

World Finals 1998 — a New Location!

The 19th annual OM World Finals, traditionally showcased in a university setting, will take place at Walt Disney World Resort® in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Opening Ceremony will be held Wednesday evening, May 27, with the Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening, May 30, 1998.

The Ceremonies will be held at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex, with problems staged at several sites throughout the Walt Disney World Resort. Team members, officials and other participants will have the opportunity to be housed in resort accommodations, and all World Finals participants will have a chance to enjoy Disney's theme parks when they are not in competition.

"Odyssey of the Mind and Walt Disney World Resort® are the perfect match," said Bob Purifico, executive director of OM Association, Inc. "Creative genius is at the heart of Walt Disney World's success and popularity. For kids who participate in OM, this is a real world example on the grandest scale — an architectural, theatrical and logistical salute to the divergent thinking we seek to instill in kids. It is the ideal setting for World Finals."

"It's gymnastics for the brain!" says Jeanne Clare Ford, Manager, Event Management, at Disney's Wide World of Sports. "The vision, creativity and authenticity of these kids and their solutions is a perfect fit at Walt Disney World."

OM packages will be available for supporters and participants. As we get closer to the event date, more information will be posted on OM's home page at <http://www.odyssey.org/>, and will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

OM's Second International Creativity Conference October 9-11, 1998

Mark your calendars now for OM Association's Second International Creativity Conference, "Dimensions in Creative Problem Solving," in San Antonio, TX. For more information, check future issues of this Newsletter and the OM home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.odyssey.org/>. Contact the OM office if you wish to be included on the conference mailing list.

OM Curriculum Materials Get a Makeover!

OM members will find a pleasant surprise when they open their OM Membership Packets this year — the OM curriculum materials have a new look! The new lesson plan format is instructionally suitable for use in all arenas of learning. As in past years, the materials focus on language arts, math, science and social studies. Included in the curriculum packet are three lessons that were developed by the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The curriculum guides represent an effort to further reach into all areas of learning. They provide a "framework" for instructional and corporate leaders to become involved in the creative problem-solving process by learning how to teach and learn creativity. The activities themselves encourage students to actively engage in learning, and also focus on an effective teaching methodology within the learning environment.

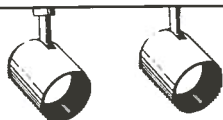
The beliefs that form the foundation for OM's approach to teaching and learning — including the notion that creativity can be taught and is a natural, enjoyable and powerful ingredient for effective problem solving — have motivated the preparation of these educational materials. The lessons are designed to stimulate the learner to use a full range of intellectual and intuitive abilities.

The activities are not meant to replace curricula. However, when used in conjunction with lessons on the same topic, teachers will find that they make learning fun and increase comprehension and retention. The lessons foster teamwork, goal-setting and planning. They encourage learners to make decisions, take academic risks and think divergently. Because of this, OM encourages members to share the curriculum materials with other staff and leaders within the OM membership.

Additional copies of the curriculum material set may be purchased for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. To order additional sets, use the *Product Order Form* on page 11 of this Newsletter.



OM SPOTLIGHT



Spotlights on OM's Russian Association Directors:

**Nina Milovidova, representing Moscow Region OM
and
Nelly Zalyapina, representing Ural Region OM**

Nina Milovidova graduated from the University in the Urals as a philologist and a teacher of English and Foreign Literature. After working as a high school teacher for seven years, she moved to the town of Troitsk in the Moscow region, where she's worked as an interpreter at the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy for about 25 years.

Nina, co-director of the Moscow Region, works closely with **Peter Khamchuk**, Deputy Director of the Kurchatov Institute. "Perestroika" opened the doors for OM in Russia, and Moscow Region OM became chartered under the auspices of the Institute.

Peter's responsibilities include communication and agreement with local authorities, which is of special importance to their Association. Together they have been involved with the OM program in Russia since it began in 1989.

Since her first day of involvement, Nina has been responsible for preparing OM materials and documents for coaches, judges, regional directors and regional tournaments. She conducts seminars and works with newly-chartered OM associations and teams close by, such as Chelyabinsk and Kazakhstan. Nina is always there to help others learn more about OM. She also serves OM Association as an interpreter.



Nelly Zalyapina, Association Director for the Ural Region, graduated from Moscow State University in 1969. She majored in mathematics and currently is a professor of mathematics at Chelyabinsk State Tech University in Chelyabinsk, Russia. Nelly has been involved in the OM program since 1990 — first as a member of the Moscow Region OM Association and since 1995, as Association Director of the Ural OM Association in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

Due to Nelly's hard work and dedication, the number of teams participating in OM in the Ural Region has increased from nine to 200. In its short history, the Ural Region OM Association has sent nine teams to the World Finals and seven teams to the European Festival.

In addition to the rewards inherent with participation in the OM program, all team members receive a memorable present, embossed with the OM emblem, given to each team member at regional competition. Competition winners are awarded grants from the Council of Scientists of the University.

This past year, OM team members who demonstrated creativity, knowledge and skills in technical problems were admitted to the University without entrance exams.

For many years the competitions have been supported by the region administration of Chelyabinsk. OM activities are widely covered by the local press, radio and TV, and the region also receives coverage on radio and television in Moscow. Despite the fact that there are many programs available for children in Russia, the OM program enjoys popularity among the kids — and their parents!

Calling All Coaches: Wake Up Your OMers With Breakfast!

Eating breakfast is important for both children and adults. OMers know that breakfast fuels a body with energy and nutrients that can increase attention and concentration, whether you're an adult at work or a child in school

Breakfast affects school performance

Making breakfast fun and important to children is key to their well-being. Children who eat breakfast are more likely to consume the 40+ essential nutrients they need each day. They are also less likely than breakfast skippers to miss class, be tardy, report illness, or have discipline problems than children who miss the morning meal. Breakfast eaters also score better than breakfast skippers in math and reading! Unfortunately, a recent survey found that as many as 30 percent of eight- to 13-year-old children do not eat breakfast every day. Don't let breakfast skipping be a drain on your team's energy and creativity!

