

The MSC Hospitality Committee

will conduct interviews for membership on

January 17 & 18 from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Room 216 L MSC

For more information come by room 216 MSC or call 845-1515.



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Jockey-size divers needed for WASP that allows dives without decompression

United Press International
MORGAN CITY, La. — It looks like an underwater coffin, but no self-respecting casket has robot arms, metal claw hands, directional jets and a glass window for peering out.

This newest \$250,000 innovation in underwater technology is called WASP, a hard shell tube of aluminum alloy that gives an underwater diver unique mastery over the pressurized peril of deep-water diving known as the bends.

Within minutes, a diver can submerge 2,000 feet and then surface just as quickly without having to undergo decompression to combat the bends — a sometimes fatal illness caused by the presence of nitrogen bubbles in the bloodstream. The bubbles result from a difference in pressure on the human body.

"The diver goes through no decompression," said Gene Strong, a shop foreman for Oceaneering International, the world's largest independent diving contractor, that developed WASP. "When he gets out, he heads for the house. It's a system that can be used in lieu of saturation diving."

The amazing thing about WASP, named for its bee-like, floating characteristics, is its tiny size. Divers almost have to be the size of race horse jockeys.

"You've got to be less than 5-foot-10 and weigh less than 165 pounds to operate this thing," Strong said. "This thing is small and light. It's about a ton, but that is light when you're talking about an underwater apparatus."

"It's just like a submarine without arms."

WASP originally was designed 2½ years ago by Osel, a British company. But Oceaneering developers soon discovered the suit did not live up to its press clippings. For one thing, WASP was greatly underpowered and had developed several leaks. For an underwater diving suit, that was not a good selling point.

"We knew it was a good idea but it didn't work too well," Strong said. "So we redesigned it and made it into something that would do what we wanted it to do."

"It's 2½ years down the line and we finally have it to the point where — I wouldn't say it could chase fish

— but it can do a lot more than it used to."

The skinny diver squeezes into WASP through its top by unhinging the glass dome. His straight legs are close together, and his arms are placed snugly into WASP's ribbed arms.

After the cover is closed, the diver is completely contained in the pressurized cabin. The safety devices are enough to stagger even a NASA scientist.

There are two types of radio

communication, one through a tethering cable and the other through wireless sonar. If the power cable is severed, WASP switches to battery power and can remain fully operational for at least four hours.

A diver has enough life support for 40 hours if the regular system fails. And if WASP's directional jet thrusters malfunction, a diver can jettison the power packs and thus become 150 pounds buoyant — floating to the surface within minutes.

"We also have an umbilical that goes 'ping ping ping' if the diver is lost," Strong said. "Something can always be done."

Ron Avery, 30, Oceaneering marketing director, says the trial for such an underwater device is just beginning to be nized.

"It is directly proportional to the oil and gas industry," Avery said. "As they move deeper and deeper water, the less they have a WASP. It's a demand situation. As demand increases, more WASPs will be generated."

The WASP basically is used to examine underwater pipe and offshore rig supports. It floats in the water and does a solid stance, however, it is not able to do heavy-duty maintenance operations. That is another oceaneering machine called JIM — that is able to go to the water bottom and take stances.

"WASP is designed for maintenance operations," Avery said. "WASP and JIM are used in oil. They are used in oil. They are used in oil."

So far two WASPs are in operation, one working offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The other WASP at Morgan City has helped Tennessee Gas Pipeline inspect pipelines in the Brockley area of Mexico. The main advantage has over other types of remote control vehicles is the human element.

"Remote control vehicles are like eyeballs, but they can't see the human element," Avery said. "You still need people to do the WASP. A guy can do something and say, 'What is that?'"

Avery said customers of WASP can cut back their maintenance during routine inspections by reducing the number of divers and heavy support equipment. In an industry where dollar like Gulf Stream currents, WASP cannot be underestimated.

However, Avery said it is not for sale.

"We can work with anybody who comes up with an equitable price," Avery said, smiling.

Avery is banking on every millionaire wanting an underwater coffin of his own.

Whale-watching time exciting off California

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — "There's one at 10 o'clock," a crew member shouted, and a dozen anxious passengers ran to the front of the boat, steadying their cameras and binoculars.

Moments before, many of those same passengers were leaning over the railing at the stern, sickened by the rolling seas and deep swells. But then camera shutters were clicking and excited onlookers were marveling at the sight.

It was a 30-foot California gray whale, gracefully surfacing for a breath of air before diving back below the surface, and continuing the last leg on its annual 5,000-mile journey to Baja California, Mexico.

First they had seen the spout, like a puff of white smoke against winter's darkened horizon. Then the water broke, the sharp ridges on the back of the whale becoming visible as it slowly rolled through the water. Amid sighs and shouts, the gigantic mammal's tail emerged.

Then, too quickly for the boat's passengers, the whale disappeared again, leaving behind only a calm spot in the otherwise choppy seas — a "footprint," experienced whale-watchers call it.

