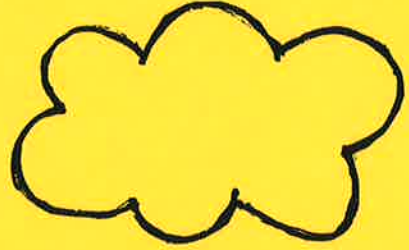


COM-MINI-CATIONS



**WINTER
AND
SPRING
'99**

By Jeana Paescher

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: Doug Berg

As will be indicated in articles throughout this issue of Com-mini-cations, much has been happening in Mini-School the first couple months of 1999.

Awards, trips, babies, new students- a busy time. In addition, everyone's excited as we move toward the end of the school year as the biggest trip time of the Mini-School year is coming up.

As mentioned above, Mini-School was the recipient of a prestigious award from the National Dropout Prevention association. We got a lot of good kudos throughout the school district for this distinction which felt really good. Leah Shoberg's article in this issue will fill in the details.

Three very successful trips- the Ely, the winter activities trip and the Michigan ski/snow board trip- took place in January and February. 24 kids participated in them and all did very well.

On February 17, 18, 19 the Minnesota Ass'n of Alternative programs held its annual conference in Rochester. Ramona attended and returned with many ideas for Mini-School. On Thursday, 2/18 Randy and I drove down after morning classes and gave a presentation on Mini-School trips to a group of 50 teachers from around the state. As usual, most teachers are in awe of Mini-School's long history and its outstanding accomplishments.

Although Randy will write a more complete article elsewhere in this issue, I must also make mention of the death on February 10th of Norm Garneau, former

MHS English teacher, SWAS teacher and Mini-School teacher. Norm was a close friend of mine, a strong yet gentle man who really loved life and lived each day to its fullest. He had a strong influence on my personal and teaching philosophy. Norm worked in Mini-School through the 80's. A gathering in Norm's memory on February 15th was well attended by former Mini-School students. Mini-School sends its condolences to Norm's wife, Jane { a lady who also has strong Mini-School connections}, and his sons Tom, Tim, Eric and Joe.

I must now address an issue which I have speculated on, talked around and ridden the fence on. I am going to retire from my position of Mini-School teacher at the end of this school year. I have not come to this decision without a great deal of agonizing and soul searching. I have been deeply involved with Mini-School for more than half my life. In many ways teaching in Mini-School has been more than a job- it has been a mission, a passion, a big part of who I am. I look back on the past 29 years with a great deal of pride and satisfaction and the knowledge that what we have done and continue to do here has helped many kids. That feels good.

And I still like what I do. I get just as much of a kick out of seeing a kid show some growth, make some good decisions, chart a new path for him/herself as I did 29 years ago. I still don't have any trouble paddling and portaging all day or carrying a backpack all day or sleeping on the ground at night. I think my skills as an educator, whether in the BWCA or the Mini-School classroom, are as strong as they have ever been.

Yet it's time to move on, time for change.

As the great English poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote long ago,

The old order changeth
Making way for the new.
And God fulfills himself in many ways,
Lest one good thing should corrupt the world.

It's time for new leadership to emerge, new ideas to come forth. And they will. I leave Mini-School in good hands. We have a strong staff, a strong group of students who are committed to maintaining the traditions of Mini-School and establishing some of their own.

There is much that is Mini-School that I shall miss- the trips, Com-mini-cations, the kids, the staff. But most of all I will miss starting everyday with my long time friend, Randy Nelson. Randy and I have had our desks butted up against each other for 29 years. We had a big part in the conception of Mini-School and a bigger part in its development. We've spent countless hours, many of them in a canoe or on a hiking trail, talking about kids and developing strategies to help them succeed. We've thought up hundreds of wild and crazy schemes and ideas for Mini-School, some of which have bordered on educational genius, others of which have been abysmal failures. We've had a tremendous amount of fun together, a million laughs. We've also had our share of sadness and tragedies. We've developed a lifelong bond, a bond closer than many brothers even develop. I will miss my daily dose of Randy's steadiness, gregariousness, generosity, kindness, concern and humor.

But there are things to look forward to- travel, x-c skiing, canoe and backpack trips without a group of kids to take care

of, books to read, some writing to do, some dreams to pursue. But most of all the freedom to get up in the morning, have a cup of coffee and say "What am I going to do today." I know also that Mini-School will not get rid of me completely for awhile. I'm sure I'll be involved in some trips, some kids' lives, some staff decisions. Mini-School can't get rid of me that easily.

It's been a great run, a good one for me. Thanks to everyone who's been a part of it.

Alumni News:

Tony Zaun {83} Lesley, Tony's sister {see featured alumnus article} informs us that Tony is working in Washington D.C. and will marry an Italian lady in Rome this summer.

Casey Bakken {98} Will graduate from the Invest program this spring.

Kim Colway {98} Currently attending the SHAPE program.

Mike McGinn {98} Cooking at the Marsh.

Lance Hamlin {97} Cooking at the Marsh.

Josh Day and Justin Streeter {98} Working for Streeter construction.

Brian Pengelly {85} Works in heating and air conditioning.

Jeff Jambeck {85} Lives in Arlington-Green Isle and works in air traffic control.

Tim Scott {83} Manager of all the restaurants for Dayton's.

Norm Garneau
By: Randy Nelson

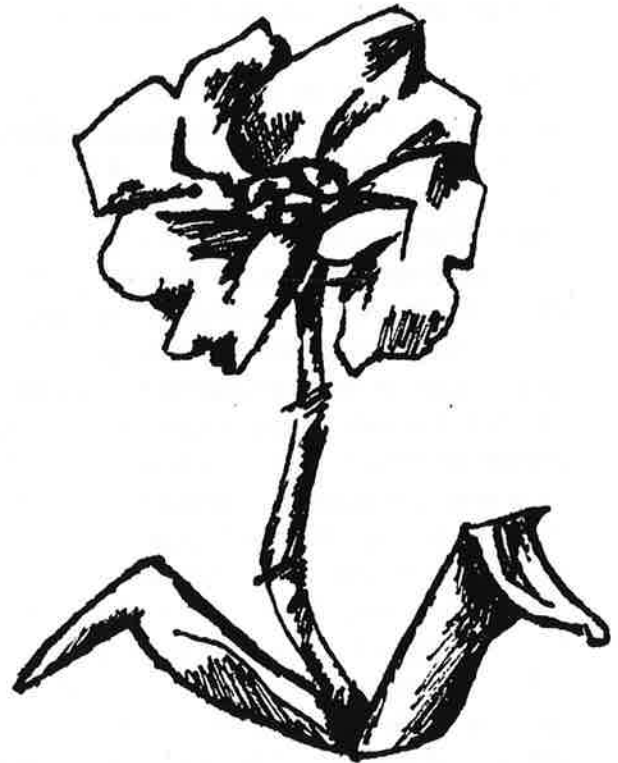
On Monday, February 15, a large group of friends and families of Norm Garneau gathered to celebrate his life. Norm, who taught in Mini-School from 1980-81 school year until the 1988-89 school year, passed away at 67 while vacationing with his wife, Jane {former MHS bursar}, in Aruba.

The Mini-School staff's association with Norm preceded his years in the program. Doug and Norm taught 5 years of English at MHS prior to the start of Mini-School and its sister program, SWAS in 1970. Norm and his SWAS colleagues shared office space with Mini-School until the mid 1970s. As the Mini-School students of the 80s know, Norm was always concerned about making education and learning a worthwhile adventure.

He blended his interests in traveling and horses into his curriculum and brought about experiences which made learning relevant to the student. Norm's trips with Mini-School students exposed them to the uniqueness, the culture, and the history of areas from Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina to Washington D.C, New York, and Boston.

His love of sports, reading, horses, education, and travel made Norm someone who connected with people from all areas of society. He was involved with and supportive of his four sons, Tom, Tim, Eric and Joe in their athletic and academic pursuits, and are all MHS graduates. We extend our condolences to his immediate family as well as his

friends. His party included several former Mini-School students, family, teaching colleagues, horse-breeders, and family friends. We laughed, we cried, we missed Norm, but we were all glad we were part of his life.



Mini Receives a National Award!

By: Leah Shoberg

On the night of January 7, Mini-school Finally, FINALLY, got the national recognition it's deserved these last twenty-nine years. As in the little article below (that was clipped from the school news bulletin that everyone in the district gets.) the award was given to us by the National Dropout Prevention Network. Doug chose three people to speak on behalf of Mini-school, and the difference that it's made in their lives. The student speaker was me, Leah Shoberg, the Mini-alumnus speaker was Josh Day, and the parent speaker of Mini kids was Debbi Ennis-mother of Mike and Kristi-both Mini alumnus.

