



Odyssey of the Mind

Newsletter

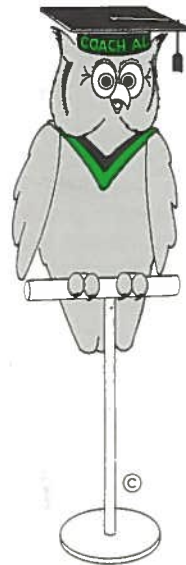
VOLUME 10,

NUMBER 3,

SPRING 1988

OMER'S TEAM IS NOW COMPLETE!

Everyone has a special role to play in making OMER's team complete. **Chipper** is the team's builder. **Rose** is the artist and a performer. **Flood** is the researcher. He likes to use words and is the idea individual. **P.C.** is the technical whiz. She likes to use computers and design robots and vehicles. The twins, **Cookie** and **Milkweed** are very creative, funny, and occasionally mischievous. Of course, **OMER** is the team leader and decision maker. **Coach AI** is wise enough not to interfere with the team's creativity and decision making.



Coach AI:
OMER, let's give
our team
members last
names. What do
you think?

OMER: O.K. Coach, I'll ask them.



Flood: Mark Twain once said, "When a teacher calls a kid by his or her entire name, it means trouble."

Chip: Nooo way!

Rose: I vote no!

Cookie: No!

Milkweed: No!

P.C.: No, thank you.

The team will make suggestions and recommendations and hopefully will provide a great deal of interest to all of us. There will be a special introduction of **OMER** at the World Finals.



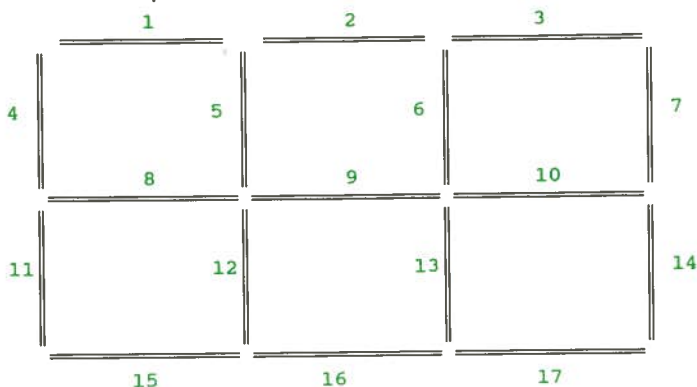
OM Notes

- At this year's World Finals will be a team participating from Newfoundland and a team from China.
- To use with the new IBM PS2/50 computer system, OM purchased Ventura Desktop Publishing. This should mean OM will be capable of doing basic in-house typesetting, therefore saving some printing costs.
- Curriculum guides will be included as part of the 1988-1989 membership packets. They will be funded by grant monies from IBM.
- Further explanation seems necessary concerning the Community Group, Category D membership. These memberships are seldom approved. The school district must refuse to purchase the membership and must not have other memberships within the district. A school principal refusing to approve the membership does not mean that the school district refuses. Parents in dispute with the school may not pursue a community organization to purchase their own membership unless there are no other memberships within the district.
- Curriculum coordinators, when renewing memberships for 1988-1989, please do not order memberships without giving us the names of the memberships. If uncertain as to which schools will be participating, use the synopses of the problems to present to students to find out their interest to participate. Please refer to the rules pertaining to transfer or withdrawal of membership addressed on page three of the *Odyssey of the Mind Program Handbook*.
- Please be advised that the packet of membership materials is intended as curricular materials. Receipt of this packet doesn't necessitate that the member enter competition, it simply gives the member the option.
- Bowling Green State University from Ohio and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte have joined as Division IV members.
- Thanks to Amanda Wilkerson, Coffee High School, Douglas, Georgia for sending us a peanut dressed in an Omer Costume.
- With pleasure we report that Mexico has become chartered for this year.
- In Charles County Maryland, all twenty-five schools are members of Odyssey of the Mind. These schools all participate in regional competition as reported by Dr. Jay McCrea, Charles County Board of Education Coordinator of Gifted Education. This is the only county in Maryland with this distinction and the only Maryland region composed of one county. As far as we know, this may be the only county in our membership where this many schools composing one county are all members.
- Funding sources may show up in strange places as evidenced by the Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind Association being given a \$5,000 grant by the National Wrestling Federation.
- The Chevron Corporation from San Francisco will donate \$2,000 toward expenses to be incurred by the Chinese team expected to participate at this year's world finals. The team, sponsored by the Juvenile Press of China, is scheduled to be traveling with a contingency of ten people. Chevron anticipates holding a reception in California for the Chinese team members.
- The reader response card in this newsletter should help us assess the curriculum guides included with your membership packet. Please return the card soon after its receipt. Your response will help us offer better curriculum guides for 1988-89.
- To insure your team has the latest problem clarifications for competition, remember to send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. Clarifications will not change after April 1 except for those that are specific for world finals competitors.



