Grading is based on three conventional class tests, three lab practicals and a final examination.

Students feel they work very hard, although in hours it approximates the 13 hours per week which is expected of them. Reactions generally have been favorable to the system, although it is evident that the majority of students would not want to take more than one course at a time under this or a similar system; they like the freedom but still lack confidence in their ability to manage their own time. Students feel they have a more meaningful one-to-one contact with the instructor than under a conventional system. They appreciate the change of pace, the variety of materials and the sense of personal accomplishment which they derive.

The method takes a great deal of time of the instructor; clerical and secretarial help is essential. It has become necessary to restrict the hours at which the student may request Progress Reports as they can disrupt the instructor's time greatly. No matched control group has been involved, but students appear to do equally well under this system and the more conventional presentation.

* D.I.L. board by Murdock, used with Audiotronics ATC 148 cassette player

** CH-4 cordless phones by Murdock (from Century Communications Corp., Minneapolis)

*** Research Media, Inc., 4 Midland Avenue, Hicksville, New York 11801

A letter from our Program Chairman...

December 28, 1979

Seasons Greetings to all you folks out there in Scienceland from your 1980 AMCBT Program Chairman. My wife and I are "high" in the Colorado Rockies celebrating our "honeymoon".

Rest assured, your Chairman is actively pursuing the most qualified of individuals to provide for your academic expansion and educational entertainment at the fall meeting. A grizzly has already consented to discuss the topic of "how to bear with poor administrators" and a local taxidermist will show us "how to mount department heads".
There will be many "deviations from the norm" at the 1980 AMCBT Annual Meeting at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, on October 3rd and 4th. The theme for the program is "Contemporary LAB curricula", with L.A.B. being an acronym for Learning Applicable Biology.

Working in conjunction with Norm Jenson, the local arrangements chairman, a great package of events has been organized for your enjoyment. The morning tours and excursions of October 3 will include a visit to the University's Nature Center and outer edges; a visit to Staley's syrup factory. A nuclear power plant tour is planned where you will receive mutations free of charge; a pharmaceutical packaging plant will provide a tour for our participants with each receiving a small quantity of the drug of their choice. The final tour of the day will be a moonwalk followed by our usual selection of films and Biological Suppliers' demonstrations and gifts.

The major addresses for the General Session and the banquet are shaping up to be the best in the past years. Several individuals and organizations have been contacted. These include the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, the Department of Energy, Illinois Department of Health, Alexander Gram Bellinski, the first telephone pole, Argonne National Laboratory, Department of Education, and Clark Kent who will speak on the Freudian Theory of the "super ego".

As a special guest for our 1980 meeting, we have invited Dr. John C. Montgomery, chief engineer for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant, who will discuss his latest novel, *Oops*.

The heart of the AMCBT Annual Meeting lies in the Group Sessions. This year, with Lab work as a theme, we have chosen many excellent presenters and topics which deal with lab exercises which have proven effective in classroom use.

These topics include:

a. biofeedback demonstration  
b. care of lab animals  
c. audiovisual preparations for lab  
d. human genetics  
e. care of lab plants  
f. teaching lab skills  
g. lab safety  
h. ecology lab exercises  
i. human systems measurement  
j. reproduction skills  
k. others too incredible to mention

There was quite a discussion among the members of the Steering Committee concerning the topic to be considered by the "Panel of Peers". We decided it would be best for the membership to decide which topic they feel deserves the most attention.
Choose from the following list and send your choice and your reason and any suggestions you have to:

Jim Royce  
Iowa Central Community College  
Fort Dodge, Iowa  50501

And you will receive, in return for your trouble, Madame Curie's incomplete novel, I'm Glowing in the Dark.

Panel Topics:

a. Continuing Education in Science  
b. Handicapped Students in Science  
c. Retention of Students  
d. The Failing Student

The topic will be the Failing Marriage if I don't get back to the honeymoon. So send me some suggestions ... about anything!

You'll hear from me again!

Jim Royce  
1980 Program Chairman

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NOTES FROM THE 23RD ANNUAL MEETING  .  .  .

'Articulation, Allied Health', Janet Schweitzer, Jefferson Community College, Friday, October 12. Recorder, W. G. Bennett

Ms. Schweitzer described her experience with the Medical Technology program at Jefferson Community College which started in 1971. Her experiences were not all that different from other members present. It would appear from the presentation and discussion that acceptance of credit transfer by four year colleges and upper programs is strictly on an individual student evaluation. There is a good bit of "Good Old Boy" evaluation exercised. The Jefferson experience has also found the older student, mostly women, to be more successful in completing the program than new high school graduates.