



Odyssey of the Mind

Newsletter

RENEWAL ISSUE

SPRING 1992



*Dr. James Pallante Receives
the OM Distinguished
Service Award*

The OM Association Board of Directors presented Dr. James Pallante with its Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Pallante has served on the OM Board since 1983 and has made numerous contributions to the Program. During the past year he has led the Board in developing its mission statement, philosophy, and five-year strategic plan. In recognition for his many achievements, the Board award read:

*For Demonstration of Exemplary Leadership Ability
and Outstanding Service*

This prestigious award, only the third given in the history of the OM Association, was presented to Dr. Pallante at the OM Board of Directors' meeting in March, held at the IBM Europe headquarters in Paris.

Dr. Pallante is the Dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Resources at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.



13th Annual World Finals Competition in Boulder, Colorado

The World Finals competition will be held at the University of Colorado in Boulder this year. The dates of competition are May 28, 29 and 30. The event, expected to draw participants from our 55 chartered associations, is open to competitors from every US state as well as all countries with OM members outside the US.

New OM Membership Categories for 1992-93

The Odyssey of the Mind Board of Directors recently recommended and approved changes in the OM membership categories. These modifications may affect your membership renewal. Most significantly, two categories, the program membership and the community group membership, are no longer valid membership choices.

Conversely, Category A (individual school membership) and the Category C (membership for two schools under one principal) have expanded opportunities.

The various categories—their opportunities and conditions—are detailed below:

1. **Category A Memberships - Individual Schools**

Any school wishing to obtain OM materials and be eligible to enter teams in competition joins the Odyssey of the Mind under this category. Teams under Category A may include students from any of the school district's member schools. **All students on a team must be from schools that hold current memberships.** Some state laws require public schools to provide activities such as the Odyssey of the Mind to private school students. If this is the case, students from private schools may compete on the public schools' teams even if the private school is not a member. If this law does not apply, private schools must hold their own Category A memberships. Public and private school students may be combined only if both their administrations approve. Category A member schools may purchase multiple memberships adding the designation Team A, Team B, etc., Team 1, Team 2, etc. or Team Red, Team Blue, etc.

Teams that include students from only one school must compete under that school's name. Teams that consist of students from more than one Category A school, must enter competition under only one school's name. Teams must have at least one member attending the school designated. **The designated school must normally house students from the division in which the team competes.** Category A members may enter

(continued on page 2)

New Membership Categories . . . (cont'd from page 1)

into competition one team in each problem for each division housed within the school even if it draws students from other member schools. The highest grade represented on the team will determine the division in which teams must compete.

For example:

- A) School A houses grades K-5. School B houses grades 6-8. A team is formed with fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from these two schools. This team must compete under School B's name because the team must enter competition in Division II and School A is not eligible to field a Division II team.
- B) School A houses K-6 grades. School B houses grades 7 and 8. A team is formed with fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from these two schools. The team may enter under either School A's name or School B's name because, although the team must compete in Division II, both schools are eligible to field teams in Division II. The other school could also field a Division II team in the same problem using either students exclusively from its school or a combination of students from both schools.

2. Category B Memberships - Home- School Programs

Students which are instructed at home in a certified home-school program may participate as part of teams from their school district provided school district officials consent. However, home-school students in a certified home-school program may also purchase an Odyssey of the Mind membership and compete as a home-school member, Category B. Only home-school students are eligible to compete on a Category B member's team. Category B members may enter one team per problem in competition. The highest grade represented on the team will determine the division in which teams must compete. These members may purchase multiple memberships adding the designation Team A, Team B, etc., Team 1, Team 2, etc. or Team Red, Team Blue, etc.

3. Category C Memberships - Small Schools with One Principal

One principal who serves two or more small schools may join for the schools he/she serves. In competition, Category C members may enter one team in each problem for each division housed within the schools. The highest grade represented on the team will determine the division in which teams must compete. These members may purchase multiple memberships adding the designation Team A, Team B, etc., Team 1, Team 2, etc. or Team Red, Team Blue, etc.

