

COM - MINN

FALL

2003

BACK TO



SCHOOL

ISSUE
RELATIONS

Mandy Huberty

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.

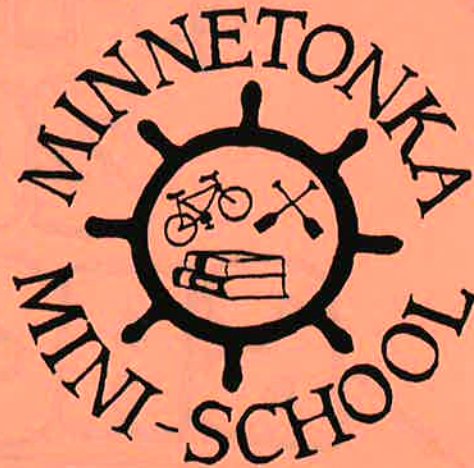
At Mini-School they begin to put their lives together – in school and out of school. They become part of a school family where they can be themselves without fear of recrimination. In Mini-School they set goals, share responsibilities, solve problems, learn academic and basic living skills, and have 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 word – 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 952-401-5920.



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

The Mini-School Staff is:

Ramona Anderson – Math, Work Exp.
Pauline Engleby – Science
Paul Gerten – History
Scott Johnson - Work Exp., Science
Merlin Zimmerman – English

Meandering Through Mini-School

By Merlin Zimmerman

As the school year begins, it strikes me how much Mini-School is a mixture of the old and the new. Take our new students, for example. We have 35 new students - about half the program - but among them there are many familiar faces. Mini-School teachers teach several of Minnetonka's Summer School and Independent Study classes, and almost all of the students who enrolled with us this year have attended one of those classes in the past year or so, so very few of our new students are completely new. This is actually more significant than it first appears. In fact, educational studies show that a major factor in the success of students like ours is the relationships that they develop with the adults in their alternative schools. By working with us over and over before they even enroll in Mini, many of our "new kids" are familiar old veterans the day they walk through the door.

We also noticed that this year we have nearly 20 "legacies" in Mini-School. Legacies are students who have a family member connected to Mini-School prior to their own entry into our program. We have at least 3 kids whose parents or aunts/uncles were students of Doug and Randy's. But much more common are the students who are the younger siblings and half-siblings of former students. There are nearly a dozen

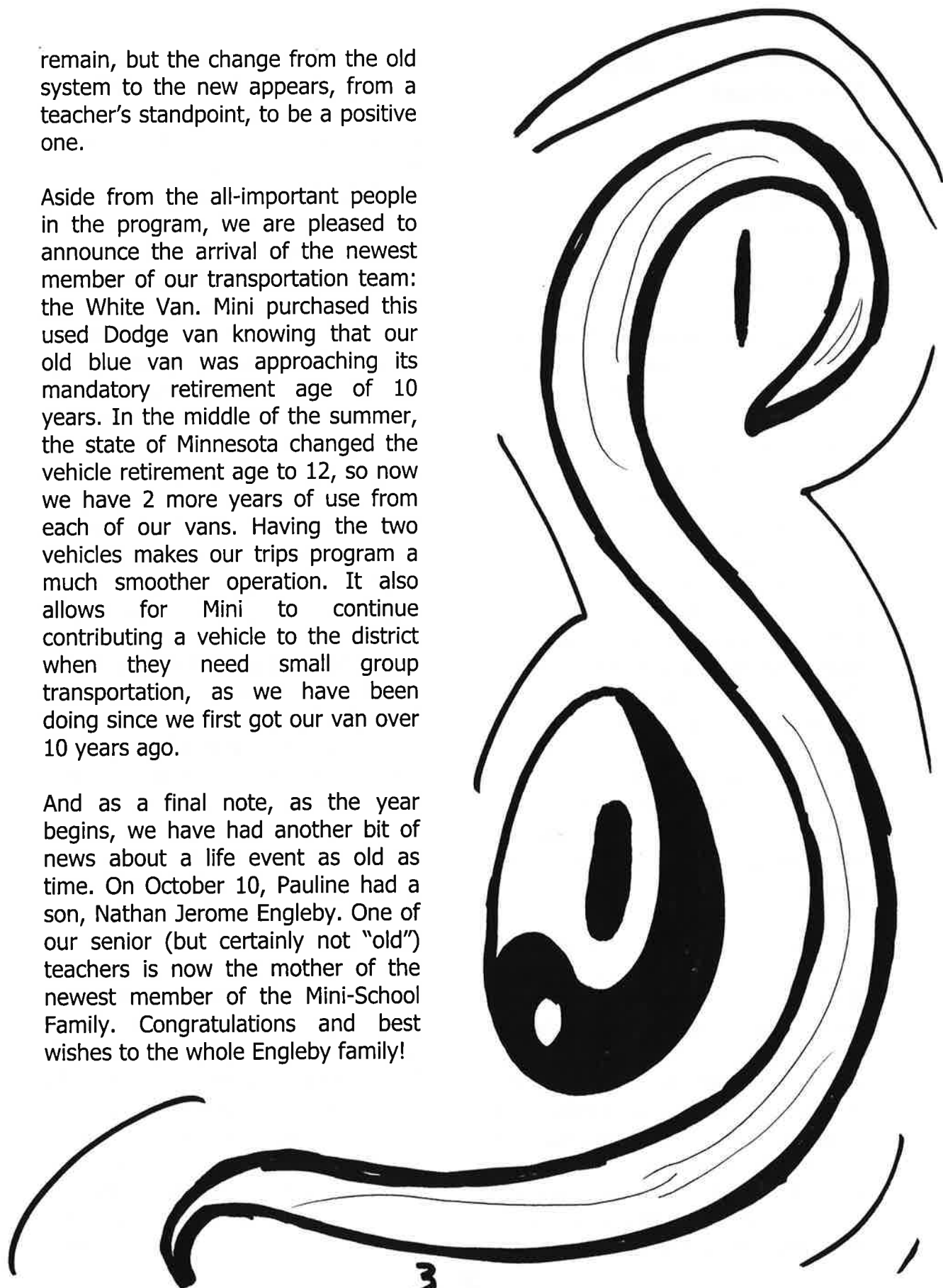
of these. This kind of long-term family contact puts us, as staff, in a very valuable position, in that we know what family life is like for many of our kids. The less of a stranger their parents and siblings are to us, the more we are able to understand the many influences in their lives. We personally know the parent that has been in dismal health for years, or who is getting miraculously better; we know the 5-year-old brother who is taking a positive step in his career choices; we understand when a parent or child might not be pleased - or might be greatly relieved - when the courts step in to intervene at home. Without years of contact with a family, the mainstream teacher has less opportunity to appreciate the details in a student's life. In a very real sense, Mini-School is the very model of a small community. Functioning as a modern educational program that recognizes the value of an "out-of-date" approach, the atmosphere of a program like ours harkens back to the days of the one-room school house where grades levels mix together and the staff and students work with each other on a very individual level.

In the academic arena, there is old and new, as well. As of this school year, neither Mini-School nor Minnetonka in general has to fulfill the Graduation Standards that have been around for several years. However, the "same old" part of the story is that there are new state and district standards that we all must begin to adhere to. The standards

remain, but the change from the old system to the new appears, from a teacher's standpoint, to be a positive one.

Aside from the all-important people in the program, we are pleased to announce the arrival of the newest member of our transportation team: the White Van. Mini purchased this used Dodge van knowing that our old blue van was approaching its mandatory retirement age of 10 years. In the middle of the summer, the state of Minnesota changed the vehicle retirement age to 12, so now we have 2 more years of use from each of our vans. Having the two vehicles makes our trips program a much smoother operation. It also allows for Mini to continue contributing a vehicle to the district when they need small group transportation, as we have been doing since we first got our van over 10 years ago.

And as a final note, as the year begins, we have had another bit of news about a life event as old as time. On October 10, Pauline had a son, Nathan Jerome Engleby. One of our senior (but certainly not "old") teachers is now the mother of the newest member of the Mini-School Family. Congratulations and best wishes to the whole Engleby family!



