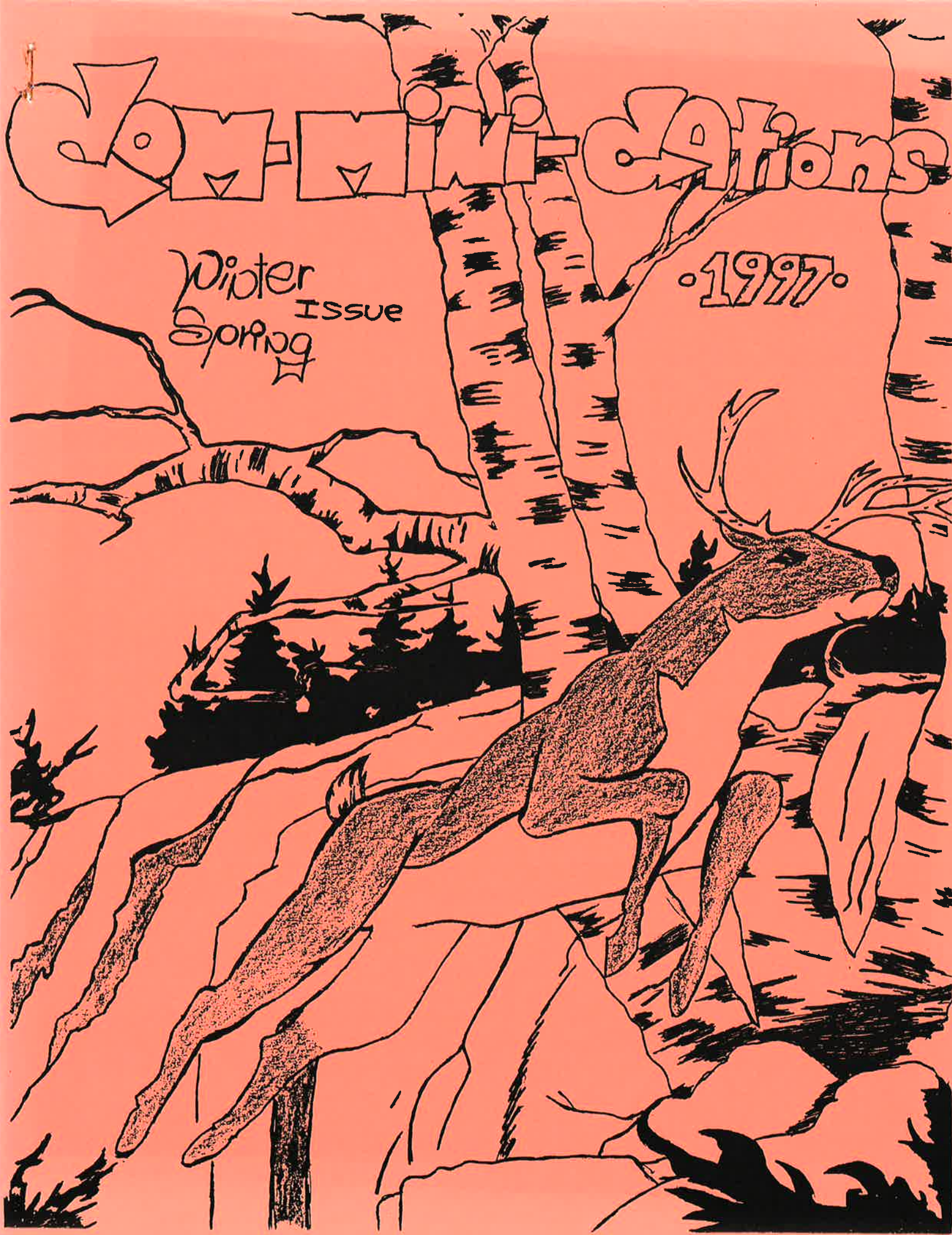


DOM-MINI-CATIONS

Winter
Issue
Spring

1997



Mini-School Overview

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

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

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

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

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



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

Meandering Through Mini-School

By: Doug Berg & Randy Nelson

Second Semester is well underway and Mini-School is busy with its Trips Program. It has been a good winter with abundant snow and Mini-Schoolers have taken advantage of it. Justin Streeter, Joe Molland, Austin Manship, Chris Wegler, Maya Diedrich and Joanne accompanied me (Doug) on a Winter Activities trip, the first ever to my new cabin on the Yellow River near Spooner, Wisconsin in early February. Quinzhee building, snowshoe hikes, and cross-country ski outings highlighted the trip. Austin, to his surprise, turned out to be the best skier. He also took the most spectacular falls.

Immediately following the Winter Activities Trip, Randy took off for the Ironwood/Bessemer area of the upper peninsula of Michigan for Mini-School's annual downhill ski trip. Scott Bakkelund, David Larson-Hughes, Alan Jampsa, Gabe Peterson, Dan Voaklander, Andy Miller, Geoff Boller, Ryan Boyum, and Matt Evans were the student participants. Besides visiting the four ski hills in the Ironwood area, the group did cultural studies of the local towns and learned much about the geography, weather, topography and history there. The group felt it was a great place to visit but they would not want to live there.

In early March Casey Bakken, Mike Phelps, Mike Ennis, Kim Colway, Eric Thomas, Tony "Hondo" Cruikshank and I (Doug) headed for the BWCA for a week-long winter camping trip. On the winter activities trip we kind of play with quinzhee building, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. On the winter camping trip mastery of these skills is essential to the comfort and survival of the participants. Even

though the trippers were confronted with sub-zero temperatures and deep, soft snow, they all did very well and accomplished all their objectives.

All of these trips will be written up more extensively elsewhere in this issue of Com-Mini-Cations.

I (Doug), participated, as usual in a number ski races this winter, most notably the Mora Vasaloppet and the American Birkebeiner in Hayward/Cable, Wisconsin. I wasn't any faster this year, but I wasn't any slower either. It's been a great winter for all winter sports. I can think of very few days since December 1st when I haven't been out skiing for at least an hour or two.

Pauline and Ramona are anxious for spring to arrive when they can forego the winter bundling up of their small children, Alexandra and Zachary, respectively... Joanne has been busy digging out her drifted-in driveway much of the winter, but she breaks free periodically to take Tai kwon do classes... Randy is still holding his own in basketball (he claims the kids keep getting quicker each year) and plays indoor soccer on Sundays... Doug and Randy alternate taking trips while the one at home listens to Ramona, Pauline, and Joanne talk about babies and dogs.

As we move into 4th quarter big things are happening. In mid-April I (Doug) will leave with 9 students for an 18 day trip to Canyonlands and Mesa Verde National Parks. The highlight of the trip will be an 8 day canoe trip down the Green River through Canyonlands. Immediately following this trip Randy will take 9 students to the Black Hills for a mountain biking and hiking experience. I will follow with a BWCA canoe trip with 8 kids and Randy will end the year with a Southern Minnesota bike trip. Pauline and Ramona have had some discussion about a

Whitewater Rafting Trip on the St. Louis River in Carlton County sandwiched in between or running concurrently with the other trips. Right after the school year ends Randy and I will lead 28 students on 2 summer school canoe trips down the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. Whew!

Blocks also have been going well. Randy has run a block on World War II and Careers, Ramona has run a basic math block and assisted me with a block on Com-Mini-Cations, and, perhaps most exciting, Pauline has been leading a block on "The Art of Teaching". Every student in her block has some expertise. Scott Bakkelund has instructed the class in football training, Phil Lynott in ice fishing, Carrie Tiggas (with Lynott's help) in dance, Kristi Dahl in diabetes management, Collin Davis in Guitar improvisation, Dan Sauer in drum playing, Geoff Boller in nuclear holocaust survival, and Maya Diedrich taught everyone how to make a vegan pie. The video tapes of some of these demonstrations have been quite entertaining.

