



Odyssey of the Mind

Newsletter

VOLUME 12,

NUMBER 1,

FALL 1989

OM TOUR TO USSR A GREAT SUCCESS

by SAM MICKLUS

In August, 18 people associated with the Odyssey of the Mind, left JFK airport for Moscow. This was the first OM group to go to the USSR and it was wonderful! In my previous trip to Russia last spring, Vladimir Cherkovetz and Elvira Starostina suggested that OM bring a group of people to the USSR. Jim Walter at Passageways, OM's official World Finals travel agency, made the necessary arrangements.



An old church in the Soviet Union

The tour included visits to various cities in Russia — including Moscow, Troitsk and Leningrad. We also made visits to the golden ring ancient cities of Vladimir, Suzdal and Zagorsk. Although we stayed in hotels two nights, we had a wonderful experience staying with Russian families. Every day was packed with excitement and adventure. Some of the trip's highlights included a visit to the museum inside the Kremlin. Here we saw a marvelous collection of medieval suits of armor, religious artifacts from ancient churches, and much more. We toured Moscow, rode the subway and saw a performance by Soviet folk dancers. One night we walked a few miles into a forest and had a Soviet style "barbecue."

The visit to Leningrad was wonderful. In the Hermitage, the world's largest art museum, we saw two paintings by Leonardo daVinci and a sculpture by Michelangelo. Combine this with perhaps the world's largest collection of Rembrandts and a great selection of French Impressionists, and one can easily see the importance of this museum.

Here are a few comments by some of the people on the trip. Due to limited space they had to be edited.

Molly Hankins (MO): "Flying home from the Soviet Union my heart and mind are overloaded with images...dozens of Soviet and U.S. friends gathered around a mid-forest campfire, frantic shopping for souvenirs, a monastery filled with spitting candles and the singing of priests, evenings at my host family's kitchen table, conversation facilitated by the furious use of bilingual dictionaries..."

(continued on page 2)

Hi, Everybody!

Don't forget to participate in the challenge given by President Bush to Odyssey of the Mind to come up with ideas to reduce the U.S. Federal Deficit. The entry form is included in your membership packet and must be returned to OM by February 16. You may copy the entry form. Everyone is eligible — students of all ages, parents, professionals, people from other countries, EVERYONE!



This contest is a great project for many different classes as well as an activity for the home. A committee will select the best entries and forward them to President Bush. The author of each winning entry will receive a certificate from me. Who knows — maybe some of your solutions will be implemented.

You may submit as many ideas as you wish, but please use a separate form for each one.

See ya!
OMER

Apply Soon for Odyssey of the Mind Scholarships

Beaver College, Central Michigan University, College Misericordia, Friends World College, GMI Engineering and Management Institute, and Neumann College offer OM scholarships. The individual to contact about a specific college/university OM scholarship is listed on the scholarship information sheet in the membership packet. The applicant's paperwork must be received in the OM office by December 1. Any scholarship applicant interested in one of these scholarships must apply and meet the admissions requirements of the college/university before the scholarship will be announced.

In addition to specific higher education institutional scholarships, OM Association awards monetary grants funded by the Chevron Corporation and the Honda Corporation. The *Odyssey of the Mind Program Handbook* contains information pertinent to these scholarships.



