Now that copyeditors have taken their pet peeves on an airing (CBE Views, Sep-Oct 1999;22:149), perhaps it’s time to let authors take their bêtes noires for a walk around the block.

As both an author and an editor of some years’ standing, I mention only one concern: prompt correspondence regarding submitted material, or lack thereof. Some editors quickly and conscientiously acknowledge receipt of typescripts or galleys; some do not.

I’ve never known an author who was not anxious to know that a submission to an editor was received in good order. Any prepared piece, no matter how weighty or trivial, is precious to its author. All it takes to ease the angst is a promptly mailed postcard, or a telephone call, or, better yet, an e-mail message conveyed at nearly the speed of light.

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