FIZIX KORNER

With Peter Lindemann

This is the first of, hopefully, a continuous series of articles for the journal to keep you back yard experimenters out of the deadening University physics departments and in your shops where at least you've got a chance of learning something. Except for this opening statement, I promise to keep the political diatribe to a minimum and the facts of Borderland Science to a maximum. Your editor, Tom Brown, has repeatedly asked me to contribute articles for the journal on a regular basis. This then is the beginning of my answer to his pleadings.

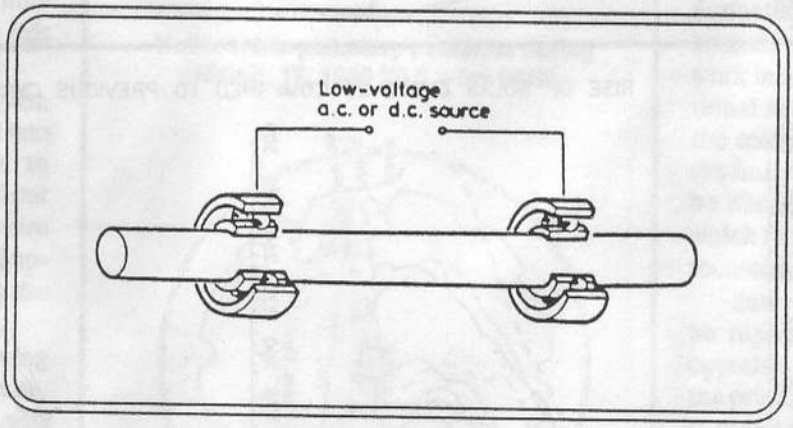
As many of you know, I have been interested in the possibility of "FREE ENERGY" for 15 years. Each journal, I will present a new, simple experiment that you can build and run easily which demonstrates some phenomena that act counter to the so-called "LAWS" of physics.

This column will be strictly for "hands-on" heretics. Philosophically, Borderland supports the questioning of authority. Therefore, don't believe what I write in this column! Build the machine and see for yourself. When you see the experiment running in front of you on your own work bench, you'll know the "truth". Here's what happened on our work bench recently.

THE INCREDIBLE BALL-BEARING MOTOR

One of the lines of logic that many of the "free energy" enthusiasts are following is that the efficiency of ordinary motors and generators is related, not to the supposed "LAW OF THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY," but to the particular geometry of the device. Enough tests have been run to say without hesitation that 746 watts only equals 1 horsepower in standard devices. The latest N-MACHINE style generator of Paramahamsa Tewari is clearly generating over 1500 watts per horsepower.

It is, therefore, very worthwhile to experiment with any configuration of materials that creates either generating or *motoring* effects that is not passing a current carrying wire in front of a magnet which, of course, is the standard configuration.



I do not know who first discovered that a simple shaft riding in ball bearings will rotate when current is applied to the outer bearing races. It was brought to my attention one day at Bruce DePalma's house when he showed me a copy of ***THE THORNY WAY OF TRUTH*** by Stefan Marinov.

Our test set up took about 10 minutes to construct. We had a 12 volt battery capable of delivering high current - (a car battery is perfect) and a couple of clip leads and a shaft sitting in two bearings placed on a table. An ammeter capable of measuring high currents was placed on one of the battery cables. A multi-meter was clipped across the bearing races to measure the voltage drop across the "motor". When the circuit is completed, about 85 amperes registered on our ammeter and the bearings smoked but the shaft did not rotate. As predicted, the device has ZERO starting torque.

Next, someone spun the shaft by hand and before it stopped, the current was applied again. This time the shaft accelerated to high speed, drawing 85 amperes across 2.5 VOLTS, for a power consumption of 212.5 watts. We ran the unit multiple times for about 5 seconds at a time. One 8 second run melted the insulation from our clip leads. The motor runs in the direction it is started without changing the direction of the applied current. Marinov states that lubricating the bearings fouls the effect, but we used a light oil on ours and it ran just fine.

There is no clear cut explanation for why the ball bearing motor runs. It's just one of those facts of Borderland Science. This phenomena must be seen to be appreciated. It is definitely operating on a different principle than any other motor I have seen.

Now it's your turn. Build and run this easy, inexpensive experiment. Watch it operate and think about it.

Also, if you have a favorite experimental oddity, tell us about it. Maybe we'll put it in a future FIZIX KORNER.