

# Biology Pilot Course Aim: Discovery

All the fascination of discovery has been brought to a number of biology students at North Farmington High and East Junior High.

The students are taking part in a new pilot biology program in two classes referred to as the "Blue" and the "Yellow."

DOUGLAS Cooper is teaching the "Blues" at East and Orval Pelton gives guidance to the "Yellows" at North Farmington.

Set up under the national Biological Science Curriculum Study, regular textbooks are not used in the courses, which are more fully laboratory-oriented than the traditional biology class.

The consensus of the instructors, and Joseph Vella, director of secondary education, is that lab work makes science

"come alive" for the student. Theories become more understandable through actual demonstration.

MUCH OF the equipment students use was built by them with help from the teachers. In the study of cell reproduction, students grew the onions used for study and prepared their own slides for the microscope.

Tests for the pilot course have to be specially thought out. One format being considered is a four-choice question test which will evaluate a student's thinking and ability to reach conclusions.

By next spring, a comparison of the pilot discovery course will be made with the usual memorization course with the view of making the pilot part of the established school curriculum.



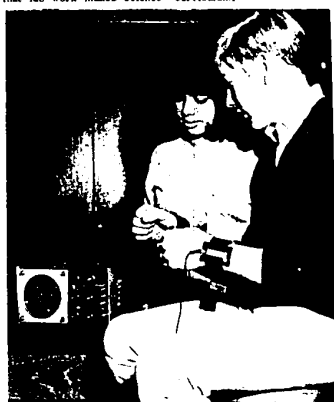
FIRST TO DO IT -- Tom Burder even beat his biology teacher, Orval Pelton, when it came to getting an accurate slide of cell division as it took place in a North Farmington High laboratory-grown onion.



MEASUREMENT -- A delicate job of gas measurement is done at East Junior High by (from left) Brad Klein, Sue Etue and Don Marsel. The three are using a volume meter in their experiment.



DYE SAMPLE -- Chris Ambrose needs a steady hand as she makes a dye sample for a slide in the biology lab at North Farmington High.



STUDENT - BUILT -- East Junior High students, Gloria Oake and John Holappa, check their heart-beats with an instrument which the class built from a kit with the help of their instructor, Douglas Cooper.

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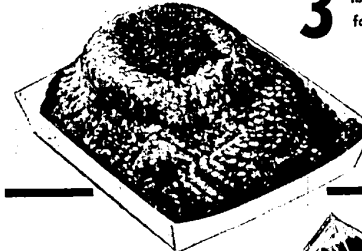
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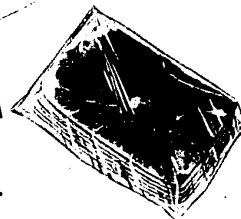
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