



Little Nobel

Splendor and misery of a young researcher



Scenario and script | Comic book created by Gaia Barazzetti & Antoine Conforti

Graphic design and illustrations | Antoine de Palma | depalma.ch

English translation by Kelly McClary

A big thank you to Catherine El Bez, educational engineer,
for her follow-up and advice throughout the development of this project.

Special thanks to Prof. Marco Grioni, physicist,
for our rich discussions about the real story, and for his valuable suggestions on the comic strip.

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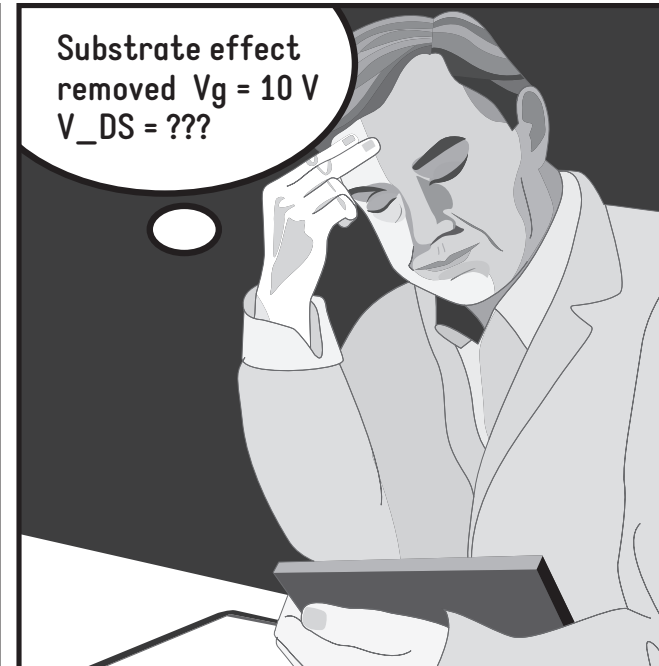
This comic book tells the story of a researcher, Jack Shin Hendron, a young physics prodigy and rising star in the field of nanotechnology. Although fictional, this story is inspired by a real case of fraud that deeply shook the scientific community...

At the EH00* laboratories, a physicist works at his desk, confronted with data that he cannot unravel...



*Electronic Hence Overall Organic Labs, Boston, MA

Substrate effect removed $V_g = 10\text{ V}$
 $V_{DS} = ???$

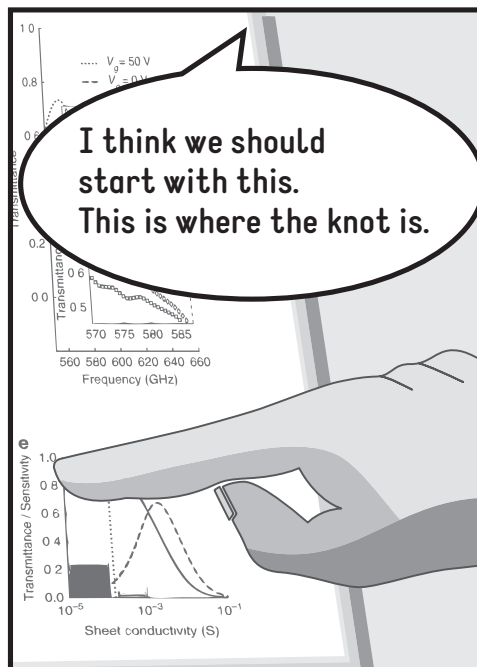


Can I help you ?

I can't figure out this data...

