

CLIME Meeting Reflections - Posting from Thor Charischak on May 17th, 1995

Thank you for attending the Clime Meeting. I realized after the meeting that we had delivered a lot of information without getting much feedback from you. This was a far cry from our earlier meetings (started in 1986) which were strictly discussion. So maybe we need some balance. What do you think? Your comments will be very valuable since I am already thinking about our next meeting (April, 1996) in San Diego which will be our 10th anniversary meeting. And I hope to have a special meeting. (If you think I'm doing this a bit early, you should be aware that people are already booking hotel rooms for next April. Apparently rooms are at premium there.)

It's been over a month since the meeting and since I also plan to send this update to folks that missed the meeting, here's a quick summary of what happened. Actually, I'll start off with what DIDN'T happen. Seymour Papert was supposed to open the session with a talk, but, unfortunately, at the last minute he couldn't make it. Also, Robert Berkman, who was going to show us via video how he uses Logo in his classroom, was ill and didn't make the trip. As a result, Logo didn't get much attention. Though Doug Clements did share some interesting activities he has done with *Turtle Math*.

Sharing the stage with Logo was Tabletop a data analysis program developed at TERC and presented by Chris Hancock. (Sidebar: In learning the program I had some fun using Logo to generate data (simulating the rolling of dice) and having Tabletop read it and analyze it. I am working on an article on this. It will eventually appear in the *Computing Teacher* (Woods, it now has a new name - *Leading and Learning with Technology*.)

John Olive from the U. of Georgia showed us how the Internet can help teachers develop their skills in using technology in the classroom. (He also showed us how problematic it can be to try to demonstrate something using the Internet in real time!)

Toby Caplin (Teacher in the Cambridge, MA schools) shared her experiences via video of exploring ideas from geometry using the Geometry Inventor (Logal & Sunburst) with her 6th graders.

So that's what we did. What were your reactions? Please let me know. It will be very helpful for me in planning the next meeting. If you respond, I will keep you posted on my progress in planning the meeting. There are also logistics issues that I will be working on. For example, the CLIME meeting is always at the end of the regular day and it usually is in conflict with other special meetings and sessions. We will be trying to move the meeting to a slot during the day which will improve its visibility. One of the other national NCTM affiliate groups (Women in Math) is working on this initiative.

It would be nice if I could do all my clime correspondence in this way (email). It certainly would be easier. I wouldn't have to spend all those hours putting the newsletters together. And the cost! You can't get much cheaper than this. The down side is that the majority of people are still not connected. So I will continue snail mail for as long as it is needed. (Hopefully, not forever.) This means that I have to solicitate donations to cover the postage and printing the newsletters. Our membership fee is still \$10 (US of A) and \$15 (elsewhere). I appreciate your support.

Your support

As you probably know CLIME is an affiliate group of NCTM and has volunteers like you serving in positions like president, NCTM representative, etc. I am inviting you to participate in CLIME as an officer for the calendar year (1/96-12/96). This would be an opportunity for you to get more knowledgeable about the "inner workings" of NCTM as well as to help influence important decisions about technology's role in mathematics education. Elections will be held in the fall. Please let me know if you are interested in serving as an officer.

Some plans for the future

I am planning to have a CLIME homepage on the World Wide Web (or equivalent) where which will be a place for people to get information about effective uses of technology in math education. (It will not be a place to answer specific questions about Logo or Tabletop since there are organizations and on-line services devoted to that.) I've been in conversation with David Wexler at the Geometry Forum about setting this up. Hopefully, it will be reality by the end of the summer.