

with the many statistical surveys subsequently available regarding the hiring and promotion of women in universities. In Table 1, we have reproduced a summary of the statistical data underlying our analysis.

ARIE Y. LEWIN

*Graduate School of Business  
Administration, New York University,  
New York 10006*

LINDA DUCHAN

*Albert Einstein College,  
Bronx, New York 10461*

#### Reference

1. L. S. Fidell, *Amer. Psychol.* **25**, 1094 (1970).

### Cooperation

On the report "Human environment conference: search for a *modus vivendi*" (News and Comment, 18 Feb., p. 736), Nigel Hawkes states, "Throughout the preparations for the conference, U.N. sources have been complaining privately of the obstructive attitude the British have taken."

Quite to the contrary, the British representatives have been very cooperative and sources of constructive criticism and productive ideas. Whatever successes the Stockholm conference may have in June will be due in no small measure to the contributions of the United Kingdom. I make these observations after having recently completed a 6-month assignment with the conference secretariat.

JOHN G. WELLS

*21 route de Florissant,  
1206 Geneva, Switzerland*

### Testing for Teratogenicity

The eminent gentlemen who signed the protest (Letters, 5 Nov. 1971, p. 545) against *Science's* treatment of the 2,4,5-T advisory committee report (News and Comment, 13 Aug., p. 610) appear to say that if a study *does* find a teratogenic effect in some species when doses of a chemical are given that are far in excess of any possible human exposure, it does not constitute scientific grounds for banning the chemical. Presumably if a study *does not* find a teratogenic effect in some species, it also does not constitute scientific grounds for banning the chemical. What then are the scientific grounds for banning a chemical because of its pos-

sible teratogenic effects? Obviously the answer is, "There are none," since studies are not made of the effects of doses that are below any possible human exposure. (Toxicological experiments of the type needed to permit the labeling of 2,4,5-T or similar substances are usually performed on a few animals that are exposed to high doses; little effort is made to tell what would happen to the animals—not to say anything about man—if they were given low doses.) In fact, Alvin M. Weinberg (Letters, 5 Nov., p. 546) makes it clear that the establishment of a teratogenic effect from low doses is believed to be "trans-scientific," since it would take too many animals to establish such an effect.

It is not clear whether the council of the Society of Toxicology speaks for all toxicologists, for a majority of toxicologists, or simply expresses the view of an establishment in toxicology. It is curious, nevertheless, that the main appeal in the letter is to respect the views of authority (that is, of the council of the society) and of the majority (that is, of toxicologists)—not very persuasive arguments for scientists to advance.

If the council believes it has a case, then the Society of Toxicology ought to sponsor an open examination of these issues. They are "fundamental" to all interests, and light, not heat, is needed to illuminate them.

THEODORE D. STERLING

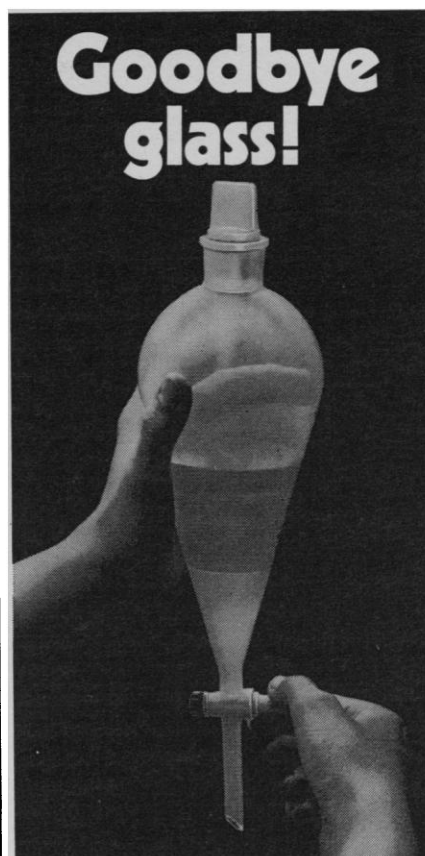
*Department of Applied Mathematics  
and Computer Science, School of  
Engineering and Applied Science,  
Washington University,  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63130*

### Sorensen and pH

John Walsh is safe in writing (News and Comment, 3 Mar., p. 973) that S. P. L. Sørensen "achieved the first really accurate method for the determination of pH," because nobody had ever before determined it. It was in fact Sørensen's brilliant achievement to perceive that the acidic intensity of an aqueous solution is best expressed as a logarithmic function of the concentration of  $H_3O^+$ . Today, pH is a vigorous near-septuagenarian, some premature obsequies in the recent clinical literature notwithstanding.

A. GORMAN HILLS

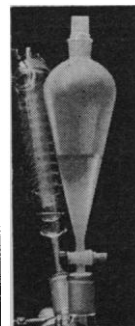
*Department of Medicine,  
University of Miami School of Medicine,  
Miami, Florida 33152*



## Hello Nalgene sep funnels.

Nalgene Separatory Funnels of Teflon\* FEP are so transparent that even the ether/water phase interface can be clearly seen right down to the stopcock. Resists any chemical used in a sep funnel so it can be used with HF. Ideal for trace analysis. Non-wetting for complete draining. The non-stick, easy-to-clean surface makes washing easy. Leakproof stopcock is Teflon TFE, non-seize stopper is new fluoropolymer, Tefzel\*.

And they're unbreakable—yet competitively priced with glass. Think about that the next time you handle a glass funnel. Available in 125, 250, 500 and 1000 ml sizes (Cat. No. 4301).



Also available in same sizes with 24/40 Teflon TFE male joint as Teflon Addition Funnel (Cat. No. 4320) for safer use on columns and flasks.

Order from your Lab Supply Dealer. Ask for our Catalog or write Dept. 4117A, Nalgene Labware Division, Rochester, N.Y. 14602.

\* DuPont Registered Trademark



Nalgene® Labware... the permanent replacements.