

Com-Mini-Cations



Fall
Issue
'98



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

I have run a couple of marathons, skied quite a few Birkebeiners and Vasaloppets, and paddled in a good many long distance canoe races. In each case, I feel a bit of anxiety before the event, then after the gun goes off, an adrenaline rush and a lot of physical and emotional turbulence as the field sorts itself out. The middle part of the race, from the 1st quarter mark to the 3rd quarter mark, if things are going well, is kind of a cruise, smooth and mellow. In the last quarter, though dealing with fatigue, I try to reach down for something extra and finish as strongly as I can.

A year in Mini-School, and this is the 29th year of the Mini-School marathon, goes kind of like a long distance event. This year is no exception. Before the school year was a week old, Ramona and I took eleven students to the upper peninsula of Michigan for a very successful backpacking trip on the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Trail. Two weeks later, 23 students participated in Mini-

School's 12th annual Mark Warren trip up on the St. Croix River near Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Right after that we kicked off Mini-School's annual Minnesota Weather guide Calendar fund-raiser (see the articles on these trips and fund-raiser in this issue). As I write this, the kids have sold 300 calendars, netting the program over \$1300.00. Also, as I write this, Randy and I are preparing to take 15 students on the 16th annual "Grantsburg hike" of the Sunrise Ferry hiking trail along the St. Croix River. In addition to all this, we've had some terrific blocks and classes 1st quarter, men's, women's, and social issues groups are going very well, and the program has taken in about 35 new kids since the beginning of the year.

From Thanksgiving until 4th quarter, the program will slip into the cruise mode. Fewer trips will go out, stronger focus will be given to internal program issues and classes, and the program will gear up for the finish of the marathon. During 4th quarter a trip will be out almost continuously, big plans will be made for Recognition Night, and seniors will be tying up loose ends. A strong finish.

This year does have a bit of a different feel to it.

First, it's Mini-School's first full year in its new area (see Lacey Landt's "Is it Home Yet?" article). The program is adjusting, still figuring out the best uses for all this space, and, except for having no windows, almost everyone who was involved in part or all (Randy & I) of Mini-School's 27 3/4 years upstairs agrees that the new digs are far superior.

Second, the spectre of the new graduation standards and the Basic Standard testing in reading, math and composition are becoming more prominent. Randy and I spent a week this summer writing curriculum in an attempt to bring Mini-School trips in line with the graduation standards. Pauline and Ramona were involved in countless meetings on this matter. It's a big concern, not just for Mini-School, but for all who are involved in the education of Minnesota youth. Mini-School has faced many challenges in its 29 year history and has always adjusted and adapted successfully. With Ramona's leadership, I'm sure it will once again.

The third reason this year feels a bit different is that soon the old folks on the staff will move on and the leadership of Mini-School will fall on the capable shoulders of Ramona and Pauline. This is not the

time to discuss this matter, but everyone knows that a transition is not far away. Small, subtle adjustments are already being made. The topic will, I'm sure, be covered more extensively in issues of Com-Mini-Cations which come out later this year.

So, that's about it for this Meander. The marathon is well underway and while it's still a long way until the end of the race, we're at the point where it feels good, we're not too tired yet and we're glad to be running. Some things we've noticed along the way:

-Jesse Ventura is the governor of Minnesota!

-Todd McCormick, MHS principal, came up for the naming ceremony on the Mark Warren trip. This is the first time in 28+ years of Mini-School that an administrator has ever involved himself in a Mini-School trip.

-Pauline Von Ruden has become Pauline Engelby.

-Ramona's conversation is dominated by words which begin with the letter "Z".

-Randy's varsity MHS soccer team has had 2

outstanding seasons in a row.

-I've done more canoe racing and raced more successfully than I ever have in my life.

-Pauline is getting big.

-Joanne is more conscientious about weight training than any of the Mini-School guys.

-Leah Shoberg is bucking for the best dressed girl at MHS.

-Matt Evans is getting more like Lynott every day- at least as far as selling calendars goes.

-Lacey Landt's contributions to Com-Mini-Cations and calendars sales are outstanding.

-Jon Schmidt is ready to recycle.

-Joe Juranitch, with his own sports radio show, is acting more like Sid Hartman every day.

-Young Kim is about to have a #7 day.

-Jamie Rasmussen, new Mini-School student, thinks she's died and gone to heaven.

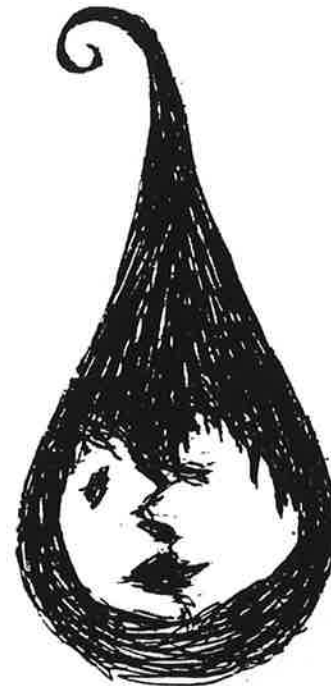
-Laura Huberty is becoming organized.

-Charlie Urbia stayed around for a 4th hour.

-Craig Shrupp's personality has changed now that Halloween's over.

-Matt Thompson is more like his old man than his old man is.

Bye for now. Have a good run.



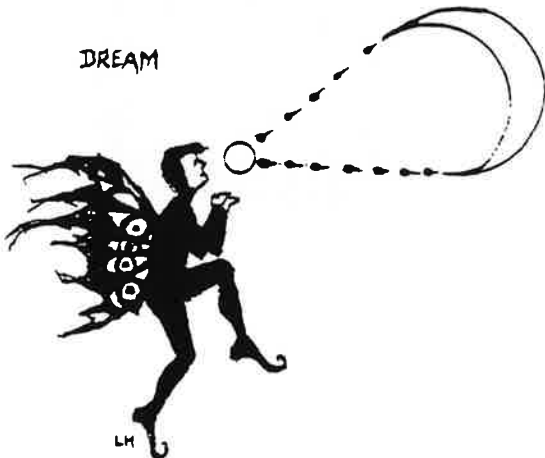
Bob Conklin

By: Randy Nelson

Every so often in our lives, we are fortunate enough to cross paths with people who make a positive difference in the lives of others. In twenty-nine years of the Mini-School program, we have enjoyed the support and friendship of several individuals who have donated their time, money, and energy. Bob Conklin was such a person. Bob's impact on Mini-School and its students and staff has been far reaching. As a motivational speaker, he was twice the guest speaker at Mini-School recognition night, as well as in classes through the years. Bob believed in programs that sought to bring out the best in people and make their contributions to society more positive. He provided his time, ideas, and money to assist the program to hold onto the staff when the budget cuts hit and provided the seed money for the purchase of the Mini-School van.

But most importantly, Bob Conklin was a friend of Mini-School and the staff. His positive demeanor was always uplifting and he reinforced the idea our efforts were worthwhile. His presence remained long after he had left the room.

On Sunday morning this past July, while preparing to play golf with Bob's son, Jim (Mini-School, '73), Jim called and told me that Bob had passed away. His memorial service was one that definitely celebrated a person's life. One realized the scope of his impact as friend after friend from many different walks of life told their stories about Bob's positive contributions to their lives. Mini-School was one of those walks of life that benefited from Bob Conklin and even now, his presence remains long after he has left the room.



Educational Principles

By: Kurt Hahn

I regard it as the foremost task of education to insure the survival of these qualities:

- an enterprising curiosity
- an undefeatable spirit
- tenacity in pursuit
- readiness for sensible self-denial
- and, above all, COMPASSION

Submitted by: Doug Berg

Making A Difference

By: Anonymous Person

As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea.

Finally, catching up to the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the other. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw him safely in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

Submitted By: Doug Berg

EDITORS NOTE: *In the spring, 1986 issue of Com-mini-cations, several supporters of Mini-School were asked to write guest articles. Bob Conklin wrote the following article, which we decided to reprint in this issue as a tribute to him, showing as it does his supportive, people-centered philosophy of life and education.*

Mini-School Fulfills Needs

By: Bob Conklin

In a supermarket you can buy thousands of different foods that can be prepared in as many different ways to fill the varying needs and taste of people.

In a music store you can select rock to opera because no two people like the exactly the same songs.

Shopping malls are filled with clothing stores, each one carrying different styles, because people dress differently; like snowflakes, no two people's self-images are exactly alike.

This freedom of choice, so prevalent in all aspects of American Society, is somehow exempt from the education process. The restrictive routines by which young are required to gain knowledge have very narrow margins of freedom. The regimentation and objectives have changed little in the last hundred years except to become more demanding.

