

Letters to the Editor



Editor's Note: The Palindrome article published in the last issue of the CLIME News has generated two letters pointing out that one can get a handle on tricky palindromes, such as 89 and 98, by keeping each generation in integer form. I am pleased that this article generated so much thought.

Dear Ihor,

...I came across the question about Gary Stager's palindrome procedures. The answer is simple enough. For 89 and 98 -- and about 3% of all numbers under 1000, most notably 196 -- the series has to be carried out for quite a large number of generations. Because each number in the series is larger than its predecessor, eventually Logo has to round off and -- in Terrapin Logo at least -- store values in exponential form. These two factors mean that REVERSE (a procedure in the Palindrome article from the last issue) does not actually give the reverse of the correct number. Instead it outputs the reverse of a rounded off number and one which contains an "E" in an unexpected place...

Peter Pereira
Depaul University

Dear Ihor,

...I enjoyed looking at the material that was enclosed in the *CLIME News* which was awaiting me upon my return (to school). We love to work with palindromes and I have the children do a lot of work with them at the first year to keep the addition fresh. I like to have the students provide me with all the palindromes in a 100 chart. There are very convenient charts provided in *Family Math* by Stenmark, Thompson, and Cossey. You can get information on this useful book from:

Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
Attention: Family Math

Family Math is also routinely found in most of the major math manipulative company catalogs.

My students could easily inform Mr. Stager why 89 and 98 did come out on his program. The computer ran out of space. As I recall, both (numbers) have the same palindrome and it has about 25 generations. Too bad I don't have copies of some of their work around. Most of them enjoy this encounter. Incidentally, I have enclosed a program on palindromes which I borrowed from Alison Birch's *The Logo Project Book* (Terrapin). I just transferred it to over to LogoWriter. It has a very clever layout. The kids just have to count + signs to get the number of generations. All the work is laid out for them. Remember! This is not my work but that of Ms. Birch. I can't remember whether the translation was a task. It can sometimes be a hassle to go from one dialect of Logo into another. But if something is clever, it deserves to be used. Maybe Ms. Birch would give you permission to use it in a microworld (edition)...

Bob Macdonald
Grosse Ile, MI



Learning Math with LogoWriter... for Lower Elementary

by Rudy V. Neufeld

A comprehensive package containing disk-based activities, teachers notes, and reproducibles designed to support K-4 manipulative mathematics programs where learning takes place from concrete to pictorial to symbolic is available from:

**Logo Publications,
7 Conifer Crescent
Ontario, Canada N6K 2V3
(519) 657-9334**