OM Notes

- ★ "I think the 89-90 membership packet is **excellent**, and the whole OM movement terrific. Any school group that is not involved is short changing the students." — **Dr. Paul MacCready**, member Friends of OM Board, past Lipper Award recipient, and Engineer of the Century as awarded by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
- ★ The **Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Students' Education Act of 1988** established the soon-to-be-implemented federal office for gifted and talented. After implementation, the office has an initial \$7.9 million appropriation and a matching 1989-1990 appropriation it will disperse through a grant process. The act's funding priorities are 1) to improve the identification of students who are difficult to identify through traditional criteria and 2) to improve schools' capabilities to serve gifted students through cooperative schools, their state departments of education, universities, and regional centers.
- ★ Did you see these? The September 22, 1989, issue of *Scholastic News*, "America's Classroom Newspaper," had a nice article on the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Boulder. In its September issue, *Learning 89*, a magazine for teachers of kindergarten through eighth grade, had a blurb about Odyssey of the Mind on page 98.
- ★ The chartered association directors met near Chicago, in Rosemont, Illinois, for their fall program governance committee meeting October 6-8. Featured speaker was Denis Greene, fund raising consultant.
- ★ Children from all over the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries will express *OMitronic Humor* on a *Geographic Odyssey* through the *Seven Wonders of the World* as they *Recycle Structures in Harmony* at the 1990 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, May 31 through June 2 at Iowa State University in Ames.
- ★ World finals' teams should share equally in the payment for world finals' activities and services. The housing provided by OM includes these fees. Therefore, at future world finals, OM Association will assess a team registration fee to any world finals' team and coach who do not stay in OM provided housing.
- ★ Arkansas Senator Pryor commended the **Blytheville** students who did so well at world finals in the June 22, 1989, *Congressional Record*, Volume 135, Number 85.
- ★ The summer newsletter listed an incorrect person as coach of Northwood School, Seminole, Oklahoma, third place finisher at world finals. **Linda Lawyer** coached the team.
- ★ **Laura Liskey**, Colonial Heights Public Schools CREATE Programs Coordinator, informs us about her Division II, *Fabulous Fables* world champions. To honor the team, the coaches, the team members, and Laura met in Washington with Virginia congressman, Norman Sisisky.
- ★ "Thomas Edison learned many more ways that a light bulb couldn't work than the way it could." — *Odyssey of the Mind Advanced Coaches' Training Guide* by **Kathy Martinchek**
- ★ While in the Soviet Union, OM travelers were entertained by *Russian Poteshki*, a twenty-person ensemble, composed of children aged twelve to eighteen who played instruments and sang and danced to folk music. For over fifteen years, the group's affiliate has been the Troitsk House of Scientists. **Rinat Khalikov** heads the ensemble and wishes to have the exchange program. For more information, contact Rinat Khalikov, Troitsk House of Scientists, Moscow region, 142092, Troitsk, USSR. Moscow Fax 334-52-61.
- ★ When President Bush met with the governors in Charlottesville, Virginia, did you notice they concluded that the United States needs to do a better job in educating its children to be better **thinkers and creative problem solvers**? Sounds as if the Odyssey of the Mind Program is on target.

OM TOUR (continued from front page)

Susan Nunemaker (VA): "When I think about my trip to the Soviet Union, the first things to come to mind are love, friendship and beauty. The beauty of the Soviet Union, the friendship extended and the love that developed between our group and the peoples of Troitsk."

Grace Morse (NY): "Russia — long lines, filling food, pride in country, unexpected happenings, the different architecture of monasteries and churches, and wonderful host families that would do anything and everything for you from getting a suitcase fixed to finding unique transportation when needed." (The Russians took Grace to the picnic on a motorcycle. She looked great in that helmet!)

Terry Flood (DE): "It was a very special opportunity to visit the CCCP (Russian for USSR). My "OM" (Open Mind) was filled with many sights and sounds. These include Kremlin Walls, the Hermitage, kopecks, trick fountains, precious objects, traditions, drinking water machines, onion domes, feather pillows, bell towers, ice cream and bread, a hydrofoil ride, cannon firing and...new Soviet friends!"


Matt Saunders (NV): "It was the best trip I have ever been on. The family we stayed with was nice. I liked the train ride and the Metro. I had a lot of fun trading pins. I missed pizza and good water." (Matt was the only student on the trip.)

Debby Saunders (NV): "We had a wonderful stay with our host family. They made us feel so welcome. I enjoyed the people of the Soviet Union and the great beauty of the country. I enjoyed the ice cream, folk dancing and the children looking at my son. Thank you OM and Passageways."

Jim Bell (VA): "A rare opportunity to feel, touch, and sense the warmth and hospitality of the Soviet people by living with and among them, breaking bread and toasting vodka, sharing common experiences, and developing lasting bonds without the influence of media or politics. A must for anyone interested in knowing and understanding the Soviet people."

Brent Schondelmeyer and Lee Williams (MO): "We learn best through experience. We discovered through our ten-day trip something about ourselves as persons, something about our own country and most importantly learned the names, the faces, the homes and the history of a nation of people we have been taught to fear. Our real fear is that the designs of our leaders will not be the same as its people. We wish no evil befall their empire nor ours. Oh, by the way...we got married in Moscow."

