

**OTC
HONORS
PROGRAM**

{ THE PINNACLE: DESTINATION KNOWN }

**2013
2014**

{ Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est. }

{ VOL. 6 }



**{ THE HONORS
PROGRAM PROVIDES
ACADEMICALLY EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL
THROUGH THE ENHANCED LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT OF A DESIGNATED
COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS }**

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Editor’s Notes:

*My apologies for the word search puzzle in the last issue of The Pinnacle; the word list did not transfer correctly.

*Thank you everyone for all your hard work, for getting your articles and artwork to me in good time! We have some great content in this volume!

*Special thanks to Craig Ragland for assisting with the proofing/editing of this volume, I appreciate the “second set of eyes”

Editor in Chief, Kat Sheehall

ART BY HONORS

by Angelicqa Russell

stars are the jewels
 adorning a dark vastness
 an infinite nothing
 always expanding and never constant
 much like the heart of a lady
 in which her fancy and yearnings
 are ever as random as the flux of life
 in universes composed of exacting beauty
 a carnival of light and energy
 twists and turns, passing through
 the void of time not yet come to pass
 and if it is to be Her future
 then this, the darkest time, is the birthing
 place of stars
 on a carousel of possibles



Sculpture by Caleb Davis

This is a rock sculpture I made for my art and experience class. I got my inspiration for this piece from the many stacked rock sculptures that Andy Goldsworthy has made. It was completed in the Ward Branch Creek next to a Springfield Green-way trail. The bike was my way of showing size and adding my own personal touch.

~by Caleb Davis~

ART BY HONORS

Tryst

By Jay R Johnston

"Did you park down the street? My old man wouldn't like me having some guy he don't know over at this hour when he ain't home." She laughed hoarsely, stepping aside to let me into the dingy foyer.

I winked and replied, "Of course, ma'am. I'd hate to suffer an altercation for doing no more than stopping in for a social visit. Chatting in the foyer, as it were. It would be a true shame to suffer attack for no reason beyond that."

"Play your cards right, and he'll have every reason to pulverize you afore the night's done," she chimed coyly in reply.

"Well, I'm not much on gambling, ma'am, so I'll just show these three Aces now, and escort my prize straight to the bedroom," I said, forgetting my satchel on the floor and wrapping my rain drenched arms around her narrow waist.

Her lips tasted of apricots and vodka atop the stale remembrance of too many cigarettes. Her tongue was fast and sharp, a minnow darting in dark crevices; our mouths became a raging sea, storming the breakers of our teeth and lips. I half dragged/half carried her down the hallway to her beckoning bedroom.

And as I lay my lady across her marital bed, I kicked the door shut behind me, closing the eyes of the voyeuristic world outside.



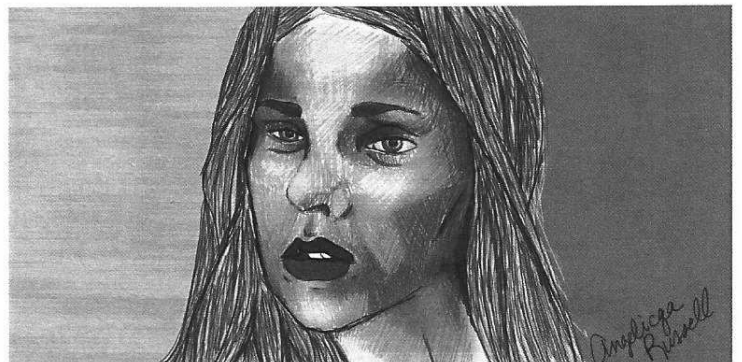
SHAYNE JACOPIAN | APRICITY

I play finger style guitar music—a genre of solo instrumental acoustic guitar music that focuses on progressive, unconventional techniques and compositions—and this winter, I recorded my first EP, titled *Apricity*, and it will finally be available on May 17th! It can currently be pre-ordered for download on iTunes and Amazon, and physical copies will be available on CD Baby starting on the 17th, as well as at shows.

You can find all kinds of fun stuff at www.shaynejacopian.com, including show dates, links to social networks, and that sort of thing.

Please give it a listen—I hope you enjoy it!

