



OM ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3, SPRING 1985

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND OM

The May/June issue of National Geographic's WORLD magazine will contain an article about OM. Lots of pictures from the 1984 World Finals will be included. In addition, in conjunction with the article and the 1985 World Finals at the University of Maryland, Explorer's Hall at the National Geographic building in Washington, DC will have the Ranatra Fusca trophy on display during World Finals week, June 4 to 9. ■

OM PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS

This August 5 to 9 the World Gifted Conference will be held in Hamburg, Germany. OM will have an exhibit at the conference, and Drs. Micklus, Verbeke, and Oliver have been accepted to present a panel discussion on the OM program.

OM will also have an exhibit at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Conference and Exhibit Show in Chicago March 23-25. Dr. Micklus will give a presentation on OM.

OM will have an exhibit at the Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference on April 15 to 19 in Anaheim, CA. Stop by the booth and say hello. ■

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- This July, OM will conduct a Summer Program at college Misericordia, Dallas, Pennsylvania. This enrichment program will accept students from ages 10 to 14. Discounts are available for five or more students from one membership.
- Both monetary awards and specific tuition grants are available through the OM Scholarship fund for college-bound seniors who are participating in the OM program. Deadline for application is April 1; so act now.
- For more information about the above write or call the OM office at P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028, (609) 881-1603. ■

1985 WORLD FINALS

Members who come from areas which have no sponsoring association may apply to compete in the 1985 World Finals at the University of Maryland on June 6 and 7. One team per problem, per division will be accepted for competition. If you wish to apply, send your request by April 15 to OM Association, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis.

Members who are in the areas which have a sponsoring association must place first in their association's final competition (state/province) in order to be eligible to attend. Should a first place team not be able to attend, the association has the option of inviting the second place team to represent it at the World Finals. ■

OM BOARD NOTES

It is the policy of the OM Board of Directors to print a summary of minutes after they have been approved. Following is a summary of the minutes of the June 2, 1984 meeting held at the University of Akron, Ohio. In attendance were Carole Micklus, Sam Micklus, Dan Nemode, Al Oliver, Jim Pallante, Ruth Reynolds, and Ron Todd.

Bill Jones, 1983 Lipper Award winner, will head a Friends of OM Committee.

OM discipline procedures were referred to the corporate lawyer for proper wording.

All recommendations made by the Program Governance Committee in its June 1 meeting were accepted.

A scholarship committee was established.

It was decided not to give the associations \$200 in lieu of services if they did not use their OM consultant days.

The budget for 1984-85 was approved.

The University of Maryland was approved as the site of the 1985 World Finals.

A committee was established to investigate an OM Hall of Fame.

Discussion was undertaken concerning the possibility of designing a course that would tie in OM with the Industrial Arts Technology curriculum. ■

PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS

ECOLOGY DOZER

Trips and Runs

1. Stored energy from the first run may be used on the second run in addition to driver number two pumping the jacks.
2. If a ramp is used, the vehicle must be lifted onto the ramp by the energy from the jacks.
3. Moving the vehicle back without penalty for touching the floor applies only to out-of-bounds returns.

Trees, Buckets, and Transplanting Sites

1. If a tree falls over while in the transplant area, if the team wishes to reset it for credit, it may do so, but the vehicle must be in the proper section in order to be scored.

Devices

1. Creativity of device designs will be determined by judging all devices as a group not the assignment of a point value to each device. Thus, if a team has one creative device and no other devices, it should receive a better score than a team which has three devices none of which is particularly creative. If a team has one creative device and two devices which are not creative, the amount of use a device is given will aid the judges in determining how much influence the creative device should have in point assessment.

General

1. The only assistance to the dozer's propulsion allowed is a ramp which must be connected to the dozer. The dozer must be self-contained. No contact with walls or other fixtures is allowed. ■

HI TECH: SMARTY PANTS

Competition

1. The trash will be provided by the Tournament Director.
2. The team may be in the 4' x 5' starting box at all times. The boundary line for the school at that point is the starting line (dotted line on Fig. A.).
3. The wastebasket may be knocked over as long as it stays inbounds before Smarty Pants inserts the trash. Points will be awarded if trash is successfully placed in the overturned wastebasket.
4. Smarty Pants must indicate in some way which science question is being answered. Smarty Pants should be near the task area and could either stand in front of the question board or point to it in some way.
5. The science question answers will not always be lettered as in the problem. Ex: Water spiders may become b); Birds may become c); and, Snakes may become a).
6. For purposes of the problem, in answers to the science question, "Ranatra Fusca is a classification of:"water spider will be interchangeable with water scorpion.

