Has there ever been a time in your life where you wished you had your own private getaway? Well, over 98 people actually made that happen by creating countries called micronations (Parker 2015). The premise of a micronation is to declare independence and sovereignty. Sovereignty can be loosely interpreted as being a separate entity with its own governing body whether it is a monarchy, democracy, dictatorship, etc (Medawatte 2015). What does any of this have to do with creativity though? Think of it this way, each of us wants to rule our own little world, but the people who build micronations actually do it. It takes a great amount of thought and creative juices to actually construct a miniature country, no matter what the level of legitimacy may be. In the pages to follow you will read more in depth about micronations past and present, what it takes to build one, and the creativity that is required not only to construct but also maintain.

A micronation is defined as, “an entity, typically existing only on the internet or within the private property of its members, that lays claim to sovereign status as an independent nation, but which is unrecognized by real nations” (Collins Dictionary). Micronations have existed for quite some time, with the oldest existing micronation dating back to 954 (Reid, 2009). They’ve been used to declare independence from larger nations, serve as a protest of government, to generate revenue, and some are just for fun or even given as gifts. There are no size or population requirements to create a micronation, it’s possible to create a virtual micronation on the World Wide Web (Siemens 2007), and some micronations claim to be located on other planets in the solar system. Micronations are creative in nature and a bold initiative for people to take on, but the people who have established micronations are extremely happy with the results. In addition, the people that create micronations are characteristically unique. Take for example Dean Kamen, the gentleman who created the segway, or Kevin Baugh, just a family man with a
dream. Dean Kamen established the Kingdom of North Dumpling Island, which is a two acre island off the coast of the Connecticut shore (Gould 2015). This particular micronation operates in the absence of electric grids and produces more energy than it consumes. Kamen’s reason for creation was due to local authorities preventing him from building his own turbine (Dunford 2009). Then, there’s Kevin Baugh who established the Republic of Molossia. Baugh and his high school friend James Spielman created the Grand Republic of Vuldstein in 1977. After King Spielman transferred to a different high school Prime Minister Kevin Baugh took the throne. He developed the Republic of Molossia that is currently one of the smallest micronations in the world (Gould 2015). As you can see from the differing examples above, there is a wide variation of people who are attracted to micronations and establish them for a multitude of reasons.

So then, what makes them unique and differentiates them from colonies, microstates, or the Vatican City? Creativity plays a major role in the idea behind micronations. When thinking about creativity one may consider the norms of creativeness to be art or music or original ideas. Imagine for a moment though how much creative blood runs through the veins of those who rule micronations. It is almost like being a child again and disappearing into the imaginary worlds of the innocent minds. They first must locate unclaimed land to deem as belonging to their micronation. Then they build a country from the ground up and develop education, judicial systems, governing bodies, regulations, national anthems, flags, currency, and other miscellaneous aspects of being a country. In an excerpt from a research journal, creativity is defined as, “the ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.; originality, progressiveness, or imagination: the need for creativity in modern industry; creativity in the
performing arts.” (Dervishaj, Xhillari 2014) Micronations fit that description perfectly. When breaking down the definition, the first part speaks about traditional ideas and rules. The following section talks about how creativity is defined by how someone takes those traditions and transcends them into new forms. There are a few similarities between the definition of creativity and the concept of micronations. First of all, micronations are new countries based on existing countries. That corresponds with taking existing ideas and making something new. Secondly, governing bodies, laws, and regulations are certainly able to be labeled in the category of traditional ideas, rules, patterns, and relationships. What micronations do is take the idea of government as well as laws and use them as a template to establish their own. Lastly, micronations are not recognized as real nations, yet there are many citizens of the micronations that live as though they are. These citizens are a great representation of the need for creativity in the modern industry as the above quote from Dervishaj and Xhillari mentioned. Some micronations even have postal services, education systems, flags, stamps, currency, or armies of their own creation. On top of everything, there are actual events such as the Micronation Olympics, MicroCon, and the declaration of “war” on recognized countries. Every aspect of micronations is well thought out and brought to fruition. Overall, micronations take the basics of what it means to be a country and transforms unclaimed land into something completely original and creative.

