

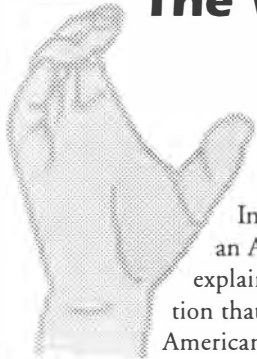
the CHALLENGER

A Publication of the Harper College Honors Program

Issue 3 ♦ April 2002

The World Viewed Differently: American Deaf Culture

By Deborah Abbott



In DIV101 class, an Asian student explained in a presentation that Chinese Americans in a Chinese menu written in Chinese.

The foods are authentic, prepared without odd colorings and other recipe alterations. The whole family eats from the communal bowl, knowing that a shared meal brings a family together. If the meal is good, a belch will be followed by the host saying, "Thank you." An appeased appetite is important to Chinese people, as is word and deeds.

Latino Americans honor family above everything else, often keeping more than two generations together. A friend explained that, for his parent, "la familia" is the reason she wakes at dawn and works two jobs—to allow her family the best that life has to offer by providing a warm home, enough food, and a good education for the children.

None question that these are examples of culture. However, Deaf people—with language, characteristics, and a set of values specific to them—still struggle to have Deaf Culture recognized and valued as such.

Years ago, the only way to communicate with a non-hearing person was through an interpreter or by using Relay Service. The Illinois Relay provides an 800 number for hearing people to call. When the operator answers, s/he listens to what you are saying and types those exact words in a teletype machine (TTY) that corresponds to the deaf person's TTY. The deaf person types a response and the Relay operator reads that to the hearing caller.

This process can take a long time and inflection and personalization are not really exchanged.

Communicating with a Deaf friend is much simpler than it was even a few years ago. Nowadays, more students opt to learn American Sign Language (ASL) as a second language, rather than German or French, and it's quickly approaching the frequency of Spanish. Technology has opened wide doors to communication enabling get-togethers to happen with regularity. Text pagers and e-mail abound and are the courier of instant news back and forth to deaf people.

When you arrive at your friend's house for a gathering, pressing the button doesn't ring a bell. Instead, somewhere in the home, a light will flash on/off to alert her.

You cross the threshold and—rather than a cold handshake—you are greeted with a hug of welcome from those who you have met before. Since you do not know everyone present, you are introduced: Deaf (Deaf Culture), deaf (physically non-hearing), CODA (child of deaf adult), HH or HI (hard of hearing/ hearing impaired, meaning partially deaf), or Hearing. The introduction includes information on your family members, where you grew up, where you attended school, and what you are involved with in Deaf World. Anyone new to you then reciprocates with all of those indicators.

In the well-lit kitchen, you make yourself comfortable; it's time to begin a long discussion during which you catch up with what's going on. What Deaf events have you attended? (Venues range from athletic events to picnics to theatrical performances.) Who have you seen recently? Anyone new to the conversation is described: size of the body, skin and hair color, where s/he lives and who s/he knows. Body language is very important, so you nod as you understand to let the person know you are paying attention.

As the meal begins, you continue conversations; in expressing with ASL, you can "talk" with your mouth full (your hands are busy!). If you are

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From the Editor

Have you ever wondered what your South American date means when she pulls her skirt, how to communicate with deaf culture, or what Queen really encourages you to bite in *Another One Bites The Dust*? Although reading a heartwarming birthday card from your Grandma may communicate a deep fulfillment to you, this edition of *The Challenger* intends communication on a different level, one of entertainment, encouragement, or even enrage-ment.

My attraction to working on *The Challenger* was the liberty myself, Patrick, Deborah, and Charles have in choosing what to research for our articles. Being a voracious reader helped me choose the topic of communication for my issue. The books that have interested me are *The Gift of Blessing*, authored by both Gary Smalley and John Trent, and *Man's Search For Meaning* by Victor Frankl. Other inspirations are contained within a video documentary I viewed called "Hell's Bells -The Secrets of Rock and Roll" by Reel to Real ministries. Because I have used stories and facts from all these sources in virtually every academic class and in many casual conversations, I trust that the Honors Society and faculty will likewise benefit from this material.

