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Editor's Corner - Support and Growth

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EDITORS CORNER

Support and Growth

Having now begun my fifth year as editor of the *Iowa Science Teachers Journal (ISTJ)*, I have become quite certain of the optimum role of the *ISTJ* and the factors needed for that role to be filled.

Inside the front cover of the *ISTJ* is stated that the Journal is dedicated to the improvement of science teaching and the stimulation of interest in scientific studies. If a strong science education program is to be maintained in Iowa, this publication must include material for science teachers from elementary through graduate science methods. This has become a reality in recent years. A part of this endeavor is the encouragement and support of science teachers (K through graduate school) to create and put into print high quality material that will provide for enhancement of science teaching. Herein lies a responsibility and task of great proportion. The mechanical task of the production of the *ISTJ* is significant and time consuming, but the mission of raising the consciousness of Iowa science educators and developing in them the desire and skill to communicate to fellow educators of Iowa and the nation is a more significant and time consuming challenge. Among the numerous duties and skills to be accomplished, the *ISTJ* editor must develop the skill to communicate the rejection of an article so as to encourage the author to rewrite to improve and to make the article one which is capable of enhancing the teaching of *ISTJ* readers.

If the *ISTJ* does not fulfill the goal of fostering improved teaching for writer and reader, it should be replaced on teachers' desks by national journals which do so. Among the advantages of *ISTJ* are cost, local applicability and the opportunity for creative development by Iowa educators.

In order to accomplish these goals, the *ISTJ* needs financial support in addition to the personal contribution of editors and writers. For the chief editor to be able to accomplish the goals of the *ISTJ*, that editor must contribute time well beyond that required for the daily teaching of a class. This is required even with a staff of assistant editors and the support of a competent copy writer. I am not the first to come to the conclusion that the *ISTJ* editor needs released time. When the *ISTJ* was brought to UNI, the university granted released time from one course plus considerable additional support for the cause of the *ISTJ*. That support is not now available to me.

Support in the form of much needed and appreciated student help support had been granted through the College of Education, but is not adequate for a service project of this magnitude. The generous support of \$4 to \$5 thousand per year from the *IAS* needs to be matched by another source interested in supporting science education in Iowa. This should be allocated specifically to release time for the chief editor.

So that the *IAS* may find a chief editor in a position which may receive the support needed to fulfill the goals and nurture the growth of the *ISTJ*, I have submitted my resignation as editor of the *ISTJ* effective with the winter issue which completes vol. 24.

If you are an Academy member in a position in which the necessary time can be made available and have had experience in writing and editing in science

education, contact the *ISTJ* managing editor.

My tenure as director has been one of enlightenment for me and I hope for writers and readers as well. It has been a period of pride as each issue has come to completion. Particular recognition is due to those who have been most supportive with their time and talents: Marge Vargas, Copy Editor, Price Laboratory School; Dr. Jim Macmillan, Managing Editor and Executive Director of the Iowa Academy of Science; Dr. Paul Joslin, Science Education Assistant Editor, Drake University; and Dr. Gary Downs, Elementary Education Assistant Editor, Iowa State University.

I wish the IAS the very best in its pursuit of the goals of the *ISTJ* and deeply appreciate the confidence shown me and the opportunity to serve the IAS and Iowa science education through the editorship of the *ISTJ*.

— C.W.B.