



# Odyssey of the Mind

# Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 4

RENEWAL ISSUE


SPRING 1993



*Lithuanians enjoy a coaches' workshop.*

## OM Begins in Lithuania

Lithuania will be one of the newest countries to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind. In March 1993, Dr. Sam Micklus visited this country to conduct workshops in Vilnius, Siauliai and Klaipeda. Each workshop had 30-35 attendees and there was a great deal of enthusiasm among each group. The person who will be coordinating OM activities in Lithuania is Algirdas (Allan) Sakevicius, the director of the Creativity Palace in Vilnius.

Although times are extremely difficult in Lithuania, a team from Lithuania will participate in the 1993 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at the University of Maryland. This year OM hopes to have more countries compete than ever before. Last year 13 countries were represented. 

## Highlighting the History of OM

Several of our chartered associations are celebrating 10th anniversaries this year. Many celebrated them in the last two years and more will follow suit in 1993-94. However, simultaneously, OM Association is still chartering new associations, reflecting membership growth among both the domestic and non-US members.

Although there is a short summary of OM history in both the Odyssey of the Mind Program Handbook and the trainer's presentation in coaches' trainings, perhaps you might enjoy reviewing some OM milestones that have occurred over the past fourteen years. Here they are, in chronological order:

### 1978

- The first OM competition is held at Glassboro State College with two long-term problems. 28 teams participate.

### 1978-1979

- The competition expands to 3 long-term problems.

*(continued on page 5)*

## The Spirit of OM


In 1991, OM Association, Inc. instituted a new award called the Outstanding OMER Award. It recognizes coaches, team members, parents, and other OMers who tournament officials feel exhibit the spirit and philosophy of Odyssey of the Mind. These folks are exceptionally skillful or best exemplify those characteristics OM values, such as teamwork, problem-solving and good sportsmanship.

This past winter, with unpredictable and changing weather playing havoc on scheduled OM tournaments, there are lots of folks who deserve to receive such an acknowledgment. Among those are members of a group from Waynesboro, PA, that hosted an OM competition on Saturday, March 6, despite the fact that the odds were against them.

On the Thursday before competition — with winds whipping over 100 m.p.h. — residents of this tiny town lost power and sustained substantial damage to buildings, including the Waynesboro Middle School — site of 80 percent of the PA East Central Regionals. But in this community, the Waynesboro School District proudly brags about a 1992 World Finals champion and an OM membership in each of its schools. With this commitment, school officials, the townspeople and even the West Penn Power Company rallied to help the OM competition get underway as scheduled.

Since half the roof blew off the school building and water damage saturated the carpet (and existing ceiling tiles), school was closed on Friday. That same day the building was examined and determined to be "structurally sound." With this assurance, OM teamwork came into play: Superintendent Mike Moskalski greeted PA OM's Association Director Reggie Bunis when she arrived Friday night. He showed her the damage and helped her make appropriate modifications at the tournament site. The power company restored power after officials placed a sheathing (anchored by ropes) over the open part of the roof. Inside, large fans blew continuously to dry out the wet carpet inside the building. Mop-up continued in the cafeteria, music rooms and other areas so the tournament could be held, as planned, on Saturday.

In a town where folks were forced to take shelter in the elementary school because 8,000 residents were without power from Thursday to Sunday, the energy and the spirit of OM was visible to the 2,000 individuals who attended this regional competition! Every business posted a sign greeting participants with "Welcome Odyssey of the Mind Team Members."

This editor would like to acknowledge the teamwork, skill, creativity and fortitude that these folks — and many others like them all over the country — exhibited to successfully run OM regionals despite the conduct of Mother Nature. 



# SPOTLIGHT



## Spotlight on Elizabeth "Tina" Jenkins—NC OM

Tina Jenkins is "retired" — at least from the position of Coordinator of Gifted Programs for the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System! She worked in gifted education for over 20 years and at one time coordinated a gifted program that included over 9,000 students! Today, Tina's current focus is to head NCOM as the Association Director. This is not the first time Tina has assumed this role at the helm.




