Toastmasters is much more than just speaking. Yes, we learn to be better communicators through speaking, but what are the other things we get? In this article I want to touch on the subject of group dynamics. It has been proven through everyday experiences as well as through research finding that people in organizations spend a large amount of time in interpersonal interaction. Many of these exchanges take place in groups. Homer wrote that “When many are got together, you can be guided by him whose counsel is wisest. If a man is alone he is less full of resource and his wit is weaker.”

Look at our club dynamics. Where else can you tell someone they didn’t do too good of a job and they thank you ...

(Continued on page 4)
Why Toastmasters?

(Continued from page 1)

they thank you for that information. That has a lot to do with personal characteristics. People often join organization because of the need to affiliate with others, people who we believe have personal characteristics similar to our own. Remember when you came to your first Toastmasters meeting? Can you truly say that you never looked at the dynamics of that club, and that it played no part in your decision to join. Our club is a dynamic club. It stands for all the right things in Toastmasters. I learned that about our club long before I became a member, when a member told me that the Goddard Club was about quality not quantity. Its more important to take the time and do a great speech than to rush to get ten speeches done just to get a CTM award. That's dynamic! I would like to close this article by saying that our club members care about each other. I have never run into any of you and didn't receive a smile.

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Humorous Speech Contest

(Continued from page 1)

the District 36 contest. Stiff competition, indeed!

I drew the first speaking slot, Melissa second, and Bill, third. There are a couple of thoughts on which position is best. Some people like to speak first and get it out of the way without being influenced by the other speeches. Personally, I prefer to speak last. Although it's a bit nerve racking waiting (tip: use a GOOD antiperspirant), it gives you a chance to see all the speakers strengths and weaknesses before you present.

Competition seems to bring out the best in some people and all the speeches were presented very well. They were also 3 very different speeches. My speech was about expressions such as "this isn't exactly brain surgery", and postulated how they originated and what they might be in the future. Melissa's speech was presented as a meeting of "Guinea Pigs Anonymous" where she confessed to being a sucker for volunteering for just about any activity asked of her. Bill's speech talked about the greatest pickup line ever; the one that introduced him to his wife.

Aside from topics, the speeches were presented very differently. Melissa gave her speech from be-

(Continued on page 3)

Coming Events

Jan 28, 1998 11:30 AM
What makes a winning speech? This will be a multi-club event at Goddard. Space Speakers and Parliament Speakers will join Goddard at Goddard. Bill Pullen will present a Judging Workshop for the first half hour. Dan Mandl will present the sometimes counterintuitive nature of winning contests for the second half hour. Finally, we will open the floor to discussion on the presented topics.

February 11, 1998 11:30 AM
Club Level International Speech and Evaluation Contest

President’s Corner:
SET YOUR GOALS!

With the New Year just around the corner, it seems the appropriate time to reevaluate goals. As a new member of Toastmasters, your goals probably included improving your speaking skills and overcoming the fear of public speaking. After you completed several speeches, perhaps you wanted to tackle more challenging goals, i.e. serving as an Evaluator or as Toastmaster of the Day. The most intriguing aspect of Toastmasters is that there are always more challenging goals you can set for yourself. If one of your goals is to develop leadership skills, you can serve as a club officer. After you tackle that goal, you can continue to grow through serving as an Area or Division officer. Since Toastmasters...
(Continued from page 2) Humor

Military terms, "Sergeant", "Arms" always give the impression of strength in forces and weapons! Sounds very ominous to say the least. As far as the ranking goes within Toastmasters the Sgt. at Arms though is the least significant position and has the lesser number of tasks and responsibilities. It is however, truly a mighty position to hold.

When a member or a new comer enters the meeting room it is their first impression that makes them say, "I want to be a part of this Toastmasters Club!". The Sgt. at Arms can easily influence that first impression.

Imagine walking into a room where chaos reigns, chairs and tables are this way and that, table tops are littered with unrelated piles of "who knows what" and the people there scowl and ignore you, no one to welcome you. Would you want to even stay much less think about coming again or joining? I think not.

The Sgt. at Arms can set the stage though so that visitors are welcomed, enticed to stay, look forward to coming again and can't wait to join!