The Challenger makes provisions for both an intellectual venture, with pieces about intra personal communication, meaningful touch, Deaf culture, and coffee table entertainment with a diagram of non-verbal communicative gestures and a rather controversial piece on communication through music.

Therefore, whether you go purchase an antique record player to see if all your old records are possessed, or if you vow to touch all your teachers from this day forth, it is my most sincere desire to leave you with five intriguing pieces that will change your lives as students and intellectuals forever.

Stephanie Pierucci
Senior Editor

meet the challenger staff

I wish I could take back . . .



Recently, my boyfriend's mother and Grandmother began cleaning up the kitchen after supper. Rather than sit and watch them, I stood up and said, "Clean-up time" to my boyfriend. I put a bowl in front of him and said again, "Clean-up time!" Still he sat. Exasperated, I pushed the bowl closer to him. As his family watched me try to keep my cool I snapped at him, "Do you expect to marry me or a maid?"

Stephanie Pierucci



The president of my company's wife was celebrating her 63rd birthday. She seemed kind of down about getting older, so I thought I would cheer her up by telling her that I couldn't believe she was so old, and that I thought she looked good. I guess she took it the wrong way, because later her 68-year-old husband had a talk with me about staying away from his wife.

Charles Kostomiris



About a year and a half ago, one of my best friends just broke up with his girlfriend of two years. After the breakup he came to me for guidance. I gave him an inspiring speech on how much better he was than her, and how he could find a girl ten times better than her, then I did the critical mistake of asking my good friend for his ex-girlfriend's phone number so I could comfort her after the break-up. Let's just say my "good" friend didn't take it very well (to say the least).

Patrick Chartrand



I seem to constantly be tasting Desenex since I often put my foot in my mouth. The most frequent complaint I hear is that I unconsciously mention my age—over 40. Most of the time, it's to contradict other people's impression that I'm younger than I am. (I've been told that I appear to be 24-26 years old!) However, younger crowds take the comment as meaning, "I know more than you do" and older crowds take it to mean, "I'm much more up-to-date than you are."

Deborah Abbott

It's All in Your Mind

Exploring the wonders of talking to yourself

by Patrick Chartrand

This issue of *The Challenger* addresses communication, and the different types of communication, such as linguistic, symbolic (sign language) and the most forgotten about kind of communication: intrapersonal. Intrapersonal communication is communication within one's mind, the ability to talk to one's self. This ability is used by all able-minded persons who function normally on a mental level. The communication with one's self is autonomous because the communication is not regulated by speech or physical movement. It comes from within. It's what the mind is thinking of.

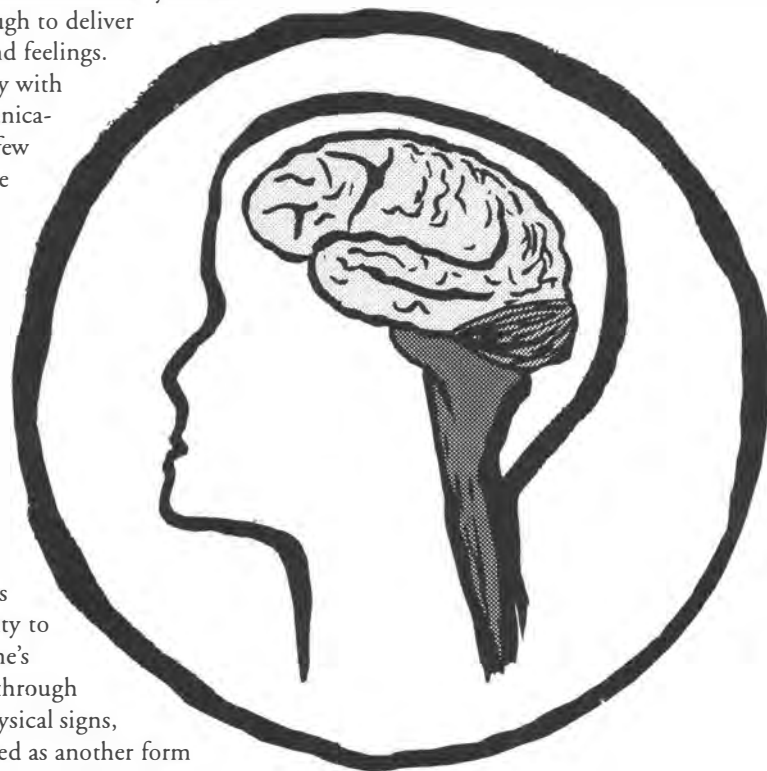
Some people believe that communication is reserved for two or more people. The restriction occurs when communication becomes exclusive to either being seen or heard. Others, such as psychologists, emphasize how much intrapersonal communication occurs throughout our lifetimes. The idea of talking to one's self aloud seems absurd, but when it's on a subconscious level the communicator is not aware of it happening, therefore, it becomes rational. The difficulty with symbolic and linguistic communication is that some people are unable to get their point across to others, either because of a speech impairment, physical disability, or the person is unable to communicate well. Linguistic/symbolic communication is distinctive, because almost everyone is able to speak to one's self therefore, this form of communication is matchless.

