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The West takes care of us

M. Apostol

Department of Theoretical Physics, Institute of Atomic Physics,

Magurele-Bucharest MG-6, POBox MG-35, Romania

email: apoma@theory.nipne.ro

The famous *and* – I was about to say “prestigious” – magazine *and* scientific journal “Nature” deplores again in a recent issue the Romanian plagiarism in the scientific publications. This famous darling of the scientific journals landscape takes a long, hard look at ministers, high-placed politicians, a prime minister in Romania who busied themselves with scientific publications, but is struck by a sudden cecity when it comes about the huge mass of impostors in the academies, universities and scientific research institutes in Romania and around the world. An honest judgment doesn’t agree with her, because the West, akin to the East, is rife with science falsifiers. Where science is concerned, the theft has neither frontiers nor nationality. Romania resembles much too much the West in this respect and on this minus side. “Nature” does not look into her own backyard because is such “a sorry sight”; besides, she would upset those who have the bread and butter and who sign her fat pay checks; consequently, she could lose her readers, subscribers and disfigure her poor fame; she looks into others’ backyards, as that of a ruined, backward country defeated by an unleashed, desperate, unstable and greedy capitalism; and there, she stared only at politicians who have forgotten to kiss ... the hand that feeds them.

Words fail me and any comment on this scientific, moral, pertinent, honest and Christian attitude is otiose!

That is why the anti-plagiarism campaign lead by “Nature” against Romania is, regretfully, political.

But why there is so much theft, lie, falsification and cheat in science? The scientific publications all over the world abound in falsified data, errors and cribs, scientific trivia put forward by authors of all nationalities, of every hue. And “Nature” does not hesitate to gloriously publish and promote all this trashy stuff. Moreover, she makes a title of glory from publishing all the cheap sensationalism: if the Neanderthal man had laid an egg tomorrow, you can be sure that this phenomenon together with its scientific explanation would be announced with a lot of ballyhoo in the next day issue of “Nature”. In order to be published in “Nature”, a scientific manuscript must not only “sounds” but also “re-sounds”! But only the void resounds! “Nature” beats the drums in scientific publications: “This tall tale ‘tis so demanded! / So loud, the void has never sounded.” And since the scientific discoveries are increasingly frequent today, since the scientific glories have multiplied overnight, since democracy has invaded and strangled the science, “Nature” has also hatched chickens: “Nature” Materials, “Nature” Photonics, “Nature” Physics, “Nature” Telecommunications, “Nature” Plasmonics, Dionics, Tectronics and Phantasmagonics. Plenty of room for each and every sort of scientist! People read “Nature”, they have no choice; such a journal keeps the market, leaving aside the fact that other scientific serial publications are not any better. We are freediving in an ocean of filthy pseudo- and anti-scientific publicistics promoted

with airs and arrogance. As soon as it becomes institutionalized, the scientific publicistic also becomes adulterous and perverted; where there is money, there is power too; money and power together can turn a means into a purpose. The recent advent of open access practice, according to which the author must pay for publishing his own papers, is a reaction to this intoxication. The human society must learn again that it should spend money in order to have a decent scientific research - together with all its "side-effects": hard work, seriousness, professionalism, good faith and especially scientific authority.