Mini-School in the Electronic Age or How We Finally Learned What the "E" Stands For

The Minnetonka School District has had a website for a number of years now, with a link on the Minnetonka High School page (under the pull-down menu "departments") to the Mini-School page. However, for all the eagerness we have been able to muster, it has never been possible for us to generate any content for our own web page. This may be a remnant of the Mini culture of valuing a rustic natural life. Well, Ramona is out to introduce us to the 21st century! She has begun working on customizing and managing our Mini-School web site! Thank you, Ramona!

Now that we are committed, it looks like our website will be coming up around Christmas. You should keep checking periodically at <<<http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/mhs/academics/mini/>>> to see it as soon as it flies.

In order to take advantage of our electronic resources, we will be publishing Com-Mini-Cations on the website. Anyone with web access, who would like to, will receive an e-mail from the Com-Mini staff announcing that a new issue has been posted. Our E-readers will then have the opportunity go to the Mini web-site and check out our current issue. We hope to eventually have

some archived issues available, as well.

In order for this to be an effective means of publication, the Com-Mini staff needs to know who would rather receive an electronic Com-Mini than a snail mail Com-Mini. In order to do this we are requesting an e-mail response from all our readers. (Logically, if you have no e-mail, you will not respond to our request.)

Here's what we would like you to do: Send an e-mail to the teacher editor of Com-Mini-Cations at the following e-dress

<<merlin.zimmerman@minnetonka.k12.mn.us>>

In your e-mail, please include the following information:

1. Your name as it appears on the mailing label of your Com-Mini-Cations, along with a preferred e-mail address for us to write to.
2. State clearly if you would prefer to continue receiving Com-Mini through the mail, or whether you would like to receive it via internet.
IMPORTANT - IF YOU SAY YOU PREFER THE INTERNET METHOD, YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE POSTAL MAILING LIST.

As soon as the internet Com-Mini is operational, you will receive a note with any information you need to access your copy on-line. Thanks for helping us make this technological move. In this way, Mini-School can be ready for serving our community for another 30 years!

Alumni News

Nick Kurian (2001) Nick stopped to the Mini-School office to chat the other day. He is working as a body artist at "Lucky Linda's Body Art" in Excelsior, and has been for several years now. This has been a very successful and fulfilling career path for him! Meanwhile he is living with Tanner Anderson (2001) who is attending MCTC.

Monica Williams (2002) Monica lives with her parents as she attends MCTC taking her general classes. Her plan is to proceed into a teacher's college later on and join the ranks of her amazing Mini-School instructors.

Kellen Davis (2001) Right now Kellen is going to HTC for Auto Mechanics, but he was recently accepted into "the Harvard of Auto Mechanics Schools" - Wyotech, in Laramie Wyoming. Until he goes off to school in the west though, he is moving into a new apartment with his girlfriend, he is going to school full time, and working A LOT.

Lacey Landt (1999) Lacey recently got promoted to International Sales Representative for the region of Asia, Latin America and Australia. She has been taking Spanish lessons and hopes to begin actually traveling for her job soon.

Lexy Montemayor (2002) As of July 2003, Lexy is performing as a model in runway shows, bridal magazine layouts, and even television shows in the Philippine Islands, where she is

living. She has spent a lot of time singing in a band, and learning Tagalog, the local language. Sounds exciting!

Wade Radde (2003) Wade stopped in just the other day, home in Minnesota after finishing Marines boot camp. He will soon be off to camp Pendleton for rifle training, and on to his specialist training. Wade found himself particularly unpopular with his Drill Instructor due to an e-mail that Matt Radde (a brother) and Matt's own sergeant had written claiming that Wade thought boot camp was a cake walk. Rather than get Matt back, Wade says he is considering how to make boot camp a memorable experience for his little brother Cody, who is Marine-bound next year. Pass it on, Wade! Watch out, Cody!

Mini-School

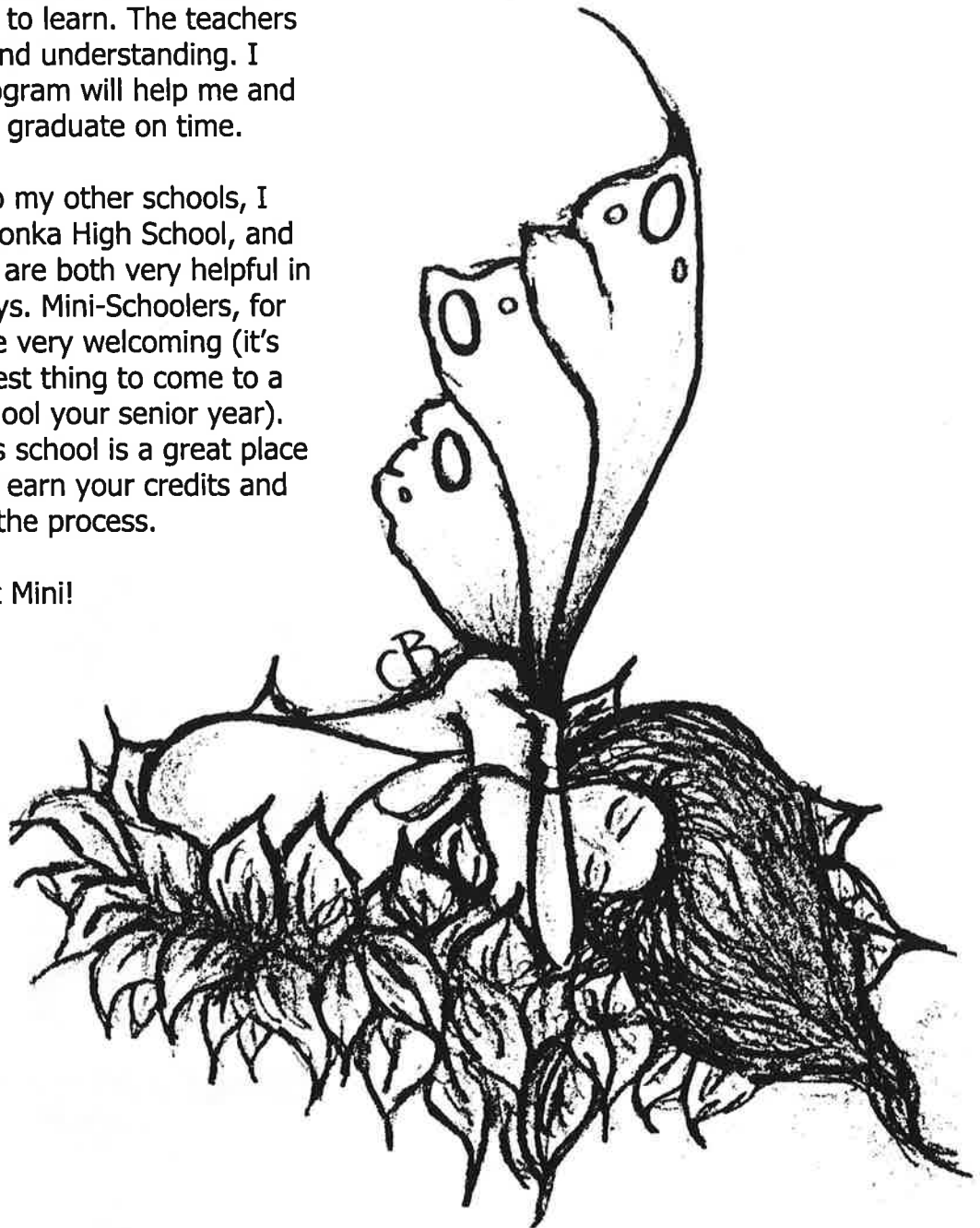
First Impressions

By Falica Smith

My first impression of this school has been positive. I am happy, in general, with how helpful, and polite the people are. I think Mini-School is a great program as well as a good environment to learn. The teachers are helpful and understanding. I think the program will help me and many others graduate on time.