Category C members should use the name of the school district in which these schools are located, such as "Glassboro Schools," as their membership name.

4. Category E Memberships - Collegiate/Military Members

Colleges, universities or military bases may purchase membership materials and be eligible to enter teams in competition. Collegiate/Military members may cross over memberships to form teams. Teams which contain only students from one college, university, or military base must compete under its name. If a college, university, or military base member's team consists of students or military personnel from more than one member college, university or military base, the team members must decide under which member's name they wish to compete. Collegiate/Military members may enter one team in each Division IV problem. These members may purchase multiple memberships, adding the designation Team A, Team B, etc., Team 1, Team 2, etc. or Team Red, Team Blue, etc.

1991-92 Odyssey of the Mind State/Provincial/ Foreign Country MEMBERSHIPS

(10,263 members as of March 30, 1992.
Chart does not include collegiate members.)

ASSOCIATION AREA	MEMBERSHIP 90-91	RANK 90-91	MEMBERSHIP 91-92	RANK 91-92	% INCREASE % (LOSS)
Texas	714	1	939	1	32
Michigan	640	2	735	2	15
Ohio	559	3	619	3	11
Colorado	504	5	580	4	15
New York	543	4	526	5	-3
California	433	6	500	6	15
Wisconsin	416	7	490	7	18
Virginia	356	8	394	8	11
Minnesota	283	9	307	9	8
Washington	256	11	303	10	18
Maryland	280	10	294	11	5
North Carolina	231	12	269	12	16
Florida	222	14	266	13	20
Oregon	142	20	230	14	62
Arkansas	231	12	225	15	-3
Pennsylvania	206	15	220	16	7
New Hampshire	186	17	196	17	5
Georgia	141	21	180	18	28
Maine	158	18	164	19	4
Tennessee	123	25	152	20	24
South Carolina	147	19	148	21	1
Indiana	132	22	148	21	3
Montana	116	20	138	23	19
Nebraska	132	22	136	24	3
Shanghai	197	16	134	25	-32
Iowa	107	28	129	26	21
Illinois	99	29	117	27	18
New Jersey	125	29	116	28	-7
South Dakota	98	31	115	29	17
British Columbia	114	27	112	30	-2
Massachusetts	89	34	111	31	25
Missouri	94	32	103	32	10
Arizona	79	37	97	33	23
Oklahoma	90	33	96	34	7
Kansas	99	29	93	35	-6
Kentucky	82	36	85	36	4
Mississippi	74	38	85	36	15
Alabama	71	39	73	38	3
Dist of Columbia	87	35	72	39	-17
Connecticut	50	41	62	40	24
New Mexico	52	40	54	41	4
Nevada	32	46	46	42	44
West Virginia	41	43	45	43	10
DODDS-Atlantic	42	42	42	44	0
Wyoming	33	45	42	44	27
Vermont	38	44	40	46	5
Ontario	29	48	51	47	76
North Dakota	1	49	34	48	3300
Alberta	28	47	30	49	7
Delaware	26	49	26	50	0
Idaho	20	50	25	51	25
Utah	27	48	23	52	-15
DoDDS-Germany	--	--	10	53	1000
Australia	--	--	9	54	900
Mexico	9	52	7	55	-22
Russia	6	57	5	56	-17
* Alaska	2	56	3	57	50
* Germany	1	57	3	57	200
* Quebec	--	--	3	57	300
* England	--	--	2	60	200
* Poland	1	57	2	60	100
* Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	60	200
* Belgium	--	--	1	63	100
* Hawaii	--	--	1	63	100
* Hungary	1	57	1	63	0
* Japan	1	57	1	63	0
* Labrador	1	57	1	63	0
* Louisiana	5	55	1	63	-80
* New Brunswick	1	57	1	63	0
* Philippines	1	57	1	63	0
* Rhode Island	--	57	1	63	100
* Saskatchewan	1	57	1	63	0

* denotes unchartered Association

Megan LeDeu wins Outstanding OMer award in the North Central Texas Region

Judith K. Schneider, secretary to the North Central Texas OM Board, wrote a tribute to Megan LeDeu and read it at the OM North Central Regional competition. This was to be one in a series of tributes Megan would receive in March, 1992.

