

Changes

It always bothers me when I open a journal, turn to the editorial page, and see that the editor thinks an editorial is a description of the wonderful articles in that particular issue. An editorial should be an expression of opinion on a topic of immediate interest. It should not be, as I frequently see, a written version of the table of contents. Nor should it be what this page will be—an informational piece about the journal. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to communicate certain items of interest to readers, and this is the only place to do it. So, with apologies to those who are expecting an editorial, here goes.

It is January and the start of a new year. You will already have seen from the cover that changes have been made to your monthly journal. No longer will we be using an illustration from a submitted paper on the cover. When this was started in 1985, it was an innovation that drew from one of the strengths of this journal—the use of high-quality color illustrations to better describe the work of our authors. *Quintessence International* led the world of dental journals in color reproduction. Eleven years later, however, times and tastes have changed. So, we hope you like the new cover. Let us know.

Other independent changes include some new features that you will see in the coming months. Next month's journal will be the first containing a new feature, *Current Concepts*. This feature will be seen approximately every 2 months. It will consist of short papers written in informational/editorial format by leaders in certain fields to highlight topics of interest. The first subject will be the future of amalgam as a restorative material. Opinions from three or four different authors will undoubtedly stimulate readers' thoughts on each important issue.

Additionally, we will, as a result of reader input, initiate a series of individual profiles about our section editors. These articles will allow readers and

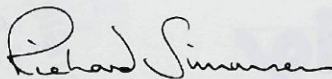
future authors to see a face, and read a personal profile, behind the name seen on the masthead.

Other changes include the clinical relevance box. Authors will be asked to write one or two sentences describing the clinical relevance of their papers. This description may not always be necessary, for example in case reports or for articles in the Clinical Communication section where the clinical relevance is obvious. But in the sometimes esoteric world of dental research, it will force authors to find the clinical thread that may not be obvious to all. It will also allow those readers with a heavy reading schedule to scan this box to see if the article is relevant to their type of practice or interest.

Additional changes for '96 include new designs for the table of contents page, department logos, the abstract and authors' names format, and the illustrations, which will be printed in a larger format, filling the previously used rectangular frame.

All of these changes are made with one goal in mind—to make *QI* easier and more fun to read. We believe that despite the rapid movement into the electronic age, dentists will still demand and enjoy the feel of high-quality paper containing relevant clinical information for their practice. As Mark Twain said, "The man that will not read has no advantage over the man that cannot read."

Please continue to enjoy *QI*, and please don't hesitate to let us know your feelings about the changes you see, or would like to see, in our pages.



Richard J. Simonsen
Editor-in-Chief