

Editor's Note

This issue of the newsletter is organized around a description of an upcoming symposium on the Developmental Genetics of the Mexican Axolotl to be held in Toronto, Canada, on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 27 and 28. This symposium will be part of the annual meeting of the American Society of Zoologists (December 27-30). Our symposium has been arranged to include participants who will review research which is being conducted on several representative mutant genes in the Mexican axolotl, and several aspects of the developmental physiology of amphibia. In addition to the symposium presentations, one or more informal workshops which deal with the care and maintenance of the axolotl will be scheduled. A tentative schedule is included on pages 8 and 9, and general information relating to the symposium is given on page 5. Additional general information about this annual meeting of the American Society of Zoologists, including how to arrange room and meeting reservations, will be available in a matter of weeks from members of the society, or from the ASZ, Box 2739, California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, California 91360.

Abstracts of the symposium presentations begin on page 10. Additional copies of the abstracts and a final schedule will be distributed at the opening session of our symposium on December 27.

A number of changes have taken place at the I.U. Axolotl Colony in which readers might be interested. Most importantly, Dr. Ann Janice Brothers has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley. She will be leaving Bloomington to move to Berkeley in the Spring of 1978 (probably around March). The staff and friends of the axolotl colony will certainly miss her, for she has done so much for the organization and building of the colony during the past few years. Between now and then she is functioning as an executive director of the colony, and GMM has assumed the position of research director (see her letter). In the future, therefore, requests for information and experimental material should be directed to GMM.

The second change is the acquisition by the axolotl colony of more space in the Jordan Hall of Biology for housing animals. An additional room has been assigned to the colony, and is being equipped primarily as a nursery for juvenile animals. This new room will also house some of the staff (who will be introduced to you in future issues of the newsletter), and will be put into operation this fall. In the meantime, during this transition period, we would greatly appreciate receiving requests for information and experimental material in writing. The acquisition of new space reinforces in a very tangible manner the commitment of Indiana University to our axolotl colony.

Finally, the various biology departments at I.U. (Zoology, Microbiology, and Plant Sciences) have been merged into a single Department of Biology, with a distinguished scholar, Dr. John R. Preer, Jr. as the chairperson. Future issues of the newsletter will, therefore, emanate from the "Department of Biology", rather than from the former Zoology Department.

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