lab rather than to the "C" as in lecture. This could be due to any of several things: the lab tests are easier, the student is more apt to take advantage of the opportunities to improve his or her lab grade, or the student finds lab work more interesting than lecture material. At this time we are not able to say which one or combination of these factors is most important. Actually the first semester's grades are somewhat lower than the grades given for the same course in the previous year. Having participated in both the lectures and grade determination in the previous year, I know that it was necessary to drop the test point percentage considerably to enable the awarding of grades somewhat comparable to the ones the students received this year. It is our opinion that the student did not fare any better gradewise under this system, but did come closer to earning the grade he or she received.

As to whether the end product of this type of system will be a better biology student, only time will tell. It is our hope that introducing the freshman student to research labs, presenting seminars, and preparing summaries of scientific articles will stand him or her in good stead throughout his or her biological career. We also hope that it will get the student more deeply involved in the many facets of a professional biologist. We do know that this method gives the student a little more control over the grade that he or she receives and that so far most of the students seem to approve of and even enjoy many of the opportunities for grade improvement.

(The author expresses his thanks to Belinda Shenk for much of the mathematical analysis of the data and for the typing of the manuscript.)

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LINGERINGS IN THOUGHT

Snow  
is the stuff  
that taunts  
and teases  
man's creative patience.  

What is life  
but an apple bud  
that can hardly taste of Spring  
before becoming the commodity  
that ends in someone's pies!

Spring  
is a good friend who comes bounding  
from afar  
to joust you from your doldrums.  

Not every flower in any garden can provide honey for every bee.

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TAKE TIME OUT NOW TO PUT IN YOUR INPUT

Committees solicit input and assistance from the membership.

USE THE ENCLOSED PINK INFORMATION BLANK

Make such suggestions and volunteer such assistance as you wish. Return to the Central Office for collation and forwarding to the appropriate chairperson.