

absorbed into this field. With the government involved in regulation, this field may become less cyclical.

GERALD M. FRIEDMAN  
*Department of Geology, Brooklyn College,  
and Graduate School, City University of  
New York, Brooklyn, NY 11210, and  
Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology,  
affiliated with Brooklyn College,  
Post Office Box 746, Troy, NY 12181*

#### REFERENCES

1. G. M. Friedman, *Science* 201, 215 (1978).

#### Geometry Problem

We physics (failed mathematics) professors also have done no plain geometry for years. We find that the solution given by our good neighbor Jonathan Baron to the problem of constructing a line of length  $A/\sqrt{2}$  which halves a triangle's area (Book Reviews, 23 May, p. 1038) is true for only one particular set of triangles—those in which the altitude  $A$  equals the base  $B$ . A solution good for any garden variety of triangle is that the base of the half-area triangle should

be  $B/\sqrt{2}$  (and its altitude  $A/\sqrt{2}$ ). We have confirmed this by (i) integral calculus, (ii) Monte Carlo simulations, (iii) dimensional analysis, (iv) Runge-Kutta integration schemes, (v) drawing lots of triangles, and (vi) asking the nearest grade-school kid. (Detailed autographed solutions are available from the authors.) We suspect that this is an example of the psychology of physics and mathematics: "There's all too often another solution lurking out there waiting to get ya." We suggest that in the future, *Science* reviewers give examples that are so imposingly complicated that we readers would never dream of solving them while reading *Science* in bed.

LEONARD X. FINEGOLD  
SOM D. TYAGI

*Department of Physics and Atmospheric  
Science, Drexel University,  
Philadelphia, PA 19104*

#### Issue Number: Advantages of Absence

Unlike other libraries, we have not found that the missing four-digit number from the cover of *Science* is a serious problem. We

enter each new issue of *Science* in our records by issue date, as we have discovered that library patrons are far more likely to ask if we received "the May 23rd issue" than to ask "Did you get number four-thousand-seven-hundred-and-fifty-three yet?"

Since we bind *Science* by the bibliographic volume, we are binding it every 3 months. The question of issue number for older citations becomes moot, as it is volume and page numbers that call the day in bound format.

While it is always nice to have all pertinent identifiers on the cover of the journal itself, we have found in this case that entering by date of issue works just fine, and seems to be more user-friendly than the whole number. It also looks cleaner on our records than the lengthy four-digit number, which we were always trying to cram into those little boxes on our cards.

Things could be worse: we subscribe to several journals that do not even put the title on the cover in a legible form!

PAUL WRYNN  
*New York University,  
Medical Center Library,  
550 First Avenue,  
New York, NY 10016*

# WANTED

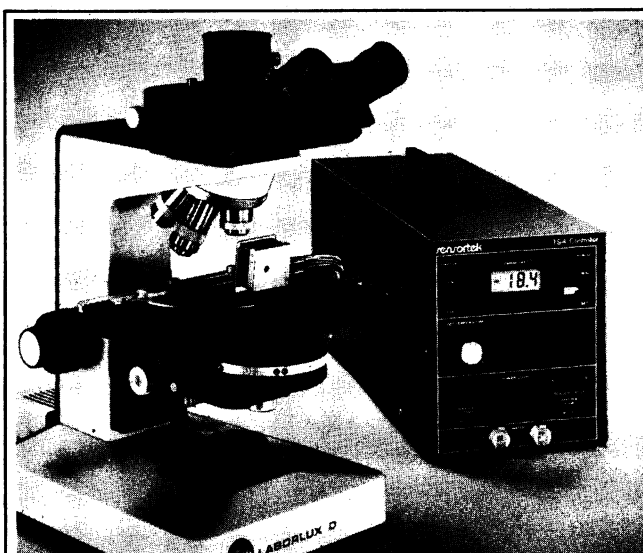
## NEW COMPOUNDS

## POTENTIAL NEW DRUGS

DEBIOPHARM, a Swiss-based independent financial group will consider the development of novel biological or chemical compounds with a promising pharmacologic profile. If you are an independent investigator with such compounds, please write to us.

**DEBIOPHARM S.A.**  
**Rue du Petit-Chêne 38**  
**1003 LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**

Circle No. 3 on Readers' Service Card



## Thermal Microscope Stage

Maintains specimen at any temperature  
between  $-20^{\circ}$  and  $+60^{\circ}\text{C}$

Fits most standard microscopes

Temperature control is automatic

**sensortek** INC.

154 HURON AVENUE, CLIFTON NJ 07013, USA • Tel: 201-779-5577

Circle No. 5 on Readers' Service Card