

liam Unruh as being skeptical about these theories and then says, "But in spite of the doubts, some physicists applaud these maverick efforts to modify Einstein's theory." I was extremely surprised to discover that I was the physicist who supposedly was applauding these efforts. The fact is that I completely agree with Misner and Unruh. I made it clear to your reporter that I did not support the efforts of Moffat and Yilmaz and Alley. Although the quote attributed to me is accurate, it does not appear in context and is used in such a way that its meaning was completely changed. (My comments about modifying general relativity were related to string theory.)

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Italian Academic Life

I was only mildly surprised when I saw the News & Comment article by Susan Biggin (11 Nov., p. 965) about scandal in Italian universities. Having gone through all the steps in the Italian academic career, I can

only confirm, overall, what is said in the article.

I was a bit more startled by the inset quote, "university chairs . . . reward[ing] favorites and bootlickers." As any experienced editor knows, the casual reader can go through the title and the inset, forget the details, and stay with the impression that the whole lot of Italian professors are, mainly, bootlickers. This comes as a slap in the face to a whole category, which includes a substantial number of illustrious members.

What the article does not say is that the judgment of corruption or malpractice, issued by Italian courts, is not ad personam, but cancels the whole proceedings of the *concorso*. This is precisely what happened to me, 8 years after I was awarded a professorship, together with some 50 colleagues: guilty or not guilty, we were all stripped of our titles and ended up in the newspapers depicted as a bunch of crooks. Chaff and wheat went down the drain together.

As far as former Minister Stefano Podestà is concerned, as a former full-time university professor he was not above suspicion himself. His first duty should have been, in my opinion, to resign and let himself be judged along with others.

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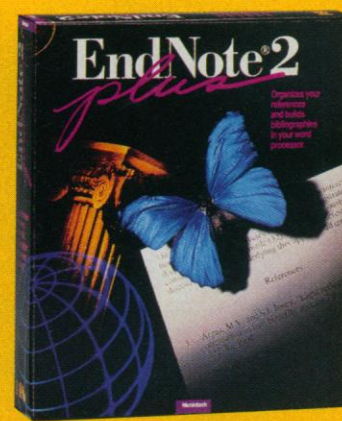
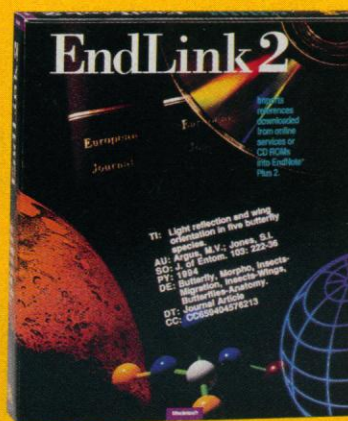
Corrections and Clarifications

The ScienceScope item "Nonprofit to launch gene-mapping effort" by Richard Stone (27 Jan., p. 443) gave the wrong number of gene fragments (expressed sequence tags) in a database maintained by Human Genome Sciences of Rockville, Maryland. The correct number is 380,000.

The Research News article, "Shedding light on blindness" by Marcia Barinaga (27 Jan., p. 452) did not mention that Napoleone Ferrara, of Genentech, is a collaborator with the research groups of both Lloyd P. Aiello and Anthony Adamis.

The caption accompanying the News article by Steve Sternberg "The emerging fungal threat" (9 Dec., p. 1632) should not have included the words "in the body." *Candida albicans* produces hyphae, but not chlamydo-spores, in the body.

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