



Com-mini-cations



Josh M. Shoberg

Winter
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

Mini-School is struggling through this wimpy El Nino winter the best we can. In early January Joe Juranitch and I and 8 of the top calendar salespeople took a nice trip to Two Harbors and Ely. It really wasn't planned as a winter activities trip, but a nice snowfall, the first significant one of the winter, added a wintry touch to it. Once we got some snow here I've had some nice Friday morning snowshoe outings at Minnewashta Regional Park with the likes of Mike Phelps, Jon Fairbourne, Tanya Schierman, Charlie Urbia, Matt Thompson, Trevor Scott, Laura Huberty, Kristina Petron, and Casey Bakken. Matt and Jon are the snowshoe racing champions (must have something to do with long legs).

Randy got his annual ski/snowboard trip out to the upper peninsula of Michigan. Participants included Jeremy Latcham, Trevor Scott, Audrey Lopez, Aaron Hoerst, Hilary Carignon, Jon Fairbourne, Shaun Johnson, Steve Kopischke, and Molly Latterner. Snow depth was less than usual up there, but it was adequate and the group had a good time snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing and learning about the Upper Peninsula culture.

As I watch the snow melt here in mid-February the prospect of our annual BWCA winter camping trip does not look good, but things in Minnesota have a way of changing and stalwart winter campers like Lacey Landt, Mike Phelps, Tony Cruikshank, and Casey Bakken are holding out hope. Mike, Lacey, and Casey all got new snowshoes for Christmas and are eager to give them a winter trip workout.

Personally, I've not even come close to getting my required quotient of cross-country skiing in and am out of sorts and grouchy most all the time. I've skied a couple of races, most notably the Mora Vasaloppet, and have done well, and as I write this am planning to ski the Birkebeiner on February 21st if enough snow remains on the trail to hold the race. I'm getting awfully tired of gleeful television weather people merrily chortling as February temperatures soar into the forties (I've spoken with Jon Fairbourne about it).

We've taken in a lot of new kids in Mini-School, too many to mention here, and most all of them seem to be making the adjustment to Mini-School pretty well. We keep the next generation going as Paula Chaney's mom, Evie Bell, and her uncle John Bell were Mini-School students as was John Finch's mom, Laurie Nasset. Randy and I have decided that when we start getting the grandchildren of some of our students it will be time to retire.

As I write this Randy and Ramona are attending the annual Minnesota Alternative Programs conference. They are learning how alternative programs are going to deal with the new graduation standards which are fast becoming a reality for Minnesota students and teachers. About a dozen of Mini-School's sophomores took the state math and English tests the first week of February. Ramona and I coached them and most of them went into the test pretty confident. They'll find out the results

in April. Many Mini-School students possess skill levels which are more than adequate to pass the tests but do not possess very good test-taking skills or lack the ability to concentrate well enough or long enough to take these tests.

The Mini-School parent meetings have been happening on a monthly basis and enable the parents who attend to keep abreast of Mini-School happenings, staff concerns, and also enable the parents to share their concerns with the staff. For the April meeting we hope to have Gladys Folkers, a counselor who specializes in parenting, as a speaker for the parents. More will be forthcoming regarding this in the monthly parent newsletters that Joanne sends out the first week of each month.

That's about it for this Meander. As usual we've heard from some alumni:

Karen Kenefick '95 is attending the U of M majoring in agricultural education. Is really doing well. Plans to marry in a year or two.

Katie Steger '95 has been attending school in Missoula, Montana and will soon come home and attend school here. Katie is studying to be a veterinarian technician. She says she's appreciating her parents more since she's been gone -- you know, having a refrigerator that has food in it and someone else buying the toilet paper.

Mike Persson '88? is a rep for a wine company. He stopped up to school to return a cop's uniform to Kathy Witschorik!!?

Jerry Erickson '91 I see Jerry at the Marsh occasionally, a health club we both belong to.

Dallas Wilson '75 I also see Dallas at the Marsh.

Kris Mann '94 is into landscaping and snowplowing (a lean year) and is doing well.

The three honchos ride again:

Keith "Pugsley" Bartram '93 stopped in to visit Mini-School. He's out of the Navy and working as a diesel mechanic apprentice. You should hear him talk about his 5-month-old boy, Macalob Augustine! Says he's a laughing, giggling koala bear of a kid. Pugsley's wife, Tamara, works nights as a customer service rep for a cell phone company, and between the two parents Macalob is well taken care of. No daycare for this family, says Pugs. They live in Mound now. Glad to have you back in the area!

Al Wright '93 stopped in with Pugs. Al's home on a 30-day leave from the Navy in Italy. He's a Petty Officer 3rd Class and he's a steelworker. He also gets stationed in Gulfport, Mississippi, and Guam. Brother **Casey Wright** was in town for a week from his home in Florida.



A LETTER From A Com-mini Reader.

January 20, 1998

Beth (Barton) Shuman
7 Valley View Circle
Garden Valley, ID 83622

Doug Berg
Mini-School Program
Minnetonka Highschool
5621 County Rd 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Hello Mr. Berg,

I wanted to drop a note and thank you and your Mini-school students for continuing to provide me with the Com-unication newspaper. I have enjoyed keeping up with the activities and writings of your program. It really exemplifies the progressive and active learning style which Mini-school stands for.

I am a SWAS alumni from way back in the early 70's. I used to dislike admitting that I am so ancient as to graduate back then yet I find that my experience has helped my own children through their highschool years. My son is twenty years old, a diesel mechanic in the US Army, and a graduate of Idaho's first alternative highschool. My daughter is currently enrolled in the same highschool and will graduate next year.

Idaho is lightyears behind Minnesota in relation to modern progressive education alternatives. I have been an advocate here for kids with learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, and other difficulties in learning from traditional curriculums. It has not been an easy task as this is a very conservative and underfunded state. I feel however that the fight for equal opportunity to learn and be successful is finally paying off and alternative schools are beginning to pop up in many rural communities and cities.

I intend to pass your newsletter on to the English department at our alternative highschool. Hopefully, they will not only enjoy the writings and recounts of adventures but they will also incorporate this type of publication into their program as well. After 28 years of success with your program only those who refuse to see will remain mired in antiquated education.

So, after all this rambling again my thanks for your perseverance and for keeping me in touch! By the way, please give Ben Shultenover my regards. He put up with lots of guff from my classmates (no, not me!) and its great to see he still gets to influence yet another generation!

Sincerely yours,

Beth Shuman

News Flash: The Geezers Prevail!

On Wednesday, March 4th, three Mini-School pups, Dustin Olson, Derek Knowles, and Sean Pederson challenged the old geezers, 50-somethings Doug Berg and Randy Nelson to a half-court basketball game. Doug's and Randy's third player was La'Kaysa Bollig.

The Pups, fired up with enthusiasm, took an early lead. Sean's knifing drives, Dustin's outside shooting, and Derek's rebounding kept the geezers off-balance and thrilled the spectators, all of the Mini-School students and staff who suspended all other activities to come and watch the game.

By halftime, aided by La'Kaysa's smothering defense, the Geezers staged a gradual comeback. Doug hit a couple jump shots, Randy put back a couple of offensive rebounds, and before the spectators knew it, the Geezers had assumed the lead. Calling upon all their wisdom and guile, they maintained and built their lead, emerging victorious by a score of 27-21.

Before the game the Pups suggested the losers should have their heads shaved. The Geezers called their bluff and said that would be fine. The Pups quickly changed their minds and decided that the losers treating the winners to breakfast at Perkin's would be good stakes. So, Randy, Doug, and La'Kaysa are looking forward to a 6:00 AM breakfast. A rematch will not be considered until the debt has been paid.

How Mini-School Inspires People

By: Gabe Peterson

Mini-School is a great program to get people motivated for life out of High School. The first day you come into Mini-school it's kind of shocking because Doug will right away want everybody to know who you are and everything about you.

He makes you feel very welcome and at ease. The teachers teach you in a much different way. You learn how to achieve goals for yourself and get jobs. Many people are inspired and succeed because of Mini-School. A couple of graduates are millionaires now. It's not about the money, it's about how you want to succeed and that you're happy. Then you made it.