~by Shayne Jacopian~



Digital Sketch by Angelica Russell

Shane Moore

By Elke Quinn & Sierra Welch

On his way to Visioncon in Branson, Shane Moore dropped by OTC on February 27 for a presentation of his books, the *Apocalypse of Enoch* series, as well as giving writing tips to the Post-Apocalyptic Literature class, taught by Karen Foresee. He started out giving some background as to why he chose to write post-apocalyptic fiction, starting with life as a runaway, until being stabbed in the line of duty as a police officer. After the stabbing, he began using writing as a coping mechanism, starting with poetry, and working his way into novels. He began travelling to conventions and eventually retired from the force, shortly before the stock market crash in 2008. After fighting the temptation to join the force again, for a steady pay check, his publishing company approached him about doing a zombie novel. At first he declined, but after being struck with inspiration, went back to the company and offered to write the story. However, his zombies were different than most in the way that thirty percent of the population, plus anyone under 12, was “raptured.” Their soul was claimed, leaving a shell of a person behind. The disease, he said, would also leave the zombies feeling rather horny, as well as hungry.

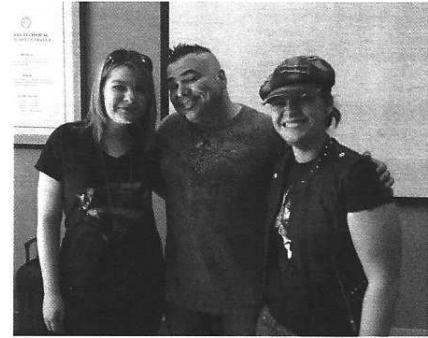
During his presentation, Shane emphasised several main points about writing. He wanted to make sure that any future writers in the audience understood how important those points are. Some of the main points he emphasised were: deadlines, chapter length, and character development.

As a follow-up for the article, we caught up with Shane via Facebook to ask a few questions.

Q&W: First question, who was most influential of your writing?



From Left to right: Back row: Nick Corkren, Kaitlyn Schumacher, Steven Becker. Middle Row: Sierra Welch, Elke Quinn, Karen Foresee, Karen Wilson, Brandon Perkins. In front: Shane Moore



SM: Robert E Howard was my first writing love. lol

Q&W: What is one thing that you would tell your fans about yourself?

SM: I refuse to fail

Q&W: If you could change one thing about your books, what would it be?

SM: I would write them better! With every new title you become a better writer. Thus, I wish I could go back and rewrite them.

Q&W: Did you have a manuscript and then went around looking at publishers? Or did you get approached by someone that saw your writing somewhere?

SM: I had a completed, edited, professionally ready manuscript.

Q&W: On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate OTC in your speaking tours (aka cons)?

SM: It would have to be different than conventions. I do college speeches a lot. I would rate OTC as a 6. But, considering the method I came in, I would rate it a 9 and I would rate the audience as a 9. They were engaged and asked good questions.

(Normally, the colleges/HS pay me a fee and make the event in a large auditorium.)

Q&W: OK... why wererats?

SM: I thought that it would enhance the character Kellacun. She was sexy, and rough, and powerful--yet we think of a rat as the opposite of these things. I wanted to create a metaphorical and literal side to her that matched.

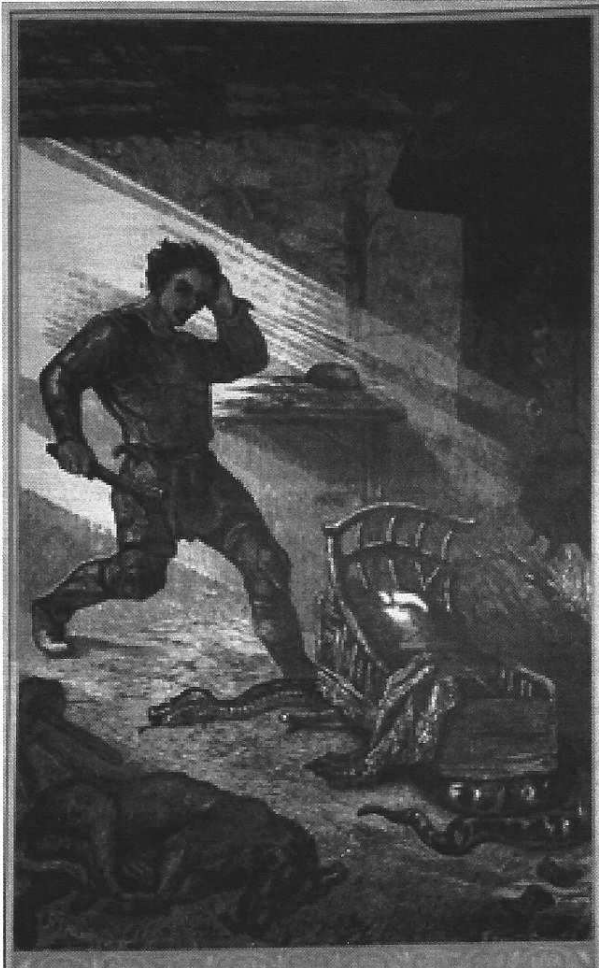
Q&W: Do you have any new ideas for books that are not part of your series'?

