

## FROM THE EDITOR

You will notice a change in format for this issue of *Forum*. Not only is the journal itself more compact, but we also are including photographs of works from the faculty art show. We hope to be able to do more of this in the future so we all can see some of the scholarly and creative activities of our colleagues in addition to reading about them. Special thanks to Lance Lougee and Pat Cudahy for the graphic design and photography.

If there is an underlying theme connecting most of the articles in this issue it would seem to be that the university should be, and is, part of a larger community. We increasingly find ourselves applying the tools of scholarship and disciplined study to issues of the society around us. Fred Cranston leads off with a strong statement advocating this involvement and encourages us to lead our students to become activists as well. His position is certainly worthy of debate and should inspire some letters to the editor in future issues.

Phyllis Chinn's article is also about an area of academic study with many ties to larger societal issues—Women's Studies. Since the conference she writes about took place in the summer and was rather briefly covered in the local media, her article is especially welcome for its wealth of information. We are planning a continuation in the spring which will deal with the role of Women's Studies in the university.

JeDon Emehiser's contribution, originally delivered to public school employees, likewise raises issues about the way we train our students for participation in society. Emehiser argues for "civility," in the best sense of that word, with grace and perception.

Warren Carlson's article brings us back to earth with that perennial topic of concern—personnel policy. As he suggests, our jobs are likely to be greatly influenced by collective bargaining. Carlson offers a plan (a modest proposal?) to modify the personnel process in the direction of greater precision and communication. His ideas are also likely to inspire some rejoinders in future issues.

John Schafer provides a very valuable overview of the changes in the teaching of writing which have been going on the past few years. For those of us trained in the red-pencil school of instruction, Schafer presents some eye-opening ideas. HSU has long been concerned with the quality of our students' writing; Schafer's article should stimulate some fresh approaches.

Finally, Frank Wood appears again with an *aperçu historique* of Founders Hall students he has known. He threatens to deal with "unusual" colleagues in his last paragraph. We may have to set aside a special issue.

We welcome Gael Hodgkins, Hal Jackson and Bill Tanner to the Editorial Advisory Board. As Editor Emeritus Bill has already been of immense help. We all owe him a large vote of thanks for doing the hard work of getting *Forum* off the ground in such fine style. Thanks also to Dick Day, Jacqueline Kasun, Jerry Partain and Roger Weiss for serving on the Advisory Board during *Forum's* beginning years.