

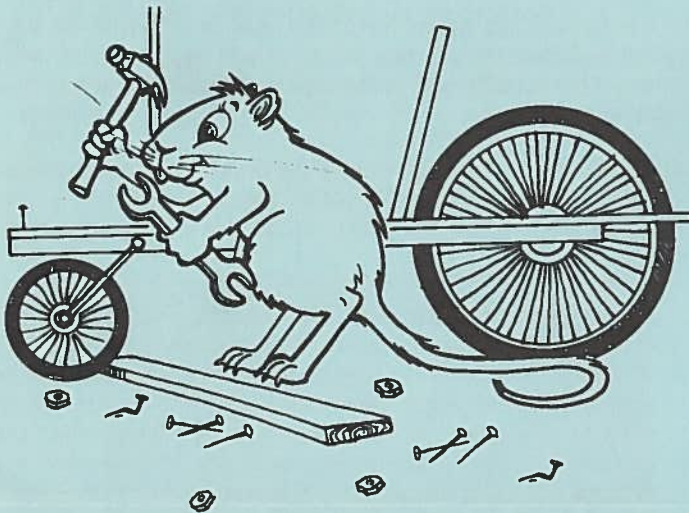


OM ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2, WINTER 1986

UNUSUAL CLARIFICATIONS

We, at OM, receive a vast array of problem clarifications. Many are humorous. We want to pass a couple of them along to our readers.



Gerbil Story

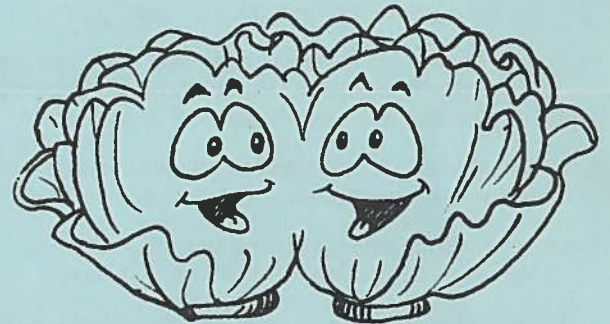
Our policy is not to make problem clarifications over the phone. However, some people do try. In 1981 our Executive Director, Carole Micklus, received a phone call from a student who asked, "Do all team members have to be human?"

"What kind of non-human are you talking about?" replied Carole.

"A gerbil," was the response.

Carole was surprised but, not to be outsmarted, she thought, "One of the 1980-1981 long-term problems, 'Windy Cool Rod,' required a team member to sit on the vehicle. 'Aha! I know' answered Carole, "You want the gerbil to drive 'Windy Cool Rod?'"

"Well, lady," was the caller's reply, "We certainly don't want it to build it for us."



Cabbage Story

Another amusing clarification received through the mail involved the long-term problem "Cruppets." This problem involved making creative puppets. . . The team members wanted to know if a Siamese talking cabbage represented one or two cruppets. You think about it and come up with an answer.

⚡ BRAINSTORMING ⚡

An OM suggestion about brainstorming. . . when going over activities with your students, newspaper headings can be useful. Clip them out and display one at a time as students give individual responses. Use the headings below as book titles and the response should be who authored a book with this title.

