

Capillary Suction Time Instrument (CST)

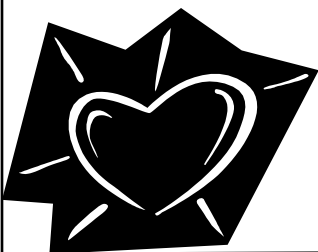
The Capillary Suction Time (CST) Instrument is an innovative concept first developed in Stevenage, England at the Water Pollution Research Laboratory. Initially, the CST instrument was used to study the filterability and effects of chemical pre-treatment on sewage. It provided a more attractive alternative to the cumbersome filtration tests that used vacuum pumps. Since its introduction, the wide range of uses has expanded from sewage to wastewater treatment and the petroleum industry.

The petroleum industry has utilized the CST in the characterization of shales and to maximize the concentration of electrolytes in drilling fluids. Optimizing these features can minimize the effect of water base drilling fluids on shale hydration.

The physics of this invaluable tool are rather simple. A fluid is placed in a cylinder. The opening in the bottom of the cylinder is in contact with a porous paper. Radially separated electrodes rest on the paper and the CST timer automatically measures the time for the filtrate to migrate between them. A tightly packed filter cake will be formed preventing water migration. However, if the clay is in contact with a stabilizing fluid, a tightly packed filter cake will not form and water will advance rapidly through the cylinder and onto the paper.

Venture Chemicals, Inc. is a key supplier of CST instruments and supplies. If you are interested in additional information, call us toll free at: 800-523-1933 fax: (337) 237-5340 or see our web page: <http://cst.vgweb.com>

Happy Valentine's Day!



Valentine's Day may have its origins in the Roman festival Lupercalia, observed on Feb. 15. Lupercalia celebrated the coming of Spring in the Roman calendar. Lupercalia was associated with the Roman gods Lupercus and Faunus. Lupercus watched over shepherds and their flocks and Lupercalia became a celebration intended to ensure the fertility of flocks, fields and people. The celebration of Lupercalia transformed and spread as the Roman Empire grew. During the celebrations of Lupercalia, Rome conquered France, and it is then that the first Valentine-like cards may have been exchanged. Apparently, a container in which women had placed their names (possibly accompanied by love notes) was used in a lottery. Men drawing a women's name would either seek or were guaranteed (this detail seems obscured by time) a woman's "favors" whatever those might be.

POTENTIAL USES FOR THE CST INSTRUMENT

Wastewater Treatment

- Mechanical dewatering of thickened slurries from sedimentation basins and filter backwash
- Conditioning of surface and subterranean water in potable water
- Clarification of filter backwash water and thickening of hydroxide slurries from sedimentation basins

Sewage Plants

- Dewatering of raw sludge, digested sludge and waste activated sludge on drying beds, rotary vacuum filters, vacuum belt filters, decanter centrifuges, etc.
- Thickening of biological sludge prior to addition of primary sludge and of sludge in Dissolved Air Flotation, "DAF" systems
- Improve separation efficiency in mechanical pre-clarification process

Petroleum Industry

- Borehole stabilization to determine the best electrolyte and polymer to use for maximum shale swelling inhibition
- Formation damage-evaluate colloidal shale properties to study the reduction of permeability of the formation around the wellbore
- Cuttings dispersion-to evaluate the effects of soluble salts and polymers on cuttings.

PRODUCT CORNER

VEN-GEL™ 413 is an organophilic colloid designed specifically to gel oil and oil muds. **VEN-GEL™ 413** works at relatively low concentrations which means you get an effective, efficient, quality product that saves you money. **VEN-GEL™ 413** is a primary viscosifier generally used at low to moderate temperatures that can be used to compound oil muds for drilling, completion, workover and spotting fluid applications.

