
2. Health class.
1. It just is.

# Predictions for 96

By Phil St. Sauver & Patty Heien

1. Rick Dennison's headphones will become one with his head.
2. Tami will still owe Grady \$10 for a calendar.
3. Alan June's hair will pose as a nest for a Duck Come Spring.
4. Patty will get sick of being a "good girl," turn punk and join Rick's crusade for darkness.
5. We predict Bob will have car troubles, ha, ha!
6. Christian Utne will turn prep!
7. Will Schiedler will actually pour Doug's coffee.
8. Ramona will give in and finally do a finger painting block.
9. Clint will get a girlfriend, and Casey wins the bet!
10. Pauline will just not care.
11. Nate Clifford will finally go to class.



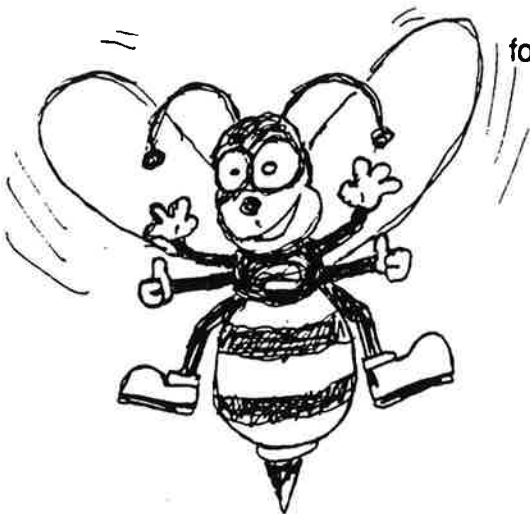
I wish to be with a Bumble Bee  
floating on the breeze,

I wish to be with a Bumble Bee  
with strong and meaningful wings.

I wish to be with a Bumble Bee  
together we feel the need,

I wish to be with a Bumble Bee  
AND  
forever we'd be complete.

-By Anna Saclolo





# Looking back in Mini

By Alison Young

Since Mini-School has been around for 25 plus years, and since Com-Mini-Cations has been published for most of that time, we've decided to have a regular feature called "Looking back in Mini." In every issue from now on, we'll print some highlights from issues of Com-Mini-Cations from 5, 10, 15 years an longer ago.

**Fifteen years ago :** Dan Bourland got the Worker of the Month award in January. Lester had her first daughter, Sarah Ellen Seamans. Norm Garneau took her place temporarily. Mini School got a donation of 2,000 shares of stock form the Conklin Company. Doug and Roy Hawkins took a seven day backpacking trip over the Kekekabic Trail in the BWCA- the participants were - John Byers, Eric Freeman, Mike Fronius, Mike Boquist, Brad Arnold, Donny Philmon, Jay Johnson, June Hughes, Roger Anderson, Jay Davis, Tom RioRdan, Dan Bourland, Dave Thompson, Pete Woitalla and Sharon Cornelius. They endured six inches of snow and sub-zero temps. Mini-School beat St. Louis Park in a volleyball tournament 21-5. John Lennon died. Eric Freeman, Polly Westlie and Bill Force are mini Home coming candidates. Toot Rogne and Eric Freeman ran a reading class to make up for the absence of John Eiden.

**Ten years ago-** Linda Peterson lettered in down hill skiing. John Goggans, Jenifer Bormes, Troy Wheeler were Mini's honor students. New York trip went out.

**Five years ago-** Brian Nelson was given Student Recognition Award or 3rd quarter. Mini School starts having break same as mainstream. The concept of blocks began. Yellowstone and Florida trips went out. Matt Mcready was building woman out of snow and sand to keep him company on the trips. Norm Garneau retired. Chris Bagdons participated in The Battle of the Bands. Melissa Quigley spoke at recognition night.

## Mini Motto:

We the unwilling  
Led by the unqualified  
Have been doing  
The unbelievable  
So long with so little  
We now attempt  
The impossible with nothing.

## Beloved

Hidden realms behind your eyes  
Fate awaits us, hears our cries  
I see your soul, I taste your lips  
Blood wine,  
All mine,  
Slash me with your whips  
Around my wrists chains so cold  
Me so fresh, you so old  
I feel your flesh beneath my fingers  
The scent of death still lingers  
Take a walk in the moonlight  
Become one with the darkness of the night

You're evil, you're intense  
You seduce me with your presence  
Take me to your sweet ecstasy  
Your God-like trait  
Your immortality

-Andrea Hamilton

# Winter: Damn it's Cold.

By The Unknown Soldier

I wake up from my slumber, trying to rub the dreams from my head. When my feet touch the cold floor, I instantly know that winter is bad news. The chill of the night is in the entire house. If you listen you can hear the water running through the pipes trying to warm up the house and the people in it.

When I finally have my clothes on and am sitting in the kitchen, I wonder. Is the car going to start and how cold is it? Even though I have long underwear on, jeans and sweater, even though I am bundled up and sweating like a pig, when I open the door every part of my body is frozen. My toes and fingers are numb, the very first breath I take is frozen in mid air as with the rest.

