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## From the Editor, Issue 7, 1992

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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The change of name from Newsletter to Journal recognizes the maturation of this publication. The new name has been recommended by many. Patricia Kenschaft of Montclair State College, NJ suggested that the new name would be more accurate and useful. Additional referees and associate editors are being recruited.

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If your library will add the Newsletter-Journal to its collection, I'll send copies to the library. This will make it easier for people to locate essays that appear. The library should write and request to be on the mailing list.

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This issue is a festival of Humanistic Mathematics. Saunders Maclane comments on several items in issue #6. Sherman Stein muses about a definition of Humanistic Math.

The poems presented during the exciting Poetry Reading in Baltimore are included here. John S. Lew shares his long involvement with Mathematical References in Literature.

The study by Sherry Turkle and Seymour Papert on Epistemological Pluralism is reprinted here with the kind permission of the authors and Signs: Journal of Women in Culture. Although Computer Culture is studied, the issues considered, I think, relate very much to the teaching, learning and doing of mathematics. The tension between concrete thinking and formal abstraction brings the personal to the center of mathematics (and computer programming). The relation between the person and the facts and techniques is an aspect of humanistic mathematics. I think that the issues raised by Turkle and Papert are in the mainstream of humanistic science.

The essays by Elena Marchisotto and Harald Ness each relate mathematics and the humanities.

In a coincidence that is not unusual for this journal, the papers by Ruth Hubbard and Neal Koblitz are both about the texts that students confront, and efforts to create the textual material that is more appropriate for students. Professor Koblitz also reflects on other aspects of education reform.

The last essay by a student, Elizabeth Miller, was written for a course in Mathematics and Culture. Professor Kathleen Shannon is sharing Ms. Miller's insights.