Recently, some giddy-heads from a cavern in Italy, have announced - obviously with drums and trumpets that they allegedly have discovered that neutrinos are propagating at a speed higher than the speed of light. The implications of such a monstrosity are huge! That is why everybody of a sound mind advised these *carbonari* to do a double take, to ponder more and eventually to leave the physics research to others. But they were stubborn: "No! In nessun modo! Il neutrino è più veloce!". They hurried to hype up this cock and bull story: they published it in scientific journals, they broadcasted it, they made quite a to-do and consequently a lot of money. After a few months the scandal came to a standstill leaving the world dismayed. But the swindlers raised the stakes: they announced that it was an error, that actually, they forgot to plug a wire. More scientific papers, more fuss, more rumours, more money, more fun! Another big success! Then, "Nature" stood up and eulogized them at the top of its voice: they did the right thing, they are a role model, their research is the one we need because scientific research requires courage and audacity. You say a few bullshits. So what? Never mind, you can always retract them; however, it is always better to ask for apology than permission! Briefly: good for you swindlers and ignorant empty heads! In the so-called scientific experiments of this kind huge amounts of money are involved; where there are heaps of money there are also gullible guys; where there are gullible guys there is also "Nature"; the gullible guys buy the journal, the journal makes money... the wheel keeps turning, who's the dupe? This is the famous *and* - I was about to say "prestigious" - magazine *and* scientific journal "Nature".

Another story. For about 10 years the great organization in Geneva called CERN, namely the European Center for Nuclear Research, squanders money to find a particle named Higgs, after the name of a guy who, among others, would have spoken once about it (let's not forget that publicity is money!). That is why, at present, every man in the street and in the politics knows about this Higgs, surnamed miss. Now, what is this particle good for? What is its use? What does it do? What is its meaning? Almost nothing. If its existence had been proved a few scientists would have said this and not that as they say now. It is nothing but a very special knowledge from a very specialized field. From about a year the time is ripe for CERN to put this particle on the table; modern research is performed based on a rigorous schedule, similar to the former communist five-year plan! Faced with the deadline, their excellencies, the researchers at CERN, discovered that they did not discover anything. Well, you cannot say that you come with empty hands. Eyebrows would be raised, coughs of disapproval would be heard, you would be accused of being incapable, of squandering the money and finally you would be kick out by your enraged boss. On the other hand, if you come up with a discovery (it would not be such a big deal to say that you might have seen something in those billion of data) it means that you did your job, you can take your money, bask in your glory, wave goodbye and go home. It begins to dawn, the ball is over, all the drunks go home! This is not good either. And then, the modern scientific swindler discovered the huge power of hope: ambiguity. The CERN states that it might have discovered something which may be Higgs, may not be Higgs, it's actually kinda miss; it might be something if it hadn't be something else...and yet, it didn't seem to be something else if, however, it were not to be something...Definitely, there must be something...a Higgs' cousin, a blob which is and is not. You wave the straws in face of the donkey and the poor animal keeps running and running after

them in a relentless hope that it will grab them. This is CERN's Higgs. This ambiguity gives hope and keeps the wheels turning; the business goes on, we keep on searching and researching, we have chances 'cause once we saw something (when it was raining outside and it was dark in the hut), something flashed through our mind (when we fell asleep on the decking dead drunk). Let the money flow! This is the present-day, modern scientific research: a cheap swindle of some scums. And a journal as "Nature" is the trumpet of this sort of research. Its pages are filled with all the great discoveries: tail or head, Liar's dice etc.

