
ANTENNA



Issue 17 – 2004



In this issue I thought some whimsy and other interesting articles would be good.

Remember to send in articles of interest, or just a subject you would like to see here. You get to be published internationally after all.

If you have an article send it to:

pjtoomer@ihug.com.au

Someone is using their melon

Many people like their watermelon, but they can be hard to carry and store. Some ingenious and industrious people have come up with a way to make a round melon fit in a square fridge – The Square Melon:



But it does come at a cost of 90.00 Euros or about \$155.00 each. They even have Pyramid melons. I think I'll stay with the round ones for a bit longer.

Web: http://akiba.sorobangeeks.com/news_8437.html

Science One-liners

- Mole problems? Call Avogadro: 6.023 E23
- If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate
- (Picture Einstein in a police uniform) 186,000 miles per second. It's not just a good idea; it's the (universal) law.

BAN DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE!

Dihydrogen monoxide is in its pure form colorless, odourless, tasteless, and kills uncounted thousands of people every year. Most of these deaths are caused by accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means death.

Dihydrogen monoxide:

- Is the major component of acid rain.
- Contributes to the "greenhouse effect."
- May cause severe burns.
- Contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
- Accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- May cause electrical failures
- Decreased effectiveness of automobile brakes.
- Quantities of dihydrogen monoxide have been found in almost every stream, lake, and waterway worldwide.

Despite the danger, dihydrogen monoxide is often used:

- as an industrial solvent and coolant.
- in nuclear power plants.
- in the production of Styrofoam.
- as a fire retardant.
- as an additive in "junk-foods" and other food products.

THE HORROR MUST BE STOPPED!

Whew I need a drink of water after this report.

Space: The final frontier

... but for how much longer?

Did you know that there is a U\$10 million prize for the first privately funded spacecraft to enter space?

If not you might like to look here. I was going to expand on this further but I found another article to publish

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/space/06/21/suborbital.test/>

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2004/2004_news_releases/june_04/14plane.html

http://www.usatoday.com/news/science/2004-02-10-space-travel_x.htm

Unsung Hero

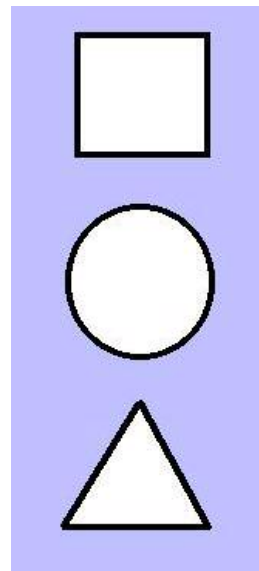
As I write this National Science week has started, and one of the initial events is The Unsung Hero award. The unsung hero is the recognition of someone in the science community who does a great service but oft times is not publicly recognised. Now normally I would leave this to Mercury to report and indeed it still might, this time I think it appropriate to have it here in the Antenna. The unsung hero for 2004 in South Australia is Rona Sakko, CSIROSEC Double Helix Initiative SA. Her endless enthusiasm in providing science events for the young scientists in SA. Congratulations Rona, keep up the great work, and know that your peers do notice your effort. PS Good time to ask for a raise, isn't that right Rick?



Dr David Boyd Presenting Rona with her award.

Square Peg in a Round Hole

Geometry is a fascinating subject – just take the melon article – Amongst other aspects it has worked out how to get a square peg through a round hole, and both the above through a triangular hole



The question here is can you make a solid object that will fit through this template?

Short answer is YES – The long answer is also YES. Many are thinking Yea right, can't be done. My avid reader, by now you will realise I will back up my claims. Look at the award from the previous picture, see anything special? Perhaps this picture will make it clearer.



See anything now? If the award is viewed face on – The side with the plaque – You should see it is square. It is I checked. Side on, it forms the profile of a triangle. So where is the circle? Have a look at the bottom. So there it is a solid object that fits 4 profiles. Huh? 4??

Don't forget its' most important profile, recognition of worthy people – Once again Good work Rona, and keep up the good work.

A thank you to Dr Rob Morrison for pointing out this fact as after the presentation.

It's all Logical – or so I'm told

Feathers are light.
The sun gives off light.
Therefore, the sun gives is made of feathers.

The jokes scattered about this issue:

http://www.ahajokes.com/science_jokes.html