złoty, or 1 year's salary for a medical school faculty member. I had to prepay and wait 10 months before it finally was delivered. For ten long years I drove my beloved Trabant around Poland and Eastern Europe. In 1980, I drove it to Norway, where I worked for 3 months as a biochemist in Bergen. I never had the feeling that I was driving a "running gag." Some people in Norway had never seen a Trabant before, but no one invited me to an auto graveyard. I did not think it was the best car in the world, but, given the conditions of life in Poland and other Eastern European countries, it was very economic and convenient.

As inflation was going on, the person to whom I sold the Trabant sold it for 250,000 złoty in 1987. It was 16 years old, plastic, and smoke-belching, but still not a "running gag." Of course, there were endless engine overhauls, new tires, batteries, and so forth, but a plastic body was eternal. I hope that someday "the Trabi problem" can be solved, but in the meantime I would like to correct the impression that no one has ever liked the Trabant. There was a time when we, the owners and the Trabant, had a lot of good times together.

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Journal of Biological Chemistry and Protein Crystallization Papers

In a recent letter (22 Mar., p. 1408), John Tainer stated that the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* has ceased publishing detailed protein crystallization papers. Tainer further implied that the reason for this was low citation frequency. This is not correct. The journal will be pleased to accept papers that give information on crystallization provided that they also contain sufficient additional information such that the paper, as a whole, makes a substantive contribution to biochemistry. Citation frequency is not a consideration. A summary of journal policy on this matter follows:

The editors of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* encourage authors to submit manuscripts reporting new macromolecular structures by x-ray crystallographic methods. Reports of studies at all stages of structure analysis are welcome and will be considered on their own merits and on whether they are thought to further significantly our understanding of biochemistry. However, in general, manuscripts that only describe conditions for crystallization of a macromolecule or the diffraction pattern and space group of the crystals are not thought to contain sufficient information to warrant publication in the journal.

The editors of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* hope that this statement corrects any misunderstanding regarding the acceptability of crystallographic manuscripts in the journal.

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Antinoise and Energy Expenditure

Every new technology has a cost that is initially overlooked. Active noise control (Research News, 26 Apr., p. 508) reduces noise by destructive interference, "leaving behind nothing but silence." But it should be obvious that the sound energy does not vanish; application of antinoise could result, in some cases, in the expenditure of *twice* as much energy as the original noise. Some of this energy can go into heat, so it is ironic that one of the first applications of active noise control is to quiet air conditioner ducts.

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