This past year, Megan participated as a member of an *Alice in OMerland* team. During that time, she suffered from medulla blastoma—a fatal form of cancer. The endless route of chemotherapy and surgeries slowed her down some, but she attended her OM practices regularly in spite of her rigid hospital schedule.

With her team, she attended competition at both the sub-regional and regional level. Megan was very ill during the sub-regionals, but she chose to postpone her latest scheduled surgery—just to attend. Afterward, she was isolated to prepare for a bone marrow transplant. The bone marrow transplant procedure, considered experimental, was not covered by insurance. But it was Megan's chance to beat the disease. Rallying to support her, thousands of children, as well as civic groups, churches, businesses, and other organizations raised more than \$167,000 for the surgery.

Prior to the her scheduled bone marrow transplant, Megan's team performed at the regionals. To all OMers who knew her, she exemplified the OM spirit and was awarded the Outstanding OMer award.

Judith's tribute to Megan stated, "This year, I had the privilege of knowing a young lady whose single-minded dedication to OM, her team and her commitment to both have rocked the OM world in our OM region. All of us who know her and those who hear her story will never listen to the old adage, 'A hundred years from now, it will not matter what I had or what I owned, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.'"

Megan valiantly fought, but peacefully submitted to the disease on March 28, 1992. Among Megan's finest achievements in her life was her courage.

What a million bucks won't buy . . .

by Kay Crenshaw (OM Mother of an OMer on
the Lahier Middle Team A, Buford, GA)

My aunt called the other day to see how the OM competition was going. "What do they get if they win?" she asked. The question took me by surprise. I laughed and said, "Well, they get to do it all over again and go to World." She said, "For all that trouble, they at least ought to get a hundred bucks."

Her question kept coming back to me. *What do they get?* I kept picturing trophies—little gold statues holding up brains. How do you explain Odyssey of the Mind? Well, if you win first place you get a blue ribbon. And, if you are truly, exceptionally creative, you get a little black plastic spider. How do you explain that? I was glad I hadn't tried.

What do they get?

We take these gifted (and maybe somewhat warped) children and challenge them to put down their books and pencils. To take their daydreaming skills usually reserved for math class and solve OM problems. Challenge them to use all their unique creativity in their solutions.

What do they get?

They learn teamwork. The give and take. Cooperation. Respect for each other. For different points of view. Other ways of reaching the same goals. The importance of being positive.

What do they get?

Frustration. They get scenery that falls and breaks. Or that won't ever stand at all. Paint that peels. Lights that won't blink. Things that stick—that shouldn't. Things that should—but won't. Balsa structures that break before you think they will. That horrible clank of the weights—you're never ready for it.

What do they get?

They learn perseverance. To fix the broken, stick the unstuck, and build the structures again.

They learn to utilize their vast knowledge. Those quirky little facts gifted kids seem to harbor.

Schools, and yes, parents, tend to judge our kids by six weeks of achievements. That dreaded list of grades. OM is different.

I sat with my son through the night as he tried to bring a balsa structure down to the required weight. He sanded and scraped. Weighed and measured. Frustration and perseverance battled. As a mother, I watched in amazement as the hours passed. At 4 a.m. he declared he had done all he could. And I knew he had. I wouldn't doubt him anymore. With the new day it held the winning weight.

The excitement and fun, yes fun, of the competition overcame the exhaustion.

What do they get?

They get to learn. To accept challenges. To use their knowledge and creativity in a positive manner. To counter the frustration with perseverance. They learn there can be and should be fun and excitement in the learning process.

What do they get?

They get an education.

Oh yes. And memories. Memories to last a lifetime. And you can't buy those for a million bucks.