My car is about 200ft away. My car is frozen shut, one solid block of ice. I have to get out my trusty hammer to open it. My mission is to get to Mini. While I am chiselling away the ice on my car, icicles are growing on my nose. When I get in my car it starts to make awful sounds, yelling at me not to turn it on, yet I persist on. Yet finally winning the battle of man and machine.

As I sit in my car waiting for it to warm I listen to my very cold car clank, rattle and make noises I have never heard. As I am listening I wonder what I have done to deserve this. I am just a simple man with simple pleasures.

As I walk through the halls trying desperately to get to first hour, every one asks me, "What's going on Nutt" and I say, "Damn it's cold".



# Baby Interview

By : Kristi Dahl

Not long ago, Nicole Tiggas and I did interviews on Mini Schoolers who were expecting or already had babies. Nicole at that time was expecting and I interviewed her. Now I'm interviewing again. She had a beautiful baby girl (who finds lights on the ceiling very amusing!) So here's what Nicole has to say about Shannon:

- When was your baby born? January, 11 1996
- How much did it weigh? 7lbs, 12ozs
- Length? 21 inches
- What's the full name of your baby? Shannon Leslie Tiggas
- How long were you in labor? 16 hours
- What hospital was she born in? Methodist
- Anything strange or unique about your baby? Not that I can think of besides that she's ticklish on her chin.

\*CONGRATULATIONS NICOLE AND WES

# Congratulations

On January 15th at 1:27 a.m., Pauline Von Ruden, our science teacher, gave birth to a baby girl. Her name is Alexandra Rose. She weighed 6lbs. 9oz. at birth and was 20 1/2 inches. She was born at Waconia hospital. The attending Physician was Dr. Hartshorn. Good luck and Congratulations, Pauline and Jason.



# We Care

By Mike Jacobsen

For my latest attempt at writing an in-depth and highly fascinating look-into-the-human-psyche sort of article. (Not too much luck so far). I have decided to take a gander at our increasing over-sensitivity and whininess. I understand that the term "over sensitivity" is a bit odd, so I'll give an example of what it means: A student in a mainstream math class last year, brought in a note from their psychiatrist stating that this student should only take on the rigorous duty of a simple assignment if she was feeling mentally secure enough to do so. I nearly barfed when I heard this.

Now, I do understand that one's mental well-being and emotional security are important needs, and needs that must be met, but this is a joke. It seems we have evolved enough as humans to figure out that way over exaggerating a scarred psyche is a wonderful and convenient cop-out. It doesn't take a Doug Berg to figure out that a lot of this problem is the fault of psychiatrists everywhere. (Lets call 'em "shrinks" for the heck of it. )

I wouldn't make this claim if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. During a part of my junior year I saw a shrink for \$60/session. I started out going with an open mind, and ended up with a lot of B.S. Every single time I confided in him about what was going on in my head, he would just repeat back to me a highly dramatized and emotionly exaggerated version of what I had told him, offering no solutions or suggestions or advice or anything. Just a soap opera story of my life. This dramatizing by someone I had deemed professional and trustworthy had a similar effect on me. My head was now completely occupied with my troubles and my emotions, 10% actual pain, 90% what someone had convinced me was pain. I guess it's how these shrinks keep you as a paying customer. It's pretty low if you ask me.

For me, there is only one real solution for pain, and I guess it's kind of a solution to the problem this article is about too. If you bleed, get a band-aid, kiss and make it better, and move on.

# GROUNDHOG'S DAY

BY Anna Marie Saclolo

February 2, is traditionally the point that indicates an early or late spring. This is a legend from Great Britain and Germany that the groundhog emerges from its hibernation burrow on this day. If the groundhog sees its shadow, it presages prolonged winter weather. So fortunately or unfortunately the groundhog has seen his shadow. Well, I guess we can expect up to six more weeks of cold weather.



# DAMNED FLIES

By Aaron Connor

Mutter old man on sun bleached porches, white chairs groan beneath dead weight.

Inside babble trickles forth from women, the crazy women, who think that Tommy or Henry or any one of a number of boys will be coming home.

Though they died horribly twenty years ago, the babble dribbles forth like the humming of flies wings in the sticky summer heat.

It rolls out into the world like the sweat on a waking man's brow. And they sit complaining. About this and that, the women about the heat, the men ancient politics. And neither party understands it any better than when they began twenty years ago nor any better when they pose in the morning. They do not cope any more, they are simply recordings, like the etchings and engravings on the porch, from years and years of chairs being moved into the sun and out of the rain. There are newspapers from long ago, yellow and ripped, living still, in the time which once was. They're waiting for the war to end, but they are not coming back from this. It's do or die and a matter of time. They've died but time's not yet expired. I see them sit and revel in yesterdays and sweat in the sun and curse the flies.

Damn them anyway, darting back and forth like blind spots. And while the women sit and sigh, the men plot to kill. And it's too hot to complain any more. And a fly lands on the window and one of the men passes a folded document of politics to another. And politics come crashing down, on the fly and all at once, all is still save for the falling of the fly and the siren - like screams of the crickets.

And the men don't complain.

# Classifieds

By Emily Matejcek and Lisa Kopecky

These ads reach over 3500 people and are free. If you would like to place an ad for the next issue, give us a call at 470-3574.

