

# informal logic

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FROM THE EDITORS

University of Windsor

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As promised in the last issue, this number is devoted primarily to items directly related to informal logic courses.

First, there are descriptions of ten courses, parts or all of which fall under the rubric "informal logic". These, or material for them, were provided by subscribers and other contributors.

Second, we have furnished an annotated list of seventeen recent textbooks in informal logic. These are texts that are either completely devoted to informal logic or which have major portions devoted to the subject. Their number bears witness to the growth of informal logic in the last few years.

We hope that in making this material available, the ILN is providing a service to readers who are planning or revising such courses. We would also be delighted if this material encourages readers who haven't done so to try such a course, or to incorporate a unit on informal logic within an existing course. Let us know what you think of this material.

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It remains our intention to publish a supplementary issue in June or July containing a stockpile of examples of "everyday" arguments which could be used in the teaching of informal logic courses. This issue could stock you up for next year's courses, and remove or reduce that nagging need to hunt through papers, magazines, other peoples' textbooks for examples for teaching, quizzes, homework assignments, exams. All will benefit if each contributes. PLEASE send us as many examples--long, short; good arguments, bad arguments, non-arguments--as you can. The more recent the better. It will also be helpful (but not necessary) to provide the date, source and some background information. Do it soon, too, if you can, but contributions that arrive after the next issue's deadline can still be used in later issues.

In the fall we will be introducing a new feature to the ILN, whose orientation will be more theoretical and less pedagogical. We will begin publishing short articles on topics falling within the domain of informal logic (about 10 typewritten pages). This will not mark a move away from practical and pedagogical concerns by the Newsletter, but rather an expansion of our scope. We hope that readers whose interests may lean more to the theoretical will remain with us.

Of course there remains the standing offer to subscribers and other readers to send a-long material of any sort which you believe will be of interest to other readers. There has been a surprisingly large number of unsolicited contributions and other communications received to date. The ILN's continuation is premised on a steady supply of readers' contributions.

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You will notice a new format for this issue. The change was made for economy's sake: by reducing the size of the print and introducing double columns, we are able to provide much more material in roughly the same number of pages as last issue. We are particularly anxious to find out from you, our readers, whether this change in format is satisfactory.

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We would like to acknowledge the assistance of our colleague, Professor Peter F. Wilkinson, in the preparation of this issue. Professor Wilkinson has volunteered his services to the Newsletter on a continuing basis. He will be handling routine correspondence, subscriptions and bookkeeping duties. We are grateful for his help, as it will free us to devote more time to the editorial aspects of the Newsletter.