

Mind bind

Showcase stretches kids' imaginations

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

This year 30 teams consisting of nearly 200 kids and 52 coaches from the Farmington area are diving head first into the Odyssey of the Mind competition, which tests the mental dexterity and creative resources of participants.

Regional competition takes place Saturday, March 1, at Walled Lake Western High School. Farmington teams prepared for the event with its annual OM showcase Saturday at Farmington High.

"I think Farmington will be very well represented," said Diane Matous, who is Farmington OM parent coordinator.

Teams are comprised of students from Farmington Public Schools as well as those from St. Fabian, Our Lady of Sorrows and Mercy High.

Many students Division II (ages 12-15) and Division III (ages 16-19) took part in OM competitions when they were younger making them familiar with the rigors involved, said Matous, who succeeded longtime coordinator, Sylvia Kambouris, this year.

Teams of five to seven children pick one of six problems to solve. All six problems have eight-minute time limits and team members must not use materials worth more than \$50 or \$100.

After that anything goes. "Heroic Proportions," for example, has children create and present a humorous performance that includes a character with one or more out-of-proportion characteristics.

Another problem, "Double Trouble," involves team members building and designing a structure that is made up of two

'I think that (Odyssey of the Mind) is very creative and mentally stimulating.'

Bill Smith,
—Longacre principal

balsa wood and glue structures. One of the structures has to be a beam designed to bridge a gap. The other will be a load-bearing structure designed to rest on the beam structure and balance weights.

"The kids have to think of everything," Matous said. "The coaches ask as many questions as they can to expand the idea so the kids are thinking beyond the obvious and are thinking up of better ways to do things."

Longacre Elementary Principal Bill Smith is big OM booster. Kids at his school who participate take part in a school-wide assembly to draw attention to their creations.

Longacre features eight teams with 50 students in this year's OM competition.

"I think that it is very creative and mentally stimulating," Smith said. "In my view, it is not unlike why we have basketball after school. (OM) attracts kids with these kinds of talents."

"The other thing that it does is create school spirit."

At Longacre, OM participants are introduced individually to classmates with the hoopla of a National Basketball Association championship game during the assembly.

Teams advance from the regional showdown to the state competition, which is usually held at Central Michigan University. National and world competitions follow.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEIER

Just acting: Bryan Theisen, left, Jeremy Musick, Sara Kirsten, and Samantha Sherry get medieval as they act out their skit in the "Heroic Proportions" and "Good News" problems as part of the Odyssey of Mind showcase at Farmington High on Saturday. All four students attend East Middle School.

Prop tops: Chelsea Johnson of Hillside Elementary shows judges one of her team's props, while at far right, Tomok Larkin and Dimitry Vopyanov make adjustments



Hills police chief published in law enforcement journal

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, who has gotten his share of ink for the community, has also penned something himself.

With some writing and editing help, the Farmington Hills police chief of 12 years and former Detroit police command officer has had two articles published in "Law Enforcement Bulletin," the publication of the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice.

Dwyer's article about the Police and Seniors Together (P.A.S.T.), was published in June of 1993.

The article explained the program that matches a police officer with a senior citizen to provide company and a sympathetic ear.

It is one of many community policing programs the Hills department has used in recent years to help officers become more involved with the community.

"That was one of the critical issues for police departments," said Kathy Sulewski, an editor of the magazine. "That was one of several articles we ran about police officers and senior citizens."

Dwyer said he was encouraged to submit the article to the publication, which is sent to all graduates of the FBI Police Academy



Police Chief Bill Dwyer

age that passed by a 2-1 margin in 1995. That piece, entitled "Making Taxes Less Taxing," was published in the December, 1995 issue.

"Millages of this type are real important today for law enforcement," Dwyer said. "It is so important that the public know what we're doing and what our needs really are. We all take a lot of care and time to make sure that we are in the public eye."

Dwyer said the article explained how the police and fire departments presented the issue to the public and how the electorate responded.

Together, they waged a successful campaign that secured badly needed resources, while strengthening community support for public safety," wrote Dwyer.

Dwyer said he was proud to have articles about the city's police department included in the national publication.

"It's been the source of a lot of programs and ideas that we've used," he said.

Sulewski said that the magazine, which is often passed among many officers, receives about 150 articles a year and publishes from 70-80 of them.

Most of the articles published in the Bulletin are written or co-authored by line officers or criminal justice professors, Sulewski said.

in Quantico, Va. The magazine is designed for law enforcement professionals and is distributed throughout the country and to many police agencies overseas. "I thought that the P.A.S.T. program was a way for the department to make a positive impact on the community and help seniors, who have given so much to us over the years," Dwyer said.

More recently, Dwyer, with the help of Wayne State University's Melissa Faulkner Moteschall, submitted an article on the city's public safety mill-

50% OFF

STOREWIDE CLEARANCE

PRICES REDUCED AGAIN!
50% OFF OR MORE!
BEGINS THURSDAY, JANUARY 23.

DOWN THEY GO AGAIN...THOSE ALREADY LOW CLEARANCE PRICES ON SELECTED ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE STORE HAVE TAKEN A TUMBLE. YOU CAN REALLY, REALLY SAVE BIG ON THE THINGS YOU WANT NOW. BUT HURRY, THIS IS TOO GOOD TO LAST LONG!

SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES
WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

Jacobson's

BIRMINGHAM
810-634-6900

LIVONIA
313-591-7696

ROCHESTER
248-651-6000

YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

Who, What, Where... Y?
Check out the third in the series of television shows on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on Info Channel 12. The Farmington Family YMCA will show how it can provide more services to our community with a teen center and a second swimming pool for handicapped adults. The expanded facility is open and ready for use. Let's talk over lunch.

This is a series of workshops sponsored by Sinai Hospital on all phases of Breast Cancer Treatment and Prevention. The second in the series will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday,

Jan. 22, in the community room of the YMCA. The focus will be "Preventative Measures for Breast Cancer." The speakers will be Dr. Michelle Rossmann, MD Imaging Director, and Emanuel N. Maisel of the Women's Health Center. The cost is \$5 or \$10 depending on membership status.

Classes begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 4 and meet on the following Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for two hours for four weeks. The course includes 24 hours of classroom instruction time provided by the Accurate Driving School with driving time

scheduled separately with the instructor. Please note that all students must bring with them on the first day of instruction a birth certificate and must be between the ages of 15 and 17. The cost is \$175 for members and \$220 for non-members.

Open House
The newly expanded Farmington Family YMCA will be hosting an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. This event is being sponsored by Sports Authority and the Wellness Plan. Visitors will meet some of the Wellness Characters and receive some prizes and giveaways.