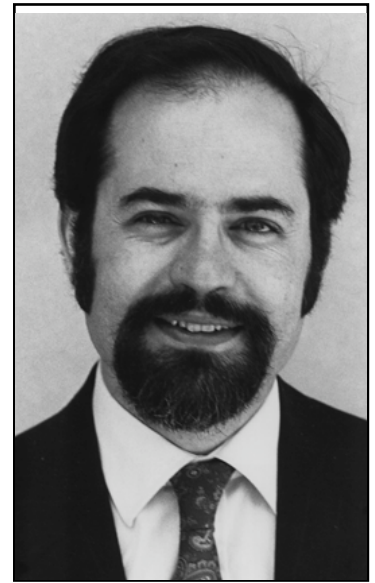


Deceptive Appearances

By Eugene F. Mallove, Sc.D.



As we enter our third volume (year) of publication, we owe our many loyal and newly aboard readers around the world a great big THANK YOU!

Infinite Energy now goes to people in three dozen countries—from Malta to Sri Lanka, from Israel (Technion) to Iran to the Ukraine. We have a difficult task: publishing quality technical papers, speculative papers, journalistic accounts of activities, and essays about the future of virtually every aspect of life—as it will be transformed in the New Energy Revolution. Jed Rothwell's piece in this issue, Part 1 of "Cold Fusion and the Future," is a bold road map of things to come. He will offer up more in issues that will be on their way.

We are ever aware that we have to provide a veritable smorgasbord of material—something to please each palate of understanding. Not everyone can deal with the most technical articles, but those who can't should be pleased to get the gist from us of what these experts are saying and doing. Each issue of *IE*, we trust, has enough content of "light stuff," editorial, and opinion, to please virtually everyone. If it doesn't, then please let us know.

Appearances are deceptive. Today the cold fusion and new energy scene might be likened to a deep, seemingly placid lake. On the surface of that water, all may appear calm to casual observers—or even to some avid readers of *Infinite Energy*. Not everyone is privileged (or *burdened!*), as are we, to observe the daily storms of activity and potentiality in business, experiments, and technology, so they may not grasp all that is going on between issues of *IE*—not to mention the material, some of it tantalizing, for which we at the moment simply have no space or time to devote.

Yes, and we probably have a greater knowledge of what the opponents of cold fusion are up

to than anyone on earth! We could do without that distraction, but it is well to keep in mind that this technology and science are *not* being developed in a sterile vacuum. There is *passion* involved on every front. This is a human revolution, which manifests the strengths and frailties of all the participants. As our fine contributor this issue, Dr. Robert Bush of Cal Poly, Pomona, so rightly observed: **"A revolution is only that if there are defenders of the status quo as well as revolutionaries."**

A more apt metaphor of the CF/NE and transmutation scene might be a vast ocean, with localized storms visible only to satellites. This ocean is about to unleash a historic tidal wave that could inundate virtually every continent. The titanic earthquake in science that will generate that tidal wave of human activity—an unprecedented technological revolution—may well strike before the year 2000, but it *could happen any day....*

The vast continent of Fossil FuelFission (FFF) will eventually be buried by the force of the wave deeper than the mythic (or was it real?) Atlantis. The continent of Academic Self-Satisfaction (the acronym just happens to be ASS) may engage in a last-ditch effort to save its image of Custodian of Truth, but this will be a very difficult trick to pull off in view of its perfidies throughout this revolution. That land will drown—to be recast, we hope, in a kinder and gentler form.

What will happen to MediaLand (or Mediocracy, with an "o"), as some would like to call it? It will be delivered such a dramatically chastening lesson in how out-to-lunch it has been, it is difficult to fathom in what form it will recover. Many will offer mea culpa, such as that American reporter did many years later, who totally missed the implications of what the Wright brothers had accomplished in their early years at the turn of the century, right

before his face. He offered something like: "When it's all said and done, in truth, we were just dumb."

