

## New Energy and the News Media

by Eugene F. Mallove, Sc.D.



**N**ew energy, as I prefer to define it, is a source of energy of potential practical use that has heretofore been unrecognized by science. By this definition, conventional renewable energy, such as wind energy or solar energy put to practical use, are not new energies. The new energy

that has become most prominent is, of course, cold fusion—or low-energy nuclear reactions (LENR) as some prefer to call it. Some would say that Dr. Randell Mills' hydrino energy, being pioneered by the apparently robust BlackLight Power Corporation, has come to even greater prominence than cold fusion.

Still others believe that both these new energies are closely related in their microphysical origin. Mills, and some cold fusion theoreticians who reject his theory, argue that there is only one new energy here; they think the other side must be mistaken. At least they are on the same side in a larger sense—both are considered “crackpot” science by the physics establishment and its servants in the news media.

It was of extreme interest to learn, therefore, of the preliminary combined gas- and solid-phase experiments and supporting theory of Arnold Gulko, which he describes in the cover story of this issue. Gulko suggests that low-energy beaming of hydrogen onto a boron-impregnated palladium (or other metal) target generates excess energy and is a bridge between fractional hydrogen (hydrinos) and cold fusion. He says that carbon (!) may be one quite visible reaction product and that there is inferential evidence of fractional hydrogen creation as well. Though Gulko's work is preliminary and may later be found wanting, it will be interesting to see what waves it makes in the new energy field.

Gulko does not have good calorimetry—not yet, merely indications of surprising, rapid temperature elevations, plus all the other observations he regards as supportive. We recall that Dr. Les Case's gas-phase catalytic fusion process, strongly confirmed now at SRI International, began that way too (see *IE* No. 20).

But the subject of this editorial is really new energy and the news media. One could write a lengthy tome—nay, a doctoral dissertation—about how the new energy cold fusion, as an example, has been treated by journalists. This small space could not do justice to the topic, but we want to remind our readers just how crucial the news media has been in molding public and scientific opinion in the direction that there are no new energies. The prevailing journalistic stance worldwide is that the concept of a new energy source, as defined above, is pure nonsense. That is why essentially all general media, business, and political discussions are con-

strained by this ground rule: our future lies with hydrocarbon fuel, fission nuclear power, and conventional renewable energy, and nothing else. Hot fusion is occasionally mentioned, usually wistfully, but rarely with abuse for not having delivered after fifty years of research. Cold fusion, by contrast, is mercilessly beaten up for not having produced commercial power reactors in the eleven years since 1989.

When we think of the role that *Infinite Energy* plays in the new energy vs. news media picture, we recall those rare, wonderful times when an open-minded journalist inquiring about cold fusion research chose to step outside the bounds normally set in mainstream journalism. We have been helpful in directing such strays from the pack to good sources of information, so that he or she could make an independent judgement. But as any watcher of the cold fusion/new energy scene knows so well, the times when unbiased news reports have appeared are as rare as hen's teeth. News media coverage is ordinarily little more than scientific bigotry—as unrestrained as racial bigotry when it raises its ugly head in a society.

Most often we are confronted with the chilling absence of any coverage. Thus potential new investigators at universities or in companies have no way of developing an independent judgement of our field. Equally serious, those who might financially support cold fusion/new energy must climb a very steep learning curve before even thinking about investing or rendering aid. Few survive the high-altitude ascent.

There are many practical difficulties in carrying out our mission, which is to serve as a timely source of quality reports about what is going on in the new energy field—science, technology, commercial activity, and news about political and media happenings that affect us. It is no easy task to do this in seventy-two pages six times a year, with very little advertising revenue to support the magazine—not for want of trying, we can assure you. Think about it: how many companies would be eager to advertise in a magazine which chronicles a field that has yet to blossom into a robust commercial or even a strong academic enterprise? So, this magazine would not exist without generous backers, and we honor them for what they have done. We receive revenue from our sales of books, tapes, and magazines, to be sure, but the current price of a subscription to *Infinite Energy* would have to be multiplied by a factor of ten for this to be a self-sustaining business. Very few of our readers would be willing or able to pay that much, even for an essential magazine.

Since this is our last issue of the Second Millennium of the common era, it behooves us to relate some other facts of publishing life, for all who have helped us—including benefactors, investors, employees, and every subscriber or person who in good spirit ever purchased a copy of *Infinite Energy* at a newsstand.