FOR SALE:

**Queen size water bed:** soft sided, storage drawers underneath. \$100.00 or B/O, call Doug: 474-7706(H) 470-3574(W)

**Sega attachment:** 32x with doom, B/O, call Phil Lynott: 920-0131

**VCR:** \$10, call Jeff Boller: 474-5022

**Snowmobile:** 1996 MXZ Skido, \$5,800, call Josh Day: 474-7301(H) 934-5303(W)

**Stereo:** SPL, needs new needle, call Sara Pipkorn: 474-8571.

**Family:** nice two parent family, w/ full set of Grandparents included, 3 brothers, 3 sisters, \$100 or B/O, call John Boy Walton: 555-2369.

**Lawn Boy:** Lawn mower. \$125.00 Excellent condition. Call Doug: 474-7706 or Mini School office.

**Car Speakers:** two 10 inch Rockfords, great condition, \$85, call Eric Thomas: 474-2818.

## 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  
classical  
folk*



*Exciting bass playing techniques including: slapping, popping and 2-handed tapping*

*\*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*

# Adventures of Edgcapades

By Clint Fero and Molly Latterner

It was the night of December sixth, when Molly, Andy, Chris, Shelly, Jeremy, and I went to Edgcapades. When we got there and sat down, Flip was the opening band. As we all cheered them on, they played their music. Then next was the Meat Puppets. They played a few songs and then left right away. Next it was Lisa Loeb. Everyone was pumped up for her, everyone loved her. After Lisa Loeb came the Toadies! That's when everyone at Edgcapades had a rumble going on. They played a few songs, then it was time for the Goo Goo Dolls. Still everyone was pumped about the Toadies so they all kept on going for the band called Oasis, another great group. They played a couple of songs. We left right after Oasis played the song "Wonderwall." We say you should go to Edgcapades if it ever comes again.

# Top 5 Groups Mini-Schoolers Listen To.

By Z Rossi & Tami Olson

When we interviewed Mini-School students we found huge variety. We have a very long list but only five that more than one person voted for. So, although we originally meant to have a top ten list, we ended up with only a top five. Oh, well, here they are:

1. Luniz
2. Pink Floyd
3. Phish
4. Greatful Dead
5. KORN

# MOBY

By Gabe Hargrove

Everything is wrong. Actually not quite everything, but Moby thinks so. One of the most talented composers, (Not just DJ) in the genre, he's also the only one interested in the present day dilemma - animal testing, drugs, pollution and messed up people in general.

Moby is an ex - rich hard-core punk from Connecticut and New York hip-hop club DJ. After four years under the name Moby, he constructed the ultimate suburban disco album - Everything is Wrong. The music on this masterpiece mixes grind sounding distorted guitars with intense psychedelic keyboard patterns building adrenalin almost to the point of no return.

"God moving over the face of the waters", an instrumental piece very pleasing to my ears, paints an intensely beautiful picture of a spiritually damaged face. Moby is a genius at combining house music rhythms and soaring piano lines with a sometimes harder, industrial sounding edge.

Being a libertarian Christian vegan, and anti-druggie, I think he has found a groove for his physical and spiritual cravings with this album.

If you like techno or to dance, "Everything is Wrong" is an intense and spectacular electro eargazm. At least as far as mainstream techno goes in that direction. For Moby, the music doesn't work unless it reaches out and touches you. I give it a nine out of ten on my musical scale.

# Horoscopes

By Cory Clay & Tami Olson

**ARIES ( March 21- April 19 )** : Once again Valentines Day will prove to be a failure. You'll have problems with Randy's newspaper class, but just sit back and relax. It will all pass.

**TAURUS ( April 20- May 20 )** : The love of your life will be extra nice this month. Sit back and take it. It will not happen again for a long time.

**GEMINI ( May 21 - June 21 )** : Things are starting to look up. You're back in the fast lane and Doug has finally stopped picking on you.

**CANCER ( June 22 - July 22 )** : This month you'll have trouble finding that special someone. Your self-esteem will be low and you won't be motivated to come to school. Just remember if you skip that just means one more day in Ramona's math class before you can graduate.

**LEO ( July 23 - August 22 )** : You're going to gain 50 pounds this month, but you're going to be ambitious enough that you want to burn it off. You'll work extra hard in school, remember graduation is just around the corner.

**VIRGO ( August 23 - September 22 )** : This month is going to fly by for you. You're going to have a lot of fun, and for once your parents are going to lay off.

**LIBRA ( September 23 - October 22 )** : Girls watch your men. Some of them are going to get into trouble, but be forgiving. Maybe he really does know what love is.

**SCORPIO ( October 23 - November 21 )** : You must be extra nice to your lover this month. Treat them with respect and allow them a mistake. Money is tight this month so be careful.

**SAGITTARIUS ( November 22 - December 21 )** : This month will prove to be good. School will fly by and before you know it you'll be graduating.

**CAPRICORN ( December 22 - January 19 )** : This month will be a great one. You'll want to come to school, and you'll whiz through all of Randy's and

Doug's classes. Watch out. New friends are around every corner.