- **VEN-GEL™ 413** will provide some flexibility in the rheological control of oil muds by providing gel strengths, yield points and suspension properties.
- **VEN-GEL™ 413** will permit storage of oil muds in tanks or as packer fluids without weight material settling and/or top oil separation.
- **VEN-GEL™ 413** can be used to prepare weighted oil mud pills suitable for spotting fluids for freeing stuck pipe or landing casing.
- **VEN-GEL™ 413** provides an easy method of imparting viscosity to various oils used in formulating oil mud systems.

VEN-GEL™ 413 is available from Venture Chemicals, Inc. and through local distributors in various areas. For additional information, please contact: **US 800-523-1933** or **(337) 232-1977** or **FAX (337) 237-5340**.

THOUGHT TICKLERS



...on the danger of stagnancy

"Periods of tranquility are seldom prolific of creative achievement. Mankind has to be stirred up."

- Alfred North Whitehead

"It is by acts and not by ideas that people live."

- Anatole France

"Think like a man of action and act like a man of thought."

- Henri Bergson

"Old minds are like old horses; you must exercise them if you wish to keep them in working order."

- John Adams

IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST PLEASE CONTACT OUR DISTRIBUTOR:

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VEN-BRIEFS

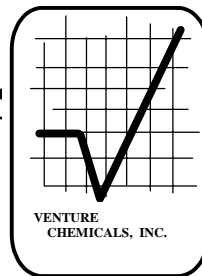
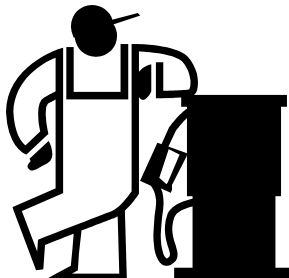
TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION

- If you were among the thousands of people who searched in vain for Playstation 2 this Christmas, you now have someone to blame— Saddam Hussein. The CIA has reported that the dictator is responsible for the purchase of thousands of the systems in Detroit alone. The processor in the new toys are more powerful than just about any PC on the market and could conceivably fly an unmanned Iraqi aircraft if 12-15 were bundled.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE ?

- More than ever before it will be absolutely necessary for us to not insulate ourselves from other fields. Specialists will be at a disadvantage rather than an advantage. Steven Pinker, professor of cognitive neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology says. The biologist E. O. Wilson suggested a useful word for a trend in the human sciences that will accelerate in the next two decades: consilience, the unification of knowledge. The natural sciences will blend into the social sciences and humanities via an understanding of human nature provided by bridging disciplines, such as cognitive neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, and behavioral genetics. This will stand in stark contrast to the two-cultures view in which biology and culture are sealed in parallel universes and it is politically dangerous for one to impinge on the other.

FUN FACTS



...ever get tired of hearing people complain about "exorbitant" gas prices? Next time, shut them up with these facts...

- In a gallon of gasoline, 43.5 cents per gallon is comprised of federal, state and local tax. 38 cents is mfg/mkt. Only 34.9 cents per gallon comes from crude oil.
- % of change in prices in past 15-17 years — physicians services—137% auto ins.—152.7 % college tuition—219.5 % gasoline? Only 7.2 %
- Average fuel efficiency in 1972 was 13.4 miles to the gallon. In 1997 the average was 21.5 miles per gallon.
- 7 times in the past 24 years the oil industry has introduced progressively cleaner fuels including: lead removal, oxygen addition in winter to reduce carbon monoxide emissions and addition of detergents to reduce exhaust emissions and enhance fuel economy.
- Per gallon comparisons of other products: Diet Snapple at \$1.29/16 oz.—\$10.32/gallon, Evian water is \$1.49/9 oz.—\$21.19, Nyquil is \$8.35/6 oz.—\$178.13 per gallon!

NEXT MONTH...

Be sure to check out **Product Corner** in March when we'll tell you all about...

**VEN-GEL™
420**

...a versatile suspension additive

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please send me information on _____

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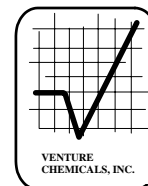
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FEBRUARY 2001



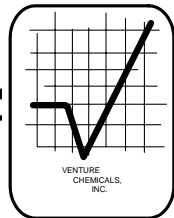
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