

An Overture

ABT Needs Your Ideas

In the September issue of *ABT* I sketched plans for future development of the journal. I thought I would include more details of possibilities for the future, and encourage our readers to write articles and send in ideas that might fit proposed *ABT* issues. I suspect that every biology teacher has “pet” ideas for laboratory activities and teaching demonstrations which would be valuable to other teachers. These should be shared. I also suspect that many teachers have secret ambitions to become authors. Why not take the plunge and give article-writing a try?

As a general editorial policy for the future, issues of *ABT* will focus on themes. This is only possible, of course, if sufficient material can be collected to fit each theme issue. Following is a list of possibilities for foci in upcoming issues:

- Biology Teaching and Futurism
- New Brain Research and Implications for Science Teaching
- Educating Gifted Students in Biology
- Innovations in Biology Instruction
- Dealing with Controversial Issues in Biology
- Approaches to Biology in Middle and Junior High Schools
- Developing Creative Thinking in Biology Classrooms
- Research on Learning of Biology
- New Biology Laboratory Activities
- Relating Biology to Other School Subjects
- Frontiers of Research in Biology
- Extraterrestrial Biology
- Computers in Biology Classrooms
- Attending to the Affective Domain

Should sufficient manuscripts become available, theme issues may also be developed around teaching and learning of biological topics (“Teaching Genetics,” “Teaching Biochemistry”). Suggestions from readers on potential themes are most welcome!

New departments will soon become part of *ABT* and some from past volumes will be continued. I would be delighted to have contributions for these departments:

How-To-Do-It—short descriptions of laboratory investigations, teacher-made biological models, teaching demonstrations, field investigations, games, or other practical ideas for classroom teachers.

Transparency Masters—full-page line drawings of molecules, cells, organisms, or biochemical pathways that can be machine-copied and made into instructional transparencies for overhead projection.

Biology News Briefs—short updates of recent biological research developments.

Biology Olympics—laboratory or field challenges suitable for high school biology students. Some examples of challenges are: “Grow a bean plant having a right angle to its stem.” “Devise a method to show that a potted plant moves.” Ideas for suitable challenges are needed, and innovative solutions developed by students will be sought for publication.

Humor—though not a full-fledged journal department, we are seeking biology-oriented cartoons, riddles, and puns for occasional inclusion in *ABT*.

Perspectives—short articles of opinion regarding issues in biology or biological education.

Does anything come to mind that fits? If so, why not send it to us?

Alan J. McCormack, *editor*