**AQUARIUS ( January 20 - February 18 )** : Money will be tight this month. School will prove to be hard. So just move through the best you can.

**PISCES ( February 19 - March 20 )** : This month proves to be a bad one. You and your lover have a lot of problems, but don't take on too much, and remember not to be hard on your friends.

## Darkened Secrets

I wish you could understand  
Please try to hear what I say  
I feel as though I am losing you  
My heart breaks at the thought  
I sit in silence  
And stare at the phone  
Oh how I wish you would call  
You tell me you love me  
But words mean nothing  
I love being with you  
And holding you near  
Show me your love tonight  
Take me places I've never known  
Make me soar through the clouds  
Make me feel things I've  
never experienced  
Let the passion burn deep within my soul  
Make my dreams a reality  
Come to me tonight  
When the hour is late  
Listen close  
And hear the whisper of my darkest secrets  
Let me have this one last chance  
To say I love you  
So one last time  
Sit back and close your eyes  
And let's dream together  
Forever

-By Tami Olson

# Winter Activities Trip

By Andrea Hamilton

The day is Tuesday, February 6th. This morning started off with a few hassles, Andrea's crabby and Rick was not to be found, but we made it on our way to Grantsburg, Wisconsin, for three and a half days of winter activities. We stopped in Rush City, at the Grant House Hotel, for a big, tasty breakfast, which was a little chaotic, but was the least of our problems for the rest of the week. We made it to the cabin and got everything down ( we had to hike down the big hill 'cause of the snow and ice ) and put away with few obstacles. I looked around and wondered how this was going to be with such an eclectic bunch of kids, Casey Wright and Dawn Hesselgrave our couple, Patti Heien, our mom, Rick Dennison, our dark-sider, Gabe Hargrove, the local idiot (you know I'm teasing) me, Andrea Hamilton, our redhead, and of course, as usual, Doug. Things seemed to be going all right so far. Then, in mid-afternoon, we went cross country skiing in the beautiful woods by Sandrock Cliffs on the St. Croix River. Doug, of course a mile ahead of us and the group with our newly born ski feet, wobbling steadily behind him with few falls. I fell on my bad ankle from the Boundary Waters, so Patti turned around with me and later learned the cliff we were skiing to was only two minutes in front of us. We told Rick and Gabe to tell Doug, but they turned around too, so Doug was pretty upset when he got back. We loaded up and went back to the cabin for a traditional Dinty Moore meal and bummed around a bit, with a few more fights- some of us didn't sleep too well that first night.

We woke to the insistent urges of our fearless leader making a wonderful meal of French Toast ( now if I overemphasize the meals, it's only 'cause Doug told me to include his cooking expertise in this article). We picked up, packed up and went on our way to the Timberland Ski Area in Cumberland, Wisconsin. The trails were in the woods, all groomed and ready for us. Most of us went out for about an hour, Doug doing his 9 miles to prepare for the Mira Vasaloppet. Patti and Casey took off, while Dawn and I took our time enjoying the warm air, which hasn't been around for too long. Gabe and Rick were nowhere to be seen. We found that the small trail was not groomed and we were hungry, so we went back to the warming house for lunch. There was a group of little kids there that day, so after lunch Gabe and Rick went out to build a snowman with them. Casey was right behind with us three girls close to follow. We

had our snowball fight, with some of us getting a little unruly and pegging some of us where we shouldn't be. You know who you are. I got some great pictures of the boys with their snowman dressed as Gabe and the kids. The day was sunny, warm and nearing perfect. Casey, Dawn and Patti went out for a while, while I sat around and wrote in my journal. Then I went out on my skis for a solo ride. It was so peaceful, gliding over the snow, with the sun and my thoughts. We regrouped and set out on our trek to see Doug's new cabin. We drove for about half an hour then parked the van on the side of the road because the snow hadn't been plowed on the road in. All I could do was stare in awe at the surroundings, the huge, old trees that arched over and made a canopy, some flat land meadow, and a river. There was beauty in every step. Doug's new cabin is a dome shaped knotty pine building, with a loft, a little kitchen and bathroom ( there's also an outhouse ). I think we were all impressed. It was homey and perfect. We got cold so we hiked out and went on our adventure for dinner. Doug had heard of this Italian place so we went there to find it closed. He turned around and he took us to a dinner club. There we were met with a crabby waitress and a lot of old people. Everyone ordered a burger or some form of beef and one word of advice, NEVER eat meat at a restaurant in Wisconsin, they are required by law to cook it until it resembles jerky. It was gross. We were all in high spirits by the time we left. I was laughing hysterically at everyone, and Gabe insisently chattering, Doug got kind of annoyed and he turned around and yelled at Gabe to "Shut Up!" (with the swear deleted for fear of tarnishing his reputation) and everyone was laughing now and Gabe, having his airhead moments asked him (jokingly) if he was serious, which made us laugh harder because of course he wasn't. We got back to the cabin and wrote, read, played cards, what not and fought over who got to sleep on the couch.

