

FOCUS

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NRC Aiming for June Launch of Education Board

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences is aiming for a June 1985 launch date for its new Board on Mathematical Sciences Education. [See *FOCUS*, March-April 1985.]

A major step in this direction was taken on April 12-13, when the NRC called a meeting of some 50 mathematical scientists, educators, and administrators to discuss the preliminary plans for the composition, funding, and projects of the Board. Meeting participants included MAA President Lynn A. Steen; F. Joe Crosswhite, President, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; Gordon M. Ambach, President, Council of Chief State School Officers; and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Assistant Director, Science and Engineering Education Directorate of the National Science Foundation. The meeting was chaired by James Ebert, President of the Carnegie Institute and Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences.

The purpose of the Board, which will report directly to the leadership of the National Research Council, is to provide a continuing national capability to assess and support educational conditions and needs in the area of mathematical sciences education across the country. NRC hopes the Board will be a practical response to present problems in developing quality instruction in mathematical sciences education. The Board's activities will be designed to provide advice and insight to users across the country who seek to rebuild the quality of mathematical sciences education.

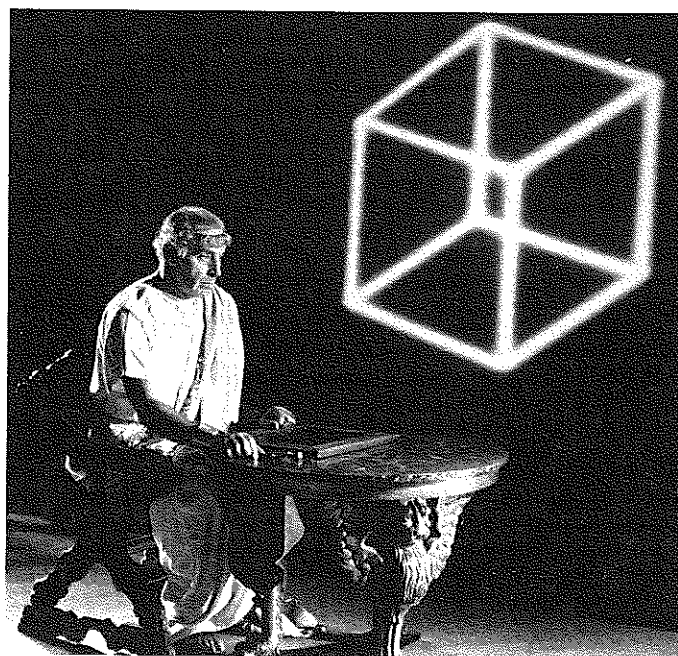
Key issues in precollege mathematical sciences education which have been identified for early action by the Board are testing, curriculum guidelines, staff development, communication and dissemination, and computer-enhanced mathematics education.

The 1985 Joint Summer Mathematics Meetings

The 1985 Joint Summer Mathematics Meetings will be held at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, August 12-15, 1985. The meetings will include the **65th Summer Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America**, the **89th Summer Meeting of the American Mathematical Society**, the **1985 Summer Meeting of the Association for Women in Mathematics**, and the **1985 Annual Meeting of Pi Mu Epsilon**.

A preliminary program for the meetings—including information and forms for preregistration, housing, and the Summer List of Applicants—was mailed to all MAA members in the center section of the March-April *FOCUS*. Additional copies may be obtained upon request from: Mathematical Association of America, 1529 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 387-5200.

The center section of this issue contains additional meeting information, including descriptions of the MAA Minicourses and the timetable for MAA sessions. The deadlines for meeting and minicourse preregistration are both **June 14**. Information about contributed papers must be submitted to MAA Headquarters by **May 28**.



A scene from NOVA's "Mathematical Mystery Tour," which was aired nationally on PBS on March 5. This program, produced by Jon Palfreman of BBC-TV, is the first in this popular science documentary series to attempt to explain concepts in pure mathematics to a general audience.