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(Hinchliffe/Nix)
March 19, 1992 11 a.m.
SCIENCE Draft One

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
MARCH 27, 1992
ROSE GARDEN**

- A = index
B = jokes
C = 98 & Olympiad
D = Central & Olympiad
E = requiring minor 500*
- A* ? -- copy of program; how many on each team;
B --famous scientist (for joke) *Carl Sagan*
B --build musical instruments out of nonmusical materials
B --May 16, Auburn U.
B --MI team -- comp. next day
B --Michelangelo
A { --2000 students and teachers from 96 teams representing 38 states -- represent over 6,000 secondary schools that take part in Science Olympiad -- K-12 program 10,000 schools, 1 1/2 million students striving for Excellence in Science and Math
E { --you're visible proof of America: 2000
D { --over 600 individual and team medals to kids who are future scientists, business and industry leaders and educators of generations to come
C { --problem solvers, test takers, device builder
2 { *D* { --you are 1,000 points of light -- 3,000 volunteers including teachers, communities, parents, business men, institutions of higher learning
C { --amazed by the scope of activities you participate in
C { --you six teams and coaches are best Ambassadors -- you will make the difference in where our nation will be in years to come
B { --you're here today because we, as a nation, are proud to claim and recognize your type of achievement
C { --rigorous academic competitions, 32 individual and team events prepare for throughout the year -- biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers and technology -- teamwork, group planning and cooperation
D { --level of enthusiasm and support of sports
3 { *D* { --Delaware, 95% public secondary schools participate
D { --help increase science enrollments
D { --find quotes on excellence, winning, striving for excellence
D { --making learning exciting

Thank you, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad my previous meeting didn't run late, or I would have had to bring a note from Barbara. \\ It's great to see you here -- most of all, let me welcome the xxx very special young men and women chosen from over one-quarter of a million secondary teachers in their fields. **Congratulations on receiving this nation's highest honor for math and science teachers.** \\

American kids deserve excellent schools and a culture that fosters lifelong learning. You have shown the kind of excellence that will help this country meet the ambitious goals we've set for our nation in our America 2000 education strategy -- goals worthy of the talent you have, and of the potential of our kids. We know we've got to be competitive in math and science in a changing world. Our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges out

*Gold Medalists
in Olympiad
of the mind*

there. We've called on our kids to be #1 in the world in your subjects by the turn of the century -- and it's teachers like you who will help us reach our goal and will help America to excel.

As you know, we're helping to develop world-class standards for national assessment in five core areas -- including math and science -- and we've set in motion a process working with the governors and education experts to implement the American Achievement Test as early in this decade as possible.

All told, we've requested more than \$2 billion in Federal spending on math and science education for next year's budget -- \$768 million of that for pre-college. If my math is correct -- and it had better be -- that's an increase of 132% in the last three years. \\

But I believe that the single most important thing we in the Federal Government can do is to help you do your jobs. For instance, also in next year's budget, I proposed an expanded program of federally-assisted training for 770,000 math and science teachers. Of that number, 45,000, twice as many as this year, would receive in-depth training, in part using federal laboratories and federal personnel. Innovations like this will help us create a world-class corps of teachers.

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom, so kids can interact with astronauts, explorers and scientists -- so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources -- and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting-edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

(2) The Federal Government can do a lot -- but we cannot do it all. Real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands talented men and women giving their time to become tutors, mentors and classroom assistants. It demands businesses, places of worship, and civic groups forming partnerships to support local schools. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, across this country. You're showing us the way. You're showing how we can break the mold -- take our bearings by what works. You're here today because you're not afraid to reach for excellence -- and that's why I salute you all. \\

I salute winners like

I salute you -- and I envy you. You share in our kids' sheer joy of learning, of making something work, of understanding the world. Think of the scientist or engineer who will one day discover the cure for cancer, or who will use technology to push back the frontiers of space or wipe out hunger -- today that man or woman is a student, maybe in your classroom. A kid who will catch a spark from you -- a spark that will change his life, and his world's. That's your gift -- a teacher affects a lifetime. (1)

(3) Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of your grateful nation, thank you, keep up the good work, and may God Bless you all.

#

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
March 20, 1992 11 a.m.
SCIENCE Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
MARCH 27, 1992 11:45 A.M.
ROSE GARDEN

Thank you, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad my previous meeting didn't run late, or I would have had to bring a note from Barbara. It's great to see you [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] -- most of all, let me welcome the very special young men and women here representing the 10,000 schools and 1 1/2 million students who take part in the Science Olympiad. Congratulations on receiving gold medals in ^{America's} your nation's Olympics of the mind. \\

I'm proud to be with you Olympians -- though I hear that when ~~one of the kids was~~ ^{you were} told the most important man in the world ~~was going to be speaking to you today,~~ ^{one kid} he said: "You mean Carl Sagan will be there?" \\ Not. *weak*

I know a lot of you are not only looking back with pride on last year's victory, but you're looking ahead to May 16 at Auburn -- especially the teams from Grandville and Jenison Junior Highs. You should be up for awards in the juggling event too -- the way you can be in Washington with me today and home in Michigan at your state Olympics competition tomorrow. ~~Totally awesome.~~ \\ *why?* *decn't work*

I'm tremendously impressed by all of you, students and teachers, and ^{by} the incredible scope of activities you participate in. You're really like decathletes -- good at so many varied skills -- like problem solving, test taking, and device building. I'd never be able to build a musical instrument out of nonmusical materials -- or identify the Age of Reptiles -- I was told the

correct answer is "Mesozoic" -- I thought the "Age of Reptiles" *another way of sayi*
 was ~~short~~ for "The Age of Congressional Elections." \\\

too distant
 I've been told you have to work all year to get where you are -- competing in 32 individual and team events in subjects like biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and computers. I might just be able to compete after all. You know, last year I started to learn how to work the computer. It's taken me a while, but a couple of months ago I wrote my first program. I called it "Michelangelo." I hope it works. ✓

You're more than smart, hard-working teams. You're the best ambassadors this country has: you show who we can be and what we can do if we just put our minds and our great American genius to work. I'm proud to honor you at the White House today because your nation is proud to claim you and recognize your achievement.

underline ✓
 You've shown the kind of excellence that will help us meet the ambitious goals we've set for our nation in our America 2000 education strategy. We know we've got to be competitive in math and science in a changing world. Our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges out there. We've called on our kids to be #1 in the world in math & science ~~the world in these subjects~~ by the turn of the century -- and you're visible proof that we can do it.

We've requested over \$2 billion in Federal spending on math and science education in next year's budget: \$768 million of that for pre-college. If my math is correct -- and with this crowd it had better be -- that's an increase of 123% in the last 3 years.

*good
 setup -
 better
 punch
 line?*

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom, so kids can interact with astronauts, explorers and scientists -- so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources -- and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting-edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

The Federal Government can do a lot -- but we can't do it all. Real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands talented men and women giving their time to become tutors, mentors and classroom assistants. It demands businesses, ^{churches, & synagogues} places of worship, and civic groups forming partnerships to support local schools. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, ^{all} across this country.

The Science Olympiad ^{500T} ~~program~~ shows us the way. ~~It shows how we can break the mold.~~ It brings together 3,000 volunteers -- teachers, parents and businesspeople -- each one working to strengthen excellence in his or her own community. You're here today representing them all -- you're here because you're not afraid to reach for excellence -- and that's why I salute you.

Let's not recycle so much rhetoric

I salute you -- and I envy you. You've found the sheer joy of learning, of making something work, of understanding the world. We older folks think of the scientist who will one day discover the cure for cancer, or who will use technology to wipe out hunger -- and we realize that today that man or woman is a student in a science class somewhere. Maybe in your classroom.

Freshen this up

cut this graf + add an anecdote or story about a project??

rep this
2
Maybe it's you. (Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from
this program -- a spark that will change his life, and ~~his~~ *change* ✓
on worlds. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power.

Congratulations on your achievements -- on bringing to
academic competition the pride and enthusiasm usually known in
sports contests -- and on making learning exciting. Good luck in
everything you do -- and when one of you kids can prove who
started the Michelangelo virus, just remember -- my name is Tom
Foley. May God Bless you all.

#

H. Hany
Chinton

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February 7, 1992

The White House
Public Liaison Office, Room 197
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Attention: Mr. Mark Lapides

Re: National Science Olympiad/1991 Medal Winning Teams

Dear Mr. Lapides:

Jack Cairns of National Science Olympiad tells me that you need some information from me. I hope the enclosed will help. I am including copies of my correspondence to Secretary of Education Alexander and a nice letter I received from him in return. You will also see a copy of my letter to Ms. Lisa Battaglia of your office of November 19, 1991.

I am including as much of our material and as many of our clips as I recall sending to Washington back in the fall.

Please understand that I am affiliated with the Peirce Middle School Team of the West Chester Area School District only as a parent of a Team member. Jack Cairns of the national organization can put you in touch with the other five Teams and provide information for you about the national effort. I think our material should be helpful because it illustrates just how thoroughly our community at all levels became interested in our Team and pitched in to support it.

If you need anything further of me at this time please call me at my office, above, except that I may be reached at the home of my parents in Florida between February 11 and February 20. The number there is 407-622-0414.

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Mr. Mark Lapidés
February 7, 1992
Page Two

My thanks to everyone in the White House who is helping to make this an enjoyable and meaningful event for these deserving young people and their coaches. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,


William J. Scott, Jr.

WJS/wp
cc: Jack Cairns

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1314 Burke Road
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380
Telephone: 215-436-7250

May, 1991

Dear Friend of Education:

Since last October, a group of students at the Peirce Middle School have been voluntarily staying after school to learn about science. They comprise the Peirce Science Olympiad Team. Each of these 29 young scientists (including six 9th graders from Henderson High School) have spent well over 50 hours of their free time during and after school in training to compete with other teams from across the Nation as part of the National Science Olympiad Program.

The interschool meets are based on an olympics model in which pairs of students from various school teams compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in a variety of science categories. Many of the categories test the students' creativity and ability to apply scientific and engineering knowledge and to perform experiments.

The Peirce Science Olympiad Team recently won the Gold Medal at the Pennsylvania State Finals held in Harrisburg. As State Champs in the Junior High School Division, they are designated to represent Pennsylvania at the National Science Olympiad in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 17. In order for them to participate in this national event they must raise at least \$12,000 right now and they can only do that with your financial help.

We ask you to join with us in support of a team that came into existence only four years ago and has won the State Championship for the last two years. In 1989 the Team came in 5th in the National Finals and last year it captured the National Bronze Medal by finishing third out of the three thousand junior high school teams that had initially entered the competition nationwide. In recognition they received a personal letter from President Bush which read, in part, "I know your family and friends are proud of you -- so am I. Your award is testament to the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work that you put into your endeavors. Mrs. Bush and I hope that you will keep up the good work."