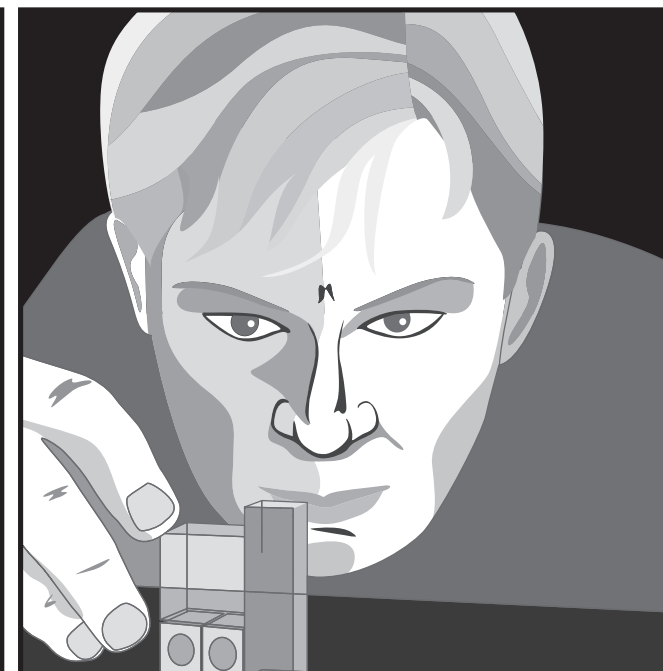
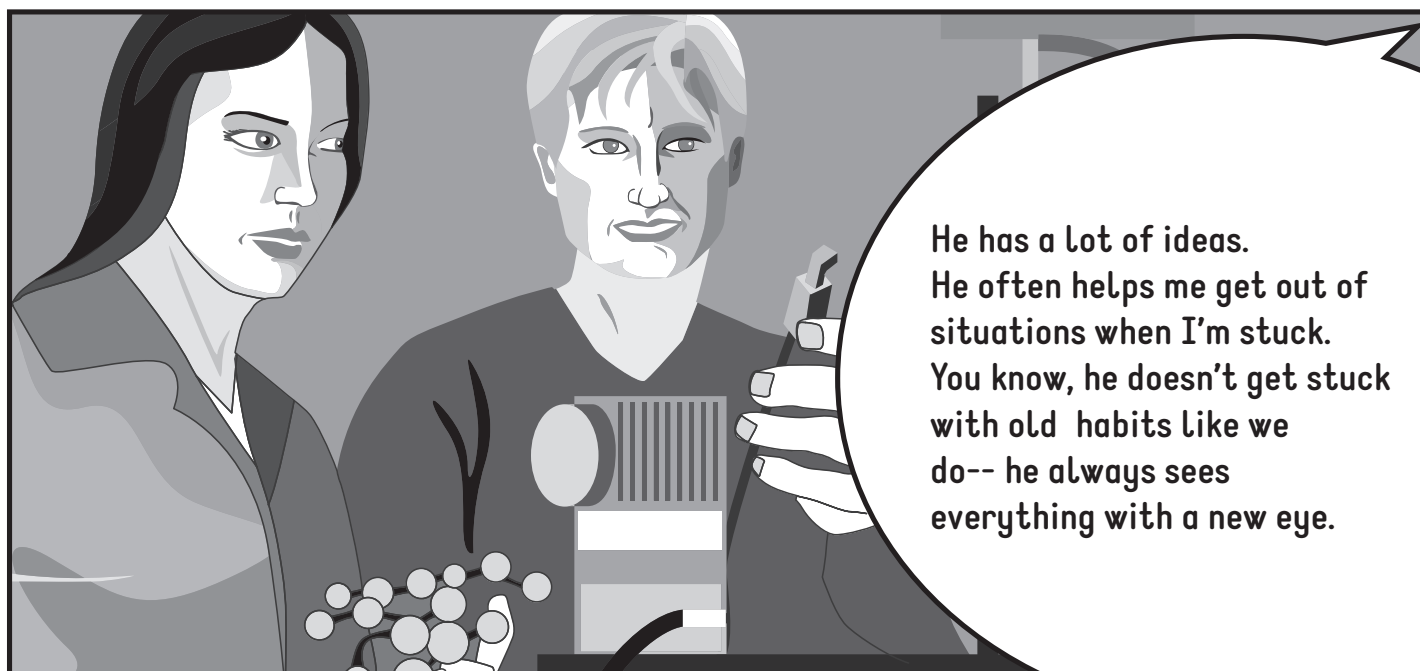
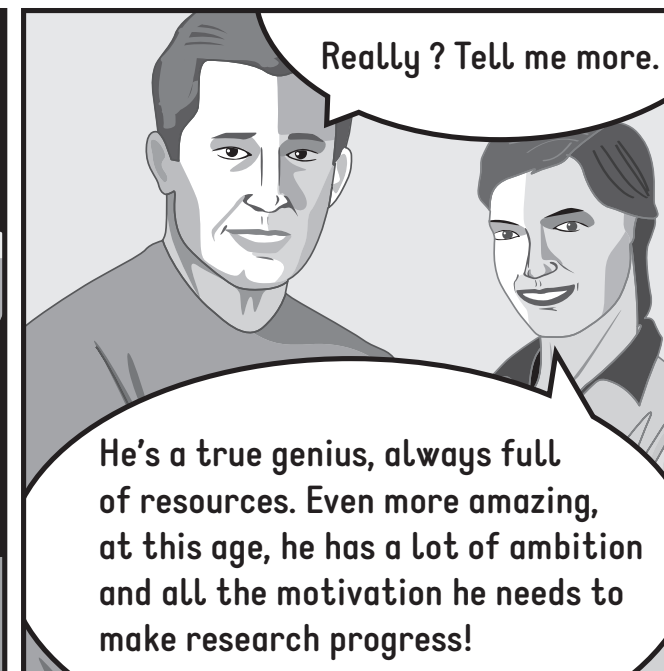