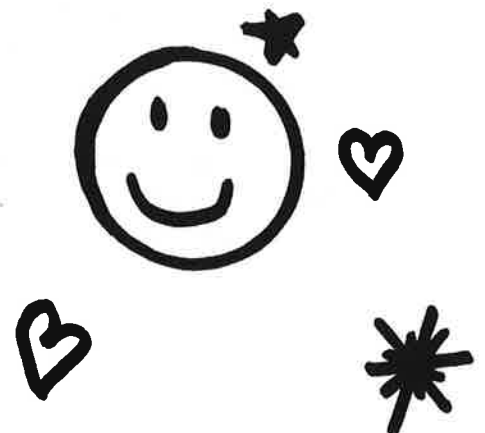
I believe that all of us got our point across well enough, and that many people were amazed at just how big a difference Mini has made, not only in our lives, but in the lives of all of those somehow related to Mini-school

The night went smoothly, with many parents, teachers, students, and supporters of Mini-school, to help us celebrate what we've been striving for all this time; to make a difference.



MHS Mini-school receives national award

At a special ceremony before the January 7 School Board meeting, Mini-school staff and students were recognized for their outstanding efforts to keep students in school. Mini-school is one of several Intermediate District 287 Area Learning Center programs that received national recognition by the National Dropout Prevention Network. Mini-school is an alternative program designed to meet the individual learning needs of students. Pictured from left to right are student Lacey Landt, Board members Kathy Casmer and Gail Scholl (who also serve on the Intermediate District 287 Board) and student Leah Shoberg.



We get letters

Dear Doug Berg,

I really enjoyed the holiday issue of Com-Mini-Cations. The description writing by Seth and Clare in Grantsburg was particularly well done. Their opening paragraph is worthy of National Geographic,

Congratulations to Leah, Lacey and Audrey as well as student editors. By the way, we enjoyed Lacey's brief visit to the district leadership to sell calendars. She is poised, articulate, and represents both Mini-School and the high school very well.

Best Wishes to all of you in the New Year!
Mike Lovett

Pauline's Baby by Audrey Lopez

Pauline left us for six weeks and had a baby girl, Samantha Anne, on the tenth of January. Born at Ridgeview Hospital, she weighed 8 lbs. 1oz. She has blue eyes and brown hair. Pauline explains things being chaotic and there's a lot more to do now.

Alex (her other daughter) is really good to her and is excited to have a sister. Cheryl Cermak's mom, Lauree takes care of Sam and Alex at day care while Pauline is back at Mini-School.

Well, it's great to have Pauline back, and I hope she's glad to be back.
Congratulations to her!

Y2K

By: Seth Stiebinger

Y2K, or year 2000 for those of you that don't know, is a computer term for a problem brought up by lazy programmers. Y2K breaks down to this. When programmers write programs that contain the current date they use a 2-digit system {e.g. 2-10-99} as opposed to a 4-digit system {e.g. 2-10-1999}.

The problem arises when the year 2000 comes around. The computer will think this is 00- the 2 digit equivalent of 2000, so all the transactions; banks, stock market computers, anything that uses the date in its programming will screw up. For instance a bank. A man has 1,000 dollars and deposits it on 12-31-99. The next day that money isn't there because the computer thinks it isn't going to be deposited for another 100 years. Is this a problem? I don't think it is a problem. There are 2 places where this problem occurs- the program itself, and the BIOS(Basic Input/Output System) which allows the computer to start up.

The programs are easy to fix. Just find any reference to the date and change it to a 4-digit system. Granted this takes time but it can still be done. As for the BIOS, one can find Y2K compatible BIOS upgrades on the internet for free or very low cost. I personally think Y2K is just a way to try to get more people interested in technology and not as big a problem as it's been made to seem.



The Featured Wife

By: JJ Day & Carrie Tiggas

One of our featured people for this issue of Com-mini-cations is Marlene Berg, wife of Mini-School's own Doug Berg. Marlene and Doug have been married for 30 years { one year longer than Mini-School} and have a son, Charles, 28. Marlene has been very involved in Mini-School over the years - she couldn't be married to Doug and not be. Carrie Tiggas and I went and talked to Marlene at her job {she's a media paraprofessional at MME} to learn a little more about her and the Doug outside of Mini-School that not many of us know.

How long have you been working for Minnetonka Schools?

This is my 20th year. I've worked for 12 years in the media center at MME and several years in special education throughout the district.

What do you like to do in your own free time?

I like to bike in warm weather, watch foreign movies and read mystery novels. I look forward to going to the Birkebeiner weekend with Doug and I enjoy canoeing with him.

What gives Doug his ambition to the great things he does?

He has a great love for his students and a desire to help them make their lives better. He also has a high energy level. He sets his sights on something and does it to the best of his ability.

In your opinion, what is the most important thing Mini-School does for its students?

Mini-School recognizes the students as individuals, emphasizes their positive

qualities, recognizes their individual learning styles, is patient but firm with them and helps them grow and mature.

What do you think Doug's best contributions have been to Mini-School?

His high energy, his love of the students, his ability to challenge them on the trips and his dedication to the Mini-School program and its mission. Of course, when people think of Doug they think of Mini-School trips and the big part he has played in developing the trips program.

How do you think Mini will change when Doug is gone?

This is a difficult question to answer. Many things could happen. It mostly depends on the school district's commitment to Mini-School and keeping what Doug and Randy have built. If this is important to the district, people will be hired who will maintain and build on what they have established.

How have you been involved in Mini-School over the years?

I was the main flapjack maker until 5 years ago- I made thousands of flapjacks. I've attended many of Mini-School's programs- talent shows, recognition nights. And I've always supported Doug in all his endeavors.

In 5....10...15 years where do you see Mini-School?

I would like to see the program still going strong, still helping kids, still taking kids on trips.

Have you ever been on a camping trip with Mini?

No, unfortunately. I'd have liked to have gone but I couldn't leave my job to go on trips. I've sometimes been involved by

transporting students or running shuttle.

Has it bothered you that Doug goes on so many trips and spends so much time with Mini-School?

Doug's going on trips has helped me learn to be self-sufficient. Even though it's been hard sometimes to have him gone, it's been good for our relationship to be separated some.

When Doug and you retire will there be a big emptiness where Mini-School used to be?

Mini-School has been a big part of our lives and I will miss the students but I'm sure many of them will visit. A lot of Doug's former students have become adult friends of ours--your brother Josh, for example. Doug will still do trips, I'm sure, but now he'll do a lot more of them with me.

Marlene adds in

I may work for another year after Doug retires so that he can cook dinner for me when I get home. I don't think Doug's ever touched that washer and dryer.

Thank you, Marlene, for the interview and for being so supportive of Mini-School for 29 years.

Something Big is Out There!
By: Jessica Juneau

Something big has been here,
what it was, I don't know,
For I did not see it coming,
and I did not see it go,
But I hope I never meet it,
if I do I'm in a fix
for it left behind its footprints,
they are size nine fifty six.

On the Job Training

By: Jeff McGinn

In Mini-School we have a great program to keep kids out of trouble, and also help them make money. Variety of kids in Mini-School all are given a great opportunity to earn credit by going to work after school. You can earn up to .50 credit per quarter.

You have to work on average of 10 to 15 hours a week. The kids in Mini have a great variety of jobs. The place where the most Mini-School kids work is Cub foods. There are about four people there, Charlie Urbia, Derek Knowles, Seth Stiebinger, and Ryan Prich. We also have a good variety of kids that work with cars and car parts like Mike Ayotte at Amoco, Jesse Steinwand at Midas and Josh Boudreau works at the Hopkins car wash.

Alot of people work with fast food. A big place of employment is McDonalds in Excelsior. Tom Miller is a shift manager there. James Froehming, Marti Norris, and Shawna Sterns also work there.

Many kids don't have this opportunity to get out of school at 11:15 to go make some money and get credit. We're fortunate.



Upcoming Trips

By: Jeana Doescher

Winter camping trip: Set in Boundary Waters canoe area goes out on March 10th and returns on the 17th. 8 students can go. There will be snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and exploring and camping out.

The Big Utah trip: Goes out on April 12th 1999 and returns on the 28th. 16 days long canoeing on the Green river near Moab, Utah. Hiking in the Arches National park and other parts near Moab. There will be an 8 day canoe trip down the Green river through Canyonlands National Park. Only 8 students can go. 3 alumni will meet up in Utah also. Doug isn't telling what qualifications you should have to be the most eligible for the trip, but I'm sure that if you're a senior, your odds are better.

Black Hills/Badlands Trip- May 9-17 Randy leads this group of 7 intrepid trippers hiking and biking through South Dakota as they learn the history, archeology, socioeconomic and environmental issues of the area.

BWCA Canoe Trip- May 19-27 Doug says if he had to give up all trips but one, this is the one he'd keep. The 7 students and Doug will paddle across lakes and hike across centuries-old portages. This is a tough trip, but a good one.

Bike Trip- The first week of June Randy, and as many Mini-school kids as he can get to go with him will ride through S.E. Minnesota and S.W. Wisconsin.

