



EXCLUSIVELY FROM SUN COUNTRY AIRLINES

# escape

AUTUMN 2008

The  
HOMETOWN AIRLINE

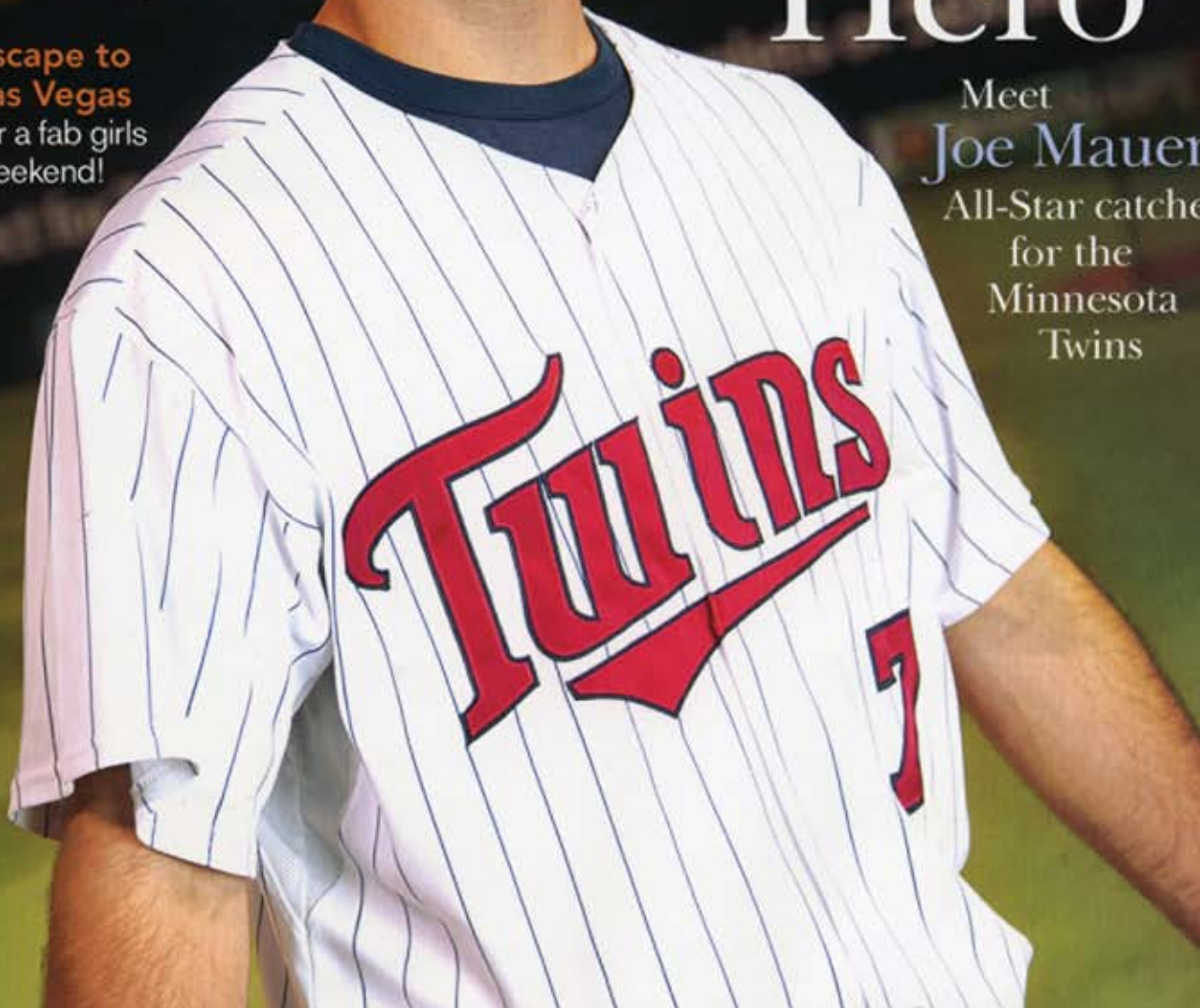
## Life After Retail

Cedric and Norma Jean Kirchner are having the time of their lives on ShopNBC

Escape to Las Vegas for a fab girls weekend!

# Hometown Hero

Meet  
Joe Mauer  
All-Star catcher  
for the  
Minnesota  
Twins







Valiant Swan



**Maiden Rock**  
POPULATION 121

According to local legend, Winona, the daughter of Dakota Indian Chief Red Wing, leapt to her death from the tallest bluff rather than marry the brave that her father had chosen for her.

## Secret Heart of Maiden Rock

Joseph Campbell meets Monty Python in the reverent yet irreverent art of B.J. Christofferson

There are some people who believe that Maiden Rock, Wis. ([maidenrock.org](http://maidenrock.org)) is situated on a vortex, or energy center. For the record, B.J. Christofferson is not one of them. But, Christofferson will admit that there is something that lured her to open her Secret Heart Gallery ([secretheartgallery.com](http://secretheartgallery.com)) in this tiny, picturesque town on the Great River Road overlooking Lake Pepin, about an hour southeast of the Twin Cities.

For Christofferson, the move to Maiden Rock represents a commitment to her art, a fascinating

and mysterious amalgam of classical religious and archetypal imagery, words and everyday objects such as artichokes, motorcycles and birds' nests. "Recently, someone described my work as Joseph Campbell-meets-Monty Python," Christofferson laughs.

Until a year ago, Christofferson worked with autistic teenagers at Southwest High School in Minneapolis. But, working full-time, making art and doing art shows became increasingly challenging for the artist. "I have endless ideas and I really can't keep up with them, as there are not enough hours in the day," she



The Dream said: Be Careful For Your Heart



Cosecha  
(Harvest)

Amulet

Guardian

says. Heeding the siren call of her muse, Christofferson made the move from big city to incredibly small town.

Christofferson's charming brick home/gallery is directly across the street from a bakery that sells impossibly delicious creations such as fresh yellow pineapple tart strewn with crushed bright pink peppercorns, cheesecake, quiche and beautiful breads. Her turquoise-painted front porch is filled with favorite things chosen for their color, graphics, energy, power and humor. Resist

the urge to shop for shiny Mexican tin ornaments, milagros for good luck, necklaces, bracelets, matchboxes, postcards of Che Guevara and other treasures until you've seen Christofferson's dioramas and "tourist art" on the walls inside.

Like miniature stage sets for the passion plays that take place inside Christofferson's extraordinarily reverent yet irreverent mind, her dioramas are wooden boxes filled with layers of words, images, whimsy and mystery. What she calls tourist art are actually small treasures made of clay adorned with jewels, beads, coins and milagros. "I named it tourist art because this is what I



Our Lady of Somows in a Blue Checked Dress

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want to find when I go somewhere on vacation. I always look for things like these, but never find them, so I decided to make my own."

Even tourists who don't believe in vortexes find Secret Heart Gallery to be a spiritual, mystical place. "For me, the heart is the thing that keeps us alive," Christofferson says. "It is our persona, and so the secret heart is the innermost person, the real you."

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