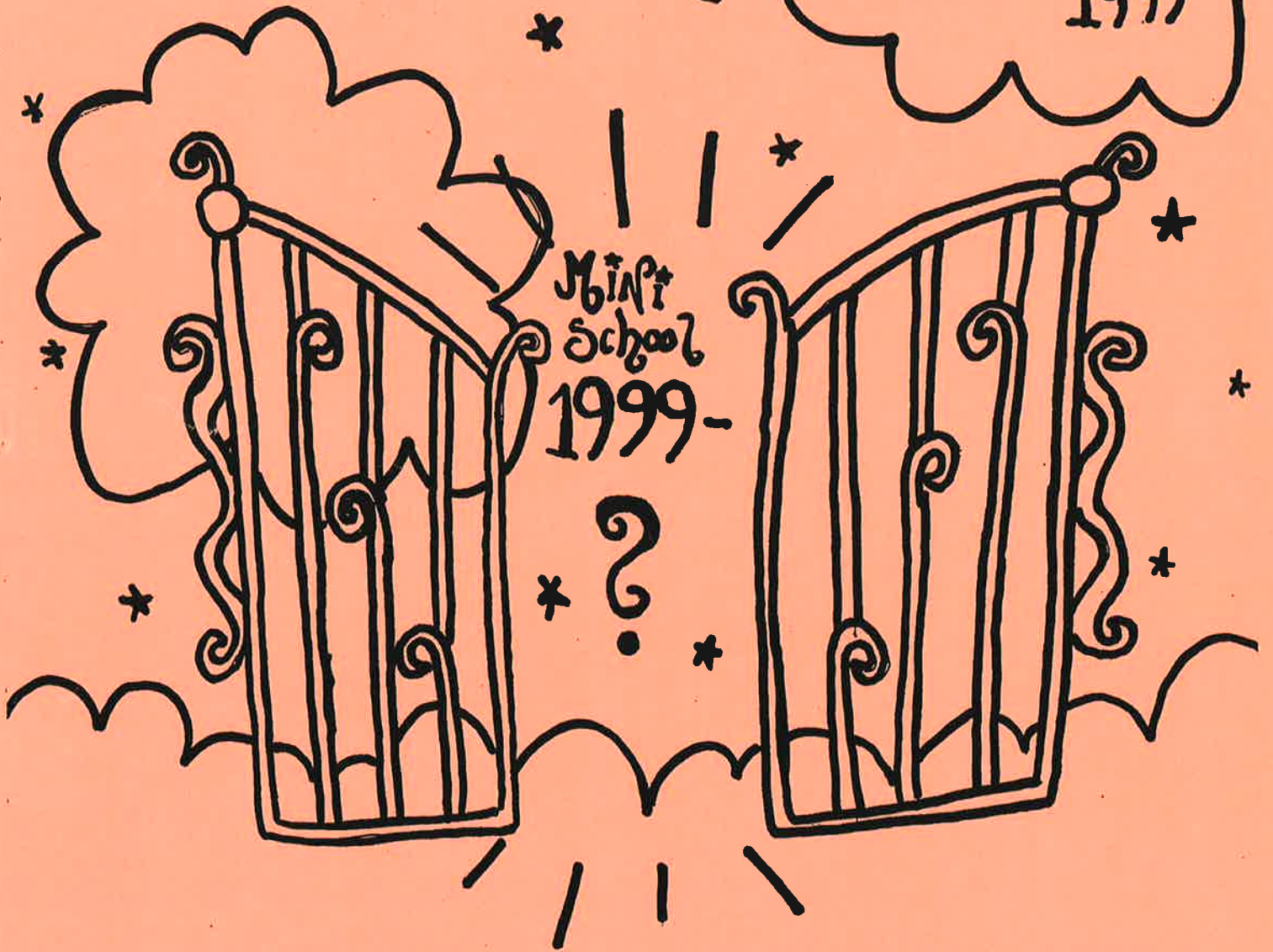


COM-MINI-CATIONS

The New Beginning Fall 1999



Mini School
1999-

?

By Jenna Doescher

THE WINTER MOON

The winter moon is
bright and clear



THE WINTER MOON
is bright and clear
and the stars are
twinkling in the
sky

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 401-5920.



**"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: Merlin Zimmerman

September 1999 marks the beginning of the first school year in which none of the original founders of Mini-School remains on its staff. How shall we begin the New Era? Do we act like nothing has changed? That won't work. Do we throw out the old and rebuild from the ground up? That would work no better.

It is a great joy for me to become the English teacher at Mini-School. The position is filled with both history and potential. There are few schools like ours with a 30 year lifespan, so the history of Mini-School is one of pioneering! I have had the pleasure of being friends of the Mini-School staff for several years, so I got to see and hear some of that history firsthand.

Now the newly modified staff, of which I am a part, have the opportunity to direct the evolution of Mini into the next millenium. You've got to wonder where it is going to lead. Who could have predicted from the beginning that we would end up with the success we have now? With much thanks and respect for the great people who have gotten us this far, I must say I am excited at the thought of beginning the New Era.