What inspires me and many others is the trips we go out on. You learn a lot of responsibility and how to live off of what you have. It also gets you in great shape. Mini has inspired me. I hope the same for many more.

The Wrongs of Captivity

By: Lacey Landt

When you go to the zoo what do you think? Do those animals really look happy to you? No!!! Monkeys, Gorillas, Lions Tigers, Bears, Wolves, Dolphins, etc.

Take dolphins, they live in a small pool, at the zoo. They are from the ocean, a body of water that covers over half the world.

Lions, Tigers, monkeys, gorillas- they are in an area of an acre if they're lucky. Their home is a jungle which is a lot bigger than your front yard.

Lastly, the wolf. Museums, and zoos have a permit to have them for scientific studies on them. How can you possibly give information on an animal that is in captivity. There is no way that they are going to act normal in a cage.

There is a big legal debate going on whether or not we should take the wolves off the endangered species list. People are scared for their families and are upset that their **sport** {deer hunting} will soon vanish. Well deer are far more likely to attack humans than wolves are. An estimated 150 people will be killed in the U.S this year when their

vehicles hit deer. Secondly there is no verified record of a wolf ever killing a human in North America. Wolves kill one out of every seven deer they try to get. They rarely will ever kill more than they can eat.

The state of Minnesota paid a bounty out on wolves until 1965. In 1970 it is estimated that there were 750 wolves in the whole state of Minnesota. There is a new population survey due this spring. The DNR {Department of Natural Resources} now estimates there to be 2,000 wolves.

Do we really need to kill thousands of wolves so we can be "safe". They were and still are so frightened of humans that you would only see them at zoos and museums. They were here before us. Be human and respect mother nature and the beauty of it.



Grantsburg Hike 97

By: Leah Shoberg

Do burnt shoes, charred socks, and rations of a block of cheese and salami ring a bell? That's right, the 15th annual Grantsbug trip. This year's victims were Mike Ennis {our fearless veteran} Tony Kohman, Mike Phelps, Adam Vernes, Dan Voaklander, Gabe Peterson, Kyle Kimrey, Trish Laumann, Aaron Sapp, Tony Cruikshank, Jamie O'Day, Heather Trowbridge, and myself. Our leaders were Doug Berg and Randy Nelson.

Arriving at school around 5:30 am to load the vans, we started off on a pretty good note leaving the school around 6:15 am. Making good time, we arrived at the starting point around 9:00 am.

We unloaded the vans and distributed the gear as equally as possible. We then built ourselves a fire while waiting for Doug and Randy to get back from dropping off the vans at the finishing point. They soon returned, so we donned our {heavy} packs and set off around 10:00 am.

Making good time we stopped for lunch around 11:30 and divided our rations of bagels, block of cheese,

salami, chocolate and other assorted delicacies. After lunch, we set off again. With Doug leading the way and Randy bringing up the rear, we had to scale one of the several hills along the way before reaching the campsite.

We set up camp as quickly as possible and then relaxed around the fire to listen to some of Doug's many stories. Then we ate a hearty meal of something from a box with noodles, paid homage to and honored the sacred spoon. We turned in around 8:30. It had been a long day.

We woke up around 7:00 and stuffed ourselves with as much oatmeal as possible before taking down camp and setting off again around 8:30. Making even more good time, we stopped for lunch. While dividing our rations of bagels, pb&j, butter from a squeeze bottle and salami we decided that our one goal was to get to the pizza.

So after seven more miles and three more hours of drinking Randy's rustic tang, everyone was grateful at around 3:30 when the vans came into sight. Throwing our packs and ourselves into the vans we gleefully absorbed the heat from the vents, and set off for civilization and pizza.

Doug and Randy said this was the fastest any group had ever hiked this trail in the 15 years Mini- School has done it. We are good.

Pros and Cons of the new Mini policy

By: Tony Cruikshank
and Leah Shoberg

Mini-School is considering a new policy. In order to give more students a chance to be in Mini, the staff has to choose some students to drop. In order to aid in the selection the staff thinks that if a student doesn't earn more than three quarters of a credit per quarter for two consecutive quarters that the student will get dropped. The following is two opposing view points of the policy.

The pro side: It seems to me that there is an increasing number of students in Mini that don't take advantage of the program. It isn't that hard to get credit in Mini-School. All you really need to do is pay attention. Which means to earn 1 credit all that you really have to do is make it to school for four hours and stay awake. How hard can that be?? Plus Mini gives you credit for having a job.

Which means the majority of Mini-School is being handed credit for something that they should be doing anyway. Is this a sweet deal or what? What if the student just finds themselves in a hole or rut or whatever you want to call it and

doesn't do so well. Will this student get dropped for having bad karma? No! Of course not! Every now and then everyone falls into a slump {myself included}.

So to make sure that it was a true level of performance, you have to have two quarters of inadequate performance to get yourself dropped. After one not so great quarter you know that you are going to have to put your nose to the grindstone.

Talk to the Mini-School teachers. They are some of the most understanding people anywhere. If you let them know that you are really trying they will help you out. Which is another benefit of being in Mini-School. If you aren't using the program to your advantage and are just taking up time and undeserved space then maybe you shouldn't be in Mini. That is just my side of the issue.

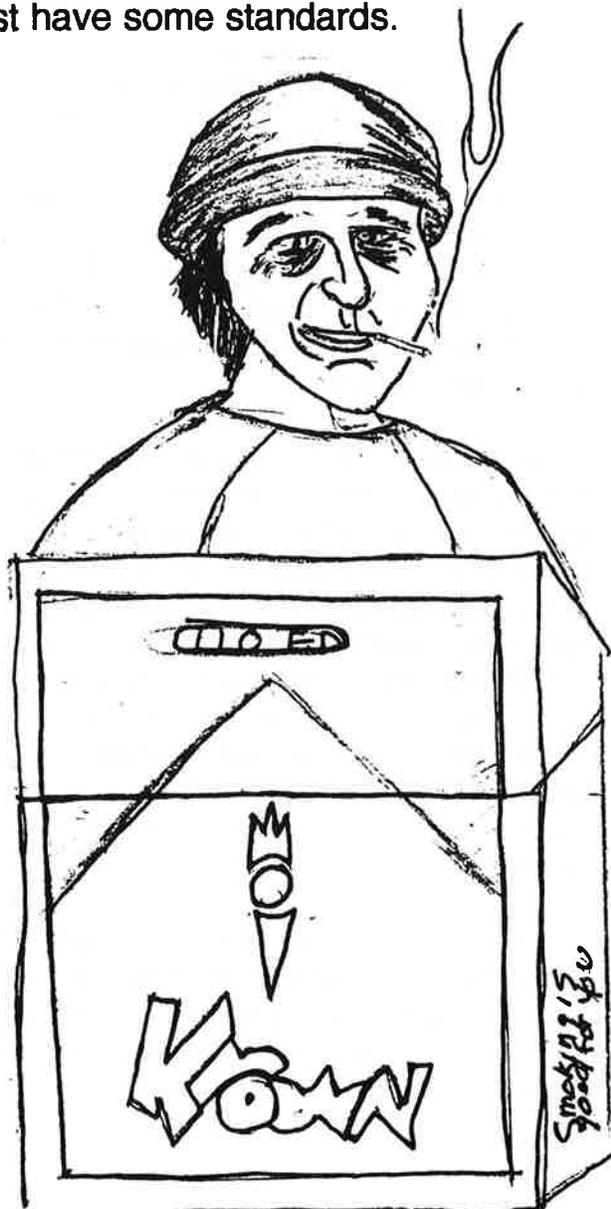
The con side: { note: for argumentative purposes only} There are students who don't take advantage of the Mini-School program! What about those people who fall into a slump? Will they have only two quarters to deal with whatever problem they have. It sounds like: "You can go ahead and deal with this problem, but you only this certain amount of time to get over it."

Now that sounds pretty awful to me. What if some people only earn just

enough credit to get by on this policy? Will a new policy be made to deal with those people who don't perform as well as others have?

