The Humboldt State University Department of Mathematics Presents:

The 41st Harry S. Kieval Lecture**

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Thursday, February 27, 2003

8:30 P.M.

Natural Resources 101

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Hyman Bass

Professor of Mathematics and Mathematics Education
University of Michigan
President of the American Mathematical Society

"Squaring off on Rounding off: A House Divided"

The US Constitution assigns to each state a number of representative (in the House) proportional to its population. Thus, if the US population is N, a state's population is p, and the total number of representative (currently 435) is h, then the number of representatives assigned to that state in (p/N)h. The main problem for this simple formula is that (p/N)h is usually not a whole number, whereas we do not elect fractional representatives. So there is need for some kind of round-off convention. There are several distinct ways of doing this, and they confer very different kinds of advantages to different kinds of states in this very high stakes decision making. The debate over different model began with Jefferson, Hamilton, and Adams, and it has continued up to recent times. Professor Bass will offer a historical account of this problem, pointing out some of the mathematical issues and paradoxes involved.

**A lecture on some popular and/or broad aspects of mathematics attractive to undergraduates and the public
For More Information go to: http://www.humboldt.edu/~mathdept/HarrySKieval/kl.html

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