Sometimes on busy mornings kids just don't have time to eat breakfast before they leave for school. If that's the case for your OMers, encourage them to eat breakfast at school. Talk with your school's food service director to find out more about the School Breakfast Program.

Quick + Easy = Breakfasts that please everyone

Everyone is short on time these days, but many healthy breakfasts are quick and easy to fix and eat. It doesn't take long to pour milk on cereal, toast a bagel with cheese, or serve fruit-filled breakfast bars with yogurt. Breakfast recipes can be simple and fun for parents and children to make together. Some recipes can even be made the day before (or, in the case of the following recipe, even a month in advance). Give this recipe for basic French Toast to your OMers and ask them to come up with their own variations. Serve "breakfast" at a team meeting to share ideas and don't forget to "name" your breakfast creations.

See page 4 of this *Newsletter* for a recipe for **Basic OMer French Toast**.

continued on page 4

*A Message from your
Vice President,
Erin Cunningham*



Greetings from Erin Cunningham, currently serving as Vice President on the Executive Board of the Odyssey of the Mind Alumni Association. I hail from Oklahoma and am proud to report that alumni activities and participation in OM-related events are going strong there. On September 13, 1997, OK-OM was proud to be invited by Oklahoma's First Lady to participate in Septemberfest on the grounds of the state capitol. Septemberfest was the brainchild of the Governor's wife, Cathy Keating. The festival showcased various educational activities around the state of Oklahoma that are available to children. The over 5,000 children and parents in attendance had a chance to visit the OK-OM booth, which highlighted the fun and benefits of creative problem solving via OM. We conducted mock spontaneous problems, and encouraged the children to help design a balsa wood structure and see how it holds weight. This was a wonderful opportunity to stress the benefits of OM, especially since our alumni volunteers readily shared their positive OM experiences.

Thank you once again for your support of OM past and present.



**OMAA Announces
a New Scholarship**

The OM Alumni Association (OMAA) is sponsoring a \$250 OMAA scholarship for the 1997-98 year. Eligible applicants must have participated a minimum of one year as an OM team member and plan to continue OM program participation in some way in the future. The Alumni Association will select the recipient after a review of applications.

The OM Alumni's newest project **needs your help**. We are currently collecting the best OMer-written spontaneous problems from around the world. So check your archives! Problems can vary in detail and set-up time.

The collection will be published in a "cookbook" layout. Submit your favorite spontaneous problems to fit into one of the following categories: **Appetizers** — "teasers" that whet the appetite and are enticing; short-term **Entrees** — the "meat" of spontaneity; **Side Dishes** — problems that can be used on the side for quick and easy preparation; or **Dessert** — tantalizing problems — your just dessert!

The OMAA enthusiastically approaches this endeavor and plans to make this project a success. Keep an eye out for more details, which will be posted on the alumni section of the OM home page. Please send your submission by January 15, 1998:

e-mail to: **melindaeden@juno.com**
fax to: **609-881-3596**
mail to: **OMAA, OM Association, Inc.,
P. O. Box 547
Glassboro, NJ 08028 USA**

Division IV is Growing!

by Sue Welsch

The last two World Finals show a sharp rise in Division IV participation. The interest in this division is growing as OMers move on to college. A brief look at the number of teams registered each year shows the increase:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF PROBLEMS</u>	<u>NO. OF TEAMS</u>
1991	1	3
1992	2	14
1993	2	13
1994	3	16
1995	3	18
1996	3	26
1997	4	25

At the 1997 OM World Finals, a meeting was held for all Division III and IV OMers interested in continuing participation as Division IV members. Attendees had many wonderful ideas. Lively discussions about how to ease the transition and bring colleges up to speed about OM ensued. One idea was to create a Division IV web-site with a link on OM's home page. This site is currently being developed and should be on line soon. As you might expect, many of the OM college-level teams are grass root efforts initiated by former OMers. There's help for the college-bound who want to continue OM participation. Just check the OM home page for ideas on how to start a team and get your campus interested.

OM Shadows

OM Shadows on the go.

OM Shadows in a row.

Watching and learning many ways.

Laughing and sharing busy days.

Score Room, Press Room, Registration,

Watching teams from many nations.

Meetings morning, noon, and night.

Seeing OMer faces shining bright.

Long-Term problems come and go.

Spontaneous problems ebb and flow.

What an Odyssey we have shared!

For many minds we have cared.

And thanks to someone we call Mo,

The OM Shadows are in the know.

— *by Kathie Courtney*

The Shadow Program is conducted annually at World Finals. Participants must be nominated by their association directors. For more information on the Shadow Program, contact your association director or OM Association.

Calling all Coaches...(Continued from pg. 2)

BASIC OMER FRENCH TOAST

2 eggs or egg whites, slightly beaten
 2/3 cup milk
 8 slices firm white bread
 2-3 tablespoons butter

1. Combine eggs and milk in a pie plate. Beat with a fork until well blended.
2. Dip the bread slices into the mix to coat each side of the bread.
3. Over medium heat, melt 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet. Transfer a coated bread slice to the hot skillet. Brown each side 2-3 minutes or until golden brown. Continue with other slices, adding butter as needed.
4. Serve immediately. If desired, wrap each slice tightly in foil, or wrap multiple slices together with each slice separated by plastic wrap and place in the freezer for later use.

To reheat frozen slices:

The slices can be thawed by either popping them in a toaster set on MEDIUM, micro waving on HIGH for approximately 30 to 45 seconds or heating in a 400F oven for about 10 minutes.