Anne and Andrew Morse (OH): "Our trip to the Soviet Union was fast-paced, fun, fascinating, frustrating and fantastic!! The people we met were hospitable, thoughtful and so very curious about the USA. We found that our lifestyles in some respects, were **very** different, but our hopes for the future and our concern about world peace very similar. This was certainly a **most memorable** experience for only the most adventurous traveler."

OM plans to have a tour to the Soviet Union again next summer. Think about it! Let us know if you want to be on the mailing list for more information about the trip. 

Please Note

Under the "Tournament Director Will Provide" section of the long-term problem, *OMitronic Humor*, the panels should be four feet (4') wide and five feet (5') high.

OMer Turns Poet



Omer
hamming it
up at World
Finals

Colorado was more than I hoped it would be
With mountains, warm sunshine, and cool shady trees
But wherever I go or whatever I do,
The best part of traveling is being with you.

Whether with fable, structure, cue ball, or car,
Your solutions were just as unique as you are.
No one was a stranger; your friendship you shared
You proved you were champions by how much you cared.

My pin collection quadrupled in size,
Each holds a memory, each is a prize.
Perhaps by next year I'll find a good way
To show you my treasures in one neat display.

It's sad to conclude a world finals, I know,
But all of us have tons of pictures to show,
Of many new faces, some familiar ones, too,
By the way, Mary Ellen, I really missed you.

So meet me in Iowa ready once more
To present bold solutions that open the door
To spontaneous challenges, old friends and new
And remember, you're winners — you're special —

You're you.

IDEA Production

Go beyond the literal,
Stop awhile; be critical,
Then go on and take a risk!
Define the limitations,
Let courage be your guide.

Suddenly, the problem is clear,
Excited solutions very near,
Construction may now begin!
"Expand the theme," the coach's cry,
"What scenery, costumes, and script
will you try?"
Full steam ahead in leaps and bounds!

One week to go -
Competition, oh no!
Have we conveyed our ideas?
For our best we have strived,
And the day has arrived,
Judgement a most foreign audience.

Creativity our goal,
Anxiety takes its toll,
The brotherhood of team is nigh.
Scores and awards, the longest wait,
Thoughts rush ahead in hopeful gait,
Evaluation is part of the script.

Creative challenge the game,
Will they call our name?
Winners ALL have entered the stands.
Sweet victory is felt,
Whatever decision is dealt,
Creative ideas produced solution!

Ann Gorton-Horan, Coach
Branchburg High School, New Jersey

MICKLUSES RECEIVE PIONEER AWARD

In August, Sam and Carole Micklus received the Garden State Pioneer Award from New Jersey Governor, Thomas Kean. The award was presented at the state fair in Cherry Hill. In their absence, the award was accepted by Robert Purifico, New Jersey OM Association Director, and Sam W. Micklus, the Mickluses' younger son.

"Sam and Carole Micklus have taken their vision of helping students think creatively and built their program from just 28 New Jersey schools in 1978 to 7,500 classrooms across the country and around the world in 1989." Kean said.

"It is precisely this kind of imagination and willingness to step outside traditional molds that our education system needs in order to survive and grow."



Fun Names

Try this fun activity with your students. Select an animal or an insect and then name it using a famous person's name or near name. Example: If the pet is a dog, its name could be "Bob Barker" or "Al Cabone." Or, if the animal is a cat, its name could be "Sandy Claus." Using the animals and insects listed below, give each a famous person's name or derivative of the name.

praying mantis
owl
fly
frog
moose
sheep
rhinoceros
dachshund
fox
cow

crab
sparrow
myrna bird
camel
kangaroo
deer
goose
termite
elephant
duck

giraffe
woodpecker
mockingbird
ant
goat
oyster
porcupine
horse
mule
pig

If you need help with answers, turn to page 7 for suggestions.

PROBLEM PROCEDURES

Spontaneous

by Joy Kurtz, *International Problem Captain*

The team members and the coach arrive at the competition site at least ten minutes before the scheduled spontaneous competition time. Team supporters, parents, etc. do not go to the site. Some competitions may have holding rooms and/or areas where teams check in and wait. If this is the case, teams check in and wait to be called. If not, the team waits **quietly** outside the competition room until called by a spontaneous judge. Under **no** circumstances should the team knock on the door of the competition room. The spontaneous judge notifies the five spontaneous team members when they should enter the competition room.