The scientific publications of today, with "Nature" on top of them, run their businesses as if these were a trade, according to strictly commercial criteria. Their main aim is to arouse, by fair means or fool, the reader's interest so that this one make subscriptions, buy the journal. These publications are not concerned, since long ago, to educate the reader, to help him in his studies, to correctly inform him, to acquaint the public with important things in science. No, they aim solely to have as many readers as possible and to make as much money as possible. Therefore, a great majority of them and in the great majority of cases, these scientific publications have disqualified themselves, they know nothing of science and are not capable to assess the scientific quality of a manuscript. If the manuscript is not submitted by a famous institution or the author does not have a famous affiliation as a guarantee of the availability of large heap of money as well as fame, then the manuscript will be rejected under various hypocritical pretexts: "we publish only good materials" (they mean "strong"), "we couldn't look at your manuscript" (the Sun's brilliance is bearable but not that of your manuscript!); some editors are more honest and admit openly: "Sorry sir, I've asked eight referees to provide me with a report and even now, after 6 months, I didn't get any. What else can I do?". I clearly answer him: "Well, sir, why do you not admit that you are not capable, why do you not overtly decline your competency? And you should do that quickly and stop encumbering the people!". And he replies: "Sorry sir, I cannot do that! It would be a terrible shame and my boss would sack me in the blink of an eye; but, say, you don't by chance happen to have a friend, a brother in law, a crony (an old witchy mistress), someone who could give you a report?". "No mister, I don't, 'cause if I had, the journal would be mine not yours". But many authors have quickly learned the trick and start to organize themselves, at international level (lend me your ears! Scientific tourism and cronyism conferences originate from here), in congregations, in brotherhoods – a sort of scientific bands – so that they give one another reports; and the show goes on, they publish one another their numerous trashy stuff and they become famous. Furthermore, if they see that the Trojan horse entered the city along with its tail, they publish even more – but, "how they can be so prolific?", one may ask in amazement and disbelief. Well, that's where crib, plagiarism, data falsification, lack of common sense, the chain and the comedy of errors come in. And this is what decries the scientific journal (and review) "Nature": precisely the result and the consequence of its own editorial policy practised with grace and superior elegance. Long live the arrogance! This cardboard crown of many conceited fools . . . More and more retractions come up in "Nature" as well as in other scientific journals, demanded by people who, after seeing their faces in the mirror, start rubbing the glass vigorously and desperately, hoping that the image will vanish! I foresee that "Nature" will soon double the volume of its publication, devoting half of them to retractions of the papers published in the other half. In all probability, it will not make any difference if the paper is first published then retracted, it could just as well be the other way round: the retraction comes first and the paper afterwards, these thinks are inextricably linked, they go hand in hand and the fun is at its peak! But this famous darling will be more avidly read, at least to see how others make fools of themselves both publicly and in writing. The journal will make even more money. The scientific publications of today constantly publish critical comments on this and that and the answers to these comments and the answers to the answers and so on, infinitely and definitely inept quarrels among idiotic

authors; and the gullible guy devours this load of worthless rubbish and the money fills the journal manager's pockets.

Once, there was a time in my life when I had the ambition to teach the young wolves to bite, to be merciless (What do you expect? The habit of an old shepherd who knows what's what at a sheep ranch!), to teach the young physicists attending my seminars to criticize others' publications. I published, together with one of them, in a famous American journal – about as famous as “Nature” – a critical comment (according to fashion) directed at some poor authors and we were convinced that we left them flabbergasted and speechless with awe and we felt well thinking that we brought justice on earth, that we did our duty and God will love us for all these. And those authors answered us politely, in the same journal (according to fashion), and they acknowledged all the mistakes that we had underlined; we thought that all our differences were settled and everything was fine, when, guess what! Shortly thereafter, these authors published in the same journal another paper - an exceedingly long one, longer than its predecessor - on the same subject, with the same previous mistakes supplemented with fresh ones and they cited us copiously and thanked us and lavished us with their gratitude; very *comme on fait*, very touching! We were perplexed, I and my collaborator, deeply shattered by that much politeness and exquisite manners! Since then, every time I criticized someone, I can smell a disgusting reek. My young apprentice back then has never learned to be merciless. Nevertheless, he is very sensitive to the pestilential smells emanated by the present-day scientific publications. The only good thing that happened to us following this adventure was that our impact factor and Hirsh index recorded a substantial increase due to the citations of the above mentioned poor authors. And we are ashamed.

