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Biology today

For the book by Eli C. Minkoff and Pamela J. Baker, see *Biology Today: An Issues Approach*. This article is orphaned because there are no other articles related to it. Please introduce links to this page from related articles; try finding a link tool for suggestions. (September 2011)

Cover of the first edition *Biology Today* is a college-level biology textbook that passed through three editions in 1972, 1975 and 1980. The first edition, published by Communications Research Machines, Inc. (CRM) and written by a small editorial team and a large number of leading contributor consultants, is distinguished by its sumptuous illustrations and humanistic approach. It was extensively rewritten by David L. Kirk and others for the second and third editions, which were published by Random House. First edition of Noah's Ark, by Kerstin Apelman Inberg, was used in the chapter on Human Sexual Behavior; this image and other objectionable images led to the limited adoption of the first edition and were deleted in subsequent editions. The first edition of *Biology Today* in 1972 had no lead author, but was written by fifty-four contributing consultants, many of whom were leading figures in biology (and seven of them were Nobel laureates). Visually, it presents many artistic interpretations of biological subjects as well as striking diagrams and photographs. Many of these images, such as a surreal depiction of heroin injection, a series of diagrams showing how to use a contraceptive diaphragm, and a painting called Noah's Ark depicting humans and copulating animals, proved controversial and led to few adoptions of the manual. In 1981, a reviewer of a later, highly modified edition wrote that the original could now be considered a classic because it is unlikely that such a beautiful manual of humanist biology will be published again. (If you have a copy, hang it.) In the preface, John H. Painter, Jr., head of the editorial team and credited as the book's publisher, explains that science is a particularly humane enterprise that seeks newer and better solutions to the problems that afflict us all; that modern biological sciences are rooted in the work of physicists who turned to biology after world war II; that understanding life at the molecular level allows science to find solutions to problems of immediate interest, rather than previous biological studies that floated disconnected over the physical and chemical substrate of life; and that the treatment of is at the heart of many biological advances. [2] The introduction is an illustrated essay, What is life?, by Nobel Prize-winning biochemist Albert Szent-Gy-rgyi and, as the biographical label of the essay explains, a protester against the irrational pursuit of war and politics that characterizes our Western culture and an advocate of the use of technology to create a psychologically and socially progressive world where values are paramount. The essay explains Szent-Gy-rgyi's perspective on the fundamental problems of biology, the relationship between biological and physical sciences, and the reasons for continuing biology. Expressing the wonders of nature in the language of science is one of man's noblest efforts. I have no reason to expect this task to be completed in the near future. *Biology Today* Film Series CRM has produced a series of films associated with *Biology Today*: *The Origin of Life and Evolution*, *The Cell: A Functioning Structure* (in two parts) and *Muscle*. Like the manual, the films were visually innovative, with extensive animation to represent complex aspects of biology. According to a reviewer for *The American Biology Teacher*, *The Origin of Life and Evolution* has used creative cinematography to recreate current views and has won awards at two major educational film festivals. Although the critic considered it the best of its kind (in 1977) and praised it for both its educational value and its captivating visual imagery, he noted that it was too sophisticated for all of its intended audiences and that basic knowledge of DNA is a prerequisite for achieving maximum usefulness for the film. [4] Consultants Contributors Preston Adams Thomas Peter Bennett Konrad E. Bloch John Tyler Bonner Susan Bryant Frank Macfarlane Burnet Michael Crichton Elizabeth G. Cutter Max Dethrick Joyce A. F. Diener John E. Dowling John C. Eccles Leland N. Edmunds, Jr. J. S. Finlayson William Fishbein Paul Gebhard Terrell H. Hamilton Peter H. Hartline J. 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[6] With the second edition, the controversial material of the original was removed, and the list of contributing consultants was smaller. [1] The third edition was very different from the first. It for the first time, a credited lead author (David L. Kirk) and had a long list of consultants (no contributor consultants as in previous editions). The third edition came from chapters grouped into six sections (there were 45 chapters in 8 sections in the original), and rather than a humanistic approach to a broad collegial audience, he used what Kirk described as a slightly more rigorous approach than many competing textbooks. One critic called it well written, pedagogically sound, and generally scientifically accurate, but lacking stylistic flair (and the seven Nobel Prize-winning contributors) of the original. [1] Notes and references - a b c Yongue, William H. (February 1981). Review: *Biology Today* (3rd edition). *The American biology professor*. National Association of Biology Teachers. 43 (2): 108–109. doi:10.2307/4447167. ISSN 0002-7685. JSTOR 4447167. - *Biology Today* (1972). p. v - *Biology Today* (1972), pp. xx-xxxi - Picker, Lester (February 1977). Review: *Evolution and the Origin of Life; Smoking/Emphysema: A Fight for Breath; Alcoholism: a model of drug dependence; The heart: Counterattack*. *The American biology professor*. National Association of Biology Teachers. 39 (2): 119–127. doi:10.2307/4445821. ISSN 0002-7685. JSTOR 4445821. *Biology Today* (1972), pp. ii, 948-955 - Preface, *Biology Today* (second edition) Archived June 22, 2007, at the Wayback Machine. Botany Online - The Internet Hypertextbook. Consulted on May 15, 2009. Psychedelic External Links 72 Manual - Images from the first edition Recovered from Magazines are shipped by the publisher and they may face delays due to current disruptions. 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