After the team members compete and leave the competition site, they may not divulge the nature of the problem or discuss it in any way with anyone until after all teams have competed. This is for the protection of all teams involved in the competition.

Problem #1

Geographic Odyssey

by Lee Talbot, *International Problem Captain*

Before the team's scheduled competition time, a staging area judge meets the team members. At that time, the staging area judge directs the team with its vehicles, flags, membership sign, and props to enter the staging area. The team presents all required forms, including a description of the aspects portrayed. The staging area judge inspects the vehicle, props, etc. to make sure they conform to the requirements and will not damage the site. Additionally, the staging area judge points out specific items which relate to the course and answers any questions the team may have.



At the timekeeper's signal, time begins and the team proceeds with its problem solution, including any set-up required and style. The aspects' portrayals must be presented within the course as defined by the outside edge or corner of the outermost 20" x 20" flag locations. The team begins its observation starting from behind the start line and runs its vehicle in a clockwise direction. It may make observation #1 from behind the start line or on the first trip around the course. After the vehicle makes the first trip around the course, it crosses the start line. The team member(s) on the vehicle then makes the second observation as the vehicle continues around the course a second time. After the vehicle crosses the start line again, the team member on the vehicle makes the third observation. If the first segment of the competition dealing with the observations is complete, but the team wishes to continue with style or set up for the race segment, it may use the entire eight minutes. At the end of the eight-minute time, however, the team must stop even if it has not completed the observation segment. If the team does not wish to use the entire eight minutes, it may tell the timer to stop the time for this segment. This would result in reducing the maximum competition time of eleven minutes by whatever part of the eight minutes is unused.

Either at the end of eight minutes or before if the team decides, there will be a one-minute race preparation time. During this minute, the team places its vehicle behind the start line, places flags on the vehicle and prepares for the race. If the team requests it, the timer will shorten or waive the one-minute period. This will result in reducing the maximum competition time of eleven minutes by whatever part of the one minute is unused.

At the end of the one-minute preparation time or before if the team requests it, the timer gives the signal to start the race segment of the competition. The vehicle proceeds around the course in a clockwise direction and the team member(s) on it places ten flags at the designated flag locations on the course. The race segment and the competition is over at the end of two minutes or before if the team advises the judges. No style may be performed after this time.

The maximum time for the competition is eleven minutes. If any time is waived by the team from the eight-minute observation segment, the one-minute race set-up period, and/or the two-minute race segment, the maximum permitted performance time of eleven minutes will be reduced by the cumulative total of the time waived. For example, if the team advises the judges that the observation period is finished in seven minutes (instead of using the entire eight minutes) and the race set up time is finished at thirty seconds (instead of using the entire one minute), and the team uses the full two minutes (including style) for the race segment, the total time for the team's competition is nine and one-half minutes.

Unless otherwise indicated, the head judge reviews with the coach or Division III team captain the team's long-term raw score as soon as it is compiled.

Problem #2

Omitronic Humor

by Alice McRae, *International Problem Captain*

Before the team's scheduled competition time, a staging area judge meets the team members. At that time, the staging area judge directs all team members and coach with their props, sign, and anything else the team needs in its solution presentation to enter the staging area. The team presents its cost form, outside assistance form, and two copies of its style form. The staging area judge addresses any questions to all the team members, and when satisfied that they understand what will take place, asks the coach and alternate team members to leave the staging area. The team should make its Omitronic character's free choice reactions known to the staging area judge. The staging area judge tells the problem judges what they are.



At the timekeeper's signal, the eight-minute time limit begins. The team proceeds with its set-up, style, and long-term presentation. If the team wants the tournament director's panels moved or removed from the positions marked on the floor, the five long-term team members must move them during the eight-minute time limit.

The competition is over when the team signals the judges that it has finished. The timekeeper records the time, but does not call "time." If the team requires more than eight minutes, an overtime penalty is imposed.

At the end of the performance, the judges may ask the team to bring the Omitronic character, props, and/or costumes for closer inspection and may question the team about them. The team must then quickly remove its props from the stage. The team may have help in prop removal. If it moves the tournament director's panels, the team must replace them on the marked positions.