I'd (Doug) like to give a special commendation to Molly Latterner, Lacey Landt, and Lance Hamlin. Because of trips and the timing of this issue, I haven't been able to be as involved in Com-Mini-Cations as I usually am. These kids have really taken ownership of this edition and have exercised and developed reportorial, editorial, and artistic skills. I'm really proud of them.

All the rest of Mini-School is going well. Kids are holding down jobs, going to Vo-Tech, and going to mainstream classes. We've had some crises, problems, turmoils, but that's to be expected. We learn and grow from them. Year 27 of Mini is great.

Alumni News: (Doug & Randy)

Chris O'Dell (Ody-1990) is working in

Alaska as a mason and doing great. I got a letter from him in early March. He's a mason in Anchorage, building fireplaces and steps. He had a moose in his front yard the day he wrote the letter.

Dan Deikel ('87?) Has his own CD company and has another job in the technology field. Stopped by school in mid-March to visit. Doing great. Lives in Minneapolis.

Jeff Kinzer ('80?) Has become a serious student of survival and native American skills. Jeff's taken a course from a nationally known expert in the field, Tom Brown, and is hoping to meet Mark Warren this fall.

Heath Holste ('90?) Heath services and maintains the Clay Cliffe grounds and buildings and has courageously worked with Matt Evans (10) all year and has Matt doing fantastic work.

Sarah Iversen ('95) Works as a manager for "Home Neat Home" housecleaning service and is hiring Mini-School students to work for her (\$9.00/hour starting!)

Jim Conklin ('73) "Aardvark" is finishing off computer college courses and is maintaining an "A" average. Once the snows melt, he'll return to drag-racing his Harley and tinkering with his '47 Harley.

Scott Hedtke ('96) Is in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Japan. In a letter we received in January he mentioned that he was going to Guam and hoped to meet up with Al Wright (also in the Navy) there.

Casey Wright and Dawn Hesselgrave (Punkin' and Sweetie '96) Returned last month from Florida and are once again residents of the northland. They said Florida wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

The Cons of Winter

By: LANCE HAMLIN

I woke up at about 7:00, sat-up, and stretched in my new flannels. It's been getting a little cold these past few nights. When I look out the window my head drops as it shakes slowly. Out past the frosted over windows is what some Minnesotans (including myself) would call the beginning of five months of hell, but for the rest "Winter". On the ground there's a fresh layer of white although still little enough that you can see a few patches of grass here and there. We all know this is just the beginning and what winter brings is nothing good

Most aspects of your life have to be altered to protect the things that most people consider important. Comfort, it's important to me. Winter, it kills it. Most days if you don't dress like an Eskimo the wind and air temperature will let you know that you made the wrong decision.

Mobility, how important is mobility really. We need to work, go to school, have enough of the necessities, and places to keep us from boredom. All of these things require mobility. Winter turns these common and expected things into a hassle, sometimes a challenge, and occasionally a dangerous mission. With things like the skinnier roads and not being able to see if a car is coming because of the snow banks, our hearts have probably jumped so many times this winter that we will all have a heart attack by the year 2000. Your windshield and car are constantly stained with salt, which ends up rusting your car away, and snow is not as easy to see through as rain is so visibility can suck. You'd think that would be enough. Not even the worst part, the

roads, excuse me but the roads go to S____. Tell me, how many times do you spin your car around in the middle of the road during summer, never { usually }, or how about slide right off the road. There's not a day goes by that I don't see a car off the road or hear about an accident. The snow-plows are lame. They go down the road after a heavy fall and all the snow just gets pushed into a nice mound in front of everyone's driveway. The heavier traveled roads usually are plowed after it snows, but most back roads take awhile and some never get plowed. To me one of the worst parts is the pot holes. The roads get so chewed up that if it keeps up I'm going to be driving along and hit a pot hole and my axle will just fall off. If you ask me, I think if we can get a man on the moon back in 1969, you think by 1996 they could come up with a road that makes it through one winter, but that's just me. So as I said mobility is quite a hassle.

The biggest issue has to be safety. Sure it's not that hard to stay safe in the winter. But if you don't know what you're doing winter can affect safety in many ways. The temperature on many days can do a lot of damage, frostbitten ears, fingers and toes, hypothermia, even death. To bring it back to the roads for a second the accident rate in winter is higher than spring, summer, and fall put together. In our winters we get a bunch of snow storms and a couple of blizzards.

The actual definition of a blizzard is a storm with 32 MPH or more winds, enough snow to limit visibility to 500 feet or less and temperature at -20 or less. Now to most people from Minnesota this is not a blizzard but just a good storm. To us a blizzard is a lot worse. We reach -35 to -45 in the southern half to -45 to -55 in the northern half. With the extreme at -60 on

Pros of winter

By: Justin Streeter
& Chris Wegler

Assisted by: Doug Berg

In spite of its difficulties (see Lance Hamlin's article), winter is full of many fun articles. Many of these activities can only be done in winter.

First, there's snowmobiling. Get together with a group of friends and go riding, see the country, tear a trail through the powdery woods, speed across a frozen lake, and go just about anywhere you want. You'll see Josh Day out there.

If you're not fond of a noisy machine, there is cross-country skiing. This activity can be done on a casual level, just taking a tour through the woods, or you can find a race just about every winter weekend in Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Michigan. The big races are the Mora Vasaloppet and the American Birkebeiner in Hayward, Wisconsin. just ask Doug Berg about ski racing. He does it all.

Another great winter activity is downhill skiing. As you will read about elsewhere in this paper, Randy Nelson leads a Mini-School trip in downhill skiing every winter. Snowboarding is also a great activity to do on the downhill ski slopes, and many young people are into it. Mini-School's best might be Casey Bakken, but plenty of others will challenge him.

Like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing is a quiet winter activity. It can be done by anyone and is easier to learn than downhill or cross-country skiing. In the last few years, companies have started making light aluminum snowshoes for running and races can be found in this sport. Doug isn't into it

yet, but he knows people who are.

Along with these winter sports, it's fun to just be outside, making snowmen and snowwomen, having snowball fights, and building snow caves. Winter can bring out the kid in all of us. And last, there's the ultimate winter challenge, WINTER CAMPING. If a person really wants to sharpen his/her survival and camping skills to the highest degree, this is the way to do it. A winter camper finds that snow can be his/her friend, providing a good surface to travel on and providing insulation to keep a person warm.

So Lance, even though winter can be difficult, it can also be a wonderful season. So, don't be in too big a hurry to move south.



February 9, 1899 and on February 16, 1903, and most recently on February 1, 1996. A blizzard to be remembered hit on November 11, 1940, known as the Armistice Day Blizzard, considered the Storm of the Century. The death toll in Minnesota was 49 people, thousands of farm animals died with little protection from the violent winds. The forecast that day called for cooling temperature and a chance of flurries. The wind picked up to 75 MPH, the temperature dropped from the upper 30's to -25 in just the first half of the day, with an accumulation of 15 to 30 inches of snow. The blizzard of 1909 left snow drifts up to 25 feet high. The storm that has to be one of my least favorite has to be an ice storm. The roads are hell and you have to catch yourself left and right from bailing. Ice accumulates on the power lines to the point they snap and everyone in an area goes without power for awhile. In 1953 an ice storm left over 3 inches on the wires and put a lot of people in the hospital from being outside and getting hit by the ice.

