would no doubt have caused less confusion about the purpose of the article.

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A Teacher's Thank You to ACS

To the Editor:

This is a letter of gratitude to the members of the American Chemical Society for constant concern about the high school chemistry curriculum and for their concrete contributions to the enrichment of chemistry at the secondary level.

After teaching chemistry for 40 years at the high school level, I retired but could not resist the temptation to look back to the years when the ACS was always at my side, offering updated material in interesting ways. I saw the beginnings of the Chemical Bond Approach and CHEM Study and utilized the best of these projects in my classroom. The motivating lectures by chemists such as George Pimental and Art Campbell encouraged me to try harder to meet their standards.

Locally the San Diego ACS chapter seemed always present to encourage. They awarded the achievement of my top students and made it possible for me to receive the Conant Award in 1979, an award that awakened my district to the possibility that the quality of education on their doorstep may be of a high level.

Thank you ACS for the years of encouragement. Sometimes I feel that salary increases do not mean as much as the feeling that others care and are by your side. You have helped to make my career a memorable one and have helped many students to think of chemistry as vital to their lives and as a possible career.

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New Source for Starch Solutions: Biodegradable Pellets

To the Editor:

Your readers may be interested in the following easy and convenient way of preparing starch indicator for use in iodine titrations or in "clock" reactions.

Shake one Eco-Foam peanut in 0.5–1 L of distilled or deionized water until it disintegrates. Let it stand for a few minutes, then pour off the clear liquid for use as starch indicator, which forms the characteristic blue starch-iodine complex.

As you know, starch indicator must usually be freshly prepared by adding "soluble" starch powder to boiling water. Eco-Foam is a cornstarch-based, loose-fill packaging alternative to expanded polystyrene pellets. It was featured in *Research & Development* [1991, (March) 32].

Starch indicator made from Eco-Foam is not only easy and convenient, but an unlimited, free supply is available from your chemistry storeroom.

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New Recrystallization Solvent for Synthesis of a Bicyclo[2.2.1]heptene

To the Editor:

Recent work in my laboratory has shown toluene/hexanes to be superior to EtOAc/MeOH as the recrystallization solvent for purifying the bicyclo[2.2.1]heptene Diels–Alder adduct described in my recent article [**1991,** *68*, 426].

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A Potpourri of Comments

To the Editor:

This letter comments on several items from the May and June, 1991 issues and thereby kills several birds with one stone—a choice of language which I hope is not unfortunate.

1. The Aufbau scheme offerred by Singh and Dikshit (May 1991, p 396) is equivalent to those discussed by Darcey (*1*), Parsons (*2*), and Freeman (*3*). If the upper blocks in Figures 3 and 4 of Singh and Dikshit are "shoved to the right" so that the *ns* blocks are aligned vertically, then the schemes are identical.
2. Scerri's point (May 1991, p 445) about Aufbau mnemonics is well made. I would add, however, that if one uses the Janet form (*3*) of the periodic table, then the scheme advocated by the authors in the previous item is more than a mnemonic; *it is a compact version of the periodic table itself.*
3. Thompson's critique (May 1991, p 400) of the usual rules for significant digits was sorely needed; one hopes his recommendation is heeded by textbook authors.
4. Molyneux (June 1991, p 467) has presented an interesting solution to the "logarithm-of-units" problem. Unfortunately, I find problems with the proposed solution. For example, in finding the "absolute" entropy of a gas, suppose that I replace Molyneux's 4th stage (*d,* vaporization) by direct, calorimetric measurement of the enthalpy of vaporization $\Delta_v H$ at some fixed T, and then calculate $\Delta_v S = \Delta_v H/T$; how do the "hidden" logarithmic units get into the entropy??

Literature Cited

1. Darsey, J.A. *J. Chem. Educ.* **1988**, *65*, 1036.
2. Parsons, R.W. *J. Chem. Educ.* **1989**, *66*, 319.
3. Freeman, R.D. *J. Chem. Educ.* **1990**, *67*, 576.

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Adding an Improtant Reference

To the Editor:

When we saw our paper "Experimental Demonstration of Corrosion Phenomena. Part II. Corrosion Phenomena of Steel in Aqueous Media" [*J. Chem. Educ.* **1991**, *68*, 351–352] in print, we realized that we had failed to cite the main reference that inspired our experiments: Sato, N.; Okamoto, G. *In Comprehensive Treatise of Electrochemistry*; *Vol. 4: Electrochemical Materials Science*; Bockris, J. O'M., et al, Eds.; Plenum: New York, 1981; Chapter 4. We regret this oversight

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