Toothpick Testers

Using the numbering system provided, solve the following problems. All remaining toothpicks must be used and only the exact number of squares called for may be left.



1. Take away 1 toothpick ... leave 6 squares.
2. Take away 2 toothpicks ... leave 6 squares.
3. Take away 2 toothpicks ... leave 4 squares.
4. Take away 3 toothpicks ... leave 4 squares.
5. Take away 3 toothpicks ... leave 2 squares.
6. Take away 4 toothpicks ... leave 4 squares.
7. Take away 4 toothpicks ... leave 3 squares.
8. Take away 5 toothpicks ... leave 5 squares.
9. Take away 5 toothpicks ... leave 3 squares.
10. Take away 1 toothpick ... leave 5 squares.
11. What is the least number of toothpicks that must be removed in order to leave no squares?

Attention Structure Coaches

"Testor's Glue" has been approved as acceptable to use in the building of the balsa wood structures.

A NEW OM BOOK Making Learning Fun!

By C. Samuel Micklus

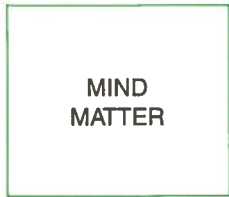
A new OM book titled "Make Learning Fun!" is now available. Chapter I, "A Personal Note," offers a behind-the-scenes look at how OM problems are developed. It also gives a description of collegiate activities that led to the *Odyssey of the Mind Association* and the *Ranatra Fusca Award*. Chapter II explains the curriculum project which was the initial attempt to integrate creative problem-solving activities into the regular classroom.

Featured in this book are 11 long-term, 19 non-linguistic spontaneous, 38 verbal spontaneous, and 6 warm-up problems. These problems have all been used before in competition.

The book has many photographs and illustrations. It is perfect bound, 136 pages, and costs \$16.95. We hope that it will help to make learning fun!

FUNNY RELATIONS

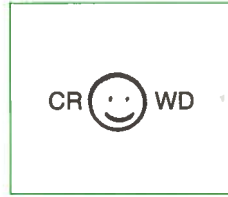
By combining words or symbols in unusual relations to each other, little fun sayings can be developed. Examples follow.



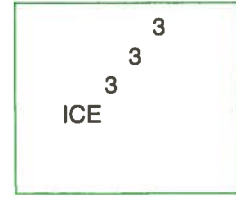
Mind over matter



Backward glance




Face in a crowd



Ice cubes

Just for fun, try to come up with the answers for the following funny relations. Special thanks to Dr. Fred Bradley, "Straddle Structure" Problem Captain, for sharing these with us. Similar activities appear on pages 52 and 53 of the book, *Odyssey of the Mind*.

