cies to explain the discrepancy just on the basis of such a systematic error. For the moment, as Eilam Gross is quoted as saying, one cannot claim a signal, but we should reserve our judgment and possibly explain the results as a "statistical fluke." We should have a clearer picture soon, with the data being taken this year at higher energy.

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Development of DNA Sequencer

The News Focus article by Eliot Marshall titled "A high-stakes gamble on genome sequencing" (18 June, p. 1906) states that the PE Biosystems model 3700 DNA sequencer was developed by industry. While PE Biosystems invested significant resources in their outstanding engineering work for the instrument, the original prototypes were developed by H. Kambara's group at Hitachi and my group at the University of Alberta; a 15 May 1998 article about the instrument's announcement (E. Marshall and E. Pennisi, News & Comment, p. 994) featured a photograph of one of our instruments. Our first instrument was developed as part of Jianzhong Zhang's Ph.D. thesis, and later instruments were developed by John Crabtree and Sue Bay as part of their Ph.D. theses. The development of our instruments was funded by the Canadian government (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, and the Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network), Canadian industry (Sciex, which is a division of MDS Health Group), and the U.S. government (the Department of Energy's Human Genome Project). Although the Department of Energy dropped its funding for this project long before the technology was commercialized, it is not quite right to imply that the U.S. Human Genome Project had nothing to do with the development of the model 3700 sequencer.

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Miss Washington's Engineering Career

In the 11 June issue (Jeffrey Mervis, News Focus, p. 1757), it is reported that "Engineering student Mariana Loya, the current Miss Washington, has been presented as the new face of engineering. Yet even she says she may not pursue an engineering career....she illustrates part of the problem: 'I want to go to graduate school, but I'm thinking about an MBA.'"

I really feel that this can be misleading. Yes, it is true that I want to pursue an MBA; however, that does not necessarily mean that I am leaving the engineering work force. I am still pursuing an engineering career.

One of the biggest concerns of companies that hire engineers is that the engineers do not have good social, writing, and/or communication skills. I want to pursue an MBA to strengthen my talents and be more marketable in the engineering field. As we approach the 21st century, we will see engineering become more and more integrated into the worlds of business, biomedicine, technical communications, and much more. This type of diversity was well represented at the National Summit on Women in Engineering Conference. Diversity in careers, in sex, and in race—you can't beat that. Diversity is what gives the engineering work force a cutting edge, and I am proud to be a part of it.

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