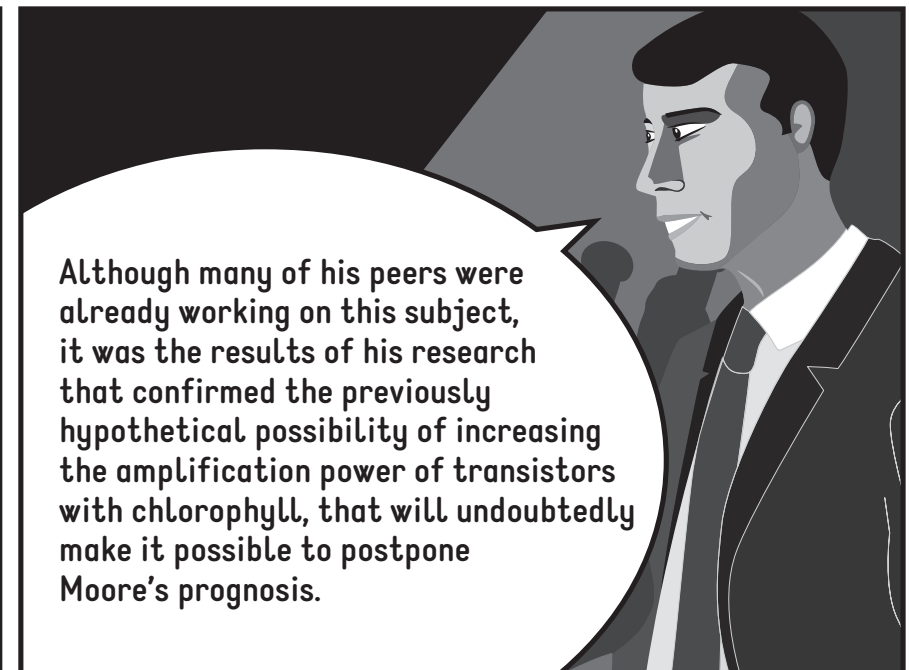
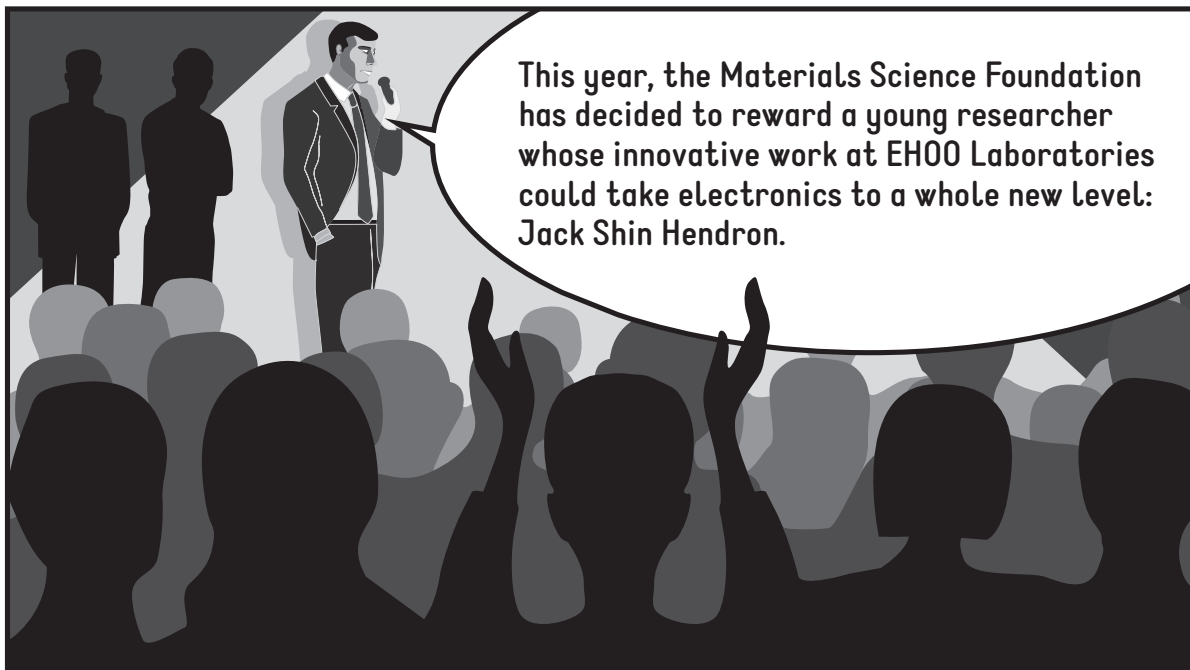
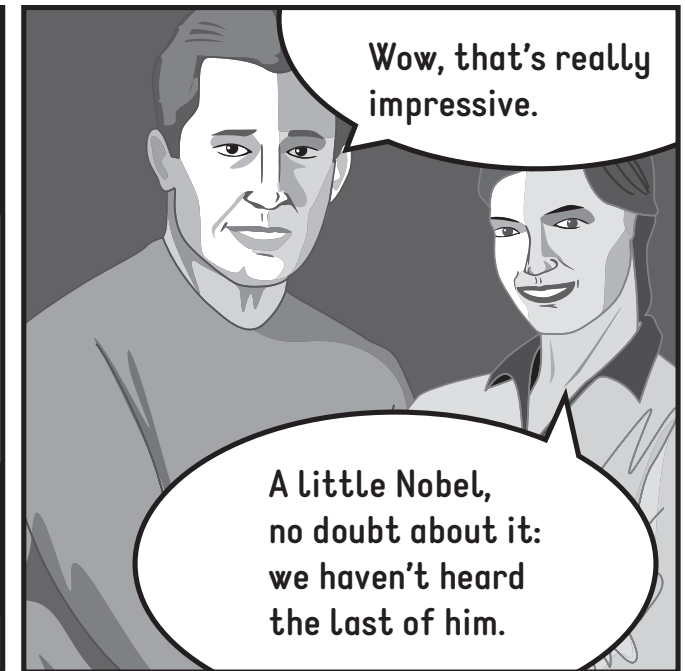
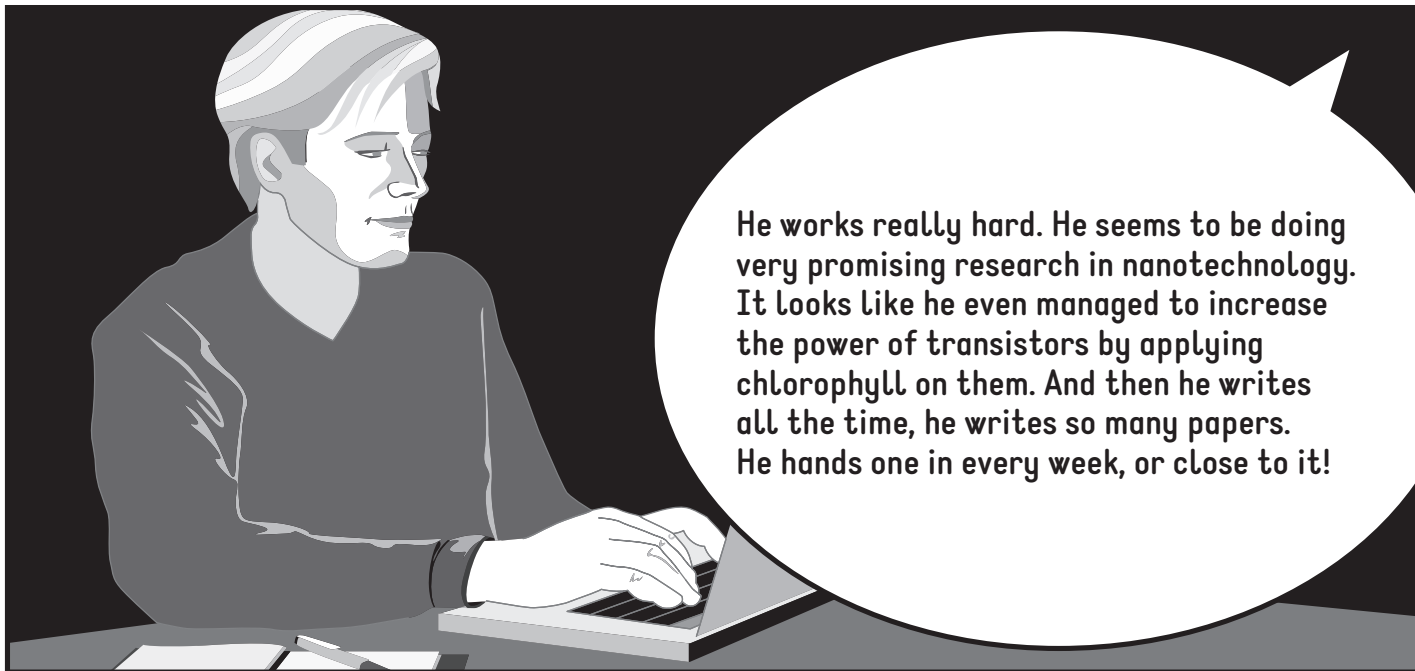
I think we should start with this.
This is where the knot is.

