

# Alexia Abernathy



INVENTION: OOPS! PROOF NO-SPILL FEEDING BOWL™  
 AGE: 11  
 HOME: CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
 SCHOOL: JOHNSON ELEMENTARY  
 INDUCTED: 1996

ALEXIA ABERNATHY IS A MULTI-TALENTED YOUNG LADY WHO BEGAN MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF AT THE AGE OF THREE WHEN SHE STARRED AS FLOPPY, THE RABBIT. ASIDE FROM ACTING, SINGING, AND DANCING...



... SHE ALSO LOVES VOLLEYBALL, SKIING, AND ESPECIALLY HYDRO-SLIDING, WHICH SHE HAS BEEN DOING SINCE SHE WAS TWO.



ALEXIA PARTICIPATED IN THE EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM AT JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND WAS CHALLENGED TO FIND A PROBLEM AND INVENT SOMETHING TO SOLVE IT.

HMMMMMM...A PROBLEM TO SOLVE? WHAT KINDS OF PROBLEMS NEED SOLVING?



AND IT HIT HER (ALMOST LITERALLY).



THE BABYSITTER HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING HER BABY FROM SPILLING FOOD ALL OVER THE PLACE. AHA! A PROBLEM TO SOLVE!!

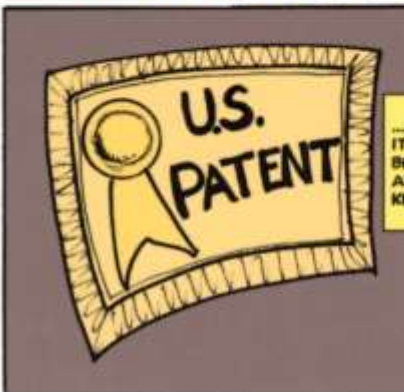
THERE WERE NO BOOKS ON SPILLOLOGY, SO ALEXIA HAD TO DO SOME ORIGINAL RESEARCH.



GLOPS, SLIPS, TIPS, AND DRIPS. IF IT SPILLED AND MADE A MESS, ALEXIA STUDIED IT. AND IT PAID OFF...



...IN THE FORM OF THE OOPS! PROOF NO SPILL FEEDING BOWL™. NOT ONLY DID ALEXIA'S INVENTION CAUSE A STIR AT THE INVENT IOWA STATE COMPETITION, BUT...



...SHE ALSO PATENTED IT AND IT IS NOW BEING MANUFACTURED AND SOLD BY LITTLE KIDS INC™.



ALEXIA PLANS TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN. (ANYONE FOR A SPILL-PROOF DOGGY BOWL?)



# Johnny Bodyliski



INVENTION: THE RAIN WATCHDOG  
 AGE: 8  
 HOME: SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA  
 SCHOOL: ARROYO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996



IF A CURIOUS MIND IS A SIGN OF INTELLIGENCE, THEN JOHNNY BODYLSKI WAS A VERY BRIGHT INFANT, HAVING WATCHED HIS FATHER USE KEYS TO START THE CAR...

HE WANTED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE USED THEM TO START AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET!!!



JOHNNY LEARNED THAT IT'S MORE FUN USING ELECTRICITY TO LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS TREES THAN USING IT TO LIGHT UP HIMSELF. SO HIS FIRST INVENTION WAS A CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT TESTER.



JOHNNY'S FONDEST MEMORIES ARE OF WORKING WITH HIS FATHER TO RENOVATE AND RESTORE AN ELECTRIC GOLF CART.



ONE DAY WHEN JOHNNY WAS EIGHT, HIS MOTHER NOTICED THAT SOMEONE HAD LEFT THE LAWN SPRINKLER ON IN THE RAIN.



HE DECIDED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. USING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONICS AND HIS SKILL WITH TOOLS AND WOODWORKING EQUIPMENT, JOHNNY INVENTED...



WITH THE RAIN WATCHDOG, JOHNNY WON THE GREAT IDEAS COMPETITION SPONSORED BY POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE AND INVENTORS WORKSHOP INTERNATIONAL.

SINCE THEN, PEOPLE CONSTANTLY ASK JOHNNY TO FIX THINGS -- AND HE USUALLY DOES.

SOME DAY HE HOPES TO BE AN AERONAUTICS ENGINEER AND HAVE HIS VERY OWN AIRPORT.

