We hope you will be pleased with this revision and will finally recognize how urgently deserving of publication this work is. If not, then you are an unscrupulous, depraved monster with no shred of human decency. You ought to be in a cage. May whatever heritage you come from be the butt of the next round of ethnic jokes. If you do accept it, however, we wish to thank you for your patience and wisdom throughout this process, and to express our appreciation for your scholarly insights. To repay you, we would be happy to review some manuscripts for you – please send us the next manuscript that any of these reviewers submits to this journal.

Assuming you accept this paper, we would also like to add a footnote acknowledging your help with this manuscript and to point out that we liked the paper much better the way we originally submitted it, but you held the editorial shotgun to our heads and forced us to chop, reshuffle, hedge, expand, shorten, and in general convert a meaty paper into stir-fried vegetables.

We could not – or would not – have done it without your input.

I think many of us have been subjected to this process which can be very frustrating and discouraging.

Letters to authors on published articles are welcomed, and if the Editorial Board feel that any criticisms of the articles are pertinent they will forward these to the authors for their response. The discourse will then be published in the journal. This type of communication often helps to clarify matters and could be beneficial to readers who might also have been unsure about certain contents or conclusions in the article. It must nevertheless be remembered that, prior to publication, the article has been through a peer-review process, and as a result the type of criticism will not automatically be forwarded to authors, and will initially be considered by the Editorial Board. Should the Board decide not to publish the criticism, then the Editor will reply to the critic privately.

I look forward to our journal continuing in the growth, quality and stature that Professor Gräbe built up. Any journal is only as good as the material that is submitted to it, and we encourage all members of the orthopaedic community, both locally and abroad, to submit their work and research for publication. Instructions and guidelines to authors are published in each issue of the journal, and submitting authors are urged to read these prior to sending in their articles. All criticisms of the journal, including suggestions as to how it could be improved, will be welcomed and considered by the entire Editorial Board.

I look forward to the work ahead in being involved in the running of our SA Orthopaedic Journal.

Reference: