

# Malpractice Strike Continues: Layoffs Increase

The two-week old strike by Bay Area anesthesiologists protesting the soaring cost of malpractice insurance has left local hospitals with half their beds unfilled and up to half of their staffs laid off.

The strike arose after Argonaut Insurance Company raised its malpractice insurance rates by about 300 per cent on May 1.

It had spread to Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and the Sacramento area by Monday, after legislators told anesthesiologists there was no hope of quick legislative reform to produce cheaper insurance policies. Assembly Speaker Leo T. McCarthy (Dem.-S.F.) told doctors in Sacramento last week that meaningful reform might take as long as a year to get through the legislature.

Meanwhile, all operating rooms in the affected hospitals are closed to anything but emergency surgery and preparations are underway to phase out several out-patient clinics.

San Francisco hospital

directors reported that their institutions were losing about \$500,000 a day in income. Les Woodcock of the Hospital Council of Northern California warned that some hospitals were on the verge of bankruptcy.

## Occupancy Down

Jon Ogden of the Council reported Monday that the Presbyterian Medical Center's occupancy rate is down to 32 per cent and that 20 per cent of

its workers had been laid off. Other employees are working a two to three day week, he said.

Children's Hospital had a 36 per cent occupancy rate, as of Monday, with half of its workers off the job. The hospital had instituted a 30 per cent salary decrease for department heads and administrators.

Marshall Hale Medical Center (formerly Hahnemann Hospital), St. Luke's, and St.

Francis had less than half of their beds filled on Monday. St. Luke's had laid off about 250 workers, and had instituted a 10 per cent administrative salary cutback. St. Francis had reduced its workforce by 15 per cent and cut administrative salaries by 40 per cent.

## UC Hospital Crowded

UC Hospitals were not immediately affected by the strike, since doctors in these hospitals are covered by contracts with other companies. By Sunday, however, occupancy rates in wards such as vascular surgery, orthopedics, and neurosurgery were well above 100 per cent, due to referrals from hospitals where anesthesiologists were striking. Occupancy in Moffitt Hospital's intensive care nursery was up to 200 per cent.

"We're taking as many patients as we can," one official there said, "and we're getting to the point where we are going to be taking only emergency cases, too."

## Doctors' Conditions

Dr. Seymour Wallace, leader of the doctors' walkout, proposed a stiff set of conditions for a return to normal work by anesthesiologists:

— The governor must call a special session of the legislature to resolve at least the emergency aspects of the situation.

— The temporary solution must include a law limiting malpractice awards in court to \$500,000 for any injured

patient, and to \$100,000 by any one insurance company, so that creation of a statewide insurance pool would be necessary.

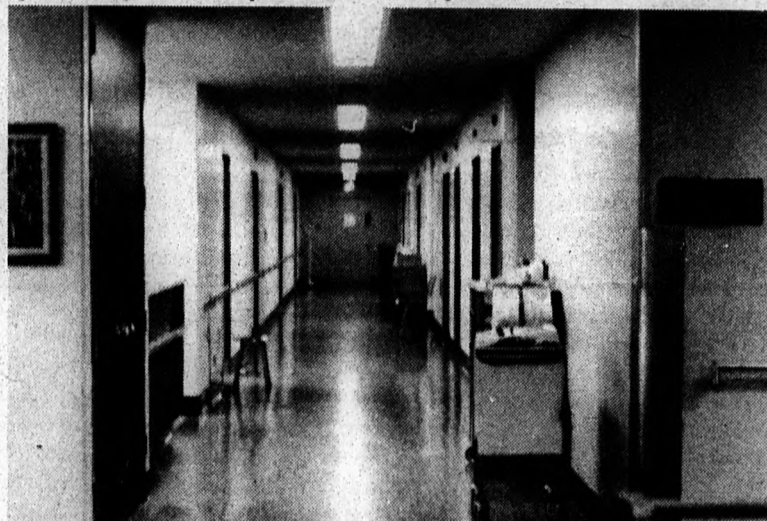
— The state must create a "Medical Injury Compensation Board" that would have the power to award payments greater than \$500,000, with no upper limit, to cover costs of care for those patients whose injuries required continued and expensive care.