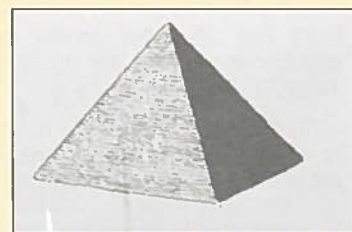
Unless otherwise indicated, the head judge reviews with the coach or Division III team captain the team's long-term raw score as soon as it is compiled.

Problem #3

Classics...The Seven Wonders of the World

by Rita Sleeman, *International Problem Captain*

At some tournaments, due to noise interfering with the performance, a pre-staging area may be designated outside the performance room. When the staging area judge calls the team, all team members and coach go to the designated area with all problem solutions, props, background scenery, membership sign and any team-provided audio-visual equipment/table/stands needed for their presentation. The team presents



to the staging area judge its cost form, outside assistance form, problem clarifications, if any, and two copies of its style form. When the staging area judge finishes giving instructions and answering questions, he/she asks the coach and team alternates to leave the staging or pre-staging area. After this time, no one may assist the five long-term members in any way until the presentation is completed.

If the above is done in a pre-staging area, the team then proceeds to the staging area adjacent to the performance area. At this time, a judge gives a final explanation about the performance area, identifies the timer, and answers additional questions.

At the timer's signal the eight-minute time limit begins and the team proceeds with its set-up, style and long-term presentation. If a team wants the two 4' wide and 5' high panels moved or removed, the five long-term team members must do this during their eight-minute time period. Placing the membership sign, plugging in an extension cord, and turning lights on/off (if permitted by the tournament director) are part of the time limit also. The team must present its replicas, model and replacements during the eight-minute time period as well.

The team may finish its presentation even if it requires more than eight minutes. However, if the team requires more than eight minutes, a penalty will be imposed. The timekeeper's time is official. No other times will be considered.

At the performance's conclusion, the judges may ask the team to bring any problem solutions, props or costumes for closer inspection and may ask the team any questions in regard to its solution to the problem. The judges will inform the team when it may move out of the presentation area with all props and equipment. The team members must replace the two 4' x 5' panels to their original positions.

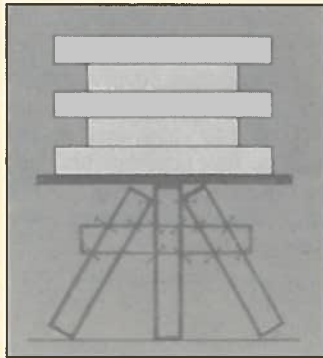
Unless otherwise indicated, the head judge reviews with the coach or Division III team captain the team's long-term raw score as soon as it is compiled.

Problem #4

Structures in Harmony

by Fred Bradley, International Problem Captain

At the scheduled time, one or more team members brings all parts and any pins to be used to the first stage of the weigh-in procedure. The weigh-in judge identifies the team and weighs parts individually and collectively. Construction and gluing are checked. Corrections and adjustments, if any, may be made by the team at this time. Penalties, if any, are noted. After testing, if the structure is to be returned to the weigh-in site, it is noted on the weigh-in sheet. After weigh-in, team members proceed to the assembly area.



The assembly area judge receives the weigh-in sheet from the weigh-in judge. When the team is ready, the assembly area judge says, "Begin," and starts the fifteen-minute timer. If the team continues until the end of the allotted fifteen minutes, the assembly area judge will say, "Stop." If team members continue working past the fifteen minutes, the time they work is noted by the assembly area judge. This information is passed to the staging area judge who alerts the problem judges to deduct the overtime from the team's eight-minute competition time. When the team completes assembly, team members proceed to the weigh-in process' final phase.

After receiving the weigh-in sheet from the assembly area judge, judges at the measurement phase make appropriate measurements of height and base and check for the two-inch open area. No corrections or adjustments of the structure may be made once the team reaches the measurement phase. If penalty areas are evident, they are assessed at this time. Once the structure is properly checked, it is stored until

approximately fifteen minutes before competition time. Teams may use personalized containers for storage. However, if teams have none, the judges can store the structures in bags. Judges attach the weigh-in sheet to the container.

