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Editor's Corner - Cuts

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Cuts

Everyone, or almost everyone, reading this editorial has experienced the effect of state budget cuts within the past year. All Iowans have directly or indirectly been affected. Most readers of this journal are Iowa educators who have felt the impact in their daily efforts to educate children. Those of us in higher education have been editorially described as working in a "university disaster area." Degree-required classes are not offered to students, offices operate without secretaries, buildings go without repairs and, it would seem, there is not even enough money to pay someone to clean the floors. The cuts are both large and small scale.

The *Iowa Science Teachers Journal* may fit into the small or the large category depending on one's point of view, but it, too, has directly faced an onslaught of "the cuts." To bring the *Journal* into the hands of readers at the desired time is always a major challenge. This issue has faced the additional challenge of surviving the state budget cuts. Ever since the *Journal* came to the University of Northern Iowa, it has been supported to some extent by the University. At first this support was extensive. In recent years the budget reductions took their toll, but the University continued to make a substantial contribution . . . until the last fatal and familiar "3.25." With that slash, the University could no longer consider the *Journal* a high priority, and funding was withdrawn. This left us without money for the student editorial assistant and publication support. The result: delay of the current issue!

On the brighter side, the *Journal* has only been **delayed** (rather than discontinued) because the Iowa Academy of Science determined to replace the lost funds and continue with operations as usual. Thus, the now familiar scenario has been repeated: financial support from the larger group (state tax money) has been removed and replaced by financial support from a smaller number (members of the Academy) who bear the financial burden because they care the most. After all, teachers are expected to be concerned about their students and their disciplines.

We have known for a long time that tax supported projects are not really a "free lunch." Many times we act as if the *Journal* and similar projects were free, but we know that we all share in the cost. However, the government seems to have found a way to get a free lunch. Just have the teachers pay for it!

Speaking of Delays . . .

I've just been informed that one of our members received the last spring issue of the *Journal* in mid October!!! This issue will be in the hands of the printers by about November 15. If you do not receive this autumn issue before the Christmas Holidays, please write the editor.

--C.W.B.