Clime News

Some Random Thoughts

Reflections   *by Ihor Charischak*

On Participation

Greetings! I hope your school year has started off well and Logo is still prominent in your educational goals. As you might have noticed, I have followed up my letter to you (April, 1989) with a letter to the planning committee of the NCTM annual meeting in New Orleans in 1991. (See enclosed letter.) Hopefully, the letter will influence the selection of sessions for that meeting. You can help in getting the Logo message out by (1) speaking at conferences, (2) writing papers and articles for publication, (3) talking to your math colleagues who are not familiar with or resistant to using a computer, (4) share what you do with Logo with your school via newsletters and school newspapers, and (5) talking to members of the school board about what you accomplish with Logo. The NCTM has made some lofty declarations via their *Standards* document. We can do the same by continuing to show by example what Logo has to offer.

On Teaching with Technology

Even with the new *Standards* the truth is that most math teachers still do not use computers as teaching tools. Their approach is still mainly "talk and chalk". A major reason for this is that "talk and chalk" *works*. In the past 15 years researchers have established that well managed classrooms can produce student gains on achievement tests. But there is no indication that these gains in achievement also awaken curiosity, foster student interest in subject matter, or help them develop problem solving skills[1] So the well managed, efficient classroom, though it looks good to the administrator who is evaluating the teacher, is not necessarily the best model for teaching and learning. The so-called "good" teachers could become "great" teachers if they could create more interesting contexts that incorporate technology, cooperative learning, group projects, and peer evaluation. This is why Logo and Logo-like computer environments are so important. These resources encourage good teachers to become better. It not only opens new ways