A kind of Chinese friend of mine, from the wilderness of Asia, has recently told me that a manuscript must catch the eyes otherwise it's useless trying to submit it to publication; the manuscript must be rife with colourful pictures, drawings, numerical calculations, its content is of no importance, the whole trick resides in its styling, in the way it can amaze, move its ears and make “splash”! This friend of mine is a famous author and asked me for my professional opinion on a scientific matter. I told him that his problem is explained in detail in one of my manuscripts at the publication of which I encounter difficulties because the referees decline their competency (in a deafening silence). Then my friend came with an unbelievable offer, the most flattering offer that I was ever made in my career of scientific publicist: “Marian, give me your manuscript, I'll cosmetize it so that it looks stunning, we sign it together and its publication is a sure thing!”. Incredibly! I was close to tears! Look, I said to myself, dear Lord, there are people who appreciate me (Asia, quite true!), they like my writings so much that they are ready to sign them in my place, over my shoulder, they are ready to give me (and my manuscript) an image makeover for free so that we look a damn sight better and can be taken out into the world. Since then, I've puzzled over this matter, and I still don't know what to answer him. However, I'd rather wonder “forever and a day” than publish once!

The scientific publications are on a mad hunt for sensational, façade, package and completely ignore the content! The current scientific publications are a business and not a means of conveying scientific results. In order for their onerous businesses to not come out in the open, the scientific publications make extensive use of anonymous referees (it is at least curious that such businesses are not subject to any kind of controls of consumer protection body or to a public authority that shall supervise for these products put on the market to not be deleterious. Which is the difference between them and the secret police? The publication of a scientific result is a normal action of any scientific researcher, is an essential component of the professional ethos in science, is a right and a duty; the scientific author exercises a natural right when submitting a manuscript to publication. And then, snap! The secret police of anonymous referees grabs him: Hey you! Hold it right there! Hands up! Did you cite us and our people? What you write here makes a splash, gives

us a thrill? Does it arouse the sucker's interest? Does he burn with desire to buy it? Do you have colourful pictures, drawings? Are you a potential source of big cash? Where is the package? Besides, I don't even know you, so beat it! And signs: anon. This is the big and onerous industry of the present-day scientific publications promoted with so much nonchalance and arrogance by the famous *and* – I was about to say “prestigious” – magazine *and* scientific journal “Nature”. An infinite derision and humiliation. And this “Nature” has the effrontery to teach us moral lessons.

Scientific institutions, academies, universities, research institutes, governmental agencies, the public at large and scientific publications are driving the world mad with the concept of “competition” and its intensity (a characteristic of any state or process – including “competition”) - competitiveness - applied to science. Obviously, according to a demi-quasi economic thinking. Anyone seriously engaged in science knows that this competition in science is a tall story, an inadequate concept, an illusion, a pure fantasy and if it is stubbornly endorsed it will turn into a manipulation instrument, namely a lie that everybody believes, follows and eventually will lead the world astray. There is a genuine inequality in science, in scientific research; one may have a better solution than other - a more appropriate one, more to taste of others - and then luck is on his side and he will remain famous in the history of science while the latter, the “other”, will sink into oblivion. There are also genuine inequalities and differences among people, styles, approaches, visions and techniques in science. But if a tree is taller than the other, it does not mean that the two of them are in competition. What more could I possibly say to these perversions?

Today, everybody wants to be the first. The first in science, the first in technology, the first in sports, the first in economy, the first on the bottom of the sea, the first on the top of the mountain. . . Everyone wants to be the biggest, the strongest, the tallest, the oldest, the fattest, to come out on top. . . A while ago, the Soviet Union was the first, on this side while on the other side, the first was the imperialist America. The tallest dwarf in the world was the soviet dwarf, the oldest lady in the world lived in the Soviet Union, the most hunched camel in the world was the soviet camel, the most free country in the world was that of the black afro-americans where you were free to starve if you didn't get shot in the middle of the street. Nowadays, the Americans firmly believe their science is the science, the Japanese say theirs is top-notch, the Frenchmen hold that theirs is on top, the Germans think is theirs, etc., etc. Europe against America and both of them against man with the state-of-the-art techniques in an attempt to get rid of the human being because he encumbers us much too much on this planet! And the dummies in Romanian politics, administration of scientific research, universities, academies, scientific research institutes shout themselves hoarse: “We want to be at the very top of the world scientific and technological competition! We want the highest impact factor, we want the highest Hirsh index, we want to have at least one paper published in “Nature” (Romania has none!). We want, shout the dummies in Romanian research and education, for all that's glitzy to be ours! As the ballad says: “ Take a look, 'cause it is us / Those who kick the Germans' ass/ Soon enough, a blink or two/ We shall kick the Russians' too.” And “Nature” tells these Romanian dummies that they will be published in its pages only when they cease plagiarizing. Of course, they can afford to plagiarize - they are Europe, but for Romanians is a definite no-no! May Romanians be honest and brave, may they proudly wear the pioneer's red tie, may they grow up in a fool's paradise, may they build capitalism in their beloved country, the Capitalist Republic of Europe. And if the capitalism is not possible then let them build the socialism! But, whatever they do, they must behave themselves and keep the mouth shut!

