

From the Editor's Desk

Three new items have come to your editor's attention recently that may be of interest to all.

The first is "An Agenda for Action," a booklet published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It gives recommendations on objectives in education for the next 10 years which are the expression of mathematics teachers throughout North America and other parts of the world. The summary is printed on the inside front cover of this *journal*. For detailed report, write to NCTM, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

The second item is "statistics." This is a small booklet published by the Mathematics Department of the University of Alberta containing information on the basic needs of university-bound students in the area of statistics. This booklet is a valuable item for teachers of senior matriculation students. It provides an insight into the mathematics skills required of students who want to pursue this area of study. For your free copy, write to Mathematics Department, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1.

The third item is the fact that the calculator is no longer the new "tool of mathematics." It has been replaced by the computer. However, before you run out to buy computers, it would be wise to find out what is taking place in the industry. At the NCTM annual meeting in Seattle I found an overwhelming maze of hardware and software with a variety of capabilities. The difficulty is the incompatibility of different systems. The only drawback to using computers to assist you is the cost of materials; the only limit is the imagination of your staff. (P.S. Don't tell the English and social studies teachers they can use your computer as easily as you - unless you need their support in obtaining the hardware financing.)

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Editor