Summer Canoe Trips
As they have for several years, Doug and

Randy will lead 2 summer school canoe trips down the Namekagon & St. Croix Rivers June 14-18, and June 21-25. 14 students can participate in each trip. Students register for these trips through Community Services.

What a Program!

Top Ten things most likely NOT to happen at a Mini-School meeting

By: Aaron Hoerst

10. Silence
9. "That is a very good point Ayotte"
8. Good reports about Mini students from the hall monitors
7. Ramona doesn't mention independent study
6. No one talks while Pauline is talking
5. Schrupp won't interrupt
4. Talk of good attendance
3. Someone standing up and saying "Shut up Doug"
2. Aaron Hoerst won't fart
1. "Student of the week: Lacey Landt"



Winter Activities

By: Leah Shoberg

The trip was interesting, and I believe that we all learned a lot from each other.

Those of us who went on the trip were; Mike Bromme, Allen Jampsa, Tom Miller, Marti Norris, James O'Day, John Quaas, Leah Shoberg (that's me), Carrie Tiggas, and our fearless leader, Doug Berg.

The trip went well, and as I said, not only did we learn from each other, but I think we learned a lot about ourselves.

We all started bright and early February second, loading up the box on top of the van. We had skis and ski poles and ski boots. We had snowshoes and extra jackets, and extra boots, and mittens, and gloves, and hats, I mean, we had it all. But the most important things we had were the 'boggen' toboggan, and Green Thunder, (a sled) which belonged to Bromme.

We stopped in for breakfast at the Grant House in Rush City, and all laughed together about the possibilities of the rest of the trip. Leaving the Grant House, we headed for the cabin up in Grantsburg W.I. which was to be our "base camp." We arrived, and cooperated quite well in getting the box unpacked, and getting all the equipment organized. We all took our time, chose our room, got comfortable, and talked about the plans for the trip. That's when we ate lunch, and then had our first snowshoeing adventure.

Leaving the cabin, Doug took us all around the area in a big circle, pointing out things in the woods. Like tracks that animals left, the sound of the river, just things that most people don't notice when they're outside. The river.... The wind was fierce that day, and when we got out onto the river to head back to the cabin, we

were almost blown over. I suppose because in the woods, the wind is more challenged by the trees, we didn't realize that it would be so strong. We made it all right, but with a lot of tired and wind-burnt kids, Doug decided to have the rest of the night indoors.

We all sat together and ate dinner, as we did every night, and talked, and learned a lot. Doug reads us a book called Hatchet By Gary Pulson, as he did every night, after dinner, usually during "school" time. But every night ended with half the group playing a game of Star Wars Monopoly.

The second day was mostly Doug taking all of us for a short ski around the area, and showing us how to do it. He drove us to this trail next to the St. Croix river to practice.

It was a lot of fun, and Allen, and John picked it up right away. Marti had fun skiing in just her vest, and me in just my T-shirt. Bromme, (later adopting many nicknames) already knew what he was doing, so blew us all away, and Carrie, James, and Tom took their time.

Afterwards, we all went back to the cabin and decided that skiing wasn't so bad after all. We had dinner, talked of the day, went sledding over on the road near the cabin, had "school" and ended the night with another game of Star Wars Monopoly.

The third day was the most active of the four. We all went to this ski lodge, with a warming house and groomed trails and everything. It was really exciting. We had lunch in the warming house, and then went out to try the different groomed trails at the lodge. They were great, and a lot less difficult than the trail from the

previous day.

We all had a good time, and at around sunset we all left to have dinner at this little restaurant called "What the Heck," for pizza.

The trip in all was a good one, and I feel that we all learned a lot, not only from Doug, but from ourselves and each other as well.

Movie Review
"Payback"
by Tim Miller

This movie was a refreshing change from the standard way of looking at good guys and the bad guys. In this movie Mel Gibson plays "Porter", a man out for revenge on Gregg Henry who plays another bad guy named "Val". Throughout the whole movie Porter (Gibson) is trying to get his share of a robbery that Val and he committed. In doing so he loses his wife to a heroin addiction, beats up everyone who is breathing and some how manages to get his share of the money. Oh, did I mention that it's only seventy thousand dollars and it costs him two toes?

If you are looking for a fun movie with a different point of view I HIGHLY recommend this film. Four out of five stars.

Buffalo 66
By: Aaron Sapp

I wasn't too interested in this movie when my dad brought it home. After he watched it and told me how good it was I thought "what else do I have to do except sit in my room?" so I popped it in my new Panasonic VCR.

It starts out with Bobby Brown being released from jail. He was sentenced for five years for a crime he didn't commit, due to a ten thousand dollar bet, placed on the Buffalo Bills to win the super bowl. They lost and he couldn't pay, so he took the fall for the brother.

The first thing he does is take a bus to go see his mom and dad. The problem is he told them that he works for the C.I.A and that he was married. So he needs to find a wife. He kidnaps a tap dancer, played by Christina Ricci {she's hot} and she agrees to play along.

They go visit them and it goes okay. The other thing he wants to do is to kill the Buffalo kicker who was paid off to lose the game. This movie is slow, but good and sad. If it means anything I really liked it.



**Featured Student:
Lacey Landt
By: Carrie Tiggas**

Our featured student this issue is Lacey Landt. She has been a part of the Mini program for a long time, and has been involved in every aspect of Mini. Lacey received Student Recognition last year for her involvement in the trips program and Com-mini-cations, and has been a chief editor since her arrival to Mini. She knows all the ways of Mini, and has retained the lessons well. So perhaps in this interview, we can learn a little about her.....

1.How long have you been in Mini?

--About four years.

2.Why did you come into Mini-School?

--Well, I got kicked out of main-stream for never going to class.

3.What activities are you involved in at Mini-School?

--I work a lot on Com-mini. I'm really into the trips program, and help with the preparation of trips before they go out.

4.Do you think that your time here in Mini was a learning experience?

--Extremely--I wouldn't be the person I am now without Mini-School. I wouldn't have stuck this long with any other program and made this much of an effort to graduate.

5.Are you prepared for life after Mini?

--Yes, most definitely. I feel that Mini-School has helped prepare me for actual living.

6.What was your favorite class?

--Com-mini-cations, and Ramona's Kite block.

7.What would you advise to future Mini-Schoolers?

--Be respectful. If you try hard enough, you will succeed.

8.What has Mini done for you overall?

--Introduced me to a lot of new people who are now my friends. Appreciation and respect for the outdoors. Mini changed my whole perspective, and helped me build my whole personality.

Thanks Lacey for sharing your thoughts with us, and for your dedication to Mini and the program.



The Future of Mini **By: Leah Shoberg**

After Doug retires to do all the cross-country skiing he wants, we have to ask ourselves what the future might hold. What will become of Mini five, ten, or even fifteen years from now? Will all things stay the same, or will all things change? Well, here's a few things that we've come up with.....THE FUTURE.....

- 1.No more hearing Doug say, "Can I have it quiet please?."
- 2.Ramona and Pauline will try to buckle down on the kids about bringing sodas in the room.
- 3.Joanne, following in the footsteps of Pauline and Ramona, will suddenly get pregnant and have a baby.
- 4.Lacey will break down and come back to Mini to get a job.
- 5.Pauline will designate a science room and put up many laminated health posters that will completely cover the walls.
- 6.Ramona will take it upon herself to rename the word 'math' so that it consists mostly of "Z's."
- 7.Randy, being the only man left on the staff, will run a block about the history of the differences between men and women.
- 8.Cheryl Cermak will miraculously decide to stay in school, and enroll in mainstream classes in her spare time
- 9.Mini will become full of computers and soon have the most technologically advanced education ever.

10.OR.....Everything will break out into total anarchy and chaos, and no one will do what they're told.....so things might just stay the same.....

I hope that this has been enlightening, and made everyone think deeply about the future.....who knows? All things change.

Review on Cocktail **By: Aaron Sapp**

For those of you who read the last Issue, you might have read about my dog cocktail. Well there is some new things that I can say about him.

Cocktail was meant to be my dog. Bored with me, help me if I was drowning, but no. He decided to bond with my dad. That was fine. If you didn't read the last issue, Cocktail has a type of diabetes. So some times he drinks too much and pees all over. We have to give him shots, and that helps.

Something that has improved is that he now only has to be let out every 6 hours instead of every 2. He can also sleep on my bed with me, without soiling my sheets.

The one thing that I don't like is that he hates me. He often growls at me, and sometimes attacks me. I usually have to lure him into my room with turkey when I go to bed.

Cocktail is getting better, but is still a pest.

Featured Alumni Lesley Zaun
By Carrie Tiggas

Our featured alumni is Lesley Zaun. A former Mini schooler who was in Mini in '85-'87. I called her at her office and she was kind enough to take time out of her schedule to talk to me.