## Brown Silent

Although these specific demands were made to Governor Brown as early as May 7, he has made no statement regarding the feasibility of a special legislative session or the demands in general. Sources close to Brown said Tuesday, however, that he is "considering the special session."

Wallace said the doctors' resolve to continue the strike was strengthened by an announcement by Travelers Insurance Company of Southern California last week that it may increase its malpractice insurance rates by more than 500 per cent next year "unless legislation is designed to eliminate the root causes of the problems."

Morrison H. Beach, president of Travelers, said his company supports legislation authorizing insurance companies to pool their coverage, limiting attorney's fees, and shortening the length of time permitted for injured patients to file malpractice claims.



The continuing malpractice strike has emptied wards in San Francisco Hospitals.

# synapse

University of California San Francisco Volume 19, No. 30 May 15, 1975

## Hearing Slated

# Forced Sterilization and the Poor

by Jim Cone

The State Department of Health and Welfare will hold public hearings in San Francisco on Monday, May 19 on proposed regulations governing surgical sterilization in California.

The following statement, excerpted from an affidavit to be filed at the hearing, concerns an incident that occurred at Moffitt Hospital, Fourteenth Floor Obstetrics Ward in January:

"I am a first year nursing student at UCSF. The patient I was assigned to was a thirty-two year old non-English speaking Chicano woman. When I first saw her, in the morning, she had been in arrested labor for seven hours, and was in a lot of pain.

"Someone (staff or resident) decided the baby was lying in a transverse position, and that a Caesarean section was indicated.

## Misleading Statement

"The resident came in, examined her, and handed her an operative permit to sign. He explained to her in simple Spanish that they wanted to perform a ligation at the time of surgery so she wouldn't have to have any more children. The patient was confused, disoriented, and in a lot of discomfort. I felt the resident's statement was ambiguous, misleading, and left a lot to be desired.

"I asked him to explain the procedure again, emphasizing that 1) the procedure was irreversible; 2) she could always have it done later; 3) they would do the Caesarean section irregardless of whether she signed for the sterilization or not; and 4) no matter what

her decision, they would indeed help her and give her something for her pain.

"This time, the patient looked relieved, and stated that she did not want to be sterilized. The resident looked embarrassed, as indeed, he had been careless in his wording. It sounded as if his helping her were contingent upon her signing for the tubal ligation."

## Common Scenario

Is this an isolated incident of mere mis-communication? Recent evidence published by the American Civil Liberties Union, (ACLU) the National Health Law Program, and Ralph Nader's Health Research Group document the fact that this scenario has been repeated thousands of times in public and teaching hospitals in the US and Puerto Rico.

In the vast majority of cases, however, the woman has not had a patient-advocate to help her defend her rights.

The scope of the problem is reflected in the fact that nearly two million people undergo sterilization each year, 150,000 in federally funded programs alone. In Puerto Rico, a 1968 study showed that 35 per cent of the childbearing woman population had been sterilized.

## Racial Factors

A recent estimate that over 20 per cent of black American women of child-bearing age have been sterilized (compared to less than 10 per cent of the comparable white population), suggests that both racial and class/economic factors are heavily involved in the high incidence of surgical sterilization.

Native Americans from the Mohawk nation have charged

that the US Public Health Service conducts irreversible sterilization operations on Native American mothers at the Indian Health Service Hospital, Claremont, Oklahoma without informing them of the exact nature of the surgeries.

In addition, the California Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women has charged that women in California penal institutions are forced to become sterilized as a precondition for parole.

## Notorious Cases

The most notorious cases of forced sterilization occurred in June 1973, when two twelve- and fourteen-year old black sisters were sterilized in a federally funded clinic in Alabama. As a result of the public outcry over this incident, HEW promulgated regulations to govern federally funded sterilizations for the first time in February 1974.