Tina has served two terms as NCOM Association Director. In her initial term of two years, she saw NCOM grow from three regions to four. During her second term (this is year two of term two), North Carolina jumped from five to six regions. Currently, the Board of Directors hopes to reorganize these regions so they can become more autonomous and have more control at their own level. NCOM also plans to run two OM Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) camps this year (see page 4 of this newsletter for more information on NC SEPs).

Tina's initial work with OM began in 1981-82. Then, she was an OM "organizer" for her school system and became a "charter member" of what was to become NCOM. In addition to serving as the Association Director, Tina has been a regional director for the past nine years, an OM judge or member of the tribunal for the last ten years, a tournament director (for both the association and the region), the association's judges' coordinator and an OM World Finals judge.

Why does Tina wear so many OM hats? She says, "Like everyone else who gets hooked on OM, you do whatever needs to be done at the time. I've swept problem sites at 2:00 a.m. and presented awards before hundreds of happy OMs. The best feeling of all comes from believing that your efforts make it possible for kids to grow and become more skilled as a result of OM. I sincerely believe that children are better because of their experience in OM. They are stronger and more able to meet adult challenges. They have an improved chance to be happy. On a personal level, I never finish a tournament day that I am not refreshed (exhausted, but refreshed) in my outlook for America's future. We have a lot of good and talented youth in our country."

She goes on to say, "Some of the best achievements are not the big ones, but the little ones. For instance, once while I was a staging area judge, the coach whispered that the team members were really nervous since it was their first tournament. I tried to reassure them and help them relax. I really didn't think much about it because you do that sort of thing for all teams. Later, I heard through our tournament director (who heard from the coach) that this really helped the kids. While they didn't win a ribbon, they had a great experience on their OM tournament day. That is an achievement. It made a difference and that makes me feel good."

When Tina is not on the move with OM, she is busy traveling. A self-described "army brat," Tina has lived in Alaska, the American East Coast (in places too numerous to name), Italy and Germany. Three lovely grandchildren keep Tina's travels to Alabama rather frequent. Her other hobbies range from sedate activities like reading and playing bridge to scuba diving.

Like many other OM Association Directors, Tina compliments all the wonderful volunteers on whom NCOM has depended over the years. "We have so many wonderful people who give up valuable time to see the OM dream come alive each year. Larry Wobker is traveling around the state to help new regions get organized and plan tournaments. Lee Crisp is revamping our financial organizations. Parents are stepping in to take the reins for tournaments. Companies are finding ways to support OMs through employee time and financial support. OM is alive and well in North Carolina and it is good to be a part of that." 

## Brain Teaser\*

\*Credit an Emory University psychiatry professor who referenced this anomaly in class.

Pick a number from one to nine.

Multiply that number by nine.

Add the sum of the digits.

Subtract five from that sum.

Identify the corresponding letter in the alphabet.

Pick a country that begins with that letter.

Select an animal that begins with the second letter in the country's name.

What color is the animal?

To find out how creatively you've answered, see page 3.

## OM Notes

\*California OM's Region IX invited all judges and coaches to demonstrate their creativity at the recent regional competition. They were all challenged to compete in a "Creative Footwear" contest. Rules of the creative footwear contest were: must be worn, must fit through a standard doorway, may not damage the floor. There were no entry forms, fees or appeals.

\*NCOM is one of many OM Associations forging a strong partnership with the "local" IBM office. The NC Central Region has enjoyed the volunteer efforts of Jon Muse as Problem Captain for Problem #1 for the last eight years. Muse, who works for IBM, says, "I enjoy watching the different solutions the kids come up with." In addition to tapping into IBM resources, this NC region has also found another strong supporter. The regional tournament was recently sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg.

