

the greater the damage that is done. Is it any wonder, then, that the policy-makers seek to send the scientists en masse back to their test tubes with an air of don't-call-us-we'll-call-you? [A case in point, from the letter (11 Dec.) of Robert S. Morison: "the difficulties such scientists will encounter if the political leadership of the country persists in basing its recommendations on conventional wisdom rather than on scientific evidence."'] If the political leadership wished to conclude that scientific objectivity is not all that it's cracked up to be, I, for one, would not blame them one bit. . . .

WILLIAM S. LOVELL
Oregon College of Education,
Monmouth, Oregon 97361

Women, Please Apply

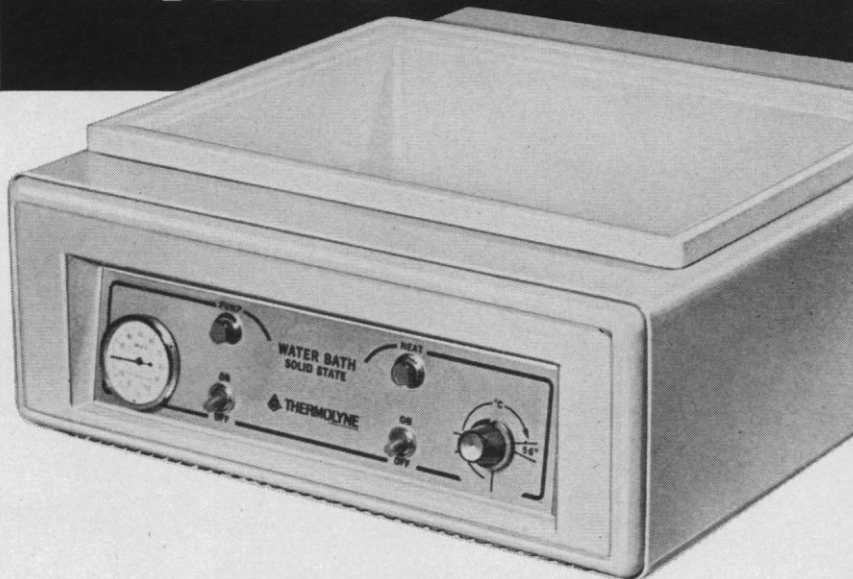
The role of women in society is being reexamined. The participation of women in many fields of endeavor is often restricted by their sex even when their qualifications are not in question. In "Women in Academe" (25 Sept., p. 1284), Patricia Graham argues that this is the case in the academic community and discusses a number of factors reinforcing the situation. Among these are subtle discrimination against women; adverse social consequences of women's success; reduced internal aspirations and expectations; ambivalences about combining career and family on the part of women; and other cultural factors. The article also suggests corrective measures, the most significant being an increase in the number of women faculty.

It has been argued that women scientists tend not to seek faculty positions in departments such as ours because of the very factors discussed by Graham. We recognize the existing obstacles. If women are to participate in science, we must actively support qualified women who aspire to do so. As a first step, we are making the effort to locate qualified women for faculty positions in our department in the areas of neurobiology and development. We would be pleased to learn of suitable candidates. We hope that other faculties will take similar action.

BORIS MAGASANIK
Department of Biology, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology,
77 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge 02139

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