Once reheated, you can:

STACK IT with turkey and Monterey Jack cheese and microwave on HIGH for 40 to 50 seconds or until cheese begins to melt and then top with chopped tomato or salsa.

STUFF IT with a spread made by combining ½ cup part-skim ricotta cheese, 4 teaspoons honey and ¼ cup chopped strawberries or peaches.

SLICE IT into strips and dip in a spread made by combining one mashed banana with 2 tablespoons reduced-fat chunky peanut butter, 1 cup vanilla yogurt and 2 teaspoons cinnamon sugar.

Breakfast feeds your brain as well as your body. Create a positive attitude toward breakfast for your children by showing them how much you enjoy breakfast. Do it for your OMers — and for yourself!

For more information, contact your local Dairy Council® or call 1-800-426-8271.



NATIONAL DAIRY COUNCIL®
 AMERICA'S DAIRY FARMERS

EuroFest 1998

by Diana Callahan, Benelux Co-Director and
 George S. Williams III, OM EuroFest 1998 Tournament Director

Preparations for **EuroFest '98** are well underway. Scheduled for April 22-25, 1998, EuroFest will be held at Center Bleyerheide, a former monastery located in Kerkrade, The Netherlands. Besides its architectural beauty, it is large enough to accommodate approximately 300 people, providing both dormitory-style housing and dining areas that serve three meals a day. There is plenty of space to showcase OM problems and abundant recreational facilities for those after-Fest leisure hours. Benelux OM is working hard to make EuroFest '98 as successful and enjoyable as past EuroFests in Gdansk, Poland, and Berlin, Germany. We look forward to seeing our international friends again.

Since the festival is an International OM event, OM Association, Inc., is seeking interested Division II and III teams, from the U.S. and Canada, who may wish to present solutions before a panel of International OM judges. While this is not an elimination competition, it provides a unique opportunity for OMers to see how the current annual long-term problem solutions are conceived and presented in this multi-lingual, multi-cultural arena. Interested U.S. participants should send a letter of intent (via the coach) to OM Association, Inc., EuroFest, no later than January 15, 1998, to be considered as a participant in this event.

Team members may be invited to stay in Belgium for a two-week period in addition to their participation in EuroFest '98.

1998 OM Latin American Showcase

The second **Odyssey of the Mind Latin American Showcase** is scheduled for April 3 through 9 in Lima, Peru. Latin American, U.S. and Canadian OM teams will present their solutions to the current years' OM problems. This experience is meant to be a showcase of solutions and is not a competitive arena. This showcase, like EuroFest, is an international event. OM Association is seeking interested Division II and III teams (sorry, no structure teams) from the U.S. and Canada who would like to participate.

Teams are expected to arrive on Friday, April 3 and depart on either Saturday or Sunday, April 8 or 9. There is a scheduled trip to Cuzco, Peru, on April 4 and 5, and the competition will take place on April 6 and 7, 1998.

All participating teams will be responsible for all expenses, and will have to conform to their school guidelines as they apply to missed work. Each participant must follow all rules and regulations set forth by OM Association, Inc. Two adult chaperones must accompany each team. Interested U.S. teams should send a letter of interest and intent, from the coach, to OM Association, Inc., OMLAOC, P.O. Box 547, Glassboro, NJ 08028, no later than January 15, 1998.



Coaches Corner

Those Nutty Omers!

by Mary Ann Holland,
Arvida Middle School, Miami, Florida

Well Mrs. Zack-Faber has done it again! Our Arvida OM teams needed a stimulating "warm-up" activity while we waited for this year's problems to arrive. As we stared at the basket of assorted nuts, (Brazil, hazel, walnut, almond and pecan), we couldn't imagine what we were going to do with them.

Our assignment was to select seven nuts and create an OM team. We were asked to modify each nut in some way, creating an individual. We could use any type of material for elaboration. Each student would present his/her "team" to the class and give specific details about each nut's background, personality, strengths, weaknesses, and OM experience.

Students couldn't wait to begin naming and personifying their collections of nuts. The results were outrageously creative — even the names! As we learned in OM, it's amazing how many different ideas can come from the same project. Each person demonstrated at least one of his or her strengths and each project was totally unique. Presentations were hilarious. In the end, we all decided to exchange nuts!

Scholarship Updates

Just a reminder...

- In addition to the scholarships awarded by OM Association, Inc. and the OM Alumni Association, the following associations offer their own scholarships to OM scholarship applicants from their respective state/province/country: British Columbia, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin. For more information on these scholarships, please check the scholarship application included in the OM Membership Packet or contact your association director.
- In addition to the monetary awards mentioned above, the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, will offer a four-year, full tuition, renewable scholarship to an incoming freshman who is accepted at the University. To be eligible for the application scholarship, applicants must complete a University of Maryland application. The recipient of this scholarship must have a minimum SAT of 1350 (or the equivalent ACT score) and a high school GPA equal to, or greater than, 3.5. To secure this, please contact: William D. Leith, Director of Student Financial Aid, University of Maryland at College Park, 0102 Lee Building, College Park, MD 20742, (301) 314-8313.
- GMI Engineering and Management Institute will again award a "need-based" monetary grant to an eligible incoming freshman who is accepted at GMI. For more information on the GMI scholarship contact Ms. Diane Bice, Coordinator Grants/Scholarships, 170 West 3rd Avenue, Flint, MI 48504, (810) 762-9500, ext. 7491.

Editorial Note: The deadline for OM to receive the completed scholarship application and supporting documentation packages is December 15, 1997.

