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REFERENCES

1. S. G. Oliver *et al.*, *Nature* 357, 38 (1992).

Response: The views of both critics and supporters of the European Community yeast sequencing program were reported in my article. Some critics spoke angrily of the frustration of hearing about the yeast work at conferences over a period of years without being able to gain access to the full data; others said data had come slowly from the yeast program compared to the *Caenorhabditis elegans* program. Among supporters, a common view was that sequencing was "not a lower form of life" and that scientists had no right to expect sequence data to appear earlier than any other form of data.

Both viewpoints needed to be reported, as no general consensus exists in the scientific community as to the right time to release sequence data. Journals differ in publication policy, and scientists can tell of publicly funded projects being held up by squabbles over when sequences must become available to all. Some scientists would even like data to be available before they have been thoroughly checked. The article did not suggest that the three authors "withheld data"; rather, it reported that a number of scientists (but not all) felt that the data should have been made available faster.—**Alun Anderson**

Alun Anderson, in his article about European molecular biology (*Science in Europe*, 24 Apr., p. 460), cites John Tooze on the European Community's policy on research students as saying that "It's better to have no graduate students than foreign ones." The context implies that this is not the policy of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge. This implication is wrong.

We have always actively encouraged the best students to come here, regardless of their country of origin. Indeed, at present approximately half of our 50 graduate students are from abroad. Of those in this category who gained their Ph.D.'s here in previous years, a significant number have made substantial contributions to research. These include Spyros Artavanis (now at

Yale), Elizabeth Blackburn (University of California, San Francisco), Suzanne Cory (Melbourne), Douglas Melton (Yale), Gerald Rubin (University of California, Berkeley), Paul Sigler (Yale), and Gary Struhl (Columbia).

We will continue to welcome applications from prospective students from any country. The effective stipends of graduate students here are now \$1100 per month, rather than the figure quoted by Anderson.

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Response: The quote from John Tooze was intended to illustrate the effects of the European Community (EC) decision that makes it difficult for research students from one EC country to receive grants in another. It should most certainly not be read as a comment on the policy of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology.—**Alun Anderson**

NIH Leaks

Regarding the 8 May item "FBI drops OSI leak probe" (*Random Samples*, 8 May, p. 741), I would like to correct two errors. First, it is stated that "National Institutes of Health Director Bernadine Healy asked the FBI to probe leaks . . ." In fact, Healy referred the information brought to her attention by a concerned citizen to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Inspector General, on the basis of the information, contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

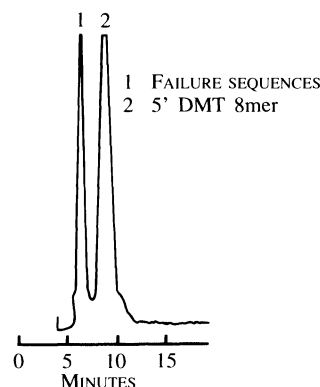
Second, Healy did not ask the FBI to investigate leaks, nor did the U.S. Attorney's Office state in a letter that she was concerned about leaks; in fact, the letter commended Healy for taking appropriate action as head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The U.S. Attorney Richard Bennett, in his 20 April letter, states, "You acted with the best interests of the NIH at heart."

Johanna Schneider
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Fear of Butterflies

As a lepidopterist and a pedant, I was wounded by seeing the ineptly formed neologism "lepidophobia" in your pages (*Random Samples*, "New words from the wise," 1 May, p. 611). As formed, it means not "fear of butterflies" (as reported), but "fear

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