

# The Hairdresser



Denise's life as a hairdresser started out in a most improbable manner. She had been a fourth grader at Klondike Elementary School in Whistler, South Dakota when the Fliederer Family Circus came to town. Partly as a goodwill gesture and partly as a tactic to drum up business, the circus sent The Amazing Electrophorus to the school to give a free magic show. All 105 students crammed into the school's tiny auditorium to watch the magician perform astounding feats of electrical prestidigitation. First, he introduced life-sized shadow puppets Pip Proton and Elmer Electron, the respective Messrs. Optimist and Pessimist of the electrical world. They danced and sang and, no matter their intrinsic differences, clearly were attracted to one another. Still, Nellie Neutron, Miss Impartiality, looked on with an air of indifference. Electrophorus next pulled some common household items from his pockets and promptly converted them to their electrical counterparts. He turned 10 voles into 10 volts, 20 stools into 20 joules, 30 knots into 30 watts. Then he asked for a volunteer from the audience. Denise had unwittingly sat in the next-to-last row, home of the school's red ant colony, and some of the more adventurous colonists found this new, herbal scented territory worthy of exploration. When ant no. 1,135 (Dwayne) bit into her succulent leg, the poor girl shrieked and jumped up, and Electrophorus mistook her distress for animated curiosity. He motioned her to come forward, then seated her in front of the Electro-frankfurterometer, which, indeed, resembled a giant hot dog. He placed her hand on the business end of the "bun," then turned on the machine. Denise shrieked as the EFF badly malfunctioned, sending the electrical equivalent of a hundred thousand nosy red ants into the innermost reaches of her sanctum sacroiliac. Electrophorus frantically shut down the machine, but Denise's hair continued to stand on end. In fact, it remained perpendicularly aligned for six months, long enough to convince her to alter her career path from mortician to beautician. A wise move it turned out to be, too – but that's another story.