Compared to my other schools, I think Minnetonka High School, and Mini-School, are both very helpful in so many ways. Mini-Schoolers, for example, are very welcoming (it's not the easiest thing to come to a different school your senior year). All in all, this school is a great place to learn and earn your credits and have fun in the process.

Thanks a lot Mini!



Mr. David Adney, Our New Principal

An interview by Joe Friedmeyer and AJ McDonald

On September 18, 2003 we had an interview with our new principal, David Adney. We asked him all sorts of questions like what his family is like, what his first impression of Minnetonka was, and what his goals for Minnetonka were. Mr. Adney answered all of our questions well.

We were sitting in Mr. Adneys office and we asked him, "Where did you come from?" He answered, "Brooklyn Center." He grew up there. So we got to talking about Brooklyn Center and how it was growing up there and we got on the topic of college. That's where our next question came in, "Where did you go to college?" He replied, "I went to many different colleges." He went to Gustavus Adolphus for one degree, University of Minnesota for another, St. Cloud State for one, and Harvard for the last. We asked how long he has been in schools and he says he has been around for 28 long years.

Then we asked him if he was married, he said that he was and that he also has three lovely daughters. We also asked Mr. Adney what kind of music he liked. He said country. Can you believe it? I couldn't! He tried to cover it up by saying that he also liked classical rock like Zeppelin or Pink Floyd (what we wanted to hear).

One of the biggest questions that we asked Mr. Adney was if there were any changes or goals that he had for Minnetonka. Closer relationships. We

agreed. All of us upper class people need to chill more often. The next question that we asked Mr. A was whether he would ever go on a Mini-School trip with us. He said "Maybe." (Personally, I don't think he could hack it.)

Then we asked if he had any questions for us. He asked what we would like to have done with Minnetonka. We said we would like to keep our traditions here at Minnetonka, like the sweet pep-fest before Homecoming, or water balloons, or the awesome prom dance, or water balloons. Basically we want to throw water balloons at all the freshmen. He gave us a simple, "Well, we'll see."

Yeah, right. Watch out fresh men!



New Kids' Interviews

By Mandy Huberty and Jess Reichert

A new year ushers in a group of unfamiliar new faces into the Mini-School family. This year brings in 35 new students ranging in grades from sophomore through senior year, all coming from different places and backgrounds. So what could be a better way to pry into the minds of our new Mini-Schoolers than through a new kids' interview? Our interview consists of a few short answer questions concerning opinions on current issues and happenings around the school. With this, we gathered a variety of unique answers. Here's what they had to say:

First of all, we wanted to find out how old the new kids were. The majority of kids were 17 (10 of them). There were six 18-year-olds, five 16-year-olds, and three 15-year-olds. A part-time job is a great way for high-school kids to earn a little money. Fifteen of our new kids had jobs; some places they worked were at gas stations, grocery stores, auto repair shops, or restaurants. Seven of the kids didn't have jobs. Playing musical instruments is a good past time for kids. Nine of our kids play instruments. Some of the instruments they play are guitars, drums, and piano. The majority of the kids (14) didn't play instruments. Another good past time is playing sports. Football, basketball, and snowboarding are just some of the

sports Mini-Schoolers did. Eight of the kids played sports, fourteen didn't.

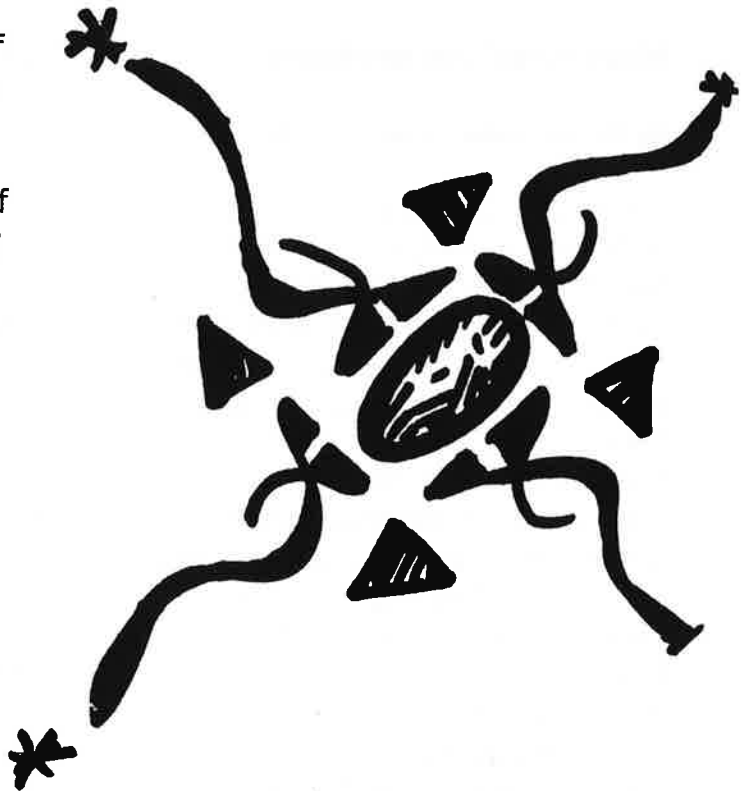
Next we asked them which bands they liked most out of a few choices. The choices were Korn, Zeppelin, Greenday, Justin Timberlake, or 50 Cent. Zeppelin got the most votes (9), Greenday got seven, four people liked 50 Cent, and Korn and Justin Timberlake got the least votes with one each. Two people wrote-in other bands.

What kind of cars the Mini-Schoolers prefer was the next question. The options were import or American. Fifteen people said they preferred imports, 7 people said they liked American cars.

In the next question, kids had to choose their favorite Mini-School teacher. The choices were Ramona, Pauline, Scott, Paul, and Merlin. Merlin got the majority of the votes. Paul got 5, and 2 votes were for Ramona. (It should be noted, that Merlin led the 2-week orientation class for the new kids, so he was the only teacher some of them even knew.)

Every year, Mini-School kids get the option to go on wilderness trips. We asked the new kids if they had ever been on a Mini-School or Independent Study wilderness trip before. Only 2 kids had been on a Mini-School trip, 21 hadn't.

I'm not gonna lie, our new group of Mini-Schoolers have an array of interests and opinions. They look like a pretty... neat bunch of kids. Judging by their common choices of music, and other interests, our new kids should blend in just fine with the veterans.



First Hour Rec Class

By **Ozzy Osmonson**

At rec, we usually play dodgeball, softball, kickball, volleyball, and most recently, a soccer-like game called team handball. Now that we have the Pagel Center, (the school's hockey rink) we play boot hockey and broomball as well. Paul is in charge, and he's pretty good at everything.

There are not that many people that come to rec class, but enough for a good game. It would be cool to have everyone in Mini come to a game in rec one day. I think it would be interesting. There aren't any girls in rec, it's all guys. Oh well, rec is fun and if there are any more people who want to come to rec class, they should.

The Kensington Runestone

A note from **Jayme Finch**

The Kensington Runestone, a controversial Minnesota artifact for 105 years, will be displayed at a museum in Stockholm, Sweden, beginning October 23. The Runestone is carved with runes of an ancient Scandinavian alphabet. The inscription states that Norseman were in central Minnesota in 1362. If that's true, it would require rewriting world history and geography. If not, it means that a Swedish immigrant, Olof Ohman, pulled off a huge hoax in 1898 that continues today.

