



Third European Festival Held in Germany



Team members from Helmholtz HS in Germany perform their solution to *The Iliad*.

This year's OM European Festival—the third to host multinational teams—was held on April 12-15. For the second time, the European Organizing Committee (OMEOC) sponsored the event, which was held at the Centre for Free Time and Recreation in Berlin-Wuhlheide, Germany.

OMers from Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia and Poland attended the Festival. Invited Americans brought participating teams from Barnhart Elementary School and J. Hanson Middle School in Maryland, and Pennsauken High School in New Jersey. The Festival was run concurrently with the Germany International Final Competitions; therefore, many teams from all over Germany participated, including teams supported by the United States Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS).

The European Festival is conducted annually to draw additional support for OM and to encourage the expansion of memberships overseas. U.S. teams, some of whom will compete in their own association finals days after their return, were invited to demonstrate the "American Style" of OM. Their coaches and chaperons assisted in conducting seminars for European coaches and training sessions for the Festival judges.

After the Festival, several of the U.S. students participated in a conference at the European Institute in Berlin. This conference, entitled Youth and Europe, allowed the American students to learn more about education in Europe and present the benefits of OM to European educators, government officials and business leaders.

Living with host families during their stay, American OMers seized the opportunity to sightsee and partake of life as students in Germany.



OM Shines Brightly in Yellowknife

Greater Yellowknife, located in the Northwest Territories Arctic Region in Canada, is officially on the map as our newest OM Chartered Association. The city of Yellowknife—population 15,000—rests on the shore of the Great Slave Lake, one of Canada's largest lakes. The nearest urban city, Edmonton, lies nearly 1,000 miles to the south (according to our estimates).

The vast area known as the Northwest Territories is the ceiling of the North American continent. It includes thousands of islands, some of which neighbor Greenland. The territory encompasses 1,322,910 square miles and has an estimated population of 53,000. More than one-half of the population are American Indians or Eskimos.

Gold is mined in Yellowknife, the territorial capital. The other principal regional industry is the harvest of the rich fields of oil and natural gas that lay below the frozen ground.

The weather is cold, especially in January (-45°C, -49°F). It was during that month that potential OMers learned of the challenges and benefits of the Odyssey of the Mind School Program. Marian Hunter, OM Regional Director in British Columbia, spent two days in Yellowknife training interested parents and teachers. Over 100 folks attended the workshop organized by Marian Gilewicz, the gifted and enrichment coordinator and catalyst for challenging programming!

The challenge for Ms. Hunter was to present awareness workshops for parents, and training sessions for coaches, judges, tournament officials and board members. After a winter of work, plans are under way to showcase OM teams and their problem solutions in May. Will Yellowknife teams attend World Finals in June? We hope so! While there's no telling what will happen this year, look for this newest OM Chartered Association to participate fully in the future!

CORRECTION!

The birthday cutoff dates defining the new division criteria for the Odyssey of the Mind School Program were listed incorrectly in our last issue. These are corrected as follows:

- Division I—less than 12 years of age on December 31, 1994
- Division II—less than 15 years of age on December 31, 1994
- Division III—less than 19 years of age on December 31, 1994
- Division IV—Collegiate/Military

The new standard for determining divisions will take effect beginning with the 1994-95 membership year.



SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight on . . . Jill Schoonmaker, New Hampshire OM Association Director

She's called Jill Schoonover, Jill Shoemaker, and Jill Schoomaker. While none of these names correctly identifies her, Jill **Schoonmaker**, New Hampshire OM Director, answers to all attempts. Even if you do not know her by name, you can spot Jill by sight. At competitions, she is running around in one of her 106 tee-shirts. (Above the artistically designed shirt is a set of unusual earrings dangling flamboyantly from her earlobes.)

Frequently, one can find Jill staring at her computer screen in the back room of her home in New Durham, NH. Here, she "converses" with her "OM gang of twenty." This is a group of like-minded individuals—parents, teachers and business people—who comprise the NHOM Board of Directors. They share her obsession for **OM:THE PROGRAM** and work long and tirelessly to incite creativity in eight regional locations throughout the state. With the support of this team of twenty, Jill has helped THE PROGRAM move from a ten-team organization in 1982 to a 628-team, 250-member organization in 1994!