It is not known if this is the most effective way for youth to grow, mature, gain knowledge and prepare themselves for living a productive happy life.

No other system is tried and almost no educational research is conducted. Large corporations spend up to 4% of their income in research to discover new products or better methods.

But the biggest business in the world, education, spends almost nothing to determine if there is a better way to gain an education.

Legislation and custom prohibit any risks being taken to depart from the educational routines

practiced for dozens of years.

And so Mini-School is like a tiny spark glowing by itself. It is a hope, an alternative, a different way of providing young people the tools they need to lead successful lives.

Mini-School allows greater freedoms, a wider range of choices, and the necessity of acquiring personal responsibility. It recognizes that human needs and personal development is as important as the acquisition of a predetermined quantity of knowledge.

A comparison to this would be a characteristic of the Japanese school system. No young person is flunked. All are allowed to progress to the next grade regardless of academic accomplishment.

It is rationalized that it is far more injurious to the self-esteem of the child to experience the humiliation of failure than to be a bit behind in school work.

In a different way, Mini-School achieves the same thing. There are those who simply do not and somehow cannot fit into the educational system as it is established. The system works splendidly for most, but not for all.

And for those who cannot adapt to the regimentation there is little choice except to suffer loss of self esteem in some way. Mini-School saves them from that.

In doing so they are saved from being left behind in the glorious adventure that life can be.

Our community is, indeed, indebted to the staff of Mini-School and all the students who have participated in building lives that are far more productive and meaningful because of the Mini-School experience.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Trail- A Forty-Three Mile Mini Hike

By: Matt Thompson

Trip participants: Mark Thole, Sam Maeder, Laura Huberty, Annie Kohman, Marti Norris, Kevin McNutt, Jeff McGinn, Charlie Urbia, Mike Ayotte, Matt Thompson, and Jamie O'Day

Alumni assistant: Patty Heien

Staff: Doug Berg and Ramona Anderson

We got underway at 6:30 a.m Tuesday, September 8th 1998. What a program! School had only been in session three days and Mini- School had a major trip out.

We stopped for breakfast at Mini School's favorite morning restaurant, the Grant House in Rush City, Minnesota, where everyone, especially Charlie, pigged out big time. After that it was a hard all -day drive to Grand Marais, Michigan, 575 miles from home.

We stayed in a campground along Lake Superior. After a beef stew dinner and a meeting down behind the sand dunes on the shore at which we discussed our expectations, we headed off to bed, looking forward to the big hike tomorrow.

The next morning was beautiful, clear and blue. After Mini- Schools favorite oatmeal breakfast, Doug and Ramona took us out to Grand Marais ranger station where we had to wait for them to shuttle the vehicles to the other end of the trail. While we waited we hiked to a waterfall, listened to Hank Toll, the local ranger, tell us about the Pictured Rocks area, and ate lunch. Bossy Patty kept us together and everyone behaved.

We got hiking by early afternoon, and even though our trek today was only 4 miles, new muscles and heavy packs caused some moans and groans. "Why didn't I get in shape for this hike like Doug told me to" was the common phrase.

Our first campsite, Masse homestead, had no water so Kevin, Charlie and I hiked off to find some. We finally found a guy who gave us a few gallons from what looked like a gas can {it wasn't}.

After dinner most everyone went hiking in the huge

sand dunes. It was cool like a moonscape, and the hiking was hard, but fun. You could roll down the dunes, getting your hair and clothes full of sand, but the climb back up was tough. But it sure got dark fast. We all headed back to camp. After we got back Doug had a meeting. He counted noses. Just as he said "Where's Sam?", we heard Sam's cry for help. We organized a search and in ten minutes Sam was found.

The next day, again clear and beautiful thanks to our tandem weather girls, Laura and Annie, worried everyone as it was a 12 mile hike, one of our biggest days. After breakfast we set out, and hiking hard, we covered 7 miles by lunch. Doug says it's always best to try to get over half your distance done by lunch so the afternoon seems shorter. Still, it was one of the longest, hardest days I've ever spent. Late in the afternoon I saw a sign which said 1.6 miles to camp. That kind of cheered me up, but it seemed like 4 or 5 miles. Still, the campsite was beautiful. There was a nice creek where everyone washed up and the beach we were on, 12 mile beach, a 12 mile sand beach with no cabins, docks, swimming areas, just sand.

Tired as I was, I was on cook crew. On Mini- School trips two people are assigned to cook crew every day. Their job is to get the food out, organize it, assist Doug in preparing it, then clean up. After I got my job done, I crashed.

Our next destination was easier. We hiked to Coves Group Campsite, about eight miles. We hiked six by lunch and, since we were making good time, we had a little more leisurely lunch than usual. During lunch time Doug and Ramona divided us into three groups. Each group made a sand sculpture. Doug and Ramona were the judges and the members of the winning group all got an extra unit. A beaver was the winning sculpture. The others were a canoe and an obscenity, which was immediately disqualified.

I figured the last two miles after lunch would be a piece of cake. That was before Kevin and I decided to follow Mike Ayotte. He led us about two miles down the wrong path. We hiked through the woods figuring the trail had to meet with the other trail. After an hour of wandering through the woods and thinking we might have to set up camp by ourselves, we found the trail again. We also found Laura and Annie who had also gotten lost down by the beach. Before long we were at camp.

Love is.....

After dinner Doug read The Fox Man to us. It's a really cool story, even better if read in the wilderness.

Our last day was 13 miles. We had a campsite reserved if we didn't make it, but it was no problem. Packs were light, as we had eaten all our food, legs were stronger, lungs were stronger and the trails weaving in and out from the forest to the lake, were fantastic. We had lunch at an overlook where we could see a tour boat taking people to the log slide which was over 30 miles away. It felt pretty good knowing that we had hiked this distance.

The last 5 miles, more up and down, went very slow. But then, there was the van, which we hadn't seen for a week. We drove to a campground and got there just as the rain started pouring down. We set up camp, went out to eat a sit down restaurant meal, spent a soggy night, and drove home the next day, ending another great Mini- School trip.



Love is the passionate and abiding desire on the part of two or more people to produce together conditions under which each can be, and spontaneously express their real self. To produce together an intellectual soil and an emotional climate in which each can flourish, far superior to what either could achieve alone.



Leah Shoberg

Belladonna

My heart aches,
It throbs with a passion
being swept into a tornado
while the eye is so powerful
for that is where I sit-

I shed a tear for the wilting flower
my hands become callused
to feed the needy mouths
my lips are no longer moist
for I am the one to always listen

Jessica Turner

New Digs..... Is it home yet?

By: Lacey Landt

I have been in Mini school four years and this is the first year it's been downstairs. There's no Mini school stairs to sit on or our own bathrooms across the hall. We do however have the cafeteria right next to us. Our home is in what used to be called freshmen hall, where the work study classes were. There is a lot more space for the trip room and the big room is twice the size of our old one so we don't have to suffer the funky smell from the guys after they get done playing basketball in rec. I have asked some of the students and the staff what they thought.

Is it home yet? That's a good question. The same things are going on--Doug is barking at everyone to sell calendars, Boller is wandering around looking dopey, Aaron Hoerst is as big a pest as ever, mini has classrooms, an office, a trip room. There are trip pictures on the walls, Joanne has her gallery of pictures behind her desk, Doug has his thermos, Ramona has her calculators, Randy has his worksheets, Pauline her plate tectonics. Yet....does it feel like mini? This is what some mini people said.....

Does it feel like home yet?

Doug Berg-Yes, but you could put Mini School in a dumpster and it would be ok, it's the kids and staff that make it home.

Pauline Engelby- Yes, more so in the office.

Joanne Johnston- Now that my pictures of alumni are up in my office yes it does.

Randy Nelson- Yes, the location couldn't be better. We have the gym on one side and the cafeteria on the other.

Laura Huberty- No, it feels like a hospital.

Audrey Lopez- Yes.

Kortnie Hanson- No, it's too plain and weird.

Trish Laumann- Yeah, I guess so.

Leah Shoberg- Not yet, it's starting to. But it still lacks memories.

Derek Knowles- Yes! E216 is just a distant, foggy memory.

Charlie Urbia- Not until we establish ownership of this hallway.

Goeff Boller- Yes, it's the people who make it home.

Jamie O'Day- Not until we get somewhere to hack.

Is there anything that would make it better?

Doug Berg- Windows.

Pauline Engelby- Students drawings on the walls, windows- just to get it more personal.

Joanne Johnston- Windows.

Randy Nelson- Windows, sky lights.

Laura Huberty- Windows.

Audrey Lopez- Windows and more pictures.

Kortnie Hanson- Windows and pictures.

Trish Laumann- Windows.

Leah Shoberg- Windows-fresh air, I don't know how much longer I can stand all the B.O. of all the mini-kids.

