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LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Beware the Y2004K Bug

Dear Colleagues,

Much publicity was given to the potential Y2K computer bug. Prophets of doom envisioned spontaneous nuclear missile launches, bank accounts being drained and candles being the predominant form of light. While some would argue that these preparations were for naught, the bottom line is that awareness of the calendar change and its potential implications made people take a long, hard look at their systems and make any adjustments prior to 11:59 p.m. Dec. 31.

The athletic training profession is closing in on another date-specific event: the elimination of the internship route to certification. However, we cannot wait until 11:59:59, Dec. 31, 2003 to consider its effect, as the implications of the loss of the internship route will be experienced long before that. Even more troubling is the fact that members of our profession are unaware of this event, and they and students in the pipeline are liable to be caught in the transition.

Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC

Although we look at 2004 as the final date, we must backtrack to see what the major milestones will be. Clinical experiences must have been started by the fall 2001 term in 2001. Likewise, freshmen who enter college in the fall of 2000 will have a very difficult time meeting this deadline. Candidates must fulfill all eligibility requirements and submit a completed and correct application that is accepted by the NATABOC by Dec. 31, 2003. Failure to have an examination application accepted by this date will require that the candidate graduate from a CAAHEP-accredited program in order to be eligible for the certification examination.

Certified athletic trainers and students who are engaged in the internship route carry equal responsibility for preparing for – and meeting – the various deadlines. Proper planning and preparation now can prevent us getting caught by the Y2004K bug. For the most recent information and implementation timeline, please visit the Education Council's website (www.cewl.com). Further information also can be obtained from the NATA Board of Certification, Inc.

Sincerely,

Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC
Chair, NATA Education Council