The young people on the Peirce Science Olympiad Team have kept up the good work as the President urged. They now hope to go to Kansas City and see their efforts to a successful conclusion at the National Finals. Your tax deductible contribution will help them achieve that goal.

Checks may be made payable to the "PEIRCE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD FUND" c/o Peirce Middle School at the above address.

We deeply thank you on behalf of the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team.

THE PEIRCE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM BOOSTERS

Peirce kids are top scientists

Once again, the Science Olympiad Team of Peirce Middle School in West Chester is the best in the state. The 26-member team overwhelmed the runnerup — Unami School District in Bucks County — Friday at the competition in Harrisburg. The winning score was 156-94. Now, the Peirce scientists will be raising funds to go to the national competition in Kansas City, Mo., next month.

✓ A Rose to the Science Olympiad team from West Chester Peirce Middle School, which advanced to state-level competition this weekend in Harrisburg. The school has excelled in this competition, winning a bronze medal last year in the national competition. Science teacher Charlotte Knighton said, "The kids on this team, they have worked as hard as they are capable of working."

Peirce again wins science competition

By STEVE REINBRECHT
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — For the second year in a row, the Science Olympiad Team of Peirce Middle School is the best in the state.

The 26-member team destroyed the runnerup Unami School District in Bucks County with a total score of 156 to 94 in a daylong contest Friday in Harrisburg.

The team won gold, silver or bronze medals in 10 of the 22 events, topping 28 other schools.

Like professional scientists, team members said they now have to put their energy into digging up funding for their next project — getting themselves to the national competition in Kansas City, Mo., May 17-18.

"We really need help in the financial department," said seventh grader Peter Lu at a celebratory party Friday night at the home of the coach, science teacher Charlotte Knighton.

Parents plan to meet Sunday night to discuss how to get the team out west.

Parent Lynn Franz said the question is whether to send them by plane or on a 24-hour bus trip.

She hopes area businesses will chip



Staff photo by Kristen Cortazzo

Peirce students celebrate their second straight championship.

in to help fund the trip.

Wearing their blue team T-shirts, the students looked excited and exhausted as their proud parents came to take them home from the party.

Peirce won:

- First place in rocks and fossils identification by Lu, who said his score was good enough to take first in the high school division as well.

- First place in a test of writing and following written instruction by Josh Rea and Gwen Staub-Leifeld.

- First place in chemical identification by Carly Silvesti and Ken Lidle, who had to test 20 substances including everything from flour to aluminum hydroxide.

- First place in metric measurement estimation by Thatcher Gearhart. Gearhart said it had been a long day, "but at least we won."

- First place in the mouse-trap-powered car event by Billy Carroll

and Steve Whittam. Carroll said they estimated the time of the car's trip within .3 seconds.

- Second place in a test of weather knowledge by Eric Hebble. He said he has a month to study to come in first in the nationals.

- Second place in astronomy by Willie Scott and Ken Lidle.

- Third place in water quality testing by Ruth Yang and Justin Olexy.

- Third place in orienteering by Mark Wienen, who fell in a creek while following the cross-country course.

- Third place in computer programming by Weining and Scott.

Peirce will be one of 100 schools to compete in Kansas City.

This will be the third year in a row the school has gone to the national competition. They won a bronze medal last year.

Peirce science team off to capital for olympiad

By STEVE REINBRECHT
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — A local team of great scientific minds is set to head to the state capital Friday.

There, the Science Olympiad team from Peirce Middle School will drop encased eggs, build bridges, race mouse-trap powered cars, identify bugs, and — hopefully — uphold the school's tradition of unbeatable scientific know-how.

The school has excelled in the yearly contests since the team started four years ago. Last year it won a bronze medal in the national competition.

The success is due to the smarta, dedication and creativity of the 26 students involved, according to their coach, science teacher Charlotte Knighton.

"The kids on this team — they have worked as hard as they are capable of working," Knighton said.

Because of this, she said, even if they don't win at the competition, they can't lose.

In the classroom, the students mill around the projects they have engineered to compete against 28 other schools at the Harrisburg Community College.

A bent saw blade shoots a tennis ball across the room towards a pile of sand on a table.

Gwen Staub-Liefeld explains and then demonstrates the device that protects an egg in a four-meter fall.

The egg rides in a Vaseline-filled Dixie cup on top of a bag filled with bread dough.

As the contraption hits the floor with a splat, Knighton said "that didn't sound so good."

But the engineer opens the cup and triumphantly finds the egg intact.

Bily Carroll tests his mousetrap-powered car in the corridor. A long dowel attached to the trap pulls a string wrapped around a gyroscope, and the vehicle gathers speed and heads straight down the hall. To get points, the team must predict how far the car will go and how long the trip will last.

Jeff Becker, an eighth grader, has learned how to identify about 400 insects with the help of Ronald Romig, a biology professor at West Chester University.

Other students will show their expertise in astronomy, anatomy, weather, water testing and computer programming.

The goal of the aerodynamics contest is building the paper airplane that stays aloft the longest.

Why have the students given up so many of their afternoons since October to stay after school and practice?

"It's fun," said Thatcher Gearhart, a ninth-grader "imported" from Henderson High School to be a part of the team.

Gearhart's field is map reading and estimating the lengths, areas, volumes and weights of different objects — in metric measurements.

"I like the people here, and I love competition," he added. "That's definitely a part of it."

And that goes for the whole group.

One student proudly points to the long row of team trophies crowding a wall of the laboratory-classroom.

Another tells how the team "crushed Fugett (Middle School) by nine-tenths of a centimeter" in the egg dropping contest at the regional contest in March.

"It's hands on," said Joah Rea, an eighth-grader. "We build and test things. We're not just sitting down working on math problems."

Azim George Siddiqui, the only sixth-grader on the team, said he became interested in the Olympiad from his brother who competed two years ago.

"It seems even more fun than he said."

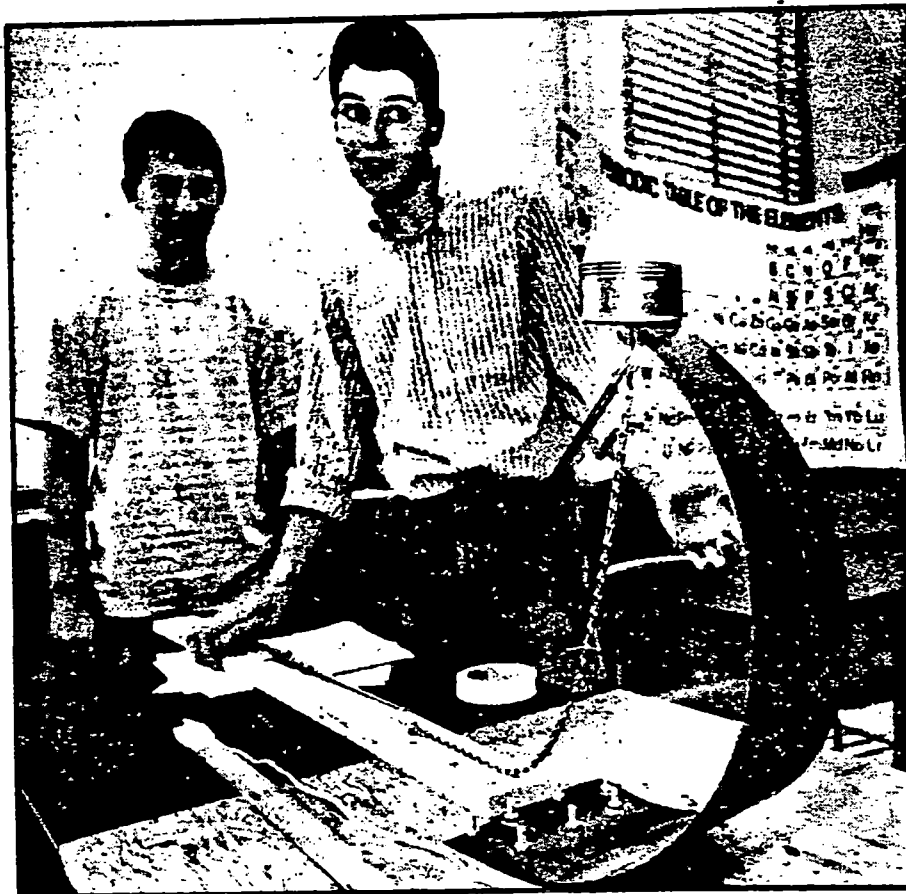
"It's better than watching TV," agreed Jason Bugg, a seventh grader who expects to go into environmental science.

Mary Thorne, an eighth grader, said science comes naturally to her.

"Last year we dissected frogs. Everybody was saying 'oooh,' " she said, imitating her classmates' disgust. "I was sitting there cutting it open. I loved it!"

DAILY LOCAL NEWS,

West Chester, Pa., Thurs., April 18, 1991



Staff photo by Kristen Cortazzo

Going for the science gold

Jeff Cain (left) and Jeff Becker are just two members of the Peirce Middle School team heading to Harrisburg Friday for the state Science Olympiad.

EDUCATION

Catapulting their way toward Missouri

The 29-member team at Pierce Middle School in West Chester is no stranger to success. Last year it won a bronze medal.

By Denise Breslin Kachin
Special to The Inquirer

Eighth graders Jeff Becker and Jeff Cain were having trouble with their catapult's aim.

The Rube Goldberg device — the 3-foot-long wooden base has notches and string and half a soup can to hold the ball — took the students months to perfect. The idea behind their contraption is to thrust a green tennis ball across the classroom into a Hula Hoop that lies flat on the floor and is filled with sand.

After a few tries, the ball was coming closer to a bull's-eye in the sand.

The two budding physicists seemed pleased, but they're aiming to be perfect by May 17, when competition opens at the seventh annual Science Olympiad in Kansas City, Mo.

The 29-member team at Pierce Middle School in West Chester is used to success. Last year the team from Pierce won a bronze medal in national competition. Last month the whiz kids placed first among 28 teams in the state competition in Harrisburg.

"There's a lot of excitement right now. The kids are anxious about the competition," said Charlotte Knighton, a science teacher at Pierce, who coaches the team with Paul Wojcik, a Pierce math teacher.

"We both teach eighth grade," Knighton said. "I coached the team by myself for a few years and then Paul decided to help me."

Both teachers said reports of a lack of interest and ability in science among students were exaggerated.

"I think there is a great interest and dedication in science among today's students," Knighton said. "We have a great interest at Pierce in the Science Olympiad. These kids come every day after school and work until 4:30 p.m. on their projects."