Sπky	monotod	woWolfol	Play Play	PLOT																
wea ^t her	chair	Reading	Y R R U H	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"></div> <p>Sand</p>																
Wear Long	injury + insult	əɪpɪdɔːk	Rest You're	O TV																
V I O L E T S	<p>A</p> 	T O U C H	S T O N E	house Prairie																
C C garage r r	<p>Roger</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"></div>	THE A T O M	MAT ♡ TER	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>12/31</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr> </table>	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	12/31		X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X																	
X			X																	
X	12/31		X																	
X	X	X	X																	

World Finals Coaches' Problem: OMER THE TARGET

- Purist Division (Coach must solve the problem alone.)
- Poetic License Division (Coach may get help from his or her team.)
- Judges' Division
The officials for the competitions will be OM kids.

A. THE PROBLEM

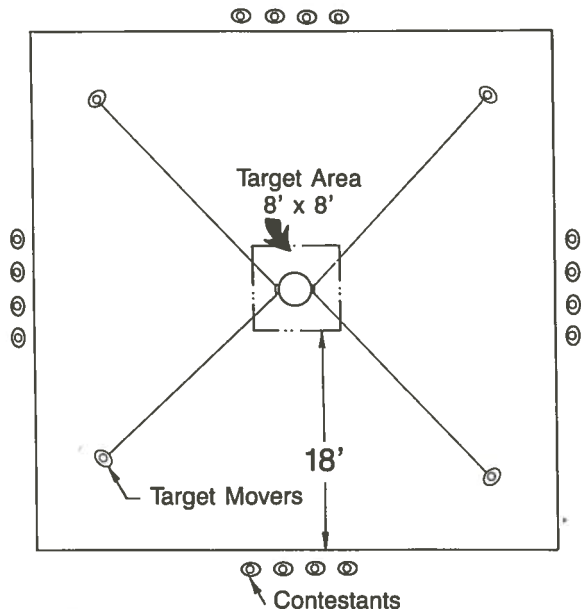
Your problem is to design, build and/or use a device to cast a tennis ball into a moving target. The SPIRIT OF THE PROBLEM is to get a tennis ball into a target faster than your opponents.

B. THE LIMITATIONS

1. You are allowed to use a maximum of 4 tennis balls. These balls are to be supplied by the participant.
2. The tennis balls must identify the coach or judge, membership name (if a coach), and his or her city, state/province, country, and either Purist Division or Poetic License Division.
3. The tennis balls may not be altered or have anything attached to them while being shot.
4. You may touch the tennis balls to load or activate your device, but you may not throw them by hand (bare or covered) at the target.
5. There are no cost limitations.
6. The judge will give the signal to begin. You will then have 1½ minutes to get your tennis ball into the target.
7. No explosions are allowed.
8. No sports rackets or paddles may be used directly by hand, but they may be be part of a mechanical solution.

C. THE COMPETITION

1. Each contestant is honor-bound to enter the appropriate division. The Purist Division may be entered only if the coach has solved the problem alone. Coaches electing to have their teams help them must enter the Poetic License Division.



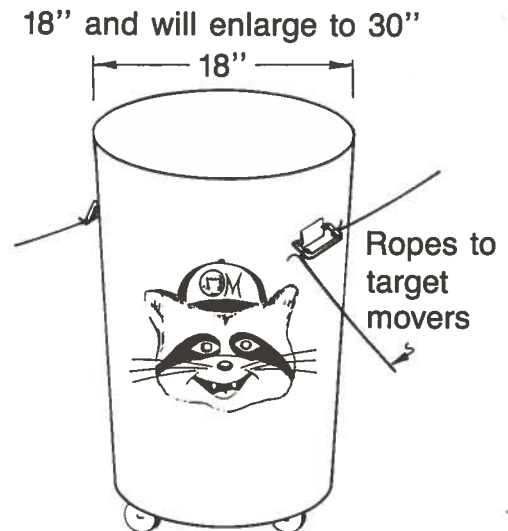
2. The Judges' Division may be entered only by this year's OM World Finals judges.
3. Only contestants within a division may compete against each other. Competitions may not mix groups, e.g., a judge entering the Purist Division.
4. Each division will compete in two parts. In Part I, each qualifying round will select up to three finalists from each group competing; Part II will have these finalists compete to determine winners.
5. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each division.