For we, Europe, took and keep taking from Romanians their resources, energy, means of transportation, commerce, industry; to cap it all, we ruined their agriculture, health, education and science. This is how we understand a real competition! We, Europe, left the Romanians stark naked and now, we give them alms as if they are beggars, we stick in their mouth as if they

are blind; and they, the Romanians, had better kick the bucket, presto and as many of them as possible because we love their country which is, regretfully, still inhabited. Till then, we, the smart Europeans, will make them our drivers, plumbers, hairdressers, masseuses and manicurists. For the moment, let them stay at the door of the church, at the gate of the cemetery, at the far end of the bridge! We will take care of them as Americans took care of their negroes and if they ingratiate themselves with the democracy we will make them marionettes and pull their strings while walking them through the fairs so that their ancestors to be proud of them. This is the European future of Romania. However, the Europeans cannot live their dream until the end because they do not know it any more, they do not know what they will do in the future because from all their dreams and ideas has remained and remains just one: let's stuff ourselves and we'll see what happens. The essence of life is to live and not to know!

One of the biggest ills of the human society in these modern and democratic times is the ruin of science education. The young people do not go to university to learn science and technology because the science and technology courses taught at all universities in the world are, for their most part, bad. These courses are inept, boring, many with serious mistakes, they say nothing to the young, they are of no use to them, they do not succeed to arouse their interest. The young people go to other courses, other disciplines, there is a great hunger for knowledge, for science, nowadays. Instead of answering to this natural demand, universities all over the world chose instead to dupe them, to cheat them with cheap tricks. Thus, modern universities sustain that the professor does not have to teach the young people science, no, he must do scientific research because, allegedly, the research brings fame, and the fame brings immature and undiscerning young people at the university, like flies to honey. Accordingly, there is a keen competition among universities for the so-called scientific research, precisely for its ostensible, glamorous, famous, sounding side. But the young are not that all devoid of judgment and despite all ridiculous efforts of these professors who betray their mission do not go to their bad universities of bad science. Ridiculous and criminal teaching scientists assert that the young do not wish learn nowadays, that they are lazy, completely devoid of interest for learning, that modern society corrupt them beyond retrieval, that these young people would be a fully compromised, good-for-trash bin human material. Furthermore, that the universities must pay attention only to the pleasures pursued by these young and provide them with these pleasures in the shape of diplomas, certificates, merry courses with colourful pictures, drawings, with joyous little films, with saltimbancos as professors; an abbreviated education, various stunning options, specializations of three months, one week, etc. etc. See the Bologna system of higher education and others. Nothing could be more false, more cynical. The truth is that professors, teachers no longer do their duty, they are no longer prepared for the noble mission of educating the young, that they are avid of money, pleasures, positions and they don't give a toss about the future generation. And they keep trying to delude them with cheap tricks until these sacrificed young become a lost cause. To kill your own children is a bloody, criminal deed committed by our advanced, modern and scientific society. Romania excels, following Europe's example, in this criminal action. European and American universities award PhDs on the run, in three years, provided that you pay the fees, the Romanian universities award PhDs in three years provided that you pay the fees and the bribes. As the saying goes: the goat jumps over the table and its kid jumps over the house! All of them teach that mankind appeared through panspermia, that we descended from extraterrestrials. All of them ask students to have publications in order to be awarded a PhD degree, not knowledge or scientific results. How can one produce serious publications in just three years? By cribbing, by plagiarizing! What is the opinion of the old lady "Nature" on this matter? As a little story says:" Old Nick is silent. 'Cause he's so shamed, his tail is on the belly button. He sighs:"my luck is rotten!"