While an official source cites that no reliable information exists on Jill prior to 1985, it's widely accepted that she was born and raised in NH. She attended Mt. Holyoke College in MA, did graduate work in Special Education at the University of Washington, and then moved back to NH. There, after a few years of fairly conventional school work, she joined a group of volunteers promoting creative problem solving and divergent thinking among school-age children. She became hooked on OM almost immediately and spent her Saturdays in deserted schools conducting workshops to demonstrate its benefits to children. Then, in 1990, Jill took over the NHOM Association Director reins from then-director, Marcy Mager.

Jill's family provides unflinching support for the OM program. Both her children (daughter Emily, 14 and son Jesse, 9) participate. Jill's husband, Bill, serves as a regional problem captain. In addition, Bill and Jill are OM coaches.

When not engaged with OM madness, Jill works at York Middle School with students in fifth through eighth grades. She's also a familiar face at the OM World Finals as one of the emcees at opening ceremonies.

Thanks, Jill, for all your hard work!



1993-94 OM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS


There were sixty-four OM scholarship recipients this year. Of those, fifty were Honda Scholarship winners; eight received Chevron scholarships; five were awarded scholarships provided by Iowa OM; and one received a scholarship from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Emily Abrams	(H)	TX
Saad Ahmad	(H)	IL
Molly Albers	(H)	WI
Christy Alexander	(H)	CA
Sarah Anderson	(H)	CO
Kimberly Atkins	(C)	SC
Siddesh Bale	(H)	NJ
April Barreca	(H)	WA
Jennifer Brickner	(H)	OH
Nathan Brown	(H)	NE
Greg Camenisch	(H)	KY
Dustin Carbetta	(H)	OH
Louis Corapi	(H)	MA
Dana Cox	(OM Assoc of IA)	IA
Sean Cusack	(H)	NJ
James Dimond	(OM Assoc of IA)	IA
Andrew Drescher	(H)	MI
Stephen Fallat	(H)	MN
Melissa Fay	(H)	MA
Peggy Galbraith	(H)	NY
Sarah Garriock	(H)	BC
Nathan Gregory	(H)	CO
Erin Harmon	(H)	SD
Carla Hollandsworth	(H)	MO
Robert Honer	(H)	NY
Jeremy Hughes	(H)	PA
Darin Johnson	(OM Assoc of IA)	IA
Katrina Kendall	(C)	WA
Benjamin Kiersz	(C)	PA
Michael King	(H)	SC
Michael Kinsley	(H)	NY
Marcus LaPratt	(H)	MI
Michael Larson	(OM Assoc of IA)	IA
Angela Lin	(H)	GA
Elaine Litchfield	(H)	BC
Elizabeth Lyons	(U of MD-CP)	CT
Mark Malwitz	(H)	MN
Jason McCalpin	(C)	TX
Mary McKay	(H)	NY
Matthew Mejia	(H)	OH
Richard Merwarth	(H)	OH
Zachery Mohling	(OM Assoc of IA)	IA
Melissa Mushrush	(C)	TN
Thomas Off	(H)	GE
Kristin Palkki	(H)	OR
Kevin Pease	(H)	MI
Bernard Reiser, Jr	(H)	SC
Olivia Robinson	(H)	WI
Julie Romine	(H)	MI
Caroline Scott	(H)	ME
Heather Sponseller	(H)	OH
Peter Steffen	(H)	IA
Eric Swinehart	(H)	NC
Brent Teague	(H)	TX
James Thornbrue	(H)	OR
Necole Vitale	(H)	NY
Tomeka Ward	(H)	NC
Eric Warren	(H)	OH
Emery Weaver	(C)	OH
Jennifer Webster	(C)	WI
Rebecca Webster	(H)	NY
Scott Wheeler	(H)	OR
Maria Wich	(H)	MD
Dana Wilkerson	(C)	MO