The Coach Store

Crow Bait

Cold Comfort

**KIWI
SPOKEN
HERE**

Just Growland Squawka Lot

SNOW FLIES

'Classical' Wrestling

PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS

OMER TO THE RESCUE

- Luggage is considered to be any type of suitcase, valise, trunk, duffel bag or similar item which is generally used by travelers for transporting clothing.
- C, #21 refers to OMER, Sidekick and the distressed person, each of whom must retain his/her identity throughout the problem. The two remaining long-term team members may change characters as often as they wish.
- Any of the five long-term team members may do non-performance (non-acting) tasks as long as rule for boundaries, etc. are followed.
- If the judge feels that a suitcase does not appear like luggage (i.e. suitcase is made like body of a car with a handle), a Spirit of the Problem penalty may be assessed.
- The suitcases will not be measured after the vehicle is disassembled and placed in them. Penalties will be assessed based on initial measurements.
- For the vehicle to be considered replaced in the suitcase(s), the suitcases must be closed.
- Any non-human energy source used to guide or propel the vehicle must be contained within the suitcase(s).
- Humans providing energy to propel the vehicle in Divisions I and II do not have to be inside the suitcase(s).
- Electrical cords do not have to be contained in the suitcase(s) and are not considered part of the vehicle.
- The vehicle may have multiple parts; however, they must be connected, act as a single vehicle (i.e. car and trailer) and utilize the same power source or power sources. Independent power source(s) for individual parts will not be permitted.
- In Division II, once the vehicle leaves the Neighborhood, it must operate independently of any human energy other than that provided by those persons riding on the vehicle.

POETIC LICENSE

- A team which eliminates words such as "a", "and" or "the" in the original poem may be penalized if the judge feels these omissions alter the essence of the poem.
- The team's poem does not have to be the same length as the original.
- A team must create either a parody or a satire or an allegory. It may not use all of these forms.
- The parody/satire/allegory may be read, recited or sung.

CHAIN REACTION

- A gong may be used as a bell if it has a resonant tone.
- Mousetraps that have pieces of plastic "cheese" on them are acceptable.
- The mousetrap that powers the mousemobile is considered to be one of the 50 allowable mousetraps.
- The team's estimated time runs from when the judge signals to begin until the bell rings.

- The battery-powered vehicle may not be pre-programmed.
- The top of the flag (C#7) does not include the flagpole.
- The team member who sets off the first mousetrap may not touch that trap. No one may touch any trap without penalty.

DECISION STRUCTURE

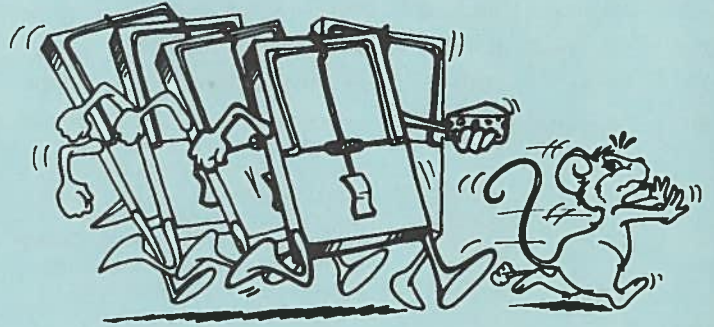
- The height and width of the structure is limited only by the size of the base of the tester (18" x 18"). However, it may not touch any of the corner posts.
 - Cyano-acrylate glues are NOT legal.
 - In Section B, #1, Figure A, the last illustration should read, "Exceeds One Inch."
 - Because of the many brands of glues, it is impossible to give a list of specific glues which are acceptable or not acceptable. Use clarifications and the problem statement (B#2) to help define glue. In general, if a glue is not specifically designed to be used for gluing wood products to each other, it is more than likely not acceptable. A "super glue" is generally one which will set while pieces are held for only a few seconds and which possesses unusual strength.
 - It is legal to cut, notch, sand, drill, saw or otherwise diminish the thickness of the balsa wood as long as the original wood was 1/8" x 1/8" and it is reduced to a thickness no less than 1/16" x 1/16".
 - If one or more "spacers" is used to separate two lengths of balsa wood, as illustrated in the problem, Figure B, each spacer may not be larger than 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" nor smaller than 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16".
 - The distance between any two spacers may not be less than 1/16". If spacers are used to separate more than two pieces of balsa, the spacers may not be placed in a line, but must be staggered so their edges are no closer than 1/16". Where pieces of balsa cross, meet, or touch edge to edge, no more than four pieces may come together without forming a lamination. If a fifth piece is used, this will be considered a lamination (usually where pieces meet at a corner or a multiple joint).
 - All teams must use only the testing equipment provided by the Tournament Director.
- ## CRO-MAGNON
- For the drawing/painting, human beings are considered to be animals.
 - The instrument or tool must be made from a single bone, not from a combination of bones.
 - Spray paint may not be used for painting done during the competition.
 - For Task #2 the tool or utensil may be made with one or more of the listed materials.
 - The prehistoric animal and the musical instrument may be made prior to competition.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We are pleased that the following people have become associate members for the 1986-87 membership year.