PROBLEM PROCEDURES

Problem #1, Pageant Wagon

Wayne R. Kehrli, International Problem Captain

Approximately 15 minutes before the team's scheduled competition time, a Staging Area Judge meets all team members and the coaches. Then, the Staging Area Judge directs the team and any team assistants to move the Tow Vehicle, Pageant Wagon, props and membership sign into the Staging Area. The entire team is present in the Staging Area with its coaches. The team presents all of the forms, including the Outside Assistance Form, two (three at World Finals) Style Forms, the Cost Form and any Problem Clarifications. The Staging Area Judge inspects the membership sign. The team is then asked to review the Tow Vehicle and the Pageant Wagon with the judge who will check the propulsion system, hitch and wheels. The judge will check for potential floor damage and safety hazards. Additionally, the Staging Area Judge will ask the team to place the Tow Vehicle in the Start Area and the Pageant Wagon in Area B.

The Staging Area Judge will then check to see if the Tow Vehicle and the props that it is carrying fit within the Start Area. Similarly, the Staging Area Judge will check to see if the Pageant Wagon and the props that it is carrying fit within Area B. The team will be requested to reposition the Tow Vehicle or Pageant Wagon if they don't fit rather than assess a penalty. However, if they cannot be repositioned within the designated area, a penalty will apply.

The Staging Area Judge will explain the procedure for picking up the long-term raw score and penalties. The team members are usually given an opportunity to ask questions. The Staging Area Judge will dismiss the non-performing team members and the coaches who may sit in designated chairs, if provided. After this, no one may assist the five long-term team members in any way until the presentation is complete. The Timekeeper is introduced to the team and then introduces the team to the audience.

When the Timekeeper says, "BEGIN," time begins and the team leaves the Staging Area. The driver will attempt travel to Area B, the Pageant Wagon will be hitched to the Tow Vehicle, and then travel as defined in the problem. The props may be unloaded as specified, tasks will be demonstrated, and Style will be integrated into the solution. The team will announce the Finale, which must be within the 8-minute time limit in order to receive score.

This is a linguistic problem. Either at the end of eight minutes or before, if the team notifies the judges, the competition ends. Usually the judges will then meet with ALL team members to discuss their solution. It is the team's responsibility to bring materials to clean up any mess in order to leave the competition area clean and dry for the next team. The team and any assistants should quickly clear the area.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Head Judge reviews with the coach (or the Division III or IV team captain) the team's long-term raw score and penalties — but NOT Style — after it is compiled. The final score will be produced by the score room. The final score will be the percentaged long-term plus the percentaged Style plus the percentaged spontaneous. Penalties will then be subtracted, resulting in the final score.

PROBLEM PROCEDURES (continued)

Problem #2, Morph Magic

Alice McRae, International Problem Captain

At some tournaments a Pre-Staging Area may be designated outside the performance room. Approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled time, the team is called by the Staging Area Judge. All team members and the coach will proceed to the designated area with all problem solutions, props, background scenery, membership sign, and any team-provided equipment. The team will present two copies of its Style Form (three at World Finals), a Cost Form, Outside Assistance Form, Problem Clarifications (if any), and two copies of the list mentioned in B.12 of the problem. The Staging Area Judge will check for clarity, then pass the paperwork on to the rest of the judging team. The Staging Area Judge will measure the container(s) holding all props as indicated in B.11 of the problem. The Staging Area Judge will also answer any team questions.

When the Staging Area Judge has completed his/her checklist and answered all team questions, the team and coach will be given three minutes to clear the Pre-Staging Area, if used, and proceed to the Staging Area adjacent to the competition site. Anyone may assist in this movement.

At this time, the judge will give a final explanation about the competition site, answer any additional questions, then ask the non-performing team members and the coach to leave the Staging Area. They may sit in designated seats, if provided. After this, no one may assist the five performing team members in any way until the presentation is completed. The Staging Area Judge will explain the procedure for obtaining the team's long-term raw score.

The Timekeeper will introduce the team to the audience, ask that pagers and cellular phones be turned off, and that video taping and/or flash photography be taken only with the Coach's approval. When the Timekeeper says "BEGIN," time begins and the team moves everything to the competition site. The team then has eight minutes for set-up, Style and problem solution. If no Pre-Staging Area is used, the team must clear the Staging Area within three minutes after time begins.

The competition site will be a minimum of 7 ft. x 10 ft. but hopefully larger. There will be markings, only if necessary, for safety. There will be a three-prong electrical outlet available, but the team will provide any necessary extension cords or outlet adapters.

The Timekeeper will NOT call time, but an overtime penalty will be assessed if the team has taken more than 8 minutes. When the team is finished, it must signal the judges. Judges will meet with ALL team members to discuss their solution, ask questions or for demonstrations, then indicate to the team to quickly remove its solution. It is the team's responsibility to bring materials to clean up in order to leave the area clean and dry for the next team.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Head Judge reviews, with the coach or Division III and IV team captain, the team's long-term raw score. This review will include penalties — but NOT Style — and will occur as soon as the score is compiled.

The coach/captain then has one half-hour to return if any additional questions or concerns arise.

Problem #3, Classics . . . Marvelous Mentor

Rita Sleeman, International Problem Captain

At most tournaments, a Pre-Staging Area is designated outside the performance room. When the team is called by the Staging Area Judge, all team members and the coach proceed to the Pre-Staging Area with all props contained in one, two or three containers. The Staging Area Judge instructs the team to place its container(s) inside, a 52 inch x 52 inch (1.3m x 1.3m) area that is 24 inches (.6m) high. Then the judge measures the cumulative area to make sure the container(s) fit inside.

The team presents two copies of its Style Form, a Cost Form, an Outside Assistance Form, team clarification(s), if any, and two copies of its list described in B. 10. The Staging Area Judge looks in the container(s) and may ask team members to remove some items. When the Staging Area Judge is done, the items are returned by the team to the container(s). After the Staging Area Judge completes his/her responsibilities, the team and coach are given three minutes to clear the Pre-Staging Area and proceed to the Staging Area adjacent to the 7' x 10' performance area, with all container(s). The coach and non-performing team members may assist with this movement.