Part I:

1. Contestants and their devices will take their positions behind the boundary line on the floor, approximately 20 feet away from the target.
2. The entire device must be behind the starting line.
3. In case of accidental collisions . . . SORRY!
4. The first three contestants who shoot tennis balls into the target will be selected to compete in the final round.
5. After one minute, the target area will be increased in size. You may shoot your tennis balls at any time. The longer you wait, the easier the target. However, someone may get a ball in earlier.
6. If none of the contestants get a ball into the target, those shooting at that time will get a second chance with all four balls. If one person gets a ball into the target, he or she alone will move up in the competition.

Part II

1. The finalists from each preliminary competition in Part I will play against each other. In case of a tie, runoffs will be held until a winner is determined.
2. The judges' decisions are final.
3. There will be no clarifications given for this problem. "You take your chances."



20 gallon trash can on casters



THE RIDDLE KING'S RIDDLE RECIPE

By Mike Thaler

One of the most fun and exciting things you can do with words is to

CREATE YOUR OWN RIDDLES.

It is also one of the most educational. In the process of making riddles, an individual will use and develop many linguistic skills such as: syllabication, synonyms rhyming, syntax, and forming a question. An individual will also develop many thinking skills such as: CODING and DECODING, LATERAL THINKING, IMAGING, SYNTHESIZING, EXPANSION OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, VOCABULARY, and USE OF REFERENCE BOOKS.

But most of all, this highly motivated process develops a love of language and a glimpse of the joy that language can give back.

BY FOLLOWING THIS SIMPLE, SURE FIRE PROCESS, YOU CAN CREATE OR TEACH OTHERS TO CREATE MILLIONS OF RIDDLES.

THE RIDDLE KING'S RIDDLE RECIPE®

- 1) Pick a subject: PIG
- 2) Make a list of synonyms and related words:
HOG, SWINE, OINK, HAM
- 3) Take any word from the list: HAM
DROP THE FIRST LETTER
leaving AM
- 4) List words that begin with AM:
AMBULANCE, AMNESIA, AMATEUR
- 5) Put the H back on:
HAMBULANCE, HAMNESIA, HAMATEUR
These are your riddle answers.
- 6) Now make up your RIDDLE QUESTION using the answer's definition.
IN WHAT DO YOU TAKE A PIG TO THE HOSPITAL?
Answer: In a HAMBULANCE

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN A PIG LOSES ITS MEMORY?

Answer: HAMNESIA

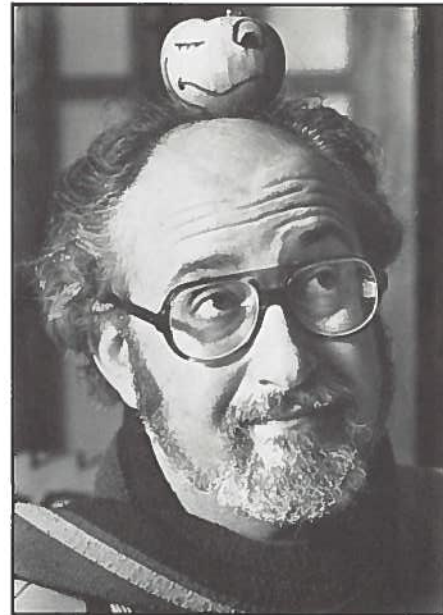
WHAT DO YOU CALL A PIG THAT'S NOT A PROFESSIONAL?

Answer: A HAMATEUR

THAT'S IT!

YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS CAN NOW
CREATE RIDDLES TOGETHER,
LEARN TOGETHER,
AND LAUGH TOGETHER.