After Mini she was still short some credits so she got her G.E.D. She went to Ireland for six years going back and forth to the U of M and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She was on the Dean's list at the U of M and was Awarded Internship Scholarship. In Ireland she met her husband Cathal Ryan. He was born and raised in Dublin. After they came back to the States she went to William Mitchell College of Law where she earned a 3.22 GPA and was ranked in the top 23% of her class. She practices law at Oskie & Bauch, P. A.

I asked her a little about what she remembers about Mini. She remembers her favorite memory and she had a couple. She liked Randy's newspaper class because she is a news hound. She also really enjoyed Lester's Women's Study group. She liked the forum for discussing the many issues that young women face. She went on one trip to Florida with Norm.

I asked her if she had any thoughts on Doug's retirement. She said of course he is entitled to retire but he is a great teacher. He is a role model and he really helps people. He is an inspiration. He really helped me and my brother. Who knows where I'd be without Mini school.

I really enjoyed my time talking to Lesley and I want to thank her for taking time to talk to me. Her accomplishments should inspire young Mini schoolers. Thank you Lesley and congratulations.

Dan Brown....
Who is he anyway?
By: Lacey Landt

Dan was here substituting for Pauline as she was out having a baby. He taught in the science department. It took a little while for him to understand how Mini worked and the different schedules, and now that everyone got used to him he is gone.

Having the patience to teach Mini kids for six weeks is commendable. We appreciate the help and the teaching he gave to us. I had a little interview with him so that you could learn a little bit about him.

How long have you taught?

4 years spread out. In 1989 I taught in Houston for a half a year. I also taught in Brooklyn Center, Hopkins, Prior Lake, and Lakeville

Where did you go to school?

Bloomington Thomas Jefferson, and the University of Minnesota

What do you like best about Mini?

Everyone is accepted and welcomed. You are made to feel comfortable.

What frustrates you most about Mini?

Open schedule with Mainstream

If you could change anything about yourself what would it be?

I would like to make more money

What is your best quality?

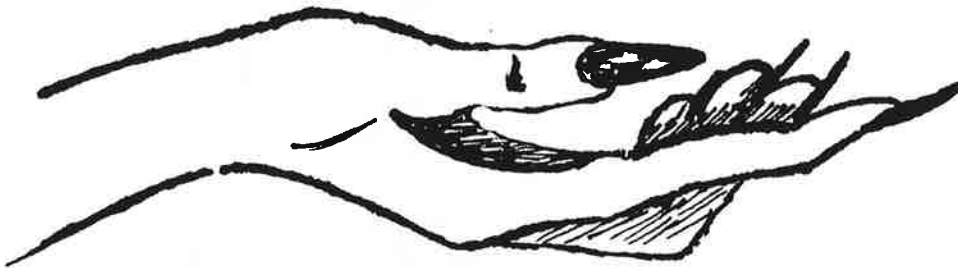
I think I have a lot of patience, and that is always good to have.

Man in the Glass
Author Unknown

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror
and look at yourself
And see what that guy has to say.
For it isn't your father or mother or wife
whose judgment upon you must pass.
The one whose verdict counts most in life
Is that guy staring back from the glass.
He's the one to please, never mind all the rest
For he's with you clear up to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.
You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.
You can fool the world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.



--Submitted by: Leah Shoberg and Doug Berg

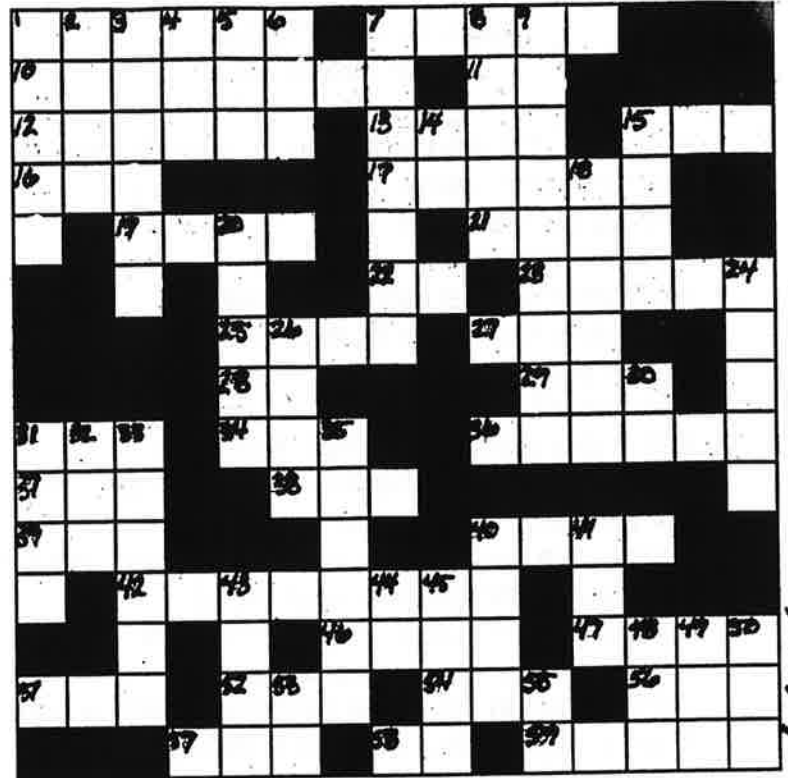


DOWN

1. Laura Huberty's new exercise
2. Folk singer, Guthrie
3. Get your movies at Video _____
4. Scrambled ere
5. H. ___ & kisses
6. Sergeant abbr.
7. Doug's nickname for Lacey Landt
8. Doug's famous "Can _____ it quiet please?!"
9. Planes, trains or automobiles
14. Fro's partner
15. Actor Penn
18. A hint of
20. Look to him for credits
24. Sophomore's grade
26. Spoken
30. Ego's other
31. Libra's birthstone
32. Internet service.
33. New girl in Mini, Hanson
35. Cage for Cocktail
40. Naturalist, Warren
41. Claypool of Primus
43. Zorro's disguise
44. Couch potato's passion
45. Zorina to Ramona
48. Singer DiFranco
49. Adam Sandler's name in "Airheads"
50. Channel 2
53. Old English abbr.
55. Movie alien

ACROSS

1. Aries follower
7. Brian Cristofono's band, The _____
10. Musically rapid
11. That guy
12. Not the youngest, but the...
13. The big trip's destination this yr.
15. That girl
16. Suffocating snake
17. Cow-girl
19. Singer, Amos
21. Ecuador abbr.
22. ___ Nino
23. Lacey _____
25. Backwards loon
27. Barbie's man
28. Doctors abbr.
29. ___ - Fi
31. Adult acorn
34. Tibetan ox
36. Revise
37. The red Teletubbie
38. ___ Zeppelin
39. Entirety
40. 320 rods
42. Pauline's newest
46. Always
47. The coolest kid in Mini? Aaron _____
51. Wok-user's sauce
52. Sun in Madrid
54. President and General
56. A pens end
57. To financially survive.
58. Either's partner
59. Best part of Mini-School?



(answers in back)



The Grateful Dead By: Kari Opheim

The Grateful Dead and deadheads are in a world and classification of their own. They live in a peaceful, non controversial, loving atmosphere, with the Grateful Dead's music surrounding it. They put out a kind of music that forms this sort of atmosphere by itself. Deadheads would travel around the U.S going from show to show.

Many would devote their lives towards the band. Even though there's alot of Deadheads there's also alot of people who don't enjoy the music. The Grateful Dead has such an extremely acquired sound that people either love or hate them. They're in their own class of music. There really isn't another band that does play the same kind of music. Each song , album and show is a different and new experience.

Besides many albums and songs the Grateful Dead also has put out a long line of accessories. This is another way the band can promote their music. Some of their accessories are tie-dye t-shirts, Grateful Dead bears, key chains, patches, hats, socks, pajamas and much more

All of these things are all unique and different in their own way and from everything else.

C.D. Review By: Leah Shoberg

Dave Matthews & Tim Reynolds Live at Luther College

This is another wonderful track from Dave Matthews, only with a different twist. Instead of Matthews and his band, it's him with the expert acoustic guitar help of Tim Reynolds.

This two disc track is a compilation of some of Matthews music, totally live, and with only their two guitars, and Matthews' melodious voice. This particular track gives off a feeling of ultimate passion and purity in the music, that can't be accomplished with the electronic alterations of a recording studio.

If you are as devoted a fan as I am, run right out and buy this C.D. If you're not partial to Dave Matthews Band music, keep in mind that this track is mostly unplugged, and acoustic guitar. It's wonderful, and I have found myself quite taken by it. Give it a listen to, and maybe you'll find the same thing.



Michigan Trip!

By: Chris Hinrichs & Missy Quaas

On Sunday morning, February 7th, at 10:30a.m. we took off for Bessemer, Michigan. We all hopped in the van and drove straight through Duluth, and over to Country Kitchen to eat and fuel up. Then we got to the 'homestead' at 4:00p.m.

