PLUS +++

Pre-College Statistics for the '80s

John Del Grande, mathematics co-ordinator for North York, organized a committee of Ontario educators to develop guidelines and materials in statistics which could be used experimentally in Canadian secondary schools. Financed by the Samuel Beatty Fund, the group of 13 has produced two publications: *Pre-College Statistics for the 80s* (skeleton K-13 curriculum and topics for Grades 9-12), and *Statistics for Grade 13* (author Neil Walsh, North York).

These are copyrighted, but, while not available for commercial use, may be reproduced for experimental classroom use. For further information, write to Mr. J.J. Del Grande, Mathematics Coordinator, North York Board of Education, 5050 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5N8.

NCTM: An agenda for action

NCTM members have recently received a pamphlet detailing recommendations for school mathematics in the '80s. Entitled *An Agenda for Action,* it calls for a focus on problem-solving, for a broad approach to basic skills, evaluation, and curriculum, as well as for higher standards in the teaching of mathematics. For a copy, write to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091.

Call for Competition Information

The Canadian Mathematical Society Education Committee is anxious to compile a list of all school mathematical competitions held in Canada - information which it hopes to make available across the country. Please send Professor E.R. Williams, Department of Mathematics, Memorial University, St. John's, Nfld. A1C 5S7, the following information: name of competition, sponsor and local organizer, region of competition and regulations. Include, if possible, recent question papers.

Publication from Ontario Mathematics Coordinators

The Ontario Mathematics Coordinators' Association has produced a draft of a publication, *A Rationale for Elementary and Secondary School Mathematics.* For information, contact Mr. Brock Rachar, Mathematics Coordinator, London Board of Education, Oak Park School, 40 Hunt Club Drive, London, Ontario.

Problems for High School Students

The Canadian Mathematical Society has just published the fourth book in its series of problems for high school students. This volume contains 100 problems prepared by E. Barbeau, M. Klamkin, and W. Moser, and can be obtained for $2.50 from the Society's office at 577 King Edward, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5.

Curriculum Revision

The Canadian Mathematical Society Education Committee is seeking information about proposals and initiatives for curriculum revision in all provinces. This should be sent to the chairman, Professor George Bluman, Department of Mathematics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

The Role of Applications in the Undergraduate Mathematics Curriculum

An ad hoc committee on applied mathematics training, chaired by Professor Peter Hilton, has come up with recommendations for a change in thrust to more applied experiences in university programs. The discussion of "themes" - attitudes, unification of the mathematical sciences, curriculum, applications (experience programs, societal aspects) - makes this a useful handbook for schoolteachers concerned with curriculum. The 26-page booklet, entitled as in the heading, can be obtained from the Office of Mathematical Sciences, U.S. National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418.

The Samuel Beatty Essay Contest

Two students were awarded first place in the 1980 Beatty Essay Contest:

- John Chew, Grade 12, University of Toronto Schools - "Limits to Areas in the Plane," and

- Kevin Jardine, Grade 12, West Humber C.I., Etobicoke, Ontario - "Surface Theory."

Each will receive $100. A third prize of $35 goes to Steve Meszaros, Grade 12, Blakelock H.S., Oakville, Ontario - "Newton vs. Einstein: Comparing the Newtonian Universe and the Universe of Special Relativity."

This contest, sponsored by the Samuel Beatty Fund, is open to all Canadian school students. Information for the 1981 contest will be available in October from E.J. Barbeau, B201, University College, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1A1.

Roving the Journals

The editor of *Plus + + +* receives mathematics teachers' journals from across the country. These indicate that the discussion of mathematical issues and classroom techniques is quite lively everywhere. Lack of space prohibits detailed discussion of contents, but the editor would like to draw attention to a recent issue of *Vector* (Vol.21, No.3), the B.C. journal, which contained some items of national interest. David Robitaille, Department of Mathematics Education, U.B.C., describes the Second International Study of Mathematics, and Bill Kokoskin of Handsworth S.S., North Vancouver, reviews the aftermath of a 1977 report to the B.C. Ministry of Education on women and mathematics. Walter Szetela, Department of Mathematics Education, U.B.C., discusses research on attitudes toward and effect of calculators in the classroom. The editor is Mr. Les Dukowski, 3821 - 202A Street, Langley, B.C. V3A 1T3.

A New International Journal in Canada

Professor David Wheeler of Concordia is the moving spirit behind and editor of a new educational journal. *For the Learning of Mathematics*, Volume 1, Number 1, was to appear in July, and issues will appear each July, November, and March. French and English are languages of publication. The subscription rate per volume is $24 (institutions, libraries) or $18 (private individuals). Apply to the Business Manager, *For the Learning of Mathematics*, Department of Mathematics, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec H4B 1R6.