Linguistic communication (speech) is another form of communication that has been analyzed over the years. Different forms of speech, different languages, dissimilar writing and various meanings of words all plague linguistic communication. Difficulty expressing one's emotions, interpreting another cultures language or deciphering of dialect are just some of the many difficulties in linguistic communication. The ability to fully express one's feelings through language is nearly impossible. With the amount of information entering and leaving a person's mind, the odds are that once he/she has expressed their feelings or thoughts their mind has moved on to something else. The dilemma

with symbolic communication is that very few people is that it is difficult to continuously keep pace with their thoughts. Just like linguistic communication, symbolic is not quick enough to deliver one's thoughts and feelings. Another difficulty with symbolic communication is that very few people possess the ability to sit and converse with others. Many people choose not to learn sign language, which in turn limits the amount symbolic communication being done. Symbolic communication is the uncanny ability to rapidly express one's train of thought through hand or other physical signs, and it is recognized as another form of speech. Intrapersonal communication is unique in that the mind can function as rapidly as it pleases and it is able to comprehend every bit of information. Whether the person speaks English or Italian it doesn't matter because intrapersonal communication is with one's self and no one else is needed for this form of communication.

The simple fact of intrapersonally communicating is evidence that the person is able-minded. Also, it has been proven that communicating with one's self is healthy and normal. One should not feel weird if he/she identifies himself as able-minded.

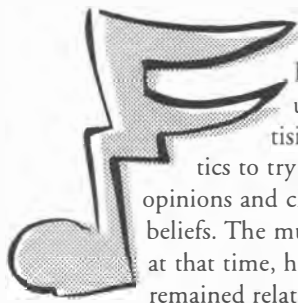
Communicating with one's self and possessing the ability to think, express, and feel any emotion is the true advantage of intrapersonal communication. Perhaps intrapersonal communication is unknown to some, but I hope that I have given a clear understanding of the uniqueness and importance of communicating with one's self. ♦



Do You Hear What I Hear?

A History of Subliminal Communication in Pop Music

by Charles Kostomiris



Subliminal messages have been used in advertising and politics to try to alter one's opinions and change one's beliefs. The music industry at that time, however, remained relatively clean.

Until the technological recording advancements, made in the 1960s, allowed the artists to record tracks that were seemingly inaudible. These hidden phrases could however, be heard when the track was played in reverse. Some people believe that the human mind can "hear" these tracks on a subliminal level, and allow them to manifest themselves in the listener's mind. Here is a short history of famous examples of back-masked messages:

1968 The infamous self-titled Beatles album, *The White Album*, features a back-masked message in John Lennon's *Revolution #9*. In the beginning of the track Lennon repeats the phrase "number 9," but when that same phrase is played in reverse, he clearly says, "Turn me on, dead man." Was John secretly an advocate of homoerotic necrophilia? I sincerely hope not (but that would explain his physical attraction to Yoko.)

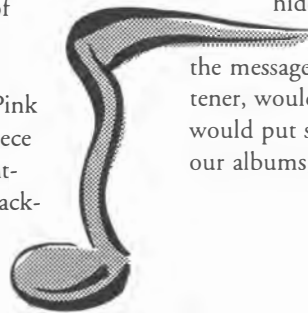
1971 Perhaps the most famous case of back-masked messages, *Stairway to Heaven* from the fourth Led Zeppelin album, has an entirely different message when played in reverse. (I can confirm this because I actually did spin the 12" vinyl backwards to experience it for myself.) One verse reads: "Here's to my sweet Satan. The one whose little path would make me sad, whose power is Satan. He'll give you 666, there was a little tool shed where he made us suffer, sad Satan." Other short phrases include, "Because I live with Satan," and "One chance, I hate you." Coincidence?



