

From Others' Viewpoints

Relative newcomers to CSE may wonder why the commentary appearing above the masthead in *Science Editor* is called the Viewpoint. The title originated early in the days of *Science Editor's* predecessor, *CBE Views*, which was published by the Council of Biology Editors from 1978 through 1999. Although "Viewpoint" no longer echoes the title of the periodical, we continue the tradition of using it.

In keeping with *Science Editor's* historical leanings this year as the Council observes its 50th anniversary, I decided to look at Viewpoints by my predecessors. As in *Science Editor*, many of these Viewpoints commented on content in the issue or thanked contributors. Also as in *Science Editor*, some asked readers for ideas and submissions.

CBE Views Editor Evelyn S Meyers wrote in a Viewpoint in 1979: "To do the kind of job we want to do, we need suggestions

and reactions from the readers. . . . Also, if you have written something you want to have considered, by all means send it in." In 1983, Editor Stephen R. Geiger wrote: "Have you attended a meeting or read a book or report that you believe would be of interest to the readers of *CBE Views*? If so, please write a brief description of it and send it to me."

Gisella Pollock, who began editing *CBE Views* when it moved from quarterly to bimonthly, also called for submissions. Her first Viewpoint, in 1987, listed subjects on which articles were sought: "new technology, the review process and its ethical implications, professional development of publications specialists, management of editorial and publishing offices, improving scientific writing, freelancing, marketing, working with printers, interface with libraries and secondary services, international aspects of scientific publishing, and general news

in the scientific publishing world". Sound familiar?

C B E
V i e w s
E d i t o r
S h a r o n



Barbara Gastel

Boots observed in her first Viewpoint, in 1991: "*CBE Views* is a publication that maintains a low profile and high visibility. What other journal has so many experts in the publishing field looking on with a watchful eye?" I am grateful indeed that the eye is also sympathetic.

In 1995, a Viewpoint by Editor Martha M Tacker placed *CBE Views* in organizational perspective:

We increasingly live in a virtual community connected by fax, e-mail, and the Internet. Our colleagues are often peers spread across the country or around the world rather

than those down the hall. For editors in scholarly scientific publishing, especially those who do not attend the annual meeting, CBE is a virtual community through its publications and soon through electronic connections.

In the dozen years since those words appeared, the Council has been connected increasingly through electronic means, and *Science Editor* and the latter volumes of *CBE Views* can now be accessed online as well as in print. Regardless of medium, the success of this publication depends on good content. Thus, like my predecessors, I call for your ideas and your contributions. And I thank you for all you have brought to these pages.

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