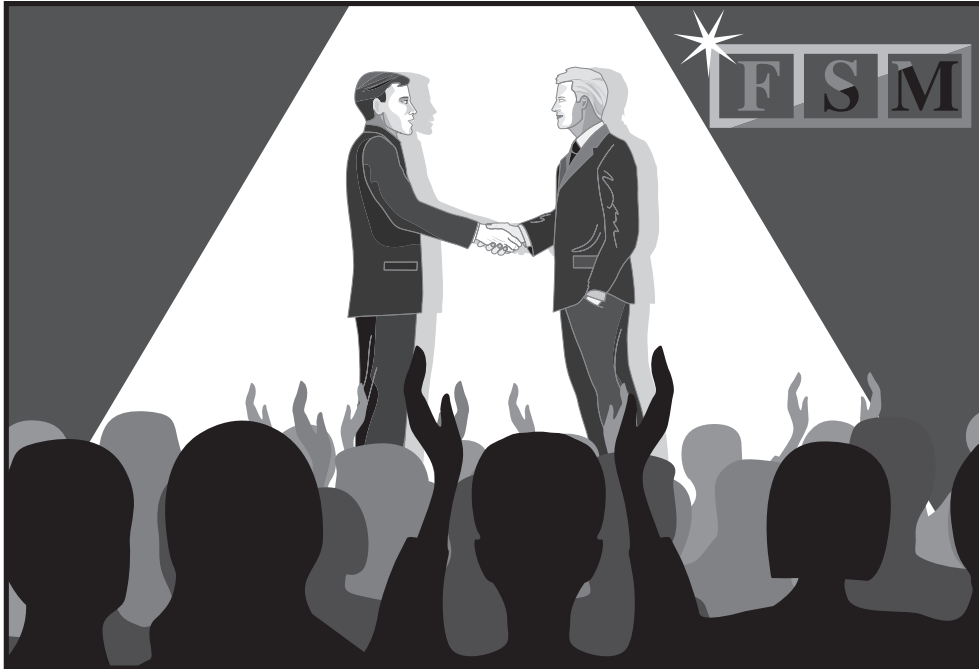


Indeed...