Classes have been gaining momentum during the beginning of the year. The students have risen to the challenge of learning the styles of a new pair of teachers. Blocks have included topics such as personal finance, acid rain, Minnesota government and the language of design. The newspaper classes are rolling along nicely, while the sopho-

more-level students are working on skills that are identified in the new government policy, the Profiles of Learning. Adapting the Mini-School curriculum to the Profiles will no doubt be one of the more interesting challenges the staff will be dealing with this year.

The Mini-School trips program, a vital part of our work, has had a strong start this year. Already this fall, we have had a trip out on the Rum River (we had the assistance of a pretty darn competent canoe guide by the name of Doug), and 17 students went on the 13th annual Mark Warren trip. Day trips have included a morning climbing the walls at a rock climbing gym in Bloomington, a trip to the U of M Arboretum, and another to the state Capitol. As we go to print, we are preparing for the Grantsburg hike. We look forward to having some of the best weather ever experienced on this trip. (We've heard all the stories.) More news about winter and spring trips will follow in later issues.

This fall has been the ultimate shake-down cruise. Every single person in the program has gone through a period of adjustment: veterans and rookies, both students and teachers. The amazing part, though, is that as we journey into the New Era, as we work together, and struggle together, we will become stronger as a group. I can already feel the crew beginning to pull together. The more miles we put behind us, the more exciting the miles ahead look!

Views From Veterans

By: Kelsey Hanson and Kristina Petron

1) How long have you been in Mini-School?

Shawna - One and a half years

Chris - About a year and a half

Kari - About a year

Dustin - Two years

2) Do you feel like Mini-School has changed a lot from the first year that you were here?

Shawna - No

Chris - Yes

Kari - Yes, a lot of seniors graduated last year. Also, Doug, Randy and Joanne all left and they were a huge part of Mini.

Dustin - Yes, the new teachers and the new set-up has changed the whole set-up.

3) Why do you believe that it has/has not changed?

Shawna - Still the same friendly people, maybe a few new teachers but they'll get used to the program.

Chris - Many new people and staff and now the students have very little respect this year.

Kari - People have left Mini, and people have joined Mini which makes this year different from last.

Dustin - The new teachers have a new style of teaching which really messes up the original set-up.

4) What do you think of Merlin and Paul?

Shawna - They're great teachers and very nice.

Chris - They're pretty chill, they'll get the hang of it.

Kari - I really like them, but one of them seems to be kind of scared of nervous.

Dustin - I think they're weird, and I think they are really nervous about the program.

5) What do you think of Doug, Randy and Joanne not being here anymore?

Shawna - I miss them, but they will visit.

Chris - I think they were the best teachers here. They had a lot of knowledge and experience.

Kari - They've always been really nice to me.

Dustin - They were the aces of the place.

6) Do you think Mini-School will still be successful?

Shawna - Absolutely.

Chris - Yes, it all depends on the kids and if they want to respect and learn.

Kari - I think so.

Dustin - No, I give it about 5 more years.

7) What do you hope for Mini-School's future?

Shawna - I hope it will continue to help students succeed in the future.

Chris - To be promising and helpful to students who would otherwise not be in school.

Kari - That the stereotypes of Mini will go away.

Dustin - I hope it lasts, but I

can't see it happening with this set-up.

8) What do you think the trip program will be like without Doug?

Shawna - Not the same

Chris - ?

Kari - It will be okay, but it won't be the same. At least they are not diminishing the trip program.

Dustin - It'll be okay, but it won't be the same without the knowledge of Doug.

9) How do you see Mini-School in ten years from now?

Shawna - Unpredictable

Chris - I don't know, I'll be very far away.

Kari - I don't know.

Dustin - Shut down.

10) What do you think Mini-School should change to be more successful?

Shawna - Nothing comes to mind.

Chris - ?

Kari - I don't know.

Dustin - Better, older teachers.

Changes In Mini

By Corey Schulz

Mini School has had many changes in just the small amount of time that I have been here. I came into Mini-School just third quarter of last year. Back then, they didn't have all the required things that the sophomores have now.

For instance we didn't have to stay for fifth hour to review grad standards. If you didn't have a job, you had to take mini five to make up for the work credit. Besides that, Doug and Randy aren't here anymore things have changed. I personally don't like it because there isn't that family atmosphere anymore. And we have to gain that back. In order for the teachers to handle the kids also.

But it's a good thing also. Two teachers get to learn and take on the lives of a pair of legends. Who would ever imagine that Mini-School can still go on without Doug and Randy? I sure didn't imagine it. So you have to give Merlin and Paul credit for taking on a very hard task. Not many kids liked this change at first. But it's getting better. Step by step we're becoming a family again.

Interview with Doug

By Sam Maeder

Sam: First of all I'd just like to ask how you're doing.

Doug: I'm doing good. I like the fact that my life isn't so pressured. I don't have to worry about deadlines, if I don't get something done today I can put it off without much of a problem.

Sam: How is retirement so far?

