Rejected, but With Style

To the Editor:

While some New Yorker magazine rejection letters (Arts pages, Jan. 12) are to be cherished, none may top a rejection letter sent by a Chinese mathematical journal, which was quoted in The American Mathematical Monthly:

“We could not hope, in the next thousand years, to receive the equal of your manuscript, so that, were we to publish yours, we should never be able to publish anything again. We beg forgiveness for our timidity in returning your divine creation.”

PETER H. GREENE
Chicago, Jan. 16, 2000

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