

1014-97-1613      **Andrew M. Gleason\*** (gleason@math.harvard.edu). *Disagreeing about Common Ground.*

Mathematics education reform is not about mathematics or, if you are generous it's 10% about mathematics. It's really about the choice of curriculum and pedagogical style. Many actors demand a voice in the selection of curriculum: parents, teachers, publishers, employers and, finally, politicians. And these different actors have widely different views. Within the professional mathematics community views differ as sharply but not perhaps as widely as those within the general public. Recently, the MAA with support of the NSF has promoted some meetings to "search for common ground." I have reports of two of these meetings. My talk will be devoted to explaining why I disagree with the main thrusts of these meetings. Both of them emphasize arithmetic calculation as the primary, almost the only, objective of mathematical instruction in the early grades. I disagree! Mathematics instruction should be devoted to explaining how mathematics helps us to understand the real world. (Received September 28, 2005)