What of the continent of HF, "Hot Fusion"? Phew to Pheusion! It will become TheFew-Shunned. Enough of word play... The TFTR tokamak reactor at Princeton has finally expired, and is now a radioactive hulk. But as usual for this land, the inhabitants are scurrying about looking for new ways to milk governments in this now preposterous charade. Hot fusion reactors will *never* be practical for delivering domestic power. Everyone knows that but those who are on the HF dole. In the US, and later elsewhere, we'll just have to find a way to pull the plug for good on the "reactor technology," while saving the valid plasma science.

Some of the signs to suggest that appearances of calm are deceptive:

- In the first week of June in Orlando, Florida, the American Nuclear Society will be meeting. Featured will be a panel of cold fusion researchers (see page 40). More important, it is possible that Clean Energy Technologies, Inc. (CETI) will deliver a one-two punch to The Status Quo Paradigm—or maybe it will be just a single punch. The company is known to have an operating water heating unit that has delivered hundreds of watts excess power continuously for *months*. This may be shown at that meeting, but for various unfathomable reasons, it may not be shown. The other thing that might happen in combination with the water heater demo is the electrolytic radiation reduction, *i.e.* a *public demonstration of the efficacy of alchemy*—albeit with the most modern an convincing scientific instrumentation that can be brought to bear. The scene in Orlando, if either or both of those punches are delivered, *is not to be missed!* Oh, the naysayers will have their crackpot explana-

tions of why it's still all baloney. Worse, if the punches are not delivered, they'll make up even crazier stories about fraud and avarice.

- There are now active competitors to public demonstrations by CETI. BlackLight Power, Inc. has a continuous "demonstration" going on right now in cyberspace (see story on page 21). This company means business, quite literally. It has many allies and supporters. With the heightened cyberspace profile, it could get a lot more support. It is out to build power plants, Big Ones. Of course, we wish it would have some actual itty-bitty demonstration units out there *right now*. That is being planned: at least in support of the company's scientific work—the "classical quantum mechanics" of Dr. Randell L. Mills. So confident is the company of its work that it has "bet the company" with a fantastic name change—from HydroCatalysis Power Corp., to BlackLight Power, Inc. This designates the ultraviolet emissions that happen in the hydrino formation process. If hydrogen atoms are really shrinking to sub-ground states, then clearly Physics (or is it Fizzix?) is in for one hell of a massive course correction! Oh, God, we can pray for such a cosmic joke on the continent of the "ASS"!

- The cold fusion helium production results of Arata and Zhang profiled in this issue are stunning (page 53). There is

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much helium-3 evolved, as well as helium-4. This is one of the most convincing proofs of literally heat-producing cold fusion of hydrogen. It is straight alchemy. If ever there were a loaded gun aimed at the scientific establishment's head, this is it.

• Evan Ragland has shipped us several triode configuration cold fusion cells— a first for interstate and international commerce (see page 20). We are beginning tests of these cells in our laboratories both in New Hampshire and in the UK. If these work, as advertised—reproducibly and robustly— we will have a perfect opportunity, working with Ragland's company, to do what we have wanted to do all along: Get into the hands of *everyone who needs to explore the astonishing Pons-Fleischmann phenomena* the proper research tools to observe the effect without a long learning curve. We'll leave it to others— who are working on it right now— the problem—of scale-up of the Ragland cells to multi-kilowatt units, but we'll gladly work with them in that effort too. **But it is abundantly clear to us that the widespread dissemination of demonstration units is absolutely essential to the triumph of the coming energy revolution. Nothing** has slowed down that revolution more than the inability of "our side" to shove in the face of any doubter willing to look a real, working cell. By the way, the Ragland cell is not the only demonstration device we are now exploring. One way or the other, we are determined to *do it*—or to force others to *do it!*