Fun-Raising Fundraisers

The OM year might be winding down, but OM minds are ever active. Whether you're raising funds to support World Finals travel or developing strategies to cover next year's fees, the weather is primed for fundraisers—outside or inside. Joe Zanca, New Hampshire OM Regional Director and collector of fundraising hints, offers these suggestions:

- Organize a **Cake Walk**. Tape numbers 1-30 on the floor. Play music and have each participant walk from one number to the other until the music stops. Draw (spin or roll) a number from 1-30. The person standing on that number wins and chooses a (donated) cake. Each participant contributes \$1, \$2 or \$3 to play.
- Hold a **Car Wash-A-Thon**. Advertise a “free car wash” in area newspapers. Also send notices home with children, put up posters, etc. On the day of the event, post signs—one mile in both directions—advertising the free car wash. Weeks beforehand, children will find “sponsors” who support their willingness to wash as many cars as they can. Sponsors will commit to donating a fee for each car washed. So, if a child washes 20 cars and gets 20 sponsors to pay a dollar for each car washed, the worker gets \$20 per car—a total of \$400. (Don't forget to take down signs after your event concludes!)
- Present a **Night of Champions**. Show teams performing their solutions for their schoolmates, parents and friends.
- Conduct an **auction**. Ask for donations of white elephants or foodstuffs (either home-baked or from commercial bakeries). Sell to the highest bidder. Or have participants bid on an opportunity to throw a pie in the face of an “official” such as the principal, mayor, coach, teacher, etc.
- Sponsor a **Road Rally**. Have participants follow a prescribed course with cryptic questions and directions. Charge \$5 per person or \$20 per car. Give an award to the winner and certificates to participants. (Hint: For extra revenue, hold a BBQ, craft fair or auction afterwards.)
- Approach a **fast food** chain. Ask local stores to participate in your OM fundraiser. A percentage of the sales from that organization goes to your cause.
- Feature a **Tournament Night**. Set up games of *Scrabble*, *Trivial Pursuit*, etc. in the cafeteria. Ask for donations of \$2 to \$5 from participants. Provide trophies or certificates for winners.
- Play **Musical Chairs**. Arrange up to 1,000 chairs in a football field. Charge \$5 per chair, selling to one more person than you have chairs to support. Play music and then stop the music to eliminate one person and one chair. The last ten people win gift certificates or items donated by supporters. Don't forget to have a concession stand nearby with soft drinks and popcorn!

Whatever your idea, fundraising can be a profitable way to provide and partake in entertaining events! 

Coaches Poetry Corner

This season, the OM editors received some thoughts in retrospect on Problems 1 and 5. We felt all coaches—regardless of the problem—could relate to the sentiments of these two OM coaches:

MTU Revisited — by Mrs. Ray, Coach, Warren, OH (with help from Champion Middle School team members, Mike Hoffman, Meredith Kochunas, Brian Lenhart, Robert McCleery, Katie Meyer, Jon Ray and Drew Repasky)

Our curve car would not go
Our flip-flop car was built too slow
The piggy back veered off far and wide
The relay car skittered down the other side
The background music wouldn't even play
Eight minutes ticked by without delay

But when our tipper hit the mark
Applause filled the room—now not so dark
Robert says we were going for the “sympathy vote”
(Chances of getting anything close are kind of remote)

But in our six weeks together we had lots of fun
So it really doesn't matter that our cars didn't run
We learned lots of things—how to drill, how to solder
That's what we'll say when they all ask—Why bother??

After the Race — by Mary Leklem, Coach, Alexander Middle School, Nekossa, WI

Here's to my friends
who did not win.
I know they did their best in
Fur, Feathers and Fin.

Their scenery was
a three-piece knockout!
The skit went so well,
I wanted to shout!

Through much debate
and lots of tallies,
They chose their problem
and then did their rallies.

A short shopping trip
without me going,
Yielded two shirts, brown shoelaces,
and a long tube for sewing.

Our man Aaron has learned
how to sew and stuff.
Chelsea hugged a lion,
and it didn't seem real tough.