BEST WISHES
MIKE THALER
AMERICA'S RIDDLE KING



And Remember:

THE MOST POWERFUL NATION
IN THE WORLD IS
IMAGINATION

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM July 10-16

College Misericordia in Dallas, Pennsylvania, will once again be the site of the Creative Competitions Summer Enrichment Program, open to students ages 10 to 16. The major objective of the program will be to provide in-depth OM-type training opportunities to residential campers.

Tuition, room, and board for the week-long camp is \$390 per camper. To reserve a position at the camp, send a \$25 non-refundable deposit payable to Creative Competitions with a copy of the registration form provided below. Complete payment must be received by June 6th. For a free brochure, write to Creative Competitions SEP, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

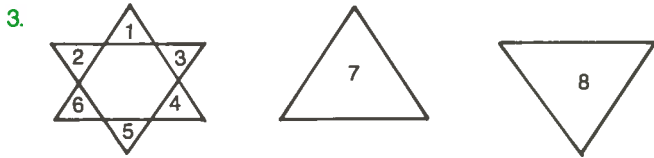
COPY THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR \$25 DEPOSIT OR FULL PAYMENT.

Please print or type.

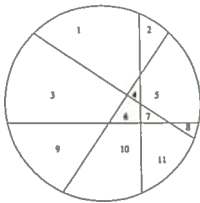
NAME _____	Age _____	Sex _____
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE # (<small>area code</small>) _____	Amount Enclosed _____	
PARENT'S / GUARDIAN'S NAME _____		

Answers to winter OM's "Brain Twisters"

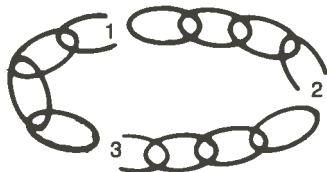
- 6.
- Take one fruit from the box labeled "Apples and Oranges." Since all boxes are incorrectly labeled, this will be either an apple or an orange. Take the correct label from one of the other two boxes and label this box correctly. Then take the remaining two box labels and switch.



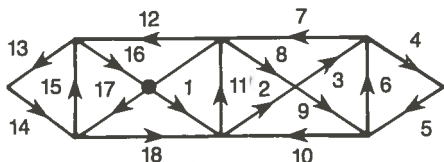
4. 11 parts



- While pointing to one of the branches, the woman asks the native if she were to ask him if the road leads to the village would he say, "Yes?" The native is forced to give the correct answer, even if he is a liar. If the road leads to the village, the liar would say, "No," to the direct question; but as the question is asked, he lies and says he would reply, "Yes." Thus, the woman can be certain that the road does lead to the village whether the respondent is a truth-teller or a liar. If the road doesn't actually lead to the village, the liar is forced in the same way to say, "No."
- Let air out of the tires to lower the truck enough to permit it to continue through the underpass.
- Fill the hole with water so that the ping-pong ball floats to the top.
- Using one three-link section of the chain piece, the lady tells the jeweler to cut each link apart and use each link to secure the other sections together.



- The bottle containing the liquid would dissolve.
- As the words stated the problem, this would have been simple. The problem, however, should have requested the figure to be drawn without retracing a line such as the following:



Attention NAGC Members

Dr. Al Oliver has been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Gifted Children NAGC. Dr. Oliver is an original member of the OM Board of Directors. We hope you will support Dr. Oliver in this election.

1988-1989 Long-Term Problems

Brief descriptions of the 1988-1989 long-term problems follow. The names aren't finalized; therefore, they will be called by numbers. Problems are subject to change. You may wish to present these to your students to determine their interest in renewing their membership.

PROBLEM No. 1, Divisions II and III: The team's problem is to design and to produce a transportation system. Team members will each send an electrical-powdered vehicle carrying costume parts to each teammate. Costume parts will arrive "just in time" to transform the team into something else.