The Sgt. at Arms should arrive early, organize the furniture and clear debris or unrelated items out of the way. See that there are magic markers at the white boards or with the easel tablets. Make sure that the lectern is cleared and positioned correctly. Check that the overhead projector is working and that there is room for officers and speakers to move to and from the lectern with ease. Order brings tranquility and makes the initial appearance of the room look inviting to that perhaps hesitant new comer.

Liven up the room by displaying the club banner so that the colorful ribbons can be seen. Set out the club agenda/programs and ballot forms at each place so that members and guests have them easily accessible. Display the "Guest" book with a pen so that visitors may record their presence at our meeting. If possible prior to the start of the meeting, make a list of the visitors and give it to the Club President so that the guests may be formally greeted and welcomed.

Now for the best part and truly the time when the Sgt. at Arms carries the most power, the time to welcome each and everyone coming through the door be they member or visitor. There isn't anything that makes you feel quite so included as a greeting and a welcoming smile. For the club member it is a friendly warm recognition and provides a sense of belonging. For the visitor it is particularly important as they are treading on unfamiliar ground. The welcome at the door is a way of saying "Come on in and..." (Continued on page 4)
“We had clowns, a Panda bear and even a “lectern man”....”

Motivation:

- Not deciding is a decision
- Successful people trust themselves
- Make failure a new beginning
- Winners make things happen. Losers wait for the right opportunity
- The world is ruled by feelings, not reason.
- Keep a weekly planner. Schedule time for recreation.
- Being overly organized is not a virtue. It can stifle creativity.
- Persist is a state of mind. Make it a habit.
- “Decca Records” turned down the Beatles in 1962; they said that groups of guitarists were on their way out.
- On my walk today, I saw a weed that had grown through the asphalt pavement. Consider the effort! If a weed can do it, can’t you?

Sergeant

(Listen, Continued from page 3)

join us, we value your being here and we want you to feel comfortable.”

Sgt. at Arms can also take the position even further - out to where your thoughts can run free. The Sgt. can arrange for refreshments, wear a costume to set a theme, give the new comer a little slip of paper that says I'm, Jeane Ryan your Sgt at Arms, this is my phone number x62958, call if you have any questions and please, please do come again and again.

The Goddard Toastmasters Club meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 11:30 to 1:00 pm, meeting room to be announced and we loved to have you join us.

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Humor Corner by Dan Mandl,CTM

We at Toastmasters are always striving to better ourselves. One technique for achieving this that many people use is affirmations. Here are a few affirmations which you will probably find unique:

- As I let go of my shoulders and feelings of guilt, I can get in touch with my Inner Sociopath.
- I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else’s fault
- All of me is beautiful and valuable, even the ugly, stupid, and disgusting parts
- I am one with my duality
- The complete lack of evidence is the surest sign that the conspiracy is working
- I am learning that criticism is not nearly as effective as sabotage

Motivation:

- Not deciding is a decision
- Successful people trust themselves
- Make failure a new beginning
- Winners make things happen. Losers wait for the right opportunity

- Becoming aware of my character defects leads me to the next step—blame my parents.
- Just for today, I will not sit in my living room all day watching TV. Instead I will move my TV into the bedroom.
- Joan of Arc heard voices too.

Division D Humorous Speech Contest

(Continued from page 1)

bers came in costume. We had clowns, cheerleaders, Groucho Marx, a Panda Bear, even a “lectern man” complete with a mike (only at a TM event). I’m not sure what the head count was — but it looked like we had well over 50 people in attendance.

The Marriott catered a delicious meal of broiled chicken breast, rice, steamed veggies, rolls, dinner salad, and a variety of “big” cookies.

There were 7 contestants for the Humorous Speech Contest & another 7 for the Table Topics contest. Area 45 did very well in the competitions. Bill Gallagher, from Space Speakers, brought home the 1st runner-up trophy with his speech entitled "The Greatest Pick Up Line". Chuck Davis, from the Speakezees Club, placed 1st in the Ta-

ble Topics when he responded to the question "What is the most frightening thing that has ever happened to you?" (He talked about popping the question to his wife, Nancy). Be sure to pat Bill & Chuck on the back when you see them. They both did an outstanding job!!

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