Many sacrifices have been made by numerous people, and this has allowed the magazine to survive into its sixth year. Though *Infinite Energy* is received in thirty-eight countries,

from the U.S. and Canada, to more out-of-the-way places such as Malta or Kuwait, it is a small magazine in terms of circulation. We print some 5,000 copies bi-monthly, and send about 2,000 of these to newsstands. We believe that at least on the order of 4,000 to 5,000 people may actually read a particular issue of the magazine. Inexorably, new people come to the field. Many, however, also fade out as subscribers. In some instances they are disheartened that the technology side of new energy has not moved faster. In other situations, a reader may enjoy and understand the less technical material we publish, but is frustrated by the high technical levels in other parts. We remind everyone that, for now, we must have this smorgasbord approach—"something for everyone," because we have readers of very diverse needs, but are still too small to be able to publish more than one magazine. When more funding becomes available, we would like to expand on our efforts and publish a more popularized version of *Infinite Energy* and a fair peer-reviewed journal of new energy and new physics.

We are journalists trying to report to those involved in new energy research and to those on the sidelines curious about it, but we are also researchers who perform laboratory studies of new energy claims, attend scientific meetings, and deal with all manner of unrealistic, recalcitrant, crazed, and on occasion (rare, fortunately) quasi-criminal claimants. At the same time, our field is regularly degraded in the general news media as "pathological" or "junk" science. We do our best at PR to try to counteract that. Overall, we suspect that what we have undertaken at *Infinite Energy*/New Energy Research Laboratory is a unique enterprise. We are proud of it, though it is yet to be rewarding financially and is often extremely frustrating, even depressing.

We know we are not reaching everyone who might conceivably become a subscriber—this is proved over and over again by expressions of amazement from new readers who are thrilled with the vistas and process of science that are being revealed by investigators around world. One fantasy we have is to be able to "carpet bomb" a few dozen mainstream scientific conferences with tens of thousands of free issues of *Infinite Energy* every year, to see how many converts might emerge from the woodwork. Alas, we lack the resources to do any such thing.

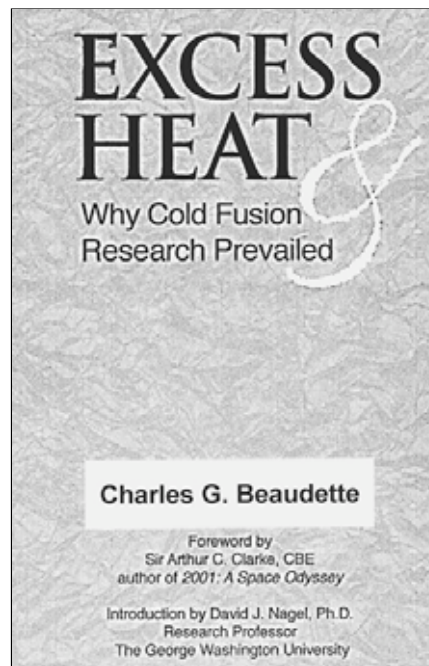
However, we do send free copies of *Infinite Energy* to a select group of journalists, in the hope that they will begin to follow what is going on and perhaps write an occasional article. This has often born fruit, but sometimes of the poison-apple variety!

Recently, we were appalled that one Chet Raymo, a long-time science essayist with the *Boston Globe* and a physics professor at Stonehill College in Massachusetts, abused his complimentary subscription privilege. In an essay in the Health and Science section of the *Globe* on October 10, he attacked cold fusion research generally and *Infinite Energy* magazine in particular. His piece was devoid of any discussion of the scientific results and analyses that have regularly been provided to him as a courtesy in *Infinite Energy*.

Raymo unabashedly admitted in his essay, "I have neither the knowledge nor the time to evaluate a lot of the stuff in the magazine, but I think I know shaky science when I see it." He apparently employs "evaluation by intuition." We wonder if he teaches his students that claims on

**Editorial continued on page 67**

## **Cold Fusion Book Now Available From Distributor Infinite Energy Press**



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***"Charles Beaudette has done a remarkable job in untangling and documenting the whole story of cold fusion. Excess Heat is not only a superb record of an extraordinary episode, but is also highly entertaining."***

***—Sir Arthur C. Clarke***

the frontiers of science are to be evaluated by voting, not by careful consideration of experiments and supporting theory? Raymo offered this predictable one-line summary: "Eventually, the scientific community arrived at a consensus: Cold fusion was a bust." This is not science. It is politics. We were also taken aback by a derogatory Raymo comment aimed at our efforts to examine how the process of science works in practice.