"Be brave enough to live life creatively. The creative is the place where no one else has ever been. You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. You can't get there by bus, only by hard work and risk and by not quite knowing what you're doing. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself."

— Alan Alda (1936-)
American actor
advice to his daughter





ОДИССЕЯ РАЗУМА

The OM Association in Russia Hosts European Teams

An Odyssey of the Mind festival was held in Chelyabinsk, Russia on March 9, 1992. Chelyabinsk is located east of the Ural Mountains near Siberia.

Approximately 100 people from the OM Association in Troitsk, Russia traveled to Chelyabinsk. The trip originated from Moscow, and took two hours by jet. Joining the Russians (by invitation) were Odyssey of the Mind teams from Germany and Poland. These teams competed and participated in the festival.

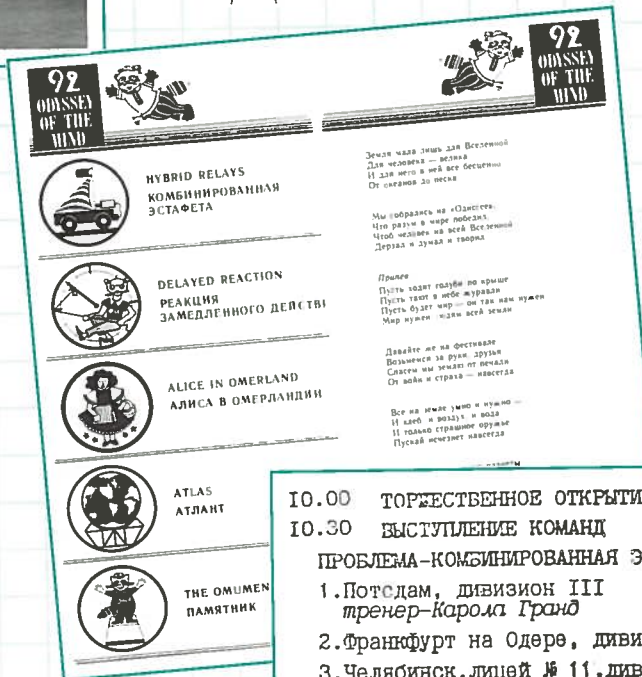
The trip to Chelyabinsk was historic for a number of reasons. First, as far as anyone could remember, it was the first time a team from each of the respective countries visited that part of Russia. Secondly, the warm reception by the Russians demonstrated a strong step towards international respect and friendship.

As teams, coaches, officials, and spectators entered the large auditorium that housed the event, a student orchestra greeted them with songs played on Russian folk instruments.

The packed house not only enjoyed performances by OM teams, but were regaled by a variety of entertainers. Acrobats, ballet dancers and ballroom dancers performed after each OM team competed. It was a spectacular event for the audience.

At the awards ceremony held later that evening, each participant received a memento of the event. This unique keepsake was a plaque constructed from Ural Mountain stone with an Odyssey of the Mind Chelyabinsk medallion.

Dr. Micklus, a special guest at the event, received a souvenir scrapbook with art work, photographs and other memorabilia representative of Russia OM and the festival.