Doug: Retirement's good. My wife is still working so I have some quiet days at home. She may work till Christmas or she may finish out the rest of the year. After that we can make more plans like trips we're gonna take and that sort of thing.

Sam: What are the differences between work and retirement? What do you like about each?

Doug: With retirement one thing you have to fight against is it's easy for time to get away from you when you're not locked into a schedule. You might say it's easy to get lazy, but I like to say it's easy for your days to be formless. I try to set goals to get done everyday. And then I have some long term goals to get done: I'd like to get on top of the house, get the basement remodeled. There's also the possibility that I might write a book in the future, but I'd like to get the things in my life situated first.

Sam: What about things you've done or things you plan to do during retirement?

Doug: My fitness is really important to me. It's hard to find the time to do

fitness when you put in a full day's work then you have to do chores around the house, and by then it gets to be evening and you're worn out. As soon as my wife retires we'll do some traveling both in this country and possibly in Europe too.

Sam: What do you think of the new Mini-School teachers?

Doug: I think the Mini-School staff is in real good shape. Certainly Paul and Merlin have some things to learn, but the only cure is time. I think the two new guys bring something different to the program. Paul in a lot of ways reminds me of Randy. He's quiet but he's solid and you can count on him. And Merlin, I think, is a nice contrast to Paul, not that he's not dependable. He seems to be dynamic and exciting and he's got a lot of ideas. I think I was the same way when I was younger.

Sam: What do you think has changed in Mini-School with the new structure?

Doug: It's hard to answer that because I haven't been there, but Ramona has felt it important that not much change, and if it does, it changes gradually. One of Ramona's big concerns was hiring people that would be active in the trips program and I think she's done that. It looks to me like the trips program will go on, the work program will go on. As for the near future I don't see the structure or the format or the things of importance changing all that much.

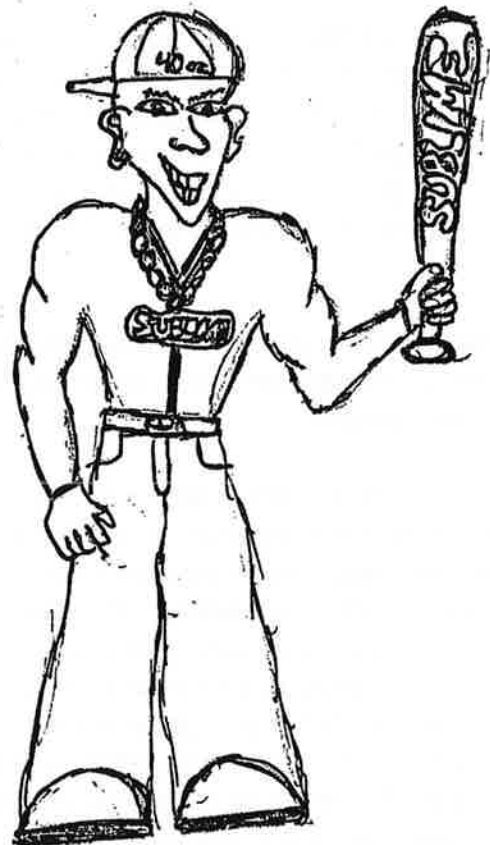
Sam: What are some of the differences between when you first started and now that you've retired?

Doug: When Randy and I started Mini-

School we really didn't know what we were doing. I mean, we knew what we wanted, we wanted to provide an alternative for the kids for whom mainstream wasn't working. We were trying new things all the time. We didn't know if the trips program would work, I mean, we didn't have a van or even canoes, so we were begging and borrowing all the time. We did fund raisings to make that happen. We did a lot in the classroom too, like team-teaching and field trips, a lot of which worked and even more we had to abandon.

Sam: If you had to pick one thing about Paul and Merlin that you liked, what would it be?

Doug: I think their enthusiasm. They've only been here a few months, and already I sense they're committed to the program. A great commitment to help make the program successful.



Dear Yoda...
Josh Shoberg

Just tell her, straight out, exactly what you told me in this letter. All you have to do is sit her down and talk to her about how you feel. It's that simple.

Dear Yoda,

Where, oh where has my little dog gone? Oh where, oh where can he be? With his ears cut short and his tail cut long, oh where, oh where can he be?

Signed,
Worried

Dear Worried...

My best guess would be to check with the local law enforcement. The pound may have picked him up also. In the worst case scenario, he could have been bitten by a squirrel and contracted rabies only to be hit by a car and when the man gets out, the dog rips off the man's hand only to be put down by a group of Saudi Arabian missiles. Don't let that get you down, I'm sure he'll be fine.



Dear Yoda,

With your thousands of years of experience, how have you decided to prepare for Y2K?

Insincerely,
Fred

Dear Fred....

One word ..Guns. When the Y2K virus causes the collapse of society, what more can you do? It's all gonna be survival of the fittest so we've got to be prepared for people acting like animals. Stock up on supplies and be prepared.

Dear Yoda,

I'm having woman trouble. There's this girl I like, but she won't let me get to know her. What should I do to get her to realize that I don't want to date her, but just be friends so I can get to know her better?