These regulations were immediately challenged by the National Welfare Rights Organization on the grounds that they did not provide adequate protection for persons sterilized with federal funds.

On March 15, 1974, a federal district Court Judge ordered HEW to draft new regulations that would specify the necessary requirements for informed consent in federally funded sterilizations and provide protection against coercion.

## Regulations Violated

The new regulations have yet to be effectively publicized or enforced by HEW, according to two studies done recently. The first, released this January

Continued on page 4

# Kirlian Photos Explore The Biological "Fields"

by Jim Seward

In recent months the press has given much attention to Kirlian photography, a technique for visualizing the "energy field" around an object or living matter.

For the most part, interest has been focussed on the more sensationalistic side of Kirlian photography (or elec-

trons, which may be visualized through Kirlian photography, play an important role in physical and psychological health.

Although the first electrophotographs were done in the early years of this century, the "Kirlian" photograph takes its name from a Russian couple who worked with this



Kirlian photography reveals the energy field surrounding a person's finger.

trophotography) as an intriguing phenomenon in the field of parapsychology.

Earle Lane, a local Kirlian photographer and author of a new book called *Electrophotography*, has been exploring the applications of Kirlian technology from a very different viewpoint.

He stresses the need for everyone — especially health workers and researchers — to expand their understanding of biologic fields and the effect of these fields on human tissue.

According to Lane, these

method of capturing energy fields on film in the late 1930's.

The technique requires a high voltage potential across a photographic plate. The subject of the photograph is placed on the film and an exposure is made. Standard black and white or color film may be used. The result is an image of the field surrounding the subject, whether it is a human hand, an oak leaf, or some other object.

Lane explains that the high voltage field with which the

Continued on page 4

## Grievance Hearing

The grievance hearing of Carol Wiercinska, a second year nursing student, has been temporarily recessed. Wiercinska was abruptly dismissed from school in February, and charged by her instructor with being clinically deficient.

The committee will reconvene Sunday, May 18, to hear the remaining witnesses, and plans to deliberate the following week to reach conclusions on its recommendation.

The committee met for a

## AMSA Conference

The American Medical Student Association (formerly the Student American Medical Association) will hold its spring conference for Region Ten the week-end of May 23, 24, and 25. Region Ten includes California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

The meeting will be held at Stanford University Medical School. It will commence Friday evening and run through Sunday noon.

The main issues to be discussed are: The problems of minority medical students; organization of the region; and goal-oriented tasks in health care. One regional project suggested is organizing a pamphlet describing clinical electives at all of the western medical schools that are available to outside students.

For more information contact S-245 or call Mike Amylon at Stanford, 321-5564.

## Quality of Life Lecture

On May 20, at noon in HSW-302, Professor Richard A. McCormick, Ph.D. of Georgetown University's Center for Bioethics will speak on "Quality of Life: Can Ethicists Define It?" This is the second of a two-part lecture series.

The Committee on Arts and Lectures and the Joint Program in Bioethics, Health Policy Program/UCSF/Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, are co-sponsoring this lecture series. McCormick will attempt to clarify the idea of "quality of life" for clinical and policy decisions about medical care.

Dr. Albert R. Jonsen, Adjunct Associate Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Joint Program in Bioethics, will introduce the speakers and moderate the question period following the lecture.

## Research Award

Dr. John Cymerman Craig, professor of chemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry, School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco, has been named the eighteenth Faculty Research Lecture at UCSF. He will speak on "Organic and Physical Techniques in the Study of Biological Mechanisms — Or, How To Do More And More With Less And Less," on Thursday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m. in 301-HSE.

Sponsored by the UCSF Academic Senate, this award is the highest honor bestowed each year for distinguished research by UCSF faculty.

## Financial Aid

Students who are not applying for financial aid may now submit applications for the Federally Insured Student Loan for the 1975-76 academic year. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Financial Aid students who wish to apply for summer Federally Insured Student Loans should submit their applications to the Financial Aid Office immediately.

Attention graduating students and graduate academics!