SM: There will be a franchise title called “Children of Enoch” (working title) coming out soon (and many others). I have some ideas about stand-alone mystery novel--but no time to write it yet.

If you would like to read some of Shane’s work, he has two series: *Abyss Walker* and *The Apocalypse of Enoch*, along with several other stand-alone works. They are available through Amazon.com.

AESOP'S FABLE

THE FARMER AND HIS DOG



A Farmer who had gone into his field to mend a gap in one of his fences found, at his return, the cradle in which he had left his only child asleep turned upside down, the clothes all torn and bloody, and his Dog lying near it, besmeared also with blood. Thinking that the animal had destroyed his child, he instantly dashed out its brains with the hatchet in his hand. When turning up the cradle, he found his child unhurt, and an enormous Serpent lying dead on the floor, killed by that faithful Dog. He

lamented that the beast's courage and fidelity in preserving the life of his son deserved another kind of reward.

It is dangerous to give way to the blind impulse of a sudden passion.

~Aesop's Illustrated Fables~

The Missing

by Brandon Perkins

You've seen them, I know it. You've seen them so often, and in so many places, that after a while you even stop paying attention to them anymore; they've come to be just another facet of life in this hellish soul-prison called Earth.

What am I speaking of? It could literally be one of any of the ten thousand things which are wrong with this dying rock, from the homeless, to drug dealers, to lawyers, to trashy whores, to trashy televangelists and politicians.

But the things I speak of are "missing" posters. Not the kind with lost items or pets, but people. You walk past them on the street, pour milk from them in your homes, and shop past them at grocery stores and Wal-Mart's.

Missing dreams.

Missing hopes.

Missing loves.

Most of the time, the ones that go missing are the children; the young. They are innocent, as far as anything in this rotting, corrupt, over-ripe, splitting-at-the-seams corpse of reality can be. Their missing eyes staring at you accusingly, begging for surcease as more often than not their bodies return to the dust they were made of in some unmarked, forgotten patch of land miles from anywhere they might have called home.

They died forsaken.

They died alone.

Then the people of this world wonder when the phantoms of these tortured souls crop up, "Why are they so angry at the living?"

So starts the latest chapter of your life, walking past the missing, the dead. It is eerie, the flutter of paper on the wind among the other bustling noises of the places you live, as everyone



collectively ignores the plight of the hapless, the helpless, and the unwanted. You walk about your business, as oblivious as everyone else; you have a war to wage, an agenda to see to; you have places to go and things to do.

However, on this particular day you are drawn again and again to look at some of the faces on the walls. You turn away only to have another lost soul leap up and grab your attention, if only for a moment, before you turn away and you are able to pull back into yourself. It increases throughout the day, and you can't shake the feeling that the cacophony of paper people is calling out your name, crying out to you for help. Frantic, running from your conscience, you dart into a little dinner, seeking refuge from the voices.

You order a cup of liquid warmth to shake the sudden chill from your bones.

The bells tied to the door chimes an arrival and a weary, wind-beaten man enters into the coldly pastel dinner, his breath still misty. What strikes you are his eyes, so lost, so alone. The color of hope is all washed out. He walks over to the counter and plunks down a massive stack of flyers, orders a cup of coffee. He stares around the place, looking for something he knows he isn't going to find, but looking for it none the less.

(Continued from page 6)

As the server pours his coffee, he spills into a diatribe, now very well practiced, as he asks if she has seen his daughter; he doesn't notice that she isn't really listening as tears pour down his face, his pleas assailing deaf ears. He leaves a small stack of the flyers, pays generously for his coffee in hopes the money may suddenly jog a memory, and walks back out into the cold. His eyes meet yours as he turns down the street, and the despair and pain nearly cause you to fall from your stool.

