

# BREAKING THROUGH EDITORIAL



## Genius, Grit and Sanity

Bill Zebuhr

An August 2 editorial in the *Boston Globe* ("The Truth About Grit") explained that intelligence alone is not sufficient for major achievement; success also requires a long-term determination and great focused effort. The famous examples of Newton and Edison are mentioned, as well as a number of studies that have verified the idea. The characteristics that make some people so productive have been studied and discussed for a long time, but no clear process has been described that is a common characteristic of high achievers. It is unlikely that a "formula" will be developed that a young person can follow and become a brilliant high achiever, but guidelines can be given that will improve the odds and at least better exploit the native ability of the individual.

The kind of achievement being discussed has nothing to do with money. It is an achievement of the mind, a product of deep thought and new ideas. It involves the creative process—subject of many speculations and theories—which is still a mystery. Many people realize, however, that the spark of genius is often preceded by a long struggle with the problem at hand. It may seem to come in a flash, but that flash can only come to someone who is prepared. That often means they need a deep knowledge of the subject to be able to put together a number of facts and relationships in the flash. The spark often comes after the work of preparation and while in a relaxed state. During the work of preparation the mind is focused on a particular part of the problem and not in a position to see the whole. The spark is most creative when it comes from an educated but not biased mind. That means that if one is intent on making a significant advance in a particular field they need to learn about the principles and facts of the field but not necessarily how others have tried to solve the problem. After the inspiration it is helpful to look at how others have tried to solve the problem as a kind of "sanity" check to see if the idea has major flaws or if it seems consistent with the thinking of others skilled in the art. This is especially true if a patent is contemplated to check for significant prior art.

Creativity is not understood, but it is well known that it is facilitated by a relaxed and open mind. In such a state the mind can utilize its subconscious as well as the conscious components and better interface with any energy field out-

side the brain that may contain information and creative ability. This may be controversial, but it is well known that the brain can receive information directly from outside itself.

The field of new science and energy technologies is a very difficult one. This can be seen from history. There are very few major scientific breakthroughs and even incremental steps are years apart. Given that there are hundreds if not thousands of people working to solve the same basic problem and most are smart and well educated, the odds of being the one to make the big discovery are very small. So it takes a lot of self-confidence, patience, belief in the significance of the outcome and a lot of hard work often over many years to even get started. All these problems are made more difficult in the "alternative science" field where there is no support from the mainstream thinkers and there is often interference.

Genius is needed for a major breakthrough and so is grit, but so also is sanity. It is said there is a fine line between genius and sanity and that may appear true because the extreme concentration and focus required may cause the person to neglect other aspects of their life and behavior may be out of the norm. The sanity I am referring to is to know what you know and do not know and to know whether you are even on the right track and therefore to know when to change your plan or even quit. Many people have the idea that they want to make the big breakthrough but are not even remotely qualified to do so and are clueless to that fact or where to start. One of the definitions of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results. We have all done this kind of thing in frustration, but I have spoken to people over the years that have been working on the same basic idea for decades and have no idea that it is fundamentally flawed and will not listen to any argument that might enlighten them. That is a form of insanity that has been a problem for this field since it began. Some even resort to fraud in a desperate attempt to make money or save face. No matter what the dedication, concentration and sometimes secrecy it is always good to listen to wise advice given in good will. It may save years of going down the wrong track.

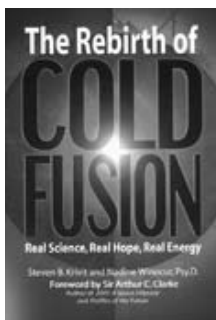
Some people who have the grit don't have the genius.

They simply do not have the brain power to put all the germane facts and relationships together in the right way. They need the sanity to see this and work with others to achieve the goal. The spark of genius is mostly from an individual, but working with a good team greatly facilitates the gathering of the knowledge and insight to make the leap. A good team is often essential to develop the technology once the spark has gotten it on its way. The development process often requires knowledge in a wide range of fields that are beyond the scope of even the genius.

It is nice to get paid for a long, difficult effort but many of history's big breakthroughs were made without pay. The person may have had a job and income but was not getting paid for the most significant work he or she was doing. Einstein was working as a patent clerk while working on the special theory of relativity. Tesla thought hard about electric power as a young man before he even had a job and then had his vision of three phase machines on his own time. His whole life then was a struggle to get financial support for his work and he died in debt even though his contribution to mankind was huge.

Like it or not, money is important to the effort. It is hard to dedicate oneself to the gathering of knowledge or to achieve a proper relaxed mental state when financial pressures dominate the mind. The great recurring problem of how to finance the new ideas on the fringe continues. I have mentioned in the past that there are too many ideas being publicized that do not pass the "sanity" check. That diverts attention from the few that have merit. Grit needs focus by definition and that goes for an organization and society as well as an individual. As a society we do a very poor job of allocating resources for our long-term good. The breakthroughs of the very few are essential for the advancement of society, but the overwhelming amount of potential investment capital of all sorts goes toward sustaining the ordinary—or worse, supporting bad practice and behavior. I encourage those that have money to invest in the advancement of society to put it into the people with the most genius and grit instead of the many things that only result in more of the same. You can not help society by feeding it fish; you can only do it by improving future fishing.

## The Rebirth of Cold Fusion: Real Science, Real Hope, Real Energy



by Steven Krivit and Nadine Winocur  
With a Foreword by Sir Arthur C. Clarke

For the most up-to-date information about the cold fusion field, be sure to read this acclaimed 2004 book!

\$27.95 North America  
\$32.95 Foreign

2004, 298 pp.

Prices include shipping.

New Energy Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2816 • Concord, NH 03302-2816  
Website: [www.infinite-energy.com](http://www.infinite-energy.com)  
Phone: 603-485-4700 • Fax: 603-485-4710

## Woodland Energy®

Woodland Energy® is responsible for providing quiet, clean, (no gas or oil) renewable power for the Quantum Rabbit™ experiments.

"Hubert® Powered"  
Established in 1984



Check out our products at:  
[www.QuantumEnergyCo.com](http://www.QuantumEnergyCo.com)  
Email: [woodward1984@gmail.com](mailto:woodward1984@gmail.com)

Phone: 978-827-5055  
P.O. Box 247 — Ashburnham, MA 01430

"Hubert®—The world's only portable solar electric generator!"

## QUANTUM RABBIT VIDEO

View the Breakthrough  
Transmutation Experiments

[www.YouTube.com/quantumrabbit](http://www.YouTube.com/quantumrabbit)



QuantumRabbit.com  
200 Bush Hill Road  
Ashburnham, MA 01430

## Unlimited Renewable Solar Energy from Water: A Collection of Articles by Peter Graneau et al.

Collection includes nine peer-reviewed articles published by Peter Graneau et al.

Paperback/Specially Bound  
92 pages

\$17.95 North America  
\$22.95 Foreign

(Prices include shipping.)

New Energy Foundation  
P.O. Box 2816 — Concord, NH 03302-2816  
Website: [www.infinite-energy.com](http://www.infinite-energy.com)  
Phone: 603-485-4700 — Fax: 603-485-4710

Unlimited Renewable Solar Energy from Water:  
A Collection of Articles by Peter Graneau et al.



Two meter tall superionic fog jet