Well, there you have it. I think it is unanimous that we would really like some windows. I think once we get some artwork up it will be a lot better. For the most part people seem to feel at home. We do have a new addition to Mini school, a pool table that used to be in the weight room. So that's always a nice bonus.

Featured Teacher:

Scott Johnson

By: Jessica Turner

Scott Johnson loves to wind surf, listen to music, go hunting, camping, hiking, play hockey with his friends, and ski in the mountains. By the sound of him you'd think that he was a Mini-School student. Scott Johnson is a forty-two year old father with two daughters all under the age of eight. Scott decided to come into Mini-School because he has worked with some of the Mini-School students that are in the Special Ed program. Scott has done a lot of adventurous things in his lifetime, from skipping school to get tickets to an Almond Brothers concert, to living in a porch with no heat in the dead of winter.

When I asked Scott if he liked Mini-School and why, he said, "Yes, I like Mini-School, and I like working with the Mini-Schoolers. I enjoy working with kids who are sort of different."

Scott really likes to get involved with his students. He's going on the Grantsburg trip with 15 Mini-students, Doug and Randy. Scott hopes to go on many more trips in the future.

Cletus (a rat)

By: Leah Shoberg

A grey/brown rat actually, with a white stripe down his cute tummy. Cletus is about one pound, and including his tail is about 16 inches long. He's not my rat, but my brother's, Mini alumni, Josh Shoberg. He's here today to discuss his relationship with Cletus, and tell us a little bit about him.

Leah: How long have you had Cletus as a pet?

Josh: "About a year."

L: How did you come up with the name Cletus?

J: "He's got buck teeth..... what more do I have to say."

L: In what type of cage do you keep him in?

J: "He's just in a little glass cage on top of my dresser."

L: What do you feed him?

J: "Dog food. But sometimes I give him a treat, like salad leaves, fruit, or pieces of bread."

L: Do you take him out of his cage a lot?

J: "Every once in a while."

L: I see, well, let's find out what Cletus has to say.

Cletus: "Sniff, sniff, squeal, sniff."

J: He said, "Yep, I'd have to say so."

L: Do you enjoy being with Josh?

C: "Squeal squeal, squeak."

J: What?! What the hell are you talking about?

C: Squeal, squeak, sniff, lick, scratch.

J: Why don't you just calm down? You're a rat for God's sake!

C: SQUEAL!!!

J: I am not being insensitive!

C: Squeak, lick, sniff, scratch.

J: I think we need to reevaluate this relationship.

C: Squeak, lick squeal!

J: I... I feed you, shelter you....

C: Squeal squeak.

J: I care for you! About you!

C: Squeak, lick. (kiss & make-up.)

L: Well, you heard it here first. Not only does the responsibility of holding together a relationship apply between humans, but between animal and human too. Thank you, and good night.

J: Maybe I should just buy a cat...

C: SQUEAK!!!

Katrina

By: Jessica Turner

I got a kitten from my friend's friend who found the litter in a ditch. Well, my friend picked the blue eyed baby, but of course the parents' usual saying is, "Not in this house," so they gave the little brat to me.

Whenever I sleep Katrina has to pounce on my face and eat my hair. I have countless scratches from her. The thing I hate the most is when she drags my clothes into her cat box and lays on them.

For a while I had to quarantine Katrina. She had a ring worm. Half of my friends and I contracted the fungi. The itching was worth it for the lovable kitten.

My Kitty Cat

By: Kristina Petron

My cat is one year and three months old. In my family we each get a turn owning a pet. Last year was finally my turn so I got a cute little orange, gray and white calico cat. I named her Nima. She is now one year and three months old.

She is the craziest cat my family has ever owned. If you make one slight movement she will attack and not stop until you can distract her with something else.

She's not always crazy though. She can be very affectionate, and annoying. If you ever let her sleep in the same room as you, expect to be awakened between 5:30 AM- 6:05AM. She rubs her head in your face until you wake up to feed her. She is obnoxious, and crazy, but I still love her.

My Dog Cocktail

By: Aaron Sapp

Last year around this time, my dad and I got a little Springer Spaniel. I named him Cocktail for reasons I will not say. The main reason we got him was to hunt grouse. We had him for awhile and we found out that he had a type of diabetes. So we had to give him eye drops.

The eye drops weren't working so we asked the vet if we could do anything else for him. She said that we could start giving him shots in his back. So now everyday at 6 am and 6 pm we have to give him a shot in his back.

A few weekends ago we took him out hunting to see how he would do. He just ran ahead of us and got a lot of wood ticks. Hopefully he'll do better next time. He is a major pest, but I still like him because he sometimes keeps my feet warm at night.



My Dog Lucky

By: Tom Miller

If you could get an award for the stupidest dog in the world, my dog would get it. He does some of the dumbest things. He walks or lies in front of cars and trucks as they come up our driveway. He runs across the electric fence and will yelp and cry till someone comes out to help him. Then he runs away like we're playing a game. He lets his tongue hang out like that dog Odie on Garfield. I think, for these reasons, that he should be known as the stupidest dog in the world.



Mark Warren Trip 1

By: Leah Shoberg

From what I learned first hand, Mark Warren was a pretty incredible person. Though I was wary before the trip, it was more with curiosity than nervousness. Those who shared this experience with me were; Craig Shrupp, Drew Emmings, David Larson-Hughes, Shaun Johnson, Shane Gardner, Tom Miller, myself, Laura Huberty, Jessica Turner, Heather Trowbridge, Elissa Johnson, Katie Tierney, and Mini alumna Marcelle Dorenkamp. Introductions when we arrived seemed to be a very important action. Mark made it a point to memorize all of our names before the day was half over. The first day was an interesting one. Mark taught us some survival skills, like how Native Americans used a 'throwing stick' as a weapon to kill animals for food. Though we ourselves, in this day and age, most likely won't have to take such measures for food, the knowledge gave us insight about the people who lived on this land in the past. Mark also showed us ways to approach an animal without being noticed by 'stalking' toward it. An essential skill considering that one would have to get near to an animal before killing it. The day progressed smoothly, and near the end of it we were all talking and laughing over a naming game Mark taught us; One person chooses two letters out of the alphabet and the rest of the group tries to figure out the name of a famous person with those initials. The person who figures out a name chooses the next two initials. It turned out to be a popular game for the rest of the trip, Katie Tierney seemed to have a knack for it. During dinner we played the initial game, and afterwards Mark taught us some old Native American sign language that we would be using to communicate with on the island during the last day.

After dinner and signing for a little bit, Mark showed us how we would be making fire the next day. When we all awoke in the morning, we were prepared to make fire. After a search for the proper tools, we played a game that helped us to use the stalking-skills we learned the day before. Only a few of us "killed" the (stuffed) animal, proving that most of us would not have lunch. If stalking an animal was the only way to get food of course. But on this trip we gorged on PB&J Baby!

Any how, the rest of the day consisted of us making a feeble attempt to make fire, (Shane got close

though) and Mark figuring out what our spirit names would be. By us only giving Mark a short description of ourselves each, he was able to determine what Spirit name suited us the best. You see, in the times before we came to this country, and even some times today, Native Americans were named by the type of people they were, and by their most prominent trait.

So that evening, around the camp fire, Mark gave us our Spirit names. We had the option of accepting them or throwing them away. We all seemed to accept them and shared them to each other with pride. It was a very spiritual, and personal experience. The 'naming ceremony' gave (I hope) all of us insight into ourselves. I know it did for me.

That night, after the ceremony, the whole group of us mini kids just sat around the fire and talked and joked and laughed as though we were all old friends, meeting again after a long separation. We reminisced of the experiences of the day, and spoke of the possibilities of tomorrow.

The next morning, we all prepared ourselves for the 'sweat lodge ceremony.' Early in the morning, Mark went over to the island in the middle of the St. Croix river and began heating large stones in a big bonfire. At around nine o'clock or so, we all were ferried over in canoes. Do you remember how I mentioned earlier about the sign language? Here's where it comes in. On the island, we were not aloud to speak with our voices, only with our hands, and expressions. It taught patience, and a greater awareness of the wilderness around us.

A group of nine kids, out of the thirteen that was there, went into the sweat lodge. A few had to excuse themselves from the lodge because of the pressing heat, so at the end of the ceremony, there was only seven of us left in the lodge. During the ceremony, Mark made offerings to all of the seven directions (N, S, E, W, Up, Down, and Within) by pouring a cup for each onto the hot rocks, creating steam. The sweat lodge is supposed to open your pores and clean them out by making you sweat. So, to close the pores, we all had to jump into the cold St. Croix river afterwards. I almost had a heart attack because it was so cold. But we all made it all right, and our skin felt like it was brand new, all soft and clean.