Soon after, you depart as well, returning to your home. Sirens wail, horns honk, curses are hurled; oblivious, you walk on, deep in thought. A piece of paper gets stuck to your feet; it's another flyer. A young man, a father, a husband, a loving son, reward offered. You toss it away, only to have another plaster itself to your face; it's a grandmother, missing since Christmas.

The cacophony grows; you turn and everywhere you look, as far as the eye can see there are flyers waiving in the wind; here there is a doctor, there a young mother, there an infant. It strikes you suddenly that the only sound you can hear is the deafening flutter and crinkle of paper.

No horns.

No sirens.

No shuffling feet.

No traffic.

Only the fluttering of paper wings.

Another flyer floats past you, turning lazy cartwheels on the air; on impulse, you reach out and snag it, pulse pounding as you unfurl it.

It's you.

In abject horror you stare up at the sky as the imagined voices of the day actually vocalize, calling out to you, as white feathers rain down on the streets, pinions tinged with blood.

You wake up screaming...

What's Your Major?

By Frank Giddens

A View on the Correlation between Personality
and a Chosen Major

Most of the time when I first meet somebody at college the first question I am asked isn't "What's your name?", but rather "What is your major?" This really says a lot about the importance of grouping in the minds of people. It shows that we use that information to make a decision on what a person is like based on the classes they attend. Interestingly enough this goes even further, as when I tell people that I am an Associate of Arts (AA) transfer major they ask me about what I intend to go into when I transfer to another school for my bachelor's degree. This shows that people naturally group others based on what they specialize in during their college years. I theorize that how they treat each group based on shared interests, molding the personalities of the next wave of professionals in career fields, and in turn giving basis for the next generation of students to group based on personality.

This cycle can be used to explain why so many people in a chosen field tend to have similar MBTI scores despite the individual differences between those people. Being an AA student, with no definite plans for a choice in bachelor major, leaves a person as a wildcard, potentially affecting their social life in a negative way. This is one of the reasons why it is important to visit the Career Center if you are unsure of what you want to be in the future. Alternatively, being a wildcard isn't so bad, as there isn't really a smooth place you fit in, and you force people to look at the real character of you as a person rather than as an archetype. These is just the opinion of one person, but look around and really think the next time you meet somebody new, what is the first question they ask you?



TOMS SHOES

By Kaitlyn Schumacher

Back in November three honors students, and myself, had the opportunity to meet Founder and Chief Shoe Giver of *TOMS Shoes*, Blake Mycoskie. Mycoskie spoke on the creation of *TOMS Shoes* and what is next for the growing industry.

The Shoes of Tomorrow

Back in 2006 Mycoskie decided to take a trip to Argentina. He and his sister had been to the country four years prior, to compete in the hit reality show *The Amazing Race* where they placed second by four minutes. "My sister would send me these text messages that were a long string of numbers and I had no idea what it meant. When I asked her what it was about she told me that was the money I owed her plus the interest of her half of the million dollars."

While in Argentina Mycoskie ran into an American woman hosting a shoe drive. They discussed the need for shoes for the children in the villages outside of the capital. After visiting the villages, he saw first hand the need for shoes and started the movement.



Mycoskie started working in the garage of a local shoe maker and the first pair of *TOMS Shoes* were created. He took the shoes back to the states, got his family's opinion on the business endeavor and started selling them at a local boutique, *One for One*.

Soon after the shoes were put on the market they caught some national attention. Weeks after the creation of the business, TOMS had sold 2,200 pairs of shoes in one day. This became a problem because they only had 60 in stock!

Clearing the problem with four interns and a trip back to Argentina, TOMS Shoes has created a new market for charitable businesses. Today *TOMS* has sold over 10 million pairs of shoes and has distributed them to over 60 countries; but the industry is no longer limited to just shoes.

The Future of TOMS

In 2013 *TOMS* introduced *The TOMS Market Place*. This is a place where all companies, that sell items to help others in need, can market the business and sell to the customer. Items can be searched by cause, type of items, and region. This will continue the movement forward to help others with various needs.

Another Item new to the brand is *TOMS Eyewear*. The same idea applies where when a consumer purchases *TOMS Eyewear* the company will donate to someone in need.