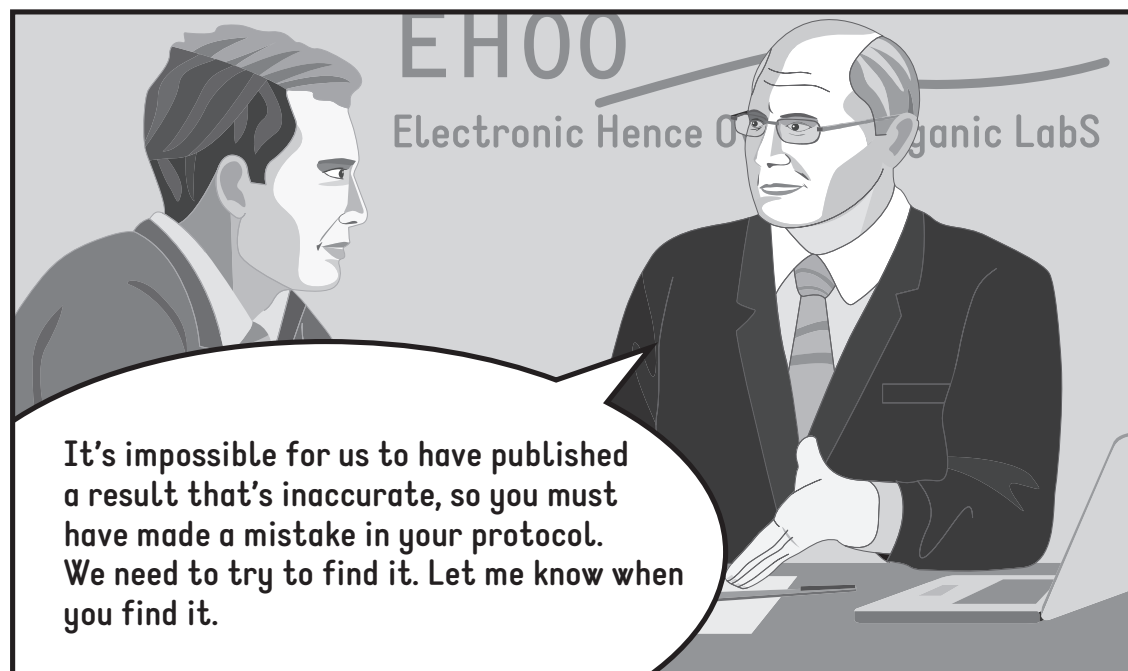
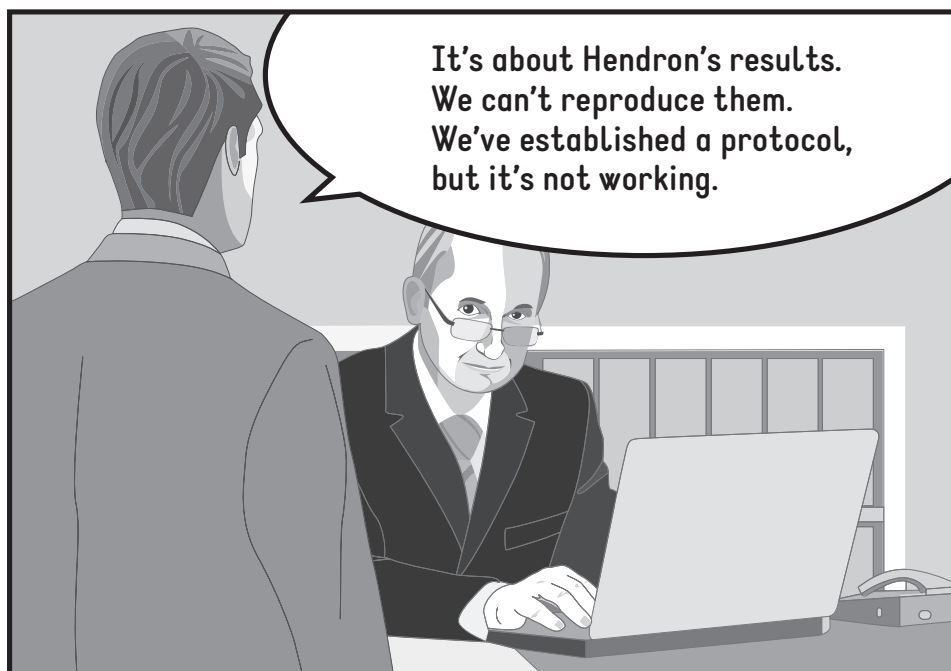
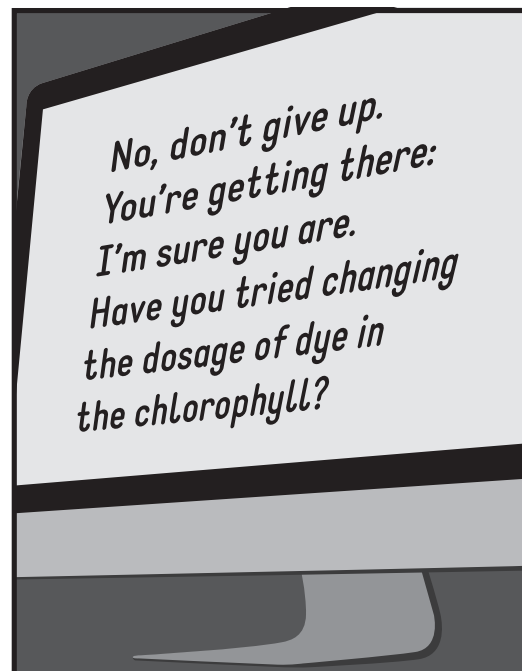


