

editor's page

What's Down the Pike?

Colleen Schuh and I had a most enjoyable visit to Washington, D.C., recently with Calvin Lewis, director of the Capital Learning Center of Control Data Corporation, a computer-based education center. With his help, our mission was to brainstorm and investigate possible ways to satisfy an expressed professional writing need. This need was mentioned and discussed thoroughly at a recent board meeting by our representatives from NACAA, NAEHA, NAE4-HA, and Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Your representatives asked for *Journal* support in developing a seminar-type delivery program on "How to Write for the Journal" for presentation during national association meetings. Over a long period of time, the *Journal* would design and develop an entire individualized, computer-assisted learning packet on written communication. Over the short-run, however, the association's request for specific help in *Journal* writing looked like an ideal area to develop.

While visiting the learning center, Colleen and I were given the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the computer and computer-assisted programs. We experimented with and learned the keyboard. We were impressed with the many potential ways we could use the computer in developing the seminar materials.

We were introduced to PLATO capabilities and the TUDOR language. We even went through a series of prepared lessons, to see how we, and possibly others, would react. We discussed what portions of the seminar could be lecture, what part visual, what part placed on the computer, and the amount of time needed to answer any specific and important questions not fully covered by the various learning experiences.

Our day at the learning center was most educational. When we left we were both quite conscious of the tremendous amount of work ahead to prepare for a 90-minute seminar.

There are, of course, many problems to work out. There's the specific need for active interest at the associations' program committee level.

The *Journal* needs both committee and individual support to assure that a *Journal* writing seminar is included on the associations' program agendas. Since seminar programs are generally decided on shortly after national meetings, initial support for such a seminar should begin now. By starting early, program committee personnel can adequately plan for the seminar with little effort. Your interests are the *Journal's* interests. The harder you work for the *Journal*, the harder your *Journal* works for you. It's always nice to know what's down the pike.

Just a closing thought. Most of us old salt-water fishermen are conscious of the saying "time and tide wait for no one." It doesn't seem possible, but my editor ebb tide is almost here. In my final editorial, I'll introduce your new *Journal* editor for the 1979-1981 period.

GB