"Science also teaches all kids about problem solving," Wojcik said. "Another advantage for students when they work on projects for the Science Olympiad is that they learn to work together and get along."

Well, sometimes.

Gwen Staub-Leifeld and Josh Rea, both eighth graders, were having a friendly disagreement on the accuracy of Gwen's directions for the "Write It, Do It" part of the competition. This contest requires one team member — Gwen — to put together an elaborate construction of Tinker Toys, then describe precisely, in writing,

how she did it. Josh, her partner, must exactly reconstruct the piece using only Gwen's written directions.

"You could have been a little more accurate," Josh said as he shoved a small green peg into a round piece.

"Well," Gwen said with a shrug, "you should know it goes there."

Her partner rolled his eyes and muttered something about not being a mind-reader.

Some scientists might want to build a better mousetrap, but team members Billy Carroll and Stephen Whittam want to build the best mousetrap car. "The car must go 20 meters in an amount of time the builders say it will," Knighton said. "The only thing the students must use to propel the car is the spring of a mousetrap."

Knighton said she had been very pleased with how parents have supported the team. "We even have professors at West Chester University helping our team members," she said.

Seventh grader Peter Lu said Seymour Greenberg, had been a great help coaching Lu on the fine points of rock and mineral identification. Peter scored first in this year's state competition. He had to identify 45 specimens. "I missed about 12, but that was still good enough to win," he said with a grin.

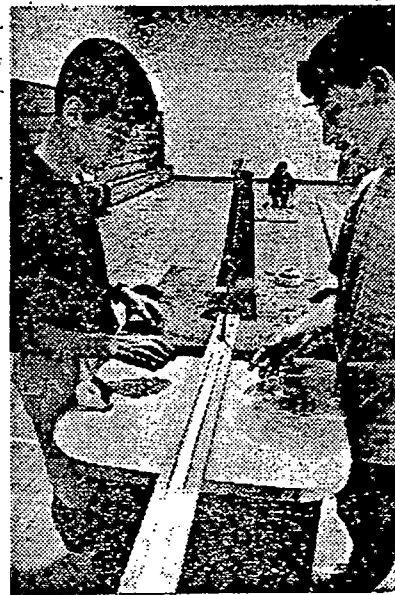
There will be 23 categories to choose from at the Olympiad. "Sounds of Music" interested eighth grader Mary Thorne. "I'm building my own xylophone, but I'm having a little trouble with the pitch," she said, testing the metal pieces a her handmade mallet. Thorne, a member of the school band, said she liked the opportunity to combine music and science.

"Of course, the team members work on more than one project," Knighton said. And they have another project to work on: raising money to make the plane trip to Kansas City.

"The trip will cost each student \$450," Wojcik said. "The parents have been asked to contribute \$100 for their child. We are trying to raise the rest through various fund-raising efforts."

So far, car washes and candy sales have raised \$3,000 toward the \$12,000.

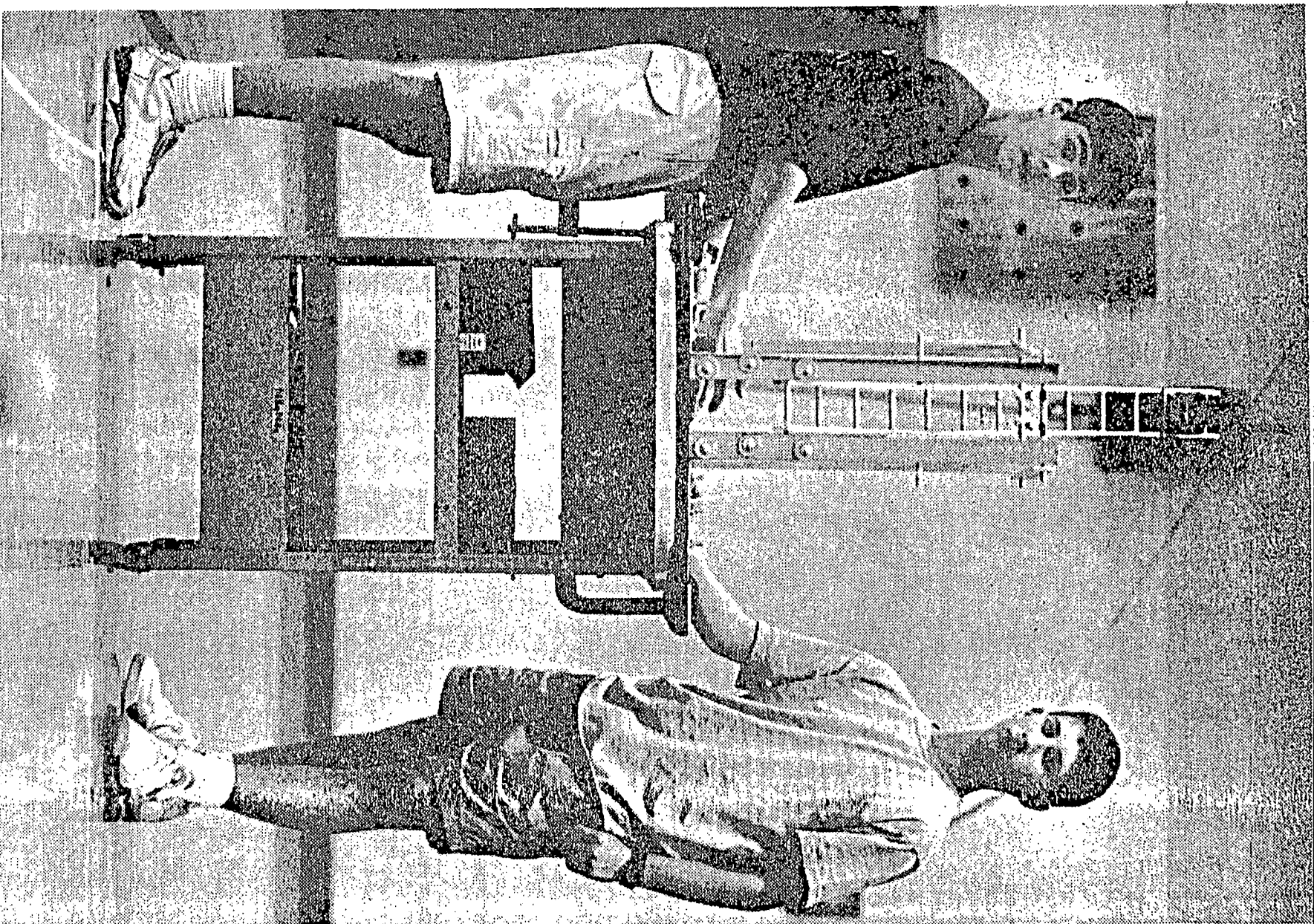
"With everyone's help, we'll make it," said Wojcik, crossing his fingers.



Josh Culp (left) and Jeff Cain prepare to set the firing mechanism.

Special to The Inquirer / JERRY TRITT

Josh Culp (left) and Jeff Cain watch as a tennis ball they launched hits inside the target circle:



Science team
is catapulting
toward success



JIM GIULIANO

Peirce team seeking a champion

Some kids at the Peirce Middle School in West Chester are looking for a good Samaritan.

We're talking about the Peirce team that won the state championship by beating its opponent by 60 points in a match held in Harrisburg.

Now it's on to the national championship.

Oh, did I forget to mention the sport in which they trounced the competition? I guess that's because it wasn't a sport at all.

No, instead this is Peirce's Science Olympiad Team, coached by teacher Charlotte Knighton.

On April 19, the team's 26 members marched into Harrisburg to match their science skills and knowledge against squads from other school districts in Pennsylvania.

No contest.

You would have thought the other teams couldn't tell a neutron from a guitar pick the way the Peirce kids racked up the points.

Turns out, winning the state title and qualifying for the nationals was the easy part.

Getting to the national championships is another matter, however.

The problem the kids have is spelled: \$.

"I just get the feeling that if this were a champion sports team or something like that, somehow somebody would figure out a way to come up with the money for the trip," a parent of one team member told me. "But when it's academics, it's another story altogether."

He's got a point. We build training centers for Olympic bobsled drivers. A few bucks for an Olympic scientist doesn't seem out of order.

At stake for the local Science Olympians is a trip to the nationals in Kansas City, Mo., and a chance to compete against other kids from across the company.

The club needs about \$12,000 to make the trip, Knighton said.

"Times are tough financially for a lot of people, so it's a difficult time to try to raise money for something like this," she noted. "We're going to look into some community fund-raising ideas and hope for the best."

She was cheerful and optimistic, but they better hurry.

The nationals start May 17, so the kids will have to hawk a lot of home-baked goods and wash a lot of cars to make \$12,000 for the trip.

Either that or the parents of each kid will have to come up with about \$450 to make sure that Chester County has a representative team in Kansas City.

I confess that I know some of the parents (though they refuse to acknowledge that they know me). They're not rich, but most of them probably will figure out how to squeeze the money out of their family budgets so that a kid can get a once-in-a-lifetime shot.

Some, of course, simply can't afford it, so those kids probably won't go.

Seems fair, I guess. You want your kid to go to Kansas City, you should have to pay for it.

But I wonder about the message it sends to the kids.

"Work hard, study hard, give up your free time and perform well under pressure. Great job. Now, we want you to continue doing all that, and your reward is that you just sacrificed your Christmas gift."

"I told our son that we wanted him to make the trip," another parent explained. "I also told him that if his mother and I had to pay for it, he would have to give up something else that he really wants."

I suppose, too, that we could tell the kids to go out and earn the money themselves. But it's pure science fiction to expect a 14-year-old to make \$450 in a couple of weeks while going to school and studying for a national competition.

So where does that leave the boys and girls on the Peirce Middle School Championship Science Olympiad Team?

On the ropes, it appears, unless somebody gets behind them.

And if you happen to pass a kid selling 25-cent cupcakes from a shoe box while reading a text on the Doppler Effect or particle physics and whistling the tune from *Kansas City Here I Come*, drop a quarter in the box.

Consider it a donation to science.

(Jim Giuliano is a Local News columnist.)

Please send your tax deductible contribution made payable to

"THE PEIRCE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD FUND"

c/o Peirce Middle School
1314 Burke Road
West Chester, PA 19382

THANK YOU

Peirce students need funds

MAY 8, 1991

Since last October, a group of students at the Pierce Middle School has been voluntarily staying after school to learn about science. They comprise the Pierce Science Olympiad Team.

Each of these 29 young scientists (including six ninth-graders from West Chester, Henderson High School) have spent well over 50 hours of their free time during and after school in training to compete with other teams from across the nation as part of the National Science Olympiad Program.

