

1978 in the *Wall Street Journal*. At a press breakfast the next day in Mexico City, Pemex president Diaz Serrano discussed the new well, going over its spelling and location several times with reporters. According to Charles Green of the Associated Press, who attended the breakfast and based an AP story on it, Diaz Serrano left no doubt the Ixchel well had been drilled and said that it "indicates a considerable platform" of oil. Whether Pemex designated that well Ixchel-1 could not be determined. More detail was given in the September 1978 newsletter of the international oil reporting service Petroconsultants, S.A., in Geneva. Specifying a discovery well with the surname Ixchel drilled by May 1978, Petroconsultants issued a field record giving the well's location (92°22' west; 21°47' north), geological features, gravity, and sulfur content. Petroconsultants president J. Dixon told *Science* he had no doubt at all that oil had been discovered at the site—that a field record was authoritative. Not only does Petroconsultants stand by its original report, but the firm reported another discovery in late 1978 made in the same vicinity.

—WILLIAM D. METZ

Editorial Writers

Concerning Rochelle Semmel Albin's letter (19 Jan., p. 228) on the selection of *Science* editorial writers, I hope that the uses to which the editorial page is put will continue to be based on (i) the appropriateness of the subject and (ii) the credentials of the author to handle the subject in a competent and readable manner. This does not lend itself to quotas based on the sex of the author.

I prefer to believe that it is only coincidence that the 19 January editorial is signed by Lucy W. Sells.

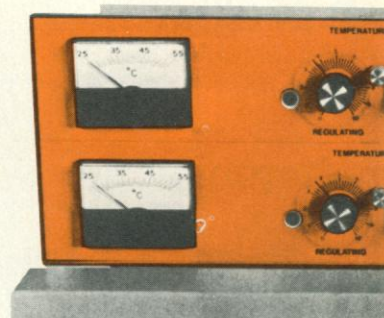
BURTON C. BELDEN
Box 611, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

As an occasional author of *Science* editorials, I would like to share my experience with Rochelle Semmel Albin; it may sound too simple, but nothing more was involved than writing an editorial and sending it to the editor. While I have no idea how many editorials are received, I suggest that Albin give the same procedure a try—as I assume was the case with the editorial by Lucy W. Sells, published in the same issue of *Science*.

JURGAN SCHMANDT
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin

16 FEBRUARY 1979

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