Homecoming

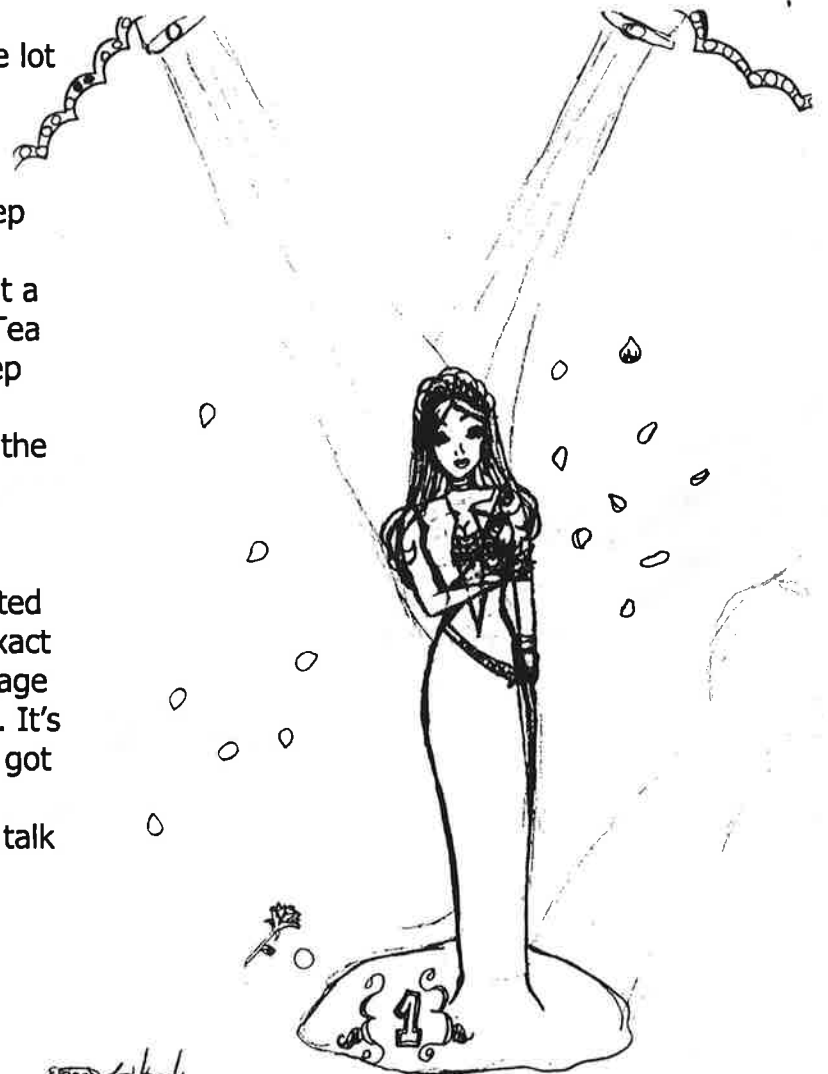
By Griffin Gau

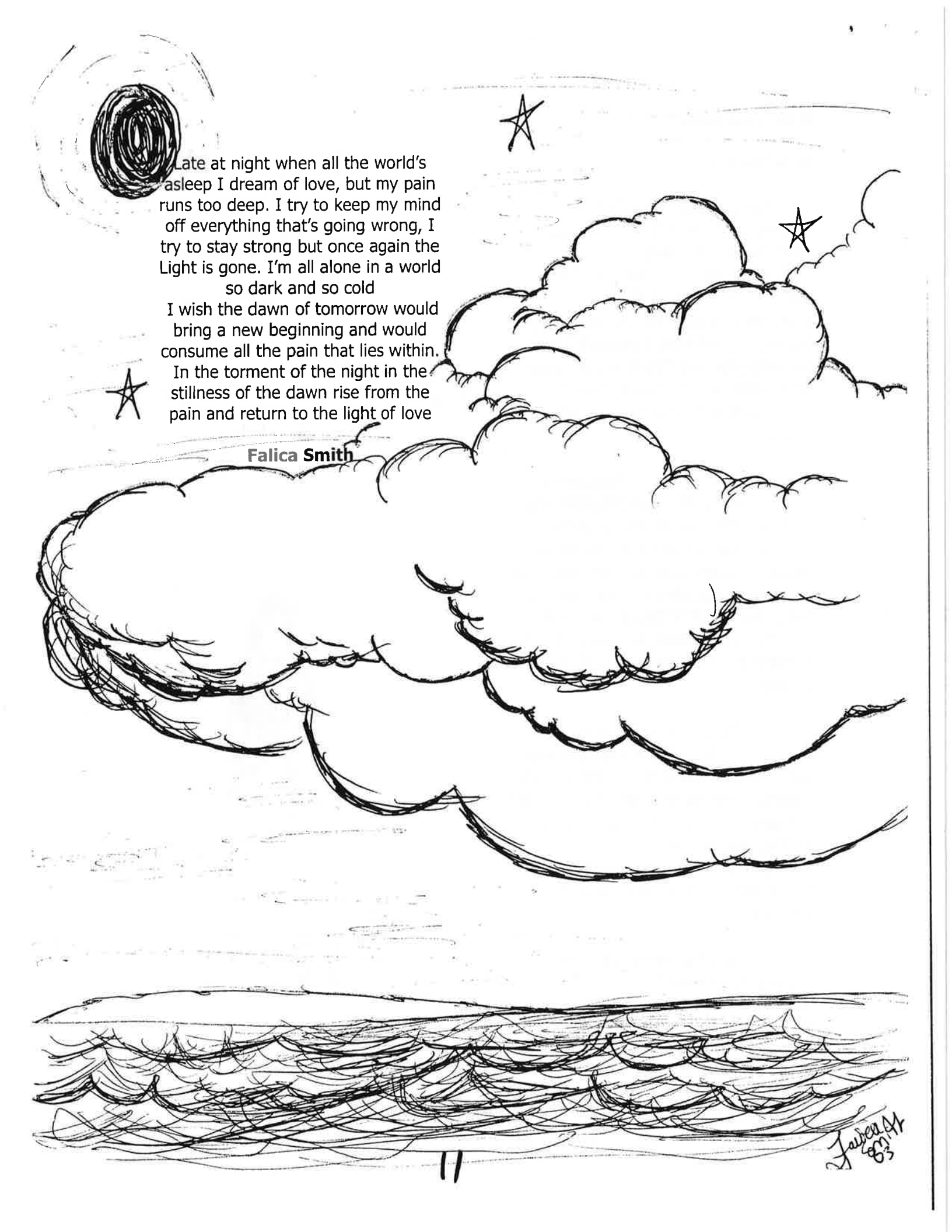
One day my girlfriend, Dani, approached me with a crazy idea, "Let's get on the Homecoming Court." So Dani Thompson, Tyler Rouse, and I got all the Mini-Schoolers to vote for us, and we got nominated. At first I thought being on Homecoming Court would simply be a good way to "stick it to the man." It turned out to be a whole lot more.

I thought being on Homecoming Royalty was just attending the pep fest and the Homecoming game, itself. We also had to volunteer at a nursing home, attend a Royalty Tea Party with our parents, do the pep fest, ride in amphibious cars in a parade in Excelsior, and go onto the football field at halftime with our parents.

Another thing we hadn't anticipated was having to coexist with the exact same people we were trying to rage against, preppy mainstream kids. It's a strange thing that once you've got a little, like Minnetonka Royalty, suddenly you're good enough to talk to (at least until you're back in school).

So, all in all, I came out of this experience with a new suit, a mediocre key chain, and new friends.





Late at night when all the world's
asleep I dream of love, but my pain
runs too deep. I try to keep my mind
off everything that's going wrong, I
try to stay strong but once again the
Light is gone. I'm all alone in a world
so dark and so cold

I wish the dawn of tomorrow would
bring a new beginning and would
consume all the pain that lies within.

In the torment of the night in the
stillness of the dawn rise from the
pain and return to the light of love

Falica Smith

Falica Smith
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The Summer Superior Hiking Trail Trip

By Christine Baert

The Superior Hiking trip went out on August 4th, 2003 and came back August 8th 2003.

The Students that participated were Chelsea Baert, Christine Baert, Matt Bantz, Shaina Fossum, John Friedmeyer, Jordan Helgeson, Katie Juneau, Chaz Kerr, Erik Onken, Paul Studer, Adam Swanson, and Andrew Wetterlin.

Venture out into the Northern tip of Minnesota (near Grand Marais) where bears and wild life dwell. Here you will find a group of Mini-School kids trekking the Superior Hiking Trail with nothing much but their packs, tents and various food items brought along. The kids in Mini-School are very fortunate for the school to allow us to go on trips like these.

