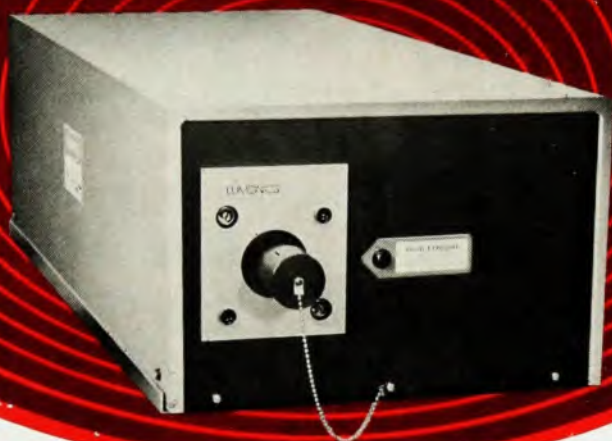


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stifle the US research community, and too much management can be as bad as too little management!

References

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No prejudice against women

I think Alice Macnow's comments (November, page 11) on William Fowler's article to the effect that "Physicists are always imagined as men" is a bit unfair to him. Fowler was recalling *his* acquaintances at Caltech. That school didn't begin admitting women as *graduate* students until the late 1950's. It was even later that things opened up for women undergraduates. As he said, his was a *personal* view of things. I was a student in Engineering Science when there were only six women on campus. Fowler would only have known one of us at that time—Virginia Trimble—and she was in Astronomy.

Let's put this women's lib thing in perspective. The physics department at Caltech has no observable prejudice against women.

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1/6/78

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World oxygen supply

With regard to Yale Jay Lubkin's letter in January (page 87), I strongly disagree with his unusual comment that "there are vast acreages of useless jungle all over the Third World." Where does Lubkin think the world's oxygen comes from? Let him keep his suicidal ideas on an individual scale.

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THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: If one were to take the question raised by Nelson seriously, one would note:

The jungle acreage of Brazil is about 10⁹ acres. At 100 tons of biomass per acre per year, which is not difficult to obtain, the total Brazilian jungle biomass is 10¹¹ tons/year, which could produce 2 $\times$ 10¹¹ barrels of alcohol per year. World petroleum production is of the order of 10¹⁰ barrels per year, so that 5–10% of the Brazilian jungle, by itself, could replace all of the petroleum now used. This is a very small portion of the Earth's annual biomass production.