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Editorial, Issue 4, 1989

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EDITORIAL

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The improved appearance of this newsletter is a result of the efforts of Susie W. Hakansson, Director of Mathematics Programs at the Center for Academic Interinstitutional Programs (CAIP), Graduate School of Education, UCLA, and her staff, who typed, designed and prepared the pages through desk-top publishing technology. The address labels were also produced by CAIP.

Mutual support and collaboration are part of the *raison d'être* of the Humanistic Mathematics Network. The Network also allows us to share ideas about teaching, learning and the nature of mathematics. Last year the Network collaborated in the workshop on Non Routine Problems in Routine Courses led by Sherman Stein at California State University Northridge arranged by Elena A. Marchisotto of CSUN. This year Prof. Marchisotto has arranged four workshops at CSUN, co sponsored by the Network with major funding from an Academic Program Improvement grant. The four workshops will be: Problem Posing led by Stephen Brown, Calculus led by Robert Davis, Instilling Confidence and a Sense of Achievement in students led by Clarence Stephens and New Directions in Teaching Statistics.

Exxon Education Foundation has awarded the Network funds to acquire desk-top publishing hardware and software, to support two conferences, and to sustain the Network and Newsletter for the year.

The Newsletter needs associate editors to solicit and referee essays, report on local and regional events and edit sections such as book reviews, etc.

The Network needs regional or state representatives to coordinate conferences or other activities and to be part of a steering committee. I hope that you will volunteer and/ or nominate others.

With a minimum of publicity, after three years, the Network has grown from thirty to over five hundred. The following letter is typical of many we have received.

"I recently read the Humanistic Mathematics Newsletter Number 1 and my enthusiasm for the philosophy of mathematics as a humanistic discipline has prompted me to write to you It is difficult for me to express in a formal letter how delighted I am to find a group of people who have the same perspective on teaching that I do. The isolation to which you refer is very real. I look forward to meeting you and others in the group so that I can express my enthusiasm directly and share ideas. Definitely add my name to your mailing list. Please send me reprints of the previous newsletters and the dates for upcoming meetings. I would like to present a paper at one of your meetings."

As one of the Year of National Dialogue special events, the Network is sponsoring a panel discussion on Humanistic Mathematics January 17, 9:30 a.m. at the Louisville Math meetings. The panelists are Dr. Lynne Cheney, Head of the National Endowment for the Humanities who will speak on "The Role of Mathematics in the Liberal Arts." Other panelists are Philip Davis of Brown University, Ubiratan D'Ambrosio of Univ. Estadual de Campinas, Brazil, and Alvin White, Moderator.