Any student or graduate academic leaving this campus in June 1975 who received financial aid, that is, student loans on this campus, please call Ext. 1348, Student Loan Accounting Office, for an Exit Interview. *It is mandatory that an exit interview be conducted before you leave this campus!*

## Compromise Farm Bill

The United Farmworkers Union won a significant battle last week when the State Senate Industrial Relations Committee approved a compromise farm labor bill incorporating most of the key provisions of the UFW-sponsored bill, AB 1.

The farm labor bill as it stands represents a compromise between three bills: the UFW-sponsored AB 1, a Teamster-sponsored bill (supported by Gallo and various growers) and a bill sponsored by governor Brown. The compromise bill is officially an amended version of the Brown bill. Both the original Brown bill and the Teamster bill were written without any consultation with Farmworkers and contained many weaknesses and loopholes which favored growers.

The Brown bill, for example, appeared to guarantee farmworkers the right to vote on existing sweetheart contracts, but it contained a gaping loophole allowing traditionally antagonistic rural judges to prevent any challenge to these contracts.

The original version of the Brown bill also appeared to guarantee that all workers at a ranch would be in the same union, but in fact it allowed for the creation of "craft units" which would have divided workers into such categories as field workers, tractor drivers, etc., and thus perpetuate the historical division of labor along racial lines, with workers of national minorities in the lower-paid stoop labor jobs and white workers on the tractors.

In the amended version of the Brown bill, a healthy dose

of farmworker experience has been borrowed from AB 1. Clear provision is made for voting on existing sweetheart contracts, and each ranch is to be represented by a single union. This "industrial unit" representation has been the hallmark of labor progress in the past since it minimize division among workers.

The AFL-CIO opposes the provision for industrial unit representation in its hunger for at least some farm labor power. Further concessions to the farmworkers in the amended Brown bill, include the rights to strike and to mount secondary boycotts, as long as the union involved has been elected by the workers to represent them.

If the farm labor bill is passed with no further amendments, it will not become effective until January 1976. In the meantime, growers may choose to renegotiate old contracts in order to stop boycott pressure and in response to the showing of UFW strength in the farm labor bill compromise.

Obviously, the quality of the contracts that result, either with or without the farm labor law, depends ultimately on the impact of farmworker strikes and boycotts — and so the boycott of non-UFW products must continue at full strength until solid contracts are signed.

The passage of the farm labor bill in its present form will provide a powerful tool for the United Farmworkers, but to use that tool effectively to gain just wages and working conditions, the farmworkers and their supporters must continue to boycott non-UFW products and work to prove that, in spite of grower attempts to weaken or obstruct enforcement of the bill, (as one grower put it), "you can't kill the eagle."

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# Candidates for ASUC Office -1975-76

(Statements by other ASUC candidates will appear next week.)

## Co-President Internal Affairs



San Juan Garza  
Dentistry III

When I first arrived on this campus, I was much impressed with the involvement of students on this campus. Students had made studies of what other disadvantaged groups had accomplished. They had gained some respect

and influence.

But it is a difficult cycle now and students are losing their taste for action and participation in events that affect them. Recognizing the realities of our time, I am running for student government to place my action and participation in a potentially constructive body.

Initiate your expression of participation by casting a ballot.

Anita Washington  
Pharmacy II

As Co-President of Internal Affairs I would be the official representative of ASUCSF in all campus matters. This year I have worked on ASUC as Vice-President of Community



Health and can see where there is a need for a stronger, more active student body government. As an executive board member of ASUC this year I feel I have gained valuable experience in dealing with the administrators of UCSF and have established a line of

communication with them that will be helpful if elected.

This year I have been actively engaged in several projects and meetings to make UCSF more beneficial to students. Some of these projects involved working with the Community Health Representative to establish a Legal Aid Service on campus for students; actively participating in setting up a Coffee House on campus; the Campus Explosion of orientation of new students; and the Black Health Day which educates Bay Area students to the opportunities in the Medical Health fields. I would like to urge all students to vote for me.

