

Clime

Council for Logo in Mathematics Education

19 October 1992

Dear Clime Committee members and friends,

I am writing to you in order to share with you some recent developments and possibilities for CLIME. I recently received a letter and form (see enclosed) from Carol Edwards, the chair of NCTM's 1994 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. She is looking for speakers and format suggestions for the conference. Though the conference is still far away, detail decisions are currently being made. So it is important that we act quickly because this offers us yet another opportunity to demonstrate how Logo can be a useful tool in mathematics education. In this regard, I am looking for suggestions and ideas as to what "new formats or presentation methods" we might propose to Carol Edwards. I met Carol in Nashville and I think she is open to some new ideas - something that would capture the imagination of the audience and help to put Logo "on the secondary map." I will be responding to her by October 28. I realize this is very short notice. But I would appreciate your input ASAP.

While I have your attention, let me also fill you in on some other recent developments that may shed more light on what we might do.

1. Last April the Delegate Assembly (at the NCTM meeting in Nashville) passed a resolution proposed by CLIME that asked the board of directors to establish a Technology and Mathematics Committee that would be responsible for improving the use and visibility of technology at NCTM activities as well as establish some guidelines for their use. The board met this past September and after reviewing the proposal decided to set up a task force that would look into this issue. Ahhh.. The joys of bureaucracy! (There was a similar committee established in the early 80's that played an advisory role to NCTM. But the committee was disbanded after a few years of advising.) Bill Masalski (U. of Massachusetts) who is on the board of directors told me that Mary Lindquist (president of NCTM) would choose this interim inquiry committee and that he gave her my name as someone who might be a part of this committee. (It's also possible that some of you may be asked to help Mary make these decisions.) I think we should contact Mary again. Any thoughts as to what we should say to her?

2. Next year in Seattle at our annual CLIME meeting I am planning a presentation (with a "unique" format) that will highlight how Logo can be a valuable tool in Secondary Mathematics. I will be sharing some of my ideas with you in the upcoming fall issue of CLIME Connections (our new name for the newsletter.) Here's a sample:

Unlike the early days of microcomputing, when Logo stood alone in representing the spirit of the *Standards* - well before they were written, today there are several, if not many, computer applications that can be used effectively to encourage inquiry styles of learning and teaching. For example, the *Geometer's Sketchpad* comes to mind. As a result, many CLIME members use a number of software applications as well as graphing calculators in their teaching. So it seems that in today's computer environments the quest is no longer necessarily to choose the "best" application and use it exclusively, but rather to use those applications that help students to understand the nature and power of mathematics. For example, students can explore geometry "from multiple perspectives" (using Logo AND the Sketchpad) as is suggested by a recent NCTM addendum series book. Now that Windows and Multifinder are becoming more prevalent in schools, having multiple applications working together is closer to reality.