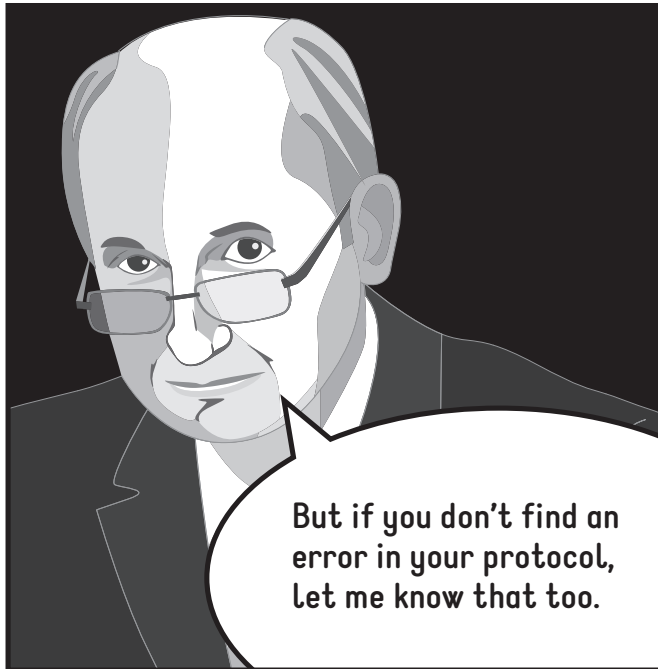












A few weeks later



Following various reports, having informed us that six of your articles seem to contain a trace of duplicated patterns, this committee has been mandated by EHO0 Laboratories to rule on the following question: Was there or was there not data manipulation? Jack Shin Hendron, let's hear from you.



As I have already told my colleagues, I didn't manipulate any data.

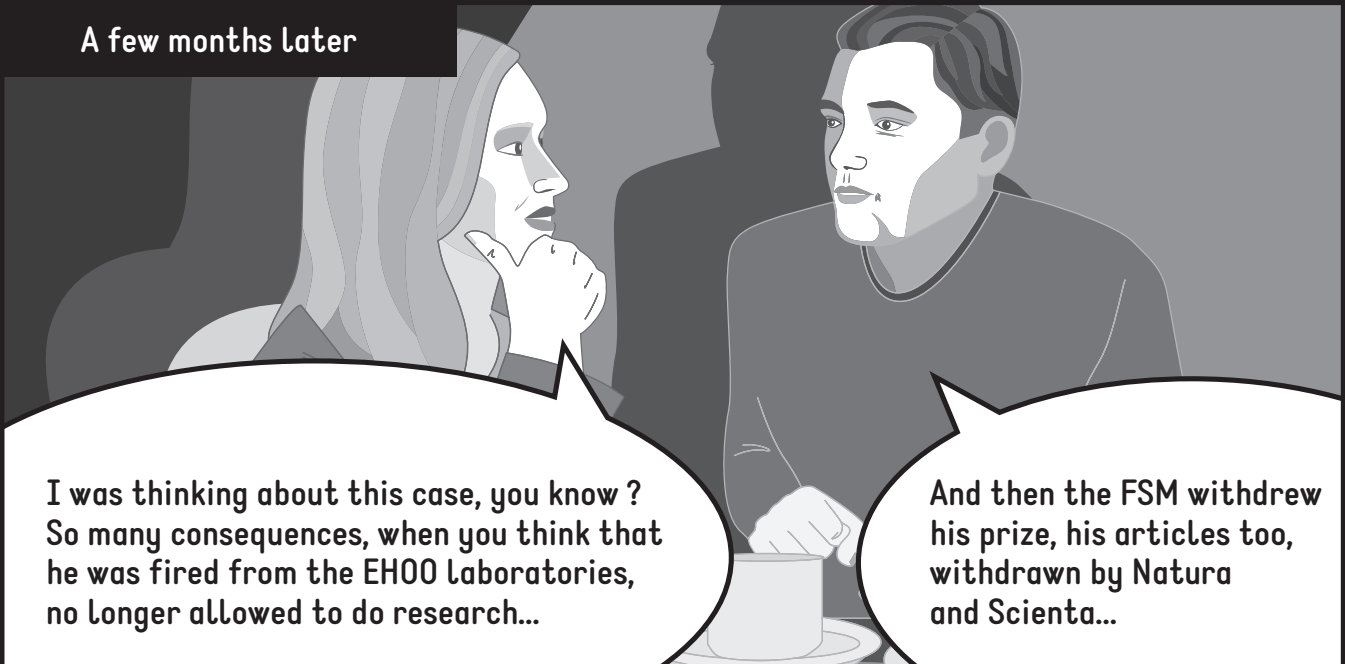


In that case, Mr. Hendron, this investigation will clear you of any suspicion. That is why the committee is asking you to provide samples of your work for review and to determine the validity of the results you have reported. That is why we would also like to have your own primary data.