Being with Mark and receiving just a fraction of the

knowledge he possesses was the experience of a lifetime. I don't know how anyone could pass up meeting this person. Everything we did taught me something about the past, about myself, and the possible future. I hope that some time in the future I will have the opportunity to meet this remarkable person again, and perhaps better thank him for the insights and the lessons I've learned just by being in his company. Thank you Mark.

Mark Warren II

By: Trish Laumann

On October 6th, the eleven people of Mark Warren trip #2 gathered at school. After everybody showed, we packed up the van. It was about 9:30 a.m. when we left the high school's parking lot. Patti Heien, a former Mini-Schooler came along to help Doug out. She drove three kids up in her car so the van would not be as squished. We were on our way to Wisconsin near Grantsburg and right by the St. Croix river.

When we finally arrived at our destination, we built the fire that the other trip had let burn to ash. It was still a bit chilly from the morning but the sun was trying to shine through the clouds. LaKaysa was our weather girl and you could tell that she had prayed to the weather god the night before we left. We sat around until the other group from trip #1 started showing up. When we were all together we shared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Then the first group left and we ventured our way into the woods with Mark to find Basswood trees. He taught us how to recognize the lopsided leaves. When we found them, Mark told us how the Indians used the bark of this tree to make rope. We all had a hard time believing that until he showed us. We all made our own. Most people wore them as necklaces or bracelets. After that we came back to camp and learned the techniques of stalking animals for survival, which is using very slow motion and not putting your foot down as hard as humans tend to do.

The second day we were there, we found throwing sticks. A throwing stick is a carved tip stick that you would use after you stalked an animal, just close enough to injure it. We practiced that for awhile and then moved onto a game practicing stalking again. There is a person that is blindfolded and uses only their sense of hearing. When they feel as though someone is close enough to them they throw a

pretend snake to eliminate a person out of the game.

On our way back we picked up a curved stick and a rock. Our next event was to make fire without matches or a lighter. We carved a sharp tip on both ends of thin piece of cedar. Mark provided us with rope and we tied it on our curved stick. The rock was to keep the carved cedar sturdy while it was on a flat board of cedar digging a hole into it causing friction. Underneath the flat board is tinder which the ash is caught on and starts burning to make flame. We tried for about 2 hours before one of our teams succeeded.

While we were eating dinner, Mr. McCormick pulled up. He is the principal at Minnetonka High School and he came to join us in our naming ceremony. Earlier in the day we were asked to answer some questions so Mark could give us spirit names, which would be given to us at the ceremony. We started out the ceremony by finding our spots around the fire. Then we talked about what we learned and practiced some Indian sign language. We were then given our spirit names. With the talking stick we went around telling each other our names. You could only talk when the stick was in your hand so it was quiet enough to concentrate and memorize each others names.

We woke up to Patti's voice saying "breakfast." One tent at a time, we walked up to the cabin where Doug was making his famous French toast. When we were done eating we packed up the van and took down the tents. We made our way down to the canoes where we would be ferried across the river to an island. At the island there was a roaring fire with heating stones that had been burning all morning. Farther down the island there was a tarp made into a tent. When the stones were red hot Mark took a pitchfork and carried them over to the tent having each person blowing ash off as it went by them. When all the stones were in the tent, everybody entered and found a steaming hot area, almost like a sauna. It lasted about an hour getting hotter every time Mark put water on the coals. Since heat opens up the pores of your skin they needed to be closed back up, so after the sweat lodge everybody jumped into the river. If it weren't for our wonderful weather girl, LaKaysa Bollig we probably all would have icicles hanging from our noses. The sun was shining and not a cloud in sight.

We ferried each other across the river to go eat lunch. After we ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the third day in a row, we played one last game with Mark. It was called "Gling." The game consists of an empty milk jug and people. Kicking the empty milk jug around the circle, we did not make the record which is around 50. It's like the game hacky sack except in Gling there are embarrassing consequences: if you were to hit it with a hand or kick it while it had already hit the ground. After that game we said our good byes to Mark and we were on our way home.

Custodian of The Spoon

By: Cheryl Cermak

Marti Norris, born January 26, 1981, has the qualities of an Aquarius and she is a lover not a fighter. She has perhaps the most awesome responsibility in Mini-School, keeper, guardian, Custodian of The Mini-School Spoon. For a full understanding of the talismanic properties of The Spoon, we must refer the reader to the article Doug wrote about this extraordinary utensil in the Spring '96 issue of Com-mini-cations

Q: Why did you choose to go into Mini-School?

A: I hate mainstream.

Q: How do you feel about Mini this year?

A: I like Mini along with the trips.

Q: How did you get appointed Custodian of The Spoon?

A: Well, on one of the Mini trips, Doug told me the story of The Spoon, and how it had divinely omnipotent protective qualities. Then he said he thought I should be Custodian. I accepted.

Q: How do you feel about the spoon and your appointment?

A: It's a very nice Spoon. I have a bond with the Spoon now. I am flattered, overwhelmed, and frightened of the responsibilities invested in my position as Spoon Custodian. The future of Mini-School could depend on how well I do my job.

Knowing her responsibilities for the Spoon, on trips Marti watches over The Spoon. Every day at school she has to make sure it's locked up, and touches it to keep the power flowing. After trips Marti scrubs The Spoon with butter to keep it from rusting.

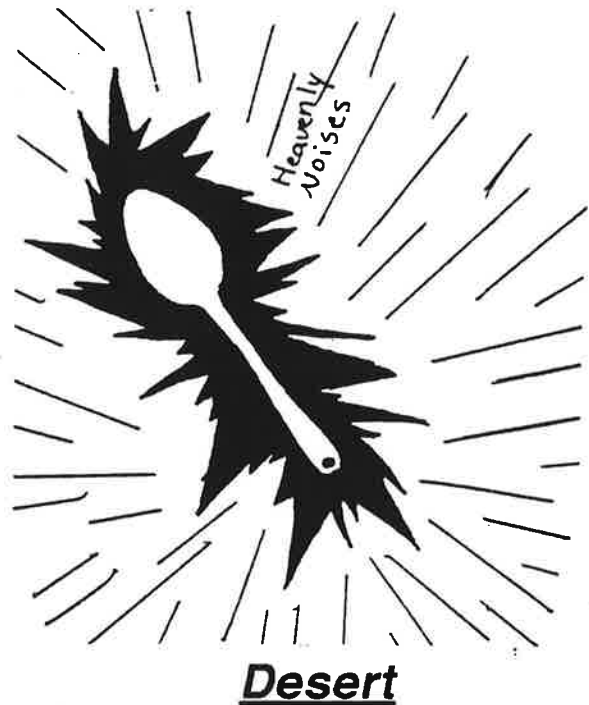
Q: Does The Spoon make you feel responsible?

Does it play a big role in your life?

A: Yes, it gives me incentive to be even more responsible. It's intimidating to have this position, since there's only been one other Custodian of The Spoon.

Q: Marti, what do you think would happen if you lost The Spoon?

A: It's unthinkable! Doug would look down on me. Trips would never be the same and I'd lose my appointed position, not to mention all the students would come after me. I don't think that would happen however, because I take good care of The Spoon. It's the most important thing in my life.



You have fallen to your knees face to face with death, under the shadows of the fallen towering trees

waiting to be consumed and swept away by the breeze

far beyond the bearing street lights out of touch and out of sight

you hear an echo calling out your name telling you that nothing can ever be the same.

Jamie O' Day

Alumni News

By: Kortnie Hansen

I met up with Kyle Brynteson {aka} Zooty and asked him a few questions about his life outside of Mini. He's been graduated since '95 and is doing good he says.

He works full time at Morrie's Mazda as a service runner and he is in the process of buying a new car! Kyle recently turned 21 in August. He is unsure of his college plans. He works so much that he really hasn't had time to think about it yet. He wants to say Thank You to the Mini School staff for the experiences of trips and other things that they did for him. Kyle remembers basketball in the mornings and going on the trips.

There's not much more he wanted to say because all he really did is sleep and read the newspaper. However he did say Sothik, Jed and he have picked up the hobby frisbee golf.

Word on the street and other places say Sothik Prak {aka} Star Trek, is in the shipping and receiving department at Morrie's Subaru full time. He's not currently in college and still lives at home. Along with Kyle, Sothik also recently turned 21 in July and every now and then they hang around Sam Merz.

Will Boller Ever Graduate?

By: Trish Laumann

Geoff Boller has been in Mini-School since 1993. He started when he was a freshman, now he's a super senior.

Boller used to say he didn't want to graduate because he didn't have anything to do after high school and he likes the people in Mini. He is planning on graduating at the end of this year. We will find out if it's actually going to happen.

