



# AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

No. 97

<http://www.aiche-orangecounty.org>

March, 2002

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

### The Challenges of Running Your Own Business

Miles Martin

**Wednesday, March 27, 2002**  
**5:30 PM**

Miles Martin will speak about his work experiences, since graduating from Cal Poly Pomona, and the events that precipitated the formation of his own business.

Miles Martin studied classical history at USC before deciding that Chemical Engineering was a more interesting day-to-day pursuit. Miles graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2000. He financed his education by earning a scholarship from Saddleback community college's chemistry department and by working for Simulation Sciences, Inc., Intel Corp. and Creative Performance Chemicals. He is now President of Water Management Services.

### Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

### Place: Petroleum Club, Long Beach

**Directions:** Take 405 south to Long Beach. Exit Long Beach Blvd north. Right turn onto 36th Street. Left turn onto Linden Avenue. Petroleum Club is 3636 Linden Avenue. For a map or general information about the club, go to their web page [www.lbpetroleumclub.com](http://www.lbpetroleumclub.com).

**Reservations: Please make a reservation at (949)**

**261-2622 by voice by Friday, March 22. Or, you may e-mail your reservation to [janice.west@ps.ge.com](mailto:janice.west@ps.ge.com).** There will be no vegetarian menu this month.

**Cost:** Members, \$20 with a reservation, \$25 at the door; Non-Members, \$25 with reservation, \$30 at the door; Students/Unemployed/Retired, \$15 with reservation, and \$20 at the door.

## 2002 Orange County AICHE Officers

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## WHAT'S NEXT:

The next joint meeting of the Southern California Section and Orange County Sections will be held on **Wednesday, May 29**, at the Petroleum Club in Long Beach. Sorry, but no vegetarian meal at the May meeting.



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## Southern California AIChE Meetings

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The section for the LA area normally meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. For reservations call (800) 274-3847. Visit their web site for the latest information:

[www.geocities.com/aiche\\_sc](http://www.geocities.com/aiche_sc)

### Legal Corner

by Peter Hsiao and Siegmund Shyu,  
Morrison & Foerster, LLP

#### The Saga Continues: Landowner Petitions To Supreme Court To Reverse Passive Migration Ruling

In the case that will not end, the landowner plaintiff has appealed to the United States Supreme Court, in a procedure known as a petition for certiorari, to overturn the most recent ruling by the full Ninth Circuit which held that Superfund liability does not include the passive migration of hazardous substances (Carson Harbor Village Ltd. v. Braley U.S. (formerly Carson Harbor Village Ltd. v. Unocal Corp.), No. 011091, previously reported in the January, April, and December 2001 newsletters). In the petition, the landowner contended that the Supreme Court should resolve “incongruous” rulings among federal appeals courts on whether passive migration of hazardous substances through soil constitutes disposal liability under Superfund. The landowner also contended that the Ninth Circuit erred by allegedly hinging part its ruling on whether the contaminants originated in a container or vessel, contending that the Ninth Circuit would have found passive migration liability if the contaminants were initially placed in a container or vessel.

#### California Court of Appeal Upholds Ruling For Class Action Attorneys Against Objecting Class Plaintiffs

A California Court of Appeal upheld a judgment for class action counsel brought against them by class plaintiffs objecting to the settlement (Ferguson v. Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, No. A091877, 1st District). The class action lawsuit stemmed from the 1994 leak at the Unocal refinery in Rodeo, California, that released the toxic chemical Catacarb into the environment, impacting thousands of nearby residents. The Lieff Cabraser law firm filed a class action against Unocal in 1995, along with several other law firms including one retained by the objecting class plaintiffs,

for injuries resulting from the leak. The cases were eventually consolidated, with Lieff Cabraser appointed as co-lead class counsel. Lieff Cabraser eventually worked out an \$80 million global, court-approved settlement in 1997, which dismissed punitive damage claims against Unocal. The objecting class plaintiffs received \$125,000 and \$100,000 respectively in the settlement, but sued Lieff Cabraser and their own attorneys for malpractice and other claims in reaching the settlement. The trial court and the court of appeal held against the objecting plaintiffs, finding that the class counsel followed all proper procedures.

#### Something Completely Different

Scientists in central England are hoping that the “Walrus of Love” can lend a little assistance in getting endangered sharks to mate. According to Reuters, Birmingham’s National Sealife Centre, expanding on a U.S. research study done by the Rowland Institute for Science in Massachusetts that found that many sharks enjoyed music much the same way humans do, is playing music from Barry White and other modern vocalists to encourage the sharks to mate. The center has had success in the past breeding hard-to-mate marine species, including seahorses. The Birmingham scientists stated that one prime indicator of success would be the observance of the early mating rituals of the sharks, which involve the male shark chasing the female “at high speed around the tank” in an “attempt to bite her back and pectoral fin.”

*Legal Corner reports on recent news, and is not intended to be legal advice. The reader should consult an attorney about the specific facts before acting upon this information.*

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### CALL FOR PAPERS

Presenters wanted for dinner topics and poster sessions for a special technical series tentatively scheduled for this summer. Warm-up for a national meeting, or just present your Senior Project. Please contact the Program Chair with your topic.

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### Editor’s Favorite for March

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Check the web site <http://www.smisoftware.com/> SMI offers an absurdly cheap, easy-to-use program for converting units of measure, called Convert It! Download for free trial offer.



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## Job Opportunities

① If you have an employment opportunity in Southern California for a chemical engineer, the newsletter will advertise it for free.

**American Institute of Chemical Engineers**  
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Irvine, CA 92623

**DATED MATERIAL**

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