

## Contribute a Column

When I was about to start editing *CBE Views*, the forerunner of *Science Editor*, I received much good advice from Martha Tacker, my predecessor. Among her suggestions: Make ample use of departments, such as Reviews and Solution Corner. They're a continuing source of copy, they have loyal followings, and they're a fine way to involve readers.

I'm grateful to the many Council members and others who have been involved with such departments since I became editor. And I invite all our readers to contribute, whether or not they have done so before.

Special thanks go to Stephanie Deming, who now edits Reviews, and Walter Pagel, who previously did so; Lynn Dirk, who writes Views Afield (summarizing articles likely to interest science editors); and Della Mundy, who has long edited Solution

Corner. Thanks also to others who have contributed to these departments—for example,

by writing reviews, submitting questions to Solution Corner, or providing solutions to those questions. If you have content to suggest for these departments or if you're willing to contribute to them, please tell the respective editor or columnist or get in touch with me.

Three departments—Net Results, Interview, and Lighter View—continue on an occasional basis now that those previously in charge of them have stepped down. Do you have Web sites to recommend or Web savvy to share? If so,



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propose a piece for Net Results. Is there a topic on which you suggest interviewing one or more experts? If so, propose an Interview. Have you come across something amusing that we should consider reprinting, or have you an idea for a humorous piece? If so, submit an idea for Lighter View. Better yet, volunteer to oversee one of these departments.

In recent issues, three departments, all featuring submissions by readers, have debuted. Freelance Editor presents essays on various aspects of freelance science editing. Editing and Education focuses on training of and teaching by science editors. And Guest Editor includes essays on a wide array of subjects related to science editing. Submissions to these departments should run about 600 to 1200 words; feel free to propose a topic or simply submit an essay. For shorter

comments, consider the Letters department.

Thanks to a suggestion from readers, the current issue includes a new department, Other Than Editing. This department features profiles of those in science editing and related realms who are avidly interested in other matters. The initial profiles for this department have been written by Debra E Blakely as part of a postdoctoral fellowship with *Science Editor*. If you wish to take over this department, contribute a profile, or suggest someone for profiling, please let me know.

As usual (or maybe as always), Martha Tacker was right: Departments are a mainstay of *Science Editor*. I look forward to your continuing contributions.

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