

This is an invitation from the co-editors of the issue to mail us a contribution on the subject of "The Next 25." We set no requirements as to length, form, or focus. What you send can be a letter, an essay, an article, a poem, a short story, a drawing, a photograph, a flight of fancy. What we want to do in this 25th anniversary issue is to bring forth a collective reflection on the next 25 years.

Because the state is in a transition, you may wish to focus on state problems and possibilities. Because the nation is in a manifold crisis, you may want to focus on things national in scope. Because the Observer is in a transition, you may want to say what the Observer should be and do in "The Next 25." Or you may be moved to reflect, in our common forum, on some mix or variation on these ways of looking ahead.

This is not a politician's world more than it is a student's or a minister's or a housewife's or a social worker's world, this is not an editor's world more than it is a lawyer's or a farmer's or an accountant's or a merchant's or a worker's world, this is not a journalist's world more than it is a salesman's or a secretary's or a professor's or a doctor's or a retired person's world, this is your world as much as it is anyone's. So we invite you to help us, to the extent we can, in a single issue, here in our time and state and country, shape the future before it happens to us.

The sooner you send in what you write, the better. We very much prefer that what you send us be typed and triple-spaced. If it is hand-written, please write clearly and leave more space than usual between lines. Major written undertakings should be in our hands no later than November 26. The final deadline for material for the issue is December 3. We are eager to read what you have to say. Have courage: Commit yourself among us.