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Brian Z Lives



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"I always wanted to have his haircut." "Man of the century." These are common remarks about a man St. Paul's Generation Y has grown

quite nostalgic about, Brian Z.

That's right, Brian Czock. For the small handful of you who might not remember him, or perhaps may not be at all familiar with him, he hosted interstitial programming for kids on KMSP Minnesota Nine in between cartoons such as *Ducktales*, *Rescue Rangers*, *Talespin*, *Goof Troop*, *Darkwing Duck*, etc. In the nine year period, Czock is said to have won four Emmy Awards, and the National Broadcasters Association "Best of the Best" award.

"I remember calling into Brian's show in the morning before school and *BRIAN Z* Continued on 9

BRIAN Z From I

trying to win a 'Sega Genesis Impact Vest.' Channel 9 doesn't have contests anymore; nor does it have a children's shows personality and I'd like to see that change," one Open School student reminisces. At Open School, students tend to glorify anything from their childhoods, then sit around talking about it until a new old subject is dug up from the dirt of the late 80's or early 90's.

We tracked Brian Z down on the internet through a search engine. The results: one website, brianz.com. Camp Wacki Kooki titles the page. This is a place where you can order audio tapes for children, narrated by, you guessed it, Brian Z. The site also features games and quizzes.

Establishing that he was still alive was a relief, but did he still live around here? The blood of a stalker pumped through my veins. It was a beautiful thing when his name popped up on QwestDex Directory. He re-

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sides in St. Louis Park. So we gave him a call.

Brian Z was a strong advocate for the anti-drug campaign and board member of Minnesota D.A.R.E. Czock, being so uniquely energetic, raised suspicions of possible personal drug use. Senior Dan Falla just didn't buy it, "I wish he was still on TV. He used to rock KMSP, even before it was UPN. His alleged drug use- a total fabrication, its all lies. A man that great would never touch illegal substances."

The interstitial doors consisted of call-ins, animals, and guests like police officers and what have you. In the summer, Czock would host a weekly half hour special on Fridays in the afternoon.

In 1996, the 26 year old entertainer's "faith came alive," as Czock explained it.

Shortly after, in February of 2000, he decided to resign his position at KMSP. He was pleased with all he'd accomplished throughout the years, and was ready to move on. He didn't dislike his job at the station, in fact, quite the contrary, still keeping in contact with friends and former co-workers.

"He was a man... No, he was a legend. I looked up to him when times were hard,"

recollects Marcos, an Open School student.



Since his departure from KMSP,

Czock has gotten deeply involved in his Christianity. He narrates audio tapes for children and is particularly interested in youth-oriented ministry, as well as family and men ministry, especially men ministry. He feels that men are almost discouraged from church, being taught to fear God.

His goal in men ministry is to show that God can not only be a vengeful God, but a loving God as well. With two boys and a wife, he couldn't be better. "Things are great for me and I feel very blessed with my family. I am really happy. To God be the glory," stated Czock.

When not involved in one of his many projects, you may catch him at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, where he is very active within the music department. Here's to you Brian Z!

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Who shall we stalk next? Let us know the deal. What kind of childhood celebrity haven't you heard from for awhile? You've always wondered where they went, and what they're doing now.

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You can stop by Leo's room or find Jon or Emmanuel in the halls of Open School. Why DO they call it a school?◊