Lonely Looser

Dear Looser....

The new beginning

By: Shawna Sterns

As we walk hand in hand,
as faded footprints in the sand
A smile for those who care,
one more lifetime and we will learn to
share

Beyond the horizon and across
the sea,
what is left to be?

Follow the tears that cry to
themselves,

follow the sun for it leaves trails

No answers but questions,
tell me what should I do?

Raindrops slowly fall and open a
world,
a world of hallucinations

Always sleeping, always dreaming

Always screaming, always silent

Plenty of doors to open,
no key has the power to fit

Spread your wings and fly away,
don't be shy it's not all that high....

BE FREE AND BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE



Regret

-Anonymous

It's a funny thing, you know
It can make you miserable if you let it.

Hating yourself for what you did,
or didn't do.
But I choose not to have any regrets.

Everything that i have done,
and didn't do,
Happened for a reason
So I look at it as a learning experience.
Something I needed to know
to become the person I have become.

So, if I have regrets
I am not liking who I am.
I am taking something away
from myself.

RESPECT

And no one should live life
with that kind of regret.

My Job (D'amico and Sons)

by
Jessica Turner

Most people cannot pronounce the name of the restaurant, I couldn't for the first month that I worked there. So the name pretty much goes with the atmosphere and the food. On all of the tables there are a bunch of Italian letters, the foods have interesting names like chicken gorgonzola, or garbanza salad. Even though the names are wierd the food is excellent. I don't believe anyone has complained about the quality of our food.

I do like my job though, not just the food. Most customers are quite nice to me. And I love my co-workers. We have a very high standard to live up to also. D'amico and Sons has a "customer-first" policy. If someone complains about a fly landing on their food, they get another free meal (that's just an exaggeration). That's how much we care about our customers.

Now, this is the part I don't like about my job. Cleaning, we are always cleaning. If there are no customers we have to be cleaning. If we're done cleaning the normal stuff they have us do odd jobs, for example wacking make-believe spider webs on the ceiling with a broom (outside). Or constantly sweeping the same spot over and over. Its not bad, but they should really find us something else to do when it's slow. Even though we have to do all that boring stuff I still like my job. So if you live anywhere near a city or a suburb there's a D'amico and Sons, so come in and try their food and who knows maybe the fly trick will work.

My job at Hour Glass Dry Cleaners

by
Jeana Doescher

Hour Glass Dry Cleaners is located at 426 Lake Steet in Excelsior. The building looks kind of like a 50's diner with alot of glass windows. The atmosphere inside is friendly and casual. A uniform is not required, but you have to wear a name tag and you cannot wear hats or sunglasses while you are working.

When I first started there I had no idea how busy dry cleaners get! Mondays and Saturdays is non-stop customers, picking up and dropping off dry cleaned and laundered shirts, but the work is fun and the other employees are nice. My job does not consist of dry cleaning, but of ringing in orders, safety pinning tags to orders (which either go on the laundry or dry cleaning side), and retrieving clothing items for customers that want to pick them up. Payment usually comes with pick-up.

The laundry side is usually men's dress shirts. Men or their wives can choose between no starch, light starch, medium starch, and heavy starch. The starch is poured in the wash. The dry cleaning side is Hour Glass's specialty. Most of the clothes we get can only be dry cleaned. We tag-in each piece and then bundle for the cleaners and the pressers to complete the next day, or to be completed on Monday because we're closed on Sundays. I usually work from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. 2 or 3 days a week. It's a good job for teenage kids.

Interview with Yoda

By
Sam Maeder

Joshua "Yoda" Shoberg, ex-Mini student, back from the dead, is Com-Mini's featured student. Josh was in Mini for about a year and a half before leaving to pursue other opportunities in his life. Well, now he's back and I have been given this chance to get to know him better; as well as letting you get to know him too.

Interview

SM: What made you leave Mini-School?

JS: I was already a super senior and I got a job offer. I thought that job was going to take me somewhere, but it didn't.

SM: What made you come back?

JS: I just wanted my diploma

SM: What do you feel is different between now and when you left?

JS: Lots of things, teachers, schedule, and the area is even different.

SM: What do you like/dislike about the new area?

JS: I like that there is a lot more room, but I don't like the traffic.

SM: What do you like/dislike about the new teachers?

JS: They're alright, Merlin is cool, but Paul needs to lighten up a bit. He expects too much from the students.

SM: What do you want back the most from when you were first in Mini?

JS: Doug and Randy.

SM: What about the fact that there are no windows?

JS: 90% of the school year is winter

SM: When do you plan on actually graduating?

JS: Hopefully by March

SM: Are you gonna be sad when you leave mini-school?

JS: Well it's not gonna keep me up at night, but yes, I will miss it.

It was really fun talking to Josh. He had many witty answers that were probably too vulgar to enter in this interview, but I'm sure you would have gotten a kick out of them. Josh is a very interesting fellow, and this just gave me a reason to see what he would say. Well I hope you enjoyed getting to know a little bit more about "Yoda" as much as I have.



