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Letters from the Editor and Production Manager, Issue 11, 1995

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From the Editor

The essays and poetry in this issue are a rich intellectual feast. The journal and the movement are growing and are part of the climate of math reform. In the AMS Notices (1/95) editor Hugo Rossi pleads for more understandable, even if less technical, mathematical exposition, while letter writer John Wermer of Brown University complains of unintelligible colloquium talks, with one notable exception.

I think that the high level of exposition and the range of topics in our journal encourage math reform. The world wide network of readers and authors contribute to and define humanistic mathematics and influence doing, learning and teaching mathematics.

MESA, the UCLA Graduate School of Education, and the humanistic math network are joining in a three year effort to enhance the perception of mathematics among middle school teachers and their students, and to participate in the mathematics education reform efforts.

Please note the enlarged list of associate editors. It is expected that the circulation will grow and our journal will eventually be published three times a year. I want to welcome the additional associate editors who will solicit essays, referee contributions, do some proof reading, and help determine the direction of the journal.

Thanks to the Exxon Education Foundation for their continuing support.

It is with bittersweet emotions that I celebrate the graduation in June and moving on of Michelle Ivey who has been the production manager of the journal as well as the MAA Notes volume *Essays in Humanistic Mathematics*. Michelle is a skilled technician and a conscientious manager, and a valuable partner in this endeavor. Her hand is evident in the handsome appearance and the editorial smoothness of the journal.

From the Production Manager

During the past three years I have had the unique experience of working side by side with Professor White on this journal and to publish a book entitled *Essays in Humanistic Mathematics*, published by the Mathematics Association of America. As a chemistry major, mathematics was no stranger to me, but *humanistic* mathematics?? Working on proofreading and layout of these essays really made me think about the ideas and ideals the authors were trying to express. I became more and more involved in a concept that was originally completely foreign to me; humanistic mathematics is teaching mathematics as a human creation, and therefore subject to the prejudices and whims of the people involved. This is far removed from the conventional approaches to mathematics where everything is in its final, "perfect" form, with no sense of the evolution of the concepts now taken for granted.

It has been a wonderful experience, and I have really enjoyed working with the articles and the authors. I applaud the work of the journal and the authors who contribute to it, and I hope that the journal will continue to be the wonderful forum for expression of ideas. I will miss being so closely involved in the production, but I am looking forward to receiving it at whatever graduate school I attend next year.