Emily! Oh Emily, let her powder fly.
Why, poor Mrs. Hyland got it in the eye.
Erica did make the greatest of bees.
Kelly's horns brought lion to his knees.

Chayse can really make time go fast.
While Herc is the newest man in your cast.
That Mrs. Pilger always made you plan, think, and re-think.
While Mrs. Leklem ended up with *paper mache* in her sink.

My dear OM Team—2,001!
You'll always be special and my #1.

PLEA FOR PROBLEM BRIEFS BRINGS RESULTS

Last month, Dr. Micklus received this correspondence from an enthusiastic OMer. Its contents generated an earlier-than-expected release of next year's problem briefs.

Dear Dr. Micklus,

I am going crazy in anticipation of the 1994-95 problems. I need help. Something to ease the OMsanity. When will next year's problems or problem summaries be available to OMer's like me who can't wait? I need those problems. I thought about it today and I realize that OM is the only place where students want more problems. I can't fathom the idea of waiting any more than two months to think in the great OM brain lingo again.

As others have claimed, OM is in my blood. And not just mine, my whole family's. Since I started, in the fifth grade, my mother has been my team's "motivational MOM" but this year she was my coach. My father has always supported my team and my little sister is just now getting interested in it. Please consider my pleas for the problem summaries and definitely take them seriously.

Sincerely,

Adam Law

Well, Adam, it's time to get that great OM brain lingo working once again!

Synopses of the 1994-95 Long-Term Problems

Scientific Safari (Divisions II, III and IV)

The team's problem is to design, construct and drive a safari vehicle that will be propelled by two types of power. The dual-powered vehicle will leave a Camp and be driven on a safari, where it will encounter team-constructed animals. The team will tag some animals, rescue an injured animal, collect a new animal species, relocate animals and stop poachers. The team will also make a trailer that will be towed by the vehicle during part of the safari. In addition, the team will develop a theme for its safari. The time limit is 8 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed a \$100 (U.S.) value.

The Mail Must Go Through (Divisions II and III)

The team's problem is to design, develop and implement a system(s) that will sort and transport domestic mail, foreign mail, packages and two express packages. These will begin in a Mailbox, pass through a Distribution Center and then arrive at their proper destinations. The time limit is 9 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed a \$100 (U.S.) value.

Classics . . . Upbeat Vaudeville (Divisions I, II, III and IV)

The team's problem is to develop and perform a vaudeville show that will have three or more original acts, an emcee and a commercial. The show's theme must be about some aspect of society that the team decides is upbeat (positive). Performances must also include an elaborate membership sign. The time limit is 8 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed an \$80 (U.S.) value.

A New Twist (Divisions I, II, III and IV)


This nonlinguistic problem requires teams to design and build a structure of balsa wood and glue. The structure will undergo a series of twists during the competition, and will be tested by balancing and supporting as much weight as possible. The time limit is 8 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed a \$65 (U.S.) value.

Time Traveler (Divisions I and II)

The team's problem is to create and perform a skit about traveling in time. The performance must include a time traveler and a team-created time machine that performs tasks. During the performance, there will be at least three scenes and two journeys through time. The team must also present a surprise ending. The time limit is 8 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed a \$75 (U.S.) value.

Math Party (Primary)

This non-competitive problem offers teams an opportunity to incorporate math in a skit about a party. At the party the team must somehow demonstrate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and must describe a geometric shape. During the performance the team must involve the audience in some way. Part of the performance must be humorous. The time limit is 8 minutes. Materials used cannot exceed a \$50 (U.S.) value.

NOTE: These problem synopses are tentative as of April 1994. Problem divisions and other limitations are subject to change. 

OH OM Secures Polish Exchange Grant

Ron Kolojek, parent coordinator for North Olmsted OM, has worked hard to help Polish OM teams travel to the U.S. and participate in World Finals. This year he successfully obtained a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency. The award will permit ten Polish OM team members and their two chaperon/coaches to visit the U.S. for three weeks. These Polish OMer's will have the opportunity to participate in the OM World Finals in Iowa.