\*After the Kansas OM Association finals, the editors of the Atchison Daily Globe had this to say in their Opinion column: "Today's youth is often criticized for being a generation of couch potatoes, illiterates and malingerers... (However,) if anything, the future has never looked brighter. In general, youths are better educated, more industrious and better prepared for what lies ahead than any generation that has preceded them. We say this with confidence because among the best and brightest of our youth is a handful of local kids who are undoubtedly among the future crop of young leaders. They are bright, creative, analytical and enthusiastic members of Atchison's Odyssey of the Mind team..."

## 1993 OM Scholarship Winners

The following students are the 1993 OM Scholarship winners. Scholarship grants were awarded to OM by the American Honda Foundation and Chevron Corporation. The recipients' code indicates which grant the student was awarded: (C) for Chevron and (H) for Honda. The recipients will receive scholarships of \$1,000 each, paid directly to the institution they will attend in the fall.

Erik Anderson.....WI (H)	Samuel Hall.....ME (H)	Amy Patrick.....CA (C)
Rodney Anderson.....NC (H)	Magdelyn Hammond.....SC (H)	Melissa Probstollo.....SD (H)
Carrie Armstrong.....MD (H)	Erik Hayes.....MT (C)	Ron Riesenburger.....NJ (H)
Stephen Armstrong.....AL (H)	Geoffrey Hulburt.....NY (H)	Christine Rosler.....GE (H)
Dong Banh.....IA (H)	Jennifer Ishimoto.....CA (C)	Aaron Schram.....NJ (H)
Philip Beish.....OH (H)	Chera Kee.....OK (C)	Amy Schuurmans.....SD (H)
Katherine Calkins.....TX (H)	James Knapp.....MI (H)	Charmaine Smith.....OR (H)
Jessica Christensen.....MI (H)	Tonya Krebs.....OH (H)	Shauna Swantek.....MI (H)
Margaret Clark.....SC (H)	Lisa Langendorfer.....VA (H)	Lisa Thornbrue.....OR (H)
Kerry Connelly.....BC (H)	Peter Lazorchak.....NY (H)	Patrick Vinton.....TX (H)
Karen Crowley.....OR (C)	James Leech.....IN (H)	Kimberly Warren.....IN (H)
Ryan Deaton.....GA (H)	Kyle MacLea.....NH (H)	Julie Waggoner.....IA (H)
Jodie Evans.....NY (C)	Robert Malo.....SD (H)	Mary White.....WI (H)
Tina Franklin.....NH (H)	Amy Mauro.....CO (C)	Bradley Young.....AR (H)
Joseph Frisk.....MN (H)	Kevin McGraw.....NY (H)	Steven Young.....AL (H)
Edna Garcia.....TX (H)	Stephen Mellon.....NY (H)	Robert Yule.....VA (H)
Abby Godfrey.....ON (H)	Melanie Morgan.....OH (H)	Angela Zeroski.....OH (C)
Kurt Gohde.....NY (H)	Raina O'Neil.....ME (H)	John Zuidema.....MT (H)
Patrick Grossman.....MN (H)	Jason Parry.....OH (H)	
Connie Groubert.....OH (H)	Jonathan Parry.....OH (H)	

### An OM Geographic Odyssey: Lithuania

Here are a few questions to test your research skills.

- What is the capital of Lithuania?
- What three countries border Lithuania?
- The Lithuanian coast is located on what body of water?
- Approximately how many people live in Lithuania?
  - less than 1 million
  - 1-3 million
  - 3-5 million
  - over 5 million
- Most Lithuanians are of what religion?
- What is one of the most simple, yet elegant, landmarks on the outskirts of Siauliai (English pronunciation: Sho-lay)?
- The first free Lithuanian presidential election was held in what year? Who became president?
- What river flows through Vilnius?
- Lithuania is located on what meridian? Approximately what places in North America, Europe and Asia are about the same?
- Who was Lithuania's first king?
- In 1919-20 there was heavy fighting between Poland, Lithuania and the Soviet Union. On October 9, 1920, Poland annexed \_\_\_\_\_, the capital, forcing Lithuanians to transfer the capital to \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the name of Lithuanian currency?
- Lithuania is in which time zone? When it is noon in Lithuania it is 10:00 in London, \_\_\_\_\_ in Paris, \_\_\_\_\_ in New York, \_\_\_\_\_ in Moscow, and \_\_\_\_\_ in Los Angeles.
- Can you describe a traditional Lithuanian meal?
- If you were going to Lithuania in the summer for a one-week vacation, what type of clothing would you take with you?
- If you were going to Lithuania in the winter for a one-week vacation, what type of clothing would you take with you?

