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# THE OMISS O'MISSILE

The OM International Sideband Society, Inc.

Vol. 22 No. 1

March, 2001

Internet Home Page: <http://www.omiss.net>

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings OMISS!

Goodwill, courtesy, cooperation - these are just a few hallmarks of a TRUE Amateur Radio Operator. They also happen to be hallmarks of OMISS members. As many of you already know, we are working out a QRM situation on 20M with the Alaska Pacific Net. The OMISS members out West are more aware than the rest of us, but the situation has been going on for years. The Alaska Pacific Net has moved half a cycle further away from us, and as our part of the arrangement, we are starting the 20M Nets 30 minutes later. It is only through this type of cooperation between hams, and groups of hams, that problems can be worked out in everyone's best interest. My hat is off to the folks on 20M for giving 100% to make this work.

For those unaware of the recent changes at the OMISS Web Page ([www.omiss.net](http://www.omiss.net)), we now have "live" rosters. What this means is that as Dick KL7IHK enters new member's information into a web tool built for us by Dan N7DLS, the information appears within 15 minutes on the web page. The same is true when someone updates their Military Info on that listing (for those working that award). All of this automation really helps get "fresh" info out there. The download versions of the rosters is still not automated - but I try to get that done each month with the help of a tool designed by Warren, WA4ZOP. With the extra efforts from these and a few others, the OMISS Web Page is becoming more useful every year.

Soon after the publishing of this issue of the O'MISSILE, the OMISS Board of Directors will be discussing funding of this important feature of our organization. The voluntary upkeep of it sometimes falls short in this electronic age, and the Board of Directors recognizes the importance of keeping such a document alive to document the history of OMISS. The Board will be

capable of keeping the O'MISSILE financially afloat, BUT. It will be up to the Membership to keep it afloat with CONTENT. Send Harry your articles - he does a great job editing them if ask too.

Looking forward to a new spring, and the antenna maintenance that comes with it. See you on the air!

73, *Greg Stilwell* AE9W

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## 2000-2001 EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND APPOINTMENTS

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**BAND COORDINATORS**

10M – WM0M, Larry, 2848  
15M – N7FUD, Ron, 1914  
17M – KC7ATK, JOHN, 3920  
20M – KC9NN, Fred, 324  
40M – WA0VZH, Dorothy, 3649  
75M – W4TOJ, Bill, 3762  
160M – N7VU, Tim, 3916

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**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING**

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The QSL bureau was merged back into one bureau after failing to function effectively as a split bureau..

The All Band Coordinator (ABC) reported the 160M net is struggling with low check-ins. The 75M early net is improving but needs more participation and additional Net Controllers. We have not been able to establish a 75M late net. It is probably too late in the season to get this net established, but the ABC and others are beginning to look to a 0600 UTC starting time for establishing a net next fall.

We are continuing the effort to get the ARRL Net Directory up to date on OMISS nets, frequencies and times.

Effective February 18<sup>th</sup>, the board approved moving the 20M net check in time to 18:15 and net starting time to 18:30 to minimize interference with and from the Alaska-Pacific

Emergency Preparedness Net. APEPN in turn agreed to move up 500KHz. This will reduce interference to both nets, particularly on the west coast.

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**TREASURERS REPORT**

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As of March 3, 2002, the OMISS balance is \$2,2699.26, including \$113.81 in the O'MISSILE account.

36 new members joined OMISS in the In the first two months of 2002.

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**OMISS QSL Bureau**

The QSL bureau has been recombined!  
ALL QSL cards should be addressed to:  
Steve Reiser  
128 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.W.  
Lonsdale, MN 55046

1. Use **ONLY#10 business size envelopes**. Most of the QSL cards can fit into this size of envelopes.
2. **Included the OMISS # of the station that the QSL card is being sent**. The use of the OMISS # is VERY helpful to the managers in determining if this is a new station or if the sender wrote the call sign incorrectly.

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**AWARDS MANAGERS REPORT**

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Dick reports that members have been real busy working for the Military Award and he expects this to continue for some time.. Today he has issued 44 basic certificates, 10 company certificates and numerous other endorsements to the award.

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**NET TIMES AND FREQUENCIES**

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Just a reminder that all OMISS nets now operate on UTC time and net times will not change with daylight savings time as it has in the past on some nets. Remember the change in the 40 m late net frequency and the change in the starting

time of the 20M net. The Approved net times and frequencies effective February, 18, 2002.

