might often give rise to nomenclatural uncertainty, especially because under the nomenclature codes, impersonal (corporate) authorship disqualifies a name from biological nomenclature.

On the other hand, the temptation to sell names is understandable. The proposals of BIOPAT and others are a striking departure from scientific tradition, but they reflect, and attempt to provide some local relief from, a very real problem—namely, the financial difficulties faced not only by the institutions contemplating name-selling, but also by taxonomy and other branches of biology. We hope that these plans will be abandoned, but we also hope that, by their proposal, they will focus attention on the need for more orthodox and less harmful means of support.

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"Science Wars"

Stephen Jay Gould proposes in his essay "Deconstructing the 'science wars' by reconstructing an old mold" ("Pathways of Discovery," 14 Jan., p. 253) to temper dichotomies by taking a "golden mean." Forming a mean, even in mathematics, involves minimizing the extremes, the outliers. In my view, this is a dangerous process to apply to science; many of our greatest scientific advances involve extreme modifications of current consensus. Taking the mean, golden or otherwise, would minimize these extremes.

In explaining the reasons why dichotomies develop and are such barriers, Gould refers to Bacon's "idols of the cave" and "idols of the tribe"—the "peculiarities of each individual's temperament and limitations," and "foibles inherent in the very...('evolved') structure of the human mind," respectively. I suggest another set of idols, similar to Bacon's idols of the tribe, for explaining dichotomies. I suggest the idea of "idols of the group": peer support and peer pressure. The need to belong lies deep in the human mind, and the pressure of the group, whether it is a group of scientists working in the same field or an entire country's population, can exert remarkable pressure on members. Most all group mores and "foibles" are those of an esteemed leader.

It would take a very strong member of an indoctrinated group of geographers to read the work of Alfred Wegener and announce to all that he believes Wegener's new science to be true. It would take an even stronger researcher to stand up for his beliefs, even to the point of building his own supporting group. So Wegener leaves quietly while muttering, in the spirit of Galileo, "still, they move," and we wait 200 years for the truth of moving continents.

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Designer Labs

In Jon Cohen's News Focus article "Designer labs: Architecture discovers science" (14 Jan., p. 210) that describes modern designs for research laboratories, I found especially noteworthy the plan in which "principal investigators have individual offices that line the exterior of the main building, separating them from the distractions of the lab." Great concept! Heaven forbid that a principal investiga-