At this time, the Timekeeper greets the team, points out the Head Judge to the coach, gives a final explanation of the performance area, answers any questions and asks the non-performing team members and coach to sit in designated areas, if provided by the Tournament Director. After this point, no one may assist the five long-term team members, in any way, until the presentation is completed.

The Timekeeper introduces the team and the non-performing team members, requests quiet and asks the judges and team if they are ready. At the Timekeeper's signal, the eight-minute time limit begins and the team proceeds with its set-up and problem solution. Plugging in an extension cord, adjusting lights, and if available, turning on electric equipment are all part of the time limit. If no Pre-Staging Area is used, the team must clear the Staging Area within the first three minutes of its presentation time. The Timekeeper will not call time, but an overtime penalty is assessed if the team takes more than eight minutes. When the team is finished, it must signal the judges.

At the conclusion of the performance all team members take a bow and talk with the judges. The team should have the product, package and items scored in Style available for the judges. The judges may look at any items used in the solution and ask the team questions. At this time, the team may point out any special aspects of its solution. The judges inform the team when they may move out of the performance area. Props do not have to be placed back into the container(s) and coaches may assist with the removal of all items. The team must clean up any remaining debris and remove all its props from the site in a timely manner.

The Head Judge reviews, with the coach or Division III or IV team captain, the team's long-term raw score including penalties — but NOT Style — as soon as it is compiled. The Head Judge also shares the positive comments from the judging team. The Head Judge may have a sign indicating when scores are ready for each team. If this is not available, the coach should ask when and where this review takes place.

PROBLEM PROCEDURES (continued)

Problem #4, Camouflaged Creation

Dan Semenza, International Problem Captain

Prior to their scheduled time of competition, one or more team members will bring their "Camouflaged Structure" to the Weigh-In Site. A Weigh-In Judge will weigh the structure, confirm that a two-inch opening exists through its entire length, make appropriate measurements for thickness of wood, and check for artificial strengthening. Penalties will be noted at that time. If time permits, the team may make corrections. After filling out the Weigh-In Checklist, the Weigh-In Judge will seal, mark and store the structure in a team-supplied container or paper bag until approximately twenty-five minutes prior to the scheduled time of competition. Stored structures may only be picked up by a team member(s) and carried to the competition site. The coach and remaining team members will report to the competition site 20 minutes prior to the team's scheduled time with the props, membership sign, and anything else needed for the long-term problem solution.

At the Staging Area, the Staging Area Judge will remove the Weigh-In Check List and direct the team to take the structure from the container. The Cost Form, Outside Assistance Form, and team clarifications will be collected and sent to the scoring table. Two Style Forms (three at World Finals) are given to the Style Judges. They are informed whether Style will continue after the structure is crushed. The coach and all seven team members should be present in the Staging Area while the judge goes through a list of procedures and answers questions they may have. The prop container(s) will be placed in the 52 inch x 52 inch x 24 inch taped area and measured for conformity. The team is reminded that they have three minutes to clear the Staging Area of all items after time begins. The coach is told where the team's score may be obtained after the long-term solution. After this is completed, the coach and non-performing team members will be directed to leave the Staging Area and informed if designated seats have been provided. After this point, no one may assist the five performing team members in any way until the presentation is complete. If an adult assistant is used in Divisions I or II, he or she must be identified in the Staging Area and will remain with the team throughout the long-term solution. When all is ready, the Staging Area Judge will direct the team's attention to the Timekeeper. After the Timekeeper says "BEGIN," the team will have 8 minutes for site set-up, Style presentation, and weight placement.

In Division I, an adult may assist in the placement of individual weights in excess of 20 pounds. At least one team member must be physically involved in the placement of these weights. In Division II, an adult may assist in the placement of weights in excess of 40 pounds. The only people allowed inside the testing area during the competition are the five team members and the judges. In Divisions I and II, the adult assistant may also be present. Style may take place before, during, and/or after the structure breaks.

Competition will end when: (1) Style has been completed and the structure has broken, or (2) the eight-minute time limit for the competition has expired. (See C.10 of the problem.) All wood from the broken structure must be placed in a paper bag and returned to the weigh-in site by a designated judge. The team must clean up the testing site. The judges will meet with the coach and all team members to discuss the solution to the problem. The structure may be inspected at the Weigh-In site. Unless otherwise indicated, the Head Judge will present the coach with the long-term score sheet and review any penalties. The coach then has one half hour to question any technical aspect of the long-term score.

Problem #5, Create & Animate

Marietta Kehler, International Problem Captain

Approximately fifteen minutes before the scheduled competition time, the Staging Area Judge will meet all team members and the coach in the Pre-Staging Area (if provided, otherwise, in the Staging Area) to review all pre-competition requirements. At this time, team members will bring their one, two or three containers with props, background scenery and membership sign and present their paper work including: Cost Form, Outside Assistance Form, two copies of the Style Form (three at World Finals), Problem Clarifications (if any), two copies of a list on one side of one sheet of 8½ inch x 11 inch or A4 paper. This list must be hand printed, typed or computer printed. It will not be scored, but will assist judges. This list must include: (1) the team's membership name and number, the problem and division; (2) a one-line description of the inanimate object to be scored in D.Scoring, 4.; (3) all of the words to the poem or song to be scored in D.Scoring, 5.; and (4) the type of signal the team will use to indicate it has finished its performance. The Staging Area Judge will also check for non-penetrable foot coverings and require team members to put shoes/sneakers on if they do not comply with requirements. They will also answer any team questions; identify the Head Judge for the coach so that they can meet for scores at a designated time after the team's performance; and introduce them to the Timekeeper.