### Teacher's introduction information.

- Lithuania was first mentioned in the chronicles in the 11th century. It was the last pagan state in Europe to be converted to Christianity.
- The University of Vilnius was founded in 1579. It houses over 4,900,000 volumes, including 180,000 manuscripts from the 13th-16th centuries.
- There is an energy crisis in Lithuania. In Vilnius, even the most prestigious hotels have little or no heat and no hot water. The great majority of homes have had no hot water since October (except on Christmas). Many people have to shower in ice-cold water.
- The temperature falls below freezing approximately 100 days a year.
- Although the rate of inflation changes, the average Lithuanian earns about \$12 (US) a month.

*Answers to the questions appear on page 6.*

### Briefly Speaking

The OM Board of Directors approved the following at its January 30, 1993, meeting:

To accept the recommendation that the list for OM activities be evaluated.

To add an Awards Committee to the regular standing committees.

To accept the OMADAB Charter Statement as revised.

To make the secretary to the Board a paid position.

Amendments to the **Strategic Plan** were approved.

### Brain Teaser Answer

Most common answer to the brain teaser:  
a grey elephant from Denmark. What was your response?

## 1992-93 Odyssey of the Mind

### State/Provincial/Foreign Country Memberships

(11,506 members as of March 31, 1993. Chart does not include collegiate members.)

CHARTERED ASSOCIATION	MEMBERSHIP 91-92	RANK 91-92	MEMBERSHIP 92-93	RANK 92-93	%INCREASE % (LOSS)
Texas	939	1	1106	1	18%
Michigan	735	2	776	2	05%
Ohio	619	3	726	3	17%
Wisconsin	490	7	584	4	19%
Colorado	580	4	578	5	00%
California	500	6	558	6	11%
New York	526	5	526	7	00%
Virginia	394	8	473	8	20%
Minnesota	307	9	368	9	20%
Florida	266	13	324	10	22%
North Carolina	269	12	316	11	17%
Maryland	294	11	310	12	05%
Washington	303	10	307	13	01%
Oregon	230	14	304	14	32%
Pennsylvania	220	16	269	15	22%
New Hampshire	196	17	222	16	13%
Arkansas	225	15	219	17	03%
Georgia	180	18	213	18	18%
Maine	164	19	183	19	12%
Indiana	148	21	170	20	15%
Tennessee	152	20	168	21	10%
Iowa	129	26	167	22	29%
Massachusetts	111	31	164	23	47%
Montana	138	23	147	24	07%
Nebraska	136	24	145	25	06%
New Jersey	116	28	142	26	22%
South Carolina	148	21	132	27	(10%)
Illinois	117	27	131	28	12%
South Dakota	115	29	128	29	11%
Missouri	103	32	126	30	22%
British Columbia	112	30	122	31	09%
Kansas	93	35	119	32	28%
Shanghai	134	25	100	33	(25%)
Arizona	97	33	96	34	(02%)
Oklahoma	96	34	95	35	(01%)
Mississippi	85	36	90	36	06%
Kentucky	85	36	88	37	04%
Alabama	73	38	74	38	01%
Connecticut	62	40	74	38	19%
North Dakota	34	48	71	40	45%
New Mexico	54	41	60	41	11%
Dist of Columbia	72	39	56	42	(.02%)
Vermont	40	46	56	42	40%
Nevada	46	42	50	44	07%
Idaho	25	51	43	45	72%
DODDS-Atlantic	42	44	39	46	(07%)
Wyoming	42	44	39	46	(07%)
Delaware	26	50	36	48	38%
West Virginia	45	43	34	49	(24%)
Germany	3	57	29	50	29%
Alberta	30	49	24	51	(20%)
Utah	23	52	23	52	00%
Ontario	51	47	19	53	(62%)
Australia	9	54	13	54	44%
Rhode Island	1	59	8	55	700%
Mexico	7	55	6	56	(14%)
Russia	5	56	6	56	20%

