
From the Editor

There are several opportunities to fulfill any desires that we have to be a network. The MAA (Math Association of America) has created *Special Interest Groups* with easy formal rules. The HMNJ also has an email list which allows contact among the readers.

To subscribe, send email to: listkeeper @ hmc.edu
with the message: "Subscribe HMNJ-L@hmc.edu"
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and your email will be forwarded to everyone on the list.

Sometimes I'm reminded of Mort Sahl with a folded newspaper under his arm—except that there is no humor in the articles that I'm reading.

The governor of California threatens to retain students in grade if they can't pass a standardized exam. The next day he is offering a substantial signing bonus for new teachers who agree to teach in California if they have valid teaching credentials. A TV personality observed that if the physical conditions in some Los Angeles schools were found in prisons, the state would be sued.

It is difficult to remain cheerful while reading the newspapers these days.

Things have gotten so bad in Los Angeles schools that an educator, Guillermo Mendieta, threatened to go on a hunger strike starting April 1 over a Los Angeles School District policy decision. Mendieta is director of the Mathematics Standards Initiative at the Achievement Council. He said,

"The issues are not about endorsing one program over another, but about access and equity, choice, about trusting teachers to choose the most beneficial math programs."

More information is available on the website
<http://www.achievementcouncil.org>
Click on "LAUSD Mathematics Crisis."