



# NEWS RELEASE

## Paperclip Physics

Why does a cat always fall on its feet? How does an aircraft fly? What happens during an eclipse? Could you explain these and other scientific principles easily to a non-scientist using only household items? That is the problem posed to students entering the national **Paperclip Physics Competition** at the University of Central Lancashire on 6 March.

Tin cans, bits of plywood, eggs - anything readily available around the average house can be used to demonstrate the principles or concepts of the tests posed by the Institute of Physics. The most important point is that the presentations must be understandable by people without a science background.

To ensure that the presentations are at the correct level for students of the 16-17 age group' David Roberts, Head of Physics at Stoneyhurst College is one of the judges, while Dr Ian Ferguson, a retired Physicist from BNFL will monitor scientific accuracy. RockFM DJ Martin Greenwood will be the lay person on hand who has to understand the presentations.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that the Institute of Physics has held the competition in Preston and if the success of previous years is anything to go by, finalists will go on to the National Final in London where they will compete with winners from all England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Dr Peter Bates, of the University's Department of Physics Astronomy and Mathematics said: "We try to get a broad range of schools from across the spectrum that represents the northwest. This year the schools entering are Arnold School, Blackpool, Kirbie Kendal School, from Kendal, Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, St Wilfred's CofE School Blackburn and for the first time this year Blackburn College and Hollins High School, Accrington are taking part."

The Paperclip Physics Competition will begin at 2pm in St Peter's Art Centre at the University of Central Lancashire on Wednesday 6 March, 2002.

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