Carol Biros
 Bill & Paula Borbely
 Sally Bourbonnais
 Arlene Cohen
 Jeanette G. Crowley
 Robert Dickler
 Beverly Eddings
 Janet Eliades
 Gene Gavorsky
 Deborah Gonet
 Lee Halford
 Dr. Colonel T. Hawkins
 The John Hooks
 Lena Huang
 Carolyn Karis
 Karen Kehrl
 Wayne Kehrl
 Priscilla Kelly
 Beth Kirk
 Lois Kowalsky
 James Lapey
 Richard MacDonald
 Brett Mandel
 W. F. McCleese

Frank McGahren
 Marna McQuinn
 Mary Menkel
 Maurice E. Miles
 Debi Morton
 Florence Nelson
 Stephanie Oliver
 Barbara Peoples
 The Robert Pikes
 Pauline Porter
 Sandra Putkowski
 Dr. Frank Roth
 Joan Sabourin
 William Santry
 Dennis Shoemaker
 Donald D. Smith
 Ed & Laila Smith
 Bill Spiegel
 Sherry Spiers
 Darlene Stoneton
 Claudia Thompson
 Debbie Waldman
 John Westbrook
 Rodeane Widom



"I'm Going to Catch That Little Sucker Yet!"

Those of you who visited your local hardware store to purchase quantities of mousetraps can relate to this amusing story. Dr. Sam Micklus, co-founder of OM, went to a local hardware store to purchase several dozen mousetraps. Curious shoppers were eyeing him in wonderment as to why someone would want so many mousetraps. Always responsive to seize a situation and to play to an audience, as he picked up his purchase, Sam said to the attentive checkout onlookers, "I'm going to catch that little sucker yet!"

World Finalists: NORTHWEST AIRLINES & PASSAGEWAYS TRAVEL



NORTHWEST

The official airline sponsor of the 1987 World Finals to be held at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, will be Northwest Airlines. Because of its takeover of Republic Airlines, Northwest has become the largest airline carrier in the north central United States. Airline travelers to World Finals will receive a five percent discount off the best rate available that they qualify for when Northwest Airline tickets are purchased through the OM official travel



agent, Passageways Travel, Traverse City, Michigan.

In addition, Northwest Airlines is donating two round-trip tickets to any location it flies in the continental forty-eight states. The tickets are good for one year and some holiday restriction will apply. These free tickets will be raffled as fund raisers by the teams who qualify for World Finals.

PEN PALS

Coaches have requested that we coordinate a "pen pal" opportunity for them. Students, teams, judges, or parents may also wish to share their thoughts about OM. Pen Pals include coaches who have made up spontaneous problems, journals, manuscripts, etc. who wish to exchange these ideas with other coaches.

To become a "pen pal," fill out the following form and send back by February 20th to "Pen Pal" in care of the return address on this newsletter. We'll be the Clearinghouse and send back to you a list of interested persons.

I'm interested in becoming an OM "Pen Pal."