PROBLEM No. 2, Divisions I, II, & III: The team's problem is to complete specific tasks by using smaller than three-inch-diameter balls as the initial energy source.

PROBLEM No. 3, Divisions I, II & III: The team's problem is to combine Greek mythology with today's products and marketing techniques and to demonstrate the solution via a live presentation of a humorous television commercial.

PROBLEM No. 4, Divisions I, II, & III: The team's problem is to design and to build a structure built of minimum amounts of balsa wood which will hold as much weight as possible.

PROBLEM No. 5, Divisions I & II: The team's problem is to create a fable which reflects the team's interpretation of the birth of a moral selected from a given list.

Summer Study Opportunities for Adults

One and two week programs;
June, July, and August 1988

- Small Groups (6-12)
- Informal, Lakeside Setting
- Intensive, "Hands-On" Experience
- Practical skills and materials—Directly Relevant for O.M. Coaches/Judges/Trainers

- Advanced topics include Seminars on:
Creative Learning & Problem Solving
CPS Facilitation
Advanced CPS
Training CPS Trainers
Learning Styles & Thinking Skills

For a complete brochure, contact:
Center for Creative Learning
P.O. Box 619
Honeoye, NY 14471
(716)-367-3560

1988-89 OM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your 1987-88 OM membership expires in June. The address label on this newsletter reflects how OM has listed your 1987-88 membership. If there are questions about your membership name, call (609) 881-1603 for a clarification. Please fill out this entire form. Do not put down a school district as your name. Include the name of your county as it helps us determine who is

your regional director. Please also include your 1987-88 membership card number so that we can cross reference our files. The cost of the membership remains \$90.00 for Divisions I, II and III and \$125 for Division IV. ** TO ORDER: Fill out and return this form to OM Association, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

ENCLOSE IS CHECK # _____ PAYABLE IN US FUNDS OR PURCHASE ORDER # _____ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ FOR _____ MEMBERSHIP(S) and . . .

- _____ Copies of Problems, Problems, Problems (\$10.95 @ plus \$1.75 shipping & handling) \$ _____
 - _____ Copies of Odyssey of the Mind (\$12.50 @ plus \$1.75 shipping & handling) \$ _____
 - _____ Copies of OM-AHA! (\$15.50 @ plus \$1.75 shipping & handling) \$ _____
 - _____ Copies of Make Learning Fun (\$16.95 @ plus \$1.75 shipping & handling) \$ _____
 - _____ Shipping / handling is \$1.75 for the first book. Additional books, add \$1.00 each. \$ _____
 - _____ Additional newsletter subscriptions (\$8.00 @ per year USA, \$10.00 @ per year outside USA) \$ _____
 - _____ Additional OM Program Handbooks (\$9.00 @) \$ _____
- Total Enclosed** \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP NAME _____ 87-88 Member # _____
(Please indicate your membership category by circling one of the categories below.)

- A An individual School Name (\$90) (In competition may enter one team per problem, per division, for each division within the school.)
OR
- B Program Name where an itinerant teacher works with the OM Program in two to five schools. (\$90) (In competition may enter each problem once.) Under this membership, the itinerant teacher, not the program coordinator, must work with the OM Program. Tip: If you work with a specific program in just one school, it will probably be to your advantage to join under category A not B.
OR
- C Two buildings served by the same principal. (\$90) (In competition may enter one team, per problem, per division.) Please list both schools as the membership name.
OR
- D A Community Group. (\$90) (In competition may enter each problem once.) This must be an existing community group, not one formed just to join the OM Association. Community memberships are available only if the local schools refuse to participate in the program.
OR
- E A College / University (\$125) (May enter one team in each problem.)
OR
- F An Associate Member (Individual \$15, Family \$25)

COACH / CONTACT _____ COUNTY _____

COACH'S SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROV _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

HOME # (^{area code}) _____ SCH # (^{area code}) _____ Grs Covered _____

** Foreign country memberships: Outside of North America the membership fee is \$100.00. If the membership is a Department of Defense School and all the membership mailings go to an APO or FPO address, the membership rate remains \$90.00. For book orders to foreign countries, postage and handling is \$8.00 for the first book and \$4.00 for each additional book. To expediate your orders, please make certain that your business office submits payment by following one of these guidelines: 1. Makes the check drawn on a US bank, OR, 2. Pays with a US money order, OR, 3. If payment is drawn on a foreign bank, makes the check payable in US funds.