On August 4th, 2003 twelve individual Mini-Schoolers got together at MHS at 6:00 am to gather everyone's gear and load it up in the vans. Accompanying us on this trip were Doug Berg and Paul Gerten. Doug Berg is one of the founders of Mini-School, and Paul Gerten, is currently a Mini-School teacher who decided to take over the trip program after Randy and Doug retired.

Finally we departed from the high school at around 7:30 or 8:00 am. On the road for about three and a half hours, we finally reached Two Harbors (just north of Duluth). When we reached the Two Harbors train depot everyone got out of the vans, stretched, sat down and chatted for a while about the history of Two Harbors and the Iron Ore Industry. After a little bit of school we ate lunch.



Our next stop, Granite Gear, is a company created and owned by a former Minnetonka Student. Granite Gear makes things such as packs for hiking, sledding, and also packs for dogs and other various wilderness accessories.

Next, we were all off to the Tofte Commercial Fishing Museum, an important historical site considering fishing was a huge part of Lake Superior's trading history. After a long day of driving and field trips we settled down at Judge Magney State Park.

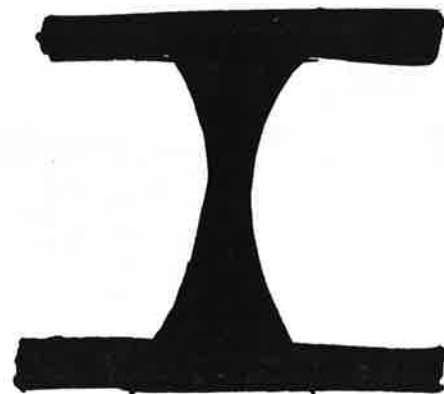
Tuesday, the day we begin our hike, but first we need to visit yet another historical site, Grand Portage. At Grand Portage we learned all about Indian trading and voyager life, we also learned how to make canoes out of birch bark and other things from nature.

Finally off on our 25-mile journey just north of Grand Marais. Tuesday we hiked about six and a half miles and then camped right on the shore of Lake Superior. It was pretty cold but we managed. Waking up at 6 am with a sore body and not in the mood for oatmeal, I forced myself to throw on my pack and begin shaving off a few miles from the ten and a half that was expected to be done on the second. After Hiking for a while the group all met up at the Jagerhaus, a German Bed and Breakfast, where the owners allow us to eat and get fresh water and maybe even use their bathroom. After a nice break we began hiking

again - finishing off the hike we set up camp at Durphey Creek.

Thursday we did more hiking, about seven miles and I'm sore as ever, but beginning to enjoy the burning in my legs. It's a feeling of accomplishment. The scenery around here is unbelievable, I wouldn't change anything about this trip it was outstanding. By the end of Thursday we had reached a point called Pincushion Mountain. I have never seen anything so extraordinary; it was absolutely amazing, watching the sunrise was one of the most incredible moments of my life.

The week flew by so fast, and I'm not ready to leave all of this yet, I fell in love with the outdoors. This trip made me realize that we need to appreciate what we have, and that more people need to take care of our environment. Still not ready to leave, but I'm dying to take a hot shower, bathing in Lake Superior all week just isn't doing the job. Two more miles to the vans and I'm on my way home.



The Mark Warren Trip I

An account by Jonathan Masterson and Josh Maks

The first Mark Warren Trip was out on September 22, 23 and 24 with the following students: Carli Sperbeck, Ryan Klun, Andrew Lopez, Sterling Shaw, Josh Maks, Jonathan Masterson, Aaron Peterson, and Charlie Horton. While Mark Warren leads most activities, Paul Gerten was the Mini Staff leader, and Tyler Rouse was Paul's full-time Assistant. There was also a visit from Scott Johnson and Ramona Anderson.

Day One

We got to school at 6 A.M., brought our things into the school to get them searched, and ended up leaving school around 7:30. We stopped at Burger King to get some breakfast. Got to the campsite at around 9:30-10:00. We all got situated in our tents then we met Mark Warren.

We all introduced ourselves, and he then took us into the woods, first stopping at a plant called mullen, explaining that it grows in hard packed soil and is commonly found a lot in road ditches. He explained that we would use the stalk of this plant to start fire, and then we proceeded into the woods. We stopped at a white pine tree. Mark explained to us that white pine is especially good for fire building because it gets very dry, and because when the branches die, they don't fall. Instead they stay

elevated and dry out. He kept moving then stopped at the basswood tree. He explained that not the outer bark but the inner bark was used for many things, such as fire building, and especially for making rope. We moved on and he stopped again and explained a bunch of smaller things on the way back. We went and got some lunch: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Day Two

The first night, and then the first morning began. We all went to the main cabin to eat a great marvelous breakfast that Paul prepared for us. Pancakes, sausage, ooooh, it was so good. After breakfast, we went to go prepare an island in the middle of the St. Croix river for the "Sweat Lodge" on the last day. We canoed to the island. Carli was my canoe partner. When we finally made it back to camp, Mark showed us this fun game called Zoogoo, where you throw this stick... and, yeah. Later in the day, we learned how to "make fire", it was fun and we all got it pretty good. The dinner Paul made was all right - mac and cheese - but it took forever to make. After that, it was bedtime, and we all dreamed great dreams.

Day Three

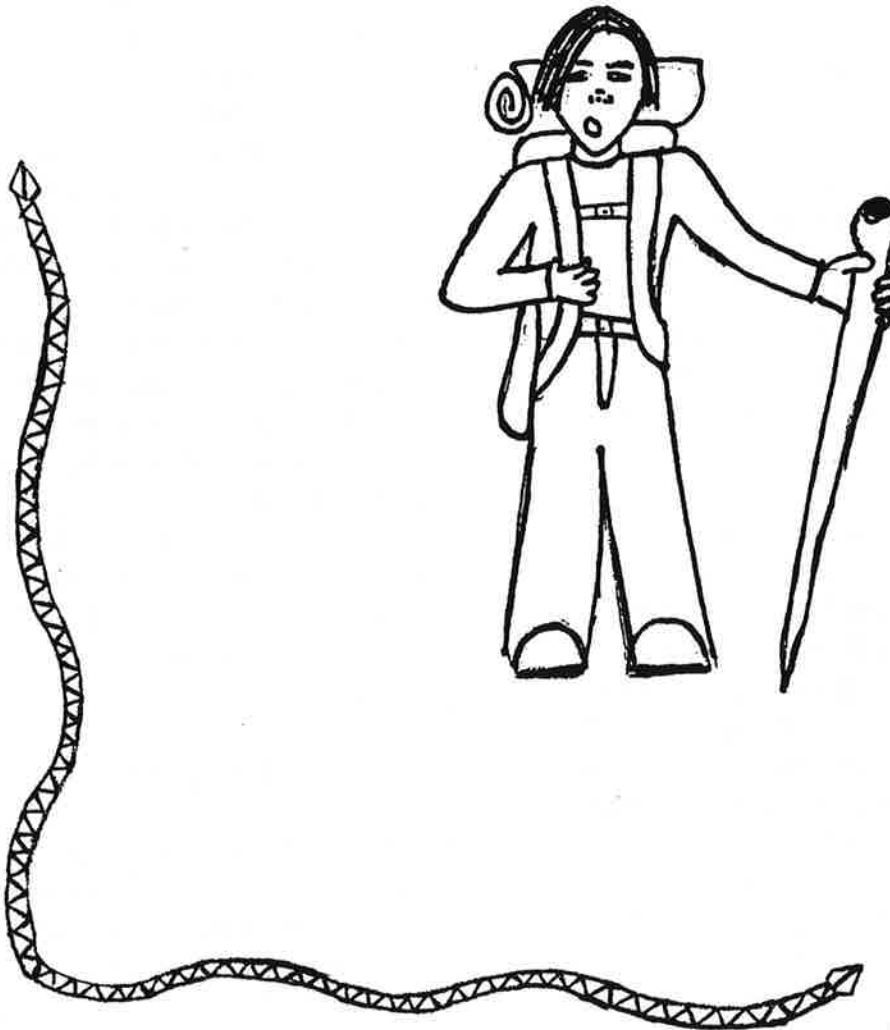
The morning was cold...again. All of us woke up and went to breakfast. Paul made us a nice, wholesome bowl of oatmeal. Then we were sent back to get all of our things together and get ready for the "sweat lodge."