Name _____ City _____

Address _____ St/Prov _____

Zip _____

My category of interest is Judge Coach Team Member Parent

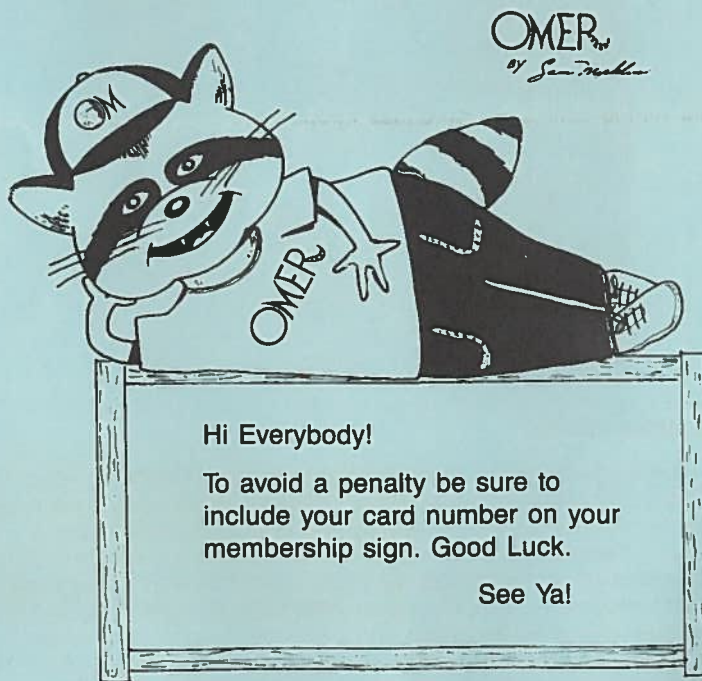
Competition Day

Saturday morning
Up at five
A long bus ride
A crowded room
 Noise here, noise there
 Running down hallways
 and up stairs
Skit time!
Hurry, hurry!
Drag your things down the hall
Wait and wait
Be patient!
 Go in that door
 Calm down!
 Starting time
Something's missing!
Out the door and down the hall
Here it is!
 Hurry back
 Quicker, quicker
 Back in time!
Ready, set go—
Pull the table in
Stand the background up
It falls right back down!
 Hurry, hurry!
 Stand it up!
Press "play"
What's wrong?
It won't play.
Oh, we'll do without
Dance, dance
 Finally done!
Back to the room
 So noisy
Take off your costume
Down the hall
 In the auditorium
 Sit down, sit down.

I'm hungry
Hurry, hurry!
Down the hall
To the cafeteria
 What a long line!
Get a pizza
It tastes horrible.
Throw it away
Get out of there.
 Brainstorm!
 Up the stairs
 Don't be late
 In a room
 We're the only ones there.
 A picture frame
 What can it be?
 A birdbath
 A clothes hanger
 A picture of me!
Hurry, hurry!
Twenty seconds left
Finally done!

But we have to stay
What a day!
 What a day!
 What a day!
Time to watch the other teams
 Sit still, sit still
Here it is
This is boring
This is stupid!
Prize time
We'll never win.
We're last to be announced
The judge says, "Selinsgrove"
 Oh, we will win
 "Middle School."
Oh, too bad.
At last we're done.
But, oh dear
We have to pack
Carry it out to the van
 Put it in
 Hop in
Oh, there aren't enough seats!
I have to sit on the floor.
A long ride home
It's five o'clock
Climb up the ladder
To my bed
Crawl under the covers
Lay down my head
 Shut my eyes
 Go to sleep.

by—
Sarah Holler
Third grader from Selinsgrove Middle School,
member of "History...The Way It Was" team
coached by Sylvia Glant



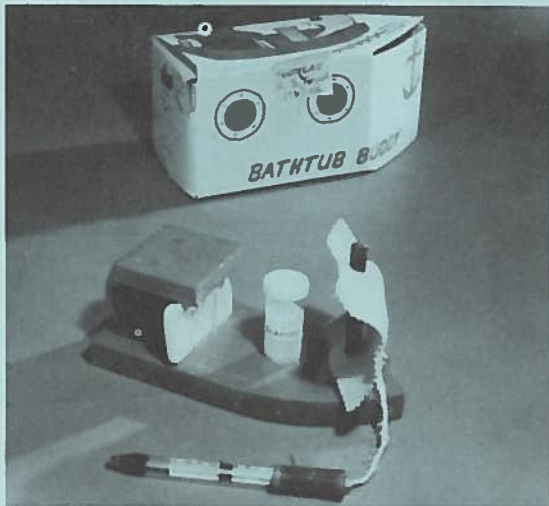
WORLD FINALISTS' TECHNOCRAT PRODUCTS

Which surfaced as the best of all the products developed last year for the "Technocrats" problem? The following products were created by teams who received World Finals long-term scores of 200. Looks as if it was an advantage for the school name to begin with an "N."