UNCHARTERED AREAS	MEMBERSHIP 91-92	RANK 91-92	MEMBERSHIP 92-93	RANK 92-93	%INCREASE % (LOSS)
*Alaska	3	57	—	—	
*Belgium	1	63	—	—	
*Brazil	—	—	2	61	200%
*Central America	—	—	2	61	200%
*Dutch W Indies	—	—	1	65	100%
*England	2	60	1	65	(50%)
*Hawaii	1	63	1	65	
*Hungary	1	63	1	65	
*Japan	1	63	2	61	
*Kazakhstan	—	—	1	65	
*Labrador	1	63	—	—	
*Lithuania	—	—	1	65	
*Louisiana	1	63	6	56	600%
*Manitoba	—	—	1	65	100%
*New Brunswick	1	63	—	—	
*Nova Scotia	1	63	1	65	
*Philippines	1	63	—	—	
*Poland	3	57	3	61	
*Quebec	3	57	4	59	33%
*Saudi Arabia	2	58	1	65	(50%)
*Saskatchewan	1	63	—	—	
*Taiwan	—	—	1	65	100%
*Thailand	—	—	1	65	100%

## Association Roundup:

### 1993 Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) Dates

#### IA OM

##### June 13-19\* at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.

Participants will have fun experimenting with long-term problems and exploring spontaneous problem-solving techniques such as synectics, humor, piggy-backing, brainstorming, puns, improvisation, SCAMPER and more! Contact Joyce Mc Henry, (515) 423-9594.

\* Denotes change from previously published information.

#### NH OM

Contact Jill Schoonmaker for more information, (603) 868-1797.

#### NC OM

##### July 11-17 at Queens College, Charlotte, NC.

Open to campers ages 10-16. Workshops include Strength in Architectural Structure, Energy to Movement Incorporating Wheels, Script Writing, Set Construction, Theatrical Make-Up and Costumes. Contact Tina Jenkins, (704) 364-2832.

#### OK OM

##### June 13-19 at SOSU, Durant, OK.

Workshops will be offered in Scenery and Style. Of course, long-term and spontaneous problem solving will also be part of your experience! Contact John Kee, (405) 799-3951.

#### TX OM

##### July 25-31 at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX.

Activities will include OM learning modules, computers, competition, OM problems, spontaneous practice as well as horseback riding, swimming and other outdoor activities. Contact Jim Burgess, (817) 692-6581.

## History of OM *(continued from page 1)*

### 1979-1980

- Dr. Micklus develops five "annual" long-term problems; only one is designated for Division I.
- The OM Newsletter begins.
- First official OM World Finals competition is held at Glassboro State College with forty-four different schools representing nearly one dozen states.

### 1980-1981

- For the first time, OM finds itself with members outside of the US: Coquitlam, British Columbia; Ancaster, Ontario; Karachi American School, Saudi Arabia.
- Problem clarifications begin but are not handled by the national headquarters.
- Charters begin. First associations to be chartered are Alabama, Washington, DC, Delaware, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont.

### 1981-1982

- OM recognizes exceptional creativity with the Ranatra Fusca Award.
- Ontario is the first non-US member to compete in the World Finals competition.
- Newly chartered associations include Arkansas, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas (El Paso area) and Virginia. The number of OM chartered associations doubles.

### 1982-1983

- In fall 1982, OM headquarters distributes the first coaches' training guides to chartered associations.
- OM appoints Problem Captains for World Finals.
- Growth continues with ten newly chartered associations: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Texas (Dallas area), and (North East) Ontario. There are now twenty-nine OM chartered associations.