If or when Geoff Boller graduates he plans to move to Columbia River Gorge in Oregon where the wind is constantly 30-40 mph, which he says is perfect weather for wind surfing. He's going to go to college in his spare time. He's not quite sure what he's going to study but he has been thinking about a machinist or an inventor {we all know how creative Geoff is, like the time he came up with a reason people are in Mini-School. They are all born before February and all the others are the odd ones. I don't think that's too accurate.}

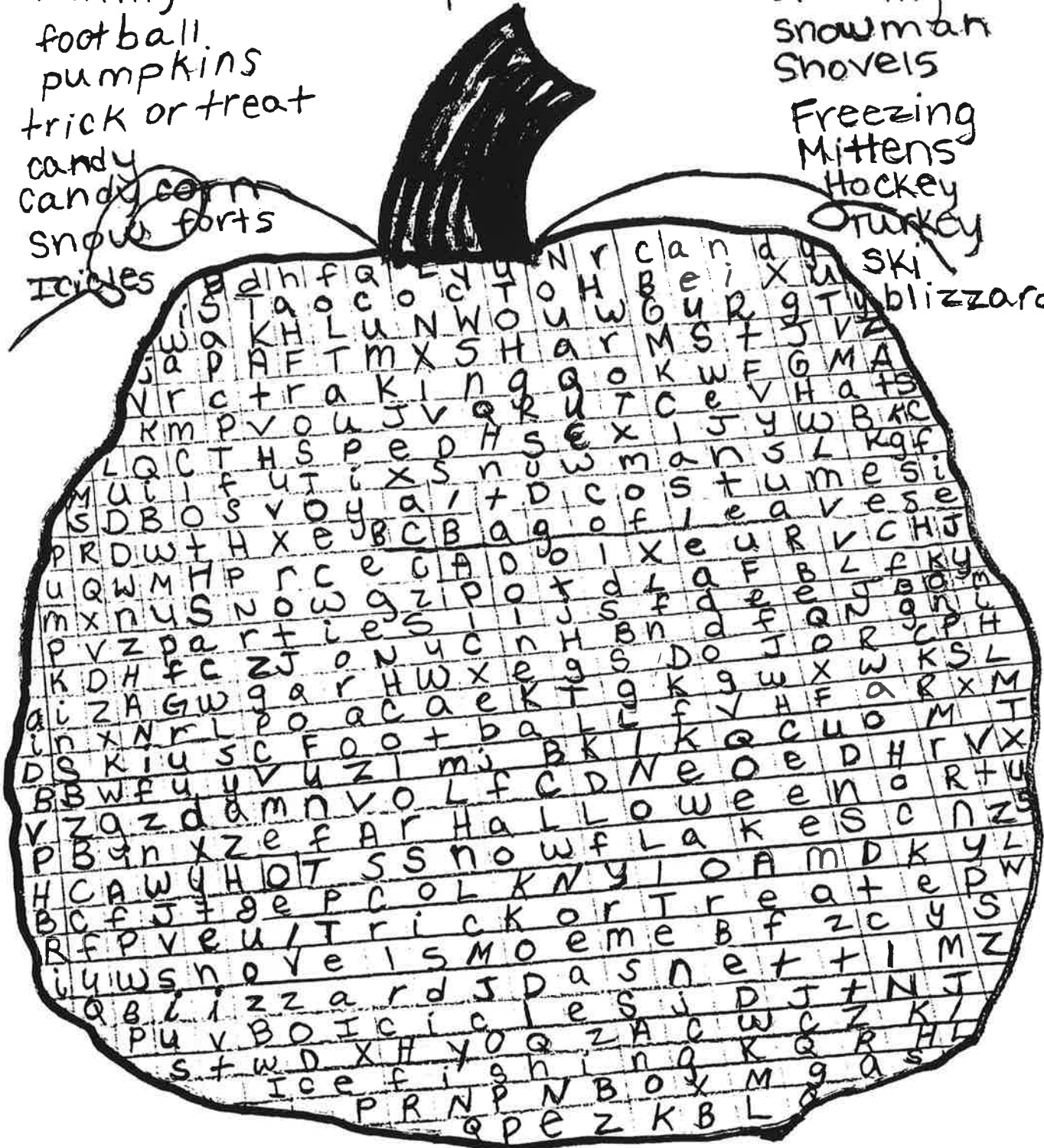
All and all Geoff has had a good 5 years in Mini-School. He's done a great job and we all have faith that he will be very successful in whatever he decides to do with his life.



Frost
bags of leaves
cold
raking
football
pumpkins
trick or treat
candy
candy corn
snow forts
icicles

Hot cocoa
warm clothes
Hats
Ice fishing
parties

Halloween
colors
costumes
snow
snowflakes
Sledding
snowman
Shovels
Freezing
Mittens
Hockey
Turkey
Ski
Blizzards



Album Review

By: Geoff Boller

Korn- Follow the leader. "Dead Bodies Everywhere" "It talks about dead bodies everywhere and I like that." (Sam)

Sublime-Live at Firecracker Lounge. "Pool Shooter" "I feel it was a very heart filled song and it predicts his death." (Jeremy Latcham)

Mr. T. Experience-"When I Lost You" "The song is funny, the music is good, and poppy is nice." (Aaron Sapp/ Man)

Limp Biscuit-"Three Dollar Bill" "It's really cool." (Kristina Petron)

Pink Floyd-"Wish You Were Here" "It gives a relaxing attitude." (Jessica Turner)

Offspring "Americana"-"Pretty Fly For A White Guy" "I think that their songs have a good message to people." (Tom Miller)

Dave Matthews Band-"Before these crowded streets" "The Dreaming Tree" "The David Matthews Band strikes me as so original and yet it has so many different types of music. "Dreaming Tree" is just a realistic look at the expansion of the human race and has a lot of feeling." (Leah Shoberg)

Amebix-"U 2IVO Boot Leg LP" "I like the whole thing because the old "U2IVO LP" was pressed poorly."

A Vice Peace Compilation-"Not new, but in my opinion it is the best record ever pressed. It's a mid 80's compilation that includes U.K. Crossover which is Vold Time Peace Punk mixed with Trash It. It also has one of a kind music that is Chumbawumba's early recordings when they were punk mixed with folk music before they were ever heard of. Their lyrics were more political and meaningful instead of just being a late 90's trend band. Over all, it's a great composition to me that could never get dull or boring.

Concert Review

By: Kortnie Hansen

This summer my cousin's boyfriend and I went to the Lynard Skynard concert at the Minnesota state fair. We sat in the third row back in center stage. The lights were great. They had a huge disco ball that shined over the crowd. The music, even though it was loud, was very good. They played all the original songs like "Free Bird", "Sweet home Alabama," etc....

For about two days we thought everyone we talked to sounded like Chip and Dale. We had a great time. That will always be remembered.

Rob Zombie *Hellbilly Deluxe*

By: Tom Miller

The former lead singer of White Zombie, Rob Zombie, put out his own Album. He has done solo with this phenomenal album with a hit song, "Dracula". This album is the same kind as any of the typical Zombie feel. Along with the plain primary colors on the cover of this cd are the same ones as in the muscle video which shows more of the devils and demons.



Kid Icarus

By: Aaron Sapp

Last year I met this real cool kid, Erik Renaud. We started talking, and some how we started practicing our instruments together along with his friend Derek L. At this time (and at this time still) we didn't have a band name. So, somehow Gut Cut got thrown onto us (it's from a movie I saw, Twisted Nightmare) anyway, we practiced for about 2 months and had about 4-6 songs, but they all sucked. I got depressed and we broke up.

This summer we decided to get back together along with my pal Tristan Scott (T-Dog) So I played Bass, Erik played guitar, Derek played the drums, and Tristan sang and played guitar. We decided on a band name Kid Icarus. We practiced a total of five times and had about 4 songs...they were all repetitive, and we didn't have any words.

So now that Tristan got us back on track, we are going to kick him out. We plan on practicing on Nov.23 without him, with new songs that actually have words.



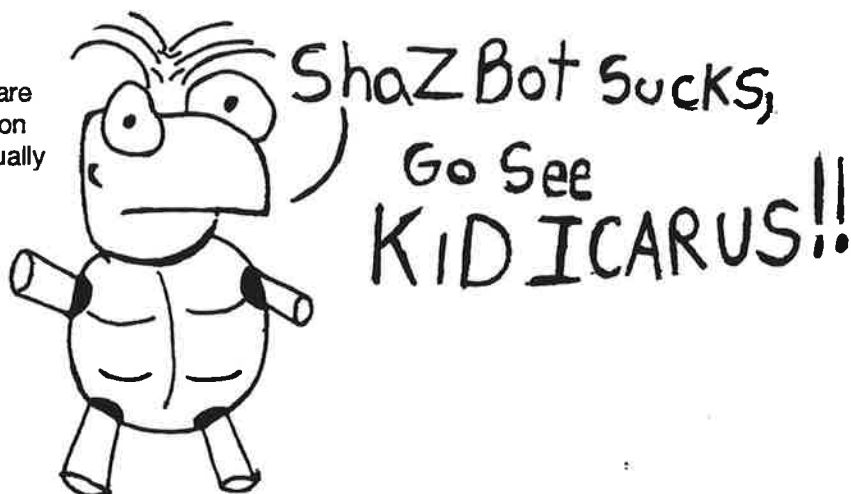
*Rock ripped off from Erik Renaud.