During part of their stay, the Polish students will live with their American counterparts while they attend classes, prepare for World Finals competition, sightsee in Ohio and work together on a problem centered around building a global community. The grant award provides a unique opportunity for each group to live, work and problem-solve side-by-side.

One week after the Polish students return home, ten North Olmsted High School OM team members and two chaperons will venture to Gdansk, Poland. They will stay in Poland for three weeks, courtesy of their new Polish friends and the University of Gdansk, the sponsor of OM in that city.

In Poland, the American students will be immersed in both the culture and lifestyle of the Polish students. The Americans will attend a "magnet" school and will also do their share of sightseeing before their return in early July.

OM salutes Mr. Kolojek, who, by making his dream of a Polish exchange a reality, has provided students of both countries with an excellent opportunity to share the spirit of OM.

1993-1994 Odyssey of the Mind State/Provincial/International Memberships

(12,003 members as of April 14, 1994. Chart does not include collegiate members.)

CHARTERED ASSOCIATION	MEMBERSHIP 92-93	RANK 92-93	MEMBERSHIP 93-94	RANK 93-94	%INCREASE %(LOSS)	UNCHARTERED ASSOCIATION	MEMBERSHIP 92-93	RANK 92-93	MEMBERSHIP 93-94	RANK 93-94	%INCREASE %(LOSS)
Texas	1104	1	1279	1	15.85%	*Alaska	--	--	2	60	200%
Michigan	775	2	802	2	3.48%	*Brazil	2	61	2	60	-----
Ohio	726	3	736	3	1.38%	*England	1	65	1	67	-----
California	558	6	632	4	13.26%	*Hawaii	1	65	1	67	-----
Wisconsin	584	4	595	5	1.88%	*Hungary	1	65	1	67	-----
Colorado	581	5	578	6	(.52%)	*Japan	2	61	2	60	-----
Virginia	473	8	531	7	12.05%	*Kazakhstan	1	65	2	60	100%
New York	526	7	523	8	(.57%)	*Lithuania	3	60	2	60	(33%)
Minnesota	370	9	391	9	5.68%	*Netherlands	--	--	1	67	100%
Florida	324	10	344	10	6.17%	*Nova Scotia	1	65	2	60	100%
Maryland	311	12	333	11	7.07%	*New Brunswick	--	--	1	66	100%
North Carolina	319	11	329	12	3.13%	*Poland	3	61	3	59	-----
Washington	307	13	302	13	(1.63%)	*Quebec	4	59	4	58	-----
Oregon	305	14	269	14	(1.08%)	*Saudi Arabia	2	65	1	67	(50%)
Pennsylvania	268	15	269	14	(.37%)	*Saskatchewan	1	65	1	67	-----
Arkansas	225	17	227	16	.89%						
New Hampshire	222	16	225	17	1.35%						
Georgia	215	18	214	18	(.47%)						
Tennessee	169	21	197	19	16.57%						
Massachusetts	161	23	197	19	22.36%						
Maine	183	19	189	21	3.28%						
Indiana	170	20	165	22	(2.94%)						
New Jersey	142	26	165	22	16.20%						
Iowa	166	22	158	24	(4.82%)						
Missouri	126	30	155	25	23.02%						
Nebraska	145	25	153	26	5.52%						
Illinois	131	28	142	27	8.40%						
South Dakota	128	29	134	28	4.69%						
Montana	147	24	129	29	(12.20%)						
British Columbia	123	31	129	29	4.88%						
South Carolina	132	27	121	31	(8.33%)						
Kansas	120	32	112	32	(6.67%)						
Shanghai	100	33	96	33	(.04%)						
Oklahoma	95	35	95	34	-----						
Connecticut	77	38	89	35	15.58%						
Kentucky	88	37	83	36	(5.68%)						
Arizona	96	34	80	37	(16.70%)						
North Dakota	72	40	79	38	9.72%						
Mississippi	89	36	77	39	(13.50%)						
New Mexico	59	41	74	40	25.42%						
Vermont	56	42	54	41	(3.57%)						
Alabama	74	39	54	41	(27.00%)						
Germany	29	50	50	43	72.41%						
Dist of Columbia	56	42	47	44	(16.10%)						
Wyoming	39	46	47	44	20.51%						
Nevada	50	44	39	46	(22.00%)						
Idaho	44	45	38	47	(13.60%)						
West Virginia	34	49	32	48	(5.88%)						
Delaware	36	48	32	48	(11.10%)						
DODDS-Atlantic	39	46	28	50	(28.20%)						
Ontario	19	53	23	51	(21.05%)						
Alberta	24	51	20	52	(16.70%)						
Utah	23	52	18	53	(21.70%)						
Australia	12	54	14	54	16.00%						
Rhode Island	8	55	19	52	137.50%						
Mexico	6	56	6	55	-----						
Louisiana	6	56	6	55	-----						
Russia	5	56	5	57	-----						
Yellowknife, NT	--	--	5	57	500%						