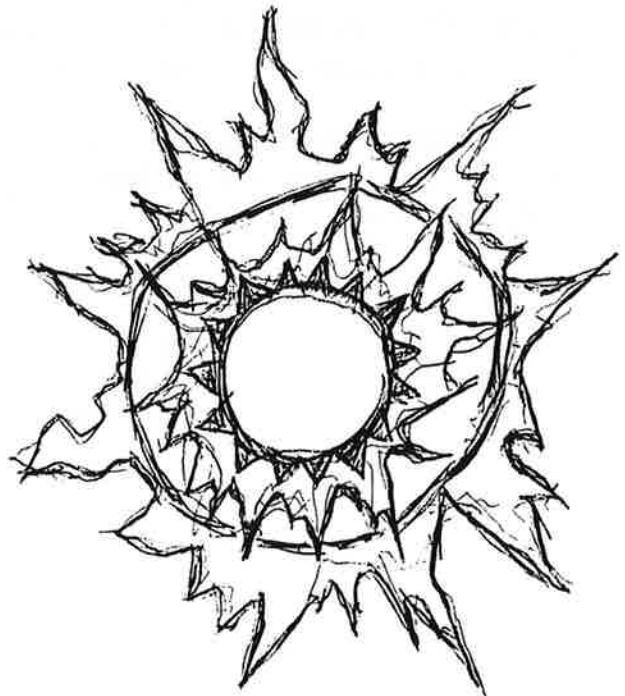
We all settled in and unpacked. Our pad was pretty chillin', and the way it was arranged and put together reminded me of the 70's. So a little later, after everyone was settled in and finished doing the unpacking thing, we all went to see the inside of the lodge. It was all right. We were able to play pool, arcade games, or foosball, and hang around the crazy kids from Chicago. Also we got to go snowshoeing, and that was fun. Later in the evening we had a meeting with Randy.

We all were awakened by Randy in the morning, had breakfast and went skiing or snow boarding. The first day we went to a place called "Blackjack." The hills were all right, but they were a little icy. And then suddenly Trisha got ill and Randy had to take her to the hospital. Afterwards we went back the homestead to rest our aching bones. We all watched the 60's show on television, and we were all pretty much interested in it.

The next day we went to "Indianhead" ski resort. It was much more icy then the day before, but by then we were all improving on our skills, so it wasn't all that bad. In the afternoon Clare claimed that she was sick and had gotten food poisoning, and so was not a ski-bunny that day. Later that night we ate some no-meat-spaghetti; very delightful for us vegetarians! Those of us who were sore

chilled in the hot tub - otherwise we could write in our journals, nap, chat with Randy, or walk around outside to explore the grounds. The variety was quite nice!

Wednesday, the 4th day, we awoke from our slumber, once again by Randy. We had some breakfast and got ready for the day. The ski resort that we were going to conquer this day was called "Big Powderhorn." The day started off good, and we all got ready to hit the slopes. As I was riding the chair lift, (and this was the best part,) it was so beautiful, the scenery. There were wonderful woods that were long, with a lot of trees really close together. I felt so free riding through them, inhaling the fresh air deeply, and feelin' good. The snow was good and fresh, and riding was nice. You could just fly down the slopes. They were the best ones so far. I think that everyone had a good time on this wonderful day, and on the whole trip as well. The 9 of us: Chris Hinrichs, Missy Quaas, Kristina Petron, Sam Maeder, Trish Laumann, Clare Meyer, Jon Schmidt, Elissa Johnson, and Randy will remember it for a long time.



DUDLEY RIGGS BY CARRIE TIGGAS

On Thursday December 17, Jessica Hoium, Elissa Johnson, Shaun Johnson, David Larson-Hughes, Audrey Lopez, Nick Merchant, Jamie Rasmussen, Craig Schrupp, Leah Shoberg, Jesse Steinwand, Seth Stiebinger, Jessica Turner, and Carrie Tiggas met at Perkins to attend Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop for its anniversary show. We all piled in 2 vans and trooped to Calhoun Square where the new theater is. We didn't know exactly where it was so we wandered around for awhile until we finally found it.

We arrived early so Doug gave us our tickets and let us loose (yikes!!) Elissa, Nick and I went to find something to eat. The only place we could find was the Mighty Wraps, but everything on the menu would take 20 minutes or more just to make and we didn't have that much time, so we just ordered some chips and salsa. (Which by the way still took 15 minutes). We raced back upstairs, chips in hand, and made it just in time for the show to start. I recognized some of the cast from last year when we went.

Dudley Riggs is a mix of skits which are generally pretty politically incorrect. This always makes for a lot of laughs. My favorite part personally is when they improv. The audience picks about 6 adjectives and 6 numbers 1-100. The numbers are different kinds of music on a keyboard and they have to improvise to what they hear. They take the adjectives and start from there and see what happens. It's fun because nobody knows what is going to happen next.

Dudley Riggs is a real fun experience.

Sometimes you don't know if you should laugh or be shocked. That is what I like about it. I'm real glad I went.

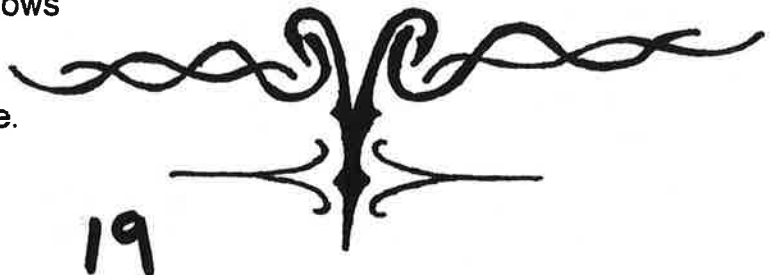
Congratulations to Dudley Riggs on his anniversary.

The Drive by Audrey Lopez

I was fortunate enough to meet up with Brian Cristofono at his work in Excelsior. Brian is a former Mini-School student and graduated in '95 after being in Mini for about 2 1/2 years. While he was in Mini he went on the summer trip and said he enjoyed it. Brian said he liked that Mini-School lets you be who you want to be.

Brian now works at the Amoco in Excelsior. He also has a band "The Drive", which has been together since high school. He sings lead-vocals, plays rhythm guitar and also manages and promotes the band. They are now working on their second album. They've played many places including the 400 bar, Fine Line, Foxfire, and the 7th St. Entry.

Brian can always see himself with his band in the future. Rumor has it, they're playing at Edgefest this year, but there's nothing definite. The Drive played in Europe last fall and will be returning this fall to perform and talk to a record company in London. Brian describes his band to be his "main passion".



MIKE AYOTTE

ROB AYOTTE
(BROTHER)

Kristina Petron

Brandon Petron
(brother)

Matt Guffan

Rachel Guffan
(sister)

Jeff McGinn

Mike McGinn
(brother)

Trisha Laumann

Steve Laumann
(brother)

Leah Shoberg

Josh Shoberg Mike Shoberg
(brother) (dad)

James Froemming

Deanna Parks
(mom)

Aaron Sapp

Padie Sapp
(aunt)

Carrie Tiggas

Nicole Tiggas
(sister)

Missy Quaas

John Quaas
(brother)

Matt Thompson

Todd Thompson
(dad)
Tim Thompson
(uncle)

Tony Wegler

Chris Wegler
(brother)
Lawrence Wegler
(uncle)

Jim O'Day

Jamie O'Day
(Sister)

J.J. Day

Betty Pffnner (mom) Roger Day (dad)
Ted Pffnner (uncle) Josh Day (brother) David Day (uncle)
Frank Pffnner (uncle) Mark Day (uncle)
Lowel Day (uncle)

Mike Bromme

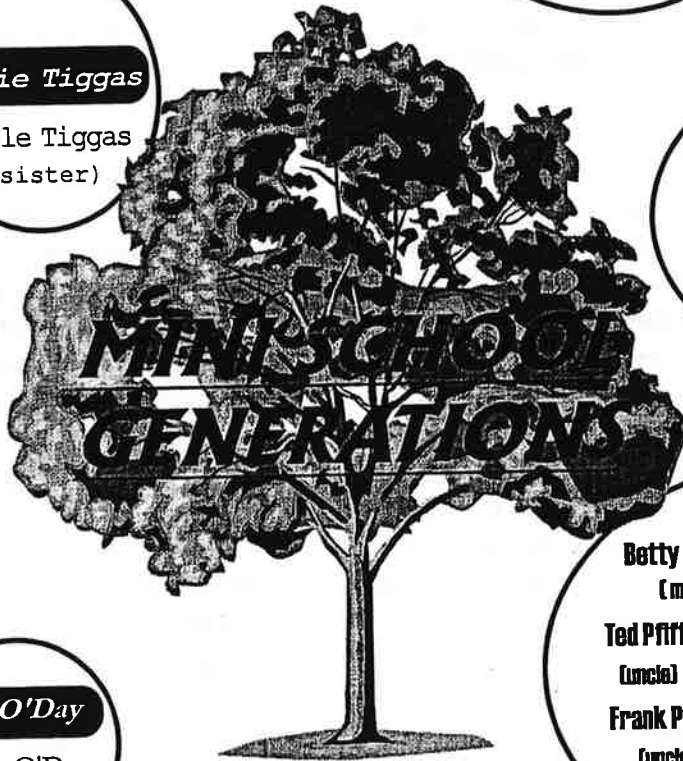
Matt Bromme
(brother)

Brooke Waitalla

Lisa Lund (mom) Mike Waitalla (dad)
Amy Lund (aunt) Pete Waitalla (uncle)
Gregg Lund (uncle) Lauren Levert (aunt)
Karen Levert (aunt)

Nate Paulson

Mary Jo Seamans (mom) Jim Paulson (dad)
Kevin Seamans (uncle) Lee Paulson (uncle)
Don Seamans (uncle) Jason Paulson (brother)
Lester Hughes (aunt)



Tree By:
Brooke Waitalla
20

Mini-School---a Family Affair
By: Doug Berg

One summer in the mid-1970's, I pulled my truck up to one of the four way stops in Excelsior. As I awaited my turn to go, a blond boy of 11 or 12 jumped into my truck.