So if you look at all of that you would agree winter is not a good season. All that is what we get. If I started talking about all the things that just aren't there, this article would be a little too long. Everything I've said happens while winter is here - what about when it leaves? ONE BIG SLOPPY MESS. If it's enough snow, flooding becomes a big problem. It can also turn into a disaster like in 1952 snow melting caused the upper Mississippi River to over flow and flooding caused 11 deaths and 198 million dollars worth of damage. The last way I'm going to stress this issue is through your wallets. Now think, how much more money do you spend because of winter? With the increased heating bill for your house and water, to the warmer clothes all the way down to washing the salt away on a nice day. The money goes a lot quicker. To end this article I'm going to give everyone a word of good advice. Move South !!! I know I am. (All of the statistical information on winter comes from your friendly Minnesota weatherguide calendar. Be sure and purchase one from a Mini- School student next fall.)



Fire Alarm

By: Maya Diedrich

As I was peacefully enjoying my break from Mini- School one February morning, I spotted my comrade Elissa down the hall at her locker. Since I hadn't seen her in a while, I walked right over and struck up a conversation. Trying my hardest to relax in an unrelaxable setting, I leaned against the bleak white prison like walls, neglecting to notice the undersized red box. Subconsciously my hand scanned the wall and upon finding the box my hand got somewhat interested. I started to get excited about our highly intense conversation and the next thing I knew, the buzzer was wailing.

But, with any crime there is a punishment and so inevitably I wasn't an exception. In confusion, I was run around with walkie talkies sounding in all directions, the operators of which proudly paraded with some sense of accomplishment at finding the "criminal." I was led into Mr. Boyle's office where he continued by interrogating me, trying to get me to break down and plead guilty to the crime (he didn't like my accident story.) He led in the chief of the fire department and the liaison officer. All three laid an enormous guilt trip on me with their tough, anal attitudes. He told me how many people he could have smashed on the way over, how much money it costs to repair the box and the fact that each fire alarm has to be taken quite seriously. My only defense was that accidents do happen.

I do understand that this incident may very well have blown up the world. I guess I was lucky and with everyone's help I hope we can all move on.

What would you ask God?

By: Chris Robertson

1. Chris Wegler - Who are You and what do You want?
2. Doug Berg - If we can send a man to the moon, why can't it be Lynott?
3. Josh Shoberg - Where do You go to the bathroom?
4. Adam Vernes - Who was the second gun man on the Grassy Knoll?
5. Andrea Hamilton - Why are boys dumb?
6. Chris Robertson - I would ask God if there is any place where I can go that's safe from all things?
7. Bill Gallagher - What planet do You live on and where are we now?
8. Josh Day - Why are girls so hard to understand?
9. Lacey Landt - Do Your feet ever get cold on the winter in those sandals?
10. Molly Latterner - Where's the beef?



Reviewing Trips!

By: Lacey Landt

This year in Mini, , the first trip was Pauline's bike trip they biked through Mankato. It was a three day bike trip. Next was the Mark Warren trip I didn't go last year but this year I did. If you have the chance to go on this trip, @ @!! Grantsburg went out and there was a nice size group. An Alumnus even joined them, Josh Stinson..

Next, was Winter Activities, I have never been on it so I asked Justin Streeter what he thought of the trip and he said "Great" with two thumbs up. Not much later came the Michigan ski trip with Randy. Five days they snowboarded everyday and went into the lodge to keep warm. Next is the Winter Camping trip. It left March 5th and returned March 12th. The trip consisted of building a quinzee, {if you want to stay warm}, cross country skiing, and snow shoe hiking. After this trip you will come back with muscular legs. The trippers that went this year were Eric Thomas, Kim Colway, Mike Phelps, Casey Bakken, Mike Ennis and Tony Cruikshank.

I will be attending the next trip that goes out, the Utah Green River Trip. I don't care if I have to ride in the trailer. I will go!!! We will be getting back from Utah around May 2nd just as Randy's bike trip heads out for the Black Hills. On the Utah trip we will see who the real trippers are. The Boundary Waters Canoe trip will go out after the bike trip. The portages there are a real @#%&\$. Towards the end of the year Randy might do another bike trip through Minnesota or into Wisconsin. He doesn't know, yet we all know how Randy is. Once school is over and those kids who didn't quite finish this year or need extra credit, Doug and Randy take out a summer school canoe trip on the Namekagon and the St. Croix River.

How many programs do you know of that take you out for once in a lifetime opportunities What a program!! One I certainly wouldn't want to lose.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

By: Justin Streeter

The winter activities trip consisted of good times and a lot of laughs, many of which came from the activities. Since the majority of the activities were new to us it made the trip especially interesting.

One of the easier activities started soon after we got up to Doug's cabin on the Yellow River near Spooner, Wisconsin. Snowshoeing, that is. It was easy to get the hang of and pretty fun to do. We first used the snowshoes to find a spot to build a Quinzhee. Falling while using snowshoes is expected especially if your name is Austin.

After starting the Quinzhee it was time to try out the Cross Country skis. After this trip I am convinced Doug is talented. Most of us could barely move when we started much less get any kind of momentum. Doug seemed to skate around us as we fell and tangled our skies. Well our lesson lasted a grueling two hours and we had enough till the next day where we skied four miles of what seemed to be solid hills.

The Quinzhee structure was made and we went to the ski place. The four miles went on forever and we were very tired afterwards and it showed. Especially since Austin managed to fill the warming house with smoke from his burning gloves on the heater.

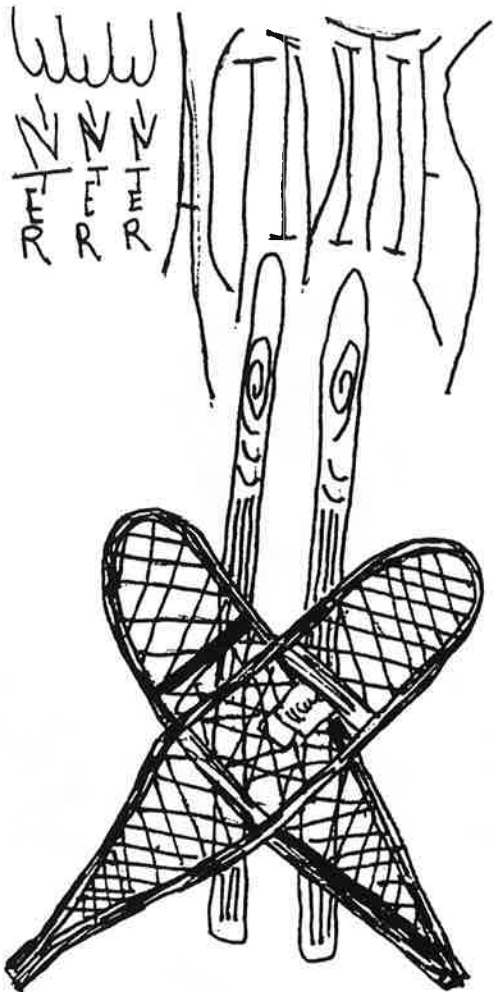
We pulled up to What the Heck bar for dinner and found that the bar lives up to its name. An old man was in the parking lot doing what he should have been doing in the men's room. The food was good and replenishing after a day of skiing.

Snowshoeing must have been the funniest. We began our hike through the forest with a slow continuing snowball fight that would result in someone falling on his face in three feet of snow. We hiked out onto a lake that had been untouched till Mini School got control. We used the snowshoes as pens writing MINI RULES!!! across half the lake.

After the snowshoe hike we put the finishing touches on the Quinzhee, and prepared it for the night. The Quinzhee was a good experience, but a lot of work. The draining snowshoe hike helped put us

to sleep in the Quinzhee but, I still managed to wake up once an hour I think it was due to Austin's talking in his sleep and Wegler's snoring.

