



AICHE Orange County

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

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June, 2002

JUNE DINNER MEETING

Long-Term Outlook for the Oil Refining Industry in Southern California

Mike Sarna,
Manager of the Purvin & Gertz office
In Long Beach

Tuesday, June 25, 2002
5:30 to 8:30 PM

Mike brings us the expertise of Purvin & Gertz, Inc., an international energy consulting firm with headquarters in Houston and offices in the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America, and Asia. This employee-owned firm provides technical, commercial, and strategic advice concerning the oil, natural gas, gas liquids, chemical, and power generation industries.

Place: Wyndham Garden Hotel,
3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa

Directions: From Interstate 405, go north on Bristol Ave., right on Anton, then left on Avenue of the Arts. The Wyndham provides a parking structure. The banquet rooms are upstairs from the lobby.

Meeting Schedule:

5:30 PM	Social Hour
6:30 PM	Dinner
7:20 PM	Break
7:30 PM	Main Program

Reservations: Please call (949) 261-2622 by Friday June 21st. Or, you may email your reservation to janice.west@ps.ge.com. Please specify your preference for either the main menu or vegetarian menu when making your reservation.

Cost: Members, \$20 with a reservation, Non-Members \$25 with reservation, Students/Unemployed/Retired \$15 with reservation, include \$5 extra for no reservation.

2002 Orange County AICHE Officers

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Southern California AICHE Meetings

The Southern California Section has a dinner meeting in LA County on the third Tuesday of the month at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello. See their website at http://www.geocities.com/aiche_sc.

- June 18 (Tuesday)- “Update on Sulfur Technology” - Mahin Rameshni –Ralph M. Parsons (Quiet Cannon)
- July 20(Saturday) –“Combined with AIAA/SFV Mini Symposium” – (Rocketdyne in Canoga Park)



EDITORIAL ON COUNTING

from Paul Krugman, *New York Times*, September 5, 2001

In the 1970's and 1980's one often read about remote mountain villages where people stayed healthy and vigorous into their 90's with some individuals reaching extraordinary ages. How did people in these simple, traditional societies achieve such longevity?

The answer, it turned out, was that people in simple, traditional societies aren't very good at counting. There were some quite old people in those villages, but they weren't as old as they thought they were. Of course, one reason people were vague about their ages was that in their societies nothing important hinged on getting the numbers right.

In one respect, the story of our vaunted "new economy" is similar. In the late 1990's the data just kept getting better, culminating in an estimated 5 percent growth rate for real G.D.P. in 2000 – amazing for an advanced economy late in an economic expansion. How did we do it?

The answer, it seems is that we weren't very good at counting. Revision by government statisticians marked down U.S. growth rates in 1998, 1999, and the latest, biggest markdown for 2000. The 4.1 percent growth rate was good, but not as good as we thought it was.

But there's one difference between us and the villagers: In our society numbers matter a great deal, and fuzzy math can have nasty consequences.

WEB SITES FOR CALCULATORS AND PROPERTY TABLES

Recommended by Leisa Porter, of the Fluor Daniel Process Safety group in Houston

<http://sun2.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators3B.html>

extensive site by Jim Martindale, UCI library

<http://www.processassociates.com/process/tools.htm>

Redlich Kwong equation

includes a calculator for the compressibility of a gas using

MAGAZINE REVIEW

PC WORLD <http://www.pcworld.com>

This is a monthly magazine providing news on hardware, software, and related topics. The newsstand price is \$6.99. I have no intention of buying a PC or software, but I still found a lot of useful information in the June issue. The editor emphasizes articles full of tips for making the most of technology at home and work. For example, there is an article with 26 tips for backing up your files, another article on where to get free downloads, and most importantly an article on hidden problems that can be caused by free software (disasterware).

For example, PC World warns that Radiate sneaks adware in with their GoZilla download manager, known to cause severe crashes with several versions of Internet Explorer. Brilliant Digital Entertainment produces software that allows the company to use customers' PCs in a distributed computing network. Users of the popular Kazaa file-sharing program also received Brilliant software and in downloading agreed in the terms and conditions to allow Brilliant to use their computers in this way for free. The magazine notes that many free applications, especially file-sharing programs, install spyware that tracks your online movements and sends ads based on your perceived interests.

One column on page 85 provides a tip on how to fix the problem with Windows XP that many programs are not compatible with the operating system. The tip allows you to install programs that XP says are incompatible.

