

Mathematics Suddenly One of Most Exciting School Subjects

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

In hundreds of high schools across the nation, mathematics has suddenly become one of the most exciting subjects in the curriculum.



Instead of fleeing from math as soon as they have trudged through the minimum requirements, students are voluntarily signing up for advanced courses. This educational miracle has been wrought by new teaching methods which treat

mathematics as a logical structure to be understood rather than a bag of tricks to be memorized.

The reform is long overdue. Enormous advances have been made in mathematics, as in other sciences, during the past 50 years. But until recently, high schools and colleges went on teaching math as though nothing had happened since Sir Isaac Newton devised calculus in the 17th century.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of America's schools are still teaching math that way. For every high school that has introduced the new kind of math, there are probably 10 or more which are

continuing to use the obsolete traditional approach.

But the "new math" is being promoted energetically by such influential bodies as the U. S. Office of Education, the National Science Foundation, the National Education Association, the Mathematical Association of America, the College Entrance Examination board and the Carnegie Corporation.

It seems likely that thousands of additional high schools will introduce the modern program within the next few years. An acute shortage of teachers trained in the new methods is the only thing keeping many of

them from making the switch immediately.

How does the new math differ from the traditional type, which most students found deadly dull?

Chicken Out of Window
Dr. Daniel W. Snader, mathematics specialist for the U. S. Office of Education, said that traditional math has not been chucked bodily out the window.

"About 90 per cent of what used to be taught in math courses is still being taught in the new programs," he explained in an interview. "But it is being presented in a more interesting and meaningful way, and in combination with new concepts which help to give the student a better insight."

Students in the new programs are learning the why as well as the how of math. Instead of memorizing rules, they are grappling with the basic mathematical principles and the interrelationships that lie behind the rules.

One of the conspicuous features of the new math programs is that they introduce, often at a very early grade, concepts which formerly were taught only in advanced college and math courses.

For example, a curriculum series developed by the University of Illinois introduces the theory of sets in the 10th grade, and the study of polynomial functions in the 11th grade.

In the 7th grade, and even earlier in some schools, students are learning that a system of numbers does not have to be based on 10 (as our decimal system happens to be). By working out problems using other numbers systems (such as base 5, or base 12), they quickly master the abstract concept of place value, and are prepared to understand, as their parents may never be, the operations of an electronic computer which uses a "binary" or base 2 system in which the only digits are 0 and 1.

So don't get upset if your child comes home from school one day and tells you that the teacher says 22 can also be written 1010. It just means that his school is now using the new math, too.

Money Policies Rapped by Porter

Eugene—Rep. Charles O. Porter, (D-Ore.), Friday night blamed the "tight money-high interest rate" policy of the Republican administration for a current slump in the lumber and plywood industry.

Porter said new home construction was down 25 per cent this year and that the rate has continued to slide under the Republican administration. He noted that most of the lumber and plywood produced in Oregon's 4th district goes into new home construction.

He said he was in favor of the Forand bill as the answer to the problem of medical care for the aged, and that he supports Sen. John F. Kennedy in advocating greater federal aid to education.

Porter also said in a speech at Harris Hall three "positive points of action" in foreign policy should be acted upon in the next presidential term. He said "we must stop coddling dictators. We are now changing our policy toward Trujillo, which I have been advocating for three and a half years." He also called for "increased communication with China instead of the deadened containment policy which we have been following since 1948," and for a positive program for disarmament.

London—The London Evening Standard said Friday Queen Charlotte's Maternity hospital has been dubbed the "London Heirport."

California AA's To Convene in Chico

Chico—AA's of California will convene here for the Northern California Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to be held at the Chico Fair Grounds Oct. 1 and 2.

Advance reservations indicate that this will probably be Chico's largest convention in history. Together with many out-of-state reservations, blocks of reservations are coming in from groups who are chartering buses to take them to Chico from Long Beach, Los Angeles and other distant areas.

U.S.-Cuba Dispute Still Deadlocked

Washington—UPI—The United States government will remain aloof from any future efforts to mediate the U.S.-Cuban dispute outside of the Organization of American States, authoritative sources reported Saturday.

Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, the sources said, has not the "slightest intention" of accepting possible Latin American initiatives to open direct talks with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at the current United Nations General Assembly session.

Uruguay Vice President Eduardo Victor Haedo, head of his country's delegation to

the General Assembly, suggested earlier last week that Castro's presence at the United Nations should be taken advantage of for exploratory talks.

SEVEN ROLLS OUT

Milwaukee, Wis.—UPI—Lucky No. 7 in a crap game probably cost the city \$25 Friday. Vice squad police raided a game in which they seized six players, who were fined \$25 apiece. But the seventh player jumped out of a 25-foot high second story window and escaped the cops and the fine.