- 10.00 ТОРЖЕСТВЕННОЕ ОТКРЫТИЕ ПРАЗДНИКА
 10.30 ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ КОМАНД
- ПРОБЛЕМА-КОМБИНИРОВАННАЯ ЭСТАФЕТА**
1. Потсдам, дивизион III
тренер-Карола Гранд
 2. Франкфурт на Одере, дивизион III
 3. Челябинск, лицей № 11, дивизион III
тренер-Серкова Г.Г.
- ПРОБЛЕМА-АЛИСА В ОМЕРЛАНДИИ**
4. Троицк, школа № 1, дивизион II
тренер-Астратарчик В.А.
 5. Троицк, школа № 5, дивизион III
 6. Троицк, школа № 3, дивизион III
тренер-Первушина О.Н.
 7. Варшава, дивизион III
тренер-Урсула Прасула
 8. Челябинск, дворец творчества
учащейся молодежи, дивизион III
тренер-Турфенков Л.В.
 9. Челябинск, школа № 47, дивизион III
тренер-Варнавский П.В.
 10. Челябинск, школа № 153, дивизион I
- ПРОБЛЕМА-АТЛАНТ**
11. Челябинск, гимназия № 26, дивизион III
тренер-Евченко В.Г.
- ПРОБЛЕМА-ПАМЯТНИК**
12. Троицк, школа № 5, дивизион II
тренер-Шталон В.
 13. Троицк, школа № 1, дивизион II
тренер-Гижиберия Л.
 14. Челябинск, гимназия № 76, дивизион III
тренер-Новикова Т.И.
 15. Челябинск, лицей № 11, дивизион III
тренер-Серовикова Н.И.
- 19.00 НАГРАЖДЕНИЕ ПОБЕДИТЕЛЕЙ
 19.30 ТОРЖЕСТВЕННОЕ ЗАКРЫТИЕ ПРАЗДНИКА

IBM Europe to Help OM Expand Overseas

IBM Europe has agreed to help OM publicize the Odyssey of the Mind Program in western Europe.

Last spring, Carole Micklus, Executive Director of OM, contacted Dave Mc Kinney, then President of IBM Europe, to ask for help in expanding the OM program on the European continent.

Before a meeting could ensue, Dave returned to IBM in the US. However, he recommended that negotiations continue with Mr. Gianluigi Trischitta, Director of

Communications for IBM Europe.

In March, Ms. Micklus and OM Board Vice-Chairperson, Robert Purifico, met with Gianluigi Trischitta and his associate, Serge Caby, in Paris. The results of that meeting were encouraging. IBM Europe has agreed to help us obtain information and link with organizations that will help advance international expansion of OM. In addition, IBMers in Europe are likely to be more involved with the OM Program overseas.



OM NOTES:

- * In previous years, Wisconsin IBMers linked with Wisconsin OM by assisting Bev Mantley, Regional Director, in the Milwaukee Region. This year they are expanding their OM commitment by their willingness to secure and train OM judges at the IBM Center in Milwaukee. The word is that these IBM folks plan a long-term relationship with the OM program in the entire state of Wisconsin.
- * The lone star state, Texas, has reached a second milestone in its OM history. Last year, with 714 memberships, Texas OM had the highest number of OM memberships of any OM association. This year, it leads the associations again, with an astounding new number of OM memberships—939.
- * After obtaining a special state license, Michigan Odyssey of the Mind sold raffle tickets at each MI OM regional competition. Each ticket bought a chance on items donated from area businesses. These included an Apple Macintosh LC computer, as well as merchandise, gift certificates, and savings bonds. The prize-winning drawing was held at the Association Finals on April 25. Monies raised will help offset the winning teams' travel expenses to the 1992 OM World Finals.
- * An East Coast regional director wrote with this OMeedote: *One of the Alice in OMerland teams entered in competition included an exchange student from Germany. As a performing team member, her role included a speaking part in a short parody of Hans and Frans of the SNL "Pump You Up" fame. In the judges' review at the conclusion of the performance, one judge approached Kathi to complement her on her accent. His comment: "You must have worked hard to perfect it."*
- * Kay Brott, a NY regional director, wrote us to share the closing remarks she made at her regional awards' ceremony. They were inspired by a letter to the editor that appeared in the local paper. Kay said, "...[The letter] reflected so many of the things we try to tell OMerS. . . ." Here is a portion of the message she read:

Media Forgets Olympic Ideal

Now that the Olympics are over, I'd like to say how disappointed I was with the newspaper articles. I became very upset with reading headlines calling our athletes flops and disappointments.

I think the news media have forgotten what the Olympics are all about. It shouldn't be about which country got the most medals, but about the spirit of competing, of nations coming together, friendships formed and athletes trying their best—win or lose.