VP of PUBLIC RELATIONS:

CRAIG RAGLAND



What is the Honors Program? I recently attended the OTC 101 event to help with recruiting for the Honors Program, and during the event I was asked a question. "What is the Honors Program?" As I was at the event to answer questions and talk about the Honors Program, I should have been prepared for it. Instead, I found myself speechless, not knowing how to respond to what seems like a simple, easy question. Is it an academic program, or a student organization/club? Is it a series of special small sized classes, or a bunch of special campus activities? Of course, it's all of these things but it's also so much more. The Honors Program is an academic program with several very unique and incredible academic opportunities, but it is also a student organization with a student led council, and an indescribably tremendous and exceptional student body that truly makes the Honors Program what it is. We, the students, working with the Honors instructors, are what make the small class sizes so successful and all of the activities so rewarding and so much fun. So how do you answer the question "What is the Honors Program?" It's my hope that every Honors students' answer is different, built upon their own experiences and perspectives. As for me, the Honors Program is one of the best decisions I ever made!



VP of ACTIVITIES:

KARINA BOTELLO

I remember the time when I had no idea where I was going to be attending college. All I knew was that I wanted to go someplace where I would be receiving a great education. "Where will you be going for college?" My mother and many others would ask repeatedly. As the stress began to build up more and more, the possibility of attending OTC was an option. Now I'm not going to lie, it wasn't my first option. In fact, I told myself that I wouldn't go unless I absolutely needed to. And I believe that many others may think like this or have thought about OTC this way.

I decided to attend OTC my freshman year of 2012 and was accepted into the Honors Program. Once I started attending classes here a memorable journey had begun. Being in the Honors Program has opened up opportunities for me that I couldn't have possibly imagined, and I know for sure, in the long run, it will help me to achieve my dreams and goals. The Honors Program has challenged me academically, allowing me to become a better student in all my classes. The instructors have all been phenomenal, every single one of them. But the best part of this experience is having met some incredible, intelligent, hardworking, and simply down-to-earth people from different age groups that I honestly have no words to express my feelings for.

I've had my ups and down at this school, from experiencing my first wrath of college finals, to creating unforgettable memories with instructors and students here at OTC. And now, as I graduate this spring of 2014, I will remember the memorable times I've spent here. And to end this farewell, all I have to say is this, OTC you will be greatly missed!



VP OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: SHAYNE JACOPIAN



This will be my last writing here as an officer, as I'll be graduating at the end of this semester, and I'd like to reflect on how good of an experience the OTC Honors Program has been for me. In high school I really wasn't involved in much. I participated in speech and debate for a year, but other than that, I just went to school and went home, for the most part. As soon as I got to OTC, and became a part of the honors program, I started getting involved in community service and volunteering activities, as well as getting more involved in my classes, particularly the honors classes. Having a group of like-minded people to motivate me to get out and do things for the community and to do well in more challenging classes made all the difference.

In addition to doing better in school and being more involved on campus, I found myself doing things outside of the program that I wouldn't have done previously. I pursued a tutoring position at the writing center, which I was hired for—I've worked there for three semesters, and it has been just as valuable of an experience as the Honors Program. I began to write more music, I began to play shows—seldom at first, and more frequently as time went on—and I recorded a CD. And of course, I became an officer in the Honors Program last semester, and the extra challenge and responsibility has been a great experience in itself.

I probably wouldn't have done any of that had I not gained a lot of confidence in myself, and that personality change wouldn't have happened had it not been for the honors program and the writing center and all that I've learned as a result of my involvement with both.

As excited as I am to graduate and move on to the next thing, I'll always fondly remember OTC, the Honors Program, the writing center, and all the friends I've made and experiences I've had.

HONORS PROGRAM TREASURER: JACI EMORY



Hey there! My name is Jaci Emory and I am your Spring 2014 Treasurer. This is my first year at OTC. I am hoping to earn my associates of biology degree here before transferring to Missouri State University to finish my bachelor's degree, then off to medical school for me! I aspire to be a pediatric anesthesiologist. I am new to the Honors Program this semester, so I have not had the opportunity to meet most of you. I look forward to seeing you at different events or in future classes in the coming semesters. I hope your semester is going strong! Finals are almost here, which means that summer break is almost here. Finish strong! Good luck.