The evil and the stupidity in science have multiple causes. First, it is wrongly believed that science

brings money, wealth, richness. It is false, nothing could be more false, science, scientific research are money-consuming not money-making activities. Between 1950 and 1980 Bell Laboratories produced all the modern solid physics: they discovered the transistor, the whole electronics, magnets, superconductors and Josephson effect, ferroelectrics, optical fiber, lasers, masers, light-emitting diode, cell phone, satellite communication, magnetic resonance, molecular epitaxy, etc., etc. Bell Labs derived no benefit from all these discoveries, on the contrary, they sunk into the history of science as poor scientists, all their inventions and discoveries brought them no money, on the contrary, they spent money on them. There were others who reaped big profits from all these. Indeed, science and scientific research can bring money - but in an unknown manner, free from our control - when it happens, by pure conjecture, that an applicative research to have a lucky day. However, we cannot but fund the scientific research, everyone to the extent deemed appropriate, in proportion to his means and power of understanding, and wait, as happens most often, that others - somehow, somewhere, sometime - to get money using our results. This is one of the rare modes of natural cooperation among people (if not the only one), this science and technological and scientific research, a mode that might make us ponder more and give us valuable insights into the nature of man, human society, the sense of life etc., etc. And we should see from all these how far removed, by its very nature, is science from competition.

Well, in a keen scientific competition, foolishly understood, everybody hurried to published, to patent and of course to hinder the other, the competitor, to do the same. It is a profligate war in which the one with stronger means, precisely more money, inevitably wins (have you ever seen a Nobel prize won by someone from Bambua?). The journals send the manuscripts to international experts for evaluation, and those referees if are acquainted, even a little, with the problem will unavoidably be in competition with the authors of those manuscripts. What will do these referees, these competing experts? Obviously, they will reject the others's manuscripts - if these ones happen to be good, or they will negotiate with their competitors to strike a deal: we publish you, you publish us and both of us will cheat the state which gives us the cash (this is called "peer review" in the modern language of science). Or, they will play the silence game, these immaculate referees, until they write a cribbed manuscript on the same subject and publish it ahead of those who initially submitted it, just for the sake of knocking the competition out. But they will do that only if the manuscript is good; if it is bad, rife with mistakes, plagiarized, falsified, well, then, ring the joy bells! We publish it right away to laugh at our competitors and compromise them. This is how the simple logic of things shows us that today's scientific magazines and journals favour bad publications and block good results as long as they let themselves be guided by the competition. This can easily be seen with the naked eye. Once, Einstein was rejected the publication of a manuscript by an American journal - and famous at that - on the reason that the referee does not want to publish it because the manuscript failed to convince him, etc. etc. And Einstein replied with the candour of an angel: "How dare you, mister, to show my manuscript to another expert before its publication?". And he quickly forgot about that journal which is famous today, as it was then - about as famous (and I was about to say "prestigious") as "Nature". (As the poet says: "The prestige is in the eyes of the beholder". But who's the beholder? It did not seem to be Einstein; perhaps there are the Romanian scientists and their managers; because the foreign scientists and their bosses have long since been clarified and have long since adopted - in a resolute manner - a productive, efficient, practical and realistic attitude which involves theft, falsification, plagiarism, imposture; and they did this silently and surreptitiously because so is politically correct, so is required by the good manners - suited for the *haute monde* salon, not for a peasant's hut! I wonder when we, Romanians, will also adopt in droves, lie, theft, falsification? Let's leave the scruples aside, let's grow up, let's take the fate in our hands, let's follow the bright example of the West! Let's follow the brave example of our politicians, of the impostors

in scientific Romania and all over the world! Science proletarians, let's get united, let's enrol in the great union of the global scientific community! Full speed ahead with the lie walking before us and the theft following behind! Long live the dupes! Long live globalization! Long live the scientific internationalism!

