

Odyssey of the Mind



'Odyssey of the Mind? What's that?'

A good question. When asked by curious friends, members of this mysterious club had quite a time explaining exactly what OM was. Basically, OM met during Activity Period under the guidance of Mr Mudrak. Open to all grades, it was a club for people who liked to use their heads and hands creatively.

In the beginning of the year, members divided themselves into separate teams consisting of five to seven people. Each team found a coach, usually a parent of one of the team members. Then came the hard part—choosing a problem. From a group of about five problems, each team had to decide which one they felt they could solve the best. The problems included: building a balsa wood bridge that would hold the most weight, bringing a piece of art or music to life, and constructing a contraption that would complete a series of tasks and be powered by a billiard ball.

With their problems in hand, each team brainstormed for ideas, collected materials they'd need, and experimented until they had everything just right. Along with the technical part of the problem they had to come up with a 'style'. Their style could be a skit, costumes, or any other creative touch.

After months of practice, it was off to competition in Binghamton with several area schools.

All of this creativity had many advantages to OM members. They had the opportunity to exercise their brains, they learned to work in team situations, and they had many laughs together.

Above Left: Odyssey Officers—Sec. John Dickens, President Miranda Demarest, Advisor Mr Mudrak, Vice-President Flo Gascon, Treas, Jeff Dickens.



Front: N.Iven, D.Irmischer, C.Bruce, S.Yaw, C.Rosen, T.Hunt, C.Edwards, M.Farrell, T.Wixson. 2nd: C.Curl, J.Dickens, A.White, N.Brown, C.Lattin, F.Gascon, M.Demarest, D.Slusser, A.Collins, J.Myers, L.Chamberlain. 3rd: Mr Mudrak, B.Pittman, J.Malnoske, T.Kerns, G.Menzi, M.Wolcott, J.Edwards, R.Morgan, C.Grover, B.Tague, B.Cabeca, I.Irmischer. Back: J.Hoxie, A.Angle, M.Wood, L.Titus, G.Lisk, C.Larison, J.Edington, J.Dickens, R.Palmer.