

# NCTM Beat.....

*In this column we will keep you up to date as to CLIME's work in the NCTM community.*

The NCTM Technology Task Force Committee (TTFC) met last March and completed their assignment to update the NCTM's Board of Directors on the use of technology in mathematics classrooms. The mandate for the 5 member task force was to (1) review and make recommendations for revisions of two NCTM position statements, and (2) prepare a plan of action that would *insure* appropriate implementation of technology in teaching mathematics. The task force accomplished the first goal which was to revise the position papers *Calculators and the Education of Youth (Feb., 1991)* and *The Use of Computers in the Learning and Teaching of Mathematics (April, 1987)*. The latter paper will now reflect a broader view as TTFC suggested that the word *computers* be changed to *technology*. The second mandate was more challenging and probably impossible. (How can we possibly *insure* appropriate implementation?) However, TTFC has devised some recommendations that we think would definitely help. For example, the task force is recommending to the standing committees of NCTM ways to increase awareness and promote appropriate use of technology as it pertains to each committee's charge. What the specifics of these recommendations will be will depend on the nature of the specific committee. For example, CLIME's most immediate concern is to make an impact on the Conventions and Conferences Committee (CCC) in order to improve the **visibility and integrity** of technology based sessions at conferences. The task force has made a recommendation to the board in the form of a proposed action for CCC that they ensure the quality of technology sessions and promote them. (For example, to highlight them in some way in the descriptions of sessions in the conference bulletins.)\*

The good news is that the group had an opportunity to

## Letter to the Editor

Dear CLIME,

I am writing to give you some information pursuant to your efforts to increase the technology content of NCTM conference and your involvement on the NCTM technology task force.

We applied to present our new Logo-based curriculum at the 1993 NCTM national conference in Seattle. This curriculum is titled *The Expert Mathematician* and it replaces our former curriculum name, *Fastmath*.

Our organization which is non-profit presented *Fastmath* at the 1990 NCTM national conference in Salt Lake City (with the help of a recommendation of the mathematics consultant of the Minneapolis Public Schools) and *The Expert Mathematician* at the NCTM Regional Meeting in Minneapolis in 1992. With all these reasons, I cannot understand why we were not selected to present at the national conference this year.

It is a shame that we didn't get a chance to present, because we are at the culmination of a major stage in the evolution of our work. We have many teachers asking for our work here in the Midwest.

I know it is too late to do anything about the next meeting, but we would definitely like to present at a subsequent annual meeting and we feel you should know about our omission.

Sincerely yours,

Dale Hulme  
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*Editor's note: The program committee varies from year to year and their selection criteria varies as well. All we can say is keep trying! Complete the speaker request form which will be out this month in the NCTM Newsletter Bulletin and ask your colleagues to recommend you. If you missed the bulletin I can send you a copy of the form. Further note: A review of Dale's program Fastmath is in the October, 1993 issue of the Mathematics Teacher.*

come together and think about possibilities for how we can improve the use of technology in the classroom. The bad news is that our task force is

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