

"...but where do new ideas get tried out?"

# The Oracle

Aug 97

A Goddard Toastmasters Club Publication

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1997/98

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## Speech Contests; TM's R&D Lab

by Dan Mandl

The Club Humorous Speech contest will occur on August 23, 1997. So what good are speech contests anyway? All they do is promote competition and isn't Toastmaster's about communication and cooperation? Yes!...TM is about communication and building consensus, but where do new ideas get tried out and get the shake, bake and rattle

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## Two Goddard Toastmasters make it to Division level speech contest

Jeff Bolognese and Regina Cody of our own Goddard Toastmasters Club were successful in winning the speech portion and the evaluation portion respec-

tively at the area contest and were therefore eligible to participate in the Division D Toastmasters International Speech and Evaluation Contests on April 11, 1997 at the



**Jeff Bolognese and Regina Cody smiling after speech/evaluation contest**

WSSC building. They faced stiff competition. Despite an outstanding speech entitled "Peer Pressure" which he continued to improve from the club level to the area level and finally to the division level contest, Jeff was not able to place. When asked his thoughts on the contest he commented

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## How To Be a Better Listener

by Maureen Armbruster

As Toastmasters, we strive to develop our skills of thinking, speaking, and of course listening. I was recently reminded of some tips which can help us become better listeners.

The following tips appeared in an article entitled "How To Be a Better Listener (sometimes you can be the greatest help when you are

sympathetic, attentive ....and silent!)" [March/April 1997 Issue of Positive Living Magazine]. The ideas are meant to be used in your communications with friends,

co-workers, & family members--but some are also applicable to your role as audience member / evaluator during club meetings. The author, Vinita Hampton

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“The other contestants were more preachy and that’s just not me!”

## Speech Contest

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“The other contestants were more preachy and that’s just not me!”

Regina on the otherhand was able to capture the runner up slot at the division. Her skill at dissecting others speeches and providing useful feedback was once again demonstrated.

The picture above shows the contestants that participated in the contest plus the contestmaster. The winner of the speech portion of the contest was Mark Morris with a speech entitled “Get What You Hope For”, a rousing motivational speech whereby he used audience participation and humor to get his message across. Glenda Laurent was the runner-up with a speech entitled “The

Magic of Being Positive”.

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**Pictured above are the contestmaster (left) and the contestants. From left to right, Brenda Fuller, Jim Whitney, Mark Morris, Glenda Laurent, Frank Stark, Esther Chambers and Jeff Bolognese.**

## Listening

*(Continued from page 1)*

Wright, suggests the following:

1) Be aware of body language. Some people are reassured through steady eye contact, while others feel pressured by it. An effective listener learns to read signals. Leaning forward communicates a willingness to listen. Crossing your arms and sitting farther away than you need to, may communicate a judgmental

attitude.

2) Identify with others' emotions. Let the speaker feel what he or she needs to feel, even if those feelings are quite different from your own. Don't react unenthusiastically to joy just because you've had a bad day. Much of the time we react emotionally to how a situation affects us, not how it affects the person we're listening to.

3) Ask questions to clarify.

People often process major life decisions--job offers, moves or other major developments in life-- with friends. This becomes a big responsibility for you, the listener. Asking effective questions can help your friend think more clearly when strong emotions are involved.

Maybe your friend tells you about a great job offer he just received that

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## A Message From the VP of Membership

In looking back and reflecting on my first year as VP of Membership, I am constantly reminded how fortunate Goddard is in having a strong club membership. This membership has allowed all of our meetings to be interesting, well organized and educational. If you miss one of our meetings you miss a lot!

Our strong membership creates an excellent environment to “cross pollinate” the experienced toasters with the new members, which has given everyone a chance to win a ribbon.

The new member packets that I created this past year have been well received by the new members. The packet will be updated this summer with the new

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officers and materials to further inform potential members about Toastmasters.

Our club has lost some new members this year and I do hope they will return. They are truly missing an opportunity to improve their own development.

I've enjoyed my first year as an officer in Toastmasters. It's exciting to know that I played a part in helping people achieve their self-improvement goals.

Regards,  
Pat McHale

## Listen

*(Continued from page 2)*

involves a lot of travel-- something he'd previously decided to avoid. Rather than point this out to him directly, you could ask, "How would this new job help you meet your goals?"

4) Listen more than you speak. Whether we're grieving a loss, facing a big change, or celebrating good news, we want to tell someone about it-- and feel they really understand what we're going through. Yet how many times have you been in the middle of explaining a painful--or joyful--experience, only to have the other person say, "Oh, I know how you feel.." and launch into his own life story? Irritating, isn't it?

