

From the Editors

In this issue

We are pleased to welcome three new contributors to these pages: Gary Colwell, Kerry Walters and Mark Battersby.

"God exists because it says in the Bible that God exists," as an instance of circular reasoning, is a tired old textbook example of the type informal logicians are wont to deplore. Yet it keeps cropping up. In his article, "God, the Bible and Circularity," Gary Colwell takes a refreshing new look at this example, asking what really is wrong with it? The answer, as he shows, is far from simple.

Richard Paul's now classic distinction between "weak sense" and "strong sense" critical thinking is subjected to a probing critique in Kerry Walters' article, "On World View, Commitment and Critical Thinking." Walters argues that either Paul's model must be radically overhauled, or else the ideal of critical thinking must be scrapped. We look forward to a healthy advance in the dialectic as a result of Walters' contribution.

How is critical thinking to be classified? Mark Battersby's answer is clear from his title, "Critical Thinking as Applied Epistemology." Battersby argues that there is an analogy between the distinction between ethics and applied ethics and the distinction between epistemology and critical thinking.

A number of respondents to earlier articles or replies have been chafing at the bit, so we are glad to be able to print three *Replies* in this issue. Gary Jason defends himself against Marie Secor's reply (in 9.1) to his article "Are Fallacies Common?" (in 8.2). George Bowles comments on Tziporah Kasachkoff's discussion of the distinction between explaining and justifying in "Explaining and Justifying" (in 10.1). And

Seale Doss records some reflections on Roderick Girle's reply (in 10.1) to his article, "Three Steps Towards a Theory of Informal Logic," (in 7.2&3).

We are also happy to publish Connie Missimer's critical review of Costa and Lowery's, *Techniques for Teaching Thinking*, from the *Practitioner's Guide to Teaching Thinking Series* edited by Swartz and Perkins. Readers should know that we welcome critical review of works in the field of reasoning and argumentation in theory and practice.

Looking ahead

The third number of Volume XI (1989), a fat and juicy special issue on arguments from analogy, is ready for the printer, and will be in the mail as soon as your editorial crew returns in mid-July from the International Society for the Study of Argumentation conference and summer institute in Amsterdam. The first number of Volume XII (1990) will follow close on its heels, at the end of August. All the papers for Volume XII have been accepted, so if subscription renewals arrive in time to permit us to pay our bills, we will publish XII.2 and XII.3 in the fall, and (we can scarcely believe it ourselves) at long last be up to date. During this catch-up period, we have been asking you, dear readers, to pay for more than one volume per calendar year. That is because you have been getting more than one volume per calendar year, and we operate without a capital reserve: current expenses must be paid out of current income. Would you help us expedite the appearance of Volume XII by sending in your subscription now? Forms are enclosed. Thank you.