Fifteen minutes before competition, a team member(s) is to pick up the team's structure and to report to the staging area. The staging area judge identifies the team members, coach(es), the adult assistant (division I), and collects all necessary forms. After being directed to do so, team members remove the structure from its container. At this time team members and coach may ask questions. The staging area judge gives instructions and answers questions. After the staging area judge finishes, only five long-term team members may remain in the staging area. If the structure is to be returned to the weigh-in site, a problem judge is informed. Style judges are alerted if any portion of style will be performed after weight placement ends. All props and audio visual aids can be in the staging area ready to move when the "begin" signal is given. When all is ready, the staging area judge directs the team's attention to the timekeeper. After the timekeeper gives the signal to begin, the team has eight minutes for set-up, style presentation, and weight placement.

Unless otherwise indicated, the head judge reviews with the coach or Division III team captain the team's long-term raw score as soon as it is compiled.

Problem #5

Recycle

by Marietta Kehler, International Problem Captain

When the staging area judge calls the team, all team members and coach go to the designated area with all problem solutions, props, background scenery, membership sign and any team-provided audio-visual equipment/table/stands needed for their presentation. The team presents its cost form, outside assistance form, problem



clarifications, if any, and two copies of its style form to the staging area judge. The staging area judge identifies the other judges by their responsibilities, such as head judge, timekeeper, and style judge. The team identifies its members by their roles, such as dispatcher and hauler. When the staging area judge finishes giving instructions and answering questions, he/she asks the coach and two alternates to leave the staging area. After this time, no one may assist the five long-term members in any way until the presentation is completed.

When the previous team has finished and cleaned up, the team members place the trash items, obstacles and hazardous waste container on the designated spots. This placement is not timed. The judges will check the locations of the team's placement of trash, obstacles, hazardous waste container and recycling center bins before timing begins. The team waits in the staging area until the timekeeper signals to begin.

When the timekeeper signals to begin, the team members may start their problem solution. When they put on their blindfolds in the Recycling Center, the judges will check them while time continues. During competition, if a blindfolded team member goes into the taped park area, a judge will guide him/her back out of the park as time continues. At the end of the eight-minute period, the timer will signal the team to stop.

Team members leave their props in the competition area until the judges tell them to remove them. The team must leave the competition area clean. Unless otherwise indicated, the head judge reviews with the coach the team's long-term raw score as soon as it is compiled.

CAMPERS PERFORM AT SEP



Last July, thirty-nine campers, ages ten to sixteen, participated in the Odyssey of the Mind Summer Enrichment Program at College Misericordia in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

Coach Praises Odyssey of the Mind

Carol Heaton, long-time coach at McCray-Dewey School in Troy, Illinois, wrote the following Odyssey of the Mind information for her local newspaper.

"OM is not about winning. The focus of Odyssey of the Mind is on creativity, doing one's best, cooperation, teamwork, good sportsmanship, dedication, and commitment. The feeling of satisfaction the students have when they realize that they can accomplish things they never dreamed they could do makes it all worth the effort. OM is fun, educational, and hard work. It requires students to give of their very best, and sometimes it takes more time than we have during class. I have actually had students beg to stay after school so they could work on their projects. I find OM to be an excellent activity for junior high students. They motivate one another as the long-range project develops.

"A team may not advance past the regional tournament, but the students on that team still had an opportunity to develop creative thinking, fluency of ideas, and problem-solving skills. Often these students say they would select the same problem and fellow team members if they had it to do over again.

"Once in a while a team captures that special moment when everything goes well for them on both the long-term and spontaneous problems. They earn the right to go off on an odyssey they will remember for the rest of their lives — to the OM World Finals. There they will meet students with similar interests from all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, and perhaps other countries. The students present their project, watch other teams perform, and note the many different solutions to the open-ended problems. Team members interact with the other participants, see new sights, learn new things, and return with many treasured memories. It is a very positive experience.

MAKE CERTAIN YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT

Look at this newsletter's mailing label. Is the membership name correct? Are the coach/contact person's name and address correct? Please let us know any corrections.

NEED TO CALL OM?

If you need to telephone our office, the office hours are 8:30 am to 5:30 pm EST. Our computer goes off-line at 5:20. Please plan your calls accordingly.

Use a Barometer to Measure the Height of a Skyscraper?

