

Everybody has got it — bioenergy, that is

By Bill Casper  
staff writer

Once a highly guarded government secret, the theory of bioenergy is still relatively new and mystical to the masses of the western world. Simply stated, the theory represents the belief that there is an energy field

emanating from and surrounding all things, living and inanimate. Since the bioenergy cat slipped out of the bag, it's become the object of research among the nation's science community and has attracted the attention of a Redford Township scholar who is attempting to prove its existence. The efforts by Charles Cogliandro,

18, of Santa Maria, began during his high school study on a science scholarship at Detroit Country Day School, where he graduated last June as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa junior honor society. He did such a convincing job that his bioenergy project, entered in the Metropolitan Detroit Science and Engi-

neering Fair, was selected as the February Student Exhibit of the Month. The project, called "Proving the Existence of Bioenergy," was then chosen to be placed on exhibit in the Detroit Science Center.

"I first got interested in electricity while working part-time in a television repair shop during high school," said Cogliandro, who is currently a freshman at General Motors Institute in Flint where he is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering.

"I became interested in the theory of bioenergy my junior year of high school. I had to produce a science project each year in high school as part of my scholarship requirement and sought suggestions from my science teacher, the late Ed Honos, who died at the end of my junior year," Cogliandro said.

"He gave me a book on bioenergy and I found the theory fascinating," the student said.

Cogliandro said he learned through his research that the theory of bioenergy was developed in the Soviet Union, where it's been recognized and studied for decades.

It also is under study in other eastern nations, including China, where the concept of bioenergy is related to the theory of acupuncture.

THE THEORY of bioenergy was only recognized in the United States in the early 1970s, although the U.S. Government was aware of its existence prior to that, suppressing it as a top government secret, according to Cogliandro.

The U.S. Government apparently was leery of the concept because it was developed in a communist country and government officials wanted to investigate this phenomenon before it became public knowledge. But the secret leaked out," he said.

"Based on my research, I have come to believe that aura of energy does exist and I wanted to somehow record its existence," he said.

During the 1940s in the Soviet Union, a Russian husband and wife team with the last name of Kirlian invented an electrophotographic device that could record bioenergy through a photographic-like process, often called Kirlian photography, he said.

"I CONSTRUCTED a similar device during the Christmas vacation of my senior year in high school. I wanted to use the device to show the existence of bioenergy. While researching, I read of

an experimental study in which the electrophotographic device was used to record the bioenergy surrounding the finger of a woman who had never smoked.

"She then smoked two cigarettes in a row, and when her finger was photographed again, the photo of her bioenergy revealed a drastic change in formation," said Cogliandro.

"Half of my project demonstrated the parameter, or capability of the electrophotographic device. To prove the existence of bioenergy in the second half of the project, I used the device to record the bioenergy of a Coleus plant."

"I first recorded a healthy leaf on the plant, then put one drop of weed killer on the leaf to change its energy field and took six or seven photos in one-hour intervals," Cogliandro said.

In another set of electrophotographs, I plucked a leaf from the plant and repeated the same photo-recording process as with the weed killer. In a final set of electrophotographs I put a needle through a leaf and again repeated the recording.

"IN EACH set of electrophotographs, the image of the object's bioenergy field varied from that of the healthy leaf and each succeeding electrophotograph varied from the preceding photo as the condition of the plant steadily deteriorated," Cogliandro said. "I think my experiment provided some pretty good evidence that bioenergy does exist and is affected by environmental influences."

In the last set of electrophotographs of the deteriorating plant, Cogliandro tried to rejuvenate it by putting his hand over the top of it so as to expose the flow of some of his bioenergy to the plant.

"I took some more electrophoto-



Charles Cogliandro

graphs, which showed the aura of the plant's energy had brightened slightly. The plant then died, but I maintain the last set of electrophotographs indicates bioenergy of one living thing can affect the bioenergy of another," he said.

"The study of bioenergy is still a primitive science, but I think it is one that merits further study and I plan to continue independent research. Most in the science community believe the theory of bioenergy to be valid, but there are also many skeptics."

"I'M NOT sure the study of bioenergy will result in some form of practical application of the knowledge gained," said Cogliandro.

"Much more study and experimentation is necessary before any final judgement can be made on the theory of bioenergy and ability to apply the knowledge gained to the benefit of mankind," Cogliandro said.



Cogliandro poses with his award-winning exhibit which is now on exhibit at the Detroit Science Center. It was selected as February student exhibit of the month.

Orchard Ridge features 'Butterflies are Free'

The Alpha-Omega Repertory Theatre will present Leonard Cershe's comedy, "Butterflies are Free," at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The story, a typical romance about boy meets girl, is given unusual twist when the boy happens to be blind, his girlfriend a bit "kooky" and his mother overprotective.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Tirrell Hall. The show follows at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$11 per person. Senior citizens 65 and older, however, will be charged only \$9. Tickets for OCC students are \$8.