About an hour passed, and then we were off to the island.

Once we got on the island there was no talking, it was kind of a weird rule. We finally got into the sweat lodge after having to wait for the rocks to heat. As we got into the sweat lodge it was already hot. Mark then started to pour cups of water on the rocks "in honor" of every person. After honoring everyone, he stated the "Nine Directions." This is the time everyone started to wuss-out and leave. By the end of the ninth direction it was only Aaron,

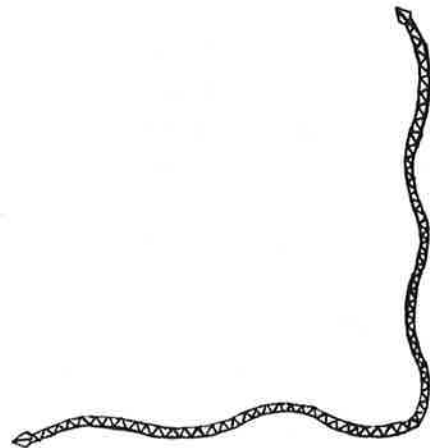
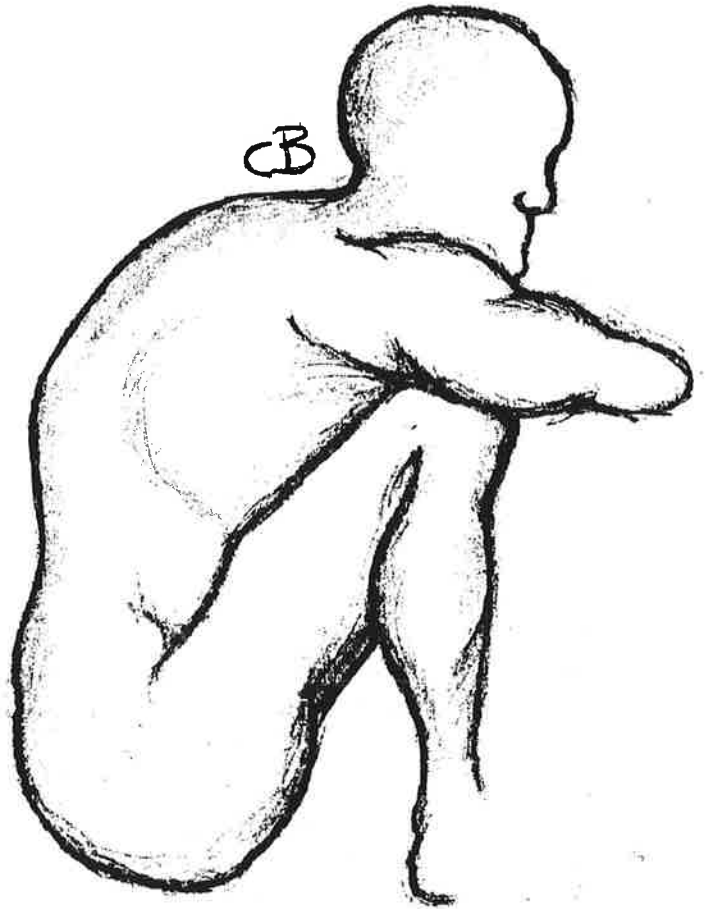
Josh, Paul, and Mark. After you got out of the sweat lodge you have to go into the freezing cold water, to "close your pores," I guess.

When we got back from the sweat lodge the next group was already there and setting up. So we got our things, loaded up the van, and ate lunch with the other group. As soon as lunch was over Aaron Carli, Andrew, Sterling, Josh, John, Charlie and I were on the way home.



Poetry by Christine Baert

I know it was your breath
Warming my body
As real as my own
It was you that held my stones
The weight of my hope
Watching me crumble
With that look of contentment
Smiling because you can
Fulfilling hunger
Never backtracking to see
That you left behind everything I'd need
We'd both smile
Like we were trying to hide
Covering.
I could find you
Eating and smirking
Taking in the feeling you lack
Crying in the corner
Tears of blood
Shed from the beauty you thought
You felt
Sopping up every drop of my flesh
Warming you, carrying on as if you knew me.
Sleeping in my dream
This life existed
With your clammy palms,
Sugar sweet
I once felt your soul it was like a wonderful prayer, gone sour.
Tainted, we'd laugh
Carrying on
Like vomiting after each meal, then cry.
Molding our veins to one.



President Bush, and Why He is a Bad, Bad Man

By: Dani Thompson and Kate Richardson

It is ironic that old men start wars and young men die in them. Does that not seem wrong to anyone else? Not to say that Bush Jr. is the only leader to attempt to solve violence with violence, but others just do not make it so obvious.

When you put it on paper, the idea, "I'll just hit my kid because he is hitting" seems really stupid and pointless, does it not? It is the exact same thing with the war in Iraq. Except it was not Iraqi terrorists that flew planes into the World Trade Center, and to the best of my knowledge that's how this whole thing got pushed to the front page. Obviously we have nothing but sympathy for those who lost loved ones on 9/11. However, we also have nothing but sympathy for those who lost loved ones and are still losing loved ones in Iraq right now.

Yes, we think it is wrong that Saddam Hussein let his own people starve and beat his country's women, while he and his guards slept in palaces with food and blankets and books. However, two wrongs do not make a right. It is not our job to play parents to the rest of the world. Our country promised them food, education and the right to live in a dictator-free nation. So far the food has been delivered, and American teachers have been sent in

to help. But their system of government is still in shambles. But since we are so wonderful we'll get around to it in a jiffy.

Apart from the war there are other problems with our fascist leader. George W. believes in making the rich richer and making the poor poorer. He believes in making a woman give up her right to choose what she does to her own body. He believes capitalism is a good thing. He believes that teaching abstinence is more effective than teaching prevention and contraception. He believes that spending hundreds of millions of dollars on killing people is more important than using that money to feed starving babies, better young minds, or find a cure.

In short, we believe President Bush is a bad, bad man because he is a killer, liar and a cold-hearted human being. Sounds a whole lot like somebody we just physically took out of power in the middle east, doesn't it?