Instead, inject short responses or questions ("I understated," "Really?") or repeat part of what he just said. An occasional nod, to let him know you're listening, is helpful. This shows your friend you're trying to understand the implications of what he's saying.

5) Be positive- in a way that's helpful. As a child, the author spent some time in the hospital. There in

the pediatric ward, She overheard a conversation between a woman and a girl. The woman's baby was very ill. In an effort to soothe the mother, the girl said, "It'll be all right." The mother responded, "No--it won't be all right!" The author was 12 at the time, but she never forgot that woman's response. She was telling the truth. Although the girl was trying to be positive and encouraging, the way she went about it wasn't helpful.

Even if you refrain from saying, "I know this will work out", (some things just don't work out), you can still say, "I've known you for a long time, and I really believe you have the strength to make it through this." The first statement puts the pressure on her to get a positive attitude, the second is a vote of confidence in her rather than in the situation.

6) Give the help that is needed, not the help you want to give. What would be helpful to you is not necessarily what would be helpful to your friend. Learn from your friends what really communicates support to them--and then do it.

7) Be slow to judge. We have a natural need to find a

reason for what happens. From the moment someone starts explaining his or her dilemmas, we're calculating, Whose fault is this? Why has this happened?

Sometimes people are in trouble because of their own shortcomings or patterns or behavior. However, now is not the time to point this out. A good listener must possess real humility and admit to not always having the answers--or even understanding the questions.

8) Learn to be comfortable with silence. Several years ago, the author put a pet to sleep. A friend went with her. After the deed was done and hers sobs subsided, she took her to a cafe for a cup of tea. She didn't remember the conversation: in fact, she didn't think they talked much at all. But she remembered what a comfort it was to sit with her.

9) Give your friend time & space to grow. Listening can be most difficult when a friend has slipped into a viewpoint you don't agree with. Perhaps he's very angry or feels betrayed by someone, and his speech shows it. Or he's in such

*(Continued on page 4)*

“Often, our first thought is to try to correct a friend’s “faulty viewpoint” —but this is usually the least effective response.”

What are the President’s duties:

- a. Chair Executive Committee meetings
- b. Attend Area Council meetings
- c. Prepare and send semiannual reports to TI
- c. Send new officers list to TI
- d. Delegate duties
- e. Plan Yearly schedule
- f. Keep members informed. Notify members of meetings; Notify members of upcoming events.

What are the VP of Education’s duties:

- a. Prepare quarterly schedule of club meetings
- b. Plan educational module
- c. Chart members progress (CTM, ATM, DTM)
- d. Assign mentors to new members
- e. Reserve meeting rooms for club
- f. Org speech contest

## Listening

*(Listen, Continued from page 3)*  
 utter despair that he can't think of one positive thing about his life. Often, our first thought is to try to correct a friend's "faulty viewpoint"—but this is usually the least effective response. You're probably telling him things he already knows. It's just that his intense emotions prevent him from

embracing that part of the truth right now.

many ups and downs.  
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The author concludes by saying that our world is full of talk, but it is short on sensitive, wise, gentle listeners. When we learn to listen well, we take friendship to a level that is deeper richer--and we'll be better prepared for life's

## Humor Corner



### I need to step on it...I'm the Toastmaster of the Day!

Senator Paul Sarbanes was speaking at a recent Maryland Business Roundtable at Martins Crosswinds in May. He arrived late and so his speech was

running late. The host got on the stage behind Senator Sarbanes to let him know that he needed to wrap things up. Upon seeing the host he turned to the audience and reflected on a story.

He said this reminds me of a speaker who gave a lunchtime speech. He was running 15 minutes over, but this did not deter him. He continued talking for another 30 minutes. Soon the audience began to leave. But this did not stop him. He spoke for another 45 minutes until there was only one person left in the

audience. So he thought to himself what the heck and spoke another 30 minutes to wrap up his speech.

After his speech he went to the man in the audience and said, “What made you stay to listen to my entire speech? Was it my elocution or my delivery that impressed you?”

“To tell you the truth” . he said, “I’m the next speaker!”

## Speech Contests...TM R&D

*(Continued from page 1)*  
 test to see if they can withstand the test of time? Where are experiments conducted in real life simulations with highly motivated people to push the state-of-the-art of communications...the laboratory of course, which are the speech contests.

This process is not a pure competition, but rather somewhere in the middle of competition and cooperation, “co-opetition”. The proper mix of competition and cooperation as in any recipe allows for maximal results. In life, itself, this is how evolution hap-

pens. Biologists call this process co-evolution.

So I like to think of our contests not as competitions, but as a co-evolutionary process which pushes our TM’s state-of-the-art communications lab.