One divergent thinking activity OM uses when presenting a coaches' training workshop is called *Barometer Brainstorm*. The presenter asks the coaches to brainstorm ways to use only a barometer to measure a skyscraper.


Of course, a few scientifically minded coaches come up with answers that involve scientific principles, such as measure the barometric pressure at the bottom and at the top of the building. Then, calculate the height by measuring the pressure differences. Other scientific methods include:

1. The Pythagorean theorem (something about a high pot noose).
2. Drop the barometer from the roof and time the drop since everything falls at the same speed and then calculate the height.
3. Use the barometer as a sundial and determine the height by the shadow's angle of incidence from the sun.
4. Tie the barometer to a string, drop it, and then measure the string.
5. Measure the barometer's length. Find out how many barometers fit in the space from the bottom to the top of the building. Then multiply the number of barometers times its length.

Truly divergent thinkers, however, come up with ideas, such as

6. Use the barometer as a door knocker, knock on the building superintendent's door and ask how high is the building.
7. Take the barometer to the nearest city book shop or library and trade it for the information.

All answers involve divergent thinking as there is no one correct answer.

Coaches may wish to try *Barometer Brainstorm* with their teams. Ask younger children, how can they use a ball of yarn to measure the height of the room they are in. Accept almost any answer as correct. 

Problem Clarifications

When this newsletter went to press on October 11, a problem clarification was issued for only one long-term problem. Other clarifications, however, may have been made by the time you receive this newsletter. To keep abreast of current clarifications, send OM a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your request for clarifications. Although we guarantee a turn around time of one week, if no clarification has been made by the time we receive your request, we'll keep your envelope until a clarification is issued.

Remember, *OMitronic Humor* and *Recycle* have no problem clarifications. And, no clarifications are issued during Christmas week.

Structures in Harmony clarification — Only the parts weighed in at the pre-assembly weigh-in may be used to build the structure. If a part breaks during the assembly, the team must figure out how to build the structure using only the parts it has weighed in.

Look Who's Coaching OM Teams

What do Jack Daniels and Tom Collins have in common? Odyssey of the Mind, of course. They are listed in our office as OM coaches. William Hurt, Barbara Benton, Mary Kay, and Andi Williams join them as coaches and OM personnel along with Nova Kane, Patti Sparks, and Sandy Hill. In the principals' category, South Dakotan, A. Whirlwind Horse, stands out.

By positioning coaches' names in last name first order, Darling Rose, Dear Rebecca, Leader Sandra, Smart Sally, Nice Martha, Quick Marilyn, and Brown Bunny appear to coach teams.

Hope this humor doesn't offend any of you, especially when it comes from someone whose last name used to be Pickelsimer.

Suggestions to *Fun Names* from page 3

Animal or Insect	Famous Person's Name	Animal or Insect	Famous Person's Name
praying mantis	Pope John Paul	moose	Vidal Sassoon,
fox	Sly Stone, Michael Jay		Helene Curtis
goose	Morton Downey	myna bird	Gabby Hayes
ant	Tiny Tim	giraffe	Henry Longfellow
owl	Twiggy	horse	Buck Owens,
cow	Madame Butterfly		Sylvester Stallion
termite	Natalie Wood	sheep	Sam Shepherd
goat	Billy Idol	camel	Humpty Dumpty
fly	Venus, Bugs Bunny,	woodpecker	Richard Roundtree
	Bugsy Malone	mule	Crazy Horse
crab	Beach Boy	rhinoceros	Lena Horne
elephant	Peanuts	kangaroo	Hopalong Cassidy
oyster	Minnie Pearl		(ask your parents)
frog	Dennis Hopper	mockingbird	Tommy Tune
sparrow	Larry Bird	pig	Fat Boy
duck	Jack Webb	dachshund	Rob Lowe
porcupine	Prickly Lee	deer	Pearl Buck

Odyssey of the Mind Items Offered for Sale

In addition to the membership packet, OM Association sells other Odyssey of the Mind items. The books are especially helpful as sources of spontaneous problems. To order any of the following items, copy this order form and send the copy along with your check or purchase order to OM Association, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total	
Make Learning Fun Book	\$16.95	_____	\$ _____	
OM-AHA Book	\$15.50	_____	\$ _____	
Odyssey of the Mind Book	\$12.50	_____	\$ _____	
Problems, Problems, Problems Book	\$10.95	_____	\$ _____	
Shipping/handling is \$1.75 for the first book.				
Additional books, add \$1 each. Outside of North America shipping/handling is \$4 per book.				
			Total for Books	\$ _____ A
			Total Shipping/Handling	\$ _____ B

