

## **HARLAN R. RIBNIK**

Your letter brought a variety of memories to mind.<sup>16</sup> Firstly, at my class's (1971) 40th reunion, the teacher whose name came up most frequently in my conversations was that of Dr. Hoffman.

I was definitely not a tennis player. My contact with him began when I learned of an "experimental" class being formed to teach computer programming to students who qualified. I heard through the rumor mill that Dr. Hoffman had many students who wanted to join his classes and, so, had the pick of the litter. Rumor had it that he checked all of us out in terms of academic standing and standardized testing results.

I don't know about that, but I was excited to be selected and truly enjoyed the class. My sister, Linda, was also chosen in her year (1972). Parenthetically, Linda is in Scottsdale, Arizona, practicing Pediatrics at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. If you have not included her in your mailings, please let me know and I will get you her address as well. I suspect that she would have a few memories to add to the mix as well.

My memories, after about 45 years, have become a bit fuzzy, but I recall, for the most part, that we learned in his class with the aid of the other students. We taught each other and ourselves. It was a very cooperative environment and not very competitive within our group, at least.

[I don't believe that any other high school in Colorado would have let him do what he did. Obtaining instructional computer time for us on the University of Denver's computer was a feat of diplomacy and serious arm-twisting. Of course, we had to enter our programs on an ASR-33 teletype keyboard and enter them into the computer at a whopping 110 baud... Somehow, we learned a lot and had a lot of fun, too.]

My experiences caused me to take more classes in computer programming at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School and, later, to major in Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Colorado.

I have to say that Dr. Hoffman was one of the "spark plugs" that got a lazy kid like me to move forward in the direction of science and mathematics.

I made a few friends in his class with whom I still have contact today.

As for me, I graduated from C.U. a few times along the way:

B.A. (Math), 1975

M.S. (Computer Science), 1978

M.D., 1985

I served my Internship in Internal Medicine in 1985-6, my Residency in Anesthesiology in 1986-9 and I am Board-Certified in Anesthesiology and Sub-Specialty Board Certified in Pain Management and in Interventional Pain Management.

I am in private practice in Cheyenne, WY, and in Casper, WY. I am also a private pilot and aircraft owner, flying about 150 hours per year in a variety of different aircraft.

I served in the US Army Reserve and in the Army National Guard, traveling to such vacation spots as Munich, Germany, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Fort Hood, Texas. I was honorably discharged from the armed forces in 1995.

I have to say that, among the 5 or 6 teachers who had a profound affect on my life and career choices, Dr. Hoffman clearly ranks close to the top.

I don't know if this has been helpful or just an exercise in mild Narcissism, but you are welcome to write back and ask questions that may occur to you.

Wishing you the best of luck in your project, I am  
Sincerely yours,

Harlan R. Ribnik, B.A., M.S., M.D., F.I.P.P.  
1607 Moriah Lane  
Cheyenne, WY 82009-8642  
harlanr@aol.com

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