

EDITOR'S NOTES

By the time you receive this issue, the Freshman will have arrived, some leaves will have turned, and the campus grass will look a brighter green. If you are looking for a good argument in the coffee room, or if you just want to lean against a tree and do a bit of reading, we have some articles that are just right for you.

Let's start with some controversy. Sandra Packard introduces the Academic Bill of Rights question to our campus. Is this a needed reform for an academy gone awry or is it an imposition on true academic freedom? Is Oakland possibly a hotbed of political correctness, or as Ms. Packard suggests, very probably not?

Or, try Phil Clampitt's issue. What ought a professor of evolution do when confronted by a creationist true believer student? Generous to a fault, Phil nevertheless makes the weaknesses of the creationist view devastatingly clear. We also invite you to take up the issue I raise in the Dismal Scientist: What happens when a person, brilliant in his field, rattles on about subjects in which he is not educated? Complaints about such behavior date back at least to comments on it by Will Rogers, so this may not appear to be controversial. But, the column names names as examples; see if you agree with these choices.

For just plain enjoyable reading, we also have much to offer. Albert Rojo tells a fascinating story with a personal twist about the surprising common ground between Borges' short stories and the "many worlds" theory in physics. David Shantz explains advances in psychology and neuroscience in his review of *The Blank Slate* by the pathbreaking Harvard psychologist, Stephen Pinker. Gertrude White relates the lives of Wil-

fred and Harold Owen, in part from Harold's book but also from her own discussions with Harold. Try also the provocative piece on steroids in athletics by Nahum Medalia. A factual and clearly written discussion of the cost of health care, two articles on the implications of the Human Genome Project and an introduction to the year's environmental theme just about rounds out the issue.

Do we have anything else to offer? Yes, we do. I heartily recommend the humorous piece by Bill Byrne. How "heartily"? Let me put it this way. Suppose that you have had a bad week, your Dean, your Chair, and your students have all been a pain. What should you do? Do this: Run a hot tub, get a good cabernet and this issue of *TOJ*, hop in the tub, and turn to Bill Byrne's article. Trust me. Just do it.