The Final Staging Area is the place which will be the team's designated starting point for their timed performance. Adults may assist the team in taking equipment to this place which will be adjacent to the performance area. However, after props, etc. are placed in the final staging area, no one may assist the five performing long-term members in any way until the performance is completed. Each team will have three minutes to clear the pre-competition area which the next team will occupy during the competing team's performance. The three minutes are in addition to the eight-minute presentation time. It is the team's responsibility to fit all containers into the 52 inch x 52 inch x 24 inch cubical area. The containers may be stacked; however, no one may touch them while they are being measured.

The Staging Area Judge will direct the coach and non-performing team members to sit in designated seats, if provided. The Staging Area Judge will ask the judges and the team if they are ready to start. The Staging Area Judge will introduce the Timekeeper. The Timekeeper, in turn, introduces the team and identifies the coach and non-performing team members. The Timekeeper will request silence from the audience and remind them that no videotaping can be made without the permission of the team. The Timekeeper then says: "READY, BEGIN" and the team moves its container(s) for their timed performance.

It will be the team's responsibility to complete the problem within the eight-minute time limit. Judges will not call time, but an overtime penalty will be assessed if the team has taken more than the eight minutes. After the performance, the judges will meet with the complete team to discuss its solution, ask questions or request a demonstration. The team will then quickly remove its solution from the performance area. It is the team's responsibility to bring materials to clean up any mess in order to leave the area clean and dry for the next team. Adults may assist in this clean-up.

After the team competes, the coach should inquire of the Head Judge when to check back for the team's long-term raw scores and penalties. The Head Judge will identify the specific area and time to meet. When the Head Judge meets with the coach, the judge will note the time on the score sheet. The coach will have one half hour in which to return if additional questions or concerns arise.

PROBLEM PROCEDURES (continued)

Spontaneous Procedures

Joy Kurtz, International Problem Captain

Before Competition:

All team members, accompanied by one adult (usually the coach), report ten to fifteen minutes before scheduled competition time to the Spontaneous Holding Room if one is being used. If the competition is not using a holding room, the team members should report to the spontaneous room ten minutes before the scheduled time. **Do not knock** on the door or enter the room. **Wait quietly!**

When the team is called, all team members may go to the Spontaneous Problem Room. Upon entering the Spontaneous Problem Room, a judge will tell the team members whether the problem is verbal, hands-on or a combination (verbal hands-on). The team members will be given one minute to decide which **five** team members will participate. (If there are only five, then all must participate.) The non-participating team members may stay in special seats set aside for them in the room. If they choose to stay, they must remain quiet and serve as observers only. Any interference from the non-participating team members will be penalized as follows:

Minor Infraction = -5 points (from raw spontaneous score). This will be given for inadvertent interference that does little or nothing to actually help the team. (This penalty may be given more than once.)

Intermediate Infraction = -15 points (from raw spontaneous score). This will be given for inadvertent interference that helps the team or one time for one instance of deliberate interference. If deliberate interference substantially helps the team or occurs more than once, a major penalty will be assessed in addition to this penalty.

Major Infraction = -35 points (from raw spontaneous score) or a spontaneous score of 0 (cannot fall below 0). This will be given for deliberate and repeated interference or for obvious help. (This penalty may be given more than once.)

All penalties are at the discretion of the judges.

If a coach does not choose to send all team members to spontaneous (either to the holding room or to the problem room), it is perfectly acceptable. There will be no penalty for not sending more than five team members. However, if a team has only five or fewer team members, all must report.

REMINDER: To avoid congestion, only one adult may accompany the team members to the holding room.

During Competition:

Each problem states the rules for that problem. Team members must listen carefully to the judge reading the problem. In a hands-on problem, if the judges feel that the team misunderstood the problem, they will voluntarily provide information to attempt to clarify the problem. Once time begins, it may not be stopped.

During a verbal or verbal hands-on problem the following terms will be used by the judges: (1) If students repeat an answer that was already given, the judge will say, "**Duplicate, give another response.**" (2) If an answer is inappropriate or doesn't make sense to the judge, the judge will say "**Inappropriate, clarify or give another response.**" (3) If students can't be heard, or can't be understood, the judge will say, "**Unclear, say it again.**"

If the problem is hands-on, unless the problem specifically states otherwise, a taped or marked course **may not** be altered.

Timing devices that beep or make a sound signifying an elapse of time **may not** be brought into the competition room.

REMINDER: If the problem is verbal or verbal hands-on

and the turning cards procedure is used, the team member responding **MAY NOT** turn the card until he/she has finished responding. The judges will stop any team member who does so and make him/her repeat his/her answer. Repeated offenses may result in an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty.

After Competition:

The team is to leave quickly and quietly. Team members are not permitted to discuss the problem with anyone, not even their coach, until all teams compete. Revealing the problem can cause the team to be penalized. Remember-all teams in a problem and a division receive the same spontaneous problem-thus, secrecy is essential!

Concerns that can be expressed only by revealing the spontaneous problem should be addressed to the Problem Captain by one of the spontaneous team members. All other spontaneous problem concerns (generally procedural) should be addressed by the coach to the Problem Captain. In the absence of a Problem Captain, concerns should be addressed to the Tournament Director.

Remember, judges' subjective decisions may not be challenged!

1997-98 PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS

(as of 10/6/97)

Please check the bulletin board (609-881-0562) or the web site (<http://www.odyssey.org/>) for current clarifications.

Problem 1-Pageant Wagon

There are no clarifications for this problem (as of 10/6/97).

Problem 2-Morph Magic

There are no clarifications for this problem (as of 10/6/97).

Problem 3-Marvelous Mentor

There are no clarifications for this problem (as of 10/6/97).