All times are UTC.

160 meters, 1.880, Fri & Sat 0400

75 meters 3.940.5, 0200 daily

40 meters, 7.263.5, 0100 daily

40 meters late net, 7.263.5 0300 Fri & Sat

20 meters, 14.29, 1830 Mon through Sat

17 meters, 18.165, 1900 Sat and Sun

15 Meters, 21.360, 1700 Sat & Sun, and Holiday Mondays.

10 Meters, 28.665, 1800 Sat and Sun

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## OM OF THE YEAR

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Following is a list of "OM of The Year" beginning with 1986.

1986	WL7LTB	0876	
1987	N9FPW	1939	
1988	KC9NN	0324	
1989	W0PXE	1711	
1990	N7FUD	1914	
1991	WA2QEC	1563	
1992	W0MWU	2603	
1993	KA0MGM	0675	(TIE)
1993	WA4ICK	2031	(TIE)
1994	WB2ERQ	2271	(SK)
1995	WB6QVI	2215	(TIE)
1995	WA2QOM	3013	(TIE)
1996	N/A (Insufficient votes)		
1997	WG1Q	2781	(SK)
1998	W3YJM	2904	
1999	KB8NTG	3376	
2000	KL7IHK	185	
2001	WA0VZH	3649	

Net contacts with any OM of The Year and members of the Board of Directors may be applied toward the VIP Award. Additionally, past presidents, holders of the Meritorious Service Award, the quarterly Net Controller and the Top OP announced for the previous month is a VIP until the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month when the new Top OP is announced.

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## TOPS OPS

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Members receiving the monthly top op award were:

Jan. 02 KC2ATK, John, 3920

**Net Controllers:**

4th Qtr WA0VZH, Dorothy

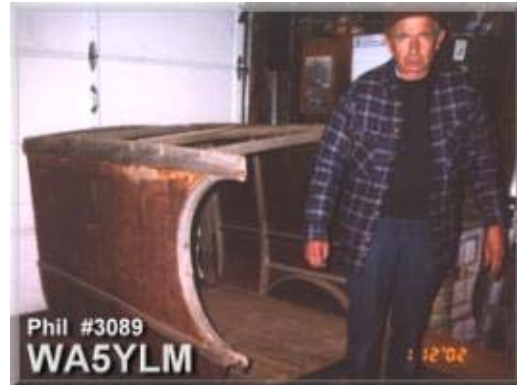
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## PHIL, WA5YLM, 3089

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Phil is partially retired; working only 3 days a week and he needed something beside ham radio to keep him out of mischief. So he is busy restoring a couple of autos. He sent the editor a nice note with a picture of him standing by the back part of a 1916 Model T Ford C can delivery truck (yes, you read correctly). He said the front part takes a 1915-1922 Model T roadster body that they have in stock! It took about 1-1/2 years to find the roadster body and they are having all the wood redone in oak. Phil says they have good patterns to work with and all the body and fender parts will be steel, no fiberglass anywhere.



The second project is restoring a 1955 Ford Thunderbird and he says it will be all original when it is finished.

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## CLYDE, WA50, 715

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WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY

Clyde, A.K.A. "Cotton-Patch" says he's 77 years young and holding. Some 54 years ago he discovered a lovely young lady, Nell, who he never let get away and today they have a daughter Suzanne and 3 grand children

For over 50 years he lived in Jackson, Ms and had a booming signal and was known as, "Clyde, down in the 'cotton patch'". He moved Slidell, LA. in 1996 and to Texas in August, 1998.

Clyde was first licensed as KA5FDD in June 1979, upgraded to general, then to advanced in

1981 as KD5DG. He got the extra license in October 1984 as WA5O.

Clyde was very active on the OMISS nets beginning in 1982 and was honored to be voted OM of the Year 1982--1983. Over the years he served as director, info officer and 5-band net coordinator. Laughing he says he just couldn't seem to hold a permanent job. He has the 5 band WAS award and need only Arizona for the 6<sup>th</sup> band, 160M. Says he'll probably never get that one since he is 100% mobile, so maybe he'll go for a mobile WAS.

