

A Plea for Help Sent to Us Through Mr. Hyndman

May 9, 1975

The Hon. L.D. Hyndman,
Minister of Education,
Department of Education,
Executive Building,
10105 - 109 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2V2

Dear Mr. Hyndman:

During the past six years I have been trying to build an independent journal for Canadian students of mathematics. I enclose a complete set of the issues to date. *Student Mathematics* consists of original thinking in mathematics and mathematics teaching by Canadian students.

I am due to retire in June 1976 and have been concerned as how best to ensure the future of this publication. From the outset I wanted this to be a national journal and not a parochial Ontario affair. In this I have had limited success. As you will see, the vast majority of the articles are by students in Ontario. This, I am sure, is not because there is a greater degree of originality in this province, but simply because it is naturally easier for me, living and working in Ontario, to make contact with potential student authors.

These years of unemployment, inflation and salary conflicts have been particularly difficult for such a new venture. However, I am not asking for direct financial aid. I do not believe in grants and free hand-outs. Our total expenses are below \$1000 a year and it ought to be possible to sell sufficient copies to interested students to cover this modest sum. If there are not 5000 students in Canada sufficiently interested in mathematics to spend 20 cents a year, we must regard our mathematical education as a total failure.

There are two areas in which help would be appreciated:

(1) Our aim is to print articles from all parts of Canada. It would be most helpful if you would make the existence of our magazine known to schools where mathematics is taught in a stimulating way, and to suggest to them that their students may send us their original work. It should perhaps be stressed that simple discoveries in quite elementary work are welcome; indeed, these are most valuable, since they can be appreciated by a wide body of students and not merely by a few brilliant ones. I can assure you that any work sent from your province will be given adequate prominence in the magazine.

(2) The continued existence of our magazine depends on adequate circulation. We are able to go ahead with confidence if we have standing orders from a sufficient number of schools or provinces. As only one issue a year is appearing at present, the burden is not excessive.

We should be very glad to supply sample copies of the magazine for interested schools to see, if you would let us know how many you would like to have.

We shall be most grateful for any assistance you can give us.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Sawyer.

W.W. Sawyer,
Professor jointly to the Department
of Mathematics and the Faculty of
Education,
University of Toronto

Alberta High School Prize Exams

Applications for the Alberta High School Prize Exams must be received by March 1, 1976. The date of the exam is Thursday, March 18, 1976, and winners will compete in the Math Olympiad on May 7. The registration fee is \$1 per student.

Sponsors are the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, the Canadian Mathematical Congress, the Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers' Association, and the Nickle Foundation. Persons eligible are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants enrolled in a normal high school program in Alberta or the Northwest Territories.

Principals should forward names, addresses, ages, and grades of students to:

Provincial Exam Chairman
Department of Mathematics
University of Alberta
Edmonton T6G 2E1