



Kurt Graffunder

Kurt Graffunder and I both lived in Section 7, Kirk Hall during our freshman year. We became very close friends and roomed together in a series of squalid apartments (often in basements of houses) in the Mac neighborhood for the next two years. Kurt dropped out of school in the middle of our sophomore year and started working at 3M, but we continued to room together the next year. We moved every semester for two years in the futile hope that we would find better accomodations.

We finally lived in one of those row-house apartments just west of the school on Grand. Our next-door neighbor was Sara Kemp from the class of 1969. Kurt and Sara married about a year later, right after our class graduated. Kurt went back to Mac around that time and finished around 1973. He majored in Psych and was strongly influenced by Walt Mink. Ten years ago, Kurt came to our 25th reunion because we had invited Walt as a guest of our class.

Although I spent 20 years in the St. Louis area after graduating, Kurt and I kept in close touch and we vacationed together every summer for 15 years at small resort that he and his family had been going to since he was kid. After his death we and his family have continued to go there every year. Kurt and Sara's son, David, who was born in 1978, lives in Minneapolis.

Kurt was an interesting and talented man. He loved to build and fix things and always had some electronic components lying around in various states of disassembly. He also became a serious brewer and I can attest to his talents in that endeavor. We shared similar tastes in music and often spent long hours listening to music, enjoying malt beverages and shooting the breeze. Our last vacation together was only a month before Kurt died and we had a great time regaling his son and one of his friends, both of whom were going to start college in a few weeks, about our salad days at Macalester.

I am attaching a picture taken of Kurt at our wedding reception in 1986.

*Brent Clark*

