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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