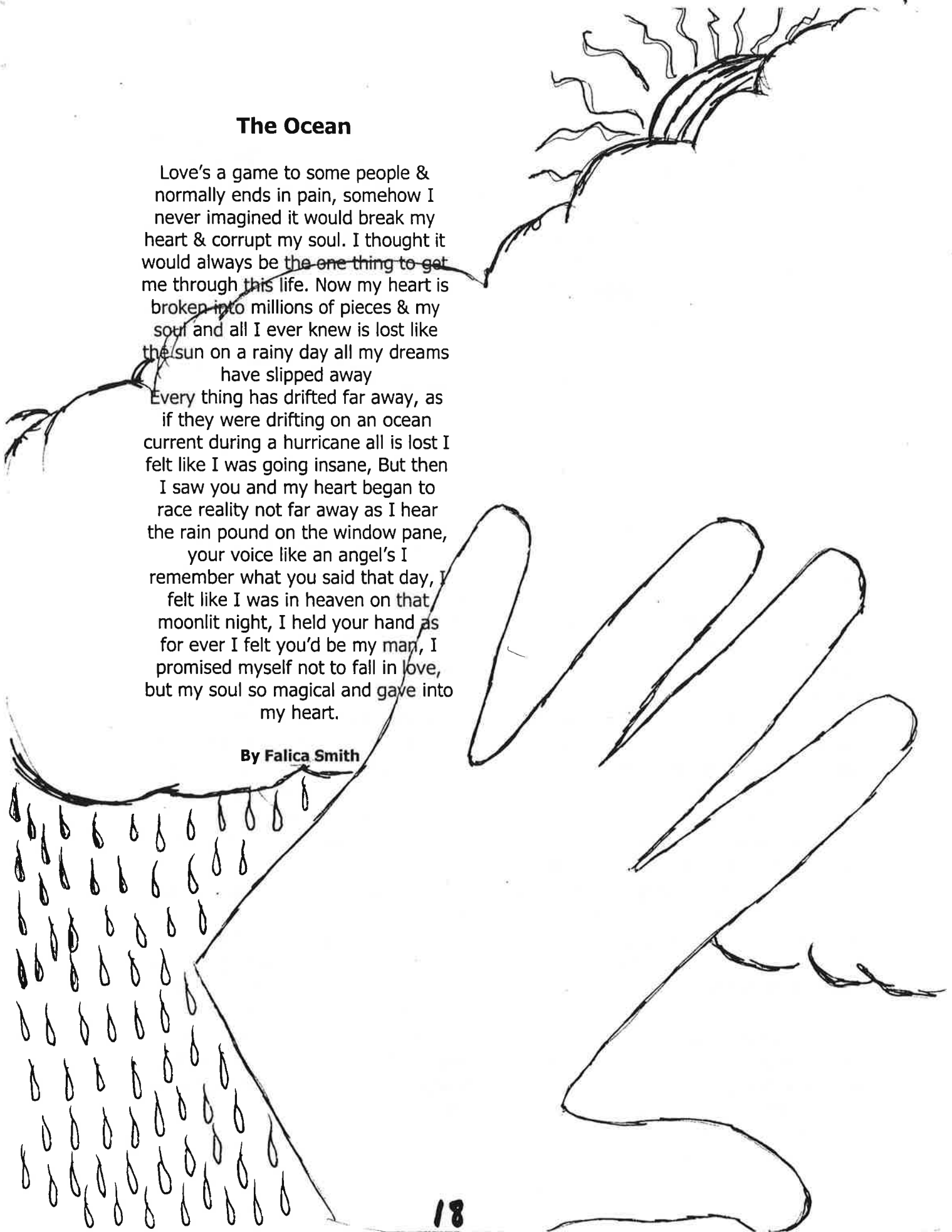


The Ocean

Love's a game to some people &
normally ends in pain, somehow I
never imagined it would break my
heart & corrupt my soul. I thought it
would always be the one thing to get
me through this life. Now my heart is
broken into millions of pieces & my
soul and all I ever knew is lost like
the sun on a rainy day all my dreams
have slipped away

Every thing has drifted far away, as
if they were drifting on an ocean
current during a hurricane all is lost I
felt like I was going insane, But then
I saw you and my heart began to
race reality not far away as I hear
the rain pound on the window pane,
your voice like an angel's I
remember what you said that day, I
felt like I was in heaven on that
moonlit night, I held your hand as
for ever I felt you'd be my man, I
promised myself not to fall in love,
but my soul so magical and gave into
my heart.

By Falica Smith





Mark Warren Trip II

By: David B.W.

One September ago, when school's tight grasp of authority had once again crept upon the innocent students, from which it derived its life, a van drove to Wisconsin. What was to emerge from that van was a different kind of student; equally respectable and ambitious yet, unable to find their way in a traditional public school system. Individually, the children within that van were known by many different names to many different people, but to the main student body of Minnetonka High School they were known as Mini-Schoolers.

I, David Barnier-Wells, was one of these Mini-Schoolers. With me were my peers, Mooch, Erica, Falica, Emily, Griffin, and Tyler. We had all signed up for the famed "Mark Warren Trip"; a trip that resonates

deeply within the history of Mini-Schoolers and is talked about by many. Mark Warren, after whom the trip is appropriately named, is a naturalist who once a year joins the Mini-School students for three days. These days are spent as a group, in the woods, learning the secrets and knowledge Mark has to offer to anyone who will care to listen. Many would describe him as a quiet guy who chooses to speak through his actions rather than words, which often have a way of not being heard.

The first day of our trip was an eye opener. Mark showed the group how many humans used to eat, when hunting was not an option, by carving a piece of pine tree "under bark" for all of us to munch on. Not much can be said about how this tasted, other than it tastes exactly how you would think it would, like a tree.

After our most interesting lunch, Mark took us deep into the St. Croix forest in an attempt to locate another tree known as a basswood. It was with this tree that Mark showed us how to make rope. I would never have suspected this seemingly useless looking tree could provide rope, something that our ancestors held in high esteem due to its many uses.

Experimenting with the basswood tree would eventually lead the group into our first night of the trip. A fire was made in order to keep ourselves warm from the crisp night that seemed to swallow us. It was here that the members of our group really began to fraternize with one another. Conversation of music and other such things filled the night despite the fact that I would have been content with complete silence providing the fire still kept ablaze. And so with a fresh new feeling of unity we retired to our tents only to be surrounded by our sleeping bags instead of the darkness through which our still burning fire shone like a beacon.

When I awoke the next morning, the smell of dew and wet earth stirred within my nose. While this was not unpleasant scent, the group and I felt more comfortable with the sweet aroma of French toast that greeted us when we arrived for breakfast.

Afterwards, our nature boy, Mark, informed us what we were to experience on this day. Naturally, when he told us he was going to

show us how to stalk an animal, I had to hold back the comment that, if needed, I could refer my comrades to an old girlfriend who seemed to excel in that area.

All jokes aside, "stalking" immediately became a challenge. It required an amount of patience I could only compare to that of a three-legged turtle. In order for one to stalk something, one must crouch their head between their shoulders while hunching over with ones hands folded into one another and not at the sides of the body where they've made their home. Its hard to recreate this image with words in a way that anyone but the writer could understand, but rest assured, had we been spotted by a stranger in our stalking poses he would have had something to laugh about.

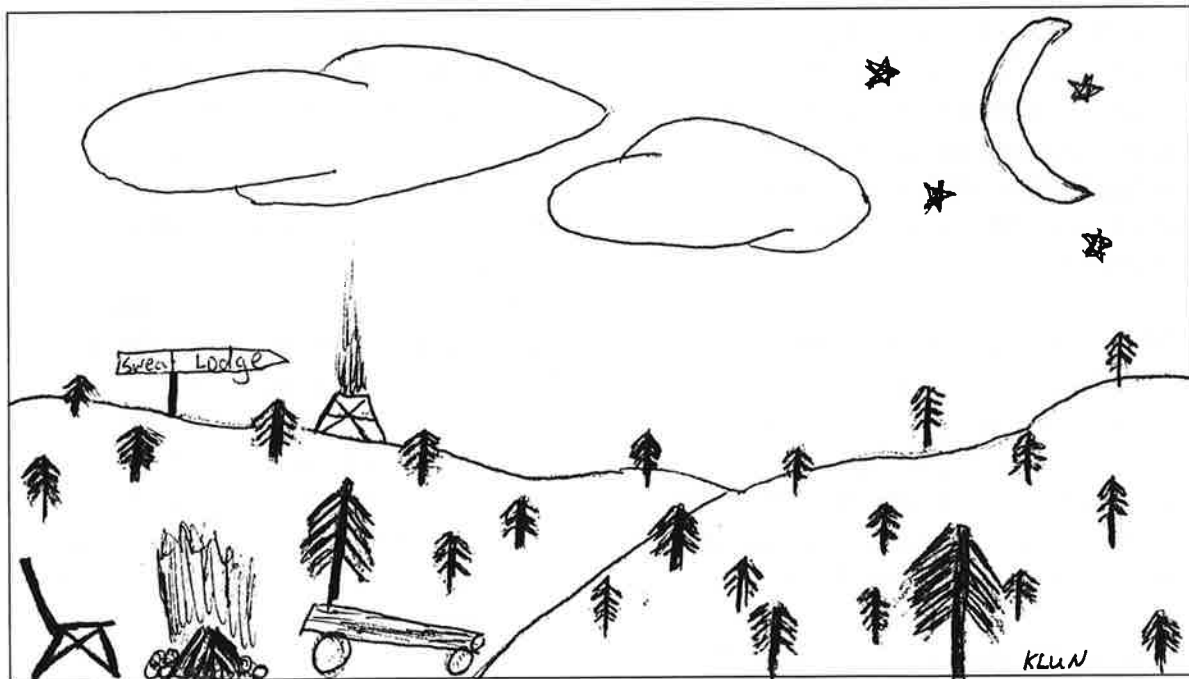
With a newfound skill, we returned to the campsite in search of a new challenge. So Mark demonstrated how to make a fire without the use of matches or any other flame source. However, making fire was not nearly as easy as an experienced guide such as Mark could make it look and we were all disappointed that we could not make one ourselves by nightfall. I, however, quickly forgave myself after I sat by the fire that had been made with matches. After all, we actually *had* them, and therefore, we went to bed warmer than if I had none.