Clyde served in the USN from 42-45 and 51-51 as a weatherman and retired from the National Weather Service in 1981. Says he is playing a lot of golf in Texas and a few days ago he shot his age!! For you golfers, and non-golfers. that's real good golf!

When he moved to Texas he sold all his ham gear because of antenna restrictions at his new location. He missed his OMISS friends and early February he telephoned one of our members to check up on his 'old buddies'. In the course of the conversation they discussed the success some of our members are having with mobile rigs. That weekend Clyde went out and bought a transceiver and a ham stick antenna, installed it in his car and the following Monday night we heard him check in on 40M! Since then he has been heard on 15, 20, & 75. He wrote that he is really enjoying talking to his old friends, like KC9NN and W3YJM, and of course making new friends as well. Be sure to welcome him back the next time you hear him on a net. Welcome back Clyde! His e-mail is [slayjrtx@aol.com](mailto:slayjrtx@aol.com) (281)292-2192

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## BEA, KC5OWL, 3589

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Bea was born I Alamogordo, Nm., on August 3, 19???. She got her Technician license in 1995, and later upgraded to Extra. He station for JF is a Heathkit HW-101, which she sometimes allows her husband KA5BYL, Tom, to use. She also has Drake 'C' twins for back up. The antenna system is an X-7 Thunder Cushcraft 10, 15, 20 meter antenna up 40ft. Individual inverted "V"s for 10, 17, 40, and 80 meters, also a vertical for 10 meters. A Heathkit SB-110 for 6 meters SSB into a 5-element yagi up 30 feet on a tower. A GE master 6-meter repeater into a GP-15 receiving antenna up 53 ft. on a tower

and a GP-15 duplexer into the 6-meter repeater-receiving antenna, which soon to be changed. Bea and her husband Tom lives 10 miles from Alamogordo on 5 acres and that makes fro a niece antenna farm!

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## THANK YOU FROM W5KID

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It was a typical 40M Saturday night for net controller Harlan, KA9GLX until he heard an unusual contact breaking in. KD5QBK, Crain Maxon was aboard the destroyer USS Kidd when Harlan recognized the break-in, asked for the call sign, name, state, etc. What followed was unusual and Craig wrote a nice thank you note for the courtesy extended by the net. His note is quoted below.

"I wanted to thank you for allowing us to take part in (and interrupt) your NET last night from the USS Kidd. There were 35 boy and girl scouts present when net control allowed check-ins for us. You could have heard a pin drop with they heard ham contacts from across the country. I know I was their age with I had my first experience with ham radio. I never forgot that and it is why I am a ham today. Thanks so much."

Doesn't that say it all!?

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## RON, AC7DX,

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After winning the Lotto, Ron took 14 months off to travel returning to OMISS in January. Hearing the request for articles for the O'MISSILE he was kind enough to help out.

He was first licensed as W0TMI at age 14 and his interest continued when became a radio operator in the USAF and a CW instructor at Kessler AFB.

At the present time he is putting together an antenna farm and radio room in a small town 30 miles from his home. There are 3 towers, 5X6X6 on 10M, and 6-element mono on 20 and 15. 4-element mono on 17M, and 2 element on 40. He says he will soon be up and running and happy to confirm Oregon. Ron says he doesn't require QSL cards but will definitely send cards

to those he works. He serves as the QSL manager for over 100 DX stations!

He says we have a fantastic USA...so much to see and so many to meet. After reading the article in the last newsletter "Is Freedom Really Free" by a 13 year old girl, he decided to share a similar article entitle "Freedom Isn't Free" with us.

"I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.  
I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?  
How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom isn't free!

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
When everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.  
I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen,"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend.  
I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives, of the fathers,  
sons, and husbands  
With interrupted lives.  
I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea, of unmarked graves in  
Arlington..  
No, Freedom Isn't Free."

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### RON, KX2J, 307

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Ron sent a Help Request flyer, which your editor could not reproduce for the newsletter; however Ron's request and information in the flyer are quoted below.

"This is my son-in-law. He has more eye contact and alertness now. If anyone can help it would be much appreciated. 73's Ron KX2J, #307"

"My name is Dale Huff. On august 7, 2000, I suffered a heart attack and a stroke. This left me in a vegetative state. With God's help and through the prayers of my family and many friends, ten months later I was privileged to receive 41 Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatments in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the Ocean Hyperbaric Center."

