

# Between The Lines

## MAKING FRIENDS WITH CHANGE

**J**ust when I think I have learned the way to live, life changes and I am left the same," Hugh Prather writes in *Notes to Myself*. I think of that quote often when I'm dealing with change and its many masks. Sometimes it swoops down from the heavens, knocking me upside the head, leaving me on the floor of delirium. Sooner or later, I'll call out to a friend, "Excuse me! Could you please help me? Change just pounded me again and I'm a bit confused as to which way is up."



Then there's the great, horrendous Change for which I prepare. Anticipating the war which will certainly leave me in a canyon of despair, I armor myself like a great knight. I don the heavy steel with helmet, visor and shield in place. I raise the shining sword to fight and then I wait. I clang around and my arm gets tired. I wait some more and miss my freedom. Then Change takes its place quietly, no fight intended.

And then there's the Change we invite, oh so respectfully. We plan the mission, we work hard towards it, and in the process Chaos visits a while. Just as we're running out of steam, Change is kind. We loosen our grip and Change gives us something we never could have given ourselves.

And so it has been with *Alabama* Magazine. We invited Change to our pages. Our mission: to celebrate the people and places of Alabama as well as create a showcase of the artistic and creative talent in the state.

Then we needed an identity. We knew we wanted a look that would capture the soul of the mission and reflect the images of the people and places with pride and dignity.

So we turned to the creative expertise at SlaughterHanson Advertising agency in Birmingham, and Marion English went to work redesigning the magazine. And that's how we got to where we are today. Sort of. I've left out a whole lot of inundating details. But basically you get the picture.

We've worked hard and are truly committed to giving you a magazine that reflects the depth, humor, and intelligence of the people in Alabama. We're interested in capturing the essence of the cities and towns in which we live. We're not interested in stereotypes. We're interested in honesty.

We hope you like the change in *Alabama*. As for me, it sure has been nice making friends with Change. — PAMELA G. WHYTE

PHOTO BY LEE ISAACS