"I know who you are-you're Berg," he exclaimed.

"And I bet I can guess who you're a little Vomhof," I said.

"Yep, Billy," he said, "You're the Mini-School teacher who's had my brothers and sisters, Howard, Tweety, Diane, and Sharon. Just wanted you to know who I was because you're gonna have me in a few years."

"Thanks for the warning," I said, as he jumped out of my truck at the next stop sign.

As I drove away, he yelled, "Say, there isn't any way I could get into Mini-School a little early, is there? I'm only in 6th grade next year but I can paddle a canoe pretty good already!"

Well, Bill and his brother Bob come into Mini-School, making 6 Vomhofs. We made a clean sweep of the Rogney family- Rory, Rick, Roger, R.J., Robin and Toot. Kohmons- John, Jim, Patti, Bill and Bob. Days- Roger, Mark, David, and Junior. Forces- Mike, Steve, Dave, Tony and Billy. Reifenbergers- Tommy, Joey, Ginny.

Then, by the late 80's, the next generations started appearing. Bedfords, Thompsons, Banyons and more. And when Mini-Schoolers married Mini-Schoolers, as with Roger Day and Betty Pfiffner, or Mary Jo Seamans and Jim Paulson, some of the branches of the Mini-School tree got very heavy.

Thanks to Brooke Weitalla (parents: Mini alumnus Lisa Lund and Mike Weitalla) for making the current family tree. Good memories



Book Review
By: Leah Shoberg
"The Green Mile"
By: Steven King

This bizarre tale begins with our narrator, Paul Edgecomb, telling his story about the year of 32', the year of John Coffey, when everything changed. The place is Cold Mountain Penitentiary, where our narrator is the head of the E block....also known as "The Green Mile." The place where condemned criminals live out their last days, and where the electric chair..... referred to as "Old Sparky," awaits them at the end of the Green Mile, to pay the ultimate price.

Steven King takes you on a ride of deep contemplation, and massive realizations through this novel, that begins on Death Row and burrows inward to the most horrific secrets of the human soul. I give this multi-part serial novel a definite 10 for Steven King fans.....and a 9 for suspense fans.

Book Review
By: Jeana Doescher

Johnny got his gun

I went to B. Dalton to look for this book because I heard it was really good. They didn't have it so I had to order it.

I got it a few days ago and read the whole thing in one sitting. It doesn't say on the back cover really what the book's about except how horrible war is, but the book is actually about a soldier in WW1 who is badly injured in combat lying in his hospital bed. A piece of shrapnel has cut through his face destroying his eyes, ears, mouth and nose, leaving him a mute. They also amputate his arms and legs and put him in a hospital bed and leave him with his memories. It's a story I would recommend.

Book Review
By: Doug Berg

The best book I've read in awhile is Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier.

The story is set in the South during the Civil War. After semi-recovery from a neck wound sustained in battle, Inman, the main character decides he's had enough of war and undertakes the long walk home to Virginia. He is sustained through his journey of incredible privation, savagery and near fatal mishaps by his memory of his home, Cold Mountain, and the love he bears for a woman he left behind.

Actually, the story is just as much the woman's. The chapters alternate between what is happening to Inman and the development of his love's character, a wealthy society belle left destitute by the death of her father and the cruelties of war, her only possession a small plantation that she has no idea how to manage.

The story has a strong plot line, good character development, a realistic picture of the Civil War South, romance and tragedy. It's a good read. I recommend it highly.



Ely Trip **By Carrie Tiggas**

At six thirty on January 20th, 8 Mini school students gathered to go to Ely, Minnesota as a reward trip for selling the most calendars. The lucky trippers were La'Kyasa Bollig, Matt Evans, Trevor Scott, Drew Emmings, Elissa Johnson, Trisha Laumann, Clare Meyer, and myself (Carrie Tiggas).

Doug and Joe were our trip leaders. We went to Joe's cabin for three days and four nights of relaxation..... kind-of.

All the students had arrived and we were almost done packing the van when Joe finally showed up. Fifteen minutes later we were all piled in the van ready to hit the road.

We stopped just a little over an hour to eat in Rush City at the Grant House. That is where I got my nick name Carrie "The Carnivore" Tiggas because I ordered bacon, ham and sausage for breakfast and that's it. We all filled our bellies and headed back to the van.

Our next stop was at Granite Gear manufacturing in Two Harbors. Granite Gear is a company founded and owned by Dan Cruikshank, MHS alumnus and uncle of Tony Cruikshank Mini-School alumnus. Granite Gear makes some of the best backpacking, canoeing, and winter camping gear in the U.S. Dan gave us a tour of the company, showed us all the stuff they make, and told us the story of how he started Granite Gear. He gave us an opportunity to purchase gear at cut-rate prices. Doug and Joe bought some gloves and a pack.

When I found out how long of a drive it was all I could do was groan, curl up and

go to sleep. Finally after what seemed like hours, because it was, we arrived in Ely. We decided to stop in town to look around. There is a bunch of little shops everywhere. We found a music store where Trish found a bunch of Grateful Dead cd's she hadn't seen before. She was kicking herself for not bringing any money.

After exploring for an hour we went back to Joe's cabin. We unloaded the van into a big pile on the floor. His heat wasn't working so we all stayed bundled up. While Joe was calling about the heat we all just sat around taking in our surroundings. Drew and Joe finally got the heat working and his cabin warmed up quick.

After that everybody decided to go for a snowshoe. Since I couldn't figure out how to get the stupid things on, Trish and I went for a walk instead.

For dinner Joe made chicken on the grill and pasta. It surprised me but Joe can really cook. After dinner we talked for awhile and had school. Later us kids watched a movie we had rented earlier. But the Truman Show was really boring and stupid so most of us fell asleep.

In the morning Joe made us French toast and sausages. He was kind enough to burn them just right for me. After we ate we packed up our day packs and headed to the International Wolf Center. One of the naturalists gave us a 25 minute presentation on wolves. The three they had there weren't very active that day. We got to look around the museum for awhile.

When we got back we had free time. Matt and Drew went on a snowshoe hike. Joe, Trevor, Elissa, and La'Kysa went ice

fishing. Trish and I hung around the cabin for awhile. Clare offered to clean the refrigerator in Joe's dad's cabin for 20 bucks. After a little bit Trish and I got bored so we walked down to the lake where they were ice fishing. We came across Clare on the way back. We asked her about the fridge, which had been unplugged in the fall. She told us she refused to clean it because it was so disgusting. Trish and I decided we'd try it. I mean, I decided we'd try it. I mean it couldn't be that bad. Well...we got to his Dad's cabin and told him we'd do it. At first when he opened the fridge it wasn't that bad, but after ten seconds the stench got to us. It was unbelievably disgusting. I swear the meat was rotten because it was blue and moving. We refused to do it. Joe ended up throwing the fridge out totally. After that little experience we had to get out of the cabin. We went to the lake and Drew was building a fire on the lake. He couldn't get started so he went to the cabin and grabbed the gas can. I thought he was crazy. I've seen bad things happen w/fire and gas cans. No problems though, and he got a good fire going. I didn't want to be around when Joe got back in case he was mad about the fire in the middle of the lake. We ran into him though and he was happy about the fire. We went to the cabin and they fished until probably 5:30. They didn't catch anything, so we went out for pizza.

We got back and us trippers went out and had a snow war. The boys disappeared into the woods, and us girls stayed right around the cabin. The girls weren't doing so well until La'Kaysa fearlessly took off, and got the boys. We played outside for awhile, then decided to settle down and go inside. Inside Doug and Joe were chillin' like villains. We ended up watching another movie, A Time to Kill.

After awhile I turned it off cause everyone was trying to sleep. La'Kaysa and I couldn't stop laughing and everyone got mad at us and told us to shut up or they were going to beat us. I fell asleep with Joe's deafening snoring again that night.