### 1983-1984

- Problem clarifications are now handled by OM headquarters.
- Newly chartered associations include British Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas (Houston area) totaling thirty-eight.
- The first two-day World Finals competition is held.

### 1984-1985

- The first Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is held at College Misericordia, Dallas, PA.
- Olympic Committee bans OM's use of the word "Olympics."
- A corporate grant enables OM to develop a judges' training videotape.
- College Misericordia is the first college/university to donate scholarships for OM participants; Chevron Corporation donates \$10,000 towards the OM scholarship program.
- Dr. Micklus develops the first primary problem (Mother Goose).
- Newly chartered associations that come on board include Alberta, California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, (South West) Ontario, West Virginia. There are now forty-five.

### 1985-1986

- The "structure problem" is the first to be designated as non-linguistic.

- The first annual *World Finals Video Yearbook* becomes available to members.
- Newly chartered associations for this year are Arkansas and Kansas, making OM's total forty-seven.

### 1986-1987

- Division IV (collegiate) begins with eight memberships; competition held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- OM introduces associate memberships; sixty-four become members the first year. Regular OM membership exceeds 5,000.
- In the spring of 1987, IBM becomes OM's corporate sponsor, donating funds for the development for the 1987-1988 membership year of curriculum guides, judges' training videotape and coaches' training videotape.
- Newly chartered associations: Iowa, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas (as one unified association), Utah, and Wyoming. We count fifty strong.
- A Mexican team participates in World Finals competition.

### 1987-1988

- Printed curriculum guides are complimentary with each OM membership packet.
- OM headquarters sends Dr. Micklus to conduct workshops in Mexico and China.
- Honda Foundation donates \$30,000 towards OM's scholarship program renewable for three years.
- Newly chartered associations in this year are both non-US: Manitoba and Mexico.
- World Finals, now spanning a two-and-a-half day period, includes a team from mainland China.

### 1988-1989

- Newly chartered associations begin to focus OM on more international expansion. Shanghai, China; DODDS, Atlantic Region and Idaho join OM as chartered association this year.
- Membership increases to include nearly 7,000 schools.
- Members of the Soviet Union (now Russia) participate at World Finals; second year for Chinese team; two Mexican teams also participate.


### 1989-1990

- More international expansion: Troitsk Moscow Region of Russia is our newest chartered association; OM Association now tops its previous totals with 54 chartered associations.
- Membership almost reaches 8,000.
- World Finals at Iowa State University, Ames, hosts Polish and Japanese teams; Soviet, Chinese, and Mexican teams continue to participate.
- The *Today Show* features OM and a World Finals problem solution.

### 1990-1991

- The Odyssey of the Mind program membership total is now over 9,000.
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, witnesses the participation of 648 World Finals teams, representing nine different countries.

### 1991-1992

- OM charts 55 associations, adding Australia and North Dakota; OM membership totals well over 10,000.
- Honda Foundation increases OM scholarship contribution to \$50,000; OM awards fifty-eight Chevron and Honda scholarships
- OM Association Board of Directors develops a Five-Year Strategic Plan and changes the membership categories.
- World Finals in Boulder, CO, hosts 684 teams representing thirteen different countries. 

# PALINDROMES

The use of language provides many opportunities for creative expression. Poetry, art and novels are a few obvious examples. Other avenues include word games and word play. Of these, the palindrome is one of the most difficult to create. The word **palindrome** derives from the Greek *palindromos*, which means "running back again." *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* defines a palindrome as, "a word, verse or sentence that reads the same backward or forward." Some examples are:

**Words:** *civic radar*      **Phrases:** *Neil, an Alien*

**Sentences:**    *Able was I ere I saw Elba.*  
                       *Lewd did I live & evil did I dwell.*  
                       *Some men interpret nine memos.*  
                       *We panic in a pew.*  
                       *Yawn a more Roman way.*  
                       *Roy, am I mayor?*

Other commonly accepted palindromes are expressed numerically. For example, the year 1991 is a palindrome.

As you can see from the examples above, there are symbols, methods and an acceptable "poetic license" that make creating a palindrome a little easier.