Limitations

Should a team utilize a commercially developed robot substantially intact as a component of its Smarty Pants, it will be up to the discretion of the judges if a Spirit of the Problem penalty should be assessed. This will be determined by the degree that the commercial unit is a component of Smarty Pants. i.e., If it simply moves Smarty Pants across the floor, this would be using it as one component of Smarty Pants and no penalty would be assessed. If the commercial unit moves Smarty Pants across the floor, has working arms, light, bell or similar devices as a party of this unit, then a Spirit of the Problem penalty may be assessed. The penalty points would be determined by the number of tasks which Smarty Pants performs utilizing this ready made commercial unit. ■

COMPOUND FRACTURE

1. Only the support structures may touch the 2" x 4"s. No structure may touch the flat surface of the base.
2. If, in the judge's opinion, the support structures are not really structures and/or do not truly support the beam structure, a Spirit of the Problem penalty may be given for each infraction.
3. In general, when a structure takes on a shape other than a square or a rectangle, the farthest points (with a perpendicular line drawn to that point) will be the designated and beginning end points for measurement.

Tester

1. Pertaining to the 2" x 4"s - the top surfaces (the surfaces onto which the support structures will be placed) and the inside surfaces (the surfaces which are eleven inches apart) should have a sturdy, smooth, non-marring surface laminated to them. These surfacing materials may include sheet metal, formica, plexiglas or other suitable material. Formica is recommended. This is so the support structures will have a smooth and unmarked surface onto which they can sit.
2. In some cases Division I teams have not been able to support the 3/4" - 1 1/2" tester top. Therefore, if it is possible, for Division I competition instead of using the regular tester top, an alternate method is to place a 3/8" x 18" x 18" plywood section as the first weight used. Then place a second 3/8" x 18" x 18" plywood section as the second weight. Omit the hard metal or formica surface completely. Then use small weights as usual.

Competition

1. There are three reasons why the problem would end: 1) the eight minute time limit expires; 2) the crusher board touches one or more of the column posts; and 3) a judge feels that the weights are leaning against the center post and that this leaning assists the structure in holding the weights.
2. Procedure for assembly at test site prior to competition: Team members will place the support structures onto the 2" x 4"s, the beam structure onto the support structures and the load bearing structure onto the beam structure. At this time the judge will measure both the distance between support structures and the height from the base of the testing site to the top of the load bearing structure. If all is within limitations, the judge will check with team members for readiness and say "begin" - time starts. If, in measuring, a judge accidentally moves a portion of the structure, realignment by team members will be allowed and measurements will be taken again.
3. Procedure at the weigh-in site: If a team wants its structure to be weighed as one unit, the weigh-in judge will request the team to (1) assemble the unit at the test site, or (2) disassemble an already assembled unit and then reassemble it, or (3) weigh the unit and have the team disassemble it. In any case, the structure must arrive at the testing site in separate pieces and ready for assembly. ■

THE BIG TOP

Competition

The team must advise the judges prior to the performance which acts and animals are to be judged in specific scoring categories.

Site

The two side panels may or may not be provided by the Tournament Director. Should a team's performance require them, it should check with the Tournament Director to see if they will be provided or if the team should provide its own.

(continued on next page)

THE BIG TOP (continued from previous page)

General

- 1. People from outer space, fiction, etc. can not be used as animal acts. They are considered to have "human-like" form or quality.
- 2. Human-like person as assistant animal trainer is permissible.

Animals

The "two person animal" means one animal portrayed by two people, not two people performing an animal act simultaneously.

Cost

- 1. Props (mats, chairs, etc.) must be figured into cost at used or garage sale prices. Audio visual equipment is not figured into cost.
- 2. The raggedy animal: All items (even \$.05 worth) must count in cost. Under garments (leotards, body suits, shorts) do not have to be counted in cost unless they are part of the costume.

Ringmaster

The ringmaster *may* portray human attributes or animal characteristics. ■

1985-86 OM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your membership in OM for 1984-85 will expire with the mailing of the Summer OM at the end of June. If you wish to renew your membership for 1985-86, *cut out this form and send it* with a check or purchase order for \$65.00 to:

OM Association
P.O. Box 27
Glassboro, NJ 08028

It has been our policy in the past to honor memberships renewed prior to October 1 at the current fee even if the membership fee is increased. We sincerely hope that we will have no need to raise the membership fees for 1985-86, but at this time we cannot make this guarantee. **RENEWALS RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15 WILL BE SHIPPED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1985. ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.**

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP (There are four possible categories of membership. Please circle the one in which you are claiming eligibility.)