Mark Warren Trip

This year, we had 18 students travel to the woods near Grantsburg, Wisconsin to get the chance to learn outdoor skills from Mark Warren, a naturalist and author from Georgia. Here are the comments of several students about parts of the trip in which they were particularly interested.

David Huberty

One of the things Mark Warren taught us about was the value of the Basswood trees. Basswood trees come in very handy when adventuring in the woods. He taught us to eat the blossoms from basswood trees, to strip the bark and make rope out of the tinder. Another important skill Mark taught us with basswood trees is the skill of fire-starting. I thought that learning about the many uses of basswood was very interesting.

Zach Novak

The next day early in the morning we went to an open area and learned how to stalk and hunt. Also we learned a few games: the snake game and the throwing stick game. On the last day we all canoed out to the island.

Kari Allen

One of the evenings in Grantsburg was dedicated to receiving spirit names. The way we got these names was to answer 2 or 3 questions. We answered the questions and gave the sheets to Mark. Mark then read the papers and thought of a good spirit name for everyone. I think that they are very special names because if you know yourself the name very much reflects who you are.

Wes Finch

One of the really fun things that

we did was stalking. Mark Warren would pretend to be a deer and everyone else would stalk Mark. If he saw you moving you would have to start over. One of the reasons that you would stalk deer, was to get close enough to spear or throw a rock at them .

P.J. Davis

On the second night we made deer blinds. We snuck out to them at 7:00 pm and stayed till about 9:00 pm. We had to be silent and motionless. The deer blinds were fun to make, but for me, it didn't work.

Corey Schulz

When we first got there we had lunch with the first group, then we hung out by the fire while we were waiting for the adults to clean up. On the first day we learned about basswood and we made rope from the inner bark of a basswood tree.

On the second day, we learned how to make a fire . On the way to collect firewood, Jen Pettit slipped on a pile of leaves and rolled down the hill. When we finally made the fire, it blew up in Jen's face. Right after breakfast on the second day, we played a stalking game and learned how to creep up on animals.

On the last day we had breakfast and then went over to the sweatlodge. Afterwards we came back cleaned up the campsite, had lunch, and left to go home.

Jenn Pettit

The sweatlodge was one activity that we participated in. The sweatlodge was also known as a ceremony. The sweatlodge was located on an island in the river. We had to canoe over to the island. When we entered the island, we were not allowed to talk. It takes about 3 hours to start the sweatlodge before



you can use it. First, we heated up some rocks on the bottom of a fire. After they heated up, we dug a hole about a foot deep and placed the rocks in there. Then, we set up poles about one foot apart. The poles were four feet high. Next, we placed a tarp over and around the poles and everyone scrunched together inside.

We went into the sweatlodge for about 15 minutes. When we got inside the sweatlodge, we could talk but we had to watch what we said. We needed to put water over the rocks so it steamed. After we finished, we jumped in the river to get our body's wet so our pores would close. This experience was fun and I learned a lot about nature on the trip.

GO MIA
SCHOOL
1999

Movie Review : Go

By : Sam Maeder

Go is a good movie if you like movies that start out with one plot, then split the plot in two and end with one general climax. The movie over all is pretty funny and if you not fast you might miss something, but it will still be enjoyable. My favorite scene of this movie would have to be when the guy takes two hits of the drug Extacy while in the grocery store. While scanning his hand he visualizes himself doing the tango with the store clerk....



Interview with Randy Nelson

By: Jeana Doescher and Jessica
Turner

Randy Nelson was a teacher in Mini School. For 29 years he and Doug Berg led kids to graduating, when otherwise they might not have made it.

Randy was a Social Studies teacher in Mini School, but he could have been more. If you ask Randy a question most likely he will know the answer. He is a very smart man. He can tell you what type of cloud is above your head or what kind of rock is stuck on the bottom of your shoe.

But that's not all Randy was, he was the guy to make sure we would graduate on time. (Well, lets just say that almost all of us eventually graduated). After leaving Mini-School Randy now teaches upstairs in Work Expiience. It's all because of Mike Bromme! He's too much of a trouble-maker, always climbing up on basketball hoops. But the worst thing was when Bromme used a volleyball as a soccerball! So let's all blame Mike Bromme for driving Randy away.

The Inerview

Q: Do you enjoy your new job?

A: Yes, Theresa is really nice, and I don't have to round up my kids every hour. But I do miss the closeness. In Mini you were with a kid for 4 hours, and in Work Study your only with the kid for an hour. It's harder to get to know the kids up there.

Q: So, how old are you? (we guessed 50)

A: You were wrong. 53

Q: How much longer are you going to teach?

A: My 90 rules is up in 2002(The 90 rules is when your age plus years teaching equals 90). I still might teach after that. My two kids are in college still.

Q: Did you help interview Paul and Merlin?

A: Yes, we went through all the applications and narrowed it down to four people. Doug and I let Ramona and Pauline do most of the choosing.

Q: How did you go about choosing?