Problem 4-Camouflaged Creation

1. Camouflaged Creation - Staging Area Procedure
When it is time for the team to remove the Larger Creation from the required container for the purpose of positioning the Camouflaged Creation in place, the team will form a circle facing inward with the **Staging Area Judge** as part of the group. They will then assemble the Complete Creation. While this is taking place, the Style and Problem Judging teams will be facing away from this circle. The spirit of this problem is to make the Camouflaged Creation blend into the Larger Creation and be as undetectable as possible at first glance. This procedure will insure that anyone judging this portion of the problem will not know in advance where the Camouflaged Creation has been placed. This Procedure should take place just prior to turning the team over to the **Timer** to begin the Long Term Performance.

2. Weigh-in Site Procedure

The Weigh-in Judge will provide a gummed label of some kind to mark the Camouflaged Creation after weighing it in. **A team member** will place the label on the structure before it is sealed and stored in the team provided container. This label should be placed where it may be checked by the Staging Area Judge, but not "give away" its position when combined within the Larger Creation in the Staging Area. This also keeps the Weigh-in Judge from handling the Camouflaged Creation.

Reminder - The required paperwork should not be in the containers (C.5.)

Problem 5-Create & Animate

There are no clarifications for this problem as of (10/6/97)



Call for Papers and Presenters
**OM Association Inc.'s
 Second International
 Creativity Conference**

Dimensions in Creative Problem Solving
October 9-11, 1998 - San Antonio, TX

Presenters should address the following topics within the context of the Conference title:

- * *Integration of Theoretical and Applied Knowledge*
- * *Modeling Creativity*
- * *Creativity and Life Long Learning*
- * *Program Support to Foster Creativity (OM!)*
- * *Collaborative Learning*
- * *Encouraging Sensible Risks*
- * *The Creative Process*

Presentations may include: short paper presentations followed by discussion, poster sessions on research outcomes, hands-on workshops, multi-media experiences, panel discussion. Proactive sessions will receive preferential treatment. No reading of papers.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: NOVEMBER 30, 1997

'98 Creativity Conference
 OM Association, Inc.
 P. O. Box 547
 Glassboro, NJ 08028

Phone: (609) 881-1603 Fax: (609) 881-3596

Internet: cre8conf98@aolcom

For more information on the OM program,
 consult our Home Page: <http://www.odyssey.org/>

A New and Original Ranatra Fusca

Inspired by OM Association, Inc.'s Ranatra Fusca Award given at the OM World Finals for exceptional creativity, the Minnesota Advisory Board proposed the idea of an MN OM Ranatra Fusca Award. The Executive Board approved the concept and received a generous donation from National Computer Systems. The award will be engraved with the names of the State competition recipients of the Ranatra Fusca, and will travel to different schools and public places throughout the state. State OM Director, Karen Karbo, commissioned Jeff Kaufman to create the award, in the form of a sculpture that would befit OM's highest honor for creativity.

Jeff Kaufman is currently an art teacher at Summerset Heights Elementary School. Kaufman studied art education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and studied art at the University of Minnesota. Originally working as a painter, Kaufman began adding things to his paintings until his main area of focus became assemblage sculpture. According to Kaufman, teaching helps his studio artwork as the students inspire him to try new and whimsical ideas.

The sculpture, which includes several OM shapes and is composed of seven figures, represents creativity, the integrity of OM, teamwork, and the state of Minnesota. The assemblage sculpture was created from Minnesota wood and discarded items found along the Mississippi River (which originates in Minnesota).

In its first year, the coveted Ranatra Fusca has been awarded to seven teams at the Minnesota State Tournament. They include Falcon Ridge Middle School, Henry Hill Intermediate School, Monticello Middle School, the Marshall School, Grass Middle School and Glencoe Silver Lake High School.



1997-98 OM Chartered Association Cut Off Dates

Australia	TBA	United Kingdom	TBA	MA	12/01/1997	PA	01/30/1998
Benelux	01/31/1998	United States:		MD	02/01/1998	RI	12/31/1997
Canada:		AL	12/16/1997	ME	02/01/1998	SC	01/30/1998
Alberta	TBA	AR	12/15/1997	MI	02/01/1998	SD	12/15/1997
Brit Columbia	01/01/1998	AZ	01/31/1998	MN	12/12/1997	TN	12/01/1997
NW Territories	01/31/1998	CA	01/10/1998	MO	12/31/1997	TX	01/15/1998
Ontario	01/01/1998	CO	01/15/1998	MS	01/15/1998	UT	02/01/1998
China	12/31/1997	CT	TBA	MT	01/15/1998	VA	01/15/1998
Curacao	TBA	DC	TBA	NC	12/15/1997	VT	01/15/1998
Germany	TBA	DE	TBA	ND	12/19/1997	WA	01/15/1998
Hong Kong	12/31/1997	FL	01/09/1998	NE	12/15/1997	WI	12/10/1997
Hungary	TBA	GA	12/19/1997	NH	02/15/1998	WV	02/01/1998
Italy	02/01/1998	IA	12/15/1997	NJ	12/31/1997	WY	01/15/1998
Kazakhstan	TBA	ID	01/31/1998	NM	02/01/1998		
Lithuania	TBA	IL	01/31/1998	NV	01/15/1998		*TBA= to be announced
Poland	TBA	IN	12/20/1997	NY	01/15/1998		
Russia:		KS	02/01/1998	OH	01/15/1998		
Moscow Region	TBA	KY	01/31/1998	OK	01/19/1998		
Ural Region	TBA	LA	12/15/1997	OR	01/06/1998		