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total	
History of the Structure Videotape	\$15	_____	\$ _____	
1989 World Finals Videotape	\$50	_____	\$ _____	
Coaches' Training Videotape	\$25	_____	\$ _____	
OM Newsletter Subscription (Yearly)	\$8 USA	_____	\$ _____	
<i>Outside of North America</i>	\$10	_____	\$ _____	
Odyssey of the Mind Program Handbook	\$9	_____	\$ _____	
Associate Membership (Individual)	\$15	_____	\$ _____	
Associate Membership (Family)	\$25	_____	\$ _____	

Items Excluding Books and Shipping/Handling Total \$ _____ C
TOTAL FOR A, B, AND C \$ _____
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FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Odyssey of the Mind newsletter is published by OM Association, Inc., P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Individual subscription yearly rate: North America \$8; outside of North America \$10. Executive editors: Dr. Elisabeth Bradley and Dr. Samuel Micklus.



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MD State 04/28

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02/24

02/24

03/03

03/10

03/10

03/10

03/10

03/10

03/10

03/10

State 04/28

MN State 03/30-31

MS Regionals 03/23

03/24

State 04/28

NC Regionals 03/03

03/03

03/03

State 04/07

NH Regionals 03/10

03/17

03/17

03/10

State 03/31

NJ Regionals 03/09-10

03/23-24

State 04/28-29

NM State 04/21

NY State 04/21

OK Regionals 03/03

03/17

03/17

State 03/31

OR Regionals 03/03

03/31

PA Regionals 03/10

State 04/28

SD Regionals 03/03

03/10

State 03/31

TN Regionals 03/03

04/07

UT State 04/06

VT State 04/14

WA Regionals 03/03

03/03

03/10

03/10

03/10

WI State 04/21

WV State 04/07

OM World 05/31-

Finals 06/02

Univ. MD-Baltimore County, Baltimore

Otsego H S & M S, Otsego

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Greenville M S, Greenville

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Chippewa Valley H S, Mt Clemens

Central Michigan Univ, Mt Pleasant

Anoka-Ramsey Comm College,

Anoka

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Jackson St Univ., Jackson

Mississippi Univ for Women, Columbus

Eastern Carolina Univ., Greenville

Western Carolina Univ., Cullowhee

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Membership Cut-off Dates

AL	01/15/90	IN	01/10/90	OH	01/15/90
AR	01/01/90	MI	01/15/90	OR	12/15/89
AZ	02/15/90	MN	12/15/89	SD	12/31/89
CA	01/10/90	MS	01/15/90	TN	12/15/89
CO	02/15/90	NJ	12/31/89	UT	02/02/90
DE	01/05/90	NY	01/15/90	WV	01/15/90
FL	12/15/89				

Competition Dates

AL	Regionals	03/24			
	State	04/07	Samford Univ., Birmingham		
AR	Regionals	03/17			
	State	04/07			
AZ	Regionals	03/03	Desert Shadows M S, Scottsdale		
		03/10	Canyon Del Oro H S, Tucson		
	State	03/31	Desert Shadows M S, Scottsdale		
CA	Regionals	02/17	Walker J H S, La Palma		
		02/24	Bullard H S, Fresno		
		03/10	Brannan M S, Sacramento		
	State	04/07	CA St Univ., Fresno		
DC	Regional	03/17	Eastern Sr H S.		
	District	03/31	Eastern Sr H S.		
DE	State	01/27	Lake Forest H S, Felton		
FL	Regionals	03/10			
		03/24			
		03/31	Florida Int Univ., Miami		
		03/31	Palm Beach Comm College		
	State	05/05	Univ of South Florida, Tampa		
IL	Regionals	03/10			
		03/03	Metcalf Lab School, Normal		
	State	04/21	University H S, Bloomington		
IN	Regionals	03/10			
	State	04/07			
KS	Regionals	02/03			
	State	03/12	Wichita St Univ., Wichita		