him. From his surgical ward he sent us the following brief statement. We are pleased to be able to report that Rudy is now at home and doing somewhat better.]

Binion Responds

All these thoughtful comments have brought home to me how misleading my "Reliving with Freud" is when read in isolation. The book it serves to introduce explores the mechanism of traumatic reliving in several historic cases, a few literary classics, and movie after movie—not the traumatic stress syndrome, and not deliberate remembrances either, but spontaneous and unsuspecting re-enactments of a traumatic episode.

Freud recognized reliving to be a stunted form of remembering. (So, by the way, did genial Pierre Janet, whom I confined to endnotes, perhaps wrongly.) But on top of this important recognition, Freud then blocked further insight into the mechanism by his rule of an infantile original for all patterned behavior in later life. However he came by this rule, it is wrong.

I was at pains to dissociate traumatic reliving not only from trauma-based chronic symptoms (Freud's "*Dauersymptome*"), but also from posttraumatic stress disorder (to begin with, traumatic reliving involves no defining stress or disorder) as well as from what Freud called a "repetition compulsion" ("*Wiederholungszwang*"). But traumatic reliving itself: its focal concern, got short shrift from my commentators as compared with Freud the researcher, who does not even figure in the rest of my book. This book focuses rather, I repeat, on that fairly ubiquitous pattern of human behavior as well as the ways in which it has been depicted in literature and film without yet having been duly recognized as the distinct phenomenon it is. ❑