

*Behavior and Social Issues*, 17, 7 (2008). © *Behavior and Social Issues*. Readers of this article may copy it without the copyright owner's permission, if the author and publisher are acknowledged in the copy and the copy is used for educational, not-for-profit purposes.

## **EDITORIAL NOTE ON SCIENTIFIC TONE**

In recent years, it has sometimes happened that the tone of some work submitted to *Behavior and Social Issues* (and other journals) has become somewhat more personal than scientific. Scientific advance requires the freedom to criticize the work of others, and to make a strong case for one's own positions. It is important that journals allow room for such serious and challenging dialogue. It is also natural for scholars to become highly invested in their work, and criticisms of that work are often experienced as highly aversive; conflicts may therefore elicit strong emotional reactions. Particularly when the tone of the dialectic process becomes personally disrespectful, objectivity and communication often break down, thereby potentially impeding scientific progress. The issues being pursued in *BSI* (most of which involve social justice, human rights, environmental stewardship and cultural analytic dimensions) are too critical to encourage such distraction on the pages of the journal. *BSI* will therefore henceforth consider scientific tone as one significant criterion for review and publication.

The Editor