For our 1975 January Term IDS Project the three of us would like to spend some time in the wilderness of Northern Minnesota. We would spend a minimum of three weeks in the wilderness, with the remaining time in the term to be used for compiling our final report, developing pictures, etc. We have two main purposes, or objectives of this project. These objectives are:

1. To experience and learn more about winter camping and survival techniques.

2. To do a comparative analysis of our experiences and those of a few noted wilderness authors who have experienced similar things. The authors that we were considering were Sigurd F. Olson, Calvin Rukstrom, and Roderick Nash.

How will we accomplish these objectives?

Greg Lais is a member of a corporation which owns a cabin on Farm Lake, 100 yards from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We intend on using this cabin as a base camp for trips into the BWCA, or in case of emergency. In our time in the wilderness we plan on re-tracing the routes taken by Sigurd F. Olson and Calvin Rukstrom on trips they made many years ago. We will then compare the sights, experiences, and feelings we have with the descriptions of those same
things that are given in their books. We will spend a
minimum of 2½ weeks cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
along the routes taken by these authors many years ago.
While we are on the trail, we will constantly be
practicing and learning winter camping and survival
techniques to maintain our safety and comfort.

In order to prepare ourselves for the comparative
analysis we intend on making, we will read several
books by the forementioned authors. Included in this
list will be:

Three books by Sigurd F. Olson—The Singing Wilder-
ness; Open Horizons; and Wilderness Days.

Two books by Calvin Rukstrom—The New Way of the
Wilderness; and Paradise Below Zero.

One book by Roderick Nash—Wilderness and the
American Mind.

We also hope to interview Sigurd F. Olson and
Calvin Rukstrom. Sigurd F. Olson lives in Ely, Minn.,
just 18 miles from the cabin. Calvin Rukstrom lives
near Marine-on-the St. Croix. We might even attempt
to persuade them to come to St. John's University and
give a talk on their lifelong interests and experiences.

What will be the nature of our final report?

Our final report will consist of four parts. These
parts are:

1. While we are in the wilderness, each of us will keep a daily journal of our experiences and feelings. These will all be turned over to the moderator as part of our final report.

2. We will give an oral report-slide presentation of our time in the wilderness illustrating the area in which we were and the things which we did.

3. We will submit a written report on the comparative analysis between our experiences and feelings, and those of the authors we have spoken of.

4. If possible, we will present the taped interviews of Sigurd F. Olson and/or Calvin Rukstrom.

We feel that this project would provide each of us with an invaluable learning experience; much more so than most classroom situations could. This project is something we will not have the chance to do much of our lives. And it will be both educational and enjoyable; a rare chance indeed.