

TV Tips from UCSD

March 12, 1996

OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD ON E-MAIL

When children in a Solana Beach after-school program called La Clase Magica get into arguments or disputes, they don't take it out on each other. They take it to The Wizard.

No need to go to Oz, though. Like any other kid in the cyberspace age, they merely log on to their computer and contact The Wizard (also called "El Maga") via e-mail. It's also easier to get home this way.

The unique bilingual and bicultural program for children is supervised by Olga Vasquez, a professor in UCSD's Communication Department. Children, along with many of their parents, work and play with e-mail, educational software and computer games.

La Clasica Magica is held 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, in a trailer behind St. Leo's Mission in the Eden Gardens community of Solana Beach.

VISUALS: Media are invited to observe the class and interview the kids and their parents as they work with the computers, and Prof. Vasquez.

MEDIA CONTACT: Dolores Davies, University Communications, (619) 534-5994 Warren Froelich, University Communications, (619) 534-8564

THE "MATERIAL GUY" AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

This spring, a huge gas gun built at UCSD will be fired at an outer shell sample of the international space station "Freedom" to see how well it would stand up to the unforeseen flying objects it might encounter in space.

The study, under the direction of materials scientist S. Nemat-Nasser, seeks to find out if the aluminum-alloy shell would crack if hit by a meteorite, or will it just lose pressure, allowing astronauts time to move to another wing of the space station.

VISUALS: While no one is permitted in the testing chamber at the time of the experiment, a high-speed camera looks through a window and records the action. There is no doubt that the shell will be pierced by the action of the gun; the only question is whether the shell will start to crack or explode upon impact.

MEDIA CONTACT: Denine Hagen, Engineering Communications, (619) 534-2920

GRAY WHALE SITING

A trio of bronze, life-size gray whales, cast in a foundry in Paonia, Colorado, have found a home outside the Stephen Birch Aquarium-Museum of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

VISUALS: One of the three whales, a leaping mother with her baby whale, reaches 40 feet in the air, as high as the aquarium building itself. A third whale is represented by its flukes as it dives beneath the ocean's surface. A fountain and nighttime lighting enhances this Aquarium exhibit. The whale exhibit is being unveiled 11 a.m., Friday, March 15.

MEDIA CONTACT: Cindy Clark, SIO Communications, (619) 534-1294

WORLD SUBMARINE RACES COME TO ESCONDIDO

The exciting, human-powered submarine competition--sponsored by UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography--inspires innovation and interest in the area of underwater technology. An opportunity to challenge the two world records from the Guinness Book--for fastest propeller and non-propeller human-powered submarines--is of special interest to contestants in the high school, collegiate, and open categories.

VISUALS: Media are cordially invited to witness the event, which will take place April 3-12 at the Offshore Model Basin, based in Escondido, Calif

MEDIA CONTACT: Cindy Clark, SIO Communications, (619) 534-1294

EYE ON: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

To find out where lizards, snakes and other hard-to-observe species live in Southern California, a team of UCSD conservation biologists and about 30 volunteers are setting up holding sites or temporary traps to improve their chances of observing the wildlife.

So far, more than 225 experimental sites called "arrays" have been set up in San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties, under the direction of Ted Case and Robert Fisher. The study is expected to provide valuable information that could help building planners make decisions that will have a direct bearing on species preservation.

VISUALS: Media are invited to observe this study in progress and interview the researchers involved. Early morning hours are best.

MEDIA CONTACT: Warren Froelich, Science Communications, (619) 534-8564

(March 12, 1996)