The Pierce Science Olympiad Team recently won the Gold Medal at the Pennsylvania State Finals held in Harrisburg. As state champs in the Junior High School Division, they are designated to represent Pennsylvania at the National Science Olympiad in Kansas City, Mo. May 17.

In order for them to participate in this national event they must raise at least \$12,000 right now and they can only do that with your financial help.

We ask the community to join with us in support of a team that came into existence only four years ago and has won the state championship for the last two years. In 1989 the team came in fifth in the national finals and last year it captured the National Bronze Medal by finishing third out of the competition nationwide.

Checks may be made payable to the "Pierce Science Olympiad Fund" c/o Pierce Middle School, 1314 Burke Road, West Chester, Pa. 19380. We deeply thank you on behalf of the Pierce Middle School Science Olympiad Team.

BILL SCOTT

Pierce Science Olympiad Team Boosters

Champion Peirce team will go to the nationals, thanks town fund drive

By STEVE REINBRECHT
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — The Peirce Middle School science team — the best in the state — has scraped together enough money to attend the national championship in Kansas City, Mo. on May 17.

"The funds are coming in," teacher and coach Charlotte Knighton said Friday. "We've had an overwhelming support from the community."

Team members had been worried they would not be able to get the money together in the four weeks between the state and national finals.

The students, who won the state championship in Harrisburg April 19, have been working hard over the last month to raise money for the trip as well as polish their science skills, said Knighton.

Altogether, the students have raised \$9,000 toward the trip, according to parent Lynn Frantz. She said they need a total of \$12,000 for plane fare and hotel rooms.

The students raised \$1,000 at a flea market at the Downingtown Farmers Market in East Caln last weekend.

They're selling candy. They're selling raffle tickets: first prize — a \$1,500 musical keyboard donated by Taylor Music of West Chester. Second prize — dinner for two at the borough's La Cocotte restaurant.

And the young scientists will be

washing cars today at the Sunoco on Route 3 near Five Points Road and at the J&B Amoco at Route 29 and Boot Road between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Knighton said.

Parents donated \$100 for each of the 28 students, and businesses and service clubs have helped out so every child can go, Knighton said.

"The most heartwarming thing" is contributions from private individuals, Knighton said.

A Chadds Ford woman donated \$450 after reading a column in the Daily Local News about the students' accomplishments but lack of money, Knighton said.

"We're still short, but we're getting there," Knighton said.

The team has borrowed \$8,000 from a local bank to buy airplane tickets for the trip, Knighton said.

The students and their six adult chaperones will gather at Peirce at 4:30 a.m. May 17 to head to Philadelphia International Airport, and will return Sunday.

The big chore next week will be packing up their scientific equipment and devices for the plane trip, Knighton said.

The team has won the state championship two years in a row and has been among the 100 schools competing in the national finals for the last three years.

Last year, the team won a bronze medal at the national level.

Victorious Peirce team returns home to cheers

By DAVID GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

WEST WHITE LAND — The Peirce Middle School science team returned from the national championships in Kansas City, Mo. Sunday night to a rousing round of applause and cheers.

They sported a third-place finish in the nation and countless gold-medal smiles as they climbed off the bus that brought them from Philadelphia International Airport to the waiting arms of their parents.

"They were just super kids," said Charlotte Knighton, who with Paul Wojcik coaches the team.

"We had so many compliments on these children," she said.

Knighton said the fact that the team placed third in the nation last year and again Saturday is a testament to the students' drive.

"Every competition we've gone to ... we go with the attitude that it's a new competition," she said. "We're not sure how we're going to do. We have done our best ... we really went there feeling we had done everything we could do. There was no disappointment."

The 28-member team won four first-place awards, a third, two fourths and a sixth-place finish.

"I was happy and surprised," said Thatcher Gearhart, a ninth-grade Henderson High School student who captured a first-place prize in metric estimation.

Gearhart was also one of six members of the team who won a \$500 scholarship.

"It was amazing," said Gwen Staub-Leifeld, an eighth-grader at Peirce who won first-place in the "write it/do it" competition. "I could not believe it."

Staub-Leifeld said the taste of independence for a few days was an added bonus.

"It was neat being on your own, with your team members," she said. "And the food was nice."

Franklin Tibbs, Peirce principal, said his school's success is attributable to a combined effort.

"I think it's a lot of hard work on the part of students and teachers," he said. "The teachers do a lot of work ... they get the rest of the staff involved. It's an effort by a lot of people."

Tibbs said the community rallied behind the team and at last count had contributed at least \$11,000 — most of the money needed for the trip.

All the parents said Peirce's success can be traced back to two people — Knighton and Wojcik, both teachers at Peirce.

"I really believe that the spirit of the Science Olympiad is based on the advisors," said Cal Ging, father of Justin Ging, a ninth-grader at Henderson who made the trip.

"The enthusiasm is born with the supervisors," he said. "They spend all their time with them (kids) and they'd do anything for them. It's their constant enthusiasm that permeates the entire team. It seems they always have time for the kids."

Peirce third in Science Olympiad

BY MARGIE FERGUSON

The Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad team placed third in the nation at finals in Kansas City, Mo., last month, after winning the Pennsylvania state championship in April. Six Peirce students took first place honors and received \$500 scholarships.

Finishing first nationally were Thatcher Gearhart in metric estimation, Peter Lu in rocks and fossils, Justin Olexy and Ruth Yang in water quality, and Gwen Staub-Leifeld and Josh Rea in "write it do it."

Ken Lidle and Willie Scott placed

sixth nationally in astronomy; Justin Ging and Thatcher Gearhart were third in measurement; the team of Gearhart, Ging, Mark Wiening and Peter Lu were fourth in the Science Bowl; and Eric Hebble was fourth in 'weather or not.'

Lidle, Ging, Gearhart, Wiening and Hebble are now at Henderson. The competition includes ninth graders.

Forty-eight schools entered the competition, won by Grandville, Mich., with 118 points, followed by Jenison, Mich., with 98 points and Peirce Middle School with 92. Remaining scores dropped sharply below them, with only one school in

the 80's.

"We were awfully close to second," said Coach Charlotte Knighton.

Dozens of generous donations made the \$12,000 trip possible. Roy F. Weston topped the list with \$2,000. Donors giving \$500 were Krapf Bus Co., Penny Burgess, Kelly's, Avon Grove Lions Club, American Legion Post 134, Betz Laboratories and the Peirce Student Council.



Margie Ferguson

PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL Science Olympiad Team members are (front, l-r) Kristin Carroll, Ruth Yang, Gwen Staub-Leifeld, Jason Bugg, Michael Iachini, Matt Keller, Casey Frantz; (second row) Josh Griffith, Andrew Lonsbary, Justin Olexy, Josh Rea, Billy Carroll, Mary Thorne, Carly Silvesti; and (back row) Coach Charlotte Knighton, Justin Ging, Stephen Whittam, Jeffrey Becker, Jeff Cain, Eric Hebble, Willie Scott, Mark Wiening, Ken Lydle, Joshua Culp and Coach Paul Wojcik.

EDUCATION

Team is quite happy to be No. 3 *places high in national Science Olympiad*

By Denise Breslin Kachin
Special to The Inquirer

The donations came from all sectors of the community — from \$10 collected by fourth graders at Exton Elementary School to a \$2,000 check from Roy F. Weston Inc.

All in all, the Peirce Middle School's Science Olympiad Team raised more than the \$12,000 needed to get the team to Kansas City, Mo., to compete last month in the seventh annual national Science Olympiad.

And for the second year in a row, the team came back with a bronze medal.

"We ended up being third in the country," said Paul Wojcik, a Peirce math teacher and a science team coach. Science teacher Charlotte Knighton is the other coach for the team, which was the state champion this year.

"Two Michigan teams beat us," Wojcik explained. "We scored 92 points and the second-place team scored 98, so we came pretty close." (The first-place team scored 118.)

Wojcik said the 29-member team

was very excited about the bronze medal and the medals that students won for the 23 individual events.

"They were all very excited," Wojcik said. "The days of competition were very stressful. Not every project went the way we had planned, but there were no real disappointments."

The coach said that this was a tough time for students competing in a national event. The Science Olympiad is open to junior high school students.

"The kids can take even a minor setback very hard. We did a lot of walking and talking in between events," Wojcik said. "The parents on the trip were very encouraging and helped the kids keep a positive attitude."

One of those parents was Lynn Frantz, whose son, Casey, a seventh grader, is a member of the team.

"We were really proud of our kids," Frantz said. "They worked as a team and their teamwork came through and paid off."

Frantz said the team members

didn't know how well they had done until the awards ceremony at the end of the competition, which was held at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City.

"The parents had planned a celebration dinner no matter what the final results," she added.

Members of the team who won first-place individual medals received \$500 in scholarship money from American Honda.

The "Write It, Do It" team of Gwen Staub-Leifeld and Josh Rea won first place. This competition challenged one member of the team — Gwen — to design an elaborate Tinker Toy construction and then describe precisely in writing how to do it. Then the other team member — Josh — had to exactly reconstruct the design using only the written directions as a guide. The eighth-grade students also came in first in this event at the state competition.

Peter Lu, a seventh grader, took the first prize in rock and fossil identification. Lu also took the first place in this category at the state champi-

onship.

First-place prizes also were won by Thatcher Gearhart for metric estimation, and the team of Justin Olexy and Ruth Yang for water-quality testing.

Wojcik said that last year 3,000 schools from across the country competed to reach the finals, while this year the number rose to 3,500.

Forty-eight schools from 32 states made it to the finals this year.

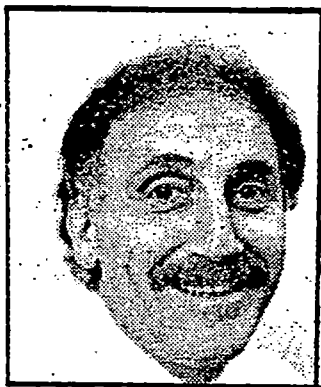
William Scott, father of team member Willie Scott, 14, said the community took a lot of interest in the team.

"We had contributions to help fund the trip from area teachers. One of the fourth grades at Exton Elementary took up a collection in the class and sent \$10. Many corporations, like Weston, came through, too, for us."

The students received recognition for their achievements at a recent West Chester school board meeting.

Will Peirce, in West Goshen, send a team to the 1992 Science Olympiad?

Said Wojcik: "Of course, we'll be there."



JIM GIULIANO

**Feedback
from readers
is welcomed**

Several people called or wrote to mention the column about the state champion Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team that was trying to raise money to compete in the national championships in Kansas City, Mo.

The team needed about \$12,000 to get to Kansas City and was relying on contributions from the community to make its goal.

I was, to put it mildly, skeptical that they would make it.