The truth is, I didn't keep the data... My computer is old and I can't keep everything ! Surely you understand ?

A few months later



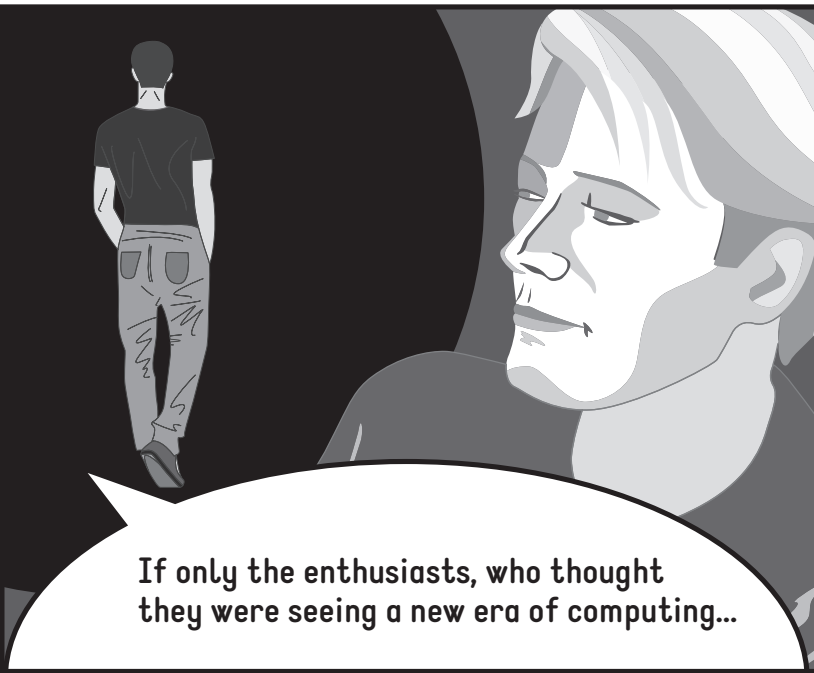
I was thinking about this case, you know ?
So many consequences, when you think that
he was fired from the EH00 laboratories,
no longer allowed to do research...

And then the FSM withdrew
his prize, his articles too,
withdrawn by Natura
and Scienta...

A friend of mine told me that a doctoral student
at his university who was working on replicating
his results, very shaken by this story,
has changed his field altogether.
He lost all confidence in our system.