A: I didn't, Pauline and Ramona chose Merlin and Paul. It was up to them to choose because we weren't going to deal with the new people. Pauline and Ramona would have to.

Q: When you went to high school, was there a program like Mini School?

A: There were no alternative educations. Though they had a class for the so-called "dumb" kids.

Q: How did you start teaching?

A: When I got out of college, I went to the Peace Corps. I was only in there for 6 weeks because my shoulder got dislocated . So I came to Minnetonka High. The high school called me to be a sub for a sick teacher. After awhile, it ended up being a permanent job. So, in Oct. '68 I became a teacher.

Q: How did the Mini School program

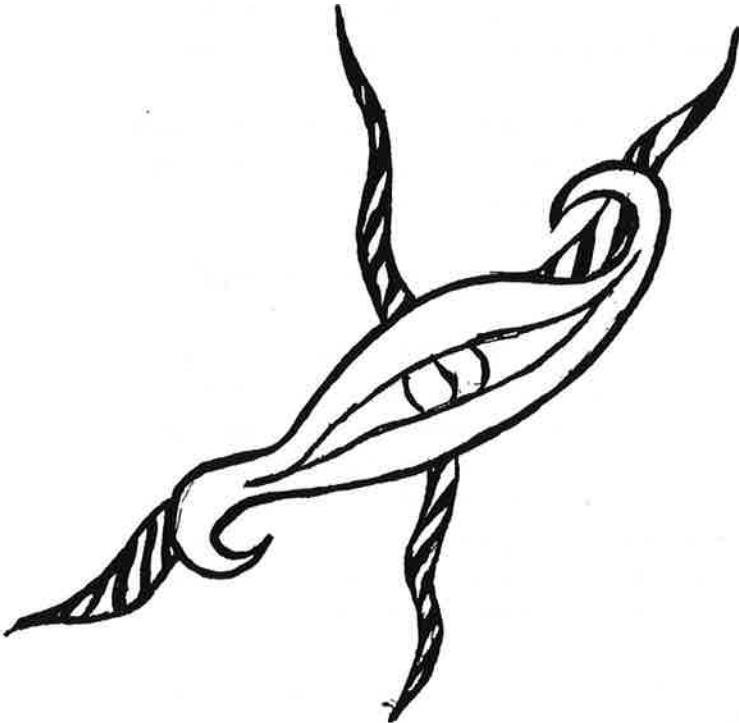
start up?

A: In the winter of 1969-70 there was a program put together called SWAS (School Within A School). That program was designed for kids to create their own schedule. They would come to school every week and show what they had done. After a while they decided that maybe kids should come to school and that the teachers should make sure the students are learning and being productive. So that's how Mini School started.

Q: What do you see in the future of Mini?

A: It's going to be different. There are two personalities being taken away, that were the personalities of Mini School. It's pretty much up to the students. They are the ones who are going to keep the program going.

(So don't let Bromme kick anymore volleyballs!)



What People Did this Summer

By: Jessica Turner

Nicole Harrill - Worked and did nothing

Shawna Sterns- Got in a few car accidents

Lakaysa Bollig- Got a job at Hoagie's, went to the Apple River

Ryan Prich- I worked a lot

Tim Miller- I went on a trip with my girlfriend

Charlie Urbia- I drank a lot of kegs and worked a lot

JJ Day- I made buildings

Aaron Sapp- Watched movies with my Ex-Girlfriend

Kari Opheim- Went to Alaska

Sam Maeder- Saw my long lost cousin, went snowboarding in the mud and I got really muddy

New Kid Interview

Jessica Turner
and Jenny Ertz

We decided to interview some of the new students in Mini. We could't get to all the new students because there are so many. But we did talk with quite a few. We hope you enjoy getting to know some of the new students in Mini. Here's our question list, first :

1. What grade are you in?
2. Do you think it's cool that Merlin is in a pipe band?
3. If you could be a fruit, what fruit would you be?
4. Is that your favorite fruit?
5. Do you think Ramona and Pauline's new leadership will help us cope with "new" year 2000?
6. Will Paul be a good cook for the trips?

Student: **Keri Allen**

1. 10
2. Don't care
3. Orange
4. Maybe
5. Sure
6. O.K.

Student: **Jen Pettit**

1. 10
2. No
3. Coconut
4. No
5. They're doing a fantastic job.
6. Yes

Student: **Gretchen Fischer**

1. 11
2. Yeah, it's awesome.
3. Peach
4. Yes
5. Sure
6. I don't know. I don't really know him.

Student: **Jesse Hinnenkamp**

1. Junior
2. Yes
3. Kiwi
4. Yes
5. Yes
6. I like to fish.

Student: **Keri Allen**

1. 10
2. Don't care
3. Orange
4. Maybe
5. Sure
6. O.K.

Student: **P.J. Davis**

1. 10
2. Bad A\$\$
3. Strawberry
4. None
5. You know it
6. Yes

Playing In A Bagpipe Band

by Merlin Zimmerman

Early in the school year, I spent several days in Estes Park, Colorado. I used to live just 50 miles north of there in the low valley of Red Feather Lakes, but I was not in Colorado to visit friends . . . or to make them.