### Toastmaster Schedule of Assignments for Summer 97

| Name                      | Phone          | Code    | 25-Jun | 9-Jul | 23-Jul | 13-Aug | 27-Aug | 10-Sep |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Arnbruster, Maureen CTM   | 68457          | 733.3   | E      |       | TOD    |        |        |        |
| Baird, Tex CTM            | 649-3983       | Retired | TK     |       | SP     |        | SP     | E      |
| Bleile, Carol CTM         | 60792          | 217     | G      |       |        |        |        |        |
| Blodget, Herb CTM         | 384-7469       | Retired |        | C     | E      | C      |        |        |
| Bolognese, Jeff CTM       | 64252          | 721.1   | GE     | L     | SP     | T      | SP     | TMOD   |
| Brevard, Claudia          |                | Retired | W      | U     | SP     | A      |        | SP     |
| Brown-Conwell, Evette CTM | 60561          |         |        | B     | E      | P      | TT     | SP     |
| Cody, Regina CTM          | 63782          | 691     | E      |       | E      |        |        | TT     |
| Croft, John               | 63239          | 712.4   |        | P     |        | G      |        | TK     |
| Davis, Jennifer           | 67388          | 902.2   |        | I     |        | U      | TT     |        |
| Findlay, Oswin CTM        | 61285          | 440.7   |        | C     | W      | E      |        | G      |
| Gallardo, Herman          | 64372          | 750.5   |        | N     | SP     | S      |        | BC     |
| Gervin, Janette           | 64911          | 421     |        | I     |        | T      | G      | GE     |
| Goodwyn, LaShonda         | 65393          | 114     |        | C     | BC     |        |        | SP     |
| Greco, Pat CTM            | 66118          | 114     |        |       |        | S      |        |        |
| Griffin, George CTM       | 424-5074       | Retired |        | &     |        | P      |        |        |
| Grigsby, Bob CTM          | 262-5230       | Retired |        |       |        | E      |        |        |
| Harrison, Andrea          | 64919          | 114     |        | A     |        | A      |        |        |
| Hayden, Bill              | 68963          | 721     |        | W     |        | K      |        |        |
| Hong, Ye                  | 61495          | 912     |        | A     |        | E      |        |        |
| Houchens, Connie          | 62305          | 512     |        | R     |        | R      |        |        |
| Illescas, Eva             | 62777          | 512     |        | D     |        |        | TT     | SP     |
| Ku, Jentung               | 63130          | 724.2   | BC     | S     |        | M      |        |        |
| Liu, Jane CTM             | 62468          | 480     |        |       | TMOD   | S      |        |        |
| Maltagliati, Kelly        | 63360          | 190     |        | C     |        |        |        | SP     |
| Mandl, Dan                | 64323          | 511     |        | E     |        | S      | SP     |        |
| Marshall, Veronica        | 67884          | 511     |        | R     |        | T      |        |        |
| McCeney, Paul ATM         | 69299          | 501     | SP     | E     |        | A      | CJ     | E      |
| McHale, Pat               | 410-362-7677   | HP      |        | M     | E      | N      | TOD    | E      |
| McLean, Jim CTM           | 68134/2474     | 925     |        | O     | WOD    | T      |        | E      |
| Moore, Don                | 69195          | 932     | TOD    | N     |        | O      |        |        |
| Ng, Carolyn CTM           | 61359          | 633     | SP     | Y     |        | N      |        |        |
| O'Bryan, Martha CTM       | 63804          | 691     | E      |       | E      |        | MC     | SP     |
| Parrish, Micahel CTM      | 65757          | 114     | TMOD   |       |        |        |        | SP     |
| Pavlinic, Margaret        | 614-5324       | 421     | SP     |       | E      |        |        | BC     |
| Pham, Karen CTM           | 67525          | 733.1   | SP     |       |        |        |        |        |
| Ryan, Jeane CTM           | 62958          | 440.8   | E      |       | SP     |        |        | G      |
| Scherer, Chris CTM        | 68677          | 531     | TT     |       | TT     |        | TK     |        |
| Sherman, Barry DTM        | 66649          | 424     |        |       |        |        |        |        |
| Thomas, Louis CTM         | 731-8998/x0169 | 300     |        |       |        |        |        | SP     |
| Unger, Glenn              | 65979          | 702     | E      |       |        |        |        |        |
| Upshur, Angie             | 67368          | 407     | SP     |       | GE     |        | BC     |        |

TMOD=Toastmaster of the Day

TOD=Thought of the Day

SP=Speaker

W=Whisker

E=Evaluator

BC=Ballot Counter

WOD=Word of the Day

TK=Time Keeper

GE-General Evaluator

TT=Table Topics

G=Grammarian

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