What about those people who do want to succeed and just don't have the means to do it. There's just so many different circumstances that pertain to so many different people, that a policy like this might make Mini look more like mainstream rather than an alternative school that deals with individual students. That's just the other {possible} side of the issue.

Really though, the policy seems pretty fair. Mini-School teachers are very fair and understanding, but they must have some standards.



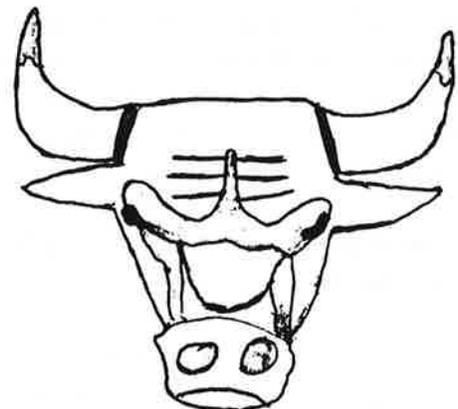
Basketball Baby!!

By: Elissa Johnson and Lakaysa Bollig

The Chicago Bulls, if that doesn't draw your attention, don't read on. This article pertains to the Bulls and how they are throwing their number-one spot away.

Ever since I was born {and I'm sure many others} I have been a basket-ball fan. The Bulls once were and still are my favorite team. The Bulls have come a long way in the past ten years with Phil Jackson as their coach, Scotty taking forward, Dennis making rebounds, and Michael leading the team to glory. They have won five championships in the past seven years.

Although lately, they seem to have lost interest in the game. Rodman wants money, Jordan thinks he's too old, and Phil has just had enough. It's too bad that the Bulls have been slacking.



An Interview with Joe Juranitch

by Hilary Carignan

Joe Juranitch has been a fixture at Minnetonka High School for 11 years. He's served as a hall monitor, parking lot attendant, weight room supervisor, and most recently, a supervisory paraprofessional in Mini-School. As most people know, Joe is also Ragnar, the mascot for the Minnesota Vikings. This job enables him to be recognized throughout Minnesota and influences his relationships with Minnetonka students in a positive way.

I found Joe to be an interesting person to interview. I tried to transcribe his answers to my questions pretty much as he gave me the information.

Did you get assigned to Mini-School or did you choose to be here?

I got assigned. I didn't have a choice in the matter. I got called into the principal's office in August and this is what they said you'll do.

How are you contributing to Mini-School?

Well, I think I have a lot to offer. I've been down the road a lot of these kids have been down, and I know what the results are going to be if these students continue down this road. I have a cabin in northern Minnesota that I told Mini-School they are more than welcome to use anytime. I don't know. I just think I am fairly wise with these kind of students.

At first, what did you think Mini-School was going to be like?

In the beginning, if I'm gonna be very honest with you, I was afraid. I didn't like the idea. It

wasn't my choice and I had no say in the matter. You know, me and the Mini-School kids always butted heads. I think it was more they didn't understand me and I didn't understand them. I think the staff didn't understand me and I didn't understand them. I know it was a lot of changing on my part and understanding and, to be honest, I think I am in this because God is teaching me patience. To be in Mini requires a ton of patience.

I also see that Mini isn't black and white. There's a lot of gray. You've got to take a step back and think, why is this student acting like this, what's going on. More often than not, it will come out why they are acting the way they are. They've got a lot of issues at home, a lot of issues being teens, a lot of school issues. So I don't think it's directed at me, but they are just frustrated. In the beginning I didn't like it at all and I was extremely bitter. I didn't want to be up there. But my attitude has changed. I took the attitude that I could be a real jerk about this, or I could decide, OK, this is my assignment and I'm gonna do it to the best of my ability. Joyce Rief had told me to give it a year and see how I do.

People have to understand that the problems kids have in Mini-School are the same kind of problems mainstream kids have. I think I can identify with Mini kids. I really struggled hard in school. Some of the teachers used to make fun of my report card, saying it looked like a Christmas tree. I think our goal in Mini-School is to keep you kids focused and keep you on track. You're gonna have your down days, but we as adults have our down days, too. We have issues, it's just our issues are different than yours.

When I first got into Mini, I thought the first thing to do is to get into somebody's face. You can't do that. You've got to remember that a lot of these students have been pushed around by adults. Then I come along and I'm

gonna teach them discipline and teach them the right ways. Well, they look upon me as the same as these adults and parents that push them around, put them down, don't build them up. Kids have a lot of free time and parents don't care. Parents are at the point right now where they say, here's a credit card, here's a car, me and dad have our own entertaining to do, and I see that with the mainstream kids, too. We as a society will pay for that some day, and I see it happening as you and I are speaking right now. It takes quality time, a mother and a father, it takes both of them to spend time with kids. If you don't do it now, you'll pay for it. There we have it all in a nutshell.

What are your ideas about the program?

Everybody needs to take math and writing, something that's gonna help them function through life. To give you an example, I am 36 years old and I have a hard time reading a ruler. I think we should be teaching what is so important about a ruler, like you're gonna need it if you're going to build anything, if you're going to measure anything or if you like to sew your own clothes. I think it is a rude awakening to students once they get out of school here in Mini. I would like to know what is the success rate, who goes to college. I'm not basing success on college, by no means, but to get any kind of decent job these days, you better have some kind of trade.

Do you think it's smart for the Mini students to be here?

I see a lot of kids that don't want to be here. We give them chances time and time again and over and over, and I feel we should let them go. Let them go out and flip those burgers, let them go pump the gas. When they're tired of that whole scene and are ready to get their education they can come back, when they're ready to go by our rules.

Also, I would like to see Mini-School target towards getting you kids back on track. I don't think we should keep kids in Mini from 10th grade until they graduate. I would like to see these kids get back on track and back in mainstream. It's a comfort zone up in Mini, let's face it, and it's not gonna be like that in a work place when you get a job.

Do you think the students are learning what they need to graduate?

No, I don't. I don't know why everybody else in the building here is learning about computers, but Mini-School isn't. Computers are the way of the future. That how you're going to survive some day. Why aren't we teaching that?

Have you mentioned this to the staff at all?

No, I have not. Just sitting in the classes, I know I've learned a lot. I used to be at one end of the spectrum and Doug is at the other. But Doug has taught me that there is a happy medium, and I hope I've taught Doug there is a happy medium, too. I used to look at Doug as a tree hugger, you know, save the world, Anti-motor, and he got me thinking about motor environment and all that stuff. Now I have taken an interest in skiing because of Doug. Also in snowshoeing, too. When I go to my cabin I'll go canoeing more, but I still like my motors and will always use them.

Are the teachers keeping the students' interest to learn and keep their hope in graduating?

I think so, I think they all do a very good job. I see them getting frustrated at times, but you've got to remember they have 75 students that all the other teachers didn't want. Then everybody looks at Mini-School and says, why aren't you fixing them? We have 75 kids that have problems and, for lack of words, are

trouble-makers.

Is this your only job? If no, what else do you do?

This isn't my only job. I work with Mini-School and then with a downs syndrome boy here at the school from 2 til 4:30 everyday. That little guy has taught me a lot of patience. I've enjoyed him and he's taught me a lot.

I also work with the Vikings as the mascot. I go to different schools speaking on drugs and alcohol. I speak at youth groups and churches on my beliefs on God. I do a lot of entertaining for birthday parties. I just did a fundraiser for the Orono school district as the Viking mascot. I'm looking at getting back into my father's company here. He's coming out with a new fish hook sharpener. It's rather unique and pretty neat.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hobbies. I like to hunt, I enjoy fishing. I really enjoy my Harley. Me and my wife love riding. My wife has her own Harley. I introduced my wife to motorcycling. She never did any of this stuff and I started her on a little bike and built her up to a bigger one. Finally she wanted her own Harley. Who other better to ride with than your mate? I just enjoy being with her. She's number one in my life, always has been and always will be. I contribute a lot of my success to her, helping me out to change my life around. God has blessed me with a very good wife.

