

Metal rocks science fair

PALMETTO, FL — Blanka Taborsky, 17, is into heavy metals, but not the rock music kind. Her heavy metal project for the science fair was about the effects of copper on water life.

For her two-year study, Blanka won four awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Puerto Rico. She won first place in the zoology category and the General Motors grand award. For best use of photography in a research project, she received an award from Eastman Kodak. And the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office gave it a first place because it has the best chance of being patented.

She decided to patent her project. "I'll have to wait months to hear anything. But if I get the patent, I hope to sell the process to a water treatment plant or to a plant that removes heavy metals," Blanka said. She plans to attend college this fall and work toward a teaching degree in the natural sciences.

Fine-tuned soapbox wins

PLYMOUTH, CT — Brian Drinkwater comes from a family of soapbox derby racers. The 14-year-old won the senior division of the Bristol, Connecticut, derby, and now he's racing in the 1987 All-American Soapbox Derby.

Four years ago, Brian won the junior division in Bristol. Three years ago, his older brother Paul won the senior division. Now Paul is one of Brian's all-important pit crew members.

Brian built his first derby racer several winters ago from a kit. Now the Drinkwater brothers are experts at assembling the cars. Brian won't talk about the tricks they've learned to make a speedier car. The secrets are Brian's key to winning races.

Dry lifesaver

CARSON, CA — Rasheme Ellington, 7, acted quickly when he saw his three-year-old neighbor jump into his family's pool. "I went and got the long pole that we use to clean the pool. I stuck it in the water and pulled David to the side," said Rasheme.

His parents had given Rasheme the life-saving instructions just one week before the accident. He also remembered not to jump into the pool to save David since it's too risky to save someone that way. "I was scared," Rasheme admitted, "but I wanted to save him."

Puzzle champ

ATHENS, OH — Defending jigsaw puzzle champion Donna Klett pieced together a 500-piece puzzle in 1 hour, 13 minutes, 45 seconds to win her second title. The 15-year-old from Stow, Ohio, won \$1,000.

Doubles champs Joellen Beifuss of Tennessee and Pamela Kerstetter of Colorado each won \$1,000 for their quick piecing.



Hammond Elementary second graders spent 1½ weeks making their award-winning dinosaur videotape.

Winning video stars dinosaur

LAUREL, MD — Second graders at Hammond Elementary created a video tape about a day in the life of Tyrannosaurus Rex. The animated film was so good it tied for first place in the International Student Media Festival. The other film was created by college students from UCLA.

"It was pretty radical to win," said Dale Dixon, 8. "I heard Tyrannosaurus Rex was pretty loud and a lot of the other dinosaurs could hear him. That's when I thought of the video's title, 'When Tyrannosaurus Rex speaks, everyone listens,'" Dale added.

During the three-minute video, Tyrannosaurus Rex fights Allosaurus. They both end up in General Hospital after the fight.

The second graders wrote the script and made the background and cardboard dinosaur creatures. The filming

took a lot of time and patience. For each movement of the cardboard dinosaurs, the film was stopped so the creature could be moved and "shot" again.

"I learned a lot doing the videotape," said Shayan Shirazian. "I learned Tyrannosaurus Rex was 50 feet tall, and he was nicknamed the 'Terrible Lizard.'"

Jessica Roberts and Dale visited Atlanta, Georgia, with their families and teacher to accept the award. "I was nervous when Dale and I went up to accept the award with college students. 'I didn't know we would tie with college students because college is a long ways from us,'" Shayan added.

"I saw the college kids' video, and it was pretty good. But not nearly as good as ours," Dale said.



Kimberley Bulkley spent one year in Washington, D.C., working as a page.

Working for the senators

By Daryl Bulkley

WASHINGTON, DC — Oregonian Kimberley Bulkley, 17, spent one year working as a Senate page in Washington, D.C. She worked for Senators Robert Packwood (Oregon), Charles Mathias Jr. (Maryland) and Majority Leader Robert Byrd (West Virginia).

Kimberley didn't write any laws or vote on laws. As a page, she delivered messages, ran errands and helped the senators. She also went to school on Capitol Hill.

Senate pages rise at five in the morning and go to school at the Library of Congress from 6:10 - 10:30 a.m. After school they report to the senate cloakrooms for their assignments. The hours can be long — sometimes running into the early morning, which means school is canceled. To make up missed classes, pages might have school on Saturday.

For her year of hard work, Kimberley earned \$9,000. The first pages, who served their senators in 1829, earned \$1.50 each day. During those days pages kept busy fetching oil for the wall lamps and candles for the desks and hauling loads of wood for the four fireplaces and two stoves in the old chamber.

Life as a page for Kimberley was exciting. She had a chance, as former President Lyndon Johnson once said, "to see government without the glamour, to learn that ideals do not make programs and that dreams do not automatically become reality."

Chemist's soyoil

HOUSTON, TX — Grand chemistry award winner, Mark Butin knows a lot about soyoil. After working with it for three years, he found a good use for it.

Mark, 15, has been winning lots of awards for his top-quality soyoil varnish. He won the top chemistry prize of \$250 at the International Science Engineering Fair in Puerto Rico.

It's the law

If you don't like to take baths, move to Pickens, Oklahoma. It is against the law there for a kid to take a bath during the winter months.

Kids in Hickory Plains, Arkansas, are almost as lucky. According to law, they can only bathe once a week — on Saturday night.

In Clearbrook, Minnesota, a kid cannot roller skate into a store and buy a pop. It is illegal for a kid to drink pop while on roller skates in any Clearbrook public business.