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND PRODUCT ORDER FORM

Prices effective through January 31, 1998
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- _____ Copies of **Creativity + Teamwork = Solutions** book (@ \$18.75 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Contains 12 long-term problems, 30 verbal spontaneous and 15 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems, with a special chapter on how to build an effective Odyssey of the Mind team.
- _____ Copies of **Odyssey Update** book (@ \$17.75 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Revised versions of the best problems from three favorite books plus new spontaneous problems. Includes 12 long-term, 46 verbal spontaneous, and 8 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems.
- _____ Copies of **Competition Stimulates Creativity** book (@ \$17.50 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Contains a collection of 12 long-term, 28 verbal spontaneous, and 15 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems. Features a chapter on the value of competition in the workplace and in education.
- _____ 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 12 long-term problems as well as 40 verbal and 17 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems for practice.
- _____ Copies of **Problems to Challenge Creativity** book (@ \$18.50 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Contains 15 long-term problems, 29 verbal spontaneous problems, and 21 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems. Includes a chapter on why all OMers are winners!
- _____ Copies of **Make Learning Fun! Activities to Develop Creativity** book (@ \$17.95 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Contains 11 long-term problems, 19 nonlinguistic spontaneous problems and 38 spontaneous problems.
- _____ Copies of **1997-98 OM Curriculum Materials** (@ \$19.95 plus shipping and handling)\$ _____
Contains 25 OM-style activities instructionally suitable for all ages in all arenas of learning.
- _____ **Shipping and Handling for above orders: Add \$4.00 for the first book**\$ _____
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Contains basic competition information and OM membership rules.
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Contains training, program and tournament information as well as material on awards, coaching and judging.
- _____ Copies of **Creativity Around Us*** (@ \$64.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling; current members may purchase this package at a discounted price of \$39.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling)\$ _____
This video, accompanied by a discussion and activity guide, examines many creative achievements throughout history and suggests how we can make our own creativity work better for us.
- _____ Copies of the **OM Marketing Video -- A Fascinating Journey*** (@ \$19.95 which includes shipping and handling)\$ _____
An eight-minute video that tells the OM story -- from its goals to its benefits! This is one more tool to help you secure funds for your local OM program or OM organization.
- _____ Copies of **Style Videotape*** (@ \$35 which includes shipping and handling)\$ _____
Provides an understanding of Style and how it relates to the long-term solution.
- _____ Copies of **So Now You're On An OM Team Videotape*** (@ \$29.95 which includes shipping and handling)\$ _____
A 30-minute video for team members, coaches, parents and judges. Explains what it's like to be part of an OM team.
- _____ Copies of **Advanced Coaches' Training Videotape*** (each video comes with one **Advanced Coaches' Training Workbook**) (@ \$25 which includes shipping and handling) For experienced coaches.\$ _____
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Narrated by Bill Moyers, this tape introduces the viewer to the OM Experience.
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Published five times per year, it contains noteworthy and newsworthy information about the OM program, problems, events and participants.
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114 East High St., Glassboro, NJ 08028-2549

Please complete this form and return it with a check, U.S. Postal Money Order or purchase order (**payable in U.S. funds**) to Memberships, OM Association, Inc., P.O. Box 547, Glassboro, NJ 08028-0547. The Odyssey of the Mind membership fee is \$135 if the membership mailings go to a North American address. Outside North America the membership fee is \$150. Non-U.S. members must make payment in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank or via a U.S. Postal Money Order. All membership categories receive a subscription to the *OM Newsletter*.

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(Please indicate your membership type by circling the appropriate category below.)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Divisions I, II and III only:

- A** Individual School. In competition, may enter one team, per problem, per division, within the school. Must register as the school name.
- B** Home-School students in a certified home-school program. In competition, may enter one team per problem. Must register as the certified school program name.
- C** Two or more schools with the same principal. One principal that serves two or more schools may join for the schools s/he heads. In competition, may enter one team, per problem, per division, for each division housed within the schools. Only this category uses the name of the school district, such as "Glassboro Schools."
- D** Community Group. An established community-based organization, housed within the community, with a mission to serve youth. In competition, may enter one team per problem. The president/director/leader must sign below to attest that this group falls within those parameters. Also, you must include the organization's by-laws with this application. Supplemental educational support groups (i.e. PTAs) are not eligible for membership under this category.

_____ signature

_____ typed or printed name

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- E** College and Military

OM Supporters:

- F** Associate Member (Individual \$20; Alumni \$25; Family \$35)

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If this is a new membership, please specify how you learned about the Odyssey of the Mind Program:

- Recommended by a colleague/parent
- Read about OM in _____ publication
- Viewed your World Wide Web home page
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The Odyssey of the Mind Newsletter is published by OM Association, Inc., P.O. Box 547, Glassboro, N.J. 08028. Individual subscription yearly rate: North America \$10, outside of North America \$15. Executive editor, Janet Vincz-D'Alessandro; Layout, Denise Reinhart.

OM Coordinator: Please route this newsletter to

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Call for Articles:

A recent membership survey showed that our readers enjoy the *OM Newsletter*. Respondents revealed several suggestions about material we could include in future issues. To meet the needs of our members, OM Association, Inc. encourages all its readers to submit articles on topics of interest to OMers. Submissions become the property of OM and are subject to editing. Please send articles to Newsletter Editor, OM Association, Inc., P.O. Box 547, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Annual Dissertation Award

OM Association, Inc. once again announces its annual Outstanding Dissertation Awards Program. Any doctoral candidate may enter if his or her dissertation was completed and approved since the 1993 academic year from an institution of higher education that is sanctioned by a state, regional, or provincial accrediting agency.

The association honors doctoral candidates whose dissertations significantly advance the knowledge and understanding of education theories, concepts and practices related to the OM mission.

OM Mission Statement

The OM Association values and nurtures creativity. Through its activities, the association provides opportunities to develop creative problem-solving skills that are important in an ever-changing world. OM's mission includes the encouragement and development of cooperation, self-respect and the appreciation and understanding of others.

Summary and entry must be submitted by June 1, 1998. Winners will be notified by September 1, 1998. First-place winner will receive \$1500. Second place winner will receive \$750. For more information and entry form contact OM at:

OM Association, Inc.
Dissertation Awards Program
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