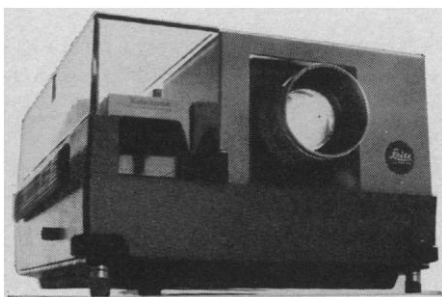


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formation to become available which would permit more precise predictions of DDT flows and storages in ecosystems. However, with regard to assumptions, we would be interested in learning the reasons for Bloom's and Menzel's assumption that, in 1964, the losses of DDT from the ecosystem balanced the application rates.

For the benefit of those who may wish to make use of our equations, we would like to point out two errors in the equations as they were printed. In the first term of Eq. 9,  $\dot{m}_i$  should be  $m_i$ . In Eqs. 13, 14, and 15,  $\dot{m}_{i-1}$  should properly be  $\dot{m}_{i-1,i}$ .

H. L. HARRISON, O. L. LOUCKS  
J. W. MITCHELL, C. R. TRACY  
*College of Engineering,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison 53705*

## Enlightened Employment Tactics

We commend Boris Magasanik for his letter (19 Feb.) encouraging qualified women to apply for positions in his department. He is correct in surmising that women are often discouraged from seeking positions in academic departments of excellent reputation in the certain knowledge that they will not be considered or, if considered, will be placed at extreme disadvantage relative to male competitors. It would be helpful if other department chairmen would similarly state their willingness to consider qualified candidates regardless of sex, by publishing statements in *Science* or elsewhere.

Recruitment for posts at this level is customarily informal and not pursued by public advertisement. Thus chairmen should also tell their colleagues of their willingness to consider applicants regardless of sex. Often when a woman allows her candidacy to be known via a third party, she is at a great disadvantage if this third party is ambivalent about women filling such posts. If more employers would publicize their intent to hire on the basis of qualifications alone, it would create a climate in which women would be encouraged to apply, directly or indirectly, and their colleagues would feel more free to recommend them.

LORETTA LEIVE  
MAXINE F. SINGER  
*National Institute of Arthritis and  
Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda,  
Maryland 20014*

## M.I.T. Confrontation

Southwick's News and Comment article "Visitors ask M.I.T. faculty to renounce military research" (15 Jan., p. 156) describes demonstrations carried out in front of M.I.T. by members of the New York branch of Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action (SESPA). The article contains little news and rather biased comment. It is absurd to say that M.I.T. is probably the most important military research center in the United States. Seymour Melman is quoted as saying that M.I.T. has done nothing about the problems of conversion. In fact, M.I.T. and its faculty have been leaders in turning science to societal problems.

The demonstration was carried out, and knowingly so, at a time when M.I.T. was not in regular session. There was no notice of the event. According to the article, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), of which I serve as chairman, was the "main target of the demonstrations." If so, it was an injudicious choice. It is far easier to confront your potential allies than the Pentagon. It is also far less productive. Several points in the article should be clarified and amplified:

I have no idea how many UCS members would work on a laser ABM, but I was prompted by the quote to inquire of a few nearby members of scientific persuasion. One conditional "yes" is worth noting. The member allowed that he might conceivably work on the laser ABM, but only on very cloudy days with air heavy with smog.

UCS has taken no position on the SESPA pledge not to participate in war research. We do not intend to. This point became clear when Melman, at his request, addressed an open meeting of UCS on 16 October 1970. The UCS members present held to the view that signing such a pledge is a matter for personal conscience, not collective intimidation.

There are circumstances when some of us would work on weaponry. We are convinced that now is not such a time. We devote our energies and our talents so that the time may never come.

The principal discussions of the 16 October meeting concerned the tactics used by SESPA in its confrontation with workers at the Riverside Research Institute in New York, an effort which Melman hoped we would emulate in Boston. The UCS members rejected those tactics which went beyond the picketing of the laboratory to the

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# The Brinkmann Gel Column

## Slicing It Pretty Thin

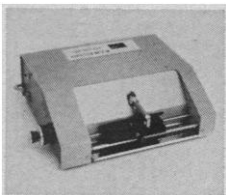
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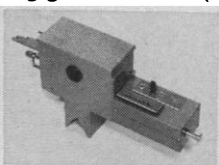
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picketing of individual scientists at their homes.

Through the UCS publications on MIRV, ABM, CBW, and environmental issues, we have expressed our belief that a strengthening of the democratic process would lead to a more humane exploitation of scientific and technical knowledge, and to a reduction of the very real threats to the survival of mankind. UCS has become the Boston chapter of the Federation of American Scientists. We are bending our own energies toward that revitalized organization in its concerted and continuing effort to influence public policy in areas where our scientific knowledge and skill can play a significant role. We hope that SESPA would eschew tactics so alien to civil libertarians, and join us in this cause.

LEE GRODZINS

*Union of Concerned Scientists,  
Room 26-413, Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology, Cambridge 02139*

## Political Discussions at

### Gordon Conference: Suggestions

It is natural that members of the scientific community are deeply concerned with the social structure of our nation. One would expect them therefore to participate actively in political dialogues and to contribute their individual thoughts on what changes are desirable to improve the lot of the individual and that of mankind. As scientists, one would expect that their contributions would be unbiased, if not impartial, and based on a thorough analysis of all controversial subjects. However, one would be reluctant to accept their choice of scientific meetings as a sounding board for their political beliefs.

Two members from Harvard's and M.I.T.'s departments of bacteriology and biology describe three political sessions they organized at last year's Gordon Conference on Biological Regulatory Mechanisms where the following topics were presented: trip of one of the signers of the letter to Hanoi, Saigon, and Vientiane; films on the People's Park at Berkeley and on the Black Panther Party; discussion of political repression and of the newly formed Scientific and Medical Workers Committee to Support the Panthers; discussion of destructive aspects of competition, and the exploitation of graduate students. To top it off, one of the signers showed slides of a 1964 trip to the People's

Republic of China. The authors express the "hope that discussions of these and related issues will be organized regularly at scientific conferences and elsewhere."

Undoubtedly, in future sessions topics such as "Should Policemen be Referred to as Fascist Pigs or merely as Pigs," and "Revolution for the Hell of It" will be discussed. Should the organizers of the political sessions run out of topics involving the "Rottenness of the Establishment" the following subjects could be suggested to insure lively meetings: "Why the Russians Liberated Czechoslovakia in 1969," "Why Comrade Mao's People's Guard Knocked off Several Million Right-Wingers during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," "How to Organize Political Sessions in Moscow or Peking at Meetings of Biologists and Bacteriologists," and a companion subject: "The Happy Life of Dissenting Russian Biologists and Bacteriologists in a Siberian Detention Camp." Finally a nonpolitical pastoral subject: "How to Grow Daisies on the Berlin Wall."

SILVE KALLMANN

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## UN Conference in Stockholm

As an occasional participant in the work of the World Health Organization, I have become concerned with the role and responsibility of the scientific community of the United States in matters affecting the human environment. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, set for Stockholm in 1972, will serve as a focal point for primarily political decisions. What these decisions will be depends largely on the scientific community. In this country the mechanisms for active and constructive participation by the scientific community do not seem to be well developed.

The UN Secretary-General has identified the main problems for the Conference as problems of human settlements, territorial problems, and global problems (1). The first group concerns urbanization, its technology, its organization, the challenges of industrialization, and the attendant threats of air and water pollution. Territorial problems include requirements for long-term conservation and rational use of the human environment. Territorial problems differ in the different climatologi-

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