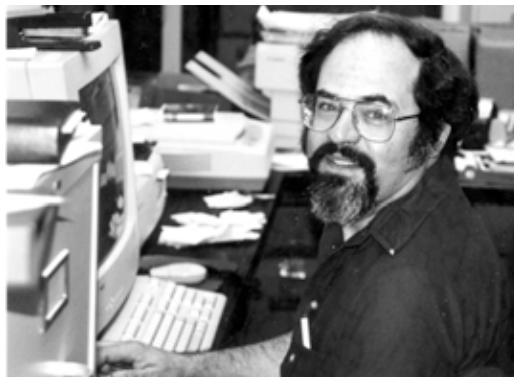


“Miracles” Happen



By Eugene F. Mallove, Sc.D.

Expectation is in the air. As the world makes its transition to a new century, will the embattled cold fusion (low-energy nuclear reactions, LENR) field succeed in convincing humanity that it is for real—that it will be a major factor, perhaps the most important factor—in ending the Hydrocarbon Fuel Age? We fervently hope so. We occasionally despair that it may take a proverbial “miracle” to make that happen, so bereft of adequate resources is this embattled field.

Admittedly no utilitarian (scaled-up) cold fusion heaters or electric generators have yet been marketed. This the critics of cold fusion use against us with a vengeance, though that is really a measure of their desperation. They had predicted that the cold fusion field would wither away. It hasn't, it won't, and they know it. This makes them very upset.

Of course, it is science turned on its head to say that commercial products on the market are needed for scientific validation. Since when should the lack of a viable commercial product be an indicator of the reality or future potential of a newly-discovered physical phenomenon or technological achievement?

A one-hour moderated debate on the Los Angeles public radio affiliate station that I had on July 7 with Prof. Robert L. Park is instructive. Park, as many *Infinite Energy* readers know, is the *de facto* spokesman of the American Physical Society (APS) in his weekly *What's New* cyber-column; he is no friend of cold fusion. From the outset in 1989, Park has been disparaging cold fusion research as incompetence

or fraud—take your pick.

On the recent program, which was kindly arranged and moderated by Michael Shermer of *Skeptic* magazine, I reminded Park and the radio audience of what he had said back in 1989 and in 1991. In the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (June 14, 1989) he said: “The most frustrating aspect of this controversy is that it could have been settled weeks ago. If fusion occurs at the level that the two scientists claim, then helium, the end product of fusion, must be present in the used palladium cathodes.” In the spring of 1991, when I telephone interviewed him for a comment to be included in my then forthcoming book *Fire from Ice: Searching for the Truth Behind the Cold Fusion Furor* (John Wiley & Sons, 1991), Park remarked: “You don't have to worry about the [excess] heat if there is no helium.”

Today in the peer-reviewed scientific literature there is copious evidence for this helium product in association with nuclear magnitude excess heat. In some data there is nearly perfect commensurate correlation of heat and helium product. Does this move Professor Park to change his stance? Not on your life! On this summer's radio program he talked completely around the helium issue, blathering about the absence of commercial products as evidence that this field is not for real. He has the data in hand; he is aware of it; and he has heard the case made by the original experimenters. He has no excuse. Certainly in this matter Park is not acting as a scientist, rather a propagandist for status quo physics—“don't bother me with the experimental facts” fizzix.

The symptoms of a scientific community at war with Mother Nature run broad and deep. Look at this month's “Briefs,” the story about organized attempts to strip Prof. George Miley of his fairly awarded DOE Nuclear Energy Research Initiative (NERI) grant in low-energy

nuclear reactions, specifically aimed at nuclear waste remediation. Late breaking news about this bizarre episode is that the unnamed DOE “powers that be” have augmented (packed?) with three more reviewers the original three-member panel—charged with assessing the science behind the NERI Miley grant. One of these is none other than Dr. John Huizenga, the former co-chairman of the 1989 ERAB Cold Fusion Panel, also author of *Cold Fusion: The Scientific Fiasco of the Century* (1992). To say the least, with Huizenga aboard, Miley's prospects can't be very good. But we shall see.

One more symptom of ill winds blowing against cold fusion: The American Chemical Society (ACS) 1999 Pacific Conference on Chemistry and Spectroscopy (October 6-8, 1999) is scheduled to have an Electrochemistry session (Friday, October 6), organized by electrochemist and cold fusion scientist Dr. Melvin H. Miles of the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center at China Lake. In addition to conventional battery technology discussions, talks had been arranged and put on the program to be delivered by cold fusion luminaries Drs. Martin Fleischmann, Ed Storms, Michael McKubre, Stan Szpak, John Dash, and Robert T. Bush.

It transpired that “numerous” ACS members called in to protest this electrochemistry session because of this cold fusion component. There apparently was an organized move for mass resignations from the ACS if this cold fusion session was not quickly taken off the program. Not only that, but chemistry Nobel laureate (1985) Jerome Karle, who was scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the meeting, made it clear to the meeting organizers and the ACS that he would cancel his talk if the cold fusion session was allowed to go forward. Sigh—yet another devaluation of the integrity of the science Nobel prizes.

And so the scene is set: “Pharaoh's army” is chasing the cold fusion rebels on their way to the Promised Land of open science and perhaps infinite, clean energy. Will the seas part and the beleaguered “Israelites” of cold fusion

escape? Will Pharaoh's minions be drowned in the very medium whose potency this army so hotly disputes? Will a "miracle" happen? A "small miracle" would do just fine, thank you.

How about a big one. . . ? One *may* have arrived just in time for the impending millennial festivities. We draw your attention to our cover story about Signor Renzo Boscoli's work in Italy. It apparently long-predates the Fleischmann-Pons era in its conception and even in its experimental embodiment. It is cold fusion, warm fusion, low-energy nuclear reactions—whatever you want to call it, but it is *very hot* in more ways than one. Sometime in October 1999 the necessary details will all be out in the public arena, posted to our website www.infinite-energy.com, waiting for worldwide replications to occur (unless a hang-up occurs at the European Patent Office). We have satisfied ourselves that these replications are likely to happen.

If these do occur, the worldwide shock waves could make the 1989 Utah announcement look like a mere warm-up event. This is a high-temperature solid-state fusion process that appears to be virtually universally applicable to energy systems—from planes, trains, automobiles, houses, to spaceships. It is not quite as squeaky clean as the gentle bubbling of an electrochemical cell or the catalytic production of helium and excess heat. The Boscoli process exceeds 1,000°C within *seconds* of triggering and it is said to be 100% reproducible. For those skeptics, perhaps even those in the cold fusion field who may feel threatened by this new development, we fully agree that *the proof will be in the testing*.

So go to it men and women, prepare for the October Surprise! The process is said to be simple and even long-term, self-sustaining, as long as it is fed with the requisite deuterium fuel.

The arrival of this process in its full-blown replicated form could be the Biblical equivalent of the parting of the Red Sea. But just remember, we already have enough cold fusion "boats" to get us across that angry sea and away from Pharaoh's troops. These little boats—the little miracles that we are already seeing in laboratories around the world—will also take us safely to the Promised Land, albeit with a few more years of journeying. If Boscoli's process should prove itself, we are probably home free. In the coming weeks, remember to think positively: "Miracles" Happen.



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