Well, as several people told me, the money came pouring in. "The response was tremendous," Peirce science teacher Charlotte Knighton noted.

Thousands of dollars. From such disparate sources as the Avon Grove Lions' Club (which isn't even in Peirce's West Chester School District), Kelly's Sports and other local businesses, a woman in Chadds Ford who offered to pay the expenses of one student.

It's frustrating. Every time I think humanity is going down the tubes, somebody goes and proves me wrong.

THE PEIRCE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM **and** **THE PEIRCE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD BOOSTERS**

would like to thank the following for their generosity in donating time and money to help the team get to Kansas City this year for the National Competition.

3-d Body Works
American Legion-Schlegel Post 134
Ansel Edmont Industries
Richard & Barbara Arrison
Arthur Green & Company
Edward & Lena Atwell
Gail Austin
Avon Grove Lions Club
Senator Earl Baker
Banacom Instant Signs
Banbury Pharmacy
Richard & Alice Barbacane
Charlie & Tina Becker
Joyce Bernhardt
Betz Laboratories
Bewley Irish Imports
Brandywine Coach Works
Brandywine Savings/Exton Branch
Phillip & Dorothy Buckingham
Joan & Wayne Bugg
Paul & Barbara Bugg
Penny Burgess
Dr. Glen Burkland
Richard & Charlotte Cain
Tom & Nina Carroll
John & Rosie Carroll
Chester County Orthopedic & Sports PT
Dave & Judy Culp
Robert Cutler, MD
Daily Local News
Emma Darlington
Mary Davis
Downingtown Market Place
East Bradford PTO
Exchange Club of West Chester
Exton Elementary, Grade 4, Rm. 8
Exyon PTO
Dr. Faber
Faulkner Pontiac
Mary Ann Fell
Hilda Fell
Fern Hill PTO
Fern Hill Staff
Jim & Debi Fischer
Foodways
Bob & Lynn Frantz
Robin Garrett
Jimmy & Sue Gearhart
Harry & Lorraine Gilbert
Cal & Linda Ging
Ruth Gotwals
Dr. Sy Greenberg
Brian & Ginny Griffith

Grove United Methodist Church
Harry F. Taylor Realtors
Robert & Dalea Hazelwood
Ruth Ann Hebble
Henderson Student Senate
Tom & Caroline Hillhouse
Betty Hopkins
Harry & Helen Hutchinson
Carolyn Huyett
Cathy Huzzard
John & Mary Jo Iachini
International Hydrogeologists
J & B Amoco
Douglas & Rosalynn Janssen
Joel's
Benjamin & Wendy Johnson
Joe & Bonnie Keller
Kelly's
Lillian Kent
Harold Kerstetter
Ed Kirkbride
Bud Knighton
Jeff Knighton
John Kosic
Bill & Fay Kovalesky
Krapf Coaches
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Leep/Probe Pac
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Pat Limberger
Lions Club of West Goshen
Wendy Lonsbary
Dave & Paula Lorenz
Calvin & Florence Lu
Richard & Elaine Lunardi
Mr. Lutz
Dorothy Maher
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Nannette Marrone
Diane Masar
Joy McClure
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Amir & Nawal Metry
Alan & Rita Milberg
Thomas & Janice Murphy
National Liberty Corporation
John & Linda O'Connell
Pat O'Neil
Jon & Tina Olexy
Aimee Olexy
P & G Custom Photo
Pa. Society of Professional Engineers

Kent Patterson
Peirce Faculty Fund
Peirce Office Staff
Peirce PTO
Peirce Student Council
Penn Mutual Insurance Company
Pennwood PTO
Leonard & Gail Perrone
William & Sue Phifer
Lyle & Patricia Phifer
Pichet's Sunoco
Michael Rea
Neil Reif
Lewis & Helen Reynolds
Dr. Romig
Roy F. Weston
Richard Ruf
Catherine Ruoss
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Donald & Joann Schubert
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Ena Shawhan
Debra Shenk
S. H. Siddiqui
Carlo & Elena Silvestri
Robert & Mary Starbuck
Jack & Sarah Staub
Sterling Drugs
Dr. John Stolar
Anne Stolar
Elva Stumbaugh
Anne Sullivan
William & Ruth Tait
Isaac & Grace Tam
Taylor's Music Store
Jerry & Camille Thorne
Town Motors
Ross Unruh
Joseph & Lillian Van Hart
Jim Wakefield
Eric & Betsy Weining
West Chester A.A.U.W.
West Chester Pediatrics
Eric Weyman
George & Mary Whittam
Charles & Charlotte Williams
Wolfrom Financial Service
Paul Woodruff
Chia & Jing-Yea Yang
Jane Zimmerman
Carol Zurlo

Proclamation honors school science team

By MICHAEL P. RELLAHAN
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — Members of the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team might have a date with President George Bush.

But for now, they were happy to receive praise from the Chester County Commissioners, who Tuesday issued a proclamation in the team's honor.

About a dozen of the team's 28 members attended the commissioners' meeting, and heard one of their leaders — Peirce teacher Charlotte Knighton — praise them for their courage.

"It's not easy to go out on a line and say, 'We are going to be victorious,'" Knighton said.

The team was honored by the commissioners for its Bronze medal showing at the seventh annual National Science Olympiad on May 18 in St. Louis, Mo.

The team had already been named the top science team in the state competitions, held earlier.

It was also announced that U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., is attempting to arrange a meeting of the team with President Bush.

"An audience with President Bush would not only serve as an inspiration to others, but would also signify President Bush's personal goal of being the 'Education President,'" Specter wrote in a letter to James Dwyer, deputy assistant to the president.

The White House has not yet responded to the request.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

May 31, 1991

Mr. Jim Dyer
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Dyer:

I am writing at the request of Mr. William J. Scott Jr., a friend and constituent, who would like to obtain a Presidential audience for the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team.

The team, consisting of approximately 26 junior high school students of the West Chester (PA) Area School District, won the Bronze Medal at the 7th Annual National Science Olympiad which was held on May 18th in St. Louis, Missouri. The team placed third in the Olympiad which was preceded by state and local tournaments in which over 3,500 teams competed. The Peirce Middle School won the Pennsylvania State Championship at the state competition held earlier this year in April.

This is a great accomplishment which both the community and I are proud of. At a time when education is so important, these students have shown what can be achieved through hard work, and, an audience with President Bush would not only serve as an inspiration to others, but would also signify President Bush's personal goal of being the "Education President."

These students can be reached at the following address.

Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team
c/o Franklin S. Tibbs, Principal
Peirce Middle School
1314 Burke Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Thank you for your personal attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/cpt

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

**TO: THE PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM,
WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

As Governor, I am pleased to congratulate you on your first place victory at the state competition and your third place victory at the National Science Olympiad in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Peirce Middle School has a history of creating winners at this competition. For the second year in a row, you not only secured the state championship, but also a third place victory at the national level. This feat is testament to the dedication and commitment you have for education in science. The Peirce Middle School shines as it stands apart from the 3,500 school teams that started competing in 1991.

Each of you, as team members, was called upon to use creative and analytical thinking skills. These skills are essential for success in a complex and changing world. To meet the demands of a growing population, global market and diminishing resources, this nation will require the expertise of future leaders like yourselves.

You are also leaders in a realm outside science. You persevered in raising the money needed to take you to the national championships -- and showed your supporters that their donations were well-deserved.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I salute the students, coaches and supporters of the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team for your hard work and determination.

Mrs. Casey and I send best wishes for continued success.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert P. Casey".

Robert P. Casey
Governor
June 5, 1991



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 102^d CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 137

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1991

No. 87

House of Representatives

TRIBUTE TO PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. RICHARD T. SCHULZE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 1991

Mr. SCHULZE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to command the members of this year's Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team from West Chester, PA. These students, along with the help of teachers and parents dedicated to excellence in education, have reached a goal the entire country should be proud of. For the second year in a row, the Peirce Olympiad Team has won both the Pennsylvania State Championship and the bronze medal in the overall national competition. Out of 3,500 schools across the country, Peirce Middle School has once again proven its academic strength.

The Science Olympiad is an international, non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. This annual competition is based on an olympic model and allows pairs of students from various schools

to compete in many science-related categories such as astronomy, anatomy, weather, geography, and computers, to name just a few.

The members of this year's team are Jeff Becker, Jason Bugg, Jeff Cain, Billy Carroll, Kristin Carroll, Josh Culp, Casey Frantz, Thatcher Gearhart, Justin Ging, Josh Griffith, Eric Hebble, Michael Iachini, Matt Keller, Cathy Kovalsky, Ken Lidle, Andrew Lonsberry, Luke Lorenz, Peter Lu, Justin Olexy, Josh Rea, Willie Scott, Azim Siddiqui, Carly Silvesti, Gwen Staub-Leifeld, David Tam, Mary Thorne, Steve Whittam, Mark Wiening, and Ruth Yang. The coaches of this team, Charlotte Knighten and Paul Wojcik, are also to be commended for all their hard work.

I offer my congratulations to the team for a job well done. Excellence in education is thriving in West Chester, PA, and for the second year in a row, it is my pleasure to recognize such an extraordinary accomplishment.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 1991

Mr. Nicholas E. Calio
Deputy Assistant to
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. ~~Calio~~ ^{Nick}:

Enclosed please find my extension of remarks as printed in the June 7, 1991 Congressional Record which congratulates the Peirce Science Olympiad Team from West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Peirce Olympiad Team recently won both the Pennsylvania State Championship and the bronze medal in the overall national Science Olympiad competition out of 3,500 schools across the nation.

In light of this Administration's emphasis on excellence in education, the Peirce Olympiad Team respectfully requests to meet President Bush for his acknowledgement of their achievement. They would also like to include the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medal winners in both the Junior High School and High School divisions which includes students from the states of Michigan, California, South Carolina, and New York.

Please give this request every consideration.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,


DICK SCHULZE
Member of Congress

RTS/cm

cc: Mr. William J. Scott, Jr.
Peirce Science Olympiad Team Boosters
Enclosure

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

☐ 2267 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5761

☐ 10 SOUTH LEOPARD ROAD
SUITE 204
PAOLI, PA 19301
800-362-5652 (TOLL FREE)
215-648-0555

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

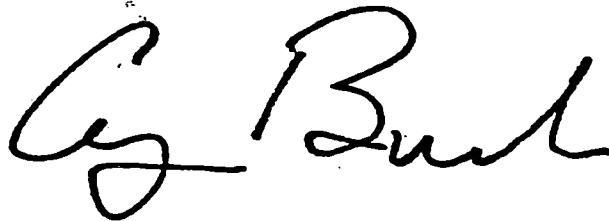
June 19, 1991

Dear Students:

I was happy to learn from Congressman Schulze that you won the Bronze Medal at the 7th Annual National Science Olympiad. You can be very proud of your accomplishment. Earning this recognition is a tribute to your talents and dedication. Congratulations.