After initially agreeing over the phone to the general idea of allowing us roughly equal space to rebut Raymo in that same section, editor of Health and Science Douglas Bailey balked at publishing my draft rebuttal to Raymo. He referred me instead to the *Globe* Letters to the Editor Section, where significant truncation is likely to occur, if the reply is published it at all. We have brought this ethical matter to the attention of the National Association of Science Writers.

Events like these are part of the every day reality of the treatment of new energy in the news media. *Infinite Energy* readers may be surprised to learn that we have been blocked from advertising in certain magazines; *IE* Managing Editor Barbara Dello Russo may elaborate in a subsequent issue. For now, here are two instances:

(1) The prestigious scientific magazine *American Scientist* has refused to accept paid ads from us, whether for the magazine or for books, such as Dr. Mizuno's *Nuclear Transmutation: The Reality of Cold Fusion*, allegedly because "some of the readership would be offended." This is the publication of the Sigma Xi honorary scientific society, of which I have been a member since being elected in 1975.

(2) *Infinite Energy* ads have also been refused at *Science News*, a widely read weekly publication, in which we believed ads would have the best chance of helping to create new awareness about cold fusion. *Science News* has had no problem advertising the several books that attack cold fusion.

This is so brutally unfair, but so is life itself at times. As long as the flame of truth-seeking burns in peoples' hearts, there is hope that new energy will eventually topple the obtuse media that now reign virtually unchecked. When the tangible reality of new energy technologies finally emerges, as it will inevitably in the first decade of the Third Millennium, the media pack will turn 180-degrees and follow new leaders, many of whom may have been educated by us. We intend to help make that happen as soon as technically and humanly possible.

On a final note, "Happy 2001, Sir Arthur!"



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ried you'll steal our patent rights.'" We wish this were a joke, but it is not.

### Park Recuperating After Accident

American Physical Society PR spokesman Prof. Robert Park (University of Maryland) was injured by a falling tree on September 3, 2000, while he was running in a local Maryland park. The accident caused bone fractures in both arms and one leg.

At present Dr. Park is recovering and will have to undergo physical rehabilitation, though he was for a brief time listed in critical condition due to an injury-related infection. Robert Park is the author of *Voodoo Science: From Foolishness to Fraud*, which criticizes cold fusion among other supposed "voodoo sciences."

Just prior to the accident, Park's last internet "What's New" column for the APS had noted the cold fusion memo to President Clinton written by *Infinite Energy* editor Dr. Eugene Mallove. This memo is now posted at [www.infinite-energy.com](http://www.infinite-energy.com). Now that Park is on the mend, we expect that he will continue his attacks on cold fusion, sans careful examination of the data.



### Device and Testing continued from page 42

thermometer through the polycarbonate plate; the thermometer bulb being placed in the solution, near to the inverted ceramic shaker. Three layers of aluminized bubble-wrap and 2-inches of fiberglass insulated the entire test vessel. A tiny clearance around the thermometer and inner electrode allowed steam to escape without soaking the insulation.

Visual testing in a clear glass beaker verified the lilac-pink arcing above 85 °C and above 155 VAC rms. Calorimetric testing in the stainless steel vessel at 208 VAC rms and solution temperatures around 95°C produced 88.5% and 88.2% output/input in two runs. Steam evolution carried away a significant amount of heat. Weight loss by the solution as steam (spattering problems were solved and no droplet entrainment occurred) adjusted the efficiencies to 104% and 101%, plus or minus 2% error. We think these results are not significant, and certainly are far from Moberley's claim of 70% excess. We await Moberley's comments before continuing this investigation. Moberley has yet another way of performing such experiments, which employs a small water pump to suspend the arc at the tip of an underwater electrolyte jet.

### Of Special Note

It may seem odd that this regular report in *Infinite Energy* is so relatively sparse. This may give the entirely misleading impression that NERL does not do a lot of work. The reason that so little is said is not that we do so little, but that we have many other projects which are proprietary (at least for now) or in preliminary stages. We are investigating claims by some inventors under non-disclosure agreements. We also have projects of our own for which we expect to apply for patents. In time, these obscure activities, should they come to fruition, will be made public. Of course, there are some false leads that are also on our table, and these you might not hear about, though as many readers realize, we do not shrink from publishing negative results. There are even inventors who show up, receive our assistance, then for a host of bizarre reasons leave the scene never to be heard from again. But please keep in mind that the new energy tree will bear fruit in due season. That is ever our goal.