Association Roundup: SEPs

NC OM will host two **SEP Day Camps**. Each session will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. SEPs are scheduled July 11-14 and July 18-21 at Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte, NC. For information, contact Mike Arim, 1418 Brittle Creek Drive, Matthews, NC 28015. In the evening, call (704) 847- 3268.

NH OM will also hold six week-long **SEP Day Camps**, beginning June 26 and ending mid-August. (There will be no session the week of July 4.) These will be in the following locations: Durham, Rye, Nashau, Londonderry, Gofftown and Amherst. For information contact Jill Schoonmaker, 24 Mill Road, Durham, NH 03824. Call (207) 363-4111 during the day, (603) 868-1797 in the evening.

CA OM will sponsor an overnight camp at the School of Conservation located at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in CA. The session will run from August 7-13. Participants must be 10 years or older if they've had no OM experience or 9 years old with OM history. For more information, contact "Hoss" McNutt, 32986 Globe Drive, Springville, CA 93265. The telephone number is (209) 539-2954.

OM Summer Camps in China

This summer, about 100 students from Shanghai will travel by train to Beijing to attend OM summer camps there.

These students, all of whom have World Finals experience, will introduce the OM program to the people in Beijing. They will offer training in solving spontaneous problems and offer hints on incorporating humor in the long-term problem solutions.

Beijing is an ancient capital of China. While there, the visitors from Shanghai will walk on the Great Wall and sightsee such landmarks as the Palace Museum. Other camp activities will include cooking, singing and dancing.

The camps will be held from July 20-24. Shanghai OM Association extends an invitation to all OMers to participate in the SEPS this summer in Beijing. If you are interested in participating, and would like more information, please contact OM headquarters in New Jersey.

This is the third year that the Shanghai OM Association has organized the summer camps, and hopes that, once again, a joyful and rewarding experience will be had by all who attend.




OM Notes

- Cynthia Greer**, Texas OM Regional Director, recently was chosen as a Lewisville Woman Who Makes a Difference in Education. This was principally the result of her dedication and the success of Odyssey of the Mind in Lewisville. Cynthia, who moved to Flower Mound from Lubbock in 1988, set her sights on implementing the OM program in LISD after she, her husband and two sons moved to Flower Mound when their restaurant business began to expand. Although she holds a degree in Art Education from Texas Tech, Cynthia never taught school. However, her love for children and her enthusiasm for Odyssey of the Mind turned her dream into reality. "When I was involved with the program in Lubbock, it helped me get to know my child and I really got to watch him learn. The program just brings out the best in children," says Greer. Her involvement with the program has also helped shape her philosophy on life, which is to accept people as they are—individuals.
- Betty Schmidt**, Michigan's Association Director (who doubles as a Regional Director with Joan Sabourin), wrote to tell us about a truly outstanding OM team performance at regionals. It seems that when a particular team went into the spontaneous room, the first member to respond was nervous and apprehensive. So much so, that the team member was unable to provide the team's first response. The other team members sat quietly, knowing that they could do nothing to help at this point. When time was up, the team scored no points in spontaneous. The other team members' reaction was to show compassion and sympathy. They commented to the judges that their teammate was a "good thinker!" They held the hand of this team member and showed their friendship as they left the room and went on their way. The activity did not go unnoticed. The team members received an Outstanding OMER Award, bringing the entire audience of nearly 3,000 to their feet to applaud the team's accomplishment.
- Jean Warner**, a judges' trainer in Iowa, sent OM an article about one of her OM judges, **Sandra Hobbs**. Ms. Hobbs, an audiologist, won the *1993 Louis M. DiCarlo National Award* for outstanding work in speech-language pathology and audiology. What makes Ms. Hobbs so special is that she is hearing impaired, and uses hearing aids to compensate for her profound hearing loss. She is licensed in Iowa as an audiologist and hearing aid dispenser.