Thursday, Doug woke us up to another grandiose meal of delicious pancakes and bacon. We then sat down and got settled to a story called The Foxman, a Gary Paulson novel, which is about a teenage boy's experience with a man in the woods. It was an insightful tale. After the book we strapped on our snowshoes and took off on a hike for a few hours. We explored the St. Croix River and Wisconsin woods, learned about nature in the winter, animal tracks, and how humans and animals survive the

cold months. We crossed over the river to the Minnesota side, which looks the same, hiked along the river then headed back to cabin. We gathered wood for the fire we were to have later and went sledding down a big hill that Casey and Dawn had made a track on. Patti and I went up it and I was so scared watching her go down I almost couldn't do it. We had a good laugh at what a chicken I am. We read and wrote in our journals. I think alot of us learned a few things about each other, ourselves, and how to deal with people. After our hotdog, macaroni and cheese, and green bean dinner we made our way to the fire outside and had some deep conversations on drugs and life and some things we won't mention. We all went to sleep comfortably and with some stong emotion. I think we were ready to go home.

We woke up, ate, cleaned up, packed up, and finally got everything in the van and headed out, some of us fighting, laughing, crying, seething, all of us excited for a flushing toilet and a warm bed. It's been an interesting trip. All in all it was fun comfortable, and a great learning experience! It brought us all closer, which makes this program work. The love, trust and friendship cannot compare. Thanks for the memories guys!





# New Student Profile

By Emily Matejcek and Lisa Kopecky

For us to get to know our new students and for you to get to know the new additions to our population, we have interviewed ten new students and one very special new teacher. Here are the questions we asked them:

- 1.) What was your first impression of Mini School?
- 2.) What do you think of zebras?
- 3.) How do you feel about Micheal Jackson's divorce?
- 4.) What's the biggest problem you've had this winter?
- 5.) Do you have any pets, if so who?
- 6.) Do you have a favorite band or musician?
- 7.) Are you reading a book right now?
- 8.) If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- 9.) If you were stranded on a deserted island for eternity, who or what would you want with you?

## KORTNIE HANSEN:

- 1.) It's free.
- 2.) They're odd.
- 3.) I don't care or know anything about it.
- 4.) I ran into seven snowbanks in the first month that I had a driver's licence.
- 5.) A Pomeranian named Taz. (Mason says it's a little yippy dog.)
- 6.) Nine Inch Nails.
- 7.) No! No books!
- 8.) Cancun, Mexico.
- 9.) Kyle (Really! What a surprise!)

## MIKE PHELPS:

- 1.) Uh, I liked it.
- 2.) They're white with black stripes. A living personification of bar codes.
- 3.) He was married? I didn't know he was even married. I didn't know Elvis had a daughter. "Where have you been?" Mainstream.
- 4.) It's too damn cold.
- 5.) A dog named Jesse, two cats named Sybil and Winston, and a horse named Dusty.
- 6.) Jefferson Airplane.

- 7.) No.
- 8.) I'd go to bed.
- 9.) I refuse to incriminate myself.

## MOLLY LATERNER:

- 1.) I wanted to get in it really bad.
- 2.) They're cool. They're my favorite colors.
- 3.) I don't think they should have gotten married in the first place.
- 4.) Walking home a half mile each day after school.
- 5.) Hobbs, a Norwegian forest cat, Katie and peaches, Chocolate labs, Bear a poodle, and two goldfish.
- 6.) KORN and Trent Reznor.
- 7.) No.
- 8.) Florida.
- 9.) The whole band of KORN.

## JOSH DAY:

- 1.) Different.
- 2.) They have white and black stripes on them.
- 3.) I hate Micheal Jackson.
- 4.) I was snowmobiling up north, both tires blew, one on the way up and one on the way back.
- 5.) Yep, two chocolate labs and a short haired, black and white cat.
- 6.) No.
- 7.) No.
- 8.) To sleep.
- 9.) A house with a lifetime supply of food.

## ANNA SACLOLO:

For those of you that don't know, Anna isn't technically a new student. She was in Mini about two years ago.

- 1.) How do you feel about coming back to Mini? I feel good about it. I feel like I have a lot of support, less stress, and less pressure.
- 2.) A very interesting horse. I'd like to ride one someday.
- 3.) I couldn't care less. "Poor skin disease man."
- 4.) Last Monday my car broke down, a cop came, and I thought that he would help me, but he put cuffs on me for an unpaid ticket and brought me to jail. I was in there from 3:30 to 12:30. They took my tongue ring out and didn't give it back, totally unjustified.
- 5.) I have a kitten, she's all white with long hair, her name is Kitten. You have to roll the T's when you say her name.

- 6.) I envy music very much, I like to make and feel music. She has no favorites.
- 7.) Not reading, but writing in her book.
- 8.) Hamburg, Germany, and meet up with my friend Micheal Pahl and party down.
- 9.) I'll just have to wait until it happens for real.

**CHRIS WEGLER:**

- 1) Hectic
- 2) Zebras? They're horses with stripes.
- 3) Don't care
- 4) Staying in school
- 5) No pet
- 6) Not really
- 7) No
- 8) Montana
- 9) I don't know

**ANDY MILLER:**

- 1) Dazed and confused, fine, normal, easy
- 2) Are you kidding me?
- 3) Who cares, it's all publicity. It's just a way to get rights to Elvis's songs.
- 4) Going back to school
- 5) Three dogs (two smoyds, golden lab)
- 6) Beastie Boys
- 7) Geometry and the radio
- 8) snowboarding in the Swiss Alps
- 9) The Swedish bikini team.

