

This Month

*A look
at the events
of the past year*

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Issues and events, People and ideas

In the first four issues, Variation has dealt with a broad scope of topics, ranging from politics to entertainment. As a magazine supplement to The Daily Tar Heel, it has demonstrated the need for regular interpretive, in-depth treatments of issues and events, people and ideas.

Beginning this issue, Variation moves into a new phase of development, acquiring a separate editor to coordinate the research, writing, lay-out and other efforts that must go into producing a first-rate publication.

Quality reporting and analysis must become the trademark of Variation, for the magazine can only be viewed as an experiment—a challenge to stimulate, inform and entertain its readers.

Next fall, issues concerned with a single theme will be balanced on other months by issues with more balanced content, including short stories, poetry, artwork and other creative expressions to complement the journalistic experiments.

It all boils down to an open-ended attempt to discover better ways to serve and stimulate members of the University community. Exciting and intriguing ideas as well as thoughtful comments and criticisms are both needed and invited. Dialogue between reader and editor can only improve the magazine.

This month's issue examines the year in perspective—a closer look at some of the issues and events which affected our lives over the course of the past two semesters. The issue is not intended as a yearbook, but rather an evaluation with an eye towards the future.

To challenge and stimulate

Variation

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The writers whose bylines appear on this issue's articles spent many hours researching and writing their stories. Thanks to all of them for their time and cooperation.

Thanks also to Doug Marlette—whose cartoons illustrate these pages—for his talent and interest.

Tad Stewart photographed Dean Boulton for the article on page 12. The other photos were gleaned from the Tar Heel back files and attribution is unfortunately impossible.

Finally, special appreciation to Ellen Wallace, Ken Allen and John Norris—without whom this issue would still be on the drawing board.