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editor's LETTER

Conflicts of Interest Embraced

CONFESSION: I don't know how to play the guitar. I know, I know, I had you fooled. The photo totally suggests otherwise, right? That's because when it comes to helping my friend (and, gulp, boss) Dave Musolf get his side business, My Hotel Rocks, LLC, off the ground, I'll lace up my boots, put my model hat on and dive head-first into the trenches. Did I mention I graduated from the Derek Zoolander Center for Kids Who Can't Read Good and Who Wanna Learn How to Do Other Stuff Good Too?

We do it all here on team MNM+E, and we're not afraid of a shameless plug or two (learn more about My Hotel Rocks on page 72, and email me if you need a male model who only has one look). Speaking of potential conflicts of interest, I'll come clean on a few other topics that hit close to home in this issue:

Greek Roots: I used to work as a server at Santorini, one of the fine establishments featured in our Meet & Eat on page 32, and can vouch for the Greek eatery's brunch buffet and private event spaces. I had to serve many a bloody mary and mimosa to large parties on Sundays, and learned more about the service industry, private events and myself in two years with the Greeks than I ever could've imagined. Thanks for the fond memories, Nicklow family. OPA!

Nice Guys Finish First: Clint Greenebaum, one of our Hall of Fame inductees featured on page 65, was the first person I met at my first Meeting Professionals International (MPI) meeting. Almost two years ago, Greenebaum went out of his way to introduce himself to a nervous stranger who undoubtedly looked lost and alone. Standup guy! But just to be clear, all of our Hall of Famers were nominated and voted on solely by our wonderful editorial advisory board. So, as much as I'd love to take credit for such a pick, I can't. But I also can't pretend I wasn't especially happy with the results.



Northeast Neighborhood: Northeast Minneapolis, the region featured in our Venue Report on page 36, is the place I call home. Sure, it's turning into hipster central, but I love it. The place is swarming with brewpubs, bicycles, art studios, awesome restaurants and, as you'll soon discover, event spaces.

Personal connections aside, this issue was a blast to put together. It's always the highlight of our year to see who our readers loved most in 22 categories (special thanks to our new web editor Julianna Fazio for tabulating the votes—it can get messy), and assistant editor Brittany Trevick and I awarded our first Editor's Picks. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to honor so many hardworking, deserving people and companies in this exciting industry, and hope you're as happy with the results as we are.

Bobby Hart, Editor
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PHOTO BY: PAMELA DIETRICH.