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

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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 ta 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.

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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?"

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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.

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