Overall I feel the trip was a success. Our group of Maya, Austin, Joe, Chris, Doug, a little of Joanne, and I became a step closer and resulted in a comfortable little class. Doug was in a good mood although not feeling 100% and his cabin worked out perfect for the trip. Lots of fun!



Michigan Trip

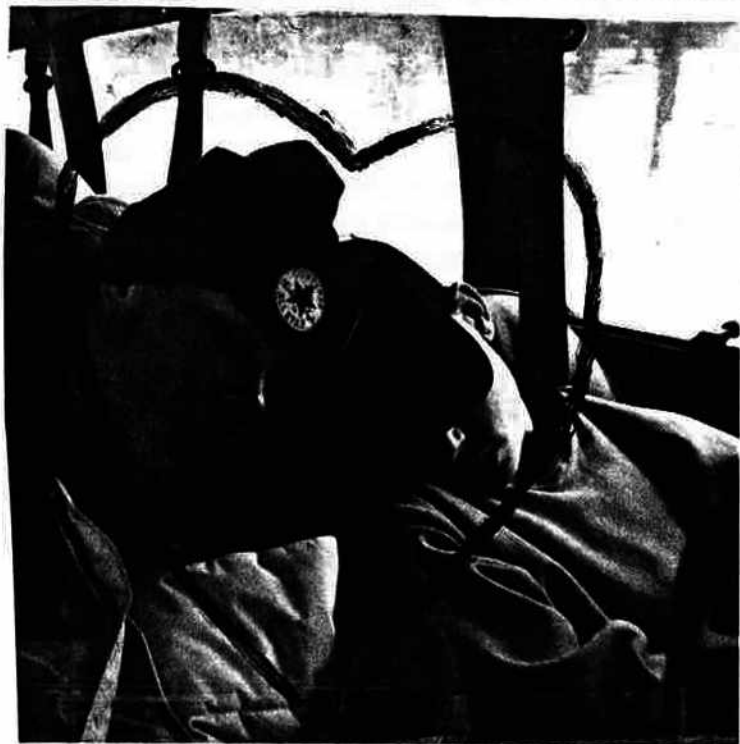
By: **Matt Evans, Geoff Boller and Gabe Peterson**

Assisted by Randy Nelson

This has been a winter where many of us have seen snow depths at levels greater than we can remember, but we only have 25% of the snow that has fallen in northern Michigan, where 200-300 inches every winter is common. The Michigan '97 trip noticed this change in snow depth as we approached the Wisconsin-Michigan border. While Gabe was musing about the solitude of northern Wisconsin and deciding he would go crazy not seeing anyone for any period of time, Randy tried to explain something called the "lake effect" and tell us why this area gets so much snow -- always trying to sneak in a lesson, even on Sunday!

Actually, the greater than usual amount of snow in central Minnesota and Wisconsin meant fewer tourists (snowmobilers and skiers) making the trek into the real snow country of mid-America. As a result, waiting to get on the lift was non-existent and the slopes were uncrowded. But as Randy mentioned more than once, this situation is not good for any area so dependent on the tourist dollar.

Randy had nine of us in the group; Alan, Dan, Dave, Andy, Geoff, Gabe, Ryan, Scott, and Matt. It marked the first time the transition from skiers to snow boarders was complete, with even novices in the group choosing to snowboard instead of ski. Besides snowboarding, as a group we liked all those things that don't remind us of school. However, Randy kept presenting activities which reminded us of school. One of the activities was doing a cultural study on the town of Bessemer, Michigan. It was not the most enjoyable lesson since most of the people we interviewed were elderly (Randy



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claims there is a high percentage of retirees here) and not high school age.

We had typical winter weather with snow a couple days and nights, sub-zero temps at night and high teens during the day, and great snow conditions. Randy always made us evaluate the places and talk about the factors which influence our impressions. Well, our impressions of Michigan are quite favorable, especially if you like to snow board. We would recommend this trip to anyone, and if the truth be known, Randy's assignments and meetings are not all that bad.



BWCA Winter Camping Trip

(a.k.a. "The Bacon Binge")

By Michael Phelps

Most people don't have the guts to go on a trip like this. They'd say it's too cold or they're not that crazy. Some might even tell you to save your money and go in the summer. Well, Eric Thomas, Kim Colway, Casey Bakken, Tony "Hondo" Cruikshank, Mike Ennis, and I, Mike Phelps, had the guts to follow Doug Berg into The Boundary Waters in the middle of winter. We were "crazy enough" to do something hardly anyone else ever did. And we were looking forward to it.

Day One

We left school around 9:00 Wednesday March 5th and headed for Grand Marais. We ate breakfast/lunch in Rush City. Everyone had bacon. We got to Grand Marais and had an hour to run around town before checking into the hotel. We checked into the hotel. Doug got his own room while the six of us were crammed into another. Kim, Eric, Hondo (Tony), and I ate at the Blue Water Cafe and all had steak and eggs and bacon. Casey and Mike E. went up to the grocery store for their dinner. Everyone sat in the hot tub at the hotel. Casey, Mike E., and I spent an hour jumping into snowbanks.

Day Two

We woke up at 5:15 a.m. Thursday and went over to the South of the Border Cafe (that's the Canadian Border, folks) for breakfast. Everyone had bacon. Before we left town, we stopped by the grocery store so Doug could pick up four extra pounds of bacon. Then we spent the next hour and a half headed out the Gunflint Trail. We got to our drop off point and got ready to hike. All our gear was either loaded onto our backs or pulled behind us on

sleds. It was difficult because the snow was very dry and we had to break our own trail. Every time we passed a slushy spot we had to stop and scrape the ice off the bottoms of our sleds. Some of the portages had such steep and slippery hills that everyone had to team up, sometimes in groups of up to four, just to get the sleds up them. Lunch was eaten at a campsite at the other end of the lake from where we ended up staying. Bagel, cheese, and salami were fine today but we knew they would get old by the end of the trip. We wanted to get to an island about six miles from the start but it was such hard going that we only got about two miles before we settled for a closer site. I was disappointed that we couldn't do what we set out to do, but I didn't really mind stopping early. Doug hiked out to try to see how the trail was further ahead while everyone unloaded, got firewood, and dug trenches to sleep in. Lastly, we all shoveled a huge pile of snow by flashlight for our quinzhee. The stars were incredible that night. I remember walking out to the water hole in the middle of the lake and turning off my flashlight to look at the stars. They were just so bright and so numerous.

Day Three

Friday was pretty much spent making camp. We spent most of our time getting firewood and hollowing out the quinzhee. The quinzhee was gigantic. It had two rooms separated by about a foot of snow. One room fit two people rather comfortably and the other housed four. It was kind of a tight squeeze in that one but we managed. It was warmer than a trench, that's for sure. When we weren't getting wood or working on the quinzhee we went sledding or sat around the campfire eating bacon. Doug even did some skiing that day. Every so often during the day we'd hear Eric yell out "HONDOOOO!" We think he'd just say that whenever he didn't have anything else to say. There weren't many stars Friday night due to clouds.

Day Four

Doug let us sleep in Saturday morning, which everyone was grateful for. We went snowshoeing that day. Doug led us out on a route he had looked at earlier which took us through a lot of woods. It was a difficult trail. Roots stuck up everywhere and branches stuck across the paths in the most inconvenient places. If somebody followed another person too closely they got twigs and branches snapped in their face. Even with snowshoes on we still sank about five or six inches (except Hondo, who kept turning our nicely broken trail into a nicely broken trench) but that's a lot better than sinking two or three feet every time a snowshoe came off! We found a groomed ski trail at the far end of our hike that really excited Doug. We made the quinzhee slightly bigger that day as well. We also got firewood, went sledding and ate bacon by the fire.

