

# Communications

## Letters to the Editor

### To the Editor:

A thoroughly constructive effort at datademonology has long been overdue. Professor Sigelman is to be commended for having risen so nobly to this need in his essay on "How to Succeed in Political Science by Being Very Trying." Alas, however, he had only an early example from my crusade for double-barreled data enhancement at his disposal. A more recent paper, which introduces the more advanced techniques of pseudo standard and factor score generation, has been forwarded to Professor Sigelman for explication in the follow-up piece that we all so eagerly await.

The new paper has, regrettably, been rejected by the *Journal of Irreproducible Results* as being insufficiently obscure, but since only about 50 computer runs are required to utilize its methodology, I assume the Association would wish to incorporate the latter into one of its SETUPS packages.

Arthur S. Banks  
SUNY-Binghamton

### To the Editor:

For the sixth year, I've kept a tally of the sex participation balance at our national meetings. (Reported each Fall since 1972 in *PS*.) The news for 1977 is good but could be better.

	Chairpersons	Paper Givers and Workshop Participants	Discussants
1977	15.5%	16.8%	14.7%
1976	19.0	13.6	18.2
1975	10.6	12.3	9.8
1974	12.2	13.4	10.0
1973	11.8	11.2	13.6
1972	5.7	11.4	12.1

One benchmark over the years is that where women are in a position (as panel and section chairpersons) to select participants, other women are more apt to be selected. The three (out of 15) sections chaired by women had women as a quarter of the chairpersons and as 24.3% of their paper givers and 17.9% of their discussants (cf. 28% and 12.5% in 1976). The 20 panels headed by women had women as 25.2% of their paper givers and 32.3% of their discussants (cf. 27% and 35% in 1976). (These panels contained

24.7% of the women giving papers at the convention and 33.3% of the convention's female discussants.)

The best showing for women at the convention came in the section on Political Science as a Profession. For the past four years this section has been headed by women and the result has been to give female professionals opportunities unaccorded them elsewhere.

	Chairpersons	Paper Givers	Discussants
1977	50.0%	30.4%	30%
1976	25.0%	5.0%	0
1975	62.5	31.7	0
1974	75.0/	27.8	40

Among the sections where women were under-represented:

	Chairpersons	Paper Givers	Discussants
Developing Areas	0	5.6%	0
Western Areas	10.0%	8.8	0
Public Administration	11.1	7.1	6.3%

This was the worst showing in three years for the Developing Areas section:

	Chairpersons	Paper Givers	Discussants
1976	25%	12.8%	11.1%
1975	0	10.0	33.3

Western Areas was down from 1976 but up from 1975.

Methods and Empirical Theory had its best showing in four years. (For the first time there was a woman chairing one of its panels. Three of the five female paper givers in this section were in her panel.) The Electoral Behavior and Political Attitudes section also had the best showing in four years for sections of its kind.

In 1976, our bicentennial year, the two sections in the Constitutional Law-Judicial Behavior field did much better in their sex balance than their 1977 and 1975 equivalents.

Singling out some panels for consideration for my annual Stag Prize:

	Paper Givers		Discussants	
	Women	Out of Women	Women	Out of
Communicating Across Paradigms in Pol. Inquiry	0	6	0	1
Models of Political Man (sic!)	0	3	0	1
Public Policy in Developing Countries	0	6	0	1
Rich Nations and Poor Nations	0	8	0	2
Investigating the Causes of War	0	7	—	—
Non-State Actions in Global Politics	0	9	—	—

The Political Scientists in the Governance of the University was also a stag panel as were the plenary sessions on Political Scientists in the White House and The 1976 Elections. (The two panels on the 1976 Presidential Debates were practically a total female shutout: all nine paper givers and three of the four discussants were male.)

Panels with the best representation of women included:

	Chair-person	Paper Givers		Discussants	
		Women	Out of Women	Women	Out of
State Politics	female	3	5	1	2
The Ethical Political Scientist	female	2	4	1	1
Women and Politics	male	4	5	2	3

Thanks to the efforts of the Women's Caucus, there was one evening out of the three where an outstanding woman was the featured performer (Alice Rivlin discussing the Congressional Budget Process). Usually these sessions spotlight only male celebrities.

Martin Gruberg  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

#### To the Editor:

In the August 20 and 27 issue of *The New Republic*, an editorial entitled "A Humanist at the Humanities" inadvertently conveyed a false

impression. "The republic of learning and letters," said the editorial, "works by squabbling—especially bitter squabbling, Henry Kissinger used to say, because the stakes are so small." One might infer from this that Dr. Kissinger originated the line.

Actually, it is a version one of Sayre's Laws, observations on the worlds of academe and politics pronounced from time to time by the late Wallace S. Sayre, who was professor of political science at Columbia University. Professor Sayre's formulation was, "The politics of the university are so intense because the stakes are so low." A more general statement of it appeared, correctly attributed, in Charles Issawi, *Issawi's Laws of Social Motion* (Hawthorn, 1973), p. 178.

The paternity of such laws is frequently ambiguous and disputed, but this is one of those rare cases in which I am sure scores of people will verify my statement of its origin. Many of them have known it as Sayre's Law for decades; I myself first heard it from his lips more than a quarter of a century ago, and that was not the first time he had enunciated it. It has been around a long time.

I'm sure that when he cited it, Dr. Kissinger did not mean to imply that he originated it, any more than I expect to be given credit for Newton's laws because I am wont to remark that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction (a real conversation-stopper at cocktail parties) or for Einstein's laws because I am inclined to stun listeners with the comment that everything's relative. Mind you, I do lay claim to a law or two, but only to those I believe I coined. I have no doubt that Dr. Kissinger would wish to do the same; indeed, he himself may be able to confirm Sayre as the source of the law implicitly ascribed to Kissinger in the editorial.

Perhaps this is the time to record publicly two more of Wallace Sayre's laws. Observing that the mayoralty of New York is often referred to as the second biggest executive office in the country, that U.S. Representative is the highest previous political office held by any incumbent, and that no New York mayor ever went on to other high domestic public office after leaving the mayoralty, Sayre declared, "The mayors of New York come from nowhere and go nowhere." He also remarked that, "Generally speaking, the benefits of administrative reorganization are immediate, but the costs are cumulative." These are a couple of pronouncements to give us pause these days!

Herbert Kaufman  
Senior Fellow  
Brookings Institution