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NALGENE LABWARE DIVISION



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tional origin, or sex will remain outside well into the next century. The very fact that NIH advisory positions are predominantly held by white males puts the lie to Gross's statement that these positions are not plums. Despite poor direct compensation, they pay off in terms of prestige and inside contacts in the Washington establishment; if not, they, like truly low-status, low-paying jobs, would be overrun with women and nonwhites.

Some of us who are interested in equal opportunities for the socially disadvantaged are not concerned about "repairing a building foundation with mucilage." We want to change the foundation so that merit, finally, can become the sole criterion which decides a person's position. To accomplish this change we must overcome current discriminatory practices. I look forward to the day when affirmative action will no longer be needed, when merit can be judged objectively.

CLAIRE M. BERG

Biological Sciences Group, University of Connecticut, Storrs 06268

Flood Damage

The Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, region was recently inundated by the flood of June 1972. Wilkes College, located in Wilkes-Barre, was especially devastated, damage now conservatively being estimated at \$10 million. One of the major losses was the library building and its complete undergraduate and graduate holdings in biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics, and physics.

We are making every effort to rebuild our library inventory. We appeal to all of our colleagues at sister institutions to contribute whatever they can from their personal or departmental libraries. Any, and all, donations will be highly appreciated.

REED D. ACHESON

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One Part per Million

Dale W. Jenkins, director of the ecology program in the Smithsonian's Office of Environmental Sciences, has made an outstanding contribution to environmental communication. Writing on toxic metals (1), he is concerned

Scan gels without staining

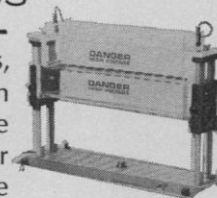


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