"Dale Huff is being taken care of at home by his wife and children. This is a 24-hour responsibility as Dale requires continuous care but God has given strength and wisdom as it was needed over the past year. The Doctors in the Lake City and Fort Lauderdale are very pleased with the progress Dale has made but feel Dale's quality of life may be improved even more if he can receive additional Hyperbaric Treatments.

#### CAN YOU HELP?

An account is still open for donations for **Dale Huff** at First Federal Savings Bank First Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. Phone: 386-755-0600

#### CAN YOU HELP?

The cost of 40 hyperbaric treatments, plus living expenses for Dale and his family while the treatments are administered, is approximately \$10,000.00.

#### THANK YOU

In advance for prayerfully considering this need. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *His* purpose. Romans 8:28

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### GEORGE, W4KFB, 3541

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George had 37 years with the Anaconda Company and its subsidiaries and retired in 1977, about the time ARCO too over the operation. He started in the underground mines in Butte, but soon transferred to the mill and smelter in Anaconda. That was just before WWII, and there were 3600 people working at that operation at the time

George entered the navy radio technician program in 1944 and was saved from the invasion of Japan (which they were training for) by the atomic bomb. During his navy time he met a navy WAVE, from Kansas, and after he was discharged and back to work in Anaconda, He married the WAVE and moved her to the mountains of Montana.

Several years ago he put up a windmill tower and installed a 10 element log periodic antenna

on a 2-inch pipe mast. The mast puts the beam about 5 feet above the 40-foot tower. A regular windmill ball bearing supporting the beam with and a large guide bearing provides guidance for the mast just above the rotor. This design was to attempt to get by with a lighter rotor that he had on hand and it works! Except it is slower than George would like it to be. The beam has gone through some hard winds, and plenty of snow, but not too much ice build up.

Recently he broke down and bought a Windows 98 computer, but say he hasn't gotten onto the Internet. "I know I am missing a log, but at least no virus problems. That's the reason I don't keep up with the OMISS news as well as I should, and why I hope the O'MISSILE can continue to exist..."

George has been having trouble with herniated vertebrae in his lower back and had one repaired, but still has a couple more giving him problems. They moved to his present home in 1971 and for years he had a large garden that he worked in for relaxation when he came home from the local aluminum electrolytic plant, but "today my yard is a mess because I can't work on it like I should.

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## TIM, N7VU, 3916

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For the past decade I've been excavating Ice Age mammal and bird fossils from caves on Prince of Wales Island, Southeast Alaska (west of Ketchikan). From 1997 through 2000 the expeditions became all-summer events where we camped at a remote cave site accessible only by boat and a long hike. Our gear and supplies were dropped into a hole in the dense rainforest by helicopter. In the summer of 2000, after getting back into Ham Radio after a long hiatus and purchasing a Yaesu FT-100, I decided to try to set up my radio at the cave. At the same time my wife (N1ERM) was able to upgrade her old Tech Plus license to General, and I set up my old 1970s Heathkit rig at home so we could talk to each other. Unfortunately the wire antenna on my roof blew down the day before I left, so we had trouble hearing each other. This was also her first time on HF, which made things extra difficult. I drove to Alaska with four students in a large university van. On top of the van I mounted a Hustler antenna on a large magnetic mount and a 2-meter whip. Inside I plugged my FT-100 into a dedicated car battery with a

charging line into the cigarette lighter. This worked well for making mobile contacts (everyone could hear me except my wife). When we got to Prince of Wales Island I packed the radio up to the cave, and the helicopter brought up the battery and a gasoline generator. We used the generator for powering lights and water pumps in the cave as well as computers and other equipment in the kitchen/office tent. I also ran a power line to my tent, where I set up the FT-100. Using a slingshot I launched a 20-meter dipole into the high cedar trees, fed by cheap twin lead and a little tuner. Soon I was on the air! My biggest problem was that I was so busy (working 16-hour days) that I didn't have much time to get on the air. A couple times I checked into the 20-meter OMISS Net. I could only reach members in the Northwest, such as VE7IPU, KL7IHK, and KB7UFM. I had better luck on CW, where I made lots of Field Day QSOs. I had a 2-watt QSO with Japan, and I called to my Japanese student (Keisuke Nozaki) to come listen. He came running with his usual enthusiasm, but when he found out it was a CW contact he stomped away! (He had gotten sick of hearing my CW on a previous field trip.) When I had a hard time hearing my wife, a friend in our town with a beam (AC0M) stepped in as a relay, and we found that we could in fact hear each other. She brushed up on her Morse code, and we made a CW QSO on our own (until she quickly became frustrated and gave up).