- A * One school building may join for one membership fee. A school building may purchase multiple memberships. For each membership purchased the member school may enter one team per problem, per division for each division housed within the school building. Distribution of the problems beyond the member school is a copyright violation.
- B * No more than five school buildings in which students are taught by one itinerant teacher assigned to a specific program (i.e. PACE, GATE, etc.) may join for one membership fee.

This type of membership must be listed in the program name. Each program membership may enter only one team per problem (five teams maximum) and divisions may be mixed. (Ex. Problems 1 and 2: Division II; Problems 3 and 4: Division III; Problem 5: Division I) Multiple memberships may be purchased in a program name. If there are two or more itinerant teachers in a school system whose students participate in the OM program, there must be an equivalent number of memberships in the program name. Distribution of problems beyond the schools served by the program membership is a copyright violation.

- C * Two small schools served by one principal may join for one membership fee. This type of membership may enter one team per problem, per division for each division housed within the two small schools. Distribution of the problems beyond the two schools is a copyright violation.
- D * A recognized community group may join for one membership fee. It may enter one team per problem (maximum five teams) for each membership purchased. Multiple memberships may be purchased and divisions may be mixed. This type of membership may not be purchased with the purpose of covering an entire school district. It is intended to allow those areas without support from their educational systems to participate in the OM program. Distribution of the problems beyond the group is a copyright violation. ■

If your mailing address is correct on the label on the back of this form, leave it on there, add your county and phone number and omit the mailing address on the form.

COACH/CONTACT PERSON: _____

MEMBERSHIP NAME: (MUST BE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL, PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY GROUP. IF YOUR PURCHASE ORDER READS "YOUR TOWN SCHOOLS" (AND THERE IS ONLY ONE SCHOOL BUILDING, PLEASE INDICATE THIS.)

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **COUNTY:** _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____ **PHONE:** () _____

ASSOCIATION ROUND-UP

COMPETITIONS

Delaware

Final - April 20, 1985 at Lake Forest H.S., Felton.
Registration closes March 8, 1985.

Montana

Final - March 23, 1985 at University of Montana Fieldhouse.

Nevada

Final - March 23, 1985 at Dilworth Middle School, Sparks.

NEW ADDITIONS

Good news for Missouri members!

MISSOURI: Director, Susan Bates, Rolla Middle School, 1111 Soest Rd., Rolla 65401.

CHANGES

Arkansas: New Association Director - Ralph Williams, Fairview El Sch, 2400 Dallas, Ft. Smith.

South Dakota: New Association Director - Peggy Cooper, 300 Forest Ave., Vermillion.

MEMBERSHIP

As of February 14, 1985 there were 3662 members of OM Association. They are located in 47 states, six Canadian provinces, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. New York heads the list with almost 500 members, followed by Michigan with over 300 members, and Ohio with almost 300 members.

Chartered associations have been formed or are forming in 40 states, Washington, DC and three Canadian provinces. West coast representation is on the upswing now that California and Washington have sanctioned competitions. ■

OM BOOKS

Two books which have many past problems, both long term and spontaneous, are available at this time. The first and latest is **Odyssey of the Mind-Problems to Help Develop Creativity** by C. Samuel Micklus, Ed.D. It also includes a special section on coaching tips and suggestions. It was edited by Dr. Al Oliver, Professor Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania and current member of the OM Board of Directors. If you wish to order a copy, send a check or purchase order for \$14.25 (includes postage and handling) to OM Association, P. O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Also available is **Problems, Problems, Problems** by Drs. Gourley and Micklus. To order this book send a check or purchase order for \$12.70 to the above address. ■

LONG SPAN BRIDGES

Several inquiries have come to OM requesting information on Robert Maillart and his bridge designs. We have located an attractive book which describes some of his work as well as other great designers. The book includes chapters on highlights in the development of long-span bridge building, the longest spans, aspects of bridge building and Robert Maillart and Swiss Bridge Competitions. The book is entitled, *The Development of Long-Span Bridge Building*, by Tom F. Peters, et. al. The book has been translated from Swiss to French and English. Each translation is presented juxtaposed. The book has numerous photographs, and drawings and is printed in black and white. The book is 188 pages and sells for \$20.00 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. It may be purchased from:

INTERBOOK INC.
611 BROADWAY #227
NEW YORK, NY 10012 ■



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