

Mind from page A9

stage set, those financial restrictions - for some unknown reason - do not include costs for musical instruments and school supplies.

Looking ahead

Cappo, of course, wants the team to come back from Tennessee with a victory. Her role will be to give general advice, asking open-ended questions. "I can't say, 'This is what I think you should do,' ... to stimulate their thinking."

But if that doesn't happen, the districtwide future of Odyssey of the Mind stands to benefit from the trip.

"I hope this sparks more interest in Odyssey of the Mind," said Cappo, listing Longacre Elementary School and Harrison High School among other active squads.

The community already does much to back OM, which promotes creative "on-your-feet" thinking, problem-solving skills and academic risk taking, among other aspects.

Farmington schools pays a

WORLD FINALS

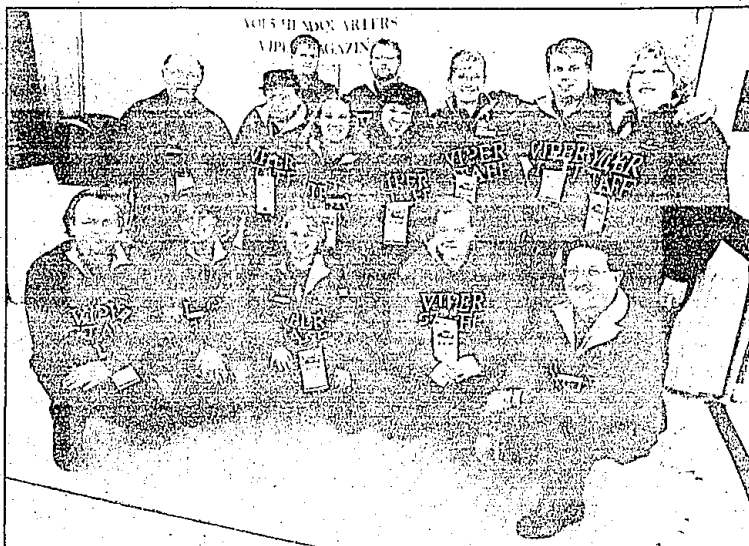
portion of team fees, augmented by fund-raisers and financial support from service groups such as the Rotary and Optimist clubs.

"And Power lets us sell (items) at school functions," Cappo explained.

Cappo said the name "Odyssey of the Mind" is an appropriate one for the program, which in Farmington schools typically has 175 students participating annually. This year, about 15,000 students in Michigan are participating in OM.

"It's a journey from the beginning, when you have a blank sheet of paper, to the end, when you have a finished product," she said. "You have a performance to show the public."

Taking the lead



Invitational: The Farmington Hills based J.R. Thompson Company recently served as the managing agency for the 5th Viper Owners Invitational in April at the MGM Grand Hotel. The following employees who worked the event are (from front left) Mark Giannotta, Andrea Oullette, Amy Lauter, John Hopkins, Clay Thompson; (second row from left) Bill Caldwell, John Thompson, Kim Sieszputowski, Leanna Mellquham, Fiona McKenna, Cale Hutton, Sherry Snigier; (third row from left) Kurt Kerttu and Zach Thompson. On behalf of the Dodge Division of DaimlerChrysler Corporation, J.R. Thompson Company managed a bash for close to 2000 Dodge Viper owners and guests at the five-day event. It was the largest gathering ever of Vipers in a single location, which featured track activities for 800 Vipers at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a poker run through the Valley of Fire state park and a performance by fellow Viper owner Jay Leno.

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