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## Reader comments

DEAR DR. ROBERTS:

I'm not in the habit of writing fan letters, but I'm prompted to do so by the recent "Facts and ideas from anywhere" article that republished a selection of your editorials. You might write a sequel to "Who was Holter?"—namely, "Who was St. Jude?" Although the St. Jude valve is common knowledge, I am yet to find anyone who knows that St. Jude was the patron saint of hopeless causes. "Animal behavior—human behavior" brought to mind animal behavior by human beings militantly defending animal rights. The 13-kiloton nuclear bomb probably saved me from eternity when I was on Okinawa with the Allied force poised to invade the Japanese home islands. "Ineptness of reviewers" revealed your delightful store of humanistic information, a rarity that I applaud. You might add Joyce's *Ulysses* to the list. I'm about to give an invited lecture in Tucson on the historical development of cardiac valves, so your "Silver Anniversary" editorial came in handy. I could go on, but you get the point—you are a splendid editor, as a former editor of another journal once remarked. To put it differently, to be possessed of a good mind is not enough; the prime requisite is rightly to apply it.

—JOSEPH K. PERLOFF, MD  
University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center

DEAR DR. ROBERTS:

I admire your handsome new format. It might even be more striking with a white background. I will love to go over your old editorials—they deserve their own book! Your conversations throughout the years have been of great interest, and I read them always. Samuel Johnson was correct: "Sir, it is the biographical part of literature that I like best."

—JOHN C. CARSON, MD  
San Diego Cardiovascular Associates

*Editor's note:* The "Facts and ideas" columns from 2000 to 2005 were collected into a book and are being distributed to those who request it while quantities last. The following comment refers to the book.

DEAR DR. ROBERTS:

I have been intermittently reading *Facts and Ideas*, recently received and much appreciated. It is obviously the work of an undisciplined mind (in the best sense)—one that doesn't confine itself to one specialty or field but wanders over life's hills and dales, gathering various items for information and/or comment. The table of contents makes it possible to read it serially in chronological context or individually as fancy dictates. Its versatility makes it equally at home on important coffee tables in dens and studies or in a bathroom library (an underappreciated area for brief periods of erudition). All in all, a neat book and another penna in your chapeau.

—PERCY E. LUECKE, JR., MD  
Baylor University Medical Center