Occasionally, watchers were treated to a "breach" — a term used to describe a whale sending its front half out of the water, making its entire head visible. But even if it's just a tail they see, enthusiastic watchers didn't seem disappointed.

Tens of thousands of people board fishing boats, sailboats and small craft each winter in Southern California to see the migration of the gray whales, according to Hazel Sayers, national president of the American Cetacean Society.

In San Diego, private fishing boat owners offer their craft for whale-watching excursions as the winter months usually mean a lull in their normal business.

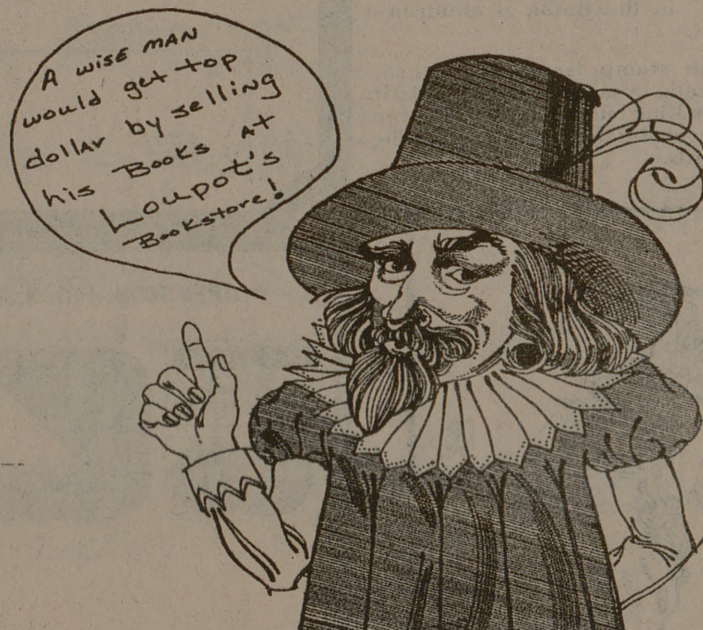
"It's a good source of income for the sport fishermen," Mrs. Sayers said, adding that the average whale-watching trip out of San Diego lasts about three hours and costs about \$15.

Earlier this month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which has jurisdiction over marine mammals, established regulations governing the sport.

The purpose of the regulations, which require that boats get no closer than 100 yards to California gray whales, is to protect the whales from overzealous whale-watchers who might injure the creatures with boat propellers or disturb their normal migration.

A violation carries a \$10,000 fine.

The California gray whale, with an average adult length of 40 to 45 feet, may weigh up to 35 tons.



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CHRISTIANITY — HOAX OR HISTORY??

On January 17, 1979 a new course on Christian Apologetics and Christian Evidences will be offered to people who are looking for answers to questions about God's existence, Jesus' Sonship, the Bible's inspiration, Special Creation versus organic evolution, and many other such questions. This course, which is taught on the college level, meets each Wednesday evening from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. It is not a course in church doctrine; rather, it is a course designed to investigate and examine the evidences which stand behind the Christian faith. It is a course for anyone who would like to see these evidences presented in an objective manner. Here is the course syllabus for the Spring, 1979 semester:

Jan 17	Why Study Christian Apologetics/Evidences?	Mar 14	TAMU Spring Vacation (No class tonight)
Jan 24	Causes for Unbelief of Men & Antagonism Toward God	Mar 21	Alleged Contradictions in the Bible
Jan 31	Can We KNOW There is a God?	Mar 28	Jesus — Son of God & Man of History?
Feb 7	Evidences for the Existence of God	Apr 4	Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus?
Feb 14	Sovereignty of God	Apr 11	Resurrection — Hoax or History?
Feb 21	Bible — Its Unequaled Uniqueness	Apr 18	Miracles and Anti-Supernaturalism
Feb 28	Origin of the Bible	Apr 25	Special Creation or Organic Evolution?
Mar 7	Inspiration of the Bible	May 2	Special Creation or Organic Evolution?

The course meets each week of the regular TAMU semester (except holidays) at the building of the A&M Church of Christ (across the street from the A&M Consolidated High School Building) at 1001 West Loop South. The course lasts 15 weeks. There is no charge whatsoever for the course. A textbook is provided free of charge to each participant, as well as a large volume of written handout materials. There are no term papers required, or oral presentations. The class is conducted in the discussion/lecture format, with ample time given for discussion. The teachers are: Bert Thompson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Veterinary Public Health College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU; and Ken Lawrence, sophomore Biomedical Science major. Welcome to join us as the course begins on January 17, 1979 at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome! For further information feel free to call Dr. Thompson at 696-7513 after 5 or Mr. Lawrence at 845-3439.

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MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL

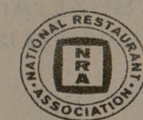
Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Pinto Beans Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea



THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken & Dumplings Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING

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