

# Children . . .

1979—The International Year of the Child is merely a memory now. It began with high hopes, enthusiastic plans, and a force of energetic people. It ended without fanfare or fuss.

Libraries, schools, child-oriented organizations the world over attempted to inform and entertain their youthful patrons with "special" activities. Likewise, these same organizations attempted to point out the tremendous handicaps children face every day of their young lives. They are in fact a "silent majority."

As I look back over the year, I wonder at the accomplishments—really, I wonder at the need for a special year designated for children. After all, where children are concerned every year is special.

The energy crisis, Iran, inflation, Afghanistan, etc., have filled our newspapers with depressing announcements. What a world we have created for our children! Hopefully, we will prepare them for events that we have been so ignorant of.

The Summer issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES is just one small attempt to better educate those working with children as well as prepare our "rising generation" for its uncertain future. This edition contains bibliographies, helpful hints, book reviews, programming ideas, successes and failures. To those of you who wrote articles for this edition whether they are actually printed or not, I thank you for your interest and concern.

Now, turn the pages slowly. Take what you think will help you. Then, pass the journal along so that others will find something of personal or professional interest to them.

*Cate Howard*