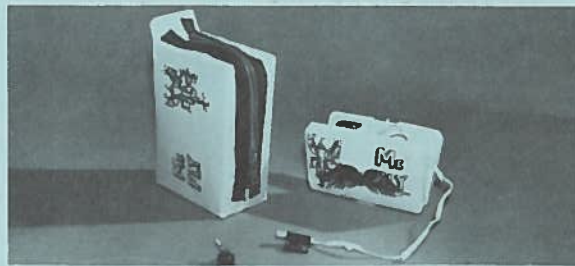
"Mad Scientist — Night Time Eye Glass Holder"

Parent coach Dan Lambert from the Division I winner, Nashport Elementary School, started out hesitant about coaching a team, but now reports, "I wouldn't trade the experience for anything I've ever done." His diligent Ohio team, composed of fourth and fifth graders, developed their product, similar to a lamp, which is designed so that a person could find his/her eye glasses in the dark. In fact, the glasses fit right on top of the "Mad Scientist's" own glasses.



"Bathtub Buddy"

Parent coach Beverly Coggan reports that her Northeast High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Division III second place team members worked extremely well together developing their "Bathtub Buddy." This floating product, useful in the bathtub, consists of a wooden boat upon which can be found a thermometer to test the water temperature, a clock to help insure that the bather doesn't soak too long, shampoo, soap, and a washcloth which also serves as the sail. The team's original idea was to develop a jogging shoe which would have a clock, water, and a cloth to wipe the brow. This year the same team will compete in "Omer to the Rescue."



"McFly"

The Division II second place team, composed of sixth graders from North Loop School, El Paso, Texas, created an ingenious product called a "McFly." Coach David Herdliska explains that the entire device hooks onto a person's belt. Then, a thingamajig hooks to the person's zipper. If the zipper goes down, a buzzer sounds to alert the person to a potential embarrassing situation.

OM NOTES

The following states/provinces are still unchartered: Saskatchewan, Rhode Island, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, North Dakota, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Idaho, and Hawaii.

At the 1987 World Finals at Central Michigan University, teams will be asked to bring pins, stickers, small flags or other small items to trade with other participants from outside their states or provinces. These items should represent their country, state/province, city/town, or school.

The following universities have joined as Division IV members: Utah State University, North Carolina State University, Illinois State University, Humboldt State University, Bowling Green University, Mankato State University and University of Wisconsin-Stout. Graduating high school seniors may wish to consider attending these participating schools so that they will be eligible to continue working in the OM Program.

Wisconsin and Minnesota Associations are using a site close to their state borders for a jointly-sponsored regional competition. Each regional will have its own scoring yet this has advantages for a small tournament. By joint sponsorship, fewer judges are needed and only one site is needed. The biggest plus is probably that the participants have the opportunity to meet and to enjoy students from outside their states.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." — Albert Einstein

Combining under one charter has permitted the Texas OM Association to be eligible for state funding. This year, the Texas Department of Education has given a grant of \$37,500 to help support the Texas OM Association.

Please check your membership name. If your card reads G/T PROG and, in fact, this is not your name, you MUST correct this through our office. If not, your membership sign must read G/T PROG or your competing team may be assessed a maximum fifteen point penalty.

Have you ever considered what difficulty some teams outside of the United States have in obtaining specified props? We were told that a few years ago it was difficult for members in Ontario to obtain a two pound coffee can. The United States is one of the last countries left that hasn't switched to metric.

Have you had the opportunity to view one of our two new table top displays which we lend to associations to use at conventions, presentations, etc.?

On clarification replies from our office, Fall, Winter, or Spring OM refers to that particular newsletter and its specific issue.