PHL ROSE



# Christopher Cho



INVENTION: THE AUTOMATED PAGE-REPLACING CONTRIVANCE  
 AGE: 15  
 HOME: EAST SETAUKET, NEW YORK  
 SCHOOL: WARD MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996

THOUGH MATH AND SCIENCE ARE HIS FAVORITE SUBJECTS, MUSIC HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN CHRISTOPHER CHO'S LIFE. ASIDE FROM PLAYING IN THE JULLIARD PRE-COLLEGE ORCHESTRA, HE ALSO WON THE 1995 JULLIARD ANNUAL AWARD FOR MUSIC.



BUT, THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM...

TRYING TO TURN PAGES WHILE PLAYING THE VIOLA REQUIRES THREE HANDS, AND CHRISTOPHER WAS BORN WITH ONLY TWO.

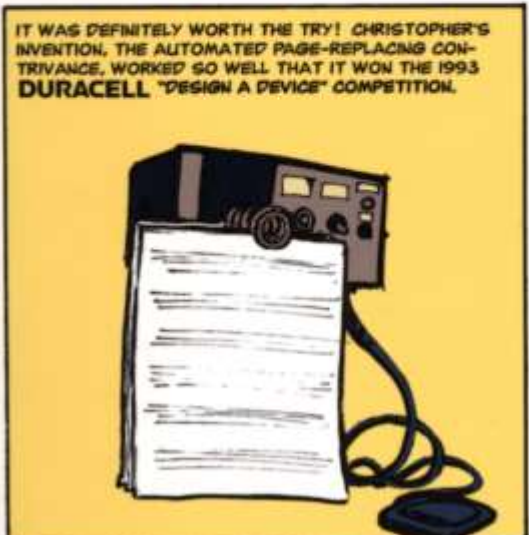


HE NEEDED A WAY OF TURNING PAGES WITHOUT USING HIS HANDS. CHRIS LOVED WORKING WITH ELECTRONIC GADGETS AND HOPED TO DESIGN ONE TO SOLVE HIS PROBLEM.

SINCE NO ONE CAN THINK ON AN EMPTY STOMACH, CHRISTOPHER WENT TO THE CANDY MACHINE FOR A BIG, THICK, CHOCOLATE...WAIT A SECOND!



COULD THE SAME MECHANISM THAT DROPS CANDY BARS OUT OF THE CANDY MACHINE BE USED TO DROP PAGES OF SHEET MUSIC OFF OF A MUSIC STAND?



IT WAS DEFINITELY WORTH THE TRY! CHRISTOPHER'S INVENTION, THE AUTOMATED PAGE-REPLACING CONTRIVANCE, WORKED SO WELL THAT IT WON THE 1993 DURACELL "DESIGN A DEVICE" COMPETITION.



CHRISTOPHER PLANS TO ATTEND HARVARD BUT IS UNSURE WHAT HE WILL MAJOR IN. HOWEVER, ONE THING IS CERTAIN, HE WILL STILL BE PLAYING HIS VIOLA -- WITHOUT ANY FUMBLING AROUND!

PHIL ROGE

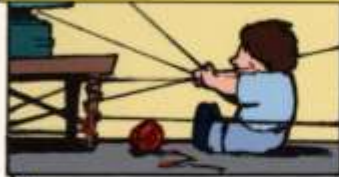


# Peter Haugen



INVENTION: INTERFACEABLE REFRESHABLE BRILLE DISPLAY USING SHAPE MEMORY WIRES.  
 AGE: 15  
 HOME: ARVILLA, NORTH DAKOTA  
 SCHOOL: LARIMORE HIGH SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996

BEFORE HE WAS EVEN ONE YEAR OLD, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT PETER HAUGEN WAS NO ORDINARY CHILD. EVERY BIT OF STRING OR TWINE HE COULD LAY HIS TINY HANDS ON WAS USED TO TIE TOGETHER THE DOORS, CHAIR LEGS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE HOUSE. APPARENTLY, PETER LIKED TO TAKE CONTROL OF HIS ENVIRONMENT.



HE PROVED THIS AT THE AGE OF SIX WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM STRING TO WIRES. HE RIGGED UP A LITTLE ROBOT TO GUARD HIS DRAWER SO THAT WHEN IT WAS OPENED, THE ROBOT POPPED UP, SPUN AROUND, AND...



WELL, YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MOM CAME IN LATER.