Mrs. Bush and I wish you continued success and happiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. H. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Students of the Science Olympiad Team
Peirce Middle School
1314 Burke Road
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

LAW OFFICES

LENTZ, CANTOR, KILGORE & MASSEY, LTD.

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THIRTY DARBY ROAD
P.O. BOX 987
PAOLI, PENNSYLVANIA 19301
215-647-3310
TELECOPIER: 215-647-3318

WEST CHESTER
215-692-3900

September 18, 1991

Honorable Lamar Alexander
Office of the Secretary
Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202

Re: National Science Olympiad 1991 Medal Winning Teams

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recently, many people in this community became uncommonly proud of and enthused by one of our school teams. For the second year in a row, the Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team of the West Chester Area School District won the State Championship and went on to win the National Bronze Medal. I believe you are familiar with National Science Olympiad which is now well established nationally and headquartered in Rochester, Michigan.

Last Spring and into the Summer, a number of us put a great deal of time and effort into obtaining Presidential recognition for the national medal winning teams. Our hope was that these teams from across the nation would be invited to the White House for the President's congratulations and to hear his thoughts about improving education in America. My understanding is that the Science Olympiad program serves as an example of what the Administration is attempting to do through the America 2000 initiative. The Science Olympiad program emphasizes science, group competition, innovation in learning, and community involvement. (Our Team, in particular, raised a good deal of money in a very few weeks as a result of the genuine excitement that the community felt about our Team's efforts).

A full court press was made through Senators and Congressman around the Country to urge that White House recognition be given to the medal winning teams. But that approach has not worked as yet. (I cannot deny that I was hoping that a political factor might help our teams to get to see the President. The Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Teams in the high school and junior high school divisions are all from major market areas in the states of California, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.)

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PAOLI, PENNSYLVANIA 19301
215-647-3310
TELECOPIER: 215-647-3318

WEST CHESTER
215-692-3900

October 3, 1991

Office of the Secretary
Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202

Re: National Science Olympiad 1991 Medal Winning Teams

Gentlepeople:

By letter of September 18, 1991, I wrote to Secretary Alexander urging him to encourage President Bush to receive the six National Science Olympiad 1991 medal winning teams at the White House. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your information.

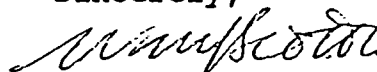
I neglected to include with the extensive packet of materials that I sent with the letter a copy of the May 23, 1991, letter from the leadership of the National Science Olympiad to President Bush. I am enclosing a copy herewith because I believe it will be informative and helpful.

Additionally, I am enclosing a copy of a letter from President Bush to our Team which was sent in June of this year. It came to my attention after I wrote to the Secretary due to the fact that the President's letter was only made known to the students and parents last month when school opened following the summer recess. I think the President's letter should also be with the materials I sent.

I was pleased to see that the President visited a model class of students in Washington, DC, this week. I am hopeful that those in the Administration who are arranging for such Presidential meetings will be asked by the Secretary to seriously look into the possibility of the six Science Olympiad Medal winning teams visiting Washington to meet with the President.

I would appreciate it if someone from the Department would be good enough to call me with respect to the foregoing. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,



William J. Scott, Jr.

WJS/jmh
enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1991

Mr. William J. Scott, Jr.
Lentz, Cantor, Kilgore & Massey, Ltd.
P.O. Box 987
Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

Dear Mr. Scott:

Many thanks for your letter of October 3. I regret that we did not receive your letter of September 18, about the National Science Olympiad -- I am glad you enclosed a copy.

I can understand why you would like the President to meet with the 1991 National Science Olympiad Medal Winning Teams and I have passed your invitation on to his office, with a note. Although I do not know what his schedule will permit him to do, I'm sure your request will be given every consideration.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lamar Alexander

Lamar Alexander

LA/re

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THIRTY DARBY ROAD
P.O. BOX 987
PAOLI, PENNSYLVANIA 19301
215-647-3310
TELECOPIER: 215-647-3318

WEST CHESTER
215-692-3900

November 19, 1991

The White House
Public Liaison Office, Room 197
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Attention: Ms. Lisa Battaglia

Re: National Science Olympiad 1991 Medal Winning Teams

Dear Ms. Battaglia:

Thanks very much for the call you made to me today in response to Secretary Alexander's kind note.

Enclosed please find a packet of clips on the Peirce Team. I hope they will show you the sort of interest that our team has engendered in our area which includes the Philadelphia market. They have been featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer. We also have a video of the Team which was featured on one of the Philadelphia T.V. stations. If you need that very short video tape, please let me know.

Also enclosed are materials explaining the National Science Olympiad and some other correspondence which I hope will give you some idea of what I am suggesting. The three medal winning teams in the Junior High School Division and the three medal winning teams in the High School Division are from California, Pennsylvania, Michigan (two), New York and South Carolina. All are from major market areas.

In that all of these teams are the 1991, medal winners, any recognition of them by the White House in the near future would be timely.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or if there is any way that I can be of help to you with respect to what I have suggested by my previous correspondence. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

William J. Scott, Jr.
William J. Scott, Jr.

WJS/jmh
enclosure

11:45 am - Rose Garden - Brief Remarks



Science Olympiad

5955 Little Pine Lane, Rochester, MI 48064
(313) 651-4013

May 23, 1991

Executive Board

Dr. Gerard J. Putz
Olympiad Co-Director
Michigan

Jack Cairns
Olympiad Co-Director
Delaware

Sharon M. Putz
Executive Secretary
Michigan

Sue Zamzow
1990 Nat. Site Coord.
Pennsylvania

Charles Gosselin
1991 Nat. Site Coord.
Kansas City, MO

Richard Smith
Science Supervisor
Pennsylvania

Ray Thiess
Tournament Director
Oregon

Advisory Committee

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Past President, NSSA
Minnesota

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Student Program Com.
Nebraska

Dan Michaels
Ball Aerospace
Colorado

Alice J. Moses
Associate Program Dir.,
NSF
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Harold Stonehouse
Past Director
Michigan

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20501

Dear President Bush:

The Science Olympiad Board would like to thank you for sending greetings to the participants of the 7th Annual National Science Olympiad held in Kansas City on May 17/18, 1991. Your words were greeted with enthusiasm and applause. Two thousand students and teachers from ninety-six teams representing 38 states filled the convention auditorium at the Opening Ceremonies in Bartle Hall. They are visible evidence that your project American: 2000 is working.

After a full day of competition in all the areas of science and some math, an Awards Ceremony was held in the Midland Theatre to recognize the excellence these students and teachers demonstrated. Over 600 individual and team medals were awarded to junior and senior high school students that are the future scientists, business and industry leaders and educators of generations to come. The overall winners in each division were:

Junior High

First Place:
Grandville JH -Coach, B. Gibson ✓
Grandville, MI

Second Place:
Jenison JH - Coach, A. Dobrzynski ✓
Jenison, MI

Third Place:
Peirce Middle School - ✓
Coach-C. Knighton
West Chester, PA

Senior High:

First Place:
La Jolla HS-Coach Mr. Baron ✓
La Jolla, CA

Second Place:
Irmo HS - Coach, G. George ✓
Columbia, SC

Third Place:
Cicero-N. Syracuse HS ✓
Coach-B. Crossman
Cicero, NY

These students represent a good cross section of the school student population as each team must have problem solvers, test takers, device builders and many other skills to get their team to the finals much less win the competition. The students represent the over 6,000 secondary schools that are in the secondary portion of the Science Olympiad. The K-12 program taken as a whole covers 10,000 schools and have over a million and a half students striving for what American: 2000 has as its goals - Excellence in Science and Math for All Students. These are your 1,000 points of light Mr. President! Their teachers are volunteers, the communities that support them and their educational systems

are parents, business men and institutions of higher learning, and there are over 3,000 volunteer personnel that run the tournaments and trainings for our program across the country. We on the national level are working to see that this kind of spirit and achievement continue of many years to come to reach your goals.

I have enclosed a copy of the program from the tournament, a commemorative pin, a Science Olympiad hat (great for to use for sporting activities) and copies of the tournament registration forms from the schools that won. I hope you have time to look over the program and see the scope of the activities that these students participate in. They are solid, curriculum relevant challenges that help improve interest in science and math.

These six teams and their coaches are some of the best Ambassadors for your educational programs that I can think of. What a marvelous thing if you could recognize them in some way. I know you are besieged with this type of suggestion but these students are what will make the difference in where the nation will be in the years to come. This is front page news, a rose garden photo opportunity, a demonstration that we are a nation that is proud to claim and recognize this type of achievement. 

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter. We believe in the need to regain the edge in science and math and to demonstrate that we are a nation to be looked up to for our achievements. We are in the educational and business sector making and facilitating those partnerships that will bring us to that goal. That is what keeps us all going - the goal, the students and the hope that we are making a difference.

Our thanks, best wishes and prayers for your continued success and health.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Putz
Executive Secretary

Enclosures



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD BACKGROUND



**If You Answer Yes to Two or More of
These Questions, Plan Now to Participate in
This Year's Science Olympiad**

DO YOU TEACH OR WORK WITH STUDENTS IN ONE OF THE GRADES K-12?

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT DECLINING ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE CLASSES?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE STUDENT INTEREST IN SCIENCE INCREASE?

**DO YOU WISH WE COULD CAPTURE THE KIND OF INTEREST, ENTHUSIASM, AND
COMMITMENT FOR SCIENCE THAT WE SEE EXHIBITED FOR SPORTS?**

**ARE YOU READY TO LEARN HOW TO INCREASE STUDENT SCORES AND INTEREST IN
SCIENCE AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY PERCEPTION OF SCIENCE EDUCATION?**

If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, then we invite you to become part of the renaissance in science education by starting a Science Olympiad in your school, district or state. We would like to share the excitement and successes that have been experienced at Science Olympiad Tournaments all across the country. Plan now to join the over 10,000 teachers and schools that participated in last year's Science Olympiad Tournaments.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD?

The Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. These goals are accomplished through classroom activities, research, training workshops and the encouragement of intramural, district, regional, state and national tournaments. The Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of thirty-two individual and team events which students prepare for during the year. The competitions follow the format of popular board games, TV shows and athletic games. These challenging and motivational events are well balanced between the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers and technology. There is also a balance between events requiring knowledge of science facts, concepts, processes, skills and applications. In addition, during the day there are open house activities which consist of science and mathematics demonstrations, activities and career counseling sessions conducted by professors and scientists at the host institution occurring concurrently with the events.