One very good science journalist, Ira Flatow of National Public Radio, had me on his "Science Friday" program on the afternoon of April 4th—the day that *The Saint* opened in the US. For the first half-hour a hot fusion man, T. Kenneth Fowler, who has just penned a book about his years in hot fusion and about the "glorious future of hot fusion." He went on and on: "Give us more money and we will do it..." This man happened also to have been on Huizenga's "objective" (Ha!) DOE ERAB Cold Fusion Panel in 1989. Apparently, he hasn't learned anything more about cold fusion since 1989—and, he doesn't plan to. In his book, he wrote: "Though a few scientists and a coterie of other enthusiasts have continued to claim otherwise, as far as I can tell the overall conclusion that cold fusion is an illusion still prevails, though I confess I have not been motivated to pay much attention lately." (page 174, *The Fusion Quest*, Johns Hopkins Press, 1997).

After I came on and told of all the new developments that were happening with CETI, BlackLight Power, Arata's work, etc., when asked by Ira Flatow what comment he might have about cold fusion, he said, simply: "No Comment." Here is a "scientist," who thinks he can draw a conclusion about something as momentous as cold fusion even though he has not

been "motivated to pay much attention lately."

Amid all this activity, what are *most* science journalists doing? But, of course, ignoring us or throwing stones. We have that supremely arrogant fellow Gary Taubes, whose comments were profiled in this space last issue. I pointed out his absurd, fallacious remarks to *The Wall Street Journal*. (On March 31, 1997 the newspaper published by rebuttal letter—see this issue of *IE*, page 43.) Now Taubes has outdone himself. In the April 1997 issue of *R&D Magazine*, Taubes is quoted by journalist David Kestenbaum in an article, itself inappropriately titled, "Cold Fusion— Science or Religion." Not a bad article, but Taubes' remark about cold fusion is "something else": "It's like with the herpes virus. It's always there. You just have to carry it around until it becomes enough of a nuisance that the immune system kicks in and crushes it. Then it goes into hiding in your spinal column or something." Nice man that Taubes! Maybe he took up biology at MIT's Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program and is applying his new-found metaphors to his

Continued on page 9

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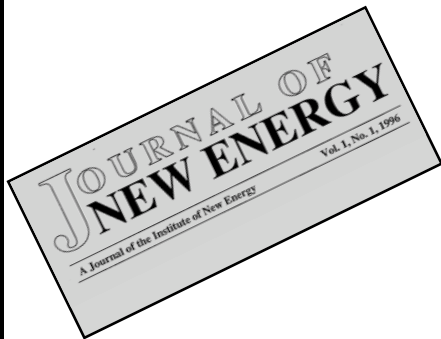
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old whipping boy, cold fusion. Frankly, if the Knight program at MIT can accept people with that low level of understanding about the basic process of science, it is in big trouble. But MIT these days is apparently a comfortable place for such as Taubes.

The National Association of Science Writers (an organization to which I formerly belonged) doesn't lag far behind Taubes in ignorance quotient with respect to cold fusion. In its *Field Guide for Science Writers* (Oxford University Press, 1997-Editors: Deborah Blum and Mary Knudson) one finds several juicy items. An example: From Boyce Rensberger of *The Washington Post*, "Although small bands of researchers continue to work on cold fusion, the vast majority of experts long ago dismissed it as a tantalizing illusion." Rensberger knows nothing but to follow the "consensus," and he does not even have his facts straight—"small bands"? Does that describe EPRI, the Japanese program, the Indian program etc., any one of which has done far more careful work than the naysayers who left the field long ago after a quick hit-and-run. Well, we can live without Taubes, Rensberger and the like. They will eventually concoct some explanation about "where they were eating lunch."



Published by the
Fusion Information Center
P.O. Box 58639
Salt Lake City, Utah
84158-0638

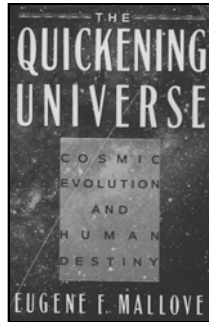
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