**MATT BALDWIN:**

- 1) It's O.K..
- 2) They're cool
- 3) Don't care
- 4) work
- 5) No
- 6) Beck
- 7) No
- 8) Arizona
- 9) sock

**TOBY MARSHALL:**

- 1) Laid back
- 2) I really have no feelings for them
- 3) I don't worry about that either
- 4) The winter itself
- 5) A dog - a big mutt
- 6) Yes, but nobody in particular
- 7) Yes, Pyramids of Egypt

- 8) Europe
- 9) My keyboard and a really long extension cord

**AARON CONNOR:**

- 1) I like the community feel, it might be hard to adjust to, you never know how you're going to be perceived.

**What do you think mainstreams view of Mini is?**

- A condescending view.
- 2) I really don't care for zebras.
  - 3) I was kind of hoping they'd fuse into one person.
  - 4) Depression and anger issues
  - 5) I have two cats - Heather and Spam
  - 6) The Who, John Norris, and Beethoven
  - 7) A few, On The Road, A Clockwork Orange, and Naked Lunch.
  - 8) San Francisco
  - 9) Allie Andrus

**JOSETTE BAKER:**

A special teacher taking over for Pauline while she is out with her baby.

- 1) The staff are real close. I felt excepted at first, but now I'm not so sure.
- 2) I like zebras
- 3) I'm really not interested, but I'm just glad children weren't involved.
- 4) I had appendicitis
- 5) No
- 6) Enya
- 7) Yep, Circle of Quiet, History of God: 2,000 Year.
- 8) Kenya, to see the zebras
- 9) A boat

It's always nice to find out how new people see Mini-School and give them a chance to tell us a little bit about themselves and what they like. Maybe they can do the interviewing next time around.



# My Trip to Italy

By Cory Clay

In the summer of 1994 I took a trip to Genoa, Italy to stay with my pen pal Debora Giardella. I had corresponded with her since I was in seventh grade and I saved money for two years to go visit her. On the 5th of June, I left Minneapolis on a Northwestern flight and landed at the O'Hare Airport in Chicago. After sitting and watching strange and unusual people for three hours I got on an Alitalia flight and was off to Italy. Well, actually we had to make an emergency landing in Boston to pick up some stranded tourists going to Egypt. So just when I thought that I was lucky to have two empty seats next to me, these two girls sat by me. Let me tell you, they were the most obnoxious, loud mouthed, New Yorkers you could ever meet. In their heavy New York accent they continued to crack jokes about everyone on the flight. And just when I thought I'd had enough of them, they confessed to me that they were prostitutes. I thought, "Great. I have 9 1/2 hours left to listen to these annoying hookers."

When we landed in Rome I was expecting to see old buildings and churches. Instead I saw miles of weeds. The airport was 40 miles from the city. I then transferred to a smaller flight and headed for Genoa, a large city in the northwestern part of the country. The plane landed and it was now time to meet my pen pal. I stepped off the plane and saw a huge banner that read, "Welcome Cory." I walked over to meet Debora, her father Antonio, and her younger sister Sylvia. They all seemed nice, but they were really hairy and I don't think they've ever heard of deodorant.

Antonio drove us home in his little sports car and sped at about 90 mph. They lived in an old apartment building that looked like it should be condemned. I went to the top floor where they lived and I met Debora's mother Maria. she was a short little woman who looked like she belonged in a Prego commercial. After showing me my bedroom, which was as small as a broom closet, we all sat down for dinner. Their food didn't look like the food my Italian mother makes for me. This was something I've never seen before and that's how most of the food was. And actually, I don't miss any of it.

On my second day Debora and Sylvia showed me around the city and brought me to the beach. I don't

think I ever saw so many hairy people in my life. I felt like I was in a scene from the movie "The Planet of the Apes." After looking at the monkeys we went gift shopping. I had intended to buy my family gifts, but me, the Madonna fanatic, bought every rare bootlegged CD I could find. I wound up spending half my money in one day's worth of shopping.

The following two days were boring. All I did was sit in the apartment because Debora was studying for some major college test. I think I started to go insane. Debora and Sylvia only knew basic English and every time I would explain something I would have to keep repeating myself and finding different words to use. I never knew that we Americans use so much slang. Antonio and Maria only spoke Italian and since I only knew about five Italian words, communication was horrible. I would get headaches just trying to talk to them. I felt like I was on another planet and from that day on I realized how far away from home I really was.