The phantasmagorical theories of the naïve, childish and silly capitalism according to which the human society is self-regulating, the free market is self-regulating as well, through opposed forces striking a balance between them, etc., etc., and this hocus-pocus is fully beneficial to us, the gullible people, who watch the show without understanding, without knowing all its ins and outs and who enjoy getting the little money coming from the decreasing in prices, from the supply and demand ratio, etc., etc., all these are nothing but bed stories for the believers in the "fiscal and monetary" churches. There is no self-regulating system, no compensation; had the human society enjoyed total freedom it would solve all its naturally occurring conflicts through one means: war, murder, slaughter, physical annihilation of the adversary, physical aggression, pillage, theft. The only exception in which freedom has its own natural rigors is science. That is why, if it is given full liberty, science is always constructive. But if it is oppressed by competitiveness and other ludicrous ideas or practises, it perishes.

There are some who justify the competition in scientific research through lack of money, of funds. Money is scarce, they say, scientific researchers are galore; the best, the most competitive of them will get the money, the others will be annihilated through natural selection, according to the Malthusian law: he who is best equipped survives, the one who is poorly trained by nature dies in front of us, the society, who impersonate the nature. We are the ones who give nature laws, as one can see, where nature happens to have a lapse. Such a position will be ridiculous, if it has not been cynical. First of all, with all this competition, the number of researchers does not decrease, on the contrary it increases. However, one can reply, if we and our competition did not exist, the number of researchers would soar, they would breed like rabbits; therefore, we keep a tight hold on them, through the control of the population by means of money (not something else). We must notice, however, that even if 99,99% of the present-day scientists on the Planet perished, science would not suffer from this loss, on the contrary, it would be free from aggressive impostors. That is why, perhaps it would be better to completely eliminate the research funding; there will remain a few, the best adapted ones, the most vicious ones, the super gifted ones (for example, the Olympics - cultivated by Romania with that much blind love and paternal feeling that it makes you sick!). But who might be these remaining few? What kind of people are they? It is a little dangerous. What if the good ones really remain? We would play a dirty trick on ourselves. But what if the most thieving of them remain? Then, there no escape for us, because these ones are multiplying like mushrooms after rain. On the other hand, if we count again the money and the expenditures allocated for research, we come off pretty well: less than a pittance (not enough to buy a grain for a mouse) spend the mankind on scientific research, the amount is so small that it cannot be uttered, written because it is hardly understandable (politicians, economists, administrators, social philosophers, this whole polite society is not used with tinny figures which confuse them, jump up and down before their eyes). If we take a closer look, we can see that this "lack of funding" problem hides, actually, another. It was slowly but surely noticed that big money can be obtained by pretending that you perform scientific research; thus, you can put yourself in positions allowing the control of money, funds, publications, conference friends etc., etc., - this thing is fully possible also for a relatively important fraction of the researchers' number. Lack of funding is then translated by our daily, holly greed, by the lack of stuffing that we deeply feel when we see the one sitting next to us eating, by avidity, by lack of measure, by the old *auri sacra fames*. One of the directors (who is not a bit skinny) of my institute tells me that, if push comes to shove, he is decided to declare doctors in science and scientific researches of the