Day Five

This was, in my opinion, the most exciting day. Doug made pancakes for breakfast which everyone liked. We also had bacon with breakfast.

We all went cross country skiing out to the ski trail we'd found Saturday so Doug could have his fun. Supposedly there were some big hills to ski. There was even an old car rolled over with a tree growing up through it off to the side. We didn't quite get that far though. Hondo was straggling way behind so I stopped to wait for him, but he didn't come. I went back a ways and still he didn't come. Eventually I heard him yelling, but I thought he was just angry about falling down or something. But when he continued to yell without getting any closer I became worried. I skied back, almost to the start of the woods, to find him sitting on the ground amongst a bunch of tree roots holding his ankle in pain. I didn't know if he'd broken it or just twisted it or what but I went to

get Doug and the rest of the group as fast as I could. It was slow going through the woods with skis and several times I had to take them off and put them back on again. The others had gotten quite a ways ahead and even though I was shouting at the top of my lungs, for a time I got no response. Finally, almost to the last leg of the trail, Eric and Kim heard me. Eric, who had brought his snowshoes along, headed back toward Hondo while Kim, who also had snowshoes, raced across a lake to get Doug. In the end, Hondo was okay, but we didn't get to ski on the groomed trail and Kim, Mike E. and I got stuck hauling skis and poles back in our arms from the people with snowshoes. That night at the fire we started joking about things we could do to Doug. Eric got an idea and the more we thought about it, the better it sounded. So we all went up to Doug's tent where he was quietly sleeping. First, Eric used a wire to tie Doug's zippers together from the outside. Then, with THE SPOON throwing the first blows, he proceeded to spoon snow onto his tent. Eventually, after Eric stopped using the spoon and moved up to a snow shovel, Doug woke up. "Wha?...Huh?... Hey, what cha guys doing?.... Eric?.... @\$%^*!! Eric!" ZIPP...ZIPP...ZIPP...! That was all we heard as he furiously tried to get out of his tent.

Kim moved back to her trench and Eric wanted to sleep by the fire so we knocked out part of the wall inside the quinzhee and put two people to a room. We also got wood and ate bacon by the fire. Eric and Mike E. even went fishing in the water hole, but they didn't catch anything.

Day Six

Monday, the last full day in camp, was Solo Day. In solos, everyone split up out of sight and earshot for three hours to do whatever we wanted. Some people hiked around a bit, others sat and listened to the woods, or else just wrote in their journals. Everybody agreed

that, while it seemed short once it was over, three hours seems like a long time while you're doing it. Even if it was boring at the time, everyone was glad they did it and even felt it should have been longer. The rest of the day we did whatever we wanted. We had a fairly decent woodpile by now so we didn't need to get wood. Instead we had a snowball fight back in the woods, went sledding face first at the quinzhee, and ate bacon by the fire.

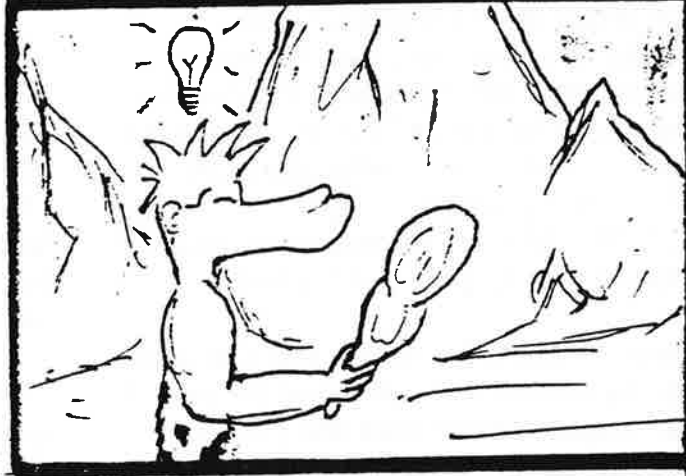
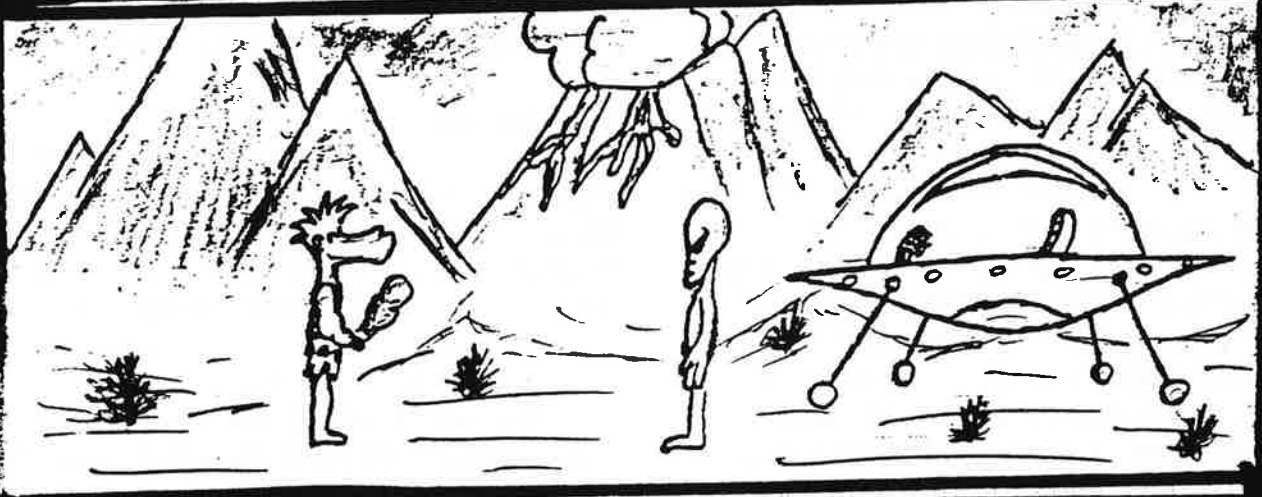
Day Seven

Last day. We finished up all the bacon at breakfast before breaking camp. Everyone loaded up their sleds again for the hike out. No one believed Casey and me (the only veterans on the trip) when we said it would be faster and easier on the way back but it was. I was hardly tired by the time we got back to the van. Boy, was it nice to see the van again. Music, heating, and padded seats were back in our lives.

We stopped at the municipal swimming pool in Grand Marais to take showers, which almost everyone took gladly. Dinner was at Pizza Hut in Two Harbors. We got three pizzas (all large I think, but I could be wrong) and actually finished every last slice. We wanted bacon, but all we could get was Canadian bacon, so we didn't.

Unlike the trip up there, everyone was pretty quiet on the way home. We finally rolled into the Perkins parking lot around 10:30 Tuesday night. We all finished the trip by going to Perkins and ordering a big round of bacon (just kidding).





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

Can you find these words?

WATERSKIING
 WALKING
 HIKING
 COLORS
 WATER
 BEES
 HOT

SWIMMING
 THUNDER
 BIKING
 STORMS
 GRASS
 BUGS
 WET

SUNSHINE
 FLOWERS
 CLOUDY
 LEAVES
 BIRDS
 RAIN

THE 10 OLDEST THINGS IN MINI-SCHOOL

By: Bill Gallagher

10. People's attitudes
 9. Seniors
 8. National Geographics
 7. Chairs
 6. Clothing
 5. Camping gear
 4. Books
 3. Choice of classes
 2. Randy
 1. Doug
- (Doug's note- Joanne is older than I am!!)