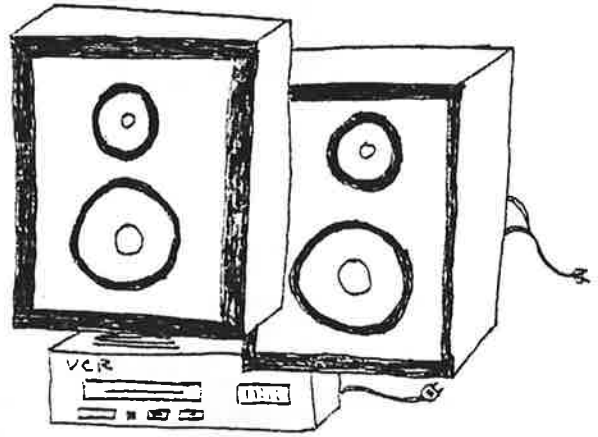
On my fifth day the Giardella family and I took a train ride through the mountains. This was my most exciting event on my trip. The ride was four hours long and we traveled through small villages that looked as though they never have seen modern society. At one of the train stops I saw an old hairy mountain woman herding her sheep across the train tracks. She was scary as hell. She turned and smiled at me, exposing her toothless mouth. I smiled back as she bent down and sniffed my ice cream sandwich. She turned and walked away. I was so disgusted that I threw my ice cream away. I never did understand why she would sniff a stranger's ice cream. Maybe it's a mountain hermit's way of greeting you? Or maybe she's been hanging out with her sheep too long?

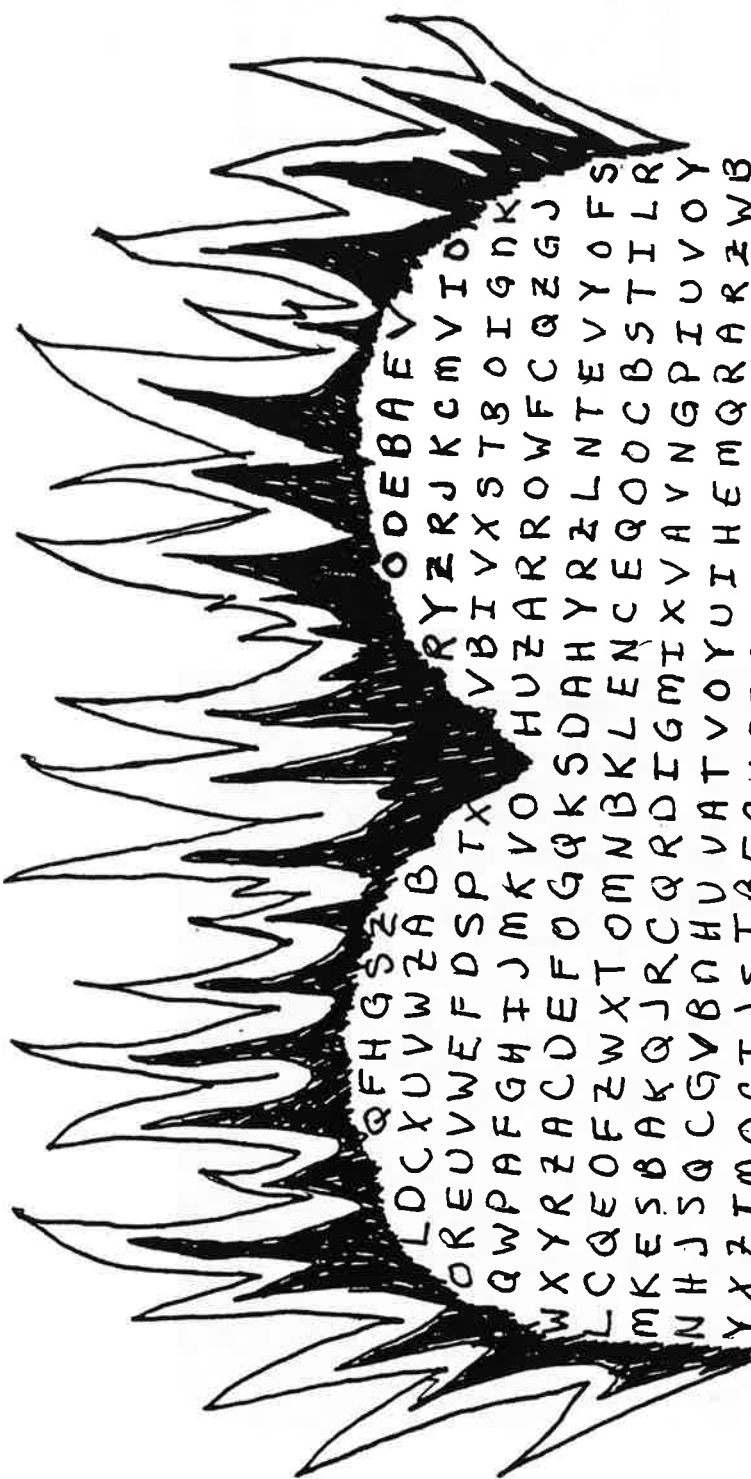
My sixth day was my last night in Italy. We all went out to dinner at the street festival in the heart of Genoa. Debora's cousin Angelo came too. He was scheduled to leave for Bosnia the following morning with the military. We all laughed, had lots of fun, saw strange people, and ate burned pizza. On our way walking back home, four prostitutes tried to pick up us guys. I thought it was funny because they looked old enough to be my grandmother and one of the women had a bushy mustache. I don't think the

Italian women have heard of Nair.