Yeah right! Led Zeppelin guitarist and songwriter Jimmy Page was very interested in the occult. He even bought Aleister Crowley's house in Scotland, which was a well known satanic church called The Toolhouse. Crowley, in his books, strongly encouraged his ministers to learn to read and speak backwards.

1978 The song *Better by You, Better than Me*, by Judas Priest would land them in court more than a decade later. The phrase "I took my life" can be heard backwards in the second verse. It wasn't too big of a problem until two teenagers killed themselves with that song on an endless loop. The parents blamed the music and sued Judas Priest. Protected by the first amendment, Judas Priest were found not guilty on charges of unintentional manslaughter.

1979 *Empty Spaces* from Pink Floyd's monumental masterpiece *The Wall*, features a more light-hearted approach towards a back-masked track. Indecipherable played forward, but backwards it states, "Congratulations! You've just discovered the secret message. Please send your answer to old Pink, care of the funny farm..."



1980 The chorus of the #1 Queen single *Another One Bites the Dust*, when played backwards, sounds like it states, "It's fun to smoke marijuana."

1981 The Ozzy Osbourne solo debut, *Blizzard of Ozz* featured a track called *Suicide Solution*. In the middle of the song, there is a section of chaotic, multi-layered vocals spouting the line "Get the guns out! Shoot, shoot, shoot, (evil laughter) ha, ha, ha." Like Judas Priest, Ozzy also found himself in court when a 19-year-old shot himself in the head to the tune of *Suicide Solution*. Ozzy was not convicted, but his case did pave the way for the PMRC (Parental Music Resource Center), founded by Tipper

Gore. The PMRC is the reason that you still see "Parental Advisory" stickers on albums today.

1984 Prince took a shot at subliminal messages on his 6-month chart topper *Purple Rain*. Prince, a devout Christian, took a less evil approach than his predecessors. The track *Darling Nikki* when played in reverse says "Hello. How are you? I'm fine because I know that the lord is coming soon, coming, coming soon."

Hidden messages are everywhere in the music industry. Some are coincidental; some are designed to manipulate. A few people get frightened by them, but I think they're basically a joke. Psychologists believe that any response to hidden messages would be very weak and short-lived. And if the messages did have an affect on the listener, wouldn't you think that the artist would put something in there like, "Buy our albums, see us in concert..."

Souled Out:

What's Wrong with the Music Industry

by Charles Kostomiris

Capitalism has indeed succeeded in turning every facet of American culture into a product, something designed to generate a profit as much as it is intended to meet a need or respond to a demand. And in the wake of the modern technological age, the heart, the soul, and the integrity of our artworks have been replaced by the loveless products inspired by the hunger for the almighty dollar.

You may ask yourself, "Why should I care if the music that I listen to is as processed as a boca burger? It still rocks, right?"

Well, what is rock?

Rock is an attitude, rock is rebellion, rock is a statement of individuality and social independence, right?

Wrong. The minute that rock becomes

mainstream, it really isn't rock anymore, it's now pop. And since rock is marketed rebellion, rock is marketed marketing. Rock is soulless. Rock is nothing. Rock is dead.

Knowing this, most people still couldn't care less that their music isn't really "muse-ic." This is because most people are music consumers, not music lovers. A music consumer only listens to a song because everyone in his social circle listens to that song. He doesn't care about the rest of that artist's music, only the current "hit" that every radio station and M-TV are playing non-stop. He just wants to listen to that song until it's worn out—consumed, and eventually replaced by the next "hit," making sure that he has moved onto the latest trend. A music consumer isn't interested in music as an art form, but rather as a means of disposable entertainment.

Unfortunately, the current system is set up to meet the needs of music consumers, not music lovers. Hits generate sales, sales generate increased revenues, and increased

revenues generate the long-term recording contracts that sustain an artist's career. In response, many artists have been forced to sacrifice the integrity of the music for a more radio friendly product. Not very many people will buy music they haven't heard, so the artist is trapped and pressured into creating a hit song, even if it means placing limitations on the music.