THE FAMILY SOON LEARNED THAT PETER'S ROOM WAS OFF LIMITS. SINCE THEY WOULDN'T COME TO THE WATER, HE TOOK THE WATER TO THEM. HE OUTFITTED A RADIO-CONTROLLED TOY TANK WITH A VIDEO CAMERA AND A POWERFUL SQUIRTING MECHANISM. SO, THE NEXT TIME MOM AND DAD WERE WATCHING TV IN THE LIVING ROOM -- SPLAT!!



IN SUMMER PETER WOULD OFTEN PROVIDE SOME PYROTECHNIC ENTERTAINMENT. WITH HIS KNACK FOR ELECTRONICS, CHEMISTRY, AND ART, HIS FIREWORKS WERE SPECTACULAR.



MAYBE IT WAS THE ABILITY OF SOME PEOPLE TO ENJOY A FIREWORKS DISPLAY THAT LED PETER TO CONSIDER THE NEEDS OF THE BLIND. HE BEGAN DEVELOPING AN IDEA FOR A DEVICE THAT WOULD AID THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

IN 1995, PETER'S INVENTION WON BOTH THE 2ND PLACE GRAND AWARD IN ENGINEERING, AND THE NASA AWARD AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR.

WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR PETER HAUGEN, YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTERS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF IT. THE NEXT TIME YOU WATCH A FIREWORKS DISPLAY, OR FEEL A JET OF WATER HITTING YOU IN THE BACK, THINK OF PETER HAUGEN--HE MAY NOT BE FAR AWAY.



HIS INVENTION USES SHAPE MEMORY WIRE TO ALLOW BLIND PEOPLE TO READ INFORMATION FROM A COMPUTER.





# Kara Levine



INVENTION: KARINK  
 AGE: 18  
 HOME: PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA  
 SCHOOL: RUTHERFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996



KARA LEVINE WAS VERY BRIGHT AND INDEPENDENT AS A CHILD. SHE COULD READ BY THE AGE OF FOUR, AND COULD DO LONG DIVISION BY THE AGE OF FIVE.



SHE ALSO LOVED TO PAINT, DANCE, AND BUILD HER OWN TOYS.



WHEN KARA WAS IN 8TH GRADE SHE DISPLAYED ONE OF HER CREATIONS AT THE FLORIDA STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR.

HER INVENTION MEASURED PEOPLE'S REACTION TIMES TO LIGHT AND SOUND.



KARA'S TWO GREAT LOVES ARE ART AND CHEMISTRY.

IN 10TH GRADE SHE DID SOMETHING THAT WAS A BENEFIT TO BOTH OF THESE FIELDS.



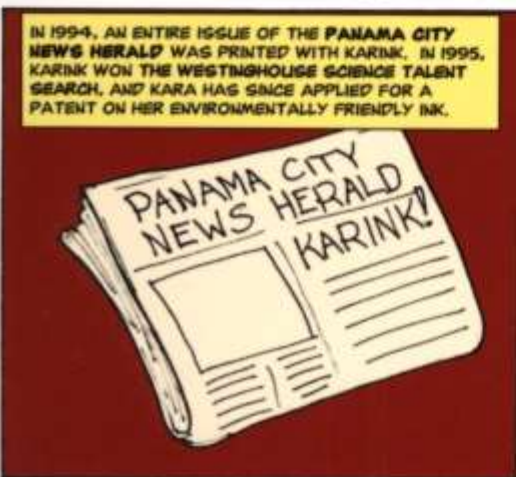
KARA READ AN ARTICLE DESCRIBING HOW 250,000 POUNDS OF PETROLEUM IS USED EACH YEAR TO PRODUCE NEWSPAPER INK.

LATER, WHEN THESE NEWSPAPERS ARE DISCARDED, THE PETROLEUM USED IN THEM POLLUTES THE ENVIRONMENT.



IT BECAME KARA'S CHALLENGE TO INVENT AN INK THAT USED NO PETROLEUM AT ALL. AND SHE DID!

KARA INVENTED KARINK, AN ECONOMICAL INK MADE ENTIRELY FROM RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES.



IN 1994, AN ENTIRE ISSUE OF THE PANAMA CITY NEWS HERALD WAS PRINTED WITH KARINK. IN 1995, KARINK WON THE WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH, AND KARA HAS SINCE APPLIED FOR A PATENT ON HER ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INK.



KARA IS ATTENDING NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND, WITH HER LOVE FOR ART AND CHEMISTRY, SHE HOPES TO BECOME AN ART RESTORER.

