

From the Editors

Once again we publish a double number, combining the last two issues of Volume XIV (1992). The intent is catch-up. The papers in this issue attest, as do those lined up on the runway waiting for takeoff in Volume XV (see the outside back cover), that good scholarly work on informal logic is flourishing. This is the biggest double issue we have ever published. We will produce the issues of Volume XV (1993) as quickly as physically possible: they should follow one another in rapid succession over the course of this autumn—provided that, as always, subscription renewals (now due) arrive in time to pay the production and mailing costs. Half of our funding, and all of the costs of production and mailing, come from subscribers. Your prompt renewals are essential to our solvency. Will you, please, write a cheque (or a check!) and send it now, before you forget?

In This Issue

The table of contents of this double issue reads like a wonderful microcosm of the subject-matter and the dialectic of informal logic and critical thinking.

Fallacies? See Alan Brinton's analysis of the *ad baculum* for a discussion of an individual (so-called) fallacy and Douglas Walton's more general discussion of fallacies, relating fallacy theory to argument theory more generally.

Argumentation? See Mark Vorobej's analysis of deduction, Jonathan Berg's entry into the fray over the interpretation of arguments, and E.P. Brandon's fine-grained analysis of suppositions and argument diagramming.

Critical thinking? Don Levi and Peter Davson-Galle revisit the debate over the possible limits of argument in settling deep

disagreements, Stephen Norris presents some worries about testing for critical thinking dispositions, and Theodore Gracyk joins the debate on minimum competency testing with a critique of Harvey Siegel's position.

Rejoinders to claims made in previous articles? Walter Ulrich replies to John McMurtry's controversial charge of a deep-seated fallacy in news reporting, and in a teaching note, H. Hamner Hill finds a flaw in Peter Facione's suggestions about critical thinking testing.

Book reviews? Our new Reviews department features a critical study of James Freeman's major monograph on argument structure, by Alec Fisher. At last we have a review of Harvey Siegel's much-discussed theory of critical thinking, by Gareth Matthews. And Michael Rowan takes a serious look at a new book by the influential theorist of thinking, Edward de Bono. Many thanks to our reviewers. Book review editor Jonathan Adler is pressing for more space for his reviews, and we will be expanding the reviews section even more in future issues.

Have a good read.

The next issue, featuring the long-awaited collection of articles written for this journal by members of the speech communication community and gathered by guest editor Joseph Wenzel, should be in your hands by November.

With the close of another volume, we thank you for your past support and ask you to extend it into the future by mailing your subscriptions to Volume XV promptly. We still dream of catching up, and think that, with all the papers of the upcoming volume already lined up, we have a good chance of doing so by late 1993 or early 1994. Thank you for your patience.

As we go to press, we are saddened to learn of the death last year of Walter Ulrich.