I was there to win! I was there to tear out the hearts of the competition, climb to the top of the heap of vanquished bodies and shout, "We are the rulers, and we have conquered!" That's right, I was there to play in a bagpiping contest.

I don't play pipes. I'm a drummer. Now understand, without a drum corps of 7 to 10 drums playing with them, a bunch of pipers is just a bunch of pipers. Along with drummers, however, they become the award winning Minnesota Pipes and Drums. (website: www.mnpipesanddrums.org)

We were invited for the second year in a row to go to Estes Park to perform and compete in, arguably, one of the most beautiful pipeband competitions in the country. As we played our competition music we were looking up at Rocky Mountain National Park and the several rain squalls that were snaking down the passes toward the front range. The mountains were wonderful, and in my cabin I could look out the living room window at Long's Peak, one of the highest points in the U.S.

We took second place at the Estes Park Highland Games. These games are the same type of festival as the Scottish Country Fair held every year at

MacAlister College in St. Paul (where MP&D has competed for dozens of years, now). We also performed three nights at the Military Tattoo, a locally televised concert of military music and drill teams in the county fair arena.

I have always played drums, but it wasn't until I was in my twenties that I began playing in a pipeband. I have no Scottish blood in me at all, but there is something about the sound of the pipes and of the drum we use, called a Highland Side drum, that chills me and those like me.

I'm trying to develop some music classes for Mini-School. I wonder how MHS would enjoy a half dozen beginning pipers and drummers practicing in the halls. We might have to look into this.

Minnesota



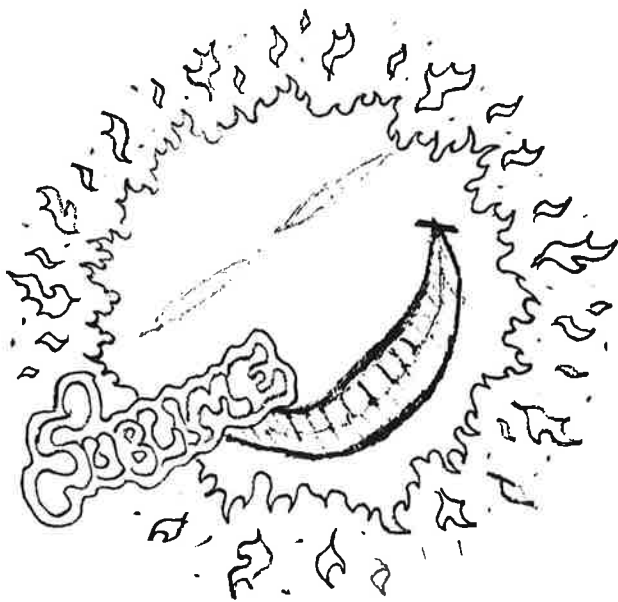
Pipes & Drums

Adventures at the Apple River

by
Nicole Harrill, Dan Jorgenson, and
James Froemming

The Apple River is located in Sommerset, Wisconsin. The river is a well known hot spot for tubing and camping. The cost of renting a tube is \$7.00, and it costs \$15.00 to camp out for the weekend. You can tube down the river for up to six hours, depending on which camp ground you start at. When floating down the river you can tube by yourself or tie a whole bunch of tubes together and float together.

Dan Jorgenson and James Froemming visited the river twice during the summer. They camped at the "Hide-away" campground, which is one of many campgrounds that are around the river. Dan and James said that they had a great time, except for when James got poison ivy. While tubing down the rapids Dan's buddy, Grougies, fell off his tube and got beat up by the rapids. Despite these two incidents, James and Dan partied and had a great time.



Edge Fest Nate Paulson

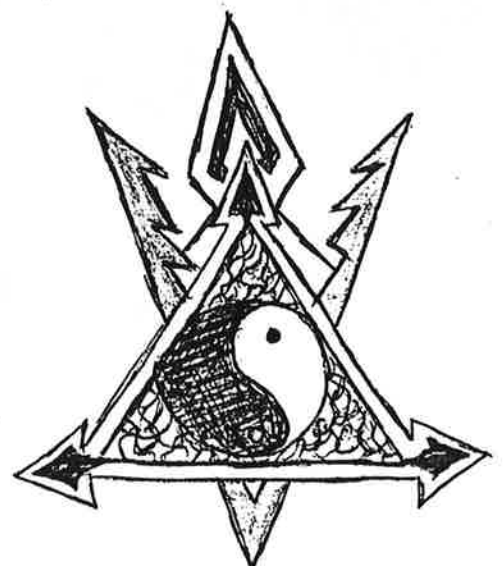
Edge Fest is a concert that is fun for a wide variety of people and a wide selection of music, from hard rock to jazz. You hang out with very accepting people, with the exception of a few people.

On the first day of Edge Fest we pitched our tent, then played football. Later we met some neighbors and partied some. As night approached, things got more interesting and more exciting as people continued getting to know each other.