To maximize earning potential, record companies place importance on features that have nothing to do with the music whatsoever. As a result, music has taken a

backseat to the marketability of the artist.

Take Britney Spears for example: She can't write music; she can't write lyrics; she lip-synchs live; and her voice sounds like a

karaoke nightmare. Yet she still manages to sell millions of albums and reign supreme as America's "pop princess" because professional songwriters and producers write radio friendly hits for her. She has a pretty face, and although her body looks like a skeleton wrapped in skin with silicon-enhanced funbags (which probably came with her contract), many people find her attractive. Her fame makes every 14-year old girl want to be her. She is every record executive's dream come true. Why should an artist's aesthetic appeal, trendy clothes, cutting-edge web-site, and fame matter when all we want from them is the music?

What effect does the current music industry have on our culture? Girls across the United States are sticking their fingers down their throats and downing Metabolife in an effort to get a body that can not be achieved by most people. High-School kids who are into metal think it's cool to hate their parents, piss

off their teachers, and make their own lives a living hell to live up to the "tortured soul" front put on by many mainstream heavy metal bands. People are glorifying the superficial and repressing any semblance of who they really are. It really is a sad state of affairs.

My solution? Be a music lover. Listen to music because you love listening to it. Quit following trends and start living for you. People come and go, and no one's always going to be there for you but you. I know that when I get old, I don't want to look back and think that I was always someone's sheep. Your life is what you make it, make it yours. ♦

The minute rock becomes mainstream, it really isn't rock anymore, it's pop.



close to this group, you may consider sharing discussion on hot topics, such as the few schools that use oral language instead of ASL, and the intrusion of cochlear implants from hearing people. If your attention has wandered when a strong opinion is raised, you may feel the vibration of someone banging on the table, or (on occasion) be softly hit with a flying missile to get your attention. Your facial expression shows the apology and you again keep your gaze strongly focused on the person signing.

Far into the evening, you glance at the clock and realize that it's now well into the morning. It's time to travel the hour or two home, but it's hard to leave these friends who belong to this language, this culture. You begin to say your good-byes, more hugs, more questions on what you plan to attend in the near future. Nearly an hour later, you are back in your car and driving home, missing them already.

With nine of ten deaf children born into hearing families, it is community, connectivity, and the shared Sign Language that are core values in this culture. Deaf adults go out of their way to become mentors to deaf children. Especially since the "Deaf President Now!" protest at Gallaudet* in 1988, involvement in education is not just for parents, but for all Deaf people and allies. This community, using the third most practiced language in the United States of America, has strong, capable and talented people. Perhaps we can learn from them. ♦

*Gallaudet: The only deaf university in the world, founded in 1857 in Washington, D.C. and chartered in 1864 by President Abraham Lincoln. The President of Gallaudet University is I. King Jordan, the first deaf president in its 137-year history. Dr. Jordan assumed the presidency after the historic Deaf President Now protest in 1988. Surf to www.gallaudet.edu to learn more about "the week the world heard Gallaudet."

Salesman To Sinners

by Stephanie Pierucci

Touching often carries a maternal/paternal or romantic implication with it, however most factual studies have revealed benefits to meaningful touch throughout the psychological, medical, and corporate worlds, as well as in biblical and symbolic contexts.

John Trent, Ph.D. co-authored with Gary Smalley the book *The Gift of Blessing*. Here one discovers a multitude of stories and personal encounters with the 'gift' and 'blessing' of physically touching people. Trent reflects upon a young woman who demonstrates her need for touch when abandoned by her mother. At seven years old, this girl discovered a basic human need when she persistently hugged herself when fearful or distraught. She gave herself what her parents would not provide and continued to comfort herself through touch later in life.

The human response to touch has been found by UCLA researchers to maintain not only evident emotional health, but physical health, as well. They concluded that among married couples, eight to ten meaningful touches a day are essential to maintain a healthy stability, these include affectionate touches, not simply pats on the back. The same study indicated that hugging his wife several times a day increases the 'type A driven' man's life span by nearly two years, while presumably not hurting the marriage.

On a statistical note, the University of Miami Medical School's Touch Research Institute discovered that premature babies who receive 45 minutes of massage daily show a 47 percent greater weight gain than babies who are not so attended. Physical touch also accounts for half the bone growth of young children and significant weight gain among the elderly and ill, not to mention resolved happier and longer lives to residents of nursing homes.

