

SUNY at Buffalo

20 November 1985

Dear Mario,

I suspect that about this time, or perhaps a little earlier, you have already found reason to wonder what you have gotten into in J. Kauffman's journal Scientific Ethics. Anyway, everyone in (at least) this department received yesterday a combined ad. for Kauffman's journal and for the book Il Grande Guido by his partner R. M. Santilli. It makes a very poor impression. Mainly the Guido, which I take it you have nothing to do with except by association — but when Santilli brags that their Institute is "within the compound of Howard University" he makes the whole Institute ridiculous.

The anonymous contributions to be published on scientific ethics might be justifiable, but their inspection by "qualified attorneys" suggests the contrary.

I suppose that a publication of roughly

the character Kauffman indicates could be socially desirable. In mathematics I don't think it would have much to say, but there is far more money in other sciences. You don't need me to remind you that to get anything done it needs people who care enough to do it, and there's always the risk that what makes them care enough will also drive them to do it badly.

Yours,
John Isbell