The day of the concert we walked up and ate breakfast, played football and hackysack, then the concert began and I can't talk about the rest of that night.

The next day was pretty much the same: we ate breakfast, joked around with the neighbors, played frisbee and partied with friends. Then I went down the river on my back and lost my hat, along with some other stuff like a shoe and sunglasses.

I left some things out about Edgefest and if you want to know what they are, you would have to go yourself.



Bruno

by: Nicole Harrill

I have a 12 week old Rotweiler named Bruno. My boyfriend and I got Bruno when he was seven weeks old. Bruno doesn't like to listen, and training him requires a lot of hard work. He likes to chew on everything including furniture, cellphones, videogame controllers, and garbage. Bruno also loves to make messes on the floor, which he has gotten a little better at controlling.

If you look at Bruno you will notice that he is pretty big for a 12 week old puppy. His feet are growing faster than the rest of his body, it looks really funny when he walks. I'm guessing that Bruno is going to weigh around 200 lbs. because his dad weighs that much and his mom weighs around 150. If you saw Bruno you would think he is a really cute pup.

White Oleander A Book Review

By : Jessica Turner

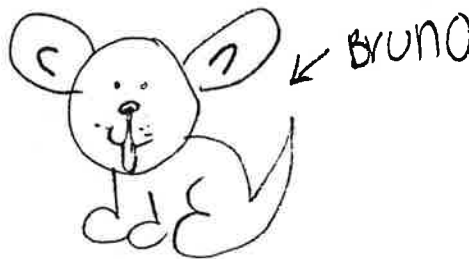
Astrid, a 12 year old girl, is ripped away from her mother, because she kills a man over jealousy. So, now, Astrid is sent to a foster family. And that's just where her life begins.

This book is about a girl moving from house to house. Telling stories of what happens when your parent's disappear. I really recommend this book, it's more intriguing than it seems. From time to time Astrid's mother is with her throughout the book.



Big Bruno

Little Bruno



Interview with Joanne Johnston

by: Alumnus, Trish Laumann

For three years I was in Mini-School. I grew very close to all the teachers and had a special bond with each one of them. Joanne was the one that I would turn to when I had a problem or just needed someone to talk to. So when I was asked to interview her, I was more than happy to do it.

We started out the night by meeting at Denny's at 4:00. Before we started the interview, we reminisced about the St. Louis River trip last year. We remembered Shawn Johnson being the only guy on the trip and how we called him just "one of the girls." and how everybody was scared to go in their tents because they were frightened of the porcupine. We had a beautiful campsite overlooking a creek down below, and Missy Quaas dropped her bowl down the cliff and had to borrow one from Pauline.

After about one hour of just having fun talking (because it's been so long) we started the official interview. My first question was, "What are you doing now?" She told me she is currently working at a prosthetics company making custom seating systems for people who have to live in wheelchairs. One thing she likes about it is she gets to choose the hours that she has to work. She's excited that she gets to work with power tools and it's a casual enough atmosphere that she can wear jeans and a t-shirt.

My second question for Joanne was, "How has your life changed since you have been in Mini-School?" She responded that she is working with different people and she looks out a huge window (something Mini doesn't

have) and watches the sunrise every morning. She really feels she is accomplishing something. Along with all that, she gets to work with her sweetie and she makes more money.

The third question was "What do you miss?" She said she misses the kids and teachers, and she also misses laughing as much as she used to, because all the kids were so funny.

I asked Joanne if she had any advice for future or present Mini-School students. Her response to that was, "Do what you really love." She said that so many people get stuck in jobs they hate and dread going to work everyday. She also said to be proactive instead of reacting to whatever comes along.

The last questions I had for her were, "Where are you going?" and "What are you excited about, now?" She told me she is very content with her life right now (marriage, home, work, family). She's living more in the moment now. An exciting thing that has happened for her is that her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease, has moved to Minnesota from Arizona. She lives about two miles from Joanne and Brad, so they can go over and take care of her as much as possible.

Joanne Johnston spent a large portion of her life working with Mini-School, and even though she's very satisfied with her current life and occupation, she said Mini was the best job she has ever had.

Writers/Contributors

Jenny Ertz
Sam Maeder
Nicole Harrill
Jessica Turner
Jeana Doescher
Billy Knight
James Lundell
Corey Schulz
Jenn Pettit
Jeremy Latcham
Chris Hinrichs
James Froemming
Dan Jorgenson
Kari Opheim
Shawna Sterns
Josh Shoberg
Jessie Johnson
Taylor Schierman
Kristina Petron
Kelsey Hanson

Student Editors

Jeana Doescher
Nate Paulson
Jessica Turner

Teacher/Editor

Merlin Zimmerman

Layout and Design

Jeana Doescher
Nate Paulson

Typists

Corey Schulz
Jessica Turner
Nicole Harrill
Jeana Doescher
Jeremy Latcham
Chris Hinrichs

Cover

Jeana Doescher

Artwork

Billy Knight
Nate Paulson
Jeana Doescher
Sam Maeder

Production

Nancy Christensen



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