## Co-President External Affairs



Mark D. Cave-Sosa  
Dentistry I

It is my intent to bring statewide attention to the needs of the professional student for financial aid, housing, childcare, and adequate facilities for study. As the representative of this campus to the "outside world," I intend to make the Regents, the other UC campuses, the legislature, and the special needs. The professional student is more likely to be married, more likely to be a parent; spend more hours in

class, has less time to work, and has greater expenditures for education than any other UC student. Our campus is the only UC school composed entirely of such a special interest group.

I have been involved in ASUC for three years. I was a senator at UC Berkeley in Fall 1973, and I have sat on the board of ASUCSF this year. This has given me an awareness of the issues which confront us. I am familiar with affirmative action legislation, theory and practice; methods for dealing with the administration, and organizing and management techniques.

I wish to bring my expertise, ability, and drive to bear on the problems facing us. Well disciplined and organized ASUC officers will make your student government into a viable and relevant mechanism for dealing with your problems.



Sylvia Aldridge  
Pharmacy II

I have been serving this year in the capacity of Vice-President of Community Relations. I have participated in many committees and projects which have been to upgrade the social and academic atmosphere for the students.

Some of these projects have involved the Food Service Evaluation Committee, the committee to initiate a Coffee House on Campus, a student orientation program, a child

care center, and other projects involving the student parking situation on campus during the day and night facilities behind the nursing building.

I have been able to get a better working understanding and ways of dealing with the UCSF administration. From these various accomplishments, means of attaining experience, and means of bettering the student situation at U.C.

I would be able to further represent the students, be their voice and working force.

I will work with the Student Lobby, a National organization whose existence serves to voice, initiate, and retain the role of the student as a strong and powerful unit.

Hopefully, the students will make me their choice so that the coming year will focus better means of making the ASUC your organization.

# ASUC Elections

ASUC elections, which were set to be held May 9-May 16, have once again been postponed. Officers will decide at a special board meeting to be held today when the elections will be held. Call the ASUC office at 666-2010 for more information.

## Jazz Tickets

Discount tickets for the UC Berkeley Jazz Festival, to be held May 23, 24, and 25, may be purchased by ASUC students in the ASUC office in 249-MU. The \$4.50 tickets are \$1 below the regular student price and \$2.00 below the general admission price. For more information, call 666-2010.

## Grievance Hearing

Continued from page 2

Students raised questions about the role of the university's attorney in setting policy (such as whether the hearing should be open or closed), about the fairness of an uneven student/faculty ratio (including a doctoral student who has been an instructor here), and about the procedure which dictates that the committee's final recommendation be written in a way that separates and labels students' and faculty's opinions.

At the meeting's conclusion, committee chairperson Judy Moore and other members promised to draft an open letter to the campus community in order to clarify procedural aspects and to assure those concerned of the fair and responsible nature of the proceedings.

Nursing students are planning a benefit movie and bake sale in the near future to aid Carol in paying her legal fees. Persons interested in helping should call Linda Gattmann at 564-9630.

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# Synapse Calendar

Thursday, May 15  
Campus:

Family Forum: "Chinese Medicine: its significance to family health care," Effie Poy Yew Chow, 11 a.m., Carr Auditorium, SFGH.  
Practical Philosophy Lecture, "Esthetics and the senses," Chauncey D. Leake, Ph.D., 12 noon, 214 S.  
Film: "The Fitzroy Climb," 7:30 p.m., Cole Hall, Outdoors Unlimited.

Community:  
Three Films by Bergman: "Through a Glass Darkly," "Winter Light," and "The Silence," Surf Theater.  
"Macbeth," 1948 film version with Orson Welles, 8 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. \$1.50 students, \$2 general.

Friday, May 16  
Campus:  
Behavioral Sciences Seminar, "New Research on indigenous fertility control methods," Lucile F. Newman, 8 a.m., 332-HSE.  
Cole Hall Cinema: "King of Hearts," with Alan Bates, 7 and 9 p.m., Cole Hall.