I love going to my cabin, and I enjoy snowmobiling. There's nothing I won't try. I tried to talk Doug into taking an ice fishing trip with with Mini-School kids, but I don't think he's too excited about that. I do enjoy ice fishing, enjoy the winter, all four seasons.

What has been the best thing that has happened to you since you've been the Vikings mascot?

There are a lot of interesting people out there. My father taught me at a very young age to keep your mouth shut, keep your ears open, don't tell people what you know, people don't care what you know. Listen to them and see what they have to say, you'll hear a wealth of information. With the Vikings I run into so many people, as far as players, actors and movie stars. You can check on my website www.mtka.orbackslashRagnar. You will see, I take pictures of people I've run into, like Kevin Garnett, Stephen Marbury, and Bill Cosby. I got to go to Japan with the Vikings when we played Kansas City there. Me and my wife got to go with all expenses paid. I had one appearance all week long and the rest of the time was ours so we toured Japan.

I'm expecting a lot more this year. I feel that the fans are warming up to me and starting to get to know me. Sometimes other fans want to fight our fans, and I can pretty much get in the middle of it. They say, aren't you that Vikings guy? Then it gets defused and we talk about the Vikings.

I get to meet a lot of different people. Like I say, don't read a book by its cover. You may look at some of these Mini kids and think, oh, look at them. They got really good things to tell you. Because somebody looks different on the outside, be careful of what you think or what you say because that's not what always is in their heart. A lot of people look at me and say, oh, he's a druggie or a drunk. And I don't do either of them.

What was the worst thing that has happened to you since you've been the Vikings mascot?

The worst thing was I went out on the field with my Harley one time. I got called on it by the

NFL. They said to stay off the field and then they put a lady in charge of me, telling me when I could go out on the field. One game I was going to bring my bike on the field, asked her if it was a time out. I was looking at her on her walkie-talkie, it was really noisy, and she nodded her head, so I thought it was a nod to my question. So I fired up the bike, went flying out there, and there was Warren Moon passing the ball, and I'm out on the 40-yard line. It was terrible. I peeled around and got off the field. Kids that saw it on TV said the announcers said, you aren't gonna believe this, but the mascot is out in the middle of the play. In about 3 minutes the head of security of the Vikings came down and said the NFL had just called. So I'm still kind of gun shy about taking my bike out.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I moved to Ely, Minnesota, when I was 15 years old. Then I moved from Ely to Minneapolis when I was 25, so I really enjoy the cities. I've traveled the whole United States when I used to work for my father's company, and I really like Minneapolis. It's a clean city.

What kind of childhood did you have?

My dad did the best he could with what he had. We were very, very poor, extremely poor. Did I have a good childhood? I don't think so. Would I do it over again? No, I'm glad to be where I'm at. Me and my wife choose not to have kids. That doesn't mean I wouldn't do foster care or something like that. It was rough growing up. My folks and I have wonderful relationship, but I wouldn't do a lot of things that my folks did if I had kids.

Who's the real Joe?

Number one, God is very, very important in my life. That's who the real Joe is. I try to base

my life on the Bible and try to do right by other people. I'm not always going to be right all the time because if I were, I would be wearing a halo or I would be walking across water right now. I have made some bad decisions in my life. I enjoy people, and I enjoy kids. But as far as who the real Joe is, this is who you get. I try to respect everybody's ideas. Do I have to agree with them? No.



Michigan Trip

By: Molly Latterner and
Steve Kopischke

On Sunday Feb 8th, Randy met with us at Perkins at about 10:00 am. The group of people chosen to go on this trip out of the eighteen that signed up were: Steve Kopischke, Jon Fairbourne, Shaun Johnson, Jeremy Latcham, Molly Latterner, Aaron Hoerst, Trevor Scott, Hilary Carignan, and Audrey Lopez. With our fearless leader Randall T Nelson.

We started the long drive to Michigan around 10:30 am. The ride wasn't bad. Randy said we were one of the most talkative groups he had taken to Michigan. We got to the condo around 4:30 pm, unloaded the van and went inside to have a quick meeting.

Randy let us know what was going on and told us dinner would be ready around 7:00 pm. He said we could go to the lodge, go snowshoeing or just hang out at the condo.

Everyone did as they chose and was back on time for dinner. After dinner Randy announced that our curfew was 10:30 pm. Everyone was cool with that and off we went. Everyone was back on time and we went to sleep. {most of us}

On Monday February 9th at 7:30 am Randy gave us a wake up call.

Almost everyone admitted that this condo was one of the first places that ALWAYS had hot water. We left the condo around 9:00am towards Big Powderhorn Ski Hill. Randy gave us our lift tickets and we headed out. Steve, Molly, Aaron, Hilary and Audrey headed for the smaller intermediate hills.

Everyone in this group were beginners except Steve. Steve said "I haven't been snow boarding for a while, I want to get use to my board again." Getting off the lift was hard for the beginners but not for Steve. It didn't take long for Aaron and Molly to catch on but Hilary and Audrey had a lot of trouble. Steve tried to teach Hilary and Audrey but it didn't work very well.

After lunch Steve, Molly, and Aaron decided to go with Jeremy, Shaun, Jon, and Trevor to try out the more advanced hills. Hilary and Audrey stayed in the chalet because it took them so long to get down the first hill.

Molly decided to ruin the rest of the first day by getting a mild concussion and having to go to the hospital. Randy took her while the others stayed at the ski hill. Randy had to leave Molly at the hospital to go back and get everyone else back to the lodge. We headed back to the condo and ate around 7:00 pm.

Tuesday about the same as Monday, wake up call at 7:30, breakfast and then off to the next ski hill. The second ski hill we went was

Black Jack, the coolest ski hill we went on this trip. Randy went inside to get our lift tickets. He didn't get one for Audrey because she wasn't going to snow board at all.

Black Jack was the only ski hill we went to with a snow boarding park. Hilary stuck to the bunny hill and Molly hung out by herself on the larger but easy hills while everyone else went towards more difficult hills.

Everyone was having so much fun either going off jumps or watching people go off jumps that we stayed until they turned off the tow rope. Even turning off the tow ropes couldn't stop us. We just kept walking back up to the top of the hill. Randy finally came over and told us it was time to go.

We piled in to the van with all our gear and headed back to the condo. We did the same thing as every night, eat, go to the lodge or go snowshoeing.

Wednesday was the coldest day of the trip. We went to Indian head where the chalet was at the top of the hill instead of the bottom like most other ski hills. It stayed cloudy and cold all day long. The snow was the worst of all the ski hills, it was practically ice. Right as we got there Steve, Shaun, Aaron, Jeremy, Jon and Trevor went down the hill and weren't really seen again until lunch.

It was a great trip. The weather was good most of the time and everyone got along pretty well. No one was injured and most importantly, we all had a good time.

Another Court Appearance

By: Shaun Johnson

I was accused of pulling a fire alarm when I attended Mound Westonka High School. I went to court for this alleged offense on February 24th.

There were three supposed witnesses. All three are squeaky clean { record wise } main streamers and, no matter what I do and how good I am, I am a juvenile delinquent.

My mother, my public defender, and I discussed my options. I had previously planned to stick to my gums and stay innocent, which would be the right thing to do if you're innocent right { wrong }. When you have a record and it is your word against three snotty, yet clean, pompous preps, it's an uphill fight without a weapon.

I walked in innocent, and left guilty.

All this over a fire alarm.

An interview with Mary Beth Wiig.

By:Kortnie Hanson.

I had a chance to talk for a bit with Mary Beth and find out about her job and hobbies and things.

1)Where were you born?

"East St.Louis, Illinois".

And why did you move here? "I went to Mankato State Grad School and ended up getting the job at Minnetonka.

2) What are your hobbies?

"I like to exercise and do alot of reading."

3)What is your job description?

"Oh wow! I do alot of things".

"I'm a Referral Coordinator, and/or help students who are struggling with school and trying to graduate. I also help students get into Mini-School and work study.

4) What does Team do for The Mini School Program?

The building Team approves students for Mini- School and tries to put programs in place which help students to be successful.

5)How long have you been working here? "Eleven years and I like what I do alot".

