

From the Editor

Two years ago the President's Commission on the Nature and Potential of Humboldt State University recommended "that an in-house Journal be established to promote the exchange of ideas within the University." This first issue of *Forum* is intended to fulfill the spirit of that recommendation and the initial step toward promoting the exchange of ideas, improvement in the academic environment, and the sense of a scholarly community at Humboldt.

As editor of an untried publication, I can attest that the path one must travel between conception of the idea and achievement of reality is not an easy one. Since last September I have gone through various periods of optimism, gloom, exasperation, apathy, joy and encouragement. Producing something new becomes an article of faith, as we all know. My faith was shaken on a number of occasions, particularly when my requests for submission of essays and comments did not create an avalanche of responses. Why the hesitancy, I thought. A student, in an unrelated context, provided me with part of the answer on a final examination last December: "Change is feared by both the liberal and the conservative; the conservative by nature defends the status quo; the liberal is always leery of failure." Believe *me*, I was leery!

In any case, this issue offers readers several essays to read for pleasure, contemplation, and response. We have been especially fortunate to receive some unpublished materials by Faculty Emeritus Homer Balabanis. Herein is presented the first of a two-part series entitled "Early Years of Humboldt: Personal Thoughts and Recollections." It begins with the establishment of Humboldt and concludes with the arrival of Professor Homer Balabanis on this campus in 1923. Part Two, to be published in the next issue of *Forum*, takes the story up to 1930.

Sam Oliner provides some interesting insights on the value of a scholarly social science publication in "Humboldt Journal of Social Relations and the University." Rod Sievers offers a proposal for bolstering faculty morale in his "Are We Neglecting

the Talented Minority?," and Pete Coyne (with "poetic" justice?), in "For the General Education of Students," implies that students may not understand their tormentors in the classroom nor appreciate their longings for Oregon fishing streams.

Gary Okihiro, using the familiar semester-quarter system issue, suggests there might be a flaw in the consultative process for decision-making at HSU in "Notes on the Semester vs. Quarter Debate." In "Students, Professors and College Life in the 'Good Old Times,'" I make a frivolous effort to place college life in perspective. Finally, but not least, is a spritely and delightfully written manifesto on good teaching by Frank Wood in "At School in Hallowell, Maine and Elsewhere." Read, enjoy, and, if you are so moved, respond.

Many faculty and staff have given advice, support and help in this endeavor. I am grateful for their interest. Special thanks go to Gary Kilgore, Pete Palmquist, Jim Hamby, Erich Schimps, and, particularly, members of the Editorial Advisory Board and Bill Thonson of the Art Department. Their efforts have been indispensable to the publication of this maiden issue of *Forum*.