The next morning after breakfast we packed and loaded up the van. Joe went to town with the van and ended up driving in the ditch and had to get towed. He finally got back and we packed up the van and cleaned up the cabin. After it looked like it did when we arrived we hopped back in the van and headed to Ely to get to Joe's dad's shop, Razors Edge. He took us on a tour and we met the office ladies who had made us delicious cookies. Joe's dad wasn't in town so we couldn't meet him which was too bad. After the tour we headed home.

I am really glad I got the chance to go on this trip. I had fun and got to relax for a couple days. Thanks Doug and Joe for the trip. I'll never forget it and I hope you bring this experience to future Mini kids.



New kids

**By: Mike Ayotte, Jeff McGinn, and
Matt Guffan**

New kids in Mini are always rolling in. Here we're trying to understand and relate to the new kid. What are their opinions, reasons and just what are they thinking.

Our journey into the mind of the new kid will be guided by our questioning. We shall display our most insightful responses.

Our first question was "what interested you in Mini"? Our answers were about the structure of the learning process, and how the opportunities have helped. The trips program was also an answer.

The second question had an intent to find the comfort level of the new kid. "Do you have friends here"? Each answer was the same "yes". This is a very good thing. Good and bad set in after the review of third question. "Is the program different now that you're enrolled?" three different answers, thought there would be less work and more easy, disappointment in attitude, and no.

A general question came next, "What would you change about the program?" One answer for that question was more teachers. Every other person answered better looking women. Of course you can guess the genders.

Question five. "What in particular do you like about Mini?" Same answers were lazy answers, like no work.

1. What interested you in Mini before enrollment?

2. Do you have friends in Mini?
3. Has the perspective of Mini changed since your enrollment?
4. What would you change?
5. What do you particularly like?
6. What are your opinions about the staff?
7. Would you say a cult would be a good description of Mini?
8. Do you think Michael Ayotte's the coolest kid in Mini?

James O'Day

1. structure
2. yes
3. I thought it was easier
4. better looking women
5. no homework
6. good
7. could be considered
8. oh yeah!

Matt Guffan

1. a better way to get through high school
2. yes
3. no
4. a certain sex would be better looking
5. being rowdy and loud
6. they are very cool
7. no, but Ayotte is probably in one
8. no

JJ Day

1. Good program, teachers care, trips
2. yes
3. disappointment in attitudes
4. better looking women
5. come and be who you are
6. Easy to get along with
7. no
8. yes

Kari Opheim

1. learning the way we are, trips
2. yes
3. no
4. more teachers

5. how everyone gets along
6. nice and understanding
7. no
8. no, I think Jeff McGinn is

Josh Reisges

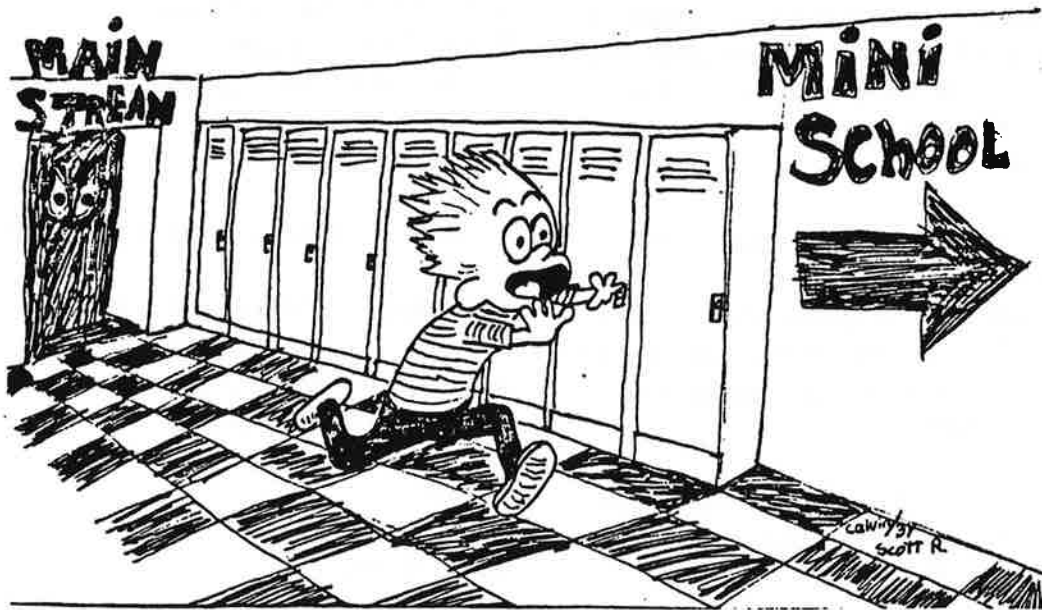
1. more opportunities for help
2. yes
3. more work than I thought
4. better looking women
5. getting out early
6. they're nice
7. no
8. Mike Ayotte

V.I.P
By: Aaron Hoerst

I love Vanilla Ice
he is so great
he is whiter than labratory mice
his incredible success is fate

Ice is the man with the master plan
the best the world has seen
Vanilla Ice is the man
If you know what I mean

Robert VanWinkle is his true name
he was born on Halloween
working his way to fame
everybody else turns green



Black Sabbath with Pantera & Incubus

By Audrey Lopez

Black Sabbath held a concert at the Target Center January 17th. This was my second time seeing them. They played with Incubus and Pantera, two other great bands, all of which played at Ozzfest one time or another.

I went with four of my friends. This time I sat in the seats so I had a different perspective on things. There were chairs on the floor which was unusual since this was a "hard-core" concert. By the time Pantera got out, everyone had the chairs in a large pile.

Incubus played first. They're a much different style than most bands this type, because they are much more creative. They use different instruments such as a didjiridu and bongos. A great opening band, but no one seemed to appreciate them.

Pantera was probably the most popular. Of course they played most of their well known songs which please all. The crowd was fairly wild and fairly drunk. Phil Anselmo (the lead singer) sure had a lot to say to the crowd. Offering a shot of liquor to one of the security guards, he was very humorous. Also leading the audience in a good old round of 'Happy Birthday' for Big Val, a roadie of theirs, it was a very enjoyable set.

Black Sabbath together again! This show I'd have to say was much better than the first one I saw. They played the greets like War Pigs, Iron Man, and Paranoid. They even had fire on the sides in giant torches, very cool. Their whole performance was excellent. At the very

end they released black confetti that said Black Sabbath in silver all over the crowd. It was a very memorable ending.

The Silverfish Story

By: Mark Thole

Well we have to give a little credit to the little critters that accompany us down here in Mini. Silverfish are a cute little bug, with little antennas. They vary from the color white to a dark gray. They come in all sizes, and they are completely harmless.

What are now Mini Silverfish have been around for as long as anyone can remember. Before we moved down the Work Study program was here, and I had talked to Joey Townsend (a teacher of work study) about a little history of the silverfish. Joey told me that the silverfish probably dated back to the start of school, here at Minnetonka.

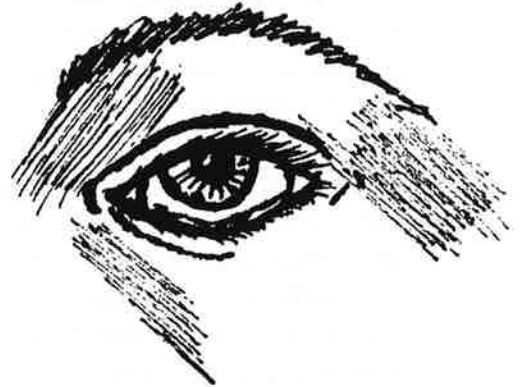
They were very abundant when Work Study was located here. And they were bigger! The great-great granddaddies of the silverfish we now have, Joey said, used to move the furniture around (I think he's exaggerating). Mr. Cunningham, Joey said, used to trap them and teach them tricks.

He also told me that the mat room has quite a few silverfish. He gave me some hints on luring the silverfish out of hiding. First you must spit on the floor (they love spit) then go turn off the lights and sit in the room quietly for about five minutes. Then turn them on quick and one can see them scatter all over the floor.

So, Mini Schoolers, when you see those cute little tiny little silverfish running on the floor, think twice before you go and stomp on them. They have been here longer than we have. Plus.... they let us come down here. So be nice.

The Real Delinquents **Author Unknown**

We read in the papers, we hear on the air
Of killing and stealing of crime everywhere.
We sigh and we say as we notice the trend,
"This young generation, when will it end?"
But can we be sure that it's their fault alone,
That maybe most of it isn't really our own?
Too much money to spend, too much idle time,
Too many movies of passion and crime,
Too many books not fit to be read,
Too much of evil in what they hear said,
Too many children encouraged to roam,
By too many parents who won't stay home.
Kids don't make the movies, they don't write the books,
that paint a gay picture of gangsters and crooks.
They don't make the liquor, they don't run the bars, they
don't pass the laws nor make high-speed cars.
They don't make the drugs that addle the brain.
It's all done by older folks, greedy for gain.
Thus, in so many cases it must be confessed,
The label delinquent fits older folks best.