Please make certain this form is returned with your check or purchase order.



ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 27,
GLASSBORO, NJ 08028

Non-Profit
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Glassboro, N.J. 08028
Permit No. 30

FORWARDING AND
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

CONTAINS DATED MATERIAL

The OM Newsletter is a publication of OM Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, New Jersey 08028. Managing
Editor: Dr. Albert I. Oliver. Executive Editors: Dr. Elisabeth
Bradley and Dr. Samuel Micklus.

ASSOCIATION ROUNDUP

Competition date change: Vermont 4/9 to 4/16

Competition date:
Southwestern Ontario, Essex Dist H S, Essex 4/23.

Director changes:

Philippines:	Southwestern Ontario:
Sonja-Lee La Bouliere	Judy Bowden
PSC 4, Box 16816	c/o Wilf Innerd
APO San Francisco, CA 96408-0006	Faculty of Education
	University of Windsor
	Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

Fun Activity with Members' Towns

Below are listed some of the towns where there are Odyssey of the Mind memberships. These names can be used as a fun activity for your students. The activity can go like this: The coach gives the students a name of one of the towns and the verbal response should be what can be found in that town. Example: Minnetonka. A response could be, "Little play trucks can be found in Minnetonka." Or Star City, "I'm found in Star City." Or Deerfield, "Bambi can be found in Deerfield."

Aloha	Green Bay	Red Lodge
Big Stone Gap	Horseheads	Rice Lake
Black Creek	Hygiene	Riddle
Clearlake	Independence	Seymour
Drain	Justice	Shell Lake
Electric City	Little Chute	Travelers Rest
Eureka	Lolo	Trout Creek
Fish Creek	Loveland	Trout Lake
Fox Lake	Mrytle Creek	Turtle Creek
Friday Harbor	Newcastle	West Glacier
Friendship	New Holstein	
Greenacres	Providence	

Additional Associate Members

AZ	Jimmi Lou Mills	GA	Leora Wollner
BC	Burt Decter	KY	Maria Gnas
CO	The Sid Brockman Family	MA	Debra Faust
CO	The Grady Clay Family	MA	Katherine Wrynn
CO	Michael Schwab	NJ	Matthew Ignoffo
FL	Robert Cranmer	NM	The Holten Family
FL	Barbara Mitchell	YT	Margot Simonot

OM Poetry by Ann Gorton-Horan

ONE TEAM EFFORT

For some members of the team, the work is done;
For others of us, our work has just begun.
Whatever the particular case may be,
Our performance today was exemplary.

We worked together, one and all,
Doing the assignment without a flaw.
The teams, when called, were ready to go.
The hours they spent did certainly show.

Decisions were made in a professional way,
As the tribunal group "weathered" the day.
The judges acknowledged the teams without fuss,
Critiquing both long-term and spontaneous.

The parents who helped had value indeed,
Their volunteer efforts insured we'd succeed.
The crowd was controlled in an efficient manner,
As various groups proudly displayed their schools' banner.

The harmonious teamwork was most evident
To all who were present for the playoff event.
For many good people with one common goal,
Shared in the joy as the victory bell tolled!

Answers to "Tricky Math" published in the winter newsletter

1.	0	5.	987,654,321	8.	3
2.	43	6.	The notebook costs	9.	3
3.	10		\$1.05, the pencil \$.05.	10.	\$13,212
4.	9	7.	29		