

March 20, 2003

Dear Friend,

I want to invite you to join me on the adventure of a lifetime.

As you know, I have built a houseboat to take us on this journey through the most important and revered river in America. We will set out in the town of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, just below the last dam without boat passage, and travel through ten states of the heartland of America, completing the voyage in New Orleans, Louisiana. Cruising along at a pace of our choosing, we'll explore wild countryside along the banks of the river and ride bikes through river towns, discovering new people and places, stopping for food, supplies, and anything else we may need.

The trip is an open journal, and we'll create our own adventure as we go. Imagine a summer of waking up in a new place everyday, evening guitar-jams by the light of the moon and stars, cigars during the quiet nights on the open water, sunrise and sunset sessions in hammocks, befriending and sharing our story with those we meet in river towns along the way, navigating the most important waterway in North America, the sound of authentic blues and jazz in the streets of Memphis and New Orleans, experiencing nature in a way which others only dream of, and much more.

This trip will be like no other undertaken by young men such as us. While so many watch great adventures take place from the sidelines, whether in movies or books or magazines, few actually take it upon themselves to live the adventure in their own lives. Too often we allow ourselves to become numb to our frustration of the routine of work and life. This dream was born out of that same frustration. It demands a wild, adventurous heart and the willingness to take risks.

I truly believe that this will be more than a vacation—it will be a challenge and a life-changing journey. We will be the ones that other young men refer to when they speak of adventurers who refused to accept life as it comes, and instead took it into their own hands. We will be an inspiration for the next generation of young people who desire to find themselves beyond the confines of a classroom.

I need a partner with the same values and thirst for life as myself, and that's why I am inviting you to take this trip with me, and to make it your own. I know that we will not only discover this beautiful country, but that we will also discover who we are along the way.

Sincerely,
Mike