The catalyst for these miraculous episodes comes from hemoglobin, the pigment of the red blood cells that carries oxygen to bodily tissues. Dr. Krieger of New York University indicates a rise in hemoglobin levels in both persons involved with touch through the laying on of hands. Trent and Smalley indicate that one third of our five million touch receptors are in our hands.

Now for the American capitalistic intention of touch. A study in a Kansas city grocery store showed that a salesman is much more likely to sell his new frozen pizzas when he briefly touches prospective customers. Furthermore, passengers of a researched airline rated the airline overwhelmingly more accommodating and safe when their flight attendant noticeably brushed up against them.

The Bible, written thousands of years previous to these studies, also emphasizes touch conveying intimacy and symbolically transferring sin and leadership. When Isaac, a celebrated figure to Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike, intends to bless his son he pleads for his son to "come close" and kiss him. An exegetical study of this passage reveals that the closeness indicated by Isaac in its Hebrew form describes armies drawn together for battle and the overlapping scales on crocodile skin. Trent and Smalley note that "Isaac was calling Jacob to come close and give him a bear hug." In Genesis, Joseph also blessed his grandsons by laying his hands upon them and kissing each of them.

Symbolically, touch has represented power and blessing transferred from one person to another. Elijah laid his hands on Elishah to pass on his divine leadership. The sins of Israel were transferred onto a goat that was then sent into the wilderness on the Day of Atonement by the Levitical priest Aaron. Prophetically, Christ would, like that spotless creature, take on man's sins at the cross.

A most essential condition throughout humanity, as it is clearly evident, lies in touching others meaningfully. My apologies are offered to teachers and students alike who may henceforth suffer from claustrophobia by their 'touchy' peers. ♦

BODY LANGUAGE 101

by Stephanie Pierucci

Arms raised outward - prayer posture. Used to ask for help from deity. (widespread)

Forehead kiss - Extreme respect towards a dominant individual. (Arab cultures)

Index finger raised - #1 (Western cultures)

Cheek screw - superb! Refers to food or a beautiful girl. (Italy)

Chin grasp - "I promise" (Saudi Arabia)

Tie shake - "You can't fool me" (Italy)

Belly press - hunger (Latin America)

Buttock pat - encouragement (primarily North American)

Clothing pull - boredom (South American)

Foot kiss - humble salutation (Vatican City)



Buttocks exposed - This is illegal in some regions, but a joke in others. It is an ancient gesture, but common in the U.S. among female college students in the 60s when it was done from a high window and called mooning. Because humans are the only primates with such a backside, in early centuries people believed that exposing this body part made the devil envious because he lacked a buttocks himself. "Kiss my arse!" was yelled with the symbolism of the devil's buttocks containing a second face and the intention of this was to compare a person to Satan.

Foot show - Insult from a person facing another person. It symbolizes telling a person that he/she is as low as the foot. In certain countries people have been killed for showing the sole of a shoe to someone. (Middle East, parts of the Orient, Saudi Arabia, Egypt Singapore, and Thailand.)

Discussion Topics & Dates

May 1 Censorship in the Media

May 8 Political Correctness

May 15 Food and Fun!

Upcoming Events

May 10

1 p.m., Honors Society Softball Game
Faculty vs. Honors Society

May 25

Adopt-a-Highway #2
10 a.m., parking lot 1

Honors Information

Honors Society Meetings
Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. in L329

Honors Program/Phi Theta Kappa Office: L334
(open to Honor students)

Honors Society Web Site:
<http://www.harper.cc.il.us/cluborgs/honors/honors.html>

E-mail *The Challenger* staff
thechallenger_harpercollege@hotmail.com

Honors Coordinator

Dr. Trygve Thoreson

E-mail

tthoreso@harper.cc.il.us

Mailbox

Liberal Arts Division, L203

Teaching office

L246

Phone

847-925-6489

Challenger Advisor

Layout and Design
Susan Dennison

The Challenger is a newsletter written and designed by students enrolled in IDS 290. All opinions expressed in this publication are those of the student editors and do not represent the views of staff or administration.

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William Rainey Harper College
Palatine, Illinois



By Patrick Chartrand