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Editor's Column

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Editor's Column

Gregory B. Sullivan, M.D.

We ought not to act and speak like men asleep. . . . Those who are awake have one world in common; those who are asleep retire every one to a private world of his own.

Heraclitus

An exhibition of paintings of the American Old West caught my attention one afternoon, after I had wandered across the street from our affiliate V.A. outpatient clinic to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. A popular theme among these romanticized views of the American frontier was the image of the trapper; a lone, silent figure working at the nation's interface with the unknown. Several paintings depicted a custom known as the *rendez-vous*, a semi-annual occurrence wherein the trappers gathered eastward to river outposts in order to socialize, trade information and hand-made maps, restock supplies, and display for sale the bounty gleaned from the previous season.

In searching for a means of conveying the intended function of this Journal, I returned to this notion of a semi-annual *rendez-vous*. We are, as residents and fellows in psychiatric training, attempting to master a field even as its frontier expands outward with unprecedented speed and scope. In the words of Dr. Robert Michels, ". . . our best residency programs today are richer, more heterogeneous, and more complex than before" (1). Out of this complexity arises the need for a gathering place, a format which will enable trainees to share observations, experiences, and insights for the benefit of their peers. *The Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry—A Resident Publication* extends the invitation to *rendez-vous*, in this and future editions.

REFERENCE

1. Michels R: Psychoanalysis in psychiatric residency training, in *The Role of Psychoanalysis in Psychiatric Education: Past, Present, and Future*. Emotions and Behavior Monographs, Number Seven. Edited by Weissman SH, Thurnblad RJ. Madison, Connecticut, IUP, 1987, p 38