PHIL ROSE



# Elizabeth Nathan

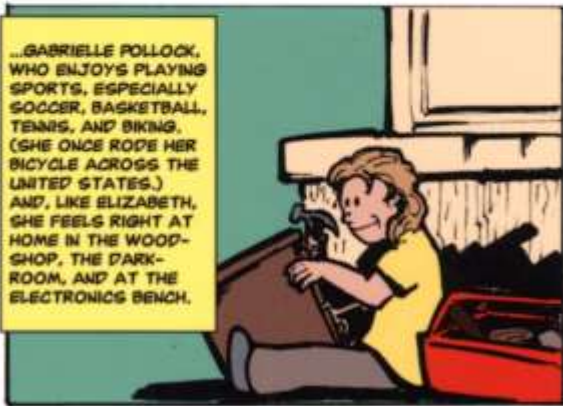
INVENTION: NON-REUSABLE SYRINGE  
 AGE: 16  
 HOME: NEW YORK, NY  
 SCHOOL: THE BREARLEY SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996

# Gabriella Pollack

INVENTION: NON-REUSABLE SYRINGE  
 AGE: 17  
 HOME: NEW YORK, NY  
 SCHOOL: THE BREARLEY SCHOOL  
 INDUCTED: 1996



ELIZABETH NATHAN HAS ALWAYS LOVED BUILDING GADGETS -- MODEL TRAINS, MODEL ROCKETS, EVEN MECHANICAL BIRTHDAY CARDS. SHE LOVES PIANO, READING AND WATCHING SPORTS. (SHE HAS BEEN CALLED A WALKING SPORTS ENCYCLOPEDIA.) BUT THIS STORY IS ALSO ABOUT ELIZABETH'S FRIEND...



...GABRIELLE POLLOCK, WHO ENJOYS PLAYING SPORTS, ESPECIALLY SOCCER, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, AND BIKING. (SHE ONCE RODE HER BICYCLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.) AND, LIKE ELIZABETH, SHE FEELS RIGHT AT HOME IN THE WOODSHOP, THE DARKROOM, AND AT THE ELECTRONICS BENCH.

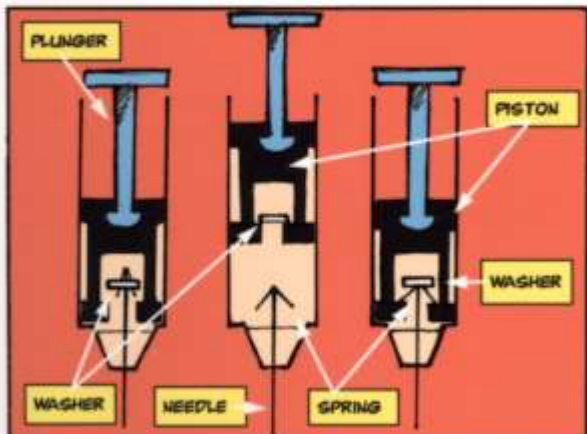
WHILE IN 10TH GRADE, ELIZABETH READ AN ARTICLE ON AIDS AND HOW IT IS OFTEN TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE MISUSE OF HYPODERMIC SYRINGES.



ELIZABETH AND GABRIELLA BEGAN DISCUSSING HOW A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE COULD BE REDESIGNED SO THAT IT COULD NOT BE USED MORE THAN ONCE. HMMM, THIS WAS A REAL STUMPER!



THEN GABRIELLA NOTICED A COCKTAIL UMBRELLA AND THOUGHT ABOUT HOW IT OPENS AND CLOSES. COULD THE SAME MECHANISM BE USED IN A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE? YOU BET!! AND HERE'S HOW...



1-THE END OF THE NEEDLE IS FITTED WITH THE MECHANISM THAT ELIZABETH AND GABRIELLA DESIGNED.  
 2-WHEN THE PISTON DRAWS IN FLUID, THE WASHER SLIPS OFF AND THE SPRING OPENS.  
 3-AFTER THE FLUID IS INJECTED, THE MECHANISM LOCKS THE NEEDLE INTO THE PISTON. IF SOMEONE TRIES TO USE THE NEEDLE AGAIN, THE PLUNGER WILL PULL OUT OF THE PISTON.



WITH THEIR INVENTION, ELIZABETH AND GABRIELLA WON THE NYNEX SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD. BOTH OF THESE YOUNG INVENTORS ARE NOW ATTENDING HARVARD.

ARTWORK: PHIL ROSE STORY: L. BRANT LUTON  
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