VP OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: BRANDON PERKINS

Greetings fellow HSC students!

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve in the office of Academic Integrity. My office has had to do with integrity, and so I wanted to speak a moment on that matter. Quickly, a definition of the word seems appropriate.

Integrity:

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

synonyms: honesty, honor, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, virtue, decency, fairness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness

The state of being whole and undivided.

synonyms: unity, coherence, cohesion, solidarity

To paraphrase the director, Mr. Todd Yerby, this is your program; you will get out of it what you put into it. We need each other in this world, in the community at large. As the old saying goes, no man is an island. Support one another in all you do, act with kindness, love and respect, and it will be reflected back on you in some manner, even if it doesn't come back in the form or fashion you would choose.

Much Love, Brandon Perkins, your servant and friend.

IN GOOD COMPANY

By Wade Southwell



Melissa Luburich Bean is an American congresswoman, serving as U.S. Representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district from 2005 to 2011. Melissa graduated from Oakton Community College with an Associate's Degree in 1982 and from Roosevelt University in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree. Prior to her election to Congress, she was president of a home-based business, Sales

Resources Inc., which counted many Fortune 1000 companies as clients.



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is a former American congresswoman and current U.S. Representative for Florida's 27th congressional district, and served as Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee from 2011-2013. In 1989, Ros-Lehtinen became the first Cuban American and Latina elected to Congress! She was also the first Republican woman elected to

the House from Florida, and is currently the most senior Republican woman in the U.S. House. Before receiving her Bachelor of Arts in education and her Master of Arts in educational leadership from Florida International University, Ileana graduated with an Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College. Ros-Lehtinen played a key role in keeping the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010 from being passed into law and has also been a notable Republican voice in favor of LGBT rights. In a Winter 2013 interview with the Human Rights Campaign, she stated that her support for same-sex marriage was based on "coming from Cuba, losing my homeland to communism, seeing the state control everything – I'm a person that believes in individual liberties and not having the government control everything."



Websites:

- www.quizlet.com – flashcards & games
- www.wolfram.com – mathematics assistance
- www.studystack.com – flashcards & games
- www.KhanAcademy.com – educational videos
- www.studyblue.com – flashcards & games
- www.box.com – online storage for documents
- www.dropbox.com – online storage
- www.desmos.com – online graphing calculator

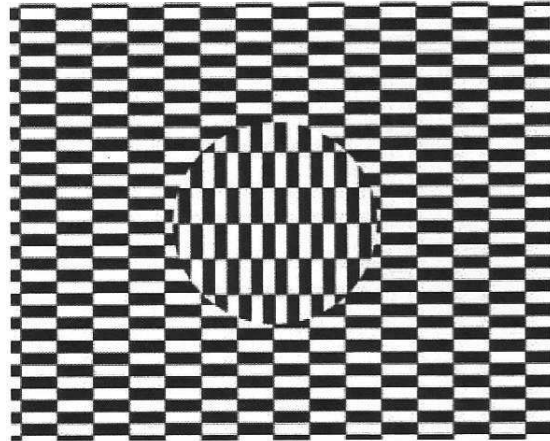
Android Apps:

Mathway
CmScanner
Flashcards+
Khan Academy
School Assistant
School Helper
MindJet

Apple Apps:

Edmodo
HMH Fuse Algebra I
Springpad
iStudies Lite

Mental Break



Cryptoquote

ZYFPQOUSB EZO SEP PHHPLS AH
 PJULUSUKW SZJPKSO GEULE UK
 DQAODPQACO LUQLCTOSZKLPO
 GACJY EZFP JZUK YAQTZKS.
 EAQZLP, QATZK DAPS

Clue: P equals E

Optical Illusion
 Vibrating Circle

Word of the Month

Sciamachy

- (n.) pronunciation |skE-a-mok-E (SKEE-ah-mahk-ee)
 - from Greek skiamakhia a mock fight,
 from skia a shadow + makhesthai to fight
 - a battle against imaginary enemies;
 fighting your shadow
 Ex. Boxers will often use sciamachy
 when they are training solo.

	7						6	
		8					4	7
3				2	9	1		
1		9	3	7		4		
	3	2	5	6				1
		6	9	8		5		2
2	8	7	6	4	5	3		9
4		3	8	1			2	5
6	1	5		9			7	4

Sudoku Puzzle, Easy