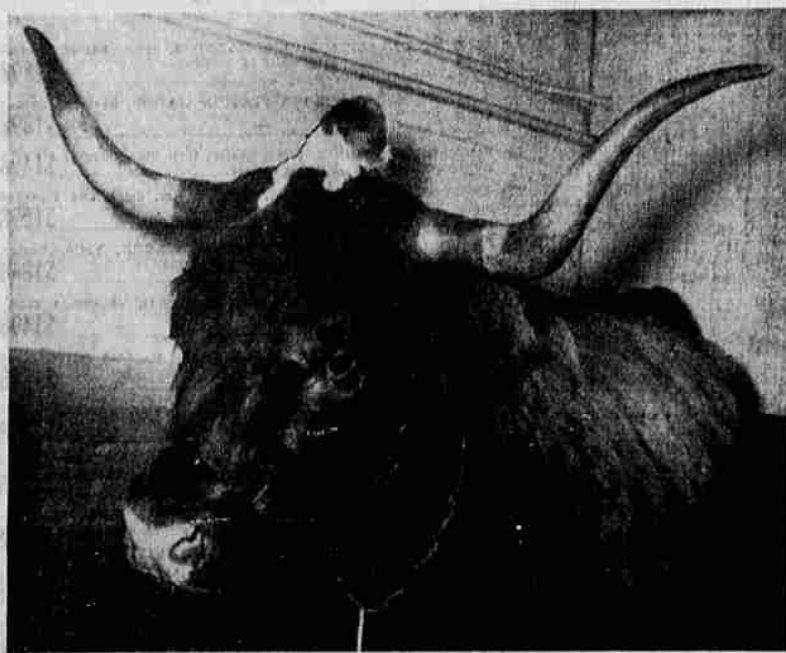
Washington—UPI—There were 174 new polio cases in the United States last week, 20 more than in the preceding week but only one-third as many as in the same week last year.

Portland—UPI—Rep. Chester Bowles, (D-Conn.), will speak here Sunday, Oct. 2. He is advisor to Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy on foreign affairs.

MARBLE TABLE TOPS

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VIEW FROM ON HIGH—Not much bigger than a flea, a part-Chihuahua pup enjoys the massive head of a Scotch Highland cow at West Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Mass. (UPI Telephoto)

Women Help Guard Printing of Money In Engraving Bureau

Washington—UPI—Automation has forced the government to allow women to help guard the printing of America's money.

The Bureau of Engraving,

forced to make an almost 50 per cent reduction in its 6,300 workers after new labor-saving machinery was introduced, found that women would like to be money guards, rather than be laid off.

Bureau Director Henry Holtzclaw, when openings became available on the male guard force, thought he might be able to give some of the surplus women jobs as guards. Two weeks after posting vacancy notices, he was swamped with 233 applications for 17 openings.

Reasons Given
He thought that expectations of excitement, variety and desire for a change were reasons for so many applications.

Written tests and physical examinations were given, and 17 married women with an average age of 45 were admitted to the force for a three-week training course.

Since then, the 17 have qualified on the bureau's target range with .38 caliber pistols. On the job, they are armed with the same pistols and carry them in shoulder handbags.

Their training also covered first aid, the special rules and regulations of the bureau, fire regulations, and especially, how to watch for persons trying to smuggle out money.

After graduation, the women were assigned to security duties on the same basis as men, with one exception. They work only the day shift.

Director Holtzclaw said: "I don't believe in dumping women on the streets at midnight."

Why have married women decided to learn to shoot, guard and watch over money instead of inspecting it?

Early Fear of Guns
"The responsibility, and I like the change," one lady guard said as she came off the pistol range. She admitted an early fear of guns, but said her instructor, a Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer, had been very "patient."

"I'll get to see more of the bureau instead of the one department I've been working in," she said.

Engraving buildings cover two large city blocks.

Another guard hopefully said: "I'll have a chance to see and meet more people." The bureau is visited by 600,000 tourists annually.

The women didn't think their families minded them being guards. One said that "at first they teased me, but now they're all proud of me."

The approximately 70 male guards, according to Holtzclaw, "were apprehensive at first, but we've had no adverse reaction since the women have been on the job."

New Program Is Listed by AF

Portland—Air Force recruiting officials have announced the initiation of a new program designed to allow the entry of veterans from any of the Armed Forces into the Air Force.

The plan is said to be a complete reversal of past AF policies which allowed only former Air Force members to reenlist and was so strict that about 9 out of 10 veterans could not qualify.

Under the plan, effective immediately, veterans who have been out of the service for more than three years may still return as airman third class, receive a base of choice, and may be married. Also, veterans who have been out for as long as two years may return with no less than one grade reduction.

Further information may be obtained by contacting M/Sgt. H. K. O'Leary at the AF recruiting office in the Medford post office.

Cancer Rates Increase in State

Portland—UPI—Cancer rates increased four per cent last year to the highest number in Oregon history, according to a report by the Oregon State Board of Health.

Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer, said the disease claimed 2,520 persons last year compared to 2,427 in 1958.

He said, however, the Oregon cancer death rate was still below the national average.

Slightly more than half of the fatalities were persons 65 years old or older. Cancer mortality among persons under 65 increased eight per cent, and deaths among those under 45 soared 29 per cent.

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