6)What are the "up and down"sides of your job? "Well I love working with students and every day is always different, and I like that aspect of my job. The down side would be trying to keep up with all the kids I need to see.

7)Are you involved in any other activities in the school?"Yes I coach softball. I'm also a Peer Helper advisor and train students to be Peer Helpers.

8) What age group do you most work with? "Mostly 10-12 and sometimes 9th graders.

9)Why are 9th graders not allowed into "Mini School"? "The building team feels that 9th graders should try out Mainstream and other programs first before going to Mini. Also many 9th graders can't get jobs to qualify for the work program because of their age. So they would need to take mainstream classes in the afternoon after Mini -School.

In conclusion: Ms.Wiig is a very nice person and I'm glad I got the chance to find out more about her.



Our trip to Granite Gear

By: Jamie O'Day

The top eight calendar sales people in Mini-School won a trip up north. These people were: Jamie O'Day, Lacey Landt, Gabe Peterson, Dan Voaklander, Hilary Carignan, Kortnie Hansen, Aaron Hoerst, and Geno Faraci. The trip was led by Doug Berg and Joe Juranitch. Our first major stop was Granite Gear, a small company that was started by two guys almost right out of Minnetonka High School. One of these guys, President of the company, is Mini-School's Tony Cruikshank's uncle, Dan Cruikshank.

Their small company is located in Two Harbors MN. They have only one production line. Their products are sold all over the country. They went to shows and got their products recognized. Their first product was a compactable stuff sack for a sleeping bag, the first one ever invented. That was the product that got them started. Their product line has now expanded to include: backpacks, mitts, gloves, winter hats, gaiters, and much more. They have fun and really enjoy what they do. They are a strong independent company.

They started out with an idea, in a

very competitive market. They wanted to make backpacks and other things to go camping and canoeing with. They showed a lot of strength and courage during our journey. They struggled and survived because of their passion for what they were doing. An idea, a passion, and independence.

Weight Training

By: Carrie Tiggas

Everyday in Mini-School we have an hour where we can go to gym and play basketball or go to the weightroom. Only a select few can go to the weight room now because of the schedule. There is a mainstream class down there with us.

So every morning several Mini-School students work out in the weight room 1st hour. It's a real great way to wake up in the morning. Most of the kids that are down there have a program to follow everyday.

There are many reasons why people want to work out, to lose a couple pounds, to gain a couple pounds. I personally am trying to gain power for softball season.

I am really glad I decided to start working out. All the girls who go down get a lot of support from the guys. I personally feel a lot better and stronger since I started working out and would like to thank Joe for always pushing me to do my work out. Thanks Joe.

Pat's Back

By:Carrie Tiggas

Some of you who graduated in '96 might know Pat McNutt. Well, he's back in Mini-School. Here to influence a new generation of Mini students and get acquainted with some of our seniors who were here when he last was. I took it upon myself to interview our favorite super, super,super senior.

So how do you like being back in Mini-School?

Nutt- It's all right.

Do you think it's changed alot?

Nutt- Yeah.

How so?

Nutt- There ain't no Zeus, Lauie, or Patty. There are all the colors in the rainbow in all the new kids hair.

What have you been doing the last couple of years?

Nutt- Living on my own, working and consuming.

Are you sorry you didn't graduate with your class?

Nutt- Yes because Rutledge is making more money than me.

So what do you plan on doing after

you graduate?

Nutt- Working, moving around the state and livin' in a truck.

What is one of your most memorable memories of Mini?

Nutt-When I was supposed to be Student of the Week and I was at McDonalds with Wegler so there wasn't a student of the week that week.

In your old age you must have some wisdom, can you give some advice to our younger students?

Nutt- When you ditch out of a trip make sure to call Doug.

Do you have some experience you would like to share with us about the last question?

Nutt- Yeah, instead of going to Mark Warren trip. Last year I went to California to visit a friend and I didn't call Doug.

So now that you know how some of us felt about that do you feel guilty?

Nutt- Sure, why not.

Well I think I've just about had enough of this kid, so Pat, any last words for our readers?

Nutt- Fly or die.

Well cheers to our super,super senior.

Dear Daisy

By: Trish Laumann

Dear Daisy,

I want to move to Ireland and live off of potatoes. I can make french fries, potato pancakes, hash browns, baked potatoes, mashed potatoes, and potato bread. I will build a castle by the ocean and surf while waiting for my potatoes to grow. Do I have a problem or is this normal?

-Potato lover

Dear potato lover,

Potatoes are a great vegetable but don't you think you're going a little overboard with them. Your diet must consist of other vitamins and minerals that can't all be found in potatoes. Try having different potatoes with every meal, but don't let potatoes be your meal.

Dear Daisy,

I've got this terrible problem! I hate taking showers! It just takes up so much of my time. While I'm showering {which is every few days} I think of all the other things I could be doing that seem so much more productive. I don't want to stink and I don't like perfume. What should I do to accept taking a shower?

Dear Stinky in Mini

If you don't like showers maybe you would like a nice hot bath. That way you could forget about all the things

you could be doing and focus on how relaxed you feel- plus you would be clean.

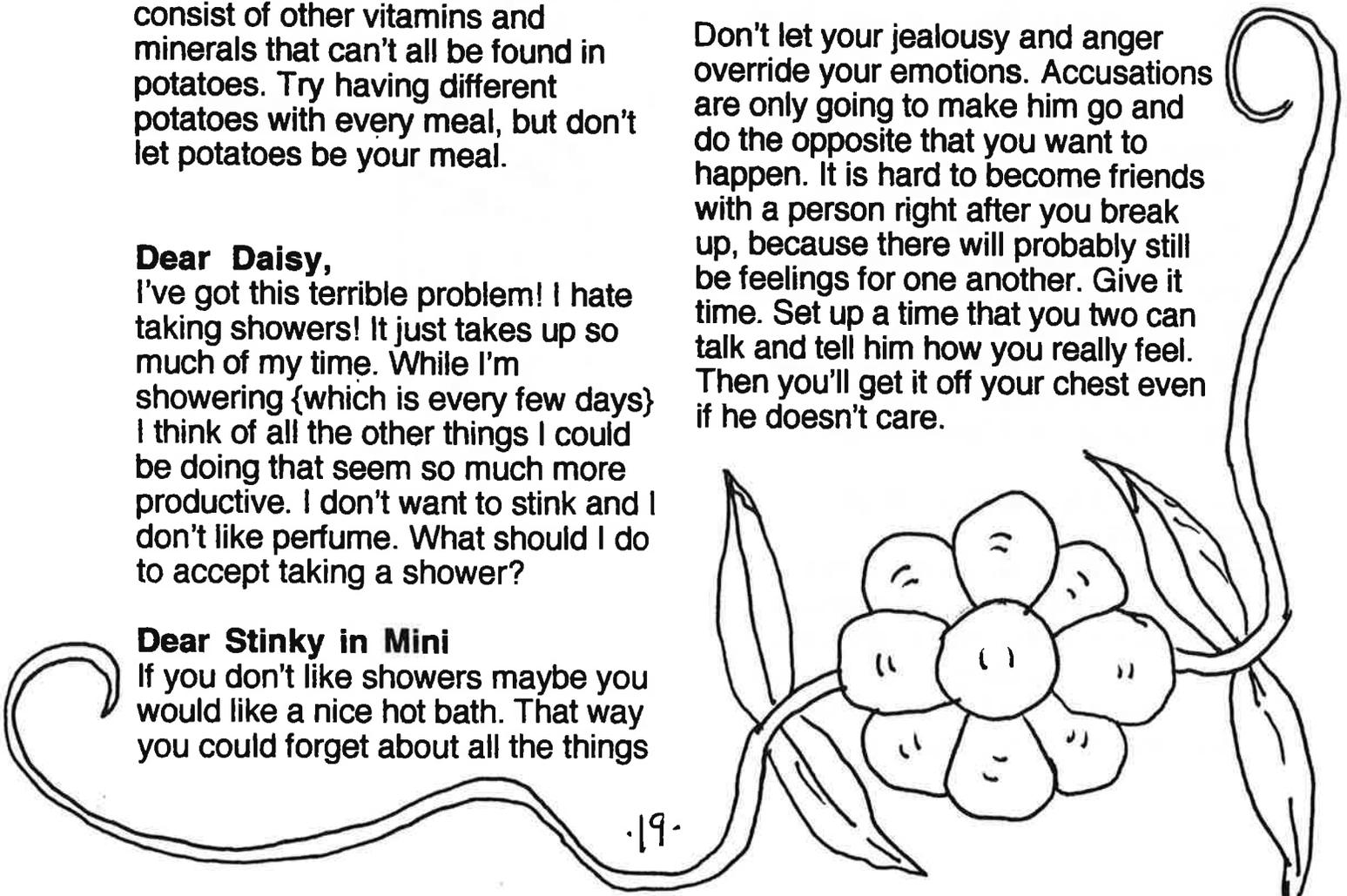
Dear Daisy,

My boyfriend broke up with me a couple days ago. The next night he went out on a date with a girl he met at the bar. I got angry because I thought that he had something going on with her before we broke up. He always gets mad at me when I accuse him of things. It hurts like crazy every time he goes out with this girl. I want to get over it and just be friends, what can I do?

-heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken,

Don't let your jealousy and anger override your emotions. Accusations are only going to make him go and do the opposite that you want to happen. It is hard to become friends with a person right after you break up, because there will probably still be feelings for one another. Give it time. Set up a time that you two can talk and tell him how you really feel. Then you'll get it off your chest even if he doesn't care.



Who is Phish?

By: Jon Fairbourne

Phish is not a fish with gills, it is a band that started from the Burlington area in Vermont. The group Phish was formed in 1983 and modified around 1986 when second guitarist Jeff Holdsworth left and pianist Page McConnell joined, Phish is: Trey Anastasio, Mike Gordon, Jon Fishman, and Page McConnell. Trey and Mike play guitar and bass guitar respectively. Jon plays the drums and Page plays the keyboards.

What does Phish sound like?

According to bassist Mike Gordon, Phish plays "bluegrass, Latin, rock, funk, classical, jazz, calypso, hard-core, and Broadway." Sometimes these styles are employed individually, other times they are fused together. Phish's music is characterized by simple lyrics, sophisticated instrumentals, extensive musical communication, and extended improvisation. Some of Phish's songs conform to conventional concepts of popular music, other songs serve as frameworks for improvisation.

What is the feeling Phish portrays?

Phish is a lifestyle, a way of thinking. It is a way of allowing your mind to roam freely to the sound of music. It is a way of exploring yourself, your surroundings, and those around you. That which is logical is

insignificant, yet at the same time, important. It is the unexpected, yet better than your wildest expectations. It is serious, while at the same time resounding with childish freedom. Most of all, it exists for you and because of you.



Sorting Mail: Memories of Elissa's Job

By: Elissa Johnson

My job, wow that's exciting. I work for Carlson companies off county road six. I'm a mail processor. I put red stamps on envelopes. No not one by one, I feed them through a machine. I also sort mail into slots, and sometimes put stickers on envelopes.

Every Friday is doughnut day, which means that one person buys doughnuts for the whole department. We also celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays by having cake and potlucks.

Carlson companies has three different buildings. You're probably most familiar with the towers off of 494 which is where Curt Carlson's {founder of the company} office is. There is also the cmg {Carlson marketing group} and the otc {operation training center}. I work in the otc mail center. I make \$8.58 an hour.

I like my job alot. It pays well and my co-workers are easy to get along with.

Joanne's Memorable Moments in Mini

By: Casey Bakken

Joanne has a lot of memorable moments in Mini, but the one that sticks out the most is in 1982 when Doug and Randy dedicated the Mini-School yearbook to her. Then at Recognition Night they read the dedication to everyone. It was a surprise and she cried because she felt so proud. She says she still reads the nice things they said about her whenever she gets down on herself.

She also remembers the Grand Canyon trip that she and Lester did. They were at the last campsite and Joanne realized she lost the key to the van but no problem. They hiked out the next day and the kids hot wired it all the way home. Joanne says the Mini kids have so many talents.

Joanne's happiest memorable moment was in 1994 when Mini graduate {79} Brad {Jocko } Johnston came to visit his old Mini teachers and found out Joanne was divorced. The rest is history, Joanne says.

Concert Review

By: Hilary Carignan
{Zone 105's Promotion
intern}

Wednesday February the 18th at First Avenue in concert was Save Ferris, Goldfinger and Sugar Ray. Save Ferris was the opening band. I didn't get to see them but I heard that they were good. After Save Ferris was done playing their show, they sat back at these tables near the shirt stand signing autographs.

Goldfinger went on second. Goldfinger rocked the house. The band had the whole crowd jumping throughout their performance. The band opened with a tune from Metallica, "Enter Sandman", making fun of metal heads.

Goldfinger was very entertaining. They also covered the song by Chumbawumba, "Tubthumping", just to be funny. The drummer claimed he was "Mr. Hanky the Christmas Poo" from South Park. That got the crowd roaring. Toward the end of the performance, Goldfinger played a "Replacements" song, the lead singer's favorite band from MN. Over all, Goldfingers show was exciting.

Last but not least was Sugar Ray. This band was wild. The crowd was

totally into the band. The lead singer, Mark McGraph went crowd surfing constantly while they played on stage. He interacted with the crowd quite a bit. Mark McGraph jumped off the stage, climbed up to the V.I.P lounge area, and walked into the bar talking to the people and the crowd. Then he climbed down and dove into the crowd and made fun of his band, saying that they suck and wanted to stay with the crowd. Sugar Ray covered the song, "Ice Ice baby, "by Vanilla Ice and, "Beat It" by Michael Jackson.

Mark picked a person out of the crowd, "Jason, from Minneapolis" to come up on stage with the band. Jason rapped and danced on stage. The crowd loved it. Jason did so well on stage, Mark, of Sugar Ray, didn't know if he could get the crowd back, so he started to sing, "Quit playing games with my heart" by the Back Street Boys.

Obviously Sugar Ray was making fun of the Back Street Boys. Some people actually liked the group so they booed. Second to their last song, Sugar Ray played their hit single, "Fly" a song about Mark's mother, who had passed away a few years before. The concert was excellent in my opinion.

The only place to hear Save Ferris and Goldfinger is on **Zone 105, Alternative radio.**

Suburban Development

By: Nutt

The neighborhood and community I have lived in has changed greatly in my twenty years of life. Cornfields, hayfields, woods and wetlands have become paved streets, cul-de-sacs, housing developments, and golf courses. Chanhassen, a sleepy little town, is now a major retail center with a Target store, a Byerly's store and a mall.

My family has a long history in the Chanhassen Excelsior area. My grandparents raised their family on Pleasant View Road near Chanhassen. My father worked on a neighboring farm and raised his family on Smithtown rd. I have uncles and aunts and great aunts and cousins all over the area. All of my family enjoyed living in this quiet, agricultural area.

Where I used to play ball is now a housing development. My grandpa's neighbor's farm is now Near Mountain where there used to be cornfields, beanfields, and swamps. Where pheasants, rabbits, and foxes lived people now hit golf balls. The yuppies who live in Chanhassen last year tried to pass a law that said only real expensive houses could be built to keep the riff-raff out, you know. A few years ago

a farmer that still lived near Chanhassen was fined because his rooster was crowing too early in the morning and was waking the yuppies up.

This is not a good way to live. It was better when there was room for farmers to farm, kids to party, and animals to live. Anybody who was willing to work could live here. You didn't have to have enough money to build a billion dollar home. You could go fishing or swimming in Lake Minnetonka without being run over by a million dollar speed boat. I know I sound like my grandpa, but things are changing fast.



Men's Issues

by Casey Bakken

On Tuesdays in Mini there is a different routine. Instead of newspaper class and block we have a large group meeting followed by groups. At the meeting Doug, Randy, Joanne, Pauline, and Ramona tell us about trips, fundraisers, Vo-Tech and chew us out for being absent, being late, having pop in the rooms and other stuff. The groups are Women's Issues, Social Issues, and Men's Issues. I'm going to tell you about Men's Issues.