The third and final day was, to Mark, the most important activity of our trip for it was this day that our group

would experience the sweat lodge. At heart a homemade sauna, the sweat lodge provided a place for us to have one final reflection as a whole on our trip. It was a bonding experience unlike many I have had. There, surrounded by old tent tarps, so as to hold in all the steam, I got to see the members of my group not as the classmates I had begun the trip with, but rather the friends with which I would finish it.

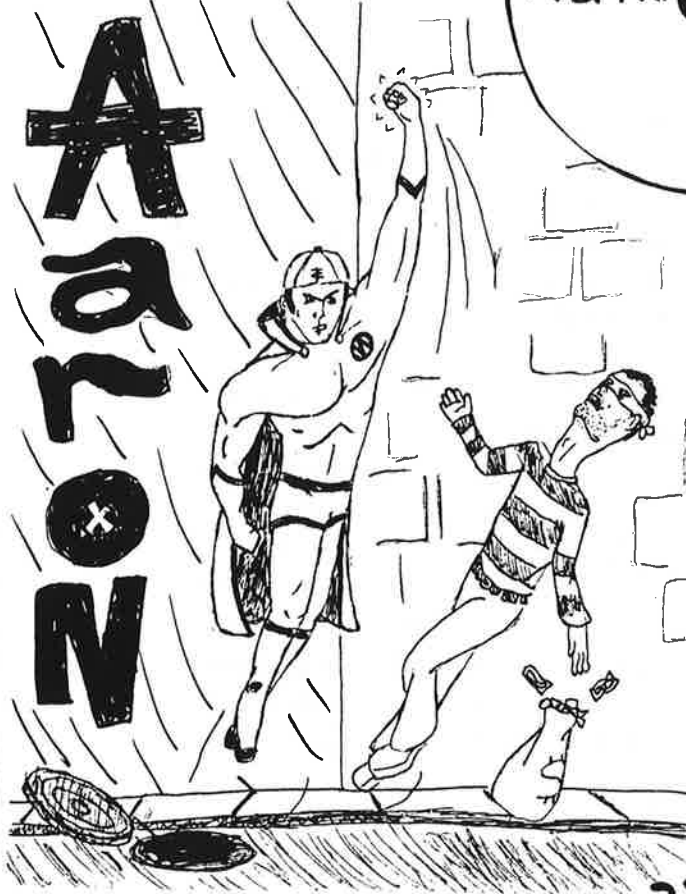
With the sweat lodge over with, we were left to take down the tents that we had slept in the past two nights. There was a solemn realization among the group that now our trip was over, and with it, the reality that we had created. Now that we had to return to school, our group would separate, as it must; with each

individual returning to their designated cliques in a never ending turmoil to find the acceptance that we as teenagers can never fully grasp and therefore never stop trying too. And yet, I know that each person that went on the Mark Warren trip found that acceptance from each other as we sat in that sweat lodge on that last day. More importantly though, those three days I spent on the St. Croix river forest in Wisconsin taught me to accept myself. And I think that's why the Mark Warren trip is as popular as it is amongst us Mini-Schoolers. What I came back with from that trip can't be taken nor sold like so many things in life we value. That is why, no matter what, it will always be treasured.





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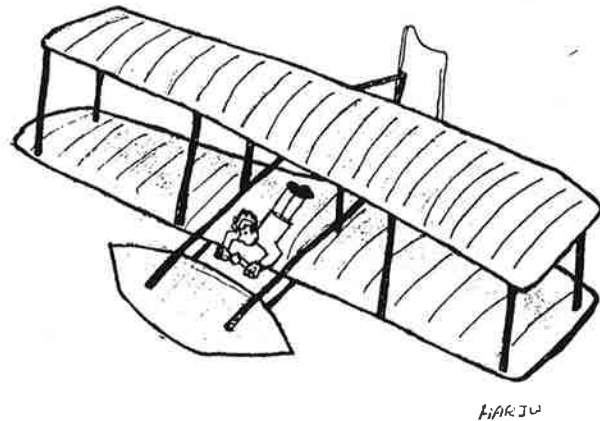
Airplanes for English Teachers

By Jordan Helgeson

Merlin's Airplane block was quite interesting. For the most part, it went in order of time. Starting at the first flight with the Wright Brother's glider, where they used wood and fabric and warped the whole wing to take turns and landed on skids. Then onto rigid body designs using three control surfaces: elevator (to control pitch), aileron (to control roll), and rudder (to control yaw). Later, technology introduced a new control method: thrust vectoring. This new technology allowed pilots to stop in mid-flight, take 90-degree turns, and out-dog other pilots.

We spent some time discussing all the different wing designs such as the delta wing, forward swept wings, straight wing, and swept wings. We also touched on the relevance of Nazi science during WWII. Many modern warplanes are based upon designs taken from the Germans at the end of the war.

THE 1902 GLIDER



Also, a well-known German vehicle company, BMW, made jet engines for Nazi planes. German's were developing stealth technology, and the mass production of "anti-aircraft" airplanes.

Another country mentioned was Russia, and their need for maneuverability. They have done most of the scientific work on thrust vectoring. Perhaps the most interesting topic was the X-35, and experimental plane using vertical flight, thrust vectoring, and stealth. All in all, it was a great block that kept my attention very well.



Thoughts of a Short Timer

By Janel Hagstrom

I came to Mini-School three years ago in my junior year. When I first came here, the only thing I knew about Mini-School was the rumors Mainstream had to say. I had anticipated my time in school, from then on, would be wasted hanging out with drug addicts and people who just were too slack-jawed to want to go to class. I was nervous. I was scared.

I didn't exactly take my junior year seriously. I figured "Hey, it's only my junior year, nothing really matters right now. I'm 16! I'm invincible!" Again, I was dead wrong. After skipping day after day and only doing minimal work to get by, I threw my junior year. I thought of it more as an ephemeron and I'd graduate early.

Senior year rolled around and I was back in Mini. I had a meeting within the first week. I was screwed. Thirteen credits required to graduate ... think that was going to happen?? Not at all. I took a look at what I was doing, and what I had done. I hadn't taken the program seriously. There is much more it has to offer than what people think.

It really gets to me when some people just sit around and slack, doing nothing all hour, then complain about how they're not going to graduate. Not taking things seriously. A majority of the time, all

I hear from them is, "I was this high, I was this drunk." Those people should be kicked out and left to figure out what to do all on their own. I should have been kicked out my junior year. But luckily for me, Mini-School gave me a second chance. I hauled my ass. And that opened up several opportunities.

By the end of my senior year, I somehow lucked out or something. I had made up ten credits that year. Ten! That's nearly 2 school years. Still not enough to graduate, but much better than where I was. Because of the help of working with Mini and Mainstream, I was able to take a bunch of college classes. And I don't mean HTC in the morning, I'm talking about level III College, the real thing.

People don't understand if YOU move your butt, you can be out of here on time, if not even early. It's up to you when you get out of here. No one is going to do it for you, no matter how much you think they will. A handful of people graduated early last year because they hauled. Don't take the program for granted; it's here to help you.

Anyways, if it weren't for Mini, I'd probably have dropped out by now. Instead, I should be out of here in a month, a month and a half, or so. Not only am I graduating now, I'm going to graduate with a college degree.

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Winter Holiday Season!**