

# Editorial

## Make a difference

Some time, when I am old and gray, I want to be able to look back on my life with a feeling that something good has come from my journey on this earth. Of course, I want to enjoy my turn at life, but it is also very important to me to feel that, when my time is up, I leave the world a little better place than it would have been without me.

This urge, the urge to make a difference to the lives of others, is what drives us all to work hard in our chosen professions, in our communities, or in support of organizations that provide sustenance to those in need.

We want to make a difference to the lives of our patients, to the education of future colleagues, to the users and consumers of dental research benefits, and to our profession as a whole. Some can make a difference well before their time. One such person is the author of our first guest editorial, which follows as the first paper in this month's issue.

Dr Theodore Croll is well known to the readers of *Quintessence International*. A pediatric dentist in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Dr Croll has authored many fine papers for the pages of this and other journals. His articles are always timely, well written, exceptionally well illustrated, and of immediate clinical application to readers.

Many people probably do not know that Ted Croll is also talented in other areas; he has written a children's book and owns several patents issued for original inventions. Some of these patents have resulted in marketed dental products. Additionally, Ted is a superb photographer.

Most importantly, Dr Croll spends his working hours with an overall concern for the highest ethical standards and the well being of his patients.

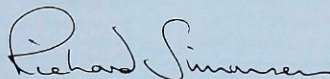
Much of his writing is provocative, yet still shows concern for the profession. Such is the guest editorial about dental radiography that follows. While Dr Croll could well express his concerns in a more confrontational manner, he chooses to relate calmly the lack of attention given to x-ray collimation and to the use, or lack thereof, of fast radiographic film in dental offices in the United States.

His thoughts are well worth reading. Adoption of his recommendations will lead not only to higher standards of care for patients, but also to higher quality radiographs and thus better diagnostic capability of dentists.

So, our thanks to Ted Croll for his numerous outstanding contributions to the dental literature and our thanks to him for his willingness to air publicly his views on issues of concern. He has made a difference.

I hope others will follow suit in future guest editorials. The guest editorial section will continue, because I believe that there are many topics that deserve commentary without necessitating a full-blown scientific publication.

Thank you, Ted, for making a difference. May we all be able to do the same.



Richard J. Simonsen  
Editor-in-Chief