

Of Flying Pigs and Starry Skies

Christy Frazier

My experience at *Infinite Energy* has been unique and invigorating, which began the very day I met Gene Mallove for the first time, at my job interview. I had already interviewed with then-Managing Editor Barbara DelloRusso and taken home copies of the magazine and Gene's book, *Fire from Ice*, for reference. I expected it to be the most nerve-racking interview of my life—I dislike interviewing to begin with, but this was the first time I would sit down with a Ph.D. (and published author) who would decide whether to hire me. It is a testament to Gene's character—his caring way, genuineness, and interest in all people—that the interview was the best one I've ever had. What began as nervousness quickly turned into ease and comfort as we spent over two hours discussing our love of books and movies, compared our New England upbringings, talked about the health of our parents, etc. We covered topics from popular culture to politics, and of course I got a tutorial about cold fusion. When it was over, I was not only confident, but hopeful, that I would be offered a job. Two weeks later, I began work with *Infinite Energy* and have since found more professional satisfaction than I have experienced anywhere else; I owe much of that to Gene.

It has been a challenge and joy to work with Gene these past six years. Never once did I feel unappreciated or disrespected. My opinion always mattered to Gene; believe me, I usually shared it on all subjects, but it was when he would come to me for my opinion that I would realize that he treated his employees like partners in this business. Gene's open-heartedness and generosity as a boss and as a friend cannot be equaled.

When you share so much of your day and your world with someone, it is impossible not to love them. Most people I know cannot say that they even like their boss all that much, but I am proud to admit that I loved Gene and knew what it was like to be in his care. When you knew Gene well, you were in for many surprises. He copied articles on subjects he knew you were interested in, he asked your opinion on the latest fads or supernatural incidents, he was always generous with his time and energy. He treated you to his unique sense of humor, his happy dances, his short fits of anger that always ended on upbeat notes (I'm not kidding—he could take the worst situation and put a happy spin on it). But even those who did not know Gene well were offered his utmost attention. Perhaps one of the most telling signs of Gene's goodness was how he opened his heart and mind to strangers, offering them information and knowledge and always listening to what they had to say. He was one of the most generous people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and caring about.

Gene had an affinity for artwork or images of flying pigs. Someone once likened the possibility of cold fusion to the likelihood that pigs will fly, and ever since Gene has collected these bovine beauties. I would roll my eyes and giggle anytime he bought or found a new flying pig. They were not easy to find either, so he always had such glee on his face when he showed off the latest one. Until Gene's death, I never once saw a flying pig for sale anywhere. But since May 14, on about ten occasions I have seen some amazing exam-

ples—not the pink hanging versions or photographs he would find, but wrought iron pigs with wrought iron wings, colorful kites, and other interesting types.

I always joked with Gene that he was just old enough to be my father. But he was certainly too young and too full of life to leave us so soon. When I look to the starry sky these days, I have different thoughts and emotions than I used to have. I take comfort in knowing that the seemingly endless sky that Gene loved so much rests above us, as though he is looking down to us and will help guide the way. I don't believe in a literal place called Heaven, but these days I hold tight to the idea that Gene's spirit is bouncing about the night-time sky. In the way that only Gene's positive-thinking soul could, he is surely reveling in the chance to explore the universe in a new way.

Memories of a Colleague

Barbara DelloRusso

I met Gene for the first time in December of 1997. The *Infinite Energy* office was, at that time, located in a small warehouse. Technical equipment and bookcases of magazines were everywhere, and an "office" was located somewhere in the middle of it.

Gene struck me at that time as being dynamic and extremely focused. He was sensitive and had great insight to the future of this world. He was truly interested in what my pursuits were—and he gave me my first overview of what his journey was all about. Before the second interview, I had read many of the magazines, as well as his book, and clearly hoped that he would choose me to help him organize the many areas he was trying to pull together.

I could tell immediately that working closely with Gene Mallove would truly be a challenge and an incredible learning experience. Anyone that has worked with Gene knows that his presence was one that gave you incredible enthusiasm for whatever was at hand. His kindness, his interest in so many areas of science, and his wonderful laugh and smile will never be forgotten. Memories of working closely with Gene on special issues, a growing staff, office, and laboratory, and his incredible outlook and determination for the pioneer magazine to be open to new ideas always brought something interesting to a typical working day.

Gene was so expressive, and I will never forget his joys when something good was about to happen or did happen. One time in particular, he just ran down the hallway and kicked up his heels. One time he brought his accordion into the office and played. There were many late nights when the magazine was dealing with deadlines—and there would be country music flowing down the hallways.

I continue to consult with the magazine and had just spoken to him several days before he died. He was animated and excited about *Popular Mechanics* doing an article, as well as the new developments with the Department of Energy taking a second look at cold fusion. Gene devoted so much of his life and his energy to this scientific frontier. I believe he will see the breakthroughs. . .and will know that his determination, open-mindedness, and spirit will live on forever and be a continued catalyst for future experimentation.