



## *In Focus ...* Ten EMT Students and Me

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Most of us have fond remembrances, however faint, of the warmth received when a parent reads stories to us. My first acquaintance with a form of what follows was as a story, now recognized as clearly racist, that my mother read to me as a very young boy. My memories were hardly that of a social issue but rather that of the warmth associated with a loving parent and the joy of counting the characters in the story.

I had long since forgotten that story until I happened to attend a church service directed by Dr. Frank Harrington at Peachtree Presbyterian Church a year or so ago. In his usual dynamic and compelling way, Dr. Harrington altered the story to create a wonderfully touching story housed in a religious context. I was vividly impressed and felt the challenge to create my own version relative to our field. What follows is my attempt to do so as I shared it at the University of Georgia Mathematics Education reunion conference last fall.

Ten little educators were in schools when things were fine,  
The going got rough—and then there were nine.  
Nine little educators every day worked late,  
One fell asleep and then there were eight.  
Eight little educators were promoting schools made in heaven,  
One played Pinehurst #2 and then there were seven.  
Seven little educators went for the quick fix,  
One was asked to write standards and then there were six.  
Six little educators were keeping the reform alive,  
One fell in love and then there were five.  
Five little educators seemed loyal to the core,  
One took a second job and then there were four.  
Four little educators promoted empowerment and being free,  
A principal became angry and then there were three.  
Three little educators tried not to be blue,  
One visited an inner city school and then there were two.  
Two little educators argued who should run,  
the next dinner banquet and then there was one.  
One little educator wondered what next to do,  
Persuaded an EMT student and then there were two.  
Two EMT students each persuaded one more,  
So their number doubled and then there were four.  
Four EMT students simply couldn't wait,  
til they found four others and then there were eight.  
Eight eager EMT students went to schools every week,  
and found eight others who were not so meek.  
Our vision is to fill classes with mathematicians of every hue,  
Now you just watch how EMT students promote this vision  
for the many and not just the few!

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*Thomas Cooney received his PhD in mathematics education from the University of Illinois in 1969 whereupon he accepted a position in mathematics education at the University of Georgia. His interests and research are primarily in the area of teacher education.*