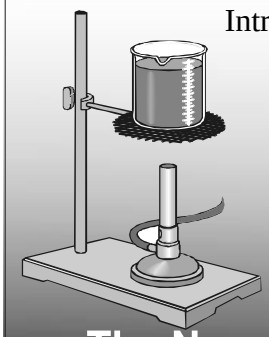
Introductory Issue

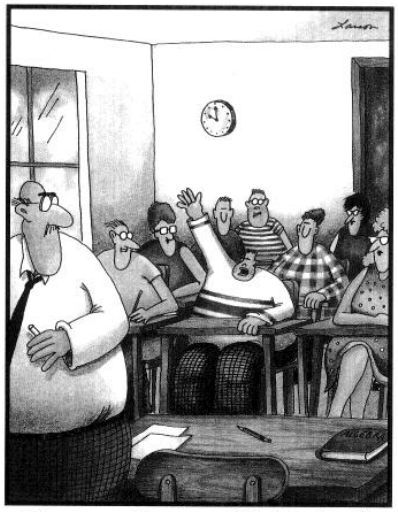


Touch - Paper

The Newsletter of the Open University Chemistry Society

Welcome to the Open University Chemistry Society

For 500 of you people out there reading this, TouchPaper will be familiar. This is a special edition to introduce non-members to the society, so you 500 can skip this bit. OK, that's them gone. Now it's only the first-timers (and you're probably thinking "Get on with it! I've got 6,287 other bits of paper in this mailing to read."). I'd like to welcome you to the ChemSoc and try to explain what we're about.



Please may I be excused Dr Mortimer? My brain is full.

One of the problems with distance studying is that students can feel isolated. The ChemSoc provides a way in which those studying (or just interested in) chemistry can keep in contact. We run trips throughout the year to various places, from the Horseracing Forensic Labs in Newmarket to some small brewery in Dublin. We organise a special days, in Essex, Bristol and Glasgow, and a Weekend in York for revision which are very popular, so book early. Details of some of the trips and the revision events will be given in future issues of TouchPaper.

We also have offers that are only open to members of the ChemSoc. These include use of the Youth Hostel Association Card, special rates from various museums etc., free and cheap computer software and a large range of merchandise at very competitive rates. Again you'll be able to find details in TouchPaper.

The ChemSoc is run by students, for students. We have been growing rapidly since our beginning and we believe that we can go a long way yet. I hope that you will not only send in your subscription but also take an active part in the Society. We are especially keen to continue the moves we have made to organise regionally.

So, put this newsletter somewhere safe, read the other 6,287 bits from this mailing and come back to find exactly what makes joining the ChemSoc such a good idea.

Rules of the Laboratory

1 When you don't know what you're doing, do it neatly.
2 First draw your curves, then plot your data.
3 Experiments must be reproduceable, they should fail the same way each time.
4 A record of data is essential, it shows you were working.
5 Experience is directly proportional to equipment ruined.
6 Do not believe in miracles---rely on them.
7 All unmarked beakers contain fast-acting, extremely toxic poisons.
8 Any delicate and expensive piece of glassware will break before any use can be made of it.(Law of Spontaneous Fission)
9 Hot and cold glassware look alike
10 Wash your hands *before* visiting the lavatory

- *OUCS on the Net* -

The chemistry society has had a presence on the Web for many years, and on FirstClass from the beginning.

The web site is at

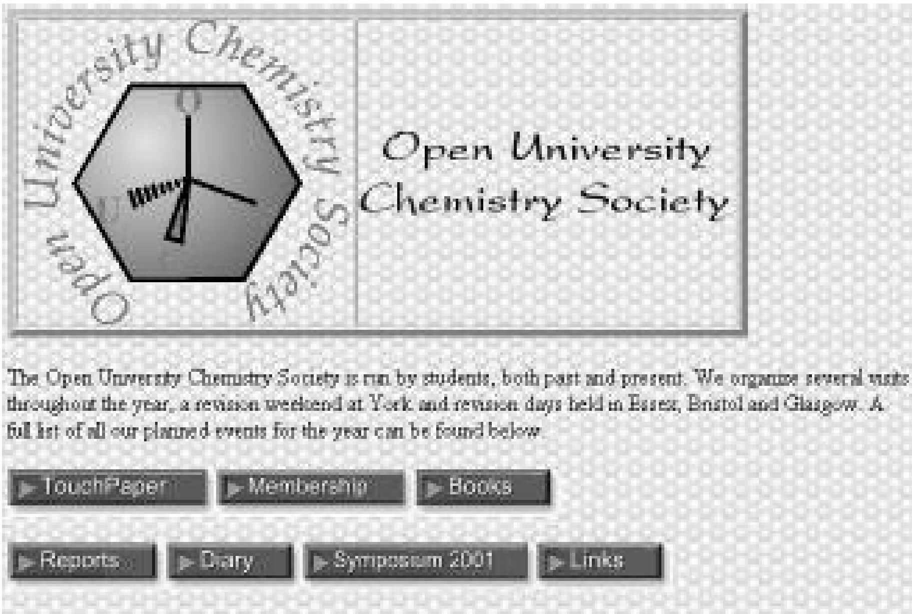
http://www.geocities.com/oucsweb/

and contains information relevant to members and non-members.

One area of the web site I'd like to encourage everybody to visit is the link to our books page. This contains direct links to Amazon, the online book-shop. Every order (for books, music, videos or software) placed when you access Amazon through our link earns from 5 to 15% of the order value for OUCS. So you can take advantage of all the good things Amazon have to offer and earn money for the Chemistry Society at the same time. And the price you pay is the same, whether you buy through our link or not.

You'll also find a diary of forthcoming events, reports of old events, back issues of TouchPaper and links to other sites that should be useful to chemistry students.

The other place to find OUCS on the Net is on FirstClass. We have several conferences, for information and chat. We can be found in the Science Building or in the Common Room. If you've not discovered FC yet, then check it out—it's free! Most students should already have received the software and their username and password.



Joining **OUCS**

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I wish to become a member of the Chemistry Society. I enclose an SAE and a cheque for £5/£10 for one/three years membership made payable to "The Open University Chemistry Society".

First Name .... Last Name..

Address ....

Town................................ County............................ Post Code................ Region ......

Telephone (01.......)............................ E-Mail...

Personal ID No .... Signature ....

I understand that these details may be stored on a computer for use by OUCS only.

Please complete the form and send it, with your cheque to:

Paul Everett, 14 Masefield Road, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 6QP