These athletes work many hours and years training to perfect their skills. It takes this kind of

commitment and devotion to get to the Olympics. In my eyes they are all winners from the first to the last place. I applaud all of their efforts and hope our nation appreciates them for the winners they all are.

Kay followed with her own comments:

I hope you—as coaches, parents, district coordinators and team members—go home with this same attitude. In my eyes you are all winners—first to last. And I applaud your effort.

I am sharing this quotation with you because I think that sometimes there is too much emphasis on "winning." We need to keep reminding all those involved that OM is supposed to be fun, as well as an opportunity to grow, learn to be creative, and develop friendships. Dr. Sam has said it so many times—you are all winners—first to last.

- * Pam Pearson, a rookie OM coach from Alexandria, MN wrote to tell us about a strategy she and her team developed to help them practice responding to spontaneous problems. They called this the *OMer Helper*. It worked this way: Team members assigned a specific letter to each one of their ten fingers. The letters formed the words FISHH CAGES and stood for different categories. The categories, she felt, would help the students think in different ways and to develop more creative, and less common, answers. Pam says, "I encouraged students to think of at least one answer for each category—picturing it sitting on top of that finger." She added, "Some categories didn't work as well when an object was used, but I found it did help them think beyond common answers, especially when we used the OMer Helper to discuss additional answers in our follow-up discussions."

For those who are curious, the categories that Pam used included: Food, Interests, Sports, Holidays, Houses—and things found in them; Clothing, Animals, Geography, Expressions (sayings and puns), and School.

- * Sue Smith, regional director from Oregon OM, wrote to tell us that several judges at her regional competitions were recruited from the local retirement complex. They had such a wonderful time at the competition that a week later Sue received a call from one of them with this request:

"Do you think we could have an OM team here at 'The Manor'?"

Sue asked, "You mean you want to coach an OM team?"

The caller replied, "No, we want to solve the problems!"



1991-92 Scholarship Winners

This year, the OM scholarship committee had the difficult task of selecting winners from a large applicant pool. However, the Honda Foundation increased its grant this year, from \$30,000 to \$50,000. This, combined with Chevron's \$8,000, enabled OM to distribute \$1,000 awards to a total of 58 students.

These students were chosen from 218 candidates, representing 38 OM Associations.

The applicants all share a common bond—they are OMers. But their future aspirations are as diverse as their problem solutions. Here is a sampling of their chosen fields of study:

Art, Advertising, Architecture, Aerospace Engineering, Accounting, Broadcast Journalism, BioChemistry, BioEngineering, Business, Communications, Computer Engineering, Computer Graphics, Criminal Justice, English, Education, Environmental Science, Genetics, Graphic Arts, Hotel Management, International Business, Japanese, Landscape Architecture, Law, Medicine, Music, Nuclear Engineering, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacology, Physical Therapy, Political Analysis, Radio/TV and Film, Teacher Education, Theater, Veterinary Medicine.

The 1991-92 OM scholarship winners are:

Jason Steve Annan	SC	Robin Laurel Keen	MI
Julia Suzanne Beardsley	NY	Michael R Kessler*	SD
Robbi Kato Behr	MD	Fred Aaron Kurtz	PA
Eric Allen Boyle	SD	John Douglas Lakey	MT
Christy Ann Campbell	KY	Lisa Marion Langendorfer	VA
Bethany Elise Carlson	SC	Kimberly Beth Langley	MA
Douglas James Carty	NH	Laura Lapey	NY
Camille Kay Chapman	VA	Adam Greggory LaPratt	MI
Paul Thomas Chen	CA	Anne Shee Lee	SC
Kathryn Marie Clark	WA	Jennifer Leigh May	NJ
Michael Dennis Cole	VA	Amanda Shay Moody	TX
Kia Kristine Conley*	NC	Robert Louis Morrison II	OH
Adrian Leigh Cook	OK	Jessica Jillene Myers*	MS
Kevin Michael Cropper	VA	Michelle Ann Nebel	NE
Katherine Dutton Crowley	OR	Lori Joanne Park	MI
Brandy Lee Daugherty	MD	Joshua William Pruzek*	WI
Shawn D Falkner	NY	Daniel Patrick Rolsma*	PA
Anna Marie Gonowon*	AR	Teresa Denise Sanders	MN
Stephen Howard Griffith	OH	Alison Leigh Shepherd	NC
Tracy Brian Harton	TX	Scott Dennis Shoemaker	MD
Amy Irene Heathfield	WI	Shawna Kaye Sigler	AL
John Michael Herin	NC	Sean Glen Sullivan	MA
Christopher J Hernandez*	CA	Donna Jean Thompson	GA
Kathryn Eileen Hicks	FL	Binh Tang Vo	CO
Randall Aaron Hileman	OK	David Alan Vogler	PA
Jeremy Lee Hill	WY	Dorian Watkins West	WA
Heidi Ann Holbein*	NY	Andrew Thornton Wilburn	VA
Neil Andrew Jacobs	SC	Jason Lawrence Willis	OH
Dylan Clayton Jones	TX	Kevin L Zwiefelhofer	WI
Josh G Keehn	SD		

*denotes CHEVRON scholarship winners. All others won HONDA scholarships.

Winners of the Fall OMathon Contest Are Announced

Many thanks to all those OMers that responded to the OMathon Challenge. The winners are listed below, by division.

Division I: Temple Terrace Elementary, Temple Terrace, #4097: *OMy the Monster* Juan Salazar, Corpus Christi, TX #6847: *OM Rap*

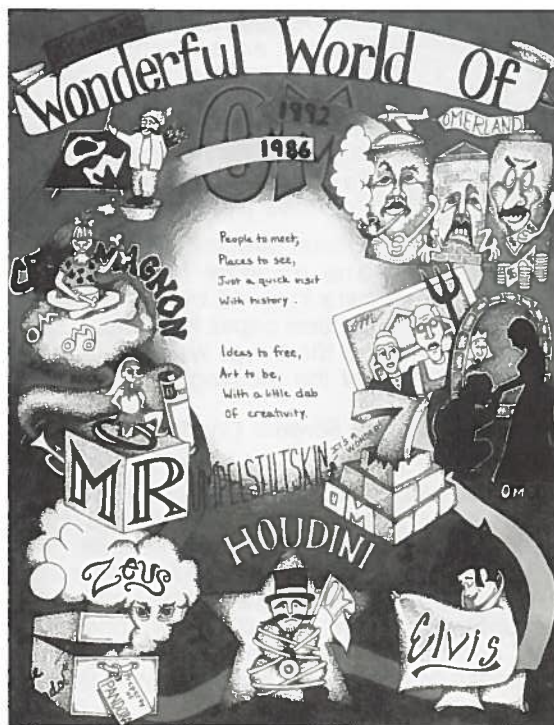
Division II: Jeremy Scott, St Albans, WY #2457: *Hood*

Division III: Alison Leigh Shepherd, Greenville, NC #348, Cory Calhoun, East Wenatchee, NC #7078, Josephine De Felice, Simi Valley, CA #11261

Periodically, the winning entries will appear in subsequent issues of the *OM Newsletter*. This issue features Alison Shephard's winning entry. Her introduction to the creative concept follows:

I want to show my adventures in OM through the past seven years. I am trying to elaborate on my team's many voyages through history, and the famous places and people that I have met along the way. The letters "OM" can be found in each of the small pictures. Also, there is something special about each picture that makes it distinctly a part of my and my team's experiences. The arrow in the background returns to its beginning to show our method of "recycling" props, costumes, and materials from years before. The use of bright and bold colors in the background represents the colorful scenery that my team is known for. The artwork was done in a stippling or dot effect, to show my team's elaborate

artwork. Many of the objects in my picture have been rendered to reflect a distinct personality; we try to portray our characters in the same manner.



OMathon Winner: Alison Leigh Shepherd



SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight on your OM Team...

