

from the editors

Informal logic is concerned, to use one vocabulary, with the material conditions of arguments. Part of its subject matter, to use another idiom, are the conditions of the acceptability of premises in arguments. Informal logic is informed by the goal of understanding “the use of reason in everyday life”—to borrow some words from the apt subtitle of Howard Kahane’s landmark text, *Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric*. These considerations direct our interest to the sources of the information available to us—of the material that typically makes up our premises. In today’s world that interest must focus on the mass media.

This issue contains four articles and a critical study which relate informal logic to the media of mass communication, from one point of view or another. John May recommends a fine-grained reading of news reports and suggests a detailed set of categories to guide us in that attempt. John McMurtry proposes that we look closely at what is *absent* from news reports. Lenore Langsdorf draws our attention to “the logic of television communication.” And Gary Jason looks at one particular species of disingenuousness in political discourse in the media. John Dolan’s critical study of Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky’s recent book, *Manufacturing Consent*, complements McMurtry’s thesis.

Also in this issue is Roger Smook’s Reply to papers by Rolf George and David Hitchcock, the latter of which appeared in Vol. VII, Nos. 2&3 of this journal.

In this issue, following the example of some other journals, we list, and would like publicly to thank, colleagues who have made contributions to the scholarship of informal logic by refereeing articles for this journal. Refereeing work is both time consuming and valuable intellectual work which ought to be viewed as a scholarly contribution by university and college administrators.

Finally, this issue contains the index for Volumes VI-X, inclusive. This is the final issues of the first five years of publication of *Informal Logic* as a refereed journal of record. The quality and quantity of articles reflects significant growth and depth in the field of informal logic.

looking ahead...

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