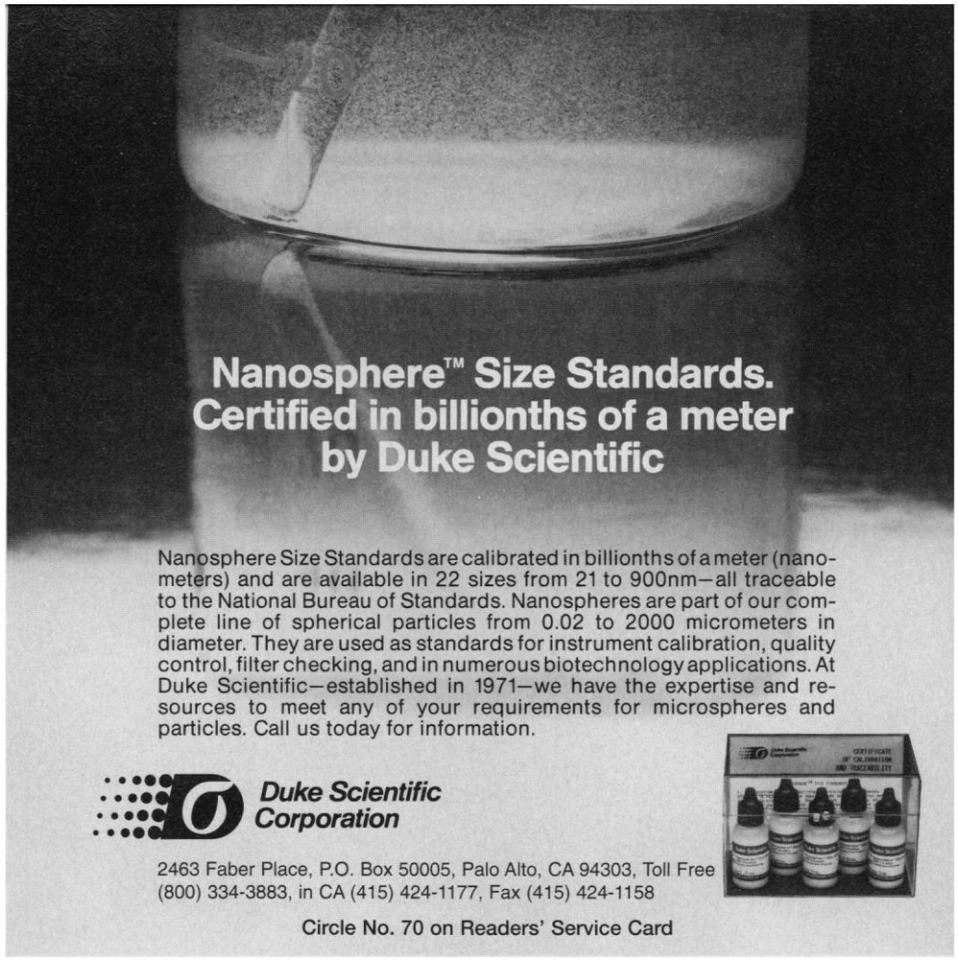

Thiel *et al.* interpreted analytical transmission electron microscopy of individual crystallites in dragline fibers as evidence of a crystalline phase of glycine and bulky residues, composing about 50% of the samples.

While the bulky residues in the Gly-Gly-X motifs necessarily dominate the *inter-sheet spacing* of the mixed crystals in our model, we have clearly admitted the existence of significant amounts of polyalanine in the composition of these same crystals. The report by Simmons *et al.* therefore does not invalidate our earlier result. Our comparing the diffracting regions to nonperiodic layer crystallites, which are analogous to the "protocrystals" subsequently designated in the report by Simmons *et al.*, reinforces this picture.

We were unable to observe pure β-sheet polyalanine crystallites by transmission electron microscopy. However, we recognized that previous literature provided arguments for their existence, and we explained why they would not be detected under our experimental conditions. Our 1994 paper (*1*) therefore accommodates the existence of two distinct populations of polyalanine crystal, one of which we were able to characterize in that work. The Cornell group has provided welcome information regarding the orientation distribution of both crystallite populations.

B. L. Thiel
Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 OHE, United Kingdom
E-mail: bt202@cam.ac.uk
C. Viney
Department of Materials, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PH, United Kingdom
E-mail: christopher.viney@materials.ox.ac.uk

References

1. B. L. Thiel, D. D. Kunkel, C. Viney, *Biopolymers* **34**, 1089 (1994).
2. J. O. Warwicker, *J. Mol. Biol.* **2**, 350 (1960).

Response: Although the data in the 1994 paper by Thiel *et al.* (*1*) do not address whether or not the crystals contain mixed strands of polyalanine and Gly-Gly-X motifs, these data (*1*) could, as Thiel and Viney state, be consistent with the concept of mixed strands.

Lynn W. Jelinski
Center for Advanced Technology in Biotechnology, Cornell University, 130 Biotechnology Building, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA
E-mail: lwj2@cornell.edu

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1. B. L. Thiel, D. D. Kunkel, C. Viney, *Biopolymers* **34**, 1089 (1994).

Corrections and Clarifications

The News article "How congressional pressure shaped the 'Baltimore case' " (16 Aug., p. 873) by Jock Friedly referred to Suzanne Hadley as being at George Washington University on paid leave from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Hadley is an NIH employee officially assigned to George Washington University, where she is a visiting associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.