Ever wonder who is on the receiving end when you contact OM headquarters? Didn't you recently send a package to Sandy's attention? What was it that Carol called to ask you about? Was it Edith checking the date your membership packet was mailed? Wasn't Denise's information on scholarships helpful? And thanks to Rene you were able to straighten out the duplicate product order.

You've just met the "performing" OM staff members — five of the seven who answer the phone and form the "OM team" in the home office in Glassboro, NJ. Maureen Donovan, Treasurer and Janet Vincz, Assistant Director, round out the workforce.

With the "ultimate coach," Carole Micklus, advising and guiding us, the seven of us work to problem-solve your concerns and to perform a variety of services for you. Our office props — which include IBM computers — help us respond to your varied needs.

You, as our judging team, have given us some good feedback in the past year. And, as we resume our work on long-term problems (that vary annually), we hope you will continue to travel the OM road with us. The survey enclosed in this newsletter is one way you can give us additional feedback that will help us to better serve you in the years to come. Help us to help you.

We may not be a perfect ten, but we work hard to be a great eight!



Odyssey of the Mind

Editor's Note: This article, written by Chris Mattox, an eighth grade student at Trickum Middle School in Lilburn, GA, appeared in the Gwinnett newspapers on the Children's View page.

It starts with an assigned problem.

You work as a group to solve it creatively.

The group accepts the challenge, but the group and solution may differ with time.

The group works to bring the solution alive with scenery, costumes, emotions and props.

Never, never give up — even if you feel that way.

You work and work with the solution to make it shine.

Your coach helps and advises your team along the way, but you do the actual work.

"Spontaneous" — you must practice it.

Think quickly and creatively.

Hands on and verbal.

Then you compete.

You wish each other luck.

Practice very hard. Even if you place last — you tried and solved a challenging problem.

You met other people, worked as a group, were very creative, learned a lot and had fun.

That's what counts.



OMER Remembers TENNESSEE...

Editor's note: When did you last see OMER, our well-respected raccoon? Highly visible during the World Finals competition, our magnanimous mascot spends much of the winter hibernating. OMER needs lots of rest prior to his annual commitment at World Finals each May. Since he is still under cover, he asked me to tell you how much he looks forward to Colorado. He also asked me to thank all of you who made his stay in Tennessee such a memorable one. His reflections of last year's competition and his anticipation of the glee to come, follow in this original poem—by who other than OMer, the author:

Do si do your partner
Promenade the room
Look back now at Tennessee
Through the eyes of a big raccoon.

Togas and light buggies
Structured being rammed
Transformations, tennis balls
All performance rooms are jammed.

Airplanes drop high fliers
World flags fill the sky
Fiddle music, tapping toes
Happy picnickers drift by.

Making friends by trading
T-shirts, hugs and pins
Sharing is the magic felt
By the teams who really win.

For through the tears and laughter
All fears are conquered fast
Entwined with those around the world
In a memory that will last.

Reflect on southern living
"Ya'll come back," we know rings true
But wave goodbye to Tennessee
CU in Boulder — it's '92!!!!

Briefly Speaking...

The OM Board of Directors met in March 1992 and approved the minutes of the January 26, 1992 meeting. At that meeting:

- * The Board approved the revisions of the OM by-laws.
- * The Board approved changes in the school-based program categories and rules.





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1992-93 ODYSSEY OF THE MIND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ORDER FORM

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_____ Additional Associate Memberships (item #40: Individual \$15; item #49: family \$25)	\$ _____
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- A Individual School: In competition may enter one team per problem, per division, for each division within the school. (\$90) Must register under a school name.
- B Home-School students in a certified home-school program are eligible under this program category. In competition, may enter one team per problem.
- C Small schools with one principal. One principal who serves two or more schools may join for the schools he or she serves. In competition, may enter one team, per problem, per division, for each division housed within the schools. Memberships under this category are to use the name of the school district, such as "Glassboro Schools".
- E College / University / Military.
- F Associate Member (Individual \$15, Family \$25)

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