For reservations and/or additional information, call 476-9400, ext. 500 and 501.

INSIDE ANGLES

REMOVING SNOW AND ICE from sidewalks is required by an ordinance in the city of Farmington. But few violations are written, admits Earl Billings, supervisor of the Department of Public Services. In fact, this year the city has cited only one resident, an elderly man who lives in a gray house next to Farmington Lumber, for failing to clear the walkway for pedestrians heading for the downtown business district. Councilman Ralph Yoder thinks it's unfair to single out businesses and residents in the downtown area when residents of subdivisions are just as guilty, if not more. City Manager Robert Deadman said the city can't afford to have employees spending time enforcing the ordinance on every street but adds that downtown compliance is enforced because pedestrian traffic is heavy. Billings refused to discuss the violation before the court date but said from past experience persons who violate the "maintenance of sidewalk" ordinance normally pay about \$50 for snow and ice removal and court costs for a regular-size lot.

FARMINGTON POLICE freed a handcuffed 5-year-old boy from his shackles last week-end. The boy apparently found an old pair of handcuffs in his home, and like many other inquisitive youngsters he decided to try the cuffs on for size. Trouble is, he and his father, George Adams, couldn't get the old cuffs to open. He was brought in to the police station by his embarrassed father.

JEAN FOX of Farmington Hills has been named to serve on the nine-member Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Fox is a member of the Farmington Hills Zoning Board, vice chairman of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission and member of the SEMCOG council for environmental strategy. Active in the Republican Party, Ms. Fox has worked with the Farmington Republican Club. The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is the policy-making body for the 3,700-acre park system that includes nine parks and year-round recreation programs.

DERON BROD, an 11th-grader at Farmington Harrison High School, is a winner in mathematics competition. Brod placed in the top 100 out of 24,000 high-school students participating in the 25th Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Students who won will be honored at an awards program Saturday, Feb. 13, at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. Dr. Joseph Kruskal of Bell Laboratories will deliver a speech entitled "Reflections of a Pure Mathematician Who Applied Himself" and Prof. Frank Harary will talk on "Mathematical Games Designed from Theorems and Concepts." College scholarships will be awarded

ed to more than 40 of the finalists at the banquet. The scholarships and awards are supported, in part, through contributions by the Burroughs Corp. — which provides scholarships to first-place winners — Michigan Bell, the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Kuhlman Corp. Deron's teacher is Walter Boluch, chairman of the math department at Harrison.

DAVID DEMKO is preparing to study in Madrid, Spain, during spring quarter as a student at Kalamazoo College. Foreign study is a standard curricular feature of the four-year Kalamazoo College. Nearly 85 percent of the college's students study abroad before graduation. As of last spring more than 4,800 students will have studied in 32 countries since 1958. The difference between program charges to students and the actual costs is provided by the S.R. Light Trust Fund, which helps finance foreign study. Thus, students pay little more than on-campus fees for studying abroad, enabling a large number to go overseas who would otherwise be unable to afford such an experience.

GOT A SUGGESTION for saving the state tax dollars or streamlining state government? Call the newly instituted Michigan Citizens Hotline at 1-800-292-4300. It's a toll-free call.

SAFE BOATING class will be taught Monday, March 1, at Farmington High School, 32000 Shawassee, Farmington. Registration for the 10-week course, which costs students 12 years and above \$6, will be conducted the night of the first class, which runs 7:30-9:30 p.m. Taught by the Birmingham Power Squadron, the class qualifies students for state certification. For more information, call 543-6520.

A FESTIVAL of community bands cancelled due to the blizzard last Sunday has been rescheduled for 12:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at Twelve-Oaks Mall in Novi. Sponsored by Farmington Community Band, the festival will have Dr. William Revelli, conductor emeritus of the University of Michigan, as its guest conductor.

"BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE" is the name of a dinner theater presentation 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in Tirrell Hall on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. And while the butterflies are free the dinner and show costs patrons \$11 per person, \$9 for senior citizens 65 years and older and \$8 for students.

Status sportables from Ralph Lauren

This spring, you'll spot the Polo logo on girls' favorite sportswear parts. They're Ralph Lauren's classics in soft cotton. And what a rainbow of colors to choose from! Knit shirt in pale pink, royal, turquoise, lime, kelly, lavender, bright yellow, salmon, plum and white, 2150. Match it with a twill or denim skirt, 2350. Sizes 7 to 14. In Hudson's Status Kids at Northland, Eastland, Oakland, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Saginaw.

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