Community:  
"The Beginning of Our Victory," feature length film about the Farah strike, 8 p.m., Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 655 De Haro St., \$1.50. Child care provided.

Sonata for Piano and Violin by Prokofiev, Debussy and Brahms performed by Karl Goldstein and Michael Sand, 8:30 p.m., Unity Church, 28th and Nevin, Richmond, \$1.50 students/\$2.50 general. For reservations call 234-5624.

Saturday, May 17  
Campus:  
Beginning Kayaking, lower Stanislaus and Mokelumne Rivers. For more information call Carlos Cardenas, 658-0816. Outdoors Unlimited.

Lake Tahoe Mushroom Hunt, with Steve Leonoudakis. For more information call 666-1115 or 666-2078. Outdoors Unlimited.

Community:  
Kirilian photography class taught by Earle Lane, Inner Research Institute, 131 Hayes St., S.F., 1 p.m. (fee charged).  
Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge, 2 p.m., Greek Theater, U.C. Berkeley, \$5 students/\$7 general.



The Rod Rodgers Dance Company will perform a suite of dance vignettes accompanied by songs, poems and slides at noon today in MU's Steninger Gym. The performance is free.

Sunday, May 18  
Community:  
Films: "The Lost World," 1925 Wallace Beery, Bessie Love monster movie, plus censored scenes from King Kong plus 15 animated shorts; shorts at 7 & 9:30 p.m., feature at 8:30 and 11; Intersection, 956 Union, \$1.

Art Lande and Rubisa Patrol, original compositions and improvisations, 2 p.m., 1750 Arch St., Berkeley, \$2 students/\$2.50 general.  
San Francisco Museum of Art Soap Box Derby, funky soapers by 70 artists, 11 a.m., John McLaren Park, free.

Monday, May 19  
Campus:  
Potpourri of films: "Von Gogh," "Visit to Picasso," and "The Critic," 12 noon, 303 - HSW.  
Community:  
Jazz Films from the John Baker Rare Blues Collection, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, \$2.50.  
Two Bergman Films: "Wild Strawberries" and "Torment," Surf Theater.

Tuesday, May 20  
Campus:  
CAL Lecture: "Quality of Life: Can Ethicists Define It?" a talk by Richard McCormick, Ph.D., 12 noon, Cole Hall.  
Community:  
An Evening with the Berkeley Mime Troupe, 8 p.m., San Francisco Museum of Art, Veteran's Auditorium, \$3.

Wednesday, May 21  
Campus:  
Rehabilitation Program: "Resources for Handicapped Children and Adults," 4:30 p.m., 729-N.  
Sierra Club Diving Section Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 214-HSE. Outdoors Unlimited.

Thursday, May 22  
Campus:  
Film: "The Annaperna Climb," presented by the Smilie Company, 7:30 p.m., Outdoors Unlimited.

## Involuntary Sterilization      Kirlian Photography: A Medical Tool?

Continued from page 1  
by the Health Research Group, was based on a survey of the nations' fifty largest teaching hospitals.  
The study revealed that fully 76 per cent of the hospitals surveyed were in gross violation of the federal regulations, and 33 per cent of them reported that they had never seen, nor were they aware of the content of the federal sterilization regulations.  
The second study was conducted by the ACLU from November 1974 to February 1975, and the results were released in March.  
This survey showed that UCSF was among the 48 of 51 responding hospitals operating in violation of the federal regulations stipulating a three-day waiting period between signing the consent statement and performance of the surgery, a prominent notice to welfare recipients that other services cannot be denied if consent is not given, and adequate consent procedures to insure that the woman is informed about the irreversible nature of the operation.  
**Surgeons' Attitudes**  
Bernard Rosenfeld, M.D., a former OB/GYN resident at L.A. County Hospital, did an extensive investigation into the reasons for the upsurge in sterilizations across the country.  
Surgical teaching programs, he said, are having increasing difficulty finding patients because they depend on availability of ward or indigent patients. With increased thirdparty payments, the number of such patients is