(By Aaron Sapp)

Vanilla Ice: Hard to Swallow Review

By: Aaron Hoerst

Stop collaborate and listen, Ice is back with a "Heavy metal edition?" That's right Vanilla Ice is back with his new cd "Hard to Swallow" and its surprising sound that he goes by now, heavy metal. This cd is not what anyone would associate with the "Iceman" including a new normal, hair style and a louder tone in his voice. Along with the sound of metal there is a hint of hip-hop with some record scratching and the vocal style Vanilla used on his other cd's. Overall this cd is good, but it gets a lot better when you hear the cheesy metal remake of "Ice Ice Baby" it brings back some memories. On a scale from one to ten I give this cd an eight because I'm a fan of the Ice man.



Ozzfest/Warped Tour

By: Sam Maeder

It was July 18, 1998. The place, Float Rite Amphitheatre in Somerset, WI. I went to see all the bands that I could.

I saw: **System of Down** (who I thought played pretty well), **Limp Bizkit** (who I only saw half of, but really liked), **Coal Chamber** (and all I have to say is yeah!), **Soulfly** (they were okay), **Save Ferris** (they were good), **Rancid** (they play extremely well) & **deftones** (I think they were the best).

I really enjoyed it because I was moshing in the mud, and got on T.V. for being a mud person. I really feel all the bands played very well.

Recap of Awesome Summer Plans

By: Sam Maeder & Leah Shoberg

Shaun Johnson - "Played with my awesome band."

Trevor Scott - "I was at my awesome cabin to wake board."

Sam Maeder - "I hung out in my awesome room."

Leah Shoberg - "Sat on my butt at my mom's awesome house."

Aaron Sapp - "I've discovered awesome skate boarding and pretty much nothing."

Aaron Hoerst - "I went to awesome Oregon."

Elissa Johnson - "Worked a lot at my not so awesome job."

Hondo - "Spent as much time as I could with my awesome girl."

Trish Laumann - "I partied and went to two awesome concerts."

Joanne Johnston - "Caught a few awesome fish, but mostly did a lot of gardening with my awesome husband Brad."

Matt Evans - I saw an awesome bull moose in the awesome BWCA.

Doug Berg - I won some awesome canoe races.

What Did You Do For Halloween?

By: Leah Shoberg & Audrey Lopez

Halloween, a joyous holiday. For generations it's been celebrated, or shunned, for reasons of religion, personal perspective, or just plain not cared about it. Now-a-days, Halloween, for the general American population is a time for spooks, costumes, candy and parties. So let's take a look at how todays Mini-Schoolers celebrated Halloween.

Laura Huberty: "Partied like a porn star"

Jeremy Latcham: "I got nugged by a monster."

Trish Laumann: "I went to a friends house."

Jessica Turner: "I got busted."

Sam Maeder: "I went to Marilyn Manson."

Aaron Sapp: "I played NWO's Revenge."

Kortnie Hansen: "I worked until midnight."

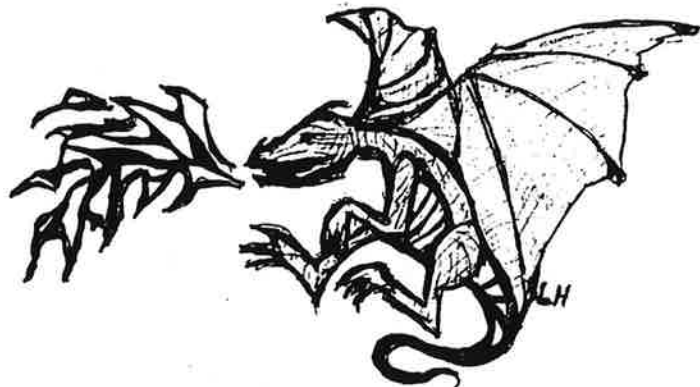
Cheryl Cermak: "I sat at home and watched movies by myself."

Doug Berg: "I went up to my cabin."

Lacey Landt: "I took my brother trick-or-treating, and went to bed early."

Geoff Boller: "I sat at home and watched an 80's Cory & Cory flick."

So, wasn't that exciting? How festive everyone was. (note: sarcasm.) Well everyone does their own thing I suppose. Here's to Halloween!



Untitled

The painted sun is set behind this
volcanic eruption once fresh
The wind is wrapping its warm breeze
around me
gently the boat is rocking
on soft quartz blue water
calming me from this afternoon storm
clouds are my comfort
always there
always the same soft mountainous mass
spread across a shield of color

Cheryl Cermak



My Trip To The Caribbean

By: Cheryl Cermak

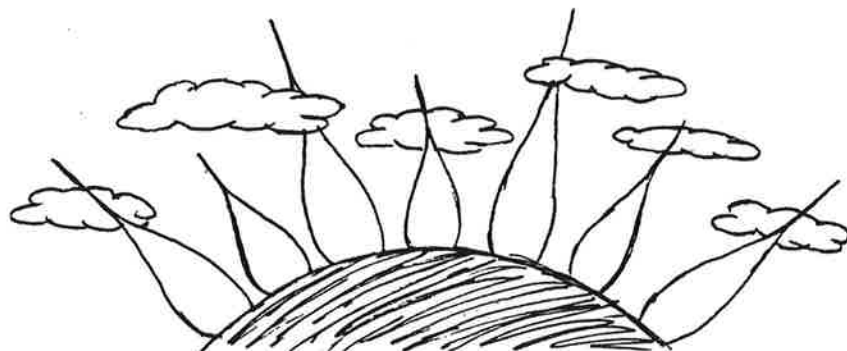
About one month ago I traveled to the Grenadines in the eastern Caribbean. Three friends and I sailed the lesser Antillie Islands for six days. The islands are made of volcanic rock, one volcano is still active. Our approximate location was 12 degrees away from the equator=720 miles. We stayed on a beneteau sloop with a maximum speed of 8 knots/hr. The constellations are upside down and we never saw the moon rise.

I was introduced to many new foreign dishes such as conch stew, Cristophenes, rice boiled in coconut water, calliloo and fresh fruits like banana figs, passion fruits and kilimes.

We sailed by a rain forest and rock shores where long ago the carib natives tied people to rocks, let the tide drown them, then eat them. That's where the word cannibal came from. Afternoons we'd deep sea fish. We caught a yellow finned tuna and Barracuda.

Early evenings snorkeling in the reefs was our favorite. A huge school of silverfish swam around us. Nurse sharks were supposed to inhabit the area but none were seen. We did get to see a ray, eel, flying garbles and many, many more fish. This area was filled with sea urchins, brain coral and fan coral. We would barter (trade) fish we caught with Rasta men for blocks of ice. Ice is hard to come by because refrigeration is not common down there. For dinner we had swordfish, tuna, lobster. New Zealand steak and beer brewed locally in Grenada. About every other night we had hurricane rain or wind.

So the snorkeling was world class, the view.....breathtaking, natives laid back, ice cream expensive and the experience, unforgettable.



Changes In The School

By: Leah Shoberg

As I'm sure most of you know, the High School is undergoing some pretty huge changes. Not only is the building expanding, but a lot of the rules are being "altered" as well, and some are being invented out of nowhere just for the sheer sake of control.....or safety.

Now some rules I can understand, they're rational, and justified within themselves ie: "Don't bring weapons to school."

Duh,.....but then again, others are so blatantly unjustified, ie: "Four different colored passes, signed by a teacher, time left, where you're going, why you are going there, and when you will be coming back. There are also 'off-limits' areas." What? Off-limits areas? In a public school? Sign in/sign out sheets at the front door? Parents need to receive a name tag and a hall pass from the office in order to walk through the school that their taxes are paying for.

Anyhow, lets move on. The other half of the concern is the condition of the building. Granted, it is more spacious, but it seems a little extravagant. The lunch room resembles a food court in a shopping center. Neon signs, catchy names, round tables. Oh, and let's not forget 'The Pier.' Now, no personal offense intended to those who thought of it, but 'The Pier' isn't everything it was made out to be. Seen as how the round tables in the lunchroom only seat eight people we were allowed to use the tables in 'The Pier' as well during lunch. Even though there was an expansion and 'hip' tables were put in my friends and I still have a hard time finding a place to sit. Though the names for the buffet may be catchy the food never the less is still the same.

