

**THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE** (ISSN 0161-5505) is published monthly by The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760. Second Class Postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. *Postmaster*, send address changes to *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760.

**EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS** should be sent to the Editor: H. William Strauss, MD, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, Room 5406 MGH-East, Bldg. 149, 13th St., Charlestown, MA 02129 (617) 726-5786. *Books and monographs* covering the use of nuclear medicine and its allied disciplines will be reviewed as space is available. *Send review copies to the Editor.*

**BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS** concerning advertising, subscriptions, change of address, and permission requests should be sent to the publisher, The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760 (212) 889-0717. Advertisements are subject to editorial approval and are restricted to products or services pertinent to nuclear medicine. Advertising rates are available from the publisher. Closing date is the first of the month preceding the date of issue.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES** for 1992 calendar year are \$120 within the United States; \$130 for Canada and Pan American countries; \$160 elsewhere. Student subscriptions are \$70 (with proof of student status). Single copies \$10.00; foreign \$11.00; convention issue (May) \$12.00; foreign \$13.00. Make checks payable, in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, to The Society of Nuclear Medicine. Notify the Society of change of address and telephone number at least 30 days before date of issue by sending both the old and new addresses.

**COPYRIGHT** © 1992 by The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or translated without permission from the copyright owner. Because the copyright on articles published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is held by the Society, each author of accepted manuscripts must sign a statement transferring copyright. See Information for Authors for further explanation.

### Fault Finding

*The man who is willing to meet you halfway is usually a poor judge of distance. Examine the contents, not the bottle.*

The Talmud

*It is more difficult to judge oneself than to judge others.*  
Saint-Exupery

At some point, everyone is asked to render an opinion. Does the tie match the suit? Does the belt match the dress? Did Kate do a good job? It is easy to respond with a simple yes or no, but that's not the best way. Embellishing the answer with a helpful comment takes things beyond the grunt phase and adds a new dimension to the interaction.

Why is this important? To begin with, few concepts have everyone's enthusiasm, so it is easy to settle into a habit of just saying no. Negativism, particularly if accompanied by cynicism, though invisible to the eye, will eventually clog the channels of communication and bring everything to a halt.

It doesn't take much to turn things around. Instead of an arbitrary no, even when no is the ultimate answer, the addition of a constructive comment—"how about trying it this way"—quickly converts the negativism of criticism to the enlightenment of creativity. The use of this method is the difference between a critic and an advocate.

Creativity, however, can be messy, but with the right perspective we can learn to see the successful concept in the rough. We can come to understand that an idea, like a newborn, requires nurturing before it can learn to walk.

Admittedly, there are some concepts that will never amount to anything good, so we are hesitant to spend any time cutting and polishing. Yet, even bad ideas can teach us something. After we have identified a thousand flaws, the flawless stone stands out all the more.

If we are arbitrary with our judgements, we are no more than a clerk of ideas—entering them into a ledger of assets and liabilities with no thought to their potential value. If we believe, however, in the potential for good that resides in every judgement we make, we should be able to find at least an ounce of gold for every pound of fault.

**H. William Strauss, Editor**  
*The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*