

faces: Phillip Becht



CRAIG BORCK, PIONEER PRESS

Occupation: Chef, Modern Café, 337 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-378-9882

Age: 37

What's your favorite restaurant? I like Rainbow Chinese Restaurant and Origami in Minneapolis. It's food I don't make all that much or all that well, and I love fresh fish.

Who in the food business do you most admire? Steven Brown. We worked at Rock Star together, and now he's the chef at Levain. He taught me a lot about the craftsmanship of cooking and being dedicated.

What's the most bizarre food you've ever

eaten? Once in Greece, I ate goat brains. They were mushy and tasted like liver — like paté. They reminded me of sweetbreads.

What was the first meal you ever cooked? Fried eggs when I was young. I didn't like cereal. I was an egg man.

What's in your refrigerator at home? Rolling Rock beer, mustard, a loaf of bread and some cheese. I live at work and don't eat at home a lot.

What's your favorite junk food? Chocolate.

Where is home to you? I've moved around

so much all my life. I guess I would say Minneapolis, where my 5-month-old son, Hugo, lives.

If you weren't cooking for a living, what would you be doing? I'd probably be in the Peace Corps.

Where do you see yourself in five years? I would like to have a small restaurant of my own, possibly in Costa Rica. That's why I like working here. It reminds me of the kind of place I'd like to have. I want to be by the sea. The older I get, the more I think about being in sunshine and water.

— Nancy Ngo