Many states and regions have organized physics, biology or chemistry olympiads, but few have combined all disciplines in one large Olympiad. The excitement of many students from all science areas competing and cheering one another on to greater learning caused one school district to coin the phrase "intellete". When they searched for a place to house their newly won Olympiad State Championship trophy, the only location available was outside the principal's office in the "athlete" showcase, so they convinced the school board to build an "intellete" showcase. An intellete is any person who demonstrates outstanding performance in an academic or intellectual pursuit (in this case, science). One of the goals of the Science Olympiad is to elevate science education and learning to a level of enthusiasm and support that is normally reserved only for varsity sports programs.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD SUCCESSES

The Science Olympiad is modeled after successful olympiad tournaments held in Delaware and Michigan which were introduced by Jack Cairns, Science Supervisor, Delaware Department of Public Instruction, and Dr. Gerard J. Putz, Regional Science Consultant, Macomb Intermediate School District in Michigan. In these states, the following observations have been made:

If success can be measured by the number of students attending the competition, then the Olympiads are successful. Attendance has increased each year in both states. In Michigan, attendance increased from 600 students participating the first year to over 6,000 after three years. In Delaware, 95% of the public secondary schools participate. After students attend the Olympiad for the first time, they usually return each year until they graduate from high school.

If success can be measured by increasing science enrollments at home schools at a time of falling enrollments, then the Olympiads are successful. Many schools report increased student interest in science and increased enrollment in science classes. Some schools have reported a doubling of science class enrollments and a need to hire more science teachers.

If success can be measured by the number of science teachers across the nation that support the effort, then the Science Olympiad is successful. Last year, over 10,000 teams from all 50 states participated in the Science Olympiad programs. This year over 40 states and over 100 regions will host secondary tournaments.

Although some events require an individual from one team to compete against other individuals from other teams, most events require teamwork, group planning and cooperation. The emphasis is on learning, participation, interaction, having fun and developing team spirit. Coaches and students are reminded of the words of Bill Koch (Olympic Cross Country Ski medal winner), who said, "Winning isn't everything. The striving for excellence is - - it's the trying and the caring that is important -- winning is a bonus."

COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

The Science Olympiad Steering Committee concurs with research done by Drs. David and Roger Johnson, Dr. Madeline Hunter, Dr. Benjamin Bloom and Dr. Harry Wong that cooperation and teamwork, practicing toward an objective, improving skills through competition and making learning exciting through motivational activities are essential ingredients in attaining academic excellence. Dr. Bloom, in an article titled, "Talent Development vs. Schooling," described the process by which individuals reached extremely high levels of accomplishment. One of his conclusions was that competitions played a major role in the success of each talent area participant. "In each talent field there are frequent events (recitals, contests, concerts) in which the child's special capabilities are displayed publicly, and there are significant rewards and approval for meritorious accomplishments." He said children are spurred to greater learning efforts in anticipation of the public event and that such public events are a means of making the child's progress and development real and important. He concluded that they also bring participants into direct contact with one another and provide opportunities to exchange experiences and to observe and get to know outstanding peer and adult models of the talent.

Other research conducted by Calvin W. Taylor of the University of Utah has concluded that "extra-curricular training experiences and accomplishments do show noticeable predictive power of later adult performance, achievement, and accomplishments". The value and implication of being involved in such extra-curricular activities as the Science Olympiad is apparent for developing productive high performing adults.

With regard to predicting college success other than SAT scores and school grades, Educational Testing Service observed that "productive follow-through" defined as "persistent and successful extra-curricular accomplishment" indeed was the strongest predictor of leadership and significant independent accomplishment and clearly useful in predicting most overall college success.

Maybe it's you. Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from you or from this program -- a spark that will change his life, and his world's. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power.

Congratulations on your achievements -- on bringing to academic competition the pride and enthusiasm always known to sports contests -- and on making learning exciting. Good luck in everything you do; and when one of you kids wins the Nobel Prize one day, ~~come back and see me again.~~ May God Bless you all.

#

I hope ...

*I know Bill put up the
paper one day*

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49 E. LANCASTER AVENUE
FRAZER, PENNSYLVANIA 19355

215-647-3310

TELECOPIER: 215-647-3315

MEMORANDUM

To: John C. Cairns
Co-Director \ Founder
National Science Olympiad

From: William J. Scott, Jr. *WJS*
Peirce Middle School Science Olympiad Team Parent/Booster

Date: March 20, 1992

This memo is to assist you in providing background for the White House with respect to one particular aspect of what makes the Science Olympiad program so successful, that is, the support and involvement of those in the local communities. All of the following pertains to the Peirce Team (Pennsylvania State Champions/1991 National Bronze Medal winners). It is clear that the other Teams visiting the White House would be able to provide equally compelling examples:

1. After our Team won the State Championship in April, it was necessary to raise \$12,000 in approximately 2 1/2 weeks to cover the cost of their transportation to and expenses in Kansas City, Missouri, for the National Finals. The Team was repeatedly told at the outset that the climate for fund raising was the worst in memory and that we could not raise that kind of money in such a short amount of time. The Peirce Team's founder and coach, veteran teacher Charlotte Knighton, and her husband Bud, immediately borrowed \$9,000, using their home as collateral, to purchase the plane tickets for the Kansas City trip. It was necessary to do this before any funds were raised so that plane transportation and reservations would be assured for the Team. The Knightons earn their income from teaching. Fortunately, the \$12,000 was raised from many large and small contributions obtained after many hours spent on fund raising activities such as a flea market, raffle, car washes, and candy sales.

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John C. Cairns

Page 2

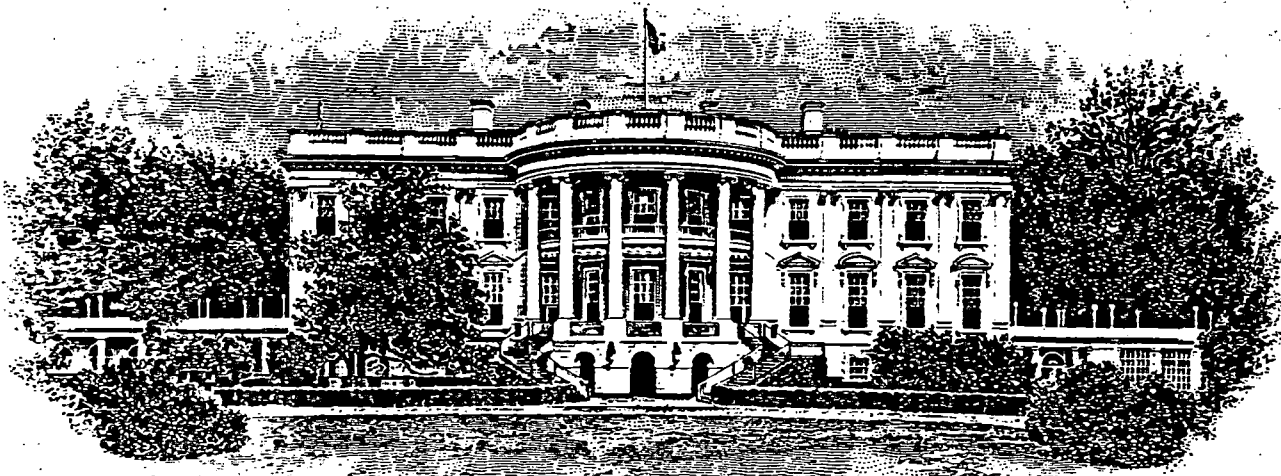
March 20, 1992

2. The most touching example of community support came in the form of a contribution made by a fourth grade class at the Exton, Pennsylvania, Elementary School (West Chester Area School District). In support of their fellow students at the middle school, these fourth graders took up a collection and donated \$10 to the fund drive.

3. Many technical experts from local companies have shared, without charge, their scientific knowledge with the Peirce Team as have local teachers and professors. (See attached clipping concerning the Weston Company.)

I believe the foregoing to be significant because it has always been my understanding that a successful educational system depends on community support and involvement. Please be in touch if you need any further information with respect to the foregoing.

XXX



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 2

DATE

March 23

TO

David Demarest

FAX NUMBER

456-2983

COMMENTS

Gridiron update.

FROM

Michele Wix

* DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS *

OFFICE NUMBER

x 7750

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
March 20, 1992 11 a.m.
SCIENCE Draft One

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
MARCH 27, 1992 11:45 A.M.
ROSE GARDEN**

Thank you, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad my previous meeting didn't run late, or I would have had to bring a note from Barbara. It's great to see you [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] -- most of all, let me welcome the very special young men and women here representing the 10,000 schools and 1 1/2 million students who take part in the Science Olympiad. Congratulations on receiving gold medals in your nation's Olympics of the mind.\\

I'm proud to be with you Olympians -- though I hear that when one of the kids was told the most important man in the world was going to be speaking to you today, he said: "You mean Carl Sagan will be there?" \\

I know a lot of you are not only looking back with pride on last year's victory, but you're looking ahead to May 16 at Auburn -- especially the teams from Grandville and Jenison Junior Highs. You should be up for awards in the juggling event too -- the way you can be in Washington with me today and home in Michigan at your state Olympics competition tomorrow.

I'm tremendously impressed by all of you, students and teachers, and the incredible scope of activities you participate in. You're really like decathletes -- good at so many varied skills -- like problem solving, test taking, and device building. I'd never be able to build a musical instrument out of nonmusical materials -- or identify the Age of Reptiles -- I was told the

correct answer is "Mesozoic" -- I thought the "Age of Reptiles" was short for "The Age of Congressional Elections." \\

I've been told you have to work all year to get where you are -- competing in 32 individual and team events in subjects like biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and computers. I might just be able to compete after all. You know, last year I started to learn how to work the computer. It's taken me a while, but a couple of months ago I wrote my first program. I called it "Michelangelo." I hope it works.

You're more than smart, hard-working teams. You're the best ambassadors this country has: you show who we can be and what we can do if we just put our minds and our great American genius to work. I'm proud to honor you at the White House today because your nation is proud to claim you and recognize your achievement.

You've shown the kind of excellence that will help us meet the ambitious goals we've set for our nation in our America 2000 education strategy. We know we've got to be competitive in math and science in a changing world. Our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges out there. We've called on our kids to be #1 in the world in these subjects by the turn of the century -- and you're visible proof that we can do it.

We've requested over \$2 billion in Federal spending on math and science education in next year's budget: \$768 million of that for pre-college. If my math is correct -- and with this crowd it had better be -- that's an increase of 123% in the last 3 years.

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom, so kids can interact with astronauts, explorers and scientists -- so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources -- and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting-edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

The Federal Government can do a lot -- but we can't do it all. Real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands talented men and women giving their time to become tutors, mentors and classroom assistants. It demands businesses, places of worship, and civic groups forming partnerships to support local schools. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, across this country.