Even though micronations have existed for centuries they have been experiencing a dramatic increase in attention lately. In very recent times, micronations have sparked many other forms of creativity. The biggest example of a creative spinoff is the upcoming comedy film entitled Micronations. The movie-related website CinemaBlend unravels the plot of Micronations stating that it involves the main “oddball” character, played by actor Jack Black,
creating his own country similar to the micronations mentioned in previous paragraphs. Director Jared Hess states, “Once I learned that there were people within the united states who have created their very own countries, I knew I had to make a movie about them.” (Eisenberg 2015). Hess and Black were so entertained by people like Dean Kamen and Kevin Baugh that they became inspired to create a movie with to draw people in and inevitably educate the audience members about the creativity of micronations. Another great example of how the popularity of micronations is growing is the 2010 documentary How to Start Your Own Country. Within the documentary, real micronation leaders such as Kevin Baugh, Dean Kamen, and Patri Friedman are interviewed and discuss their experiences with starting their micronation (IMDB 2010). With two films being developed within a five-year period of time it is safe to say that micronations are starting to gain traction in the eyes of the people. Although they still are not recognized by other countries as legitimate bodies, the media coverage should steadily increase the number of people aware of micronations. This will in turn bring more tourism and revenue to micronations around the globe.

Micronations, although not recognized on an international level, are important to those who create them and recognized in the hearts of their citizens. The reasons behind starting a micronation vary. Some of the leaders do it for fun or personal interest, some are protesting or challenging the politics of their home country, and others aim to create a nation that is acknowledged by the world. Regardless of why a micronation is built it takes a high level of creativity to organize and maintain a piece of land. Many of the micronations’ leaders have created their own currency, flags, laws, and elaborate blueprints of how they want to run their country. When thinking about ruling a country the first idea that comes to mind is not necessarily being creative. However, for micronations creativity is king. Throughout the above paragraphs
you discovered new facts about micronations, how much creative thinking it takes to initiate one, and the people who have not only constructed but also maintain micronations as well as how they have done so.
• The Republic of Molossia is on 6.3 square acres of land and has its own postal service, space program, and currency, the value of which is tied to the price of cookie dough.

• The inventor of the Segway lives and rules North Dumpling Island. He is referred to as “Lord Dumpling” and has a replica of Stonehenge.

• Sealand is a micronation built on an abandoned World War II sea fort. It has its own flag and passports. It is “the smallest nation to lay claim to nation status” according to the Guinness World Record.

• There are two pieces of land still unclaimed on earth. The first being Marie Byrd Land a 620,000 square mile parcel in Antarctica. The second being Bir Tawil with a 795 square mile area which borders Egypt and Sudan.

• The Republic of Rose Island no longer exists because it was dynamited by the Italian navy.

• MicroCon 2015 happened in April and was a world summit for micronations where dictators of the world united.

• The micronation called Nation of Celestial Space has claimed the whole universe minus Earth.

• In 1977 the Principality of Hutt Island declared war against Australia in response to threats received for unpaid taxes. Australia ignored the declaration and allowed the prime minister to declare himself victorious.

• The currency in The Kingdom of North Dumpling Island is based on Ice Cream. According to the founder, Dean Kamen, “As long as we keep it below 32 degrees, our currency is rock solid”

• One of the Ladonia National Anthems is the sound of a pebble hitting water.
● The Midget Empire was formed in a school playground in England. It’s a militaristic state led by student “Midget Masters” who conquered the playground to return its different groups back under a single ruler.

● Friends Philippe, Pascal, and Sebastien founded the Consulate of La Boirie in 2007. They referred to themselves the coconsuls in a ceremony entitled “Apple Juice Oath.”

● The Empire of Atlantium has its own calendar split into 10 months and 73 5day weeks.

● Robinson Crusoe is forbidden in the Kingdom of Elleore.

● The Ambulatory Free States of Obsidia has a “mobile embassy,” also known as a volcanic obsidian rock that the Grand Marshal found on a hiking trip.

● A fourteen year old founded a micronation from his bedroom in 1979. He claims land in Milwaukee as well as Antarctica.

● Pitcairn Island was started in the 1700’s by shipwrecked mutineers.

● Whangamomona has a goat as its President.
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