She says, "In my practice I evaluate hearing, fit, sell and repair hearing aids and teach basic language signs, lip reading and listening skills. When I decided to go into private practice, my husband and I were thinking about names and he thought, Hobson Understands Hearing [sounds interesting]. I naturally responded, 'Huh?' and we laughed. It's fun. It works and it's open to interpretation." We commend Ms. Hobbs for her Odyssey of the Mind volunteer work and her citation.
- NHOM awarded a \$500 scholarship to **Ralph Carter** of Tillinghast.
- Kay Luter**, Northeast Arkansas Regional Director, reports that this year's tee-shirt logo contest, "OM Explains the Unexplainable," was won by creator Drew Marks, a sixth-grade student in Marked Tree, Arkansas.
- Michele McLeod**, Regional Director in the Roanoke Region of VA, sent OM headquarters a pin her region bestowed on each OM regional competition participant. The message was cleverly communicated on the button. It announces, "OM winner equals kids plus creativity squared!" Judges awarded the pins after each team's performance. They also used the opportunity to reemphasize the spirit of OM and the benefits of the program.
- Maryland OM requested that each MD OM member nominate a candidate for the **Martha M. Flesch Award**. The criteria for this annual award are: (1) the student shall be in grades K-12 and have been an OM member for at least three years; (2) the student should possess outstanding attributes in the areas of perseverance, motivation and sensitivity to the needs of others; (3) the aforementioned attributes should be demonstrated during OM program activities; and (4) the recipient must be present at the MD OM Association Finals Awards Ceremony. Adults were asked to submit a written essay nomination. This year's recipient was Meagan J. Tyler.
- Mary Van Dyke**, Kansas OM Regional Director and coach at Atchison Junior HS, recently received kudos in the *Atchison Globe*. These compliments were initiated by Ralph Dowell, whose letter to the editor appeared in the February 28, 1994, issue. His letter praises all OM coaches, coordinators, judges and directors. A portion of his letter follows:

Life can be understood as a series of problems to solve. The people who are best at problem solving are usually our happiest and most productive citizens. People who don't know how to solve problems often become burdens to society. We want our schools to help our children become problem solvers. Businesses want employees who can solve problems. Something is going on in Atchison that meets this need.

As was reported in these pages [*Atchison Globe*], several hundred students . . . participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition . . . Only a few teams came in first, but they were all winners because they worked hard to solve challenging problems. What other kind of competition relates so directly to skills that young people will need to be responsible, productive adults? Which other extracurricular activity evokes this much careful planning, thought and creativity on the part of students?

Athletic pursuits are one way for kids to gain positive character-building experiences, but I love the fact that Odyssey of the Mind gives kids another way to be recognized for their achievements. Popular culture tells our children that they must be athletic, beautiful or rich to have a good life. OM helps kids understand the value of cooperation, creativity and hard work. I applaud all those who have made it possible for our students to be part of this terrific program. 

1994-95 ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ORDER FORM

- _____ Copies of **OMermania! Encouraging Humor and Creativity Using the Odyssey of the Mind Problems** book\$ _____
 (@ \$19.50 plus shipping and handling)
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 plus shipping and handling).....\$ _____
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