

Two Comments

Science Editor is one of the few publications I generally read from cover to cover, and the July-August 2003 issue is right up to standard. However, I am moved to comment on two matters.

First, the article by Stephanie Deming on the *Science Editor's* Bookshelf falls short of perfection only in being a bit too short. I would have listed the 1991 publication of CBE (as it was then) *Ethics and Policy in Scientific Publication* as a source of suggestions about dealing with some common problems. And I hope that she will give us some advice about dictionaries.

Second, Arnold Melnick, in "Each to Their Own Taste (Grrrr . . .)", cites 12 examples of disagreement between a personal pronoun and its antecedent

noun. Each of those examples seems to me to illustrate the same, much narrower problem: lack of an English pronoun that is gender-neutral, as in his first example, "This year, give everyone exactly what they want." I agree with Melnick that such disagreements should be avoided, but I could not rewrite that sentence without a couple of additional words that would themselves be less than ideal. Will we, some day, have a pronoun that is both grammatically and politically correct?

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