Men's Issues consists of 18 guys. The group is led by Joanne Johnston. First we all check in and tell how our week has been and then if anyone needs more time he gets to talk about whatever is on his mind. Everything that anyone says in Men's Issues is confidential so I can't say much about it, but generally people talk about problems they're having with other people (especially girls and bosses), family problems, school problems, and chemical concerns. Everyone gets a chance to begin to work through these things. Some of us have different ways of looking at the same thing, but it's true that we have a lot of the same problems. Joanne makes sure we listen to each other and keeps the talk focused.

A good trust level is built in Men's Issues but it takes a long time for guys. Because of that the group usually is formed at the beginning of the year and doesn't let any new guys in. That's all I have to say about Men's Issues except that if you're here in the beginning of next year and you're a guy you should consider joining. It's your only chance to spend two whole hours with Joanne and that would make a great day anytime.

TITANIC

By:Carrie Tiggas

I was told not to do this movie review because the movie Titanic is way too over rated.

Well, tough! The first time I saw Titanic is when it first came out. It was wonderful. It didn't seem like it was really over three hours long.

I loved how a woman was recalling her experiences on Titanic. It starts with a group of scientists looking for a blue diamond called the "Heart of the Ocean". They find a portrait of a woman wearing the diamond. It was dated the day the Titanic sunk. Well the woman sees her picture on t.v. and calls the guy up. He invites her to come aboard their ship. She tells them a story that you'll never forget.

I can't tell you any more. You'll just have to see it (if you haven't already).

Let me tell you, I've seen it twice, and bawled my eyes out both times, and plan on seeing it at least one more time in the theatre before I buy it *when it comes on video*. It is the best movie I've ever seen in my life and I really recommend it. My sister made a good point to me, it takes a piece of your heart.

Wolves and People

By: Gabe Peterson

Wolves and people are kind of alike in ways. A pack of wolves acts kind of like a gang or a group of friends. Wolves have a different rankings for themselves. The leader of the pack is called the alpha male, second rank is alpha female. Then the beta, and then the omega, the one everyone takes their aggression on. The omega is still respected and is a big part of the pack. The leader decides who eats. There can be as many wolves in a pack as they want and they all have rankings.

People have rankings too, but just not as strict. Like the omega, people will pick on one certain friend and shove him around but he's still your friend. Also there's leaders and people that make the decisions. Then there are the ones in the middle. Gangs are very much like a pack; they have strict rules, and many people are scared of them and try to get rid of them. The same with wolves.

People want to kill off wolves. I think they're very interesting, and I'd like to go up to the wolf center in Ely again sometime. I had a great time up there.

In conclusion I think the wolves

should be left unharmed and I think people should try to understand more about gangs or groups of friends. See what it's about before jumping to conclusions. I think it has a little bit to do with order and staying together and being there for your close friends.



Famous Quotes

Collected by: **Carrie Tiggas
and Doug Berg**

basketball.

"If we lived in space nothing would ever age or sag and no one would need breast implants." **Geno Faraci**

"I don't know why I live. It's so annoying." **Jason Gaasvig**

"I don't think we should let any new kids into Mini- School. Ever! **Lenny Weissner**

"My dog is half wolf. Its mom was raped by a timber wolf." **Geno Faraci**

"Why does Curtis LaBoda have two big letters in his last name?"
Unknown

"What's my neighbor's name?"
Geno Faraci

"Do you want a fat lip?" **Leah Shoberg**

"The U.S has 52 states." **Geno Faraci**

"I've been real good lately. I haven't tried to run anybody over with my car or anything." **Gabe Peterson**

"You guys are pretty quick for a couple of old guys." **Dustin Olson as he and Derek Knowles are getting their butts kicked by Doug and Randy in 2 on 2**



Music Review

By: Trevor Scott &
Andy Black

We choose to do this article because music interests us and we would like every one to know what is coming out, and if it is good or not. We also believe that this article is valuable to Com- Mini- Cations.

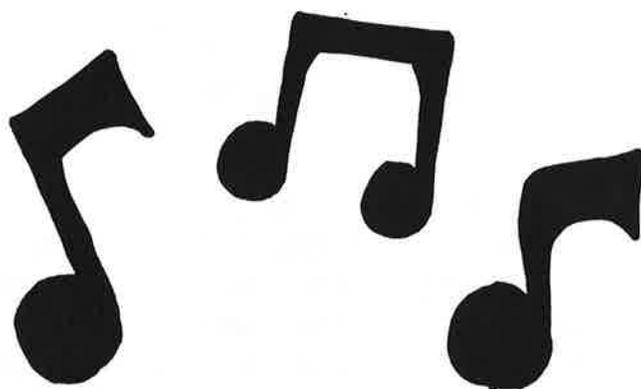
Primus' new Brown Album is comparable to their old albums. Also the bass is really good, the songs are rhythmic, and their fast paced tunes are fun to listen to. They're planning to go on tour in a a year or so. Primus' { currently under construction album} could come out as early as next fall.

Metallica's newest album Reload is a follow up from the new original alternative styled Load Album. Although better than load it's not quite as popular.

As you might have already found out vinyl is making a dramatic comeback. Dill records hit Ska band Skankin' Pickle are trying to get a piece of the action. They are now going to produce vinyl records along with cd's and tapes.

The new Phish album Live in Hamburg, Germany is a good album and seems to be doing well. This album seems to follow their traditional Phish stylings.

We thank you for reading this article, and hope you found the information to be somewhat of a help if you are planning to purchase one of these albums. We also hope that this article was interesting. Thanks for reading our article.



Top Ten Smart Aleck Comments To Say To Teachers When They Ask Where People Are

By: Nutt

1. I'm not his/her mother!
2. Do I look like a secretary?
3. Which one is her/him?
4. Do they go to Mini?
5. In the corner.
6. Ask Joanne.
7. Where ever he/she wants to be.
8. Find Joe. He will find him/her.
9. Lunch room.
10. Doing homework.

Public Views of Aggressive In-line Skating

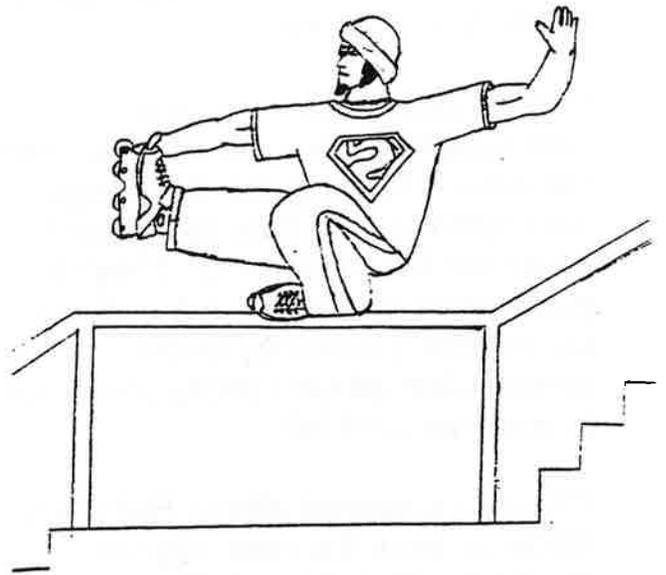
By Aaron Hoerst

Black slippery curbs, sticky hand rails, and lots of injuries. This is how most people see the sport of aggressive in-line skating, a very new and progressive art. One of the most wasted materials is wax, which is applied to curbs or handrails. But that is not the strange part, skaters jump on the curb or rail and slide down it on their skates. This is called grinding. Added to that skaters also jump off, over, and into all sorts of structures.

These stunts are, as you would guess, very dangerous to perform. Now comes the big problem: Liability (responsibility). That means that if a skater hurts himself the owner of the property is Liable and could get sued. So they restrict skaters from skating in most areas, but of course they do not follow that so they have police enforcing it and giving fines.