--Submitted by: Leah Shoberg and Doug Berg

My Friend's Dog is Purple

By: Jessica Juneau

My friend's dog is purple,
Its eyes are large and green,
Its tail is almost endless,
The longest I have ever seen.

My friend's dog is quiet,
It doesn't bark one bit,
But when my friend's dog is near,
I feel afraid of it.

My friend's dog looks nasty,
It has a wicked smile,
Before my friend painted it.
It was a crocodile.

Secrets

By: Jessica Juneau

Secrets passing through the hall,
your reputation dramatically falls,
they don't care if it's true or false,
only your true friends stand by you
sometimes it's not,
and it hurts a lot
nobody cares if it's right or wrong,
but you must stand tall,
and you must be strong
for people will spread them,
false or true,
and they can be about anyone
even you.

The Breakfast Club

By: Mark Thole

This is a great movie about five different groups of kids in High School. They fight about each other's differences and are confronted about their problems. The movie has so much similarity to our school and how we fight because of our differences, a Jock, Nerd, Rebel, Prom Queen, and a Basket case. They all have to spend a day in Saturday detention.

The movie starts out with all the kids sitting in the library and they are all assigned to write a report on themselves. Of course there is tension between each of them, like the jock and the rebel. They are both on a power trip and want to prove that each other is stronger. The rebel also starts problems with the prom queen. He doesn't like how her daddy buys her everything and he gets nothing. Then the rebel and the nerd have a little quarrel because the rebel tries to compare his life the nerd's and gets jealous because the nerd is so sheltered and his parents take care of him and the family has no problems. While the rebels life sucks because him and his dad get into physical fights and his dad has given him a cigar burn on his arm. Then there is the basket case who doesn't really create problems between any one. She mentions her points and does pick at the prom queen a little but generally she quiet. The funny thing about her is that she just went to detention because she was bored.

During all this fighting they have times where they begin to talk. They each start to talk about their life and describe a little of their home life. They talk about why they are the way they are. The jock talks about how he feels and how his dad

controls his life. His dad says how he must "win win." Then the nerd tells how he got in to detention. In shop class he had to build an elephant lamp and when you pull the trunk the light is supposed to go on, but in his case it didn't. So he failed, and he can't have an F, so he brought a flare gun to school, and got caught.

After talking for a while and being all emotional, the nerd asked the prom queen if they were going to be friends on Monday, since they were friends and talking now. She replies with her self conceited self; no, no they couldn't be friends because of her other friends. That starts another fight.

If you want to know more you're going to have to go see the movie yourself. I feel this is a great movie to see. It brings up many great issues that happen in everyday life at Minnetonka, and every other school. So if you haven't seen it, you should do so.

Varsity Blues

By: Jeana Doescher

If you like watching movies full of Texas hick towns, football, angry coaches, drinking, and girls with whipped cream bikinis, this movies for you. Based in a small town in Texas, the movie is about the high schools star quarterback getting seriously injured and John "Mox" Moxon gets pushed into being the star.

Trying to deal with the pressures of his family and coach, he gets drunk all the time. The movie is supposed to be a comedy, but I think overall it's pretty dull.

Sports in Mini-School???

By: Tim Miller

Since I'm new to Mini, I was amazed when I first heard about such things, but it's true! In Mini-School there are athletes which range from cross-country skiers to basketball players.

First, let me tell you about the excellent conventional athletes in Mini-School. Randy Nelson has been the varsity soccer coach at MHS since soccer has been a varsity sport - 26 years! He's the only coach MHS has ever had. Two of his passions in life are Mini-School and soccer.

LaKaysa Bollig, Mini-School's own, is one of the best track runners in the state of Minnesota. She went to the state meet last year as a junior and plans to get there again this year and win. Way to go, LaKaysa!

Allen Jampsa is really into weight training. He's worked very hard in Mini-School and now is taking a mainstream Phy-Ed class in weight training and is outstanding.

Doug Berg's sports involve water. He canoe races through the spring, summer and fall. In the winter months he races on frozen water (snow) using cross-country skis. He participates in the two biggest cross-country skiing races in the U.S., The Mora (MN) Vasaloppet and The American Birkebeiner and after he retires he plans to take part in some races in other countries. Most of those big cross-country ski races are over 30 miles long and Doug finishes them in 3 - 4 hours.

Many kids in Mini-School start their day with Mini-School basketball. Some like to just shoot around and some compete

pretty actively. The active competitors include: Marti Norris, Jeff McGinn, Josh Boudreau, Andy Black, Ed Gudis, Matt Evans, Allen Jampsa, Dustin Olson, Derek Knowles, James Froemming, Matt Guffan, Sam Maeder, Aaron Sapp, Craig Schrupp, Jesse Steinwand, Trevor Scott, Lakaysa Bollig, Matt Holler, Nick Merchant, Dan Jorgenson, Ryan Prich, and Jake Anderson.

Mini-School used to have volleyball and many of the kids I asked would like to see it come back. With more gyms in the school now, maybe it's a possibility.

Mini-School kids like to participate in sports more then spectate. Most felt professional athletes are overpaid. The sports program most liked was Sports Bloopers.

Top Ten Cutest couples if they were couples

By: Mark Thole & Aaron Sapp

10. **Mike Bromme & Marti Norris**
9. **Ed Gudis & Elissa Johnson**
8. **Carrie Tiggas & Sam Maeder**
7. **Brooke Woltalla & David- Larson-Hughes**
6. **Shaun Johnson & Laura Huberty**
5. **Matt Thompson & LaKaysa Bollig**
4. **Chris Hinrichs & Jamie O'Day**
3. **Jesse Steinwand & Craig Schrupp**
2. **Katie Tierney & Charlie Urbia**
1. **Matt Evans & Lacey Landt**

Y2K

By: Brooke Weitalla

Y2k- One of the most controversial issues of today. Will our computer dependent world fail us? I would personally like to put in my two cents and say, "I think the majority of our population has created a problem that screams paranoia". Many do not share the views as I do. For instance did you know that it is virtually impossible to buy a power generator right now because the demand is so high.

There are people throughout the country forming communities and heading west for preparation. My own stepfather wants to stock up on ammunition and build a fireplace just in case. Now I can understand some concern regarding civilization, but let's be realistic here. The same people that create and modify the computer systems of today will still be here tomorrow. We will all wake up in the new millennium in our technologically secure beds with the same minor dilemmas and set backs we have today.

In my opinion the media is going to the extremes through fabricated stories and over exaggeration to obtain publicity. In the event that we do experience a glitch in the operation of our infrastructure it may serve as a wake up call to mankind.

Below is a list of opinions I gathered together to hear what the fellow Mini-Schoolers had to say on the issue

What do you think will happen with the y2k problem?

Lacey Landt It will not be good. I will be hiding in a cave with a lantern and a bear for food.

Shaun Johnson Human civilization will prevail.

Laura Huberty Everybody will wake up and go ahhh! Then everybody will eat each other and burn down houses and have tri-pod babies.

Leah Shoberg People who are prepared will be fine, informed people will be ok, people who don't believe it will panic and there will be riots but we will be fine after a week.

Cheryl Cermak Not to worry. A man out there will fix the problem. The only problem will be the cost factor.

JJ Day Y2k is not the problem. Its what the people will do because of paranoia.

Doug Berg I am scared, but it is out of my control.

Chris Hinrichs It Stinks but I'm not worried. Some stuff will get messed up but it's all good.

Only time will tell just how large or small the y2k is. Time will also tell which government agencies, corporations and utility suppliers are ready to weather the potential coming storms.



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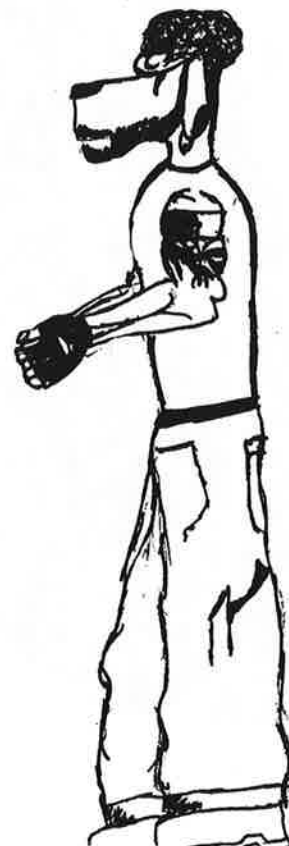
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March 1999

Address Correction Requested

Put these dates on your calendar NOW!

Doug Berg's Retirement Party
Tuesday, June 1
After school and evening at Lake Ann Park

&

Mini-School Recognition
Monday, June 7, 1999
7:00-9:00 PM at MHS