In October 1986, Dr. Al Oliver, a member of the OM Board of Directors, was presented a special award at a Pennsylvania curriculum conference. The accompanying plaque is enscribed: "Presented to Dr. Albert I. Oliver, In Appreciation of Exceptional Leadership in Education of Gifted and Talented Students at Regional, National and International Levels, October 1986, Delaware Valley Region PASCD."

ASSOCIATION ROUNDUP

Competition Dates:

AB	Provincial: 5/01 & 02/87	Branton JHS, Calgary	PA	Regionals: 2/28/87	(NWP) Cambridge Springs HS, Cambridge Springs
CO	Regional: 3/21/87	Smoky Hill HS, Aurora		3/14/87	(SEP) HS TBD
LA	State: 4/04/87	Univ of New Orleans, New Orleans		State: 3/28/87	Selinsgrove Mid & HS, Selinsgrove
MD	Regionals: 3/14/87	Leonardtown Mid Sch, Leonardtown	SC	Regionals: 3/21/87	University of SC, Columbia
	3/07/87	Montgomery College, Rockville		State: 4/11/87	
	TBD	Salisbury State College, Salisbury	SD	State: 4/11/87	Riggs HS, Pierre
	3/21/87	Essex Community College, Essex		Regionals: 3/07/87	(W River Reg) Ellsworth Air Force Base
	3/07/87	LaPlata High School, LaPlata		3/28/87	(E River Reg) Dakota State College, Madison
	3/07/87	Prince George's Community College			
	3/21/87	Smithsburg Mid Sch, Smithsburg	TX	Regionals: 3/14/87	WTSU, Canyon
	State: 4/12/87	University of MD-Baltimore Co, Catonsville		3/14/87	Richland College, Dallas
MN	Regionals: 3/14/87	Univ of WI - Superior	UT	State: 3/27/87	Vernal HS, Vernal
	3/14/87	Hennepin Technical Centers, Brooklyn Park		Regionals: 4/04/87	(Reg 4) Strassburg HS, Strassburg
	3/07/87	Gustavus Adolphus College, St		3/21/87	Hanover Co: Jackson JHS, Mechanicsville
MO	State: 3/21/87	Rolla Mid Sch, Rolla		Regionals: 2/28/87	University of WI, Green Bay
NE	State: 4/11/87	Columbus Sr HS, Columbus		3/14/87	Morse Mid Sch, Milwaukee
NV	State: 4/04/87	McQueen HS			
NM	State: 4/04/87	Albuquerque HS, Albuquerque			
NY	Regionals: 3/21/87	St Bonaventure Univ, St Bonaventure			
	3/09/87	Hofstra Univ, Hempstead			
	3/07/87	Maine-Endwell HS, Endwell			
	2/28/87	SUNY-Oneonta			
	3/14/87	Orange-Ulster BOCES, Goshen			
NC	Regional: 3/07/87	Martin Mid Sch, Raleigh			
OH	Reg 1 4/4/87	Eastwood Local Schools, Pemberville			
	Reg 4 3/14/87	Ohio St Univ-Newark			
	Reg 6 3/14/87	Muskingum College, New Concord			
	Reg 8 3/21/87	Ohio Univ, Athens			
ON(SW)	Provincial 2/28/87				
OR	Regionals: 3/14/87	Rock Creek Comm College, Portland			
	3/14/87	Salem School District			
	3/14/87	Bend School District			
	3/14/87	Taft High School, Lincoln City			
	3/14/87	Lincoln Savage Mid Sch, Grants Pass			
	State: 4/04/87	W Oregon State College, Monmouth			

Membership Cut Off Dates:

AB	1/01/87
CA (change)	12/31/86
LA	3/01/87
MD	2/13/87
NM	2/15/87
SD	1/31/87

British Columbia Coaches' Training Workshop
1/10/87, Schou Ed Ctr., Burnaby
Contact: Penny Koopman 937-0320

Association Director Change:
Diane Brady
Cortland-Madison BOCES
Clinton Ave. Extension
Cortland, NY 13045



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