I woke up the following morning at 5:30. We all ate Cheerios and warm goat milk for breakfast. YUCK!!! After we ate Antonio drove us to the airport. I was really excited to go back to America and after saying my goodbyes I practically jumped on the airplane. As the flight flew away I could see Debora waving from the parking lot. I never heard from her again. After my trip we just lost contact. She seemed so much different in person than she did in her letters. I guess she just got on my nerves too much. Even though I've forgotten about her, I'll never forget my trip and what I experienced.

I may have made my trip sound like it wasn't very fun, but I wrote how I exactly felt while I was there. I realize more now how much I really experienced and how lucky I was to do so. I saw many beautiful towns, structures, statues, and churches, which you don't see in this country. I hope to go back someday, but this time with some American friends.





WORDS  
 ARROW  
 SMACK  
 KISSES  
 LAZY  
 LOVE  
 FLOWERS  
 HUGS  
 HEARTS  
 VALENTINES  
 CANDY  
 DEPRESSION

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

By Clint + Molly

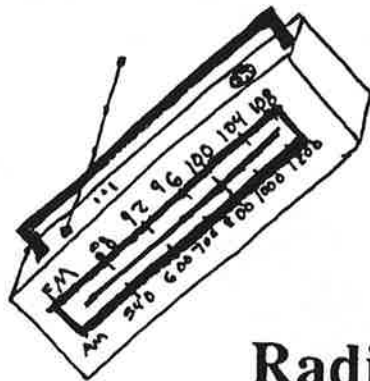
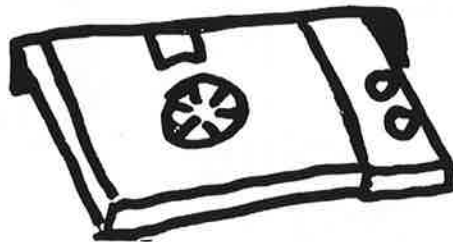
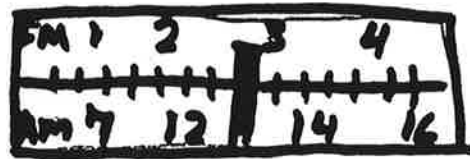
## Despair

My heart is a flame  
I miss you with a strong desire  
As our day comes near  
My heart shatters once more

Why did you leave me  
When I loved you so  
You said you would hold me tight  
Until the day we died  
Just one of the many lies you fed me  
That I so willingly accepted

My pride has been stripped away  
My life seems so empty now  
I lay on my bed  
And close my eyes  
Dreaming of you

-By Tami Olson

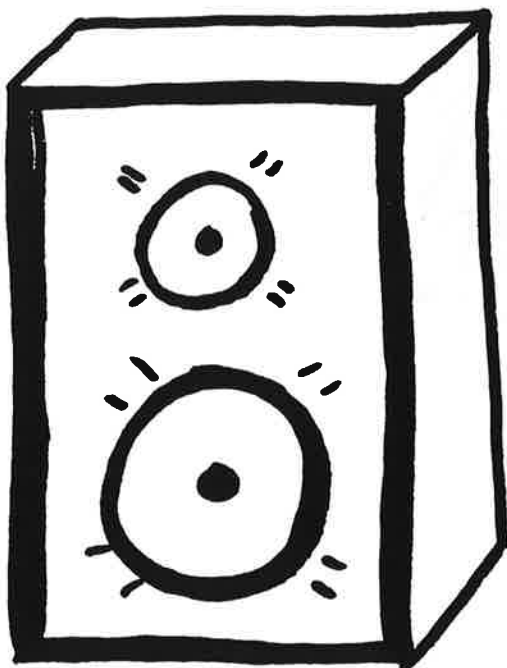


## Radio Stations

By Pat McNutt

Most people just don't listen to the radio. They just listen to their cd's, tapes, or 8 tracks. ( If you have an 8 track player). So is the radio bound to be obsolete? No, people do still listen to radio stations. What would it be like if your CD or tape player busted? Would you go without music? Well if you would, you're one of the few and proud. Yet for the station surfers, you keep on hanging ten. We all know what's on your channel setup. KQRS, the Edge, a little rev, some country and last but not least some oldies that your parents used to listen to. Yet some people like to listen to some cooler stations, not saying the last ones weren't cool. There are two stations in front of KQ that are jazz and one that's rock. There is also my fav, 97.1, which plays great music all the time.

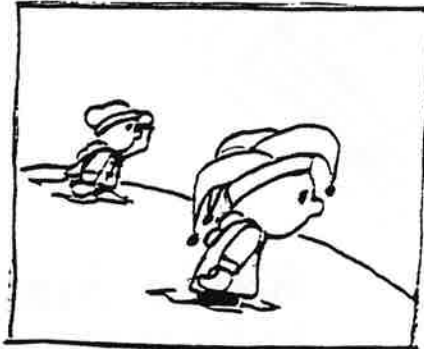
So all you surfers and everyone normal, just try being a little different once in a while.



# LASEY AND FRIENDS

A Day With CASEY  
And Phil

by LASEY



#3



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February 1996

Address Correction Requested

*Recognition Night*  
*Tuesday, June 4, 1996*

***Casey and Phil say:  
Put this date on your  
calendar.***

