

Letters to the Editor

• Brief letters—one or two pages—are more likely to be printed than are long ones, which may be cut.

Student Likes Water-Pollution Article

I read with interest the article "Teachers and Students Write a Curriculum on Water Pollution" (*ABT* 33 [4]: 211-213 f.). I was just introduced recently to our nation's water problems in my biology class here at school. Naturally, due to the various news media that we have, Americans are becoming more aware of the environmental crisis that we have to face.

The article concerning the Tilton School project in New Hampshire was interesting. I liked the idea of the students as well as the teachers participating together on the project. But I think it is a mistake in education to bring the pollution problem to the attention of the young people at the high school age. I think that's too late. Wouldn't it be more beneficial to introduce the nation's environmental problems to the children at the elementary school age? The children today should be shown the mistakes that the adults have made, in the hope that they will not make the same mistakes that their parents did.

You brought out how the Tilton activity had originated in Cleveland in 1967. I am sure that there are probably other projects going on throughout the country dealing with water pollution and perhaps offering a solution. But here in northeastern Ohio the water pollution problem really hits home with the contamination of Lake Erie and the pathetic condition of the Mahoning River here in Youngstown, Ohio.

I hope that the curriculum on water pollution will help the teachers to educate the children in the schools so that in the future we can remedy this national problem.

Thank you for that interesting article.

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William H. Schlesinger comments:

Thomas Gross's comments are most appropriate. The earlier a youngster is exposed to environmental education the more perceptive will be his appreciation of environmental problems. With this in mind, the Tilton School curriculum was tested with elementary-school teacher and student participants during the National Association of Independent Schools' training session in August 1970. Being moderately successful even in a form written primarily for high school use, the program indicated that elementary-school students could be exposed to environmental education to provide a background for

later, more detailed study. The Tilton School curriculum guide, entitled *A Curriculum Activities Guide to Water Pollution and Environmental Studies*, is now available from the Institute for Environmental Education, 2803 Scarborough Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

Digestive Function . . . from p. 142

In general, this procedure requires a minimum of equipment and materials. Furthermore, with the exception of the kymograph (which in fact can also be home-constructed) all items are inexpensive and are widely available to the student.

Acknowledgement.—Elaine H. Mullen prepared fig. 1, 2, and 3.

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MORE RECREATION TRAILS

The U.S. Interior Dept. recently designated 27 new National Recreation Trails to be added to the National Trails System. The trails—ranging in length from one-quarter mile to 30 miles—are located primarily near urban population centers where they offer outdoor recreation to hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, naturalists, and the handicapped. The 1968 National Trails System Act provides chances for state, local, and privately owned trails to become part of the system pending approval by the Interior secretary.