In the article on backing up vital files, they answer the question "What kind of media should I use to back up?" That's easy, they say, CD-RWs.

On page 104, they cite a survey by the American Management Association that says nearly half of U.S. corporations monitor employees' e-mail.

WEB SITE FOR THE SLIGHTLY WEIRD

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) analyzes radio telescope data for extraterrestrial messages. According to Scientific American, 3.4 million users have devoted more than 800,000 years of processor time to this task.

<http://setiathome.berkeley.edu/>

Legal Corner

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

Strange Bedfellows Bring Suit To Block Mexico’s Diesel Trucks From U.S. Highways

A unique but understandable coalition of environmental and labor groups filed suit against the Bush Administration in federal court in the Northern District of California to prevent the federal government from finalizing rules that will allow Mexico-based, heavy-duty diesel trucks access to U.S. highways (Public Citizen v. Department of Transportation, No. CV-02-2115). The plaintiffs alleged that the Department of Transportation failed to assess properly the environmental impact the trucks’ emissions would have in urban areas, particularly in California and Texas. The Bush Administration issued the rules to implement provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”). The environmental groups include Public Citizen and the Environmental Law Foundation. The labor groups include the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, who have long opposed NAFTA implementation. According to the news group Bureau of National Affairs, the California Attorney General plans to file a friend-of-the-court brief to support the plaintiffs.

EPA Is Not Required To Take Over California’s TMDL Program

The federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed a lower court decision holding that the EPA does not have to take over the Total Maximum Daily Loads (“TMDL”) program for waters in California (San Francisco Baykeeper v. Whitman, No. 01-16111). The suit was brought by environmental groups in an attempt to require the EPA to take over the TMDL program in California due to the State’s failure to implement the program itself. The Ninth Circuit held that the State of California had not clearly and unambiguously expressed an intent not to implement the TMDLs. The Court also found that the fact that the State had failed to implement the TMDLs during the initial 15 years of the program from 1979 to 1994 does not create a current violation that requires a court to order a federal government takeover.

Something Completely Different

This year’s education ranking report that is publicly shunned but privately read with interest has been released. U.S. News & World Report issued its annual Best Graduate Schools report. For overall Schools of Engineering, the top five are MIT, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, and University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

(other local schools ranked: California Institute of Technology #7, USC #8, UC-San Diego #14, UCLA #21, UC-Santa Barbara #24, and UC-Davis #39). In the chemical engineering specialty, the top five are MIT, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, UC-Berkeley, California Institute of Technology, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. For overall Schools of Law, the top five are Yale, Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, and NYU (other local schools ranked: UC-Berkeley #7, UCLA #16, USC #18, UC-Davis #32, and UC-Hastings #40). In the environmental law specialty, the top five are Lewis and Clark College, Vermont Law School, Pace University, Stanford University, and University of Maryland.

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.

KEEPUS by Bob Katin

I received several additional e-mails of ChE’s being refused work simply because they are ChE’s. If you have any similar experience, please send an e-mail to me at rakatin@pacbell.net. So far, no one has volunteered to support our cause, pro bono. Please contact me at if you know a lawyer that can help our cause.

For the latest information on this dynamic topic, please check the website:
<http://www.aiche-norcal.org/Government/keepus>

New Local Member Service

As a service to local members and their potential clients, we have added a consultants page to the OC AIChE web site www.aiche-orangecounty.org. Look there to see who can give advice worth paying for. To add your information to the web page, contact Cheryl Zheng, webmaster.

Professional Engineering Employment Update

Job Seeking Members can now receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire chemical engineers. Special thanks to Ron Ambrosini, Alexandre Dokoutchaev, Edgar Lara, and Dung Phan, who volunteered to help with this list. Contact the Newsletter Editor to receive this list by e-mail as an Excel file.

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Job Opportunities

Cal State University, Long Beach is seeking part-time lecturers for Fall '02 and Spring '03. Requirements: Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering or Master's degree in Chemical Engineering with industrial experience. Ability to teach chemical engineering courses (material and energy balances, fluid flow, heat and mass transfer, separation processes, thermodynamics, chemical reactor kinetics, unit operations laboratory, process control, process design, pollution prevention, etc.). Ability to communicate effectively with an ethnically and culturally diverse campus community. Subject to budgetary constraints. For full information, visit the OC AIChE web site, www.aiche-orangecounty.org

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