Enough about the lunch room, how about the rest of the building? Now, the new sections are nice, very new, very spacious, but again, it all seems way too flashy. It took me six weeks into school to locate the library, which is a lot larger and much nicer. However, why have I only found one shelf of 'new' literature and about 10 new computers that don't even work? On the other hand, there are six computers with internet access, but then again, only six computers with AOL and 2000 students.

Some halls are larger, but the people traffic is just as

bad. It's not so much the lack of space, but the students who take their sweet time walking at a snail's pace and those who cluster around lockers in groups and extend past the center of the hall. The construction is tedious, and seems to be taking forever. I could go on and on about pro's and con's, as I'm sure a lot of other people could. So we'll just wait it out until the victorious (or bitter) end.

Cafeteria

By: Geoff Boller and Dustin Olson

Geoff and I did a survey around the school and asked people what they thought about the new cafeteria. Questions based on its setting, food service and the talking trash cans.

Joe Juranitch: "I think it is a really nice environment, and the food is better. The garbage system could be better. The new talking trash cans take too long to change and clean."

Derek and Andy: "The talking trash cans were a complete waste of money."

Jerry The Janitor: "Nice environment, really extravagant. The garbage system is horrible because it consumes one half hour to 40 minutes to change."

Geoff's addition: "Two of the talking garbage cans already broke."

Kristina P.: "The food sucks. The signs and trash cans were a waste of money."

Geoff's addition: "It sucks."

Everyone else who we interviewed had comments just like these. Note: Every time we mentioned the talking trash cans people would laugh. One person in particular commented on some of the costs, but did not want to be recognized. The trash cans were \$3,500 a piece. A large amount was spent on a task (compactment) for this new garbage system when the school already has a massive compactor. The new cafeteria totaled \$10,000,000. Do you think it was worth it?

Barb Sherman

By: Jessica Turner and Kristina Petron

Maybe you've seen a tall lady with long curly hair, and an everlasting smile. She'll be walking through the lunchroom during lunch, or walking through the hall -ways during break. Most people will mistake her for a teacher but, she is our new principal Barb Sherman. I've done an interview with her, and if you'd like to know more about this lady, read on.

Q. *Where did you grow up?*

A. St. Louis Park, I also went to the University of Minnesota.

Q. *Why did you choose Minnetonka?*

A. I like the philosophy behind Minnetonka, where it's going, and the education.

Q. *What do you think about Mini-School?*

A. I think it's a great alternative for kids that need something other than a real traditional Minnetonka setting.

Q. *If you were a student how would you view yourself?*

A. I would look at myself as someone who cares about the school policy, and respects the students and teachers.

Q. *What do you think about parking permits being so expensive?*

A. I think it's good because the money goes to paying the parking attendants salary.

Q. *What do you think about the construction going on at the school?*

A. While school's going on it's difficult because of all the obstacles, but I think it's great.

Q. *What do you think is the most important part of your job?*

A. Working with students, and helping the students be successful with school.

A Lasting Impression of a First Impression

By: Jamie Rasmussen

Joining the Mini-School program is the best thing I could have possibly done for my academic career. The program is very organized and offers many opportunities. The students and staff welcome you with friendly hand shakes and introductions, making you feel like you're part of a family.

Education is taken seriously in Mini-School even though it is run more lenient. Doors have been opened to me. I am now part of a school newspaper, allowing me to write, which is something I love to do. I can take classes outside of Mini-School seen as how it is within main stream high school. I am able to keep myself fit by taking advantage of a free weight lifting program that is offered. I am also able to get ahead in school by working to provide for my own personal recognition. Trips are a huge plus to the program. They give students something to work for and to look forward to. You achieve credit by enjoying yourself and learning about different places which is a great deal in my eyes. On top of that you are given the chance to relieve yourself of stress at the end of the day by shooting a game of pool if you wish to do so.

When I attended my first day I didn't think that there was going to be as much enthusiasm as there is. I had planned on keeping to myself but the environment I was in allowed me to open up and get to know new people. People that I am pleased to be acquainted with.

Motivation is a must for success. I feel that Mini-School motivates students to out do themselves. Being taught by a staff that truly cares about YOU and takes the time to get to know about YOU along with peers who are more than willing to help makes learning desirable. Thanks to Mini-School, I now look forward to each up coming day and plan on doing very well here.

Book Review

By: Leah Shoberg

Demon Seed

By: Dean Koontz

Another chilling novel from a master storyteller. Sometimes humorous, sometimes shocking, but always riveting. Demon Seed is a story so realistic, that it makes the reader believe that the contents therein, are frighteningly possible.

Susan Harris lived in self imposed seclusion, in a mansion featuring numerous automated systems controlled by a state-of-the-art computer. Every comfort was provided, and in this often unsafe world of ours, her security was absolute.

But now her security system has been breached. Her sanctuary from the outside world violated by an insidious artificial intelligence, which has taken control of her house. In the privacy of her own home, and against her will, Susan will experience an inconceivable act of terror. She will become the object of the ultimate computers consuming obsession: to learn everything there is to know about the flesh...

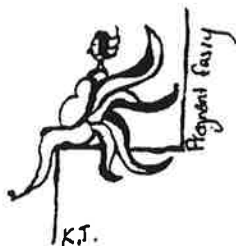
Demon Seed is an incredible, terrifying tale of the possibilities of technology. Definitely a 10.



This Moment

I may never see tomorrow; there is no written guarantee.
And things that happened yesterday belong to history.
I cannot predict the future, and I cannot change the past.
I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.
I must use this moment wisely, for soon it will pass away.
And be lost to me forever, as part of yesterday.
I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet;
Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete.
I must make this moment precious, for it will not come again.
And I can never be content with things that might have been
Kind words I fail to say this day, may ever be unsaid
For I know not how short may be the path that lies ahead.
The unkind things I do today may never be undone.
And friendships that I fail to win may never more be won.
I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray
And thank you, God, with humble heart for giving me this day.
I may never see tomorrow, but this moment is my own.
It's mine to use or cast aside; this choice is mine alone.
I have just this precious moment in the sunlight of today.
Where the dawning of tomorrow meets the dusk of yesterday.

(This poem was tacked on B.J.'s bulletin board. It reflects his philosophy of life.)



Babies

By: Jessica Turner
& Kristina Petron

Scott Johnson is a Special Education teacher that comes to Mini- School every day during second hour. He helps students that have case managers. This is his first year in Mini.

Scott is the proud father of two girls and a 6 1/2 week old baby boy. He and his wife named him Anders. When Anders was born he weighed eight pounds, and three ounces. He was 23 inches long. Scott says sleep doesn't happen anymore.

Danielle Weiss was a student here last year as a junior. She spent almost her whole school year being pregnant. Towards the end of her pregnancy Mini helped Danielle by home schooling her.

She had a beautiful baby boy on May 29, 1998. He weighed eight pounds and five ounces. He was 20 1/2 inches long. She named him Tai Leron. Danielle says that being a mother is fun, but also very hard, and sometimes frustrating. It is a little bit more difficult to go out now, it's even hard to go to work or school.

Pauline Engelby is one of the teachers in Mini. This year is her sixth year of teaching for this program. Pauline is currently thirty two weeks pregnant with her second child. She currently has one girl now and has a second on the way. She and her husband Jason have decided to name her either Samantha, or Rachel.

Her family was very excited and very happy about the fact of her having another child. They all especially like the fact that the two girls will be almost exactly three years apart. Her daughter thinks that since mommy has a baby in her tummy, that everyone must have a baby in their tummies.

Graduation

By: Shelly Smasal

Well it's finally here, my graduation day. On Friday October 30th, I will be graduating from High School.

I was in the class of 98, and would have graduated last year but I didn't have enough credits. I came back to school this year to make up a credit and a half. Even though I am graduating tomorrow I am still going to miss Mini school.

When I was mainstream I wasn't getting good grades, and I couldn't concentrate in the big classes. I was ready to drop school all together. Then I got accepted into Mini- school third quarter of last year. That totally changed my attitude about school. The teachers are awesome, the classes are small, and everyone is like a family.

While I was in Mini- school I went on two different trips. I went on the St. Louis River trip, and the Mark Warren trip. Both of those trips I learned and accomplished many new things. Mini school has been a very good thing for me and because of it I am now graduating.

Right now I have a full time job at an insurance company, so when I graduate I am going to work there until I decide if I want to go to college. I am going to miss the Mini School staff and students, but at least now I can move on. Thanks Mini School! Have a great year!