But you must be thinking "Where can they skate?" There are designated areas like: all parks except for Glen Lake station and basketball/tennis

courts. But to skaters, that is not enough, they want a skate park. There is rumor of the city building one in the parking lot of Cheep Skate, but it's only an idea. But if you want to support it you can get a group together and propose a sit in meeting with your local city hall. Until then the skaters will continue to ruin public property.



Untitled

By: Unknown Author

A screaming cry from down under

A rolling of bolting thunder

Jolting from a bag of bones

Waiting listening to all the right tones

Soon as a bright light comes you

crawl up to see what can't be

Interview with Kathy Witschorik

By: Jessica Juneau

Kathy and I go way back. When I was a ninth grader I was probably one of the worst kids in my grade. All the hall monitors knew me the first week. I hated Kathy. She was so mean to me. She always busted me going off campus. Until I had some problems, then she was there for me. She helped me when I needed someone to talk to or somewhere to go. She's a great person. She does not deserve how kids treat her. I went over to talk to her to find out a little bit more about her.

Jessica: Where were you born?

Kathy: Chicago.

Jessica: How many kids do you have?

Kathy: I have three.

Jessica: If you could be anything what would it be?

Kathy: A flower, because it brings beauty, and it smells good.

Jessica: What is the most dangerous thing you have ever done?

Kathy: Shooting a gun.

Jessica: What is your favorite color?

Kathy: Blue, what is yours?

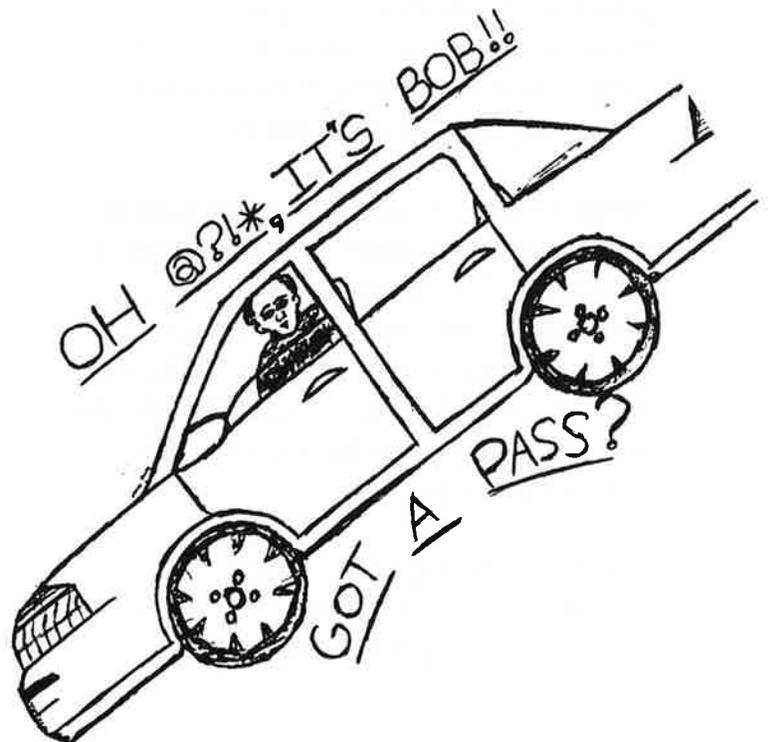
Jessica: Blue, Why do you work at Minnetonka?

Kathy: I like working with the kids and I like to believe I have helped kids over the years.

Jessica: What do you hate about your job?

Kathy: Nothing, I like it all

Well I hope you all have learned a little something about Kathy Witschorik. She has really influenced my life. Thank you Kathy!



Book Review: “The Thief of Always”

Author: Clive Barker

By: Leah Shoberg

Like all horror stories, this one takes place in a sleepy, no-name town. Unlike other horror stories, this one has a moral. If you liked anything about the movie “Candyman” you’ll like something about “The Thief of Always” because they were both written by Clive Barker.

The story has to do with Harvey Swick, a 10 year old boy who claims that if he doesn’t have any fun he’s going to die. That’s when a man named Rictus comes to take him to Mr. Hood’s Holiday House, a seemingly wonderful place of miracles, and a blissful round of treats and seasons, that’s been standing for a thousand years.

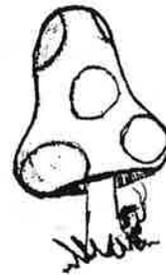
When Harvey discovers the pitiful creatures that dwell in the house’s shadows, he starts to doubt Mr. Hood’s philanthropy. When Harvey tries to escape he realizes that Mr. Hood is not about to release the brightest soul he’s ever seen without a battle.

So, if you like a story that’s constantly moving and reaching into the depths of your imagination. I

highly recommend “The Thief of Always”.

My Cat By Pat McNutt

My cat’s name is Loopie. He’s a fat orange cat. His favorite past time sport is sun bathing. When the dogs want sun Loopie just kicks the dogs out of the living room. When the sun goes down he tries to act like a human. He gets in his orange chair and sits down with his back on the back of the chair. When the summer comes around he walks around the edge of the house and he eats bugs. That is my fat cat Loopie.



Being a Vegetarian

By: Jamie O'Day

There are many different reasons why people become vegetarians. People have health reasons, religious reasons, guilt, for the love of animals and because meat is not very appealing.

Being a vegetarian has changed my life in so many ways. I have a healthier life, I have reduced my risk of different diseases. I don't have guilt for killing innocent animals. Being a vegetarian was an easy choice for me. It's not hard to be a vegetarian. It's much more pleasant.

Animals, believe it or not, go through extended pain and torture before they are slaughtered. Animals are pumped full of hormones and other chemicals to help them get fat and grow better. At the so called animal farms they are caged up in such small living quarters it is impossible to move. They live most of their lives in complete darkness { so farmers can save money}. Most of the animals are blind and/or insane by the time they are killed.

I've heard many excuses for not being a vegetarian, like it's too hard, I don't have enough time, that's what they're here for aren't they? We raise them to be killed, they're

treated like machines, able to have babies to be taken and killed. I think that the cruelty needs to stop and we need to have a peace between us. All the murder and taking the innocence is so wrong.

Vegetarianism is a choice that many people make. It's a very healthy one. I hope that for the right reasons you make the right choice.

Untitled

By: Unknown

Your shadow creeps underneath from where I stare hoping that you, you are still there- my soul bleeds in the dark of the night I can still feel you in my mind you'll never leave- my soul has faded to nothing

Recycling! Recycling! Recycling!

By: Matt Thompson

Recycling is a duty that Mini has undertaken for several years. Basically it consists of collecting all aluminum pop cans in the school, baling them and selling them to the aluminum dealer. Like the calendar drive, this is a fund raiser for Mini-School which helps the program provide learning equipment and opportunities for Mini-School students which the district says it can't afford to provide.

Recycling is not a hard job, but it is messy and time consuming. The aluminum can barrels contain pop cans which are half full and a lot of food and paper trash. They must be emptied every day or they will be filled to overflowing.

As the high school gains more students the job gets bigger and bigger. Six or seven new recycling barrels have been added this year.

Recycling is a good service Mini-School does for the high school. But it would be a lot better if people would throw their trash in the right area.

Thank you -from the Mini recyclers.

Calendar Drive

By: Matt Thompson

For the last seven years or so Mini-Schoolers have been proud to go out and sell, sell, sell the Minnesota Weather guide calendar make money for the program.

In the 97-98 school year the calendar drive got off to a quick start as students sold over 150 in the first 2 weeks of the drive. The absence of Lynott soon made itself felt, however, and the drive bogged down. Doug got it going again with promises of a free trip to top sellers and a big drawing for cash prizes.

The Mini-School didn't set a new high, but they came close, selling 550 calendars and earning over \$2400 for Mini-School. Top sellers this year were Lacey Landt with 44 and Kortnie Hansen with 37. Even though we missed Lynott, Doug was happy that the effort was distributed pretty well throughout the program.

The funds that were raised go to generally help out the program, especially the trips program. We wouldn't have a van or canoes or tents without calendars. Thanks to everyone who helped out and to everyone who bought a calendar.

Com-Mini-Cations

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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 9, 1998

7:00-9:00 PM

MHS Small Auditorium