In many homes and in most school systems, overt sex-role philosophies of previous generations have become hidden. The current messages that parents and educators communicate to children are subtle. Parents or teachers may not be aware of these subtleties, but children are. In school, women are still being rewarded for behavior that would best fit a housewife model. This is the consequence of a nonconscious ideology. The status of quality of homemaker, secretary or teacher as an occupational choice is not the issue, just as the choice of a man becoming a neurosurgeon would not be questioned, until it could be demonstrated that one-half of all men were becoming neurosurgeons. The fact is that, in spite of innumerable differences in personality and ability, the majority of American women become full time homemakers, secretaries or teachers and not scientists or mathematicians.

I do not believe that women's studies will or can change the course of women in math and science fields. Awareness of specific covert factors affecting women in math and science courses is the first step. Once these factors are isolated it would be possible to modify the reinforcement history of some females. Scholarly studies of hidden curriculum effects on special interests groups such as women is lacking. Progress in this area could be helpful in uncovering and restructuring stereotyping in such areas as math and science. Until some progress is made in uncovering and restructuring the conditioning of the hidden curriculum with respect to women the belief that education is the gateway to golden opportunities is mythical.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The success of the AMCBT meeting at St. Xavier College in Chicago is yet vivid to me as I assume the office of President and begin working with other members in preparation for our next annual meeting. There are many persons on the Steering Committee and throughout the membership, to thank for their efforts. I will, however, mention a few: Sr. Marion Johnson, local arrangements, John Jungck for putting together an interesting and informative program and Edward Kos, our diligent Executive Secretary. Neil Baird, our past President, has done an excellent job in keeping our special committees and Steering Committee members working smoothly together in order to accomplish their goals.

During the several years of membership in AMCBT I have come to regard the annual meeting as a kind of family reunion. I feel a closeness among members whereby ideas and techniques can be shared, friendships can be formed and a variety of interests are represented. Even during the months between meetings I have a network of friends who are only a phone call or letter away. While there is a diversity of interests among the members, our common bond is the teaching of biological sciences. AMCBT does have unique qualities.

Perhaps one of the main concerns for our organization is bridging the time gap between the annual meetings. How does the membership keep in touch? There can be only one main mechanism; The Midwest Bioscene. I want to extend the highest praise and commendation to our editor, William Doemel, for his superb job during the past year. The Steering Committee has plans for developing an editorial board that will solicit ideas and articles for publication. Please make a commitment to submitting an article for Bioscene during 1985. Only your contribution can make each issue our key to sustaining the interest and enthusiasm of our members.
Other concerns for AMCBT involve recruitment of new members. While there are state recruiting chairmen among our members, each of us should make efforts to draw new members from our local areas. Why not resolve to bring a new member into AMCBT during 1985. During the past annual meeting someone mentioned that community colleges were under-represented among our membership. Perhaps this is a fertile field for new members who could greatly benefit themselves as well as our organization.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your patience. This issue of BIOSCENE is an experiment; one that was partially successful. At the request of many members, we decided to shift to a two column format. Both Mrs. Roth and I thought this should be an easy task - it wasn't. Our word processing system for the Rainbow is WordPerfect. While it allows for 2 column formatting, we do not understand yet how to easily couple documents together. As a result, we had to cut and paste. If we do not resolve our problems, the next issue will be in a single column format - suggestions are welcome. My deadline for the next issue is April 1 with publication by April 20.

Writers who use either an Apple II based system or a DEC based system may send us a textfile of their document on a floppy disk. We will return the disk to you. The output to the textfile cannot have special functions - underlining, bold, etc. - and should have two carriage returns between paragraphs, i.e., a line space between each paragraph.

BIOSCENE would not be possible without the patient help of Mrs. Sandy Roth, the Biology/Physics Department Secretary.

I look forward to serving AMCBT during 1985.

Ray Reed
AMCBT President