Top Ten Movies

By: Rick Fisk

10. Now you see it, Now you don't
9. Crazy as a loon
8. The Flintstones
7. Airplane
6. Braveheart
5. Independence Day
4. The Rock
3. Twister
2. Apocalypse Now
1. Star Wars



Want Ads

By: Molly Latterner

-WANTED!- Looking for a girl who's last name is Sweet. -Dan Sauer (Sour)

-For Sale- 1992 Chevy S10, V-6, 88,000 miles, New tires, Excellent care, Topper available, Tool box also available. \$5995

-Pauline # 401-9309

-For Sale- 1997 Polaris 500 carb SLP's Woody's Carbide extreme 96- 1 inch Woody's Carbide tipped studs 2 year engine warranty, 600 miles Windshield bag \$4800 or Best Offer

- Justin # 648-7016 pager
938-2529 home

-For Sale- 1996 CBR 600 F2
Stock 5200 miles
Red, Black, White
\$4500

-Justin # 648-7016 pager
938-2529 home

First Impressions of Mini School

Jessica Juneau

My impression of Mini was that I felt it was pretty cool. I like Mini. It is a lot easier, and it's a lot better than mainstream because the teachers are more understanding.

Jeannie McKelvey

My first impression of Mini was that it seems like a good program to be in. Seeing that I never did all that great in mainstream. Mini-School is going to help me out so I can graduate on time. The people are nice and not judgmental. I'd have to say this program is a lot better for me than mainstream ever was.



Naughty Kids

By: Josh Shoberg

Back in the days when 5 bucks actually went a long way and Randy would hunt dinosaurs for food, there have always been kids who try to make the day less boring by doing awkward things. Either by accident or on purpose, they're still amusing to look back at for a good laugh.

- Elissa Johnson** - Chased by guy with a plunger.
- Josh Shoberg** - Collected money for fake charity.
- Adam Vernes** - Glued a balloon and his hand to his head.
- Molly Latterner** - Ate entire container of paste.
- Doug Berg** - Beat up older and bigger kid with his lunch box.
- Greg Fasching** - Age 5, stuck hose into his dad's car turned it on and walked away thinking he had washed the car.
- Chris Wegler** - Tried to drown Josh Shoberg when he was 9.
- Chris Robertson** - Walked out in an intersection and stopped traffic with his hands.
- Clint Fero** - He got stuck in a coffee pot.
- Jenny Taylor** - One time, she went tree tipping. (to this day we don't know why)
- Tony Cruikshank** - Sold dead frogs.
- Lacey Landt** - Hid with the cereal in the cupboard when parents were mad.
- Maya Diedrich** - Played Mean-O Nice-O with sister (ask her about it).
- Lance Hamlin** - Chopped off finger.

FATE

By: Anthony R. Cruikshank

some say the only fate
is what we make
others say it's written
and you can only take
but who knows that
who would it be
it could be one
but the Greeks say three
the three aspects of fate
have their jobs to do
and why shouldn't they
they're people too
Clotho spins your thread
course or fine can be controlled
and whether or not
to break the mold
Lachesis measures your string
luck long life good health
and if she likes you
maybe some wealth
Then there is Atropes
she cuts the thread
be friendly to her
or else be dead



Poems

By: Jeannie McKelvey

Life is like a river,
It runs through wide and thin streams
Begins, ends, and is never what it seems,
Even though times get rough
things always seem to work out
Life is one of those things
We just don't know about.
Mountains have snow,
Hill tops are green,
Big and little things still can't be seen
We think of life as short
Although it may be
But shining through blindness
people can see.

Doug's Kitty

By: Jessica Juneau

I once had a little black cat,
Who loved to come and hide in my hat.

It runs around the house ,
Faster than a mouse.

He loves to cuddle and can be really sweet,
Until he begs you for a treat.

He loves to eat fish,
When it's in a dish.

He loves to gallop around and around,
Until he falls flat on the ground.

He can get really mad and cause a big scene,
Until I get really mean.

He plays really hard and gets into dirt,
And most of the time he does not get hurt..

A Friend

By: Jeannie McKelvey

A friend is
Someone who listens,
Someone who cares
Someone who you know will always be there,
Someone who helps through the bad times
no matter what
Someone who sticks up for you
not some fake
Someone who could never ever be replaced.

Brad Johnston Featured Alumnus

By: Lacey Landt

This featured alumnus was in Mini in the 70's when mini school, was Mini school. This alumnus is Brad Johnston, Joanne's husband. I asked Joanne a little bit about him and she said that he would always come up to Joanne's office and talk with her about his girlfriend. I had written out some questions for him to answer and sent them home with Joanne and here's what he said.

What trips did you go on?

My first Mini school trip was to the Grand Canyon. I went to the BWCA a couple times and the other long trip was the Appalachian trail trip. All were very different experiences in climate, culture, terrain and learning more about myself and fellow trippers.

What have you done after Mini?

Two weeks after graduation I entered the Marine Corps, which is much different than the army, for those still confused with the military branches. It was a good experience for me overall. Side note here: my last year in, I ran into another Mini schooler of all places to see him, -a plane crash. It was actually a military jet from "my base". I was working security on the perimeter when I spot my old trippin' bud Joe Garner- realize that this is in the small town of Moorehead City, North Carolina. It was a bad incident but a great, surprising reunion. Joe and I are both living back in Minnesota.

After my six years with the Marines, staying in eastern North Carolina, I entered the commercial construction field as an apprentice carpenter and spent five years in that. Then longing for those Minnesota winters, I returned in the last part of the 80's to Minnesota.

I went to school at Bemidji State University and worked at a funeral home during those five years. I graduated with an industrial arts degree, and married Joanne, returning to the magnet city {Excelsior}. Now I work as an Artistic Fabricator in Minneapolis for HSC scenic set construction. Phill Hinz, my boss, is a S.W.A.S. program tripper. Mini school and S.W.A.S used to meet up on trips together from time to time.

Is there anything special you do? hobbies, pets etc.?

Many special things but here's a half dozen

- _ my wife Joanne
- _ our animal companions Hazel and Curly
- _ our house
- _ painting
- _ fishing
- _ skiing-any kind snow or water

What would you like to say to Mini school?

To the Mini school program- Thanks for the challenge and encouragement to meet those challenges. I'm infinitely grateful.

To the current Mini schoolers- Go on trips- participate and although I know it's tough sometimes in high school be a friend to yourself, trips can help you see your "good side." Keep truckin'.

What do you remember about Mini?

What do I remember..... couches in the classroom and being treated as a person, not just "another kid."

Explain how Doug and Randy influenced your life or in some way changed it?

Randy and Doug are the ones that took us on the Appalachian trail trip. They both have influenced me in positive manners and

continue to do so, They were great teachers and they're still good friends. I would say the only other teacher, besides Lester, that has had a lasting positive, and affirming influence on me was Mr. Ernest Gulner when he was still teaching at West Jr. High. They're all wonderful folks to me. Now they know it too.

Brad Johnston!



Featured Teacher "Doug Berg"

Our featured teacher for this issue is the unrestrainable, everlasting, skiing at 90 maniac."Doug Berg."

When we got into Mini School two years ago we got the chance to meet and learn from a teacher that was... what, one in 100?. One in 1000? By far rare. 27 years ago a man (Doug) and his friend (Randy) decided to offer kids in danger of dropping out of high school a change. Mini-School was created, and ever since, Doug has been taking kids from almost nothing to graduation.

I must give credit to a man who can deal with kids for 27 years and still be ready to smile and tell a joke or pick on Phil. At 50+ a man with energy, wisdom, and experience, Doug would be the person I would want to be lost in the woods with. In conclusion we dedicate the article in Com-Mini to you, the best teacher one could ever imagine, Thank you Doug.

