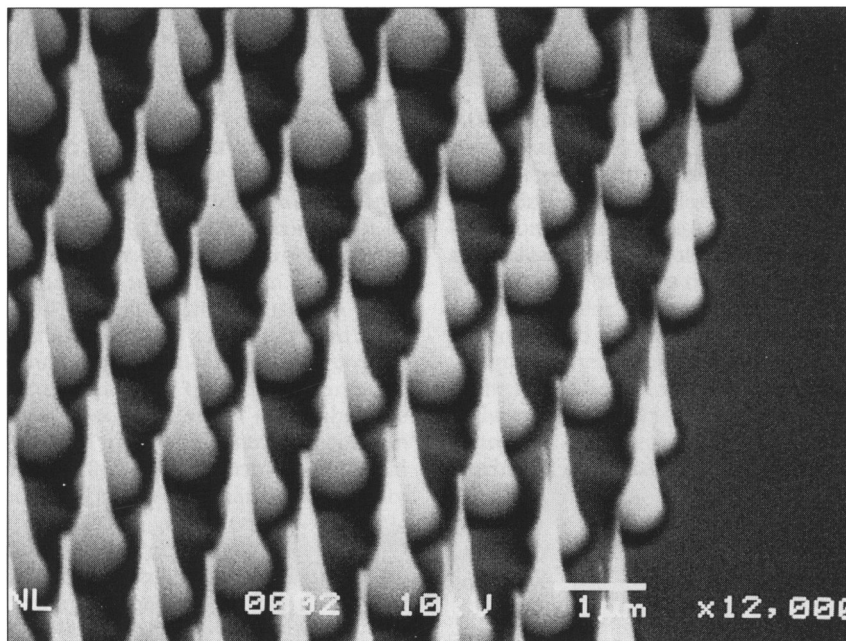


Figures appearing in *EDITOR'S CHOICE* are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



The array pictured seems too regular to be a natural phenomenon. That rules out stalagmites (and stalactites and icicles if you rotate your *Bulletin* 180°). There are many possible artificial origins, however. The dessert-minded among us instantly recognize a sheet of chocolate Hershey's Kisses™ in the midst of fabrication (or if your page is still rotated, a dispenser of ice cream cones). In fact, these two-micrometer tall spikes are made of aluminum gallium arsenide, not one of your traditional confections although arsenic is rumored to be sweet. The spikes were formed on a gallium arsenide substrate using electron-beam lithography and reactive ion etching by P.L. Gourley et al. who explain their original intentions in *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **64** (6) (1994) pp. 687–689. In attempting to etch a honeycomb of cylindrical columns of air into the material, this sample wound up with more air and less material than appropriate for their application as a photonic bandgap nanostructure. This attractive scanning electron microscope image of the array, taken by A. Bieber, shows the result of over-etching. The pictured sample may not handle physical illumination as its properly prepared cousins would according to the magic of Bragg, but we suspect a short nap on this bed of spikes and some alms would lead to metaphysical illumination according to your local fakir.

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