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-

tor ever be distracted by the research going on in the lab.

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Clarification of AstraZeneca's R&D Strategies

In the table accompanying the News Focus article "Drug research endures the pains of globalization" by Joanna Rose and Annika Nilsson (10 Dec., p. 2063), inaccuracies regarding AstraZeneca's research and development (R&D) strategy in Sweden give a wrong view of our intentions. Sweden is one of our three key bases within R&D, and we will continue to invest in our Swedish R&D operations, which are located in Södertälje, Lund, and Mölndal.

To clarify and expand on the information in the article's table, AstraZeneca's R&D headquarters will remain at Södertälje, which is also the main site for the therapy area of pain control, as the table indicates. Discovery and development R&D will remain at Södertälje for both central nervous system and pain control research. Only some central nervous system R&D is moving to Wilmington, Delaware, a decision that was made before Astra and Zeneca's merger. In addition, the safety assessment division will remain in Södertälje, and, in a few months, a new investment in biotechnology belonging to the global Enabling Science and Technology organization will be in operation.

Reference to cancer research being located at Alderley Park in the United Kingdom is correct; however, it was never located in Sweden, as suggested by the title of the table.

AstraZeneca's asthma research will be conducted at both Charnwood in the United Kingdom and at Lund, as indicated in the table, but Lund will be the main site for R&D in respiratory diseases and inhalation, not just a site for "some asthma research."

And finally, Mölndal, which is not mentioned in the article or table, is our largest R&D site in Sweden with 1500 employees, and it is the main site for therapy areas for gastrointestinal and cardiovascular R&D, not Södertälje, as the table suggests. Mölndal will also be the site for a new research center for Global Enabling Science Technology Biology, Informatics and Chemistry.

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Editors' note

The inaccuracies referred to in the above letter were restricted to the table that accompanied the article. They were inadvertently introduced during editing and not the responsibility of the authors.

Cooperating on Childhood Cancer

The content and tone of the News Focus article "No meeting of minds on childhood cancer" by Jocelyn Kaiser (3 Dec., p. 1832) seem focused on rekindling tensions between two government agencies when such tensions have been in large measure resolved. Indeed, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) are working closely together in many areas related to environmental determinants of cancer, including cancer in children, and are in agreement on important issues related specifically to childhood cancer, including (i) that rates of childhood cancer have remained relatively stable since 1985; (ii) that the increases occurring before 1985 are not well understood, although better diagnosis and reporting likely contribute to some portion of the increase; (iii) that ongoing monitoring of trends in incidence is essential; and (iv) that well-designed studies are needed to make progress in understanding the causes of childhood cancers.

NCI and EPA co-chair the Childhood Cancer Working Group, one of four working groups established as a part of President Bill Clinton's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. Through this and other partnerships, the EPA and NCI are working to develop and implement joint initiatives in cancer and the environment, and lines of communication have widened to facilitate these interactions. The Task Force has established a database of children's environmental health research projects, as noted in Kaiser's article. Major initiatives of the Childhood Cancer Working Group that are focused on childhood leukemias and brain tumors, on preclinical models, and on environmental exposure measures are in the planning stages. These initiatives indicate that NCI and EPA, in collaboration with other federal agencies, are committed to working together to better understand the etiology of childhood cancer.

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