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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

*Department of Biological Sciences,
Wilkes College,
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18703*

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

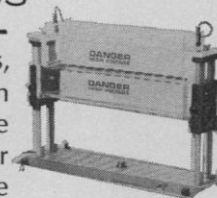


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with numerous measurements expressed in parts per million (ppm).

Surmising correctly that all the people who know what the words mean don't quite visualize the magnitude of a part per million, Jenkins makes it unmistakably clear to all: "The world's driest martini: one ppm of vermouth would be the equivalent of one ounce of vermouth in 7,800 gallons of gin."

WILLIAM W. PORTER II
35401 Cheseboro Road,
Palmdale, California 93550

Reference

1. D. W. Jenkins, *Smithsonian* 3, 64 (1972).

Statement on

Termination of Pregnancy

The following statement was signed by 271 professional biologists who attended the annual symposium meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology. The symposium was held at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, from 7 to 10 June 1972.

As developmental biologists, one of our major social concerns is to identify and promote those conditions that favor normal development of the human embryo and fetus, and that culminate in the physical health and well-being of the child, mother and family. These conditions include a legal framework within which a woman, in consultation with her physician, can elect to terminate an undesirable pregnancy.

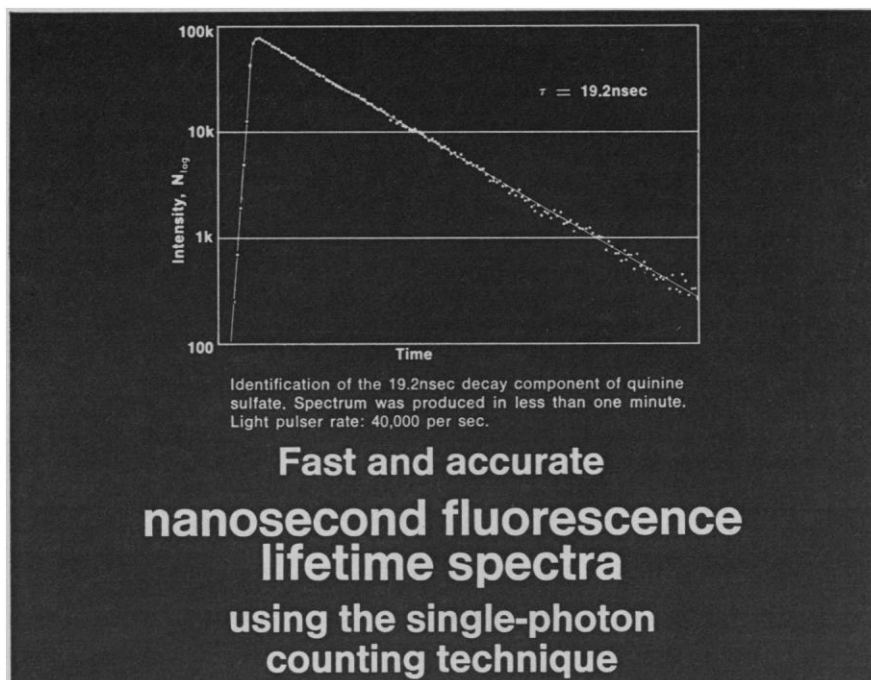
We the undersigned, attending the 31st Symposium Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology, commend the stand taken by the Federal District Court of Connecticut in the recent case of "Women vs. Connecticut." In that case, Judge J. Edward Lumbard concluded "... that the state's interests are insufficient to take from the woman the decision after conception whether she will bear a child, and that she as the appropriate decision maker, must be free to choose." We feel that this decision is a definitive statement that deserves national attention.

The signatures are available upon request from the Society for Developmental Biology. They include the officers of the society, as well as prominent developmental biologists from colleges, universities, and professional institutions throughout the country.

WINIFRED W. DOANE
ROBERT L. DEHAAN
JAMES A. WESTON, FOTIS KAFOTIS
JUDITH S. WEIS

*Society for Developmental Biology,
Post Office Box 502,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005*

11 AUGUST 1972



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