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The Editor's Page

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The Editor's Page

You have in your hand a "double number" of *Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Such a device is not a sign of a strong, healthy publication. In this instance, my resorting to a somewhat deceptive ploy results from the normal turmoil of publication complicated by mail delays, secretarial strikes, and the vagaries of our contributors.

The public and professional press cries doom and disaster for an entire academic generation as a result of falling enrollments, rising inflation, and, I suppose, horizontal promotion. One might conclude that—somewhere out there—there toil hundreds of ambitious alert intelligent 'junior' faculty desirous of fattening their essential bibliographies. I read of other journals with backlogs of three and four years of material; I read of publication charges of twenty dollars a page (!); I receive shoddy manuscripts, ill-written, ill-proofread, ill-conceived, and mis-directed. My editorial board is distressed and threatens mass resignation; my executive board (a most supportive and understanding group) suppresses its unasked questions; my wife wonders why I continue these chores; I wonder why I continue.

Perhaps an editor's lot cannot be a happy one.

Yet I continue to believe (against much evidence to the contrary) that this journal, and the organization of which it is a voice, must serve a vital role in American Higher Education or American Higher Education will go the route of the public schools. Therefore, the membership of the organization, if it believes as I do, must redouble and treble its efforts to provide interesting, well-written, sharply focussed content for this voice.

At the end of 1980 I will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Association for General and Liberal Studies. The nature of that recommendation will depend upon my judgment of the success of the journal. Please seek out your gen-ed colleagues; provide them with copies of the journal; ask them to set down their ideas and views for the benefit of the rest of us.

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G.F.E.