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Editor's Column

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Editor's Column

With this latest incarnation of *The Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry* we are pleased to announce some truly positive developments. This edition has six articles, a respectable total, given the hiatus prior to the *Journal's* resurrection with Vol. 14, No. 1. This we owe in part, I believe, to an increased enthusiasm to write and submit manuscripts to the *Journal*. If this is indeed the case, I hope that the trend will continue. This has allowed us to return to biannual publication. In fact, the flow of manuscripts has increased to the point that Associate Editors at Jefferson are being recruited to help with the management of submissions, expanding the *Jefferson Journal* team and providing for increased efficiency. I thank all contributing authors and Editorial Board members for helping to produce this edition of the *Jefferson Journal*.

I would like to add some thoughts on the last edition of the *Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 2. That edition saw the return of the Thomas Jefferson logo to the cover. This was not done free of design. As we at the *Journal* are ever searching for ways in which to draw attention to our work, I had wondered about whether the previous cover was attractive enough to catch the attention of, perhaps, some resident with a half-written manuscript on a groundbreaking topic, wondering where he or she could send it for publication. Peering protractedly at my copy, it became more evident that "something was missing." Poring through the archives of *Jefferson Journals* of the past, I found a very early edition with the logo, and finding it rather smart, decided that it would fit rather nicely on the current cover. Thus a tradition was reborn. I welcome any comments about the logo, or any other features of the *Journal*, in the form of letters to the editor. We look forward to hearing from you.

While on the topic of history, and without an official Editorial in this edition of the *Journal*, I would like to take this opportunity to make a suggestion for future submissions to the *Journal*. The end of the Millennium is fast approaching and Millennium Madness is in full swing. Who would be better to turn to in the case of hysteria than mental health professionals, especially ones that enjoy writing and are willing to accept an invitation to author essays or articles about this event? Joking aside, I see a unique opportunity at this point in history to pause and reflect on this upcoming event, since in all seriousness, the psychological implications are quite powerful and important to understand. This has become evident to me with the dissemination of an endless supply of "end-time" prophecies over the past six months. Why is there such a fascination with "end-times" and the destruction of the world? Does this reflect wishes or fears? If they were fears this would be more obvious, since as we all perish and so will the Earth one day, but hopefully not anytime soon. But could there also be a "wish" for destruction, something akin to the "death instinct"? Since where do so-called "prophecies" originate if one excludes, for the sake of argument, supernatural sources? That would leave us with the mind and likewise, with fantasy. Why then, would human beings fantasize about wars, famine,

pestilence, asteroids, and assorted other destruction scenarios? The hope would be that these are exactly the calamities we wish to avoid. However, given the particularly violent times the world has seen over the past year, one is left to wonder whether this is coincidence or we humans have some innate tendency to push our luck to the limit and risk our own destruction. Only time will tell, but we welcome any thoughts you may have about this timely topic. Please forward your essays and articles for review.

On that last note of destruction, I myself end with the announcement of my own "end-time." I have reached the end of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *The Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry* and will be moving on to a new job. I am pleased to introduce my successor, Andrew Klawter, M.D., who will be assuming this position for the next year, assuming minimal interference from that Y2K bug. I only hope that Andrew enjoys working on the *Journal* as much as I have and wish him and the *Journal* all the best. So please, send your submissions, especially those requested above, to him and help to carry on the tradition of *The Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry*, a journal written by, produced by, and especially for, residents.

Steve Zerby
Editor-in-Chief

Note: For over a decade, the editorial board of *The Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry* has been staffed by members of the Committee of Residents and Fellows (CORF) of the American Psychiatric Association. CORF members served as the editorial staff for the current issue, as well. In the Fall, 1999, CORF officially resigned as the editorial board of the *Jefferson Journal*. We wish to thank CORF for their years of service to the *Jefferson Journal*, and we wish them continued success in their important mission to represent and advocate for the interests of psychiatry residents and fellows.