Palindromes do not have to be grammatically correct. For example, if you think someone will interpret mo as meaning more, than **MO OM** is a palindrome.

Time has provided some palindromic puzzles. These are mostly obscure and in ancient language forms. One example is the Latin puzzle:

s a t o r  
 a r e p o  
 t e n e t  
 o p e r a  
 r o t a s

In this example, the words sator, arepo and tenet are intertwined and never interrupted.

William Irvine, (sometimes accused of "moving in two different directions at once"; other times charged with "talking out of both sides of his mouth") provided many of the examples cited in this article. The author of the book entitled, *If I Had a Hi-Fi* (Dell Publications), he recommends that a novice palindromist try to start in the middle and build outward to create these word puzzles. Irvine cautions that you do not need to hold out for length.

Last year, we featured an **OMathon** contest, inviting all OMers to create an original and imaginative OM story in the form of a poem, prose, art work, riddle, story, or cryptogram. The format and method of communication were completely open.

We published the list of winners last spring (by division and category) and are still featuring some of those winners in our *OM Newsletter* (see winter '92 issue).

This year, we challenge you to create palindromes OM style. Begin with individual words, which is not too difficult, then develop at least one sentence and one puzzle. You may use or create any method you wish to form your palindromes. The only limitation is that the palindrome must have a meaning. For instance, you may not simply say that 1234321 is a palindrome.

Your palindrome entry can "tell" an OM story and may draw from present or past OM problem(s) or OM characters.

Submit your entry on one side of a standard 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper no later than June 25, 1993. Be sure to include your name, address, school, membership number and your grade.

Send to:            ***Odyssey of the Mind Newsletter***  
                           **P.O. Box 547**  
                           **Glassboro, New Jersey 08028**

*Note: Once submitted, entries become the property of OM Association, Inc. and cannot be returned. Winners work will be published in the 1993-94 OM Newsletter.*

## ***Answers to the Geographic Odyssey:***

1. Vilnius
2. Latvia, Poland and Russia
3. The Baltic Sea
4. c. 3-5 million (3,760,000)
5. Catholic
6. The Hill of Crosses—over 100,000 crosses mark the memory of persecuted Lithuanians.
7. 1993, Algirdas Brazauskas
8. The Neris River
9. 55°, A few examples: Moscow, Russia; Chelyabinsk, Russia; Copenhagen, Denmark; Ketchikan, Alaska; Goose Bay, Newfoundland; Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada; Glasgow, Scotland; Gdansk, Poland.
10. Mindaugas
11. Vilnius to Kaunas
12. Talonas (\$1 = 450 talonas) *Note that the currency is expected to change in the near future.*
13. Central European Time Zone
- 14-16. Open-ended

## ***Poet's Corner...*** ***OUR OH OM TEAM***

*By Dustin Carbetta*  
*Crestview HS, Ashland, OH*

We think and we strain  
 But it's always a gain  
 When OM comes 'round every year.

We work well together  
 And never say never  
 'Cause failure is all that we fear.

We work as if possessed  
 And never take a rest  
 Until our project is totally complete.

Then we pack up our cars  
 And drive near or far  
 To wherever we're supposed to compete.

We act and we sing  
 And laughter we bring  
 To an audience that really has fun.

Then when we're through  
 There's nothing to do  
 But to sit back and see if we've won!

### 1993-94 ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ORDER FORM

- \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **OMermania! Encouraging Humor and Creativity Using the Odyssey of the Mind Problems** book (@ \$19.50) . . . \$  
*Features a discussion on humor and includes long-term problems as well as forty verbal and non-linguistic spontaneous problems for practice.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **Problems to Challenge Creativity** book (@ \$18.50) . . . . . \$  
*Contains fifteen long-term problems, twenty-nine verbal spontaneous problems, and twenty-one non-linguistic spontaneous problems. Includes a preface on why all OMers are winners!*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **Make Learning Fun! Activities to Develop Creativity** book (@ \$17.95) . . . . . \$  
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