The Science Olympiad program shows us the way. It shows how we can break the mold. It brings together 3,000 volunteers -- teachers, parents and businesspeople -- each one working to strengthen excellence in his or her own community. You're here today representing them all -- you're here because you're not afraid to reach for excellence -- and that's why I salute you.

I salute you -- and I envy you. You've found the sheer joy of learning, of making something work, of understanding the world. We older folks think of the scientist who will one day discover the cure for cancer, or who will use technology to wipe out hunger -- and we realize that today that man or woman is a student in a science class somewhere. Maybe in your classroom.

Maybe it's you. Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from this program -- a spark that will change his life, and his world's. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power.

Congratulations on your achievements -- on bringing to academic competition the pride and enthusiasm usually known in sports contests -- and on making learning exciting. Good luck in everything you do -- and when one of you kids can prove who started the Michelangelo virus, just remember -- my name is Tom Foley. May God Bless you all.

#

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
March 24, 1992 11 a.m.
SCIENCE Draft Two

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
MARCH 27, 1992 11:45 A.M.
ROSE GARDEN**

Thank you, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad my previous meeting didn't run late, or I would have had to bring a note from Barbara. It's great to see you [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] -- most of all, let me welcome the very special young men and women here representing the 10,000 schools and 1 1/2 million students who take part in the Science Olympiad. Congratulations on receiving gold medals in America's Olympics of the mind. \\\

I'm proud to be with you Olympians -- though I hear that when you were told the most important man in the world would speak to you today, one kid said: "You mean Carl Sagan will be there?" \\\ Not. \\\

I know a lot of you are not only looking back with pride on last year's victory, but you're looking ahead to May 16 at Auburn -- especially the teams from Grandville and Jenison Junior Highs. You should be up for awards in the juggling event too -- the way you can be in Washington with me today and home in Michigan at your state Olympics competition tomorrow. \\\

I'm tremendously impressed by all of you, students, teachers and by the incredible scope of activities you participate in. You're really like decathletes, good at so many varied skills -- like problem solving, test taking, and device building. I'd never be able to build a musical instrument out of nonmusical materials -- or identify the Age of Reptiles -- I was told the

correct answer is "Mesozoic" -- I thought the "Age of Reptiles" was another way of saying "The Age of Congress." \\\

You've worked all year to get where you are -- competing in 32 individual and team events in subjects like biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and computers. I might just be able to compete after all. You know, last year I started to learn how to work the computer. It's taken me a while, but a couple of months ago I wrote my first program. I called it "Michelangelo." I hope it works. \\\

You're more than smart, hard-working teams. You're the best ambassadors this country has: you show who we can be and what we can do if we just put our minds and our great American genius to work. I'm proud to honor you at the White House today because your nation is proud to claim you and recognize your achievement.

You've shown the kind of excellence that will help us meet the ambitious goals we've set for our nation in our America 2000 education strategy. We know we've got to be competitive in math and science in a changing world. Our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges out there. We've called on our kids to be #1 in the world in math and science by the turn of the century -- and you're visible proof that we can do it. \\\

We've requested over \$2 billion in Federal spending on math and science education in next year's budget: \$768 million of that for pre-college. If my math is correct -- and with this crowd it had better be -- that's an increase of 123% in the last 3 years.

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom, so kids can interact with astronauts, explorers and scientists -- so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources -- and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting-edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

The Federal Government can do a lot -- but we can't do it all. Real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands talented men and women giving their time to become tutors, mentors and classroom assistants. It demands businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups forming partnerships to support local schools. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

The Science Olympiad program shows us the way. It brings together 3,000 volunteers -- teachers, parents, businesspeople -- each one working to strengthen excellence in his or her own community. Folks like the neighbors of Peirce School, who pitched in to raise \$12,000 in 2 1/2 weeks for their team through car washes, candy sales and contributions. I hear even the 4th graders in the Exton Elementary School raised \$10 -- and when you're trying to get by on an allowance, that's a lot.

You're here today representing volunteers like these across this country -- you're here because you're not afraid to reach for excellence -- and that's why I salute you.

We think of the scientist who will one day discover the cure

for cancer, or who will use technology to wipe out hunger -- and we realize that today that man or woman is a student in a science class somewhere. Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from this program -- a spark that will change his life, and change our world. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power. \\\

Congratulations on your achievements -- on bringing to academic competition the pride and enthusiasm usually known in sports contests -- and on making learning exciting. Good luck in everything you do -- and when one of you kids can prove who started the Michelangelo virus, just remember -- my name is Dana Carvey. \\\

Thank you for coming, and may God Bless you all.

#

rep this
~~Maybe it's you.~~ Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from
this program -- a spark that will change his life, and his *charge* *✓*
on worlds. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power.

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academic competition the pride and enthusiasm usually known in
sports contests -- and on making learning exciting. Good luck in
everything you do -- and when one of you kids can prove who
started the Michelangelo virus, just remember -- my name is Tom
Foley. May God Bless you all.

H. Hany
Chranton

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD MEDAL WINNING TEAMS

Room 459, Old Executive Office Building

12:50 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody please be seated. And welcome, welcome. I'm glad our previous meeting didn't run late, or I'd have had to bring a note from Barbara. (Laughter.) But it is so great to see all of you and to be here with two of our very, very best. Secretary Watkins, Secretary of Energy, also has this compelling and overriding interest in things educational; and also, Lamar Alexander, our Secretary of Education, who is leading from that department for what we call America 2000 that I'll touch on in a minute.

I'd like to greet the two up here also -- Mr. Cairns and Mr. Putz -- our leaders, your leaders -- and thank them for their vision and for all they're doing. Their successful state competition has really inspired the Olympiad program.

And most of all, though, let me welcome all of you, the very special young men and women here representing the 10,000 schools and the 1.5 million students who take part in the Special Olympiad. Congratulations on your victory in America's Olympics of the Mind.

I know a lot of you are not only looking back with pride on last year's victory, but you're looking ahead to May 16th at Auburn -- especially the teams from Grandville and Jenison Junior Highs. And you should be up for awards in the juggling event, too, because the way you can be in Washington with me today and then home in Michigan at your state olympics competition tomorrow is pretty good.

I am tremendously impressed by all of the students, and of course, all the teachers, and by the incredible scope of activities in which you participate. You're really like decathlon athletes, good at so many varied skills, like problem solving and test taking, device building.

I've looked over some of the things you've had to do to win in the Olympiad, and I'd never be able to build a musical instrument out of nonmusical materials, or identify the age of reptiles. Mesozoic, I'm told is the correct one there. For you amateur paleontologists, that's also around the time that dinosaurs started eating broccoli, your history books will tell you. (Laughter and applause.)

I don't want to get off of this subject, but did you notice the other day they said broccoli is good for your health? I've felt it was a medicine all along. (Laughter.) So anyway, you've worked all year to get where you are, competing in 32 individual and team events in subjects like biology and chemistry, physics, earth science and computers.

You know, I might just be able to compete after all. Last year, at the urging -- the insistence of Secretary Alexander, who is a very persistent fellow, I started to learn how to work a computer. And it's taken me a while, but a couple of months ago I

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wrote my first program. I called it "Michelangelo." (Laughter.) And I wonder -- I'm never quite sure what happened to it. (Laughter.)

No, but seriously, you know, Lamar makes the point that nobody is too old to learn. And so he said, you've got to do something. So I know I could learn from everybody in this room about it, but I'm really enjoying it -- sending out memos and trying to master what you all know so much about. You're more than smart and you're more than hard-working teams, I've heard. You're the best ambassadors that this country has. You show who we can be and what we can do if we just put our minds and our great American genius to work. And I am proud to honor you today because your nation is proud to claim you, proud to recognize your achievement.

You've shown the kind of excellence that will help us meet the ambitious goals that we've set for our nation in this America 2000 Education Strategy that I mentioned. We know we've got to be competitive all across the board, but we especially have to be competitive in math and science in this changing world.

Our economic health, our economic survival depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges out there. We've called on our kids to be number one in the world in math and science by the turn of the century. And you are visible proof that we can do it.

I'm sure you've heard the results of the most recent science study of American students. And those scores simply reinforce the fact that science must be made a priority. We're serious about science and math. We've requested over \$2 billion in federal spending on math and science education in next year's budget. If my math is correct -- and with this crowd out here it had better be -- that's an increase of 123 percent in the last three years.

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom so kids can interact with astronauts and explorers and scientists, so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources, and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting-edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

Each one of you has learned for yourselves the true meaning of math and science. Before the numbers and the charts and tables, there is the question and the quest. And we've got to harness that same spirit of innovation, that same sense of discovery to reinvent American education, to turn our backs on the status quo, break the mold and build a new generation of American schools. We've got to create new incentives for excellence, like school choice, by giving parents the power to choose which schools serve their children best -- public, private, religious.

And if we're really serious about excellence in education, we've got to recognize that renaissance begins with revolution. Real excellence demands commitment, not just from government, but from everyone in every community, as we move this nation towards achieving those six national education goals. It demands talented men and women giving their time to become tutors, mentors and classroom assistants -- I call them "Points of Light." It demands businesses, churches and synagogues, civic groups forming partnerships to support local schools, working together towards what we call "America 2000 communities," places where education doesn't just happen in the classroom, places where education means lifelong learning.

Together, we really will reinvent the American school, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across the United States.

The Science Olympiad program shows us the way, lights the way. It brings together 3,000 volunteers -- teachers, parents, businesspeople -- each one working to strengthen excellence in his or

her own community. Folks like the neighbors of Pierce school, who ran car washes, sold candy, collected contributions to raise \$12,000 so their team could go to the nationals. I hear even the fourth graders in the nearby Exton school raised \$10; and when you're trying to get by on an allowance, \$10 is a small fortune.

And you're all here today because of volunteers like these across this country. And you're here because you're not afraid to reach out for excellence. And that's why I was determined to come over here to salute you. We think of the scientist who, one day will discover the cure for cancer, find the formula to guarantee against AIDS, or use technology to wipe out hunger. And we realize that today that man or woman is a student in a science class somewhere.

Maybe it's a kid who will catch a spark from this program -- a spark that will change his life, her life, and in the process literally change the world. The Science Olympiad has that kind of power.

So, congratulations on your achievements, on bringing to academic competition the pride and enthusiasm usually known in sports contests, and on making learning exciting.

So good luck in everything you do, and when one of you kids can prove who started the Michelangelo virus, just remember: My name is Dana Carvey. Now, thank you all for coming. (Laughter and applause.)

END

12:00 P.M. EST

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