Recognition Night- June '97

By: Aaron Sapp

At the end of every school year Mini-School has an evening where we celebrate the year, the program, and the achievements of the students. Many awards are given out, some serious and some just for fun. Some of them are: Pest, Best Trippers, Best Canoers, Now You See Them, Now You Don't, Wish You Were Here Longer.

There is also a guest speaker at Recognition Night. Last year it was Dr. Donald Draayer, former superintendent of Minnesota Schools. He talked about how education is important and graduation and moving on.

Some of the winners for some of the awards were: Chatterbox-Geoff Boller, Heather Trowbridge; Pest-Aaron Hoerst, Carrie Tiggas; Trip Cook-Aaron Sapp; Nicest Kids- Trevor Scott, La'Kaysa Bollig.

Some very special kids even graduated. Tony "Hondo" Cruikshank, Tony Kohman, Maya Diedrich, Mike Ennis, Mike Phelps, Mike McGinn, Tanya Schierman, Lenny Weisner, Dan Voaklander, and many more.

To end the night we had a slide show from trips that went out over the years. Pictures of students, teachers, The Grand Canyon, Buffalo River, BWCA, Montana, Utah. We then ate cake, drank juice and said our farewells until next time.

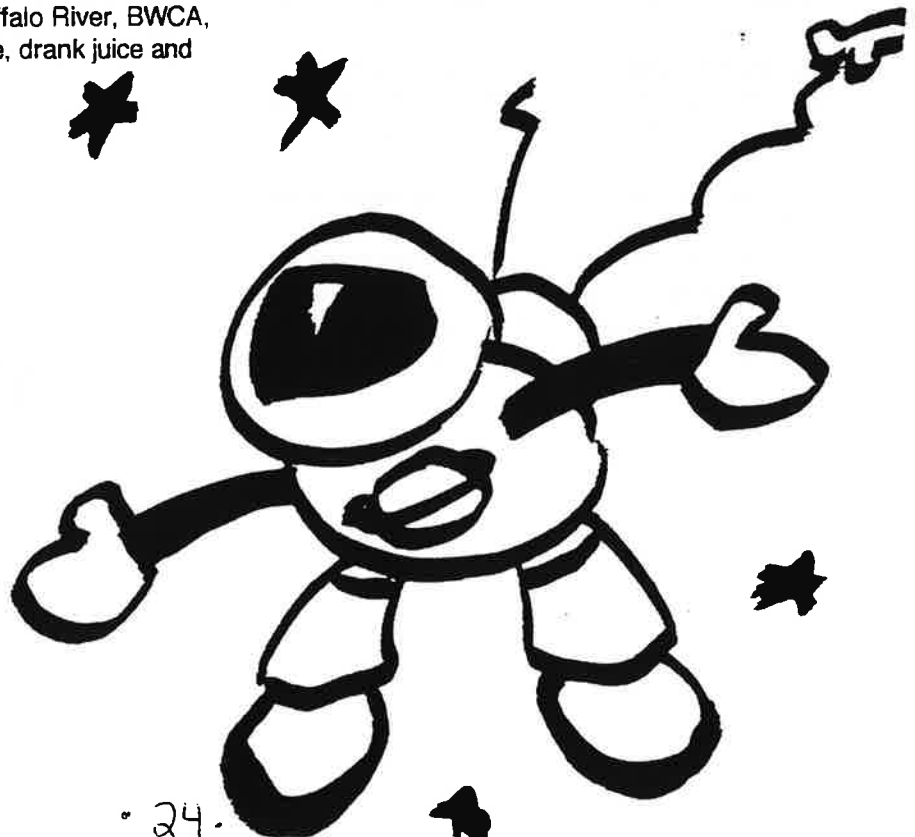
Calendar Drive

By: Aaron Hoerst

Oh boy, it's that time for the year, again. Yes, it's the calendar drive for Mini-School with M.C. Berg leading his disciples; the determined Mini-School students. You may ask, "Why would us teens be so driven to sell calendars?" We sell them to make money for Mini-School to fund trips and make them less expensive for kids to afford.

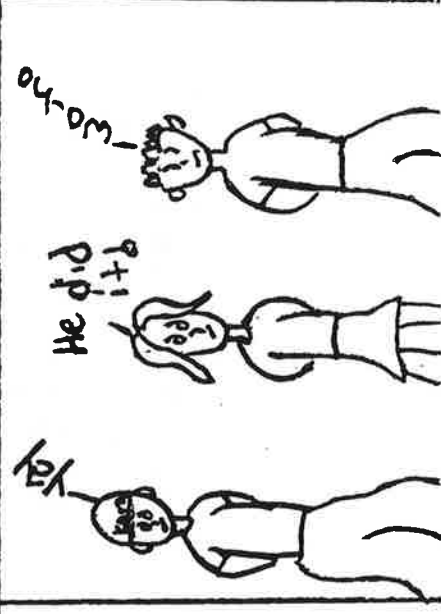
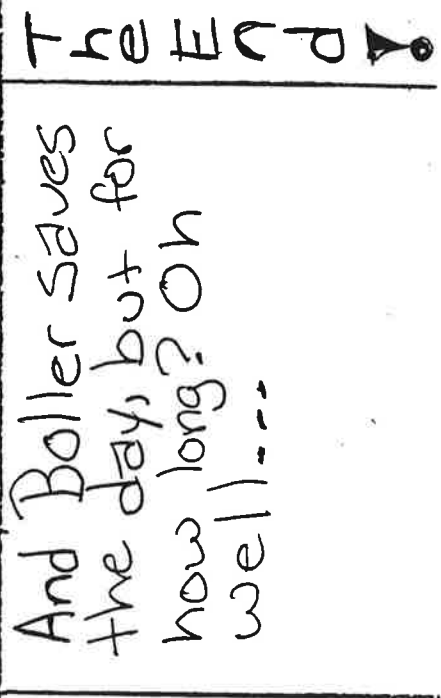
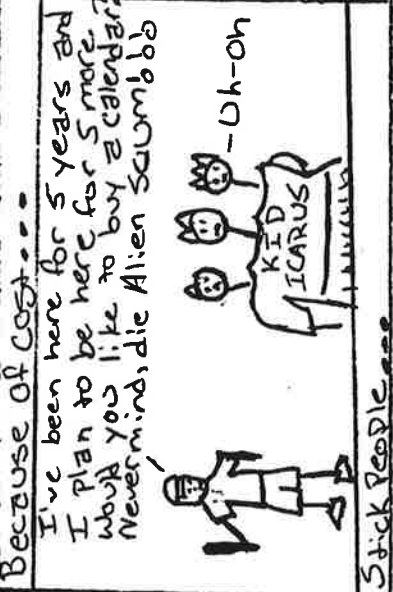
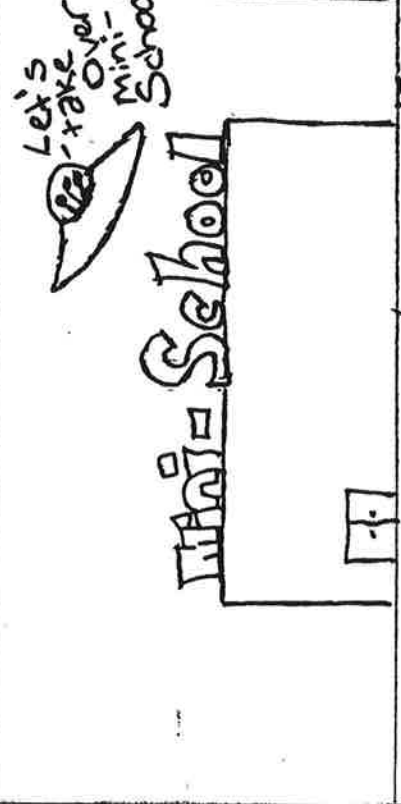
The attractive Minnesota weather guide calendar costs \$13.00. "Thirteen dollars,?" you ask. "Why so much, why not \$12.00 or \$12.50?" The quality of these calendars explains it all. They are filled cover to cover with information from astrology and meteorology to gardening. There are also numerous amounts of wildlife pictures and beautiful landscape shots.

Wall calendars and desk calendars are being sold. The wall calendar is larger and has more information and tips on the weather. The desk, or engagement calendar is smaller. It has more pictures than the wall calendar, however, not as much information. My suggestion to people that can't decide which one to buy, I would recommend both. If you are interested in a calendar before the middle of December call 401-5920 and ask for "Aaron Hoerst." There will be results of calendar sales in the next issue.



ALIEN INVASION - (Boller Saves

THE
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 By: + Sam Maeder Day



Com-Mini-Cations

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Address Correction Requested

Mini's favorite fundraiser!

Minnesota Weatherguide Calendars for sale!

*Call and we'll hook you up with one - 401-5920
Both wall and desk calendars are \$13.00 each*