shrinking. As a result, said Rosenfeld, residents in many city hospitals have resorted to more "selling" and various forms of coercing patients into consenting to surgery.  
Rosenfeld estimated that while he was at LA County/USC, a significant minority-between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the doctors "actively pushed sterilization on women who either did not understand what was happening to them or who had not been given the facts regarding their options."  
The attitudes he encountered included frustration over the millions of dollars spent to support the nation's welfare programs, coupled with the conviction that "the more tubes you tie, the fewer kids you have to support later."  
Rosenfeld also cited "the incredible power which permits a doctor to cavalierly subject an indigent patient to the personal whim of the physician: "The doctor knows best — what the patient doesn't know won't hurt her."  
*The State Department of Health and Welfare's public hearing on proposed state regulations for sterilization will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 19 at 450 Golden Gate Avenue. The California Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women urges all persons who have observed or experienced incidents of abuse relating to sterilization (tubal ligation, hysterectomy, or vasectomy) to submit testimony, either in person or in writing. Call Eileen Stoner (285-5103) or Patti Roberts (626-3819) for more information.*

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photograph is made serves as an amplifier for the smaller energy field around the subject.  
There is great controversy over what the Kirlian photograph actually depicts. One theory advanced by Lane is that the film represents a flow of positive and negative ions from the skin. In this sense, the fields around the body control a flow of ions whose photographic representation is called "electrobioluminescence."  
Other Kirlian photographs which run more towards the sensationalistic end of the spectrum include efforts to document the extraordinary powers of Uri Geller, who is known for such feats as bending metal objects by merely concentrating on them.  
The electrophotographs of Geller's fingertips show that he is able to transmit energy to an inanimate object such as a watch band and to create fields of varying shapes upon demand.  
Lane himself is clearly excited about some of the other actual and potential uses of electrophotography. Kirlian photographs taken of various parts of the body can be used to track the acupuncture points; these points, which seem to correlate with areas of deceased skin resistance to electrical flow, show up as bright flares on the film.  
Speaking more directly to a medical viewpoint, Lane contends that the field seen on the photograph is a possible indicator of a person's overall state of health. For example, it

may be possible to detect subtle changes in an individual's field before actual symptoms of a malady appear.  
Emotional changes and responses to stimuli such as pain can also be recorded on the film. Likewise, such diverse influences as drinking alcohol, using nitrous oxide, or meditating all have their characteristic effect on the body's field. The fundamental issue, according to Lane, is "trying to understand ways in which fields interact and affect biologic processes."  
The field of Kirlian photography offers many potential subjects for research; but there are only 50 Kirlian researchers in the U.S. and only two of them have a primary interest in the medical field.  
One of the major problems is, of course, financial; there is almost no governmental support for this research and most workers must fund their own efforts.  
Earle Lane is currently involved in a research project on wound healing which is financed by the Veteran's Administration. He is using electrophotography techniques as a laboratory tool in the study of fibroblast proliferation and of the effects which varying the electrical field may have on the healing process.  
An advance which Lane feels is a necessary step in the progress of Kirlian technology is the development of a Kirlian microscope. At the present time, the barrier to this accomplishment is financial rather than technological.

Most useful research in electrophotography currently is at the qualitative rather than the quantitative level. At the present time, no one knows which variables need to be controlled in doing experimentation; the effects of such diverse inputs as the mental state of the photographer and the different electrical designs of the equipment are poorly understood.  
In the Soviet Union, Kirlian photography has been given relatively more attention and support than in this country. As a result, the technology and potentials of electrophotography are much more advanced in the USSR. However, the Russians are not currently opening their knowledge up to researchers in other countries. Some of the Soviet research has been aimed at the early detection of disease by electrophotography.  
Lane stresses the need for medical researchers to look past the sensationalism in Kirlian photography and to take the technique under serious consideration as a means of learning more about biological fields.  
"Biological fields have more effect on health than medical researchers realize," says Lane.  
"What I'm interested in is that people look at fields. After they look at them and measure them and have worked with them as long as I have, then if they tell me that they have no effect on human biology, I'll believe them."