On the long drive home I set up the mobile antennas again and made lots of CW contacts, including some from the Grand Coulee and the Channeled Scablands of western Washington. Driving east that night we passed several forest fires and were engulfed in smoke for hundreds of miles. The Northern Lights were very bright out. At 3:00 am it finally dawned on me that I should stop trying to sleep and try making Aurora contacts. I got on 2-meters (my first attempt at CW on VHF) and found lots of activity around 144 MHz--bursts of static that I soon recognized as Morse code! I made Aurora QSOs with Montana, Utah, and Colorado (from western Montana). The next day we arrived home, and soon I replaced my old housetop antenna with the dipole I had made in Alaska (launched into the trees of my yard with the slingshot) and was back on the OMISS Net!

My research in Alaska was featured in the December 2000 issue of National Geographic Magazine (see my photo on pages 40-41) and on a NOVA program called "Mystery of the First Americans." I also have a large Web site on the

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## WARREN, KM5EW, 3198

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Warren is active in various contests. He finished 10 out of 45 entries in the single operator category in the 2001 Texas QSO party and says he will be back next year. Also in the ARRL Sweepstakes / Phone, his group scored approximately 1j04, 390 points with 79 ARRL sections contacted. Their biggest surprise and thrill was a station in the Yukon Territory call the US at the very beginning for QSO #1 in their log. Another early QSO, #5, was Alaska. Unfortunately, they did not contact the West Texas Section for the Clean Sweep. Late last year George announced a new KM5EW USA GRID series of awards for the grid locator hunter or an amateur that really wants a challenge! He says HF Grid Hunting could become a very popular endeavor and he strongly encourages everyone to try it out. It's a lot of fun!

The series of awards will be awarded to amateurs that fulfill the requirements to earn any of the awards in the series on the HF bands.

The list includes 300, 500, 600, and Master USA Grid awards, Interstate 35 Grid Award, Worked All Alaska Grid award, Worked All California Grid Award, and Worked All Texas Grid Award.

For a lit of rules and requirements for the entire series visit his web site at <http://www.geocities.com/km5ewwir>

For further information on Grid Hunting Warren suggests, <http://www.qsl.net/hb9dsu>

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## PAGE, WA3EOP, 3031

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Page is making a special trip to Delaware to enable OMISS members to add it to their WAS efforts. The trip will begin on March 6, Lord Willing. So 20-meter contacts will be March 6 Zulu date. 75 meter net, sure hope they have a net and can hear me, would be Zulu date March 7. I expect to be a busy operator that day and night starting with 20 OMISS. And I got talked into checking into the YL Moonbeam at 5 PM

eastern on 14.332 and I'll be in the MD Emergency Phone Net at 6PM on 75 and the Delaware Traffic net at 630 PM local on 75 and on 40 Century Club at 7 local till 75 meter OMISS at 9 if any and to the Century Club on 75 at 10PM local. It was the OMISS however that influenced my decision to do it again in 2002, besides last time in Delaware I forgot my Camera and there is one shot in particular I hope to capture in my digital camera that would be QSL perfect if it turns out.

The way my mobile has worked recently with the new antenna, there is no reason why most of the stations on the various nets can't contact me propagation permitting and finally get Kent County Delaware on OMISS if they need it. I hope that most stations on the net will call me and want the special QSL by the bureau. After all, that is why I'm making this trip.

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## EDITORIAL, N5VTP, 2869

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A great big **THANK YOU** to all of the members who contributed funds and material to make this issue of the **O'MISSILE** possible!

Just remember funding without material is no better than having material without funding so why don't YOU sit down and write an article for the next issue? .

*THE O'MISSILE, WHAT'S IT WORTH?  
THE DECISION IS YOURS!*

*Harry*

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## STATEMENTS TO PONDER

By George Carlin

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1. One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.
  2. How is it possible to have a civil war?
  3. Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
  4. How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow sign?
  5. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
  6. Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?
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7. If man evolved from monkeys and apes...why do we still have monkeys and apes?

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