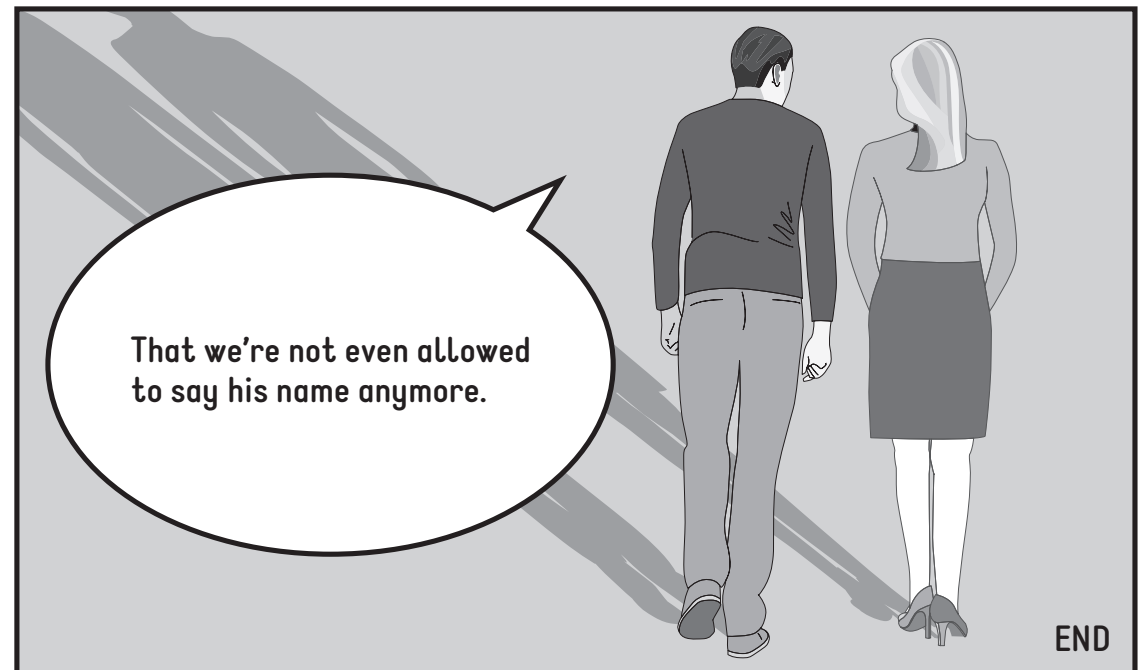
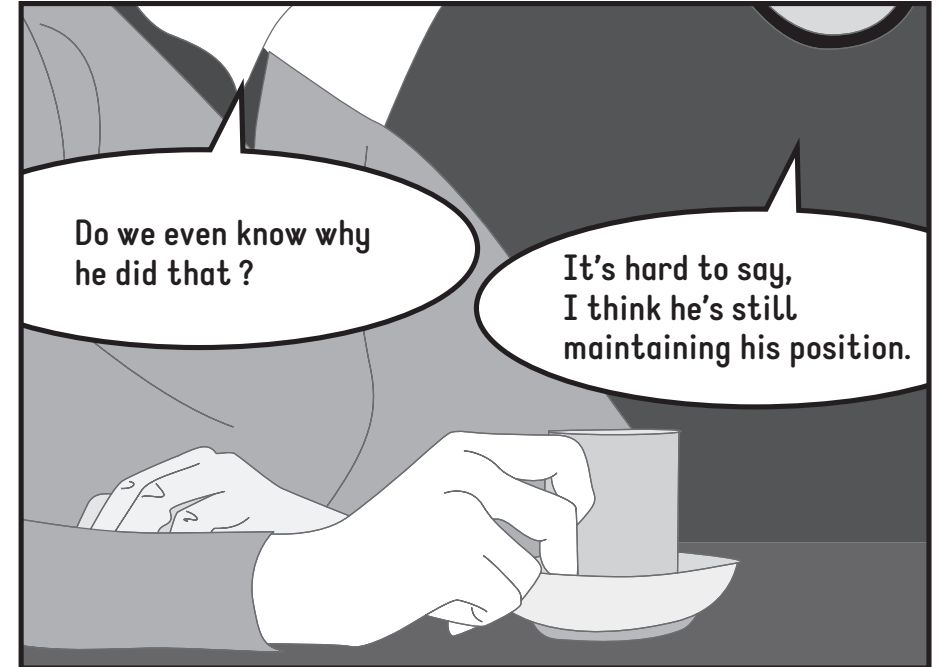
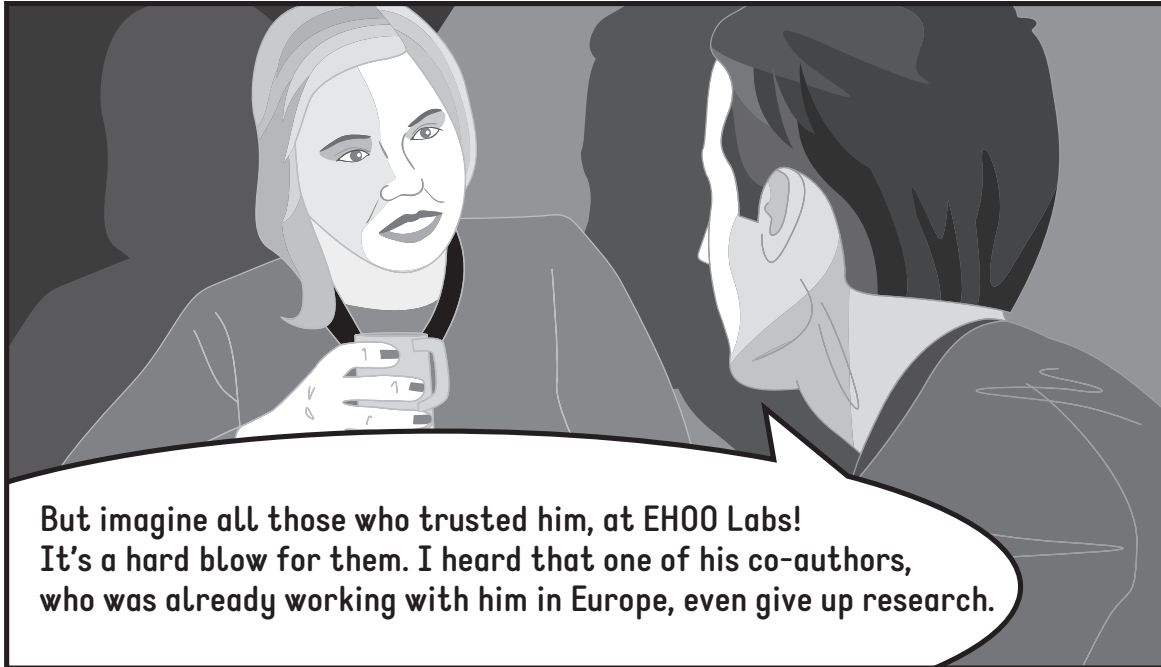
There are many
disappointed people.



If only the enthusiasts, who thought
they were seeing a new era of computing...



Those who work from his results and who
have simply lost their time.



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