

## SOME NOTES FOR MY SCIENCE COLLEAGUES

1. Our students know a lot, but you know something they *don't* know? They don't know simple, practical things such as making solutions--especially making solutions. In general, they don't have a good feeling for the proper uses of basic chemical glassware and for the easy way to do standard operations. I've seen bright students trying to stuff masses of crystalline reagents down the neck of a volumetric flask, rather than using a beaker. I've seen students working as lab aides who are virtually paralyzed when asked to make a simple solution. Even though we certainly want students to know chemical theory and to be able to use analytical balances safely, I suggest we put a little more emphasis on these practical basic matters.

2. We told our students in M2O this year to buy their own marking pens and to get their own cloth towels. I mentioned the towels last spring, at a meeting when we were talking about labs. I think this is a good idea, and students have commented that they find these towels useful, although no one had ever suggested this before. I'm sure we're using fewer paper towels in the lab. (We also got some good sponges, and that cuts down on paper towels, too.)

3. Several years ago, when computers were starting to become popular, someone wrote a wonderful satirical article called "Learn with BOOK," where BOOK stands for Bound, Orderly, Organized Knowledge. It extolled the advantages of this wonderful new technology, the book, that allows instant random access and has all kinds of other virtues. Does anyone know where I could find this?

Burt