highest rank (one) quickly and without blinking all the researchers in the institute, in order to show that his institute is atop the competition among institutes and thus, to grab as many funds as possible and as large as possible as well, so that this money not to fall again and again into the neighbouring institutes - our sisters and brothers - clutches. Because a smart guy - a superior and supreme scientific researcher as well - from one of this sister institutes, seeing that he and his acolytes are out of luck with the publications, has set up his own journal with the help of some of his well-connected friends - some of them from somewhere in America, others from somewhere in Europe (all pertaining to the same brotherhood) - who have pulled the strings, duped the government of these poor Romanians into providing them money and laid down the condition that all the publications in this journal to praise and cite them and their everlasting works. And they have also talked with their friends from ISI Thomson-Reuters - a sort of commercial society in Philadelphia - viz. Institute for Scientific Information (lo and behold!), which counts the scientific publications and gives each author, journal, etc. a number called impact factor and another number called Hirsch index - after the name of a crackpot who mocked himself and them as well - and other numbers and indexes. And now we can gauge all of them and see which one comes off well in competition and which one comes off badly - and if this one wants to come off well too, then... I'm your fella, Cinderella! Come to daddy with a little thanksgiving, a turkey stuffed with hush-money or a get-rich-quick scheme. And others, more dummies, come out and will come out badly at the calculation of indexes and "Alas! Woe to them!" if they mess with their masters who are eager to get rid of them because they are a bunch of awkward have-nots who do not know how to trade in science, precisely in scientific publications. And my above-mentioned "smart guy" from the neighbouring sister institute got right away for its journal a big impact factor and a Hirsch index about that big, following the intercessions of his hazed mind cronys; and see? Everything is possible! Do you want successes? We'll give you plenty of them, no big deal! We'll fabricate them: plastic, cardboard, pasteboard - you name it! This is where the competition leads us. And this sort of financial monstrosities such as ISI impact factor and Hirsch index are promoted by famous and prestigious journals, like the elegant "Nature", the famous and - I was about to say "prestigious" - wonderful miss "Nature"! We have a lovely kindergarten song called "Little hazel nut" that is longer than other little children's songs; speaking of it the scientific competition and the impact, infarct, Hirsch indexes and the like lead inevitably to a magical and wonderful formula: "Others' haze and nuts are longer".

The great mass of the present-day scientific researchers in Romania and around the world do not work, do not give a damn about science: some of them run like hell after money, others are trying their best to sneak around stealthily. No one engaged in the scientific research in the world and in today's Romania do research any more: everyone makes projects; they project (projects) and of course, copy, plagiarize, compile and boast (nowadays no one hits a nail, everyone makes holes). The projects in the scientific research are a great diversion. And this diversion is currently practised on a large scale all over the world so that the researcher, the professor squeeze some money from the governments. But in Europe and everywhere else in the world, the project manager (a project won through competition, of course!) snitches an exotic conference in bahamas, in pampas, in the islands of those plump and handsome Gaugain's girls, or snitches one or two students to supervise them for a master's or doctoral degrees, for a little research etc.,etc., or snitches a pencil, a computer, a toothpaste, well, like any other man: money-backed research, geddit? The one who has a project, won through competition, projects all day long how to fill his own pockets, blinded by greediness, like any other man! Only in Romania the project managers press in their pockets extra money, in addition to their salary, so that such a guy who projects research projects is paid three-four-ten times more than an honest, poor researcher who has no projects. Of course, in Romania, these guys are directors, heads of departments - all of them democratically elected -

informers, bootlickers, bribe-takers, bribe-givers, those with the tail or head in scientific research, those who make the money move; not the pitiful pauper who stays all day in his laboratory or at the chair. A world transfixed in projects! The wonderful miss “Nature” does not see this outrageous dirty corruption practised in Romania and in all the countries that have been crippled lately by democracy; or she pretends not to see it because meddling in others’ domestic policy is not her job. Besides, why would she protest against the corruption when the West had better take example from Romanians, how they become more and more skilful at mastering this trick with projects for the sake of their own pockets. Well, isn’t she just?

The West takes care of us! Who’s the smartest of them all? Some donkeys fighting for money with other donkeys.

(Translated from Romanian apr190 by Iulia Negoitza).