

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

There are differences of opinion on most audio topics. Recently an article on audio quality by Meyer and Moran (*J. Audio Eng. Soc.* vol. 55, pp. 775–779, [2007 Sep.]) has given rise to a number of letters sent to the *Journal*. The authors of the paper were allowed to respond to these letters, and, after exchanges and reviews of both the letters and responses, we have chosen not to publish any of them. None of the letters had sufficient scientific content to warrant publication, when we applied the *Journal's* usual criteria. By scientific content we mean that setups and methodologies must be repeatable by others. In addition, listening tests must have at least some blind aspects, so that assertions of audibility are not simply subjective but have some objective basis. We realize that this may meet with opposition from some in the audio community.

There is now some discontent over this issue, and some may feel that there is a cover-up, or even an attempt to stifle an opposing view. Nothing could be further from the truth. We think that audio quality is very important, but we insist that contributions to the *Journal* be scientifically sound. The policy of the *Journal* is to publish anything related to audio engineering that stands up to peer review. It is unfortunately often difficult to control variables and environments so that deductions from tests are meaningful and pertinent to the intended outcome.

The problem with our position is that for this particular paper, there is a lot of intense debate and opinion on this topic that probably would be interesting to many AES

members, and this might actually help to bring out the key aspects of the issue. Also, in the future, other papers might give rise to a similar desire for discussion. Accordingly, we feel that an AES online forum that allows members to give their opinions and experiences would be valuable. You can access this forum on our website: <www.aes.org/journal> and then click on *Online Journal*. Underneath each paper abstract you will find a link for viewing and adding new comments. Members are encouraged to start or contribute to discussions about any of the papers published in the online *Journal*. These contributions will be reviewed to ensure that they contain no offensive comments or company-specific denigration. In a reasonably short time these contributions will be posted to the online forum. While all comments will be publicly available, only current members of the AES will be allowed to post comments so that we can ensure the quality of submissions. Any comments that meet our usual standards will also be considered for publication as a Letter to the Editor. Whenever possible, letters will be forwarded to the authors of these papers for their participation in the online forum.

We hope readers of the *Journal* will avail themselves of this opportunity.

John Vanderkooy, editor