Lance, Lacey

What is your opinion of Doug Berg?

Joanne- He's one of my oldest and dearest friends.

Randy- He's my best friend, I Learned a lot from him, and he's a damn good teacher.

Ramona- I think Doug is one of the most intuitive, caring people I know.

Pauline- Working with Doug has made me learn a lot about the environment and myself. He is a role model for me as an educator and

STAR WARS

SPECIAL EDITION

A MOVIE REVIEW AND A LOOK AT A LEGEND

By: Anthony R. Cruikshank

he has a great sense of humor.

Alison Young- Doug is King.

Angie Peterson- I love Doug! (those of you that know Angie, know how she says "I love Doug")

Mike Ennis- He's somebody who can accept people for who they are, and that's cool.

Casey Bakken- Very enthusiastic.

Andrea Hamilton- If I had the choice I'd have Doug be my father.

Phil Lynott- I think he's really weird.

Emily Richards- Doug Rules.

Eric Thomas- He's @#*%#^ awesome, He should be President, the man's something else.

Bill Zastera- Bright.

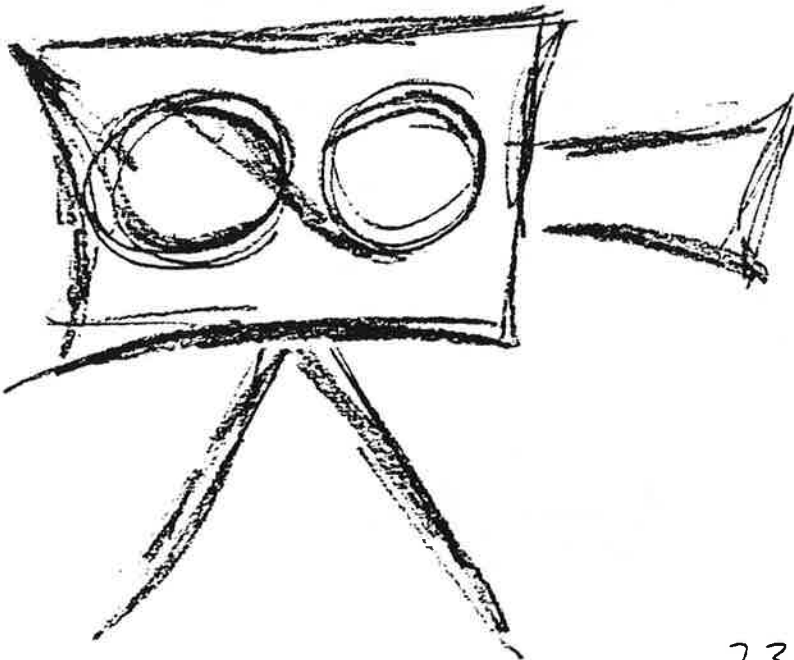
Lacey Landt- He is by far the best teacher I've ever had. I love him like a father.

Lance Hamlin- The first teacher who doesn't act like a teacher but a kind, old, wise man sharing his knowledge.

Chris Wegler- Doug Rocks!

Rhett Rasmussen- He's the only teacher I know that doesn't get pissed on a trip when you lose a canoe.

Kristi Dahl- Doug kicks butt!



George Lucas' imagination came up with the creation known as Star Wars. His dream however, wasn't able to be fully realized because of the primitive special effects capabilities of the time. So, in the special edition re-release Lucas added computer generated bits and pieces where he wanted them. It hasn't changed the movie much but the purist might not like the changes. The thrill of seeing the classic on the big screen should sway the people afraid of the changes. Lucas created what is now known as THX technology after Star Wars' original release because he felt that the intricate sound effects that were created for the movie were mutilated by the primitive sound systems of the day. So even if you were around for the first release you still have a lot to look forward to because of such technological advances.

In 1977 SW was the best thing to happen to special effects ever. Sure in 1997 the special effects are about average but so what. That isn't even why the movie became the legend that it is. Star Wars is a fairy tale for kids and adults alike. "Fairy tale? Star Wars is hard core sci-fi!", you say. Wrong. Hard core science fiction is littered with unnecessary technological babble and insider references that most of the insiders don't get. Star Wars does have a story about a farm boy and an old wizard rescuing a princess and then fighting a battle in which the fate of the universe is decided. Hmmm. That sounds like a fairy tale to me. "A fairy tale has to have a moral to the story, not just telling it for tellings sake.", you say? I quote Obi-wan Kenobi, "Let go of your conscious self and act on instinct." That sounds like believe in yourself to me and what

happened to Luke when he did "let go" and use what's inside? You be the judge. Some say Star Wars is just a movie; I would like to think of it as the start of a movement. A movement in better entertainment and in making society a better place.



Hamlet Review

By: Josh Shoberg

On the opening night of the **New Hamlet**, three friends attended the showing at the Uptown Theater. If you're a Shakespeare buff like me you'd be happy with how the movie turned out, besides two parts. In the play, Hamlet tells the king that Polonius' body is upstairs after he tells the king his body is buried. In the movie, the king finds his body upstairs and Ophelia sees it, which doesn't happen in the play. If you've never read the play you'll still enjoy the movie, if you understand how they speaketh.

Where are seniors going?

By: Lance Hamlin

- Nicolai Alatzas** - Acting school at NYU.
- Scott Bakkelund** - Going to college.
- Josh Chowen** - Work, Vo-tech
- Kristi Dahl** - Work full-time, move, HTC in Jan 98'
- Josh Day** - Go to work in Montana
- Greg Fasching** - Moving out, finishing school at HTC, then going to have fun
- Clint Fero** - Go somewhere warm
- Andrea Hamilton** - Vermont, New Orleans, Westward Africa
- Lance Hamlin** - Live in an underground cave in the Badlands and hydroponically grow "potatoes"
- Austin Manship** - Graduate by 2006, go south and start a liquor store chain
- Mike McGinn** - Go south
- Grady Peterson** - Normandale
- Pete Riedel** - Full time job, MPLS Tech
- Josh Shoberg** - Nowhere fast
- Justin Streeter** - Work, money, college
- Jenny Taylor** - Normandale, move to the Bahamas
- Chris Wegler** - West
- Bill Zastera** - "Going crazy....."



Comparing Schools

By: Rick Fisk

My school in Florida sucked because they were too strict about seating changes or leaving class. Here in Minnesota it's ok. I like Mini - School a lot. The kids are much different, they're not stuck up. I have a problem with staying in class.

Mini school is better then my old school in Florida. You feel welcome, you don't feel like you're in jail. People are different here in Minnesota. I think the weather gets to everyone up here. This school is a lot bigger then my old school and there are lots of rich people here. I still like Florida better than Minnesota because all my friends and family are down there.

Pink Floyd Lazer Light Show

By: Lacey Landt

After a hard Friday night of working we were tired, but by the time we were heading downtown we had already started feeling really good. Lance Hamlin, Mike McGinn, Josh Chowen and I all were heading down to the Planetarium which was featuring "The Wall". We saw an assortment of different outfits. People were actually wearing Suits and ties and dresses to a lazer show let alone a Pink Floyd lazer show.

The show was awesome. The lazars were incredible and the different motions they used were so intense. The show was supposed to end at 1:00 a.m. but the crowd kept cheering for more so he played an extra half an hour. We had a lovely experience on the drive back {but of course you will always have an experience when Lance is driving} Anyway he took us into the U of M campus and at every stoplight for the first four there were no left or right turns. Our faithful and loyal driver SAFELY got us all home to finish off a great night.

HEROFACTOR

Local Band Review

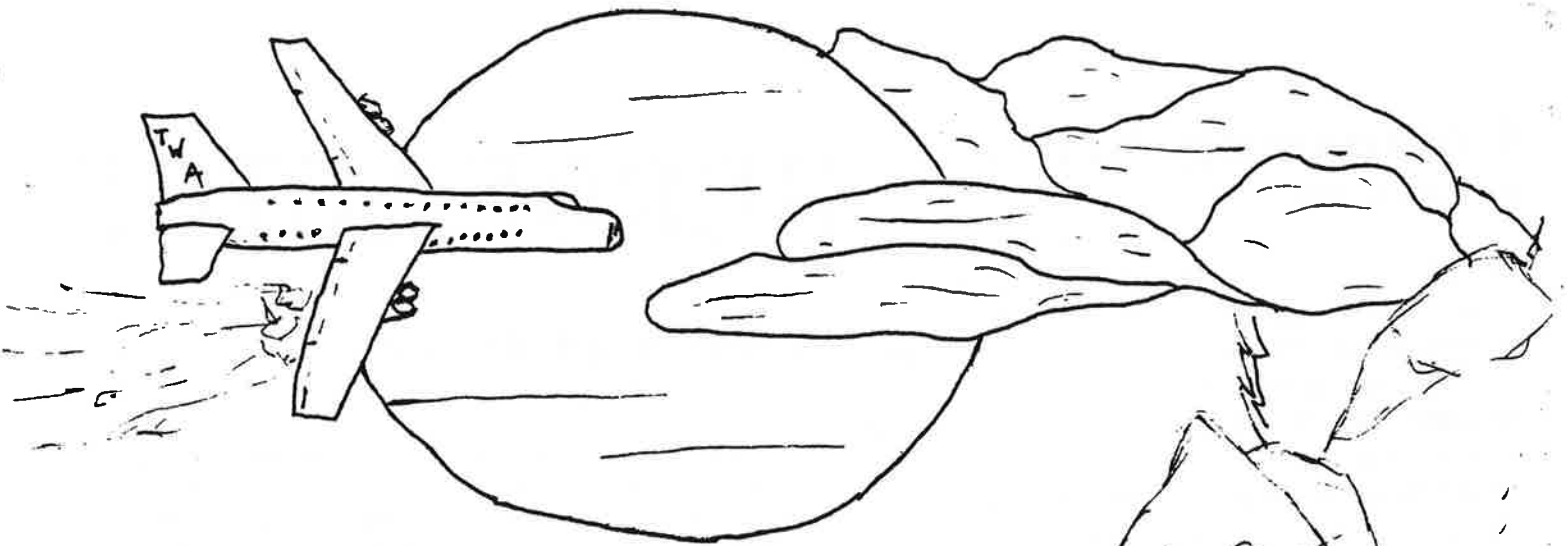
By Carrie Tiggas

Recently a friend of mine who is in a band asked me to come and listen to them. I didn't know what to think. He had told me that they had formed the band about eight months before and their guitarist had just started playing right before they formed the band. My sister said they were pretty good so I went and checked them out.

I found their music original, put together well, excellent lyrics, and to me, pretty fascinating. They work hard to tighten up every song until they think it sounds good. Their music is just as original as their lyrics. It keeps you wanting more. Just when you think you can predict the next sound, they change to some riff that takes you by surprise. A lot of bands' songs all sound the same. Not this band -- every single song sounds very different. They say their style of music is like a rough 311.

So if you like bands like 311 or Korn you will like these guys. They are called HEROFACTOR. They are a local band destined for stardom. They have been playing around town so if you hear about them go check them out. They're worth your time and the trip. When they are rich and famous, tearing up the charts, remember you heard about them first here in Com-mini-cations.

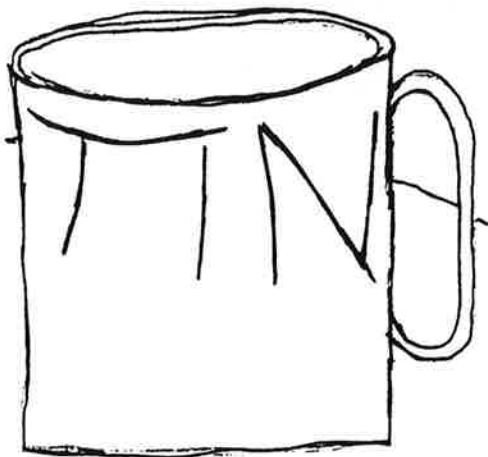




MOVIE REVIEW "airplane"

By: Lance and Lacy

The definition of a "classic". Airplane was a comedy with not much of a story, and zero purpose. But, if you need a good laugh I highly recommend it. It was made in the late 70's. The very thin story line is a man trying to get the love of his life back and he goes on this plane after her and ends up having to land it. Because half the people on the plane that ate fish got food poisoning including the pilots. In conclusion I believe that everyone that believes, supports and abides by the law of 4:20 should watch this movie.



Tin Cup

a movie review

By: Bill Gallagher

The point of the movie was to entertain and that's just what it did. Kevin Costner was a champion golfer in college beating his friend for the title. The story takes place in a tiny town in Texas where his job is to take care of the golf course he owns. His downfall is when he falls in love with Renee Ruso, but she's seeing his old college friend. The effect of this sequence of events is that he quits drinking and he ends up making a miraculous putt people will always remember. He doesn't win the tournament, but he does succeed in winning Renee's heart.

Gwar Concert Review

By: Josh Shoberg

On November 3rd of 1996, I attended the Gwar concert at First Avenue. Skold was the first band to open. It seemed like they weren't too experienced but all in all they were pretty good. The second band to play was the Genetorturers. To put it bluntly, they sucked. The guitar work was superb, however the female lead singer of S&M band screamed as loud as she could. It sounded like crap.

Finally Gwar came on, introduced by a man with a Jerry Springer mask. The band finally came on and ripped his face off. After I lost my shoe in the mosh pit, I retreated back, but I still saw the fight scenes. After the show Slimenstra signed some autographs and went home. My overall opinion: it kicked butt..



NICO

the new Blind Melon
album a review

By: Anthony R. Criukshank

If you're a Blind Melon fan you might be asking yourself, "Wasn't the lead singer Shannon Hoon's life tragically cut short?" Yes, that is true; and no, Blind Melon hasn't decided to go with the same name and a different vocalist. There were quite a few great songs that Shannon recorded that haven't been released, such as "Soup", the title song to their last album, Soul One. This album was recorded on an eight track as part of a demo in '91. "Letters From a Porcupine" is another unreleased cut which was recorded over a phone onto an answering machine.

Shannon's vocals are as superb as always and the instrumentals are up to the high quality that you would expect. Nico is also enhanced by some quick time video, lyrics, a newspaper article, and other cool stuff that is available through most CD-rom drives. This, definitely the last album in the Blind Melon legacy, has been dedicated to Shannon's daughter, Nico Blue Hoon. And part of the proceeds are being donated to the Musicians Assistants Program or (MAP), which is dedicated to the sole purpose of helping musicians recover from drug and alcohol abuse problems. If you would like to make a contribution to the educational fund for Nico Blue that was set up in Shannon's memory:

Nico Blue Hoon
Education Fund
c/o Shapiro & Co.
9229 Sunset Blvd., Suite 607
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Com-Mini-Cations

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261 School Avenue
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Excelsior, MN 55331
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March 1997

Address Correction Requested

Put this date on your calendar!

You are invited to attend the annual
Mini-School Recognition
of this year's graduates!

Come for an evening of joy, excitement, and relief
Serious awards and silly awards
Slide show & refreshments

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

7:00-9:00 PM

MHS Small Auditorium