

Weekly Newsletter

Vol 24, No 22, 15 June 2007



Physics & Astronomy

FROM THE DEPUTY HOD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PETER COTTRELL)

Well, it has been a while since I've had to write one of these, and after only 1.5 days into the job!

At the moment there is a quietness about the Department as we recover from the frenetic pace of Semester 1. However, behind the scenes there is still much activity occurring, at the academic level in terms of course changes at 400 level (thanks especially to David Wiltshire and Roger Reeves for this) and structurally some modifications on Level 4, where some laboratory space will be released back into the pool of University office accommodation.

By the time this Newsletter goes to press I will have had my first College of Science Executive Meeting and I'm sure there will be some things to report about that next week. One thing that will occur in the next couple of weeks will be the release of the revised College of Science Plan following the recent consultative period.

SEMINAR CHANGE: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 15 JUNE

Unfortunately due to a delayed air flight connection our guest speaker tomorrow Munya Andrews (*author of "The Seven Sisters of the Pleiades"*) will not make it into Christchurch in time to give the advertised 11:00am seminar.

**HOWEVER:- you can still hear Munya speak at the
Tuesday evening seminar of the Canterbury Astronomical Society
7:30pm Tuesday 19th June
Room 108 Law Building, University of Canterbury.**

INSTEAD : - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 15 JUNE PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY ROOM 701

**Pauline Harris
Rongomaiwahine
Physics and Astronomy Department
University of Canterbury**

Maori Astronomy (Tatai Arorangi) experts (Tohunga) have a strong tradition of watching the stars and being familiar with the rising and setting of constellations throughout the year. For Maori in the past the relationship to the heavenly bodies was extremely spiritual; they were seen as an integral part of why we were here and where we would return when we passed from this life to the next. The patterns of their movement signified periods of time during the year to embark on different practices. The Maori New Year which is on the 16th June, this Saturday is signified by the first new moon after the pre-dawn rising of Matariki (the Pleiades). It is a very significant time of year traditionally and in a modern context symbolising the continued revitalisation of traditional practices for Maori.

I will give you an insight into this world, how we related with the heavenly bodies in regards to tracking time, including the Matariki and how we are connected to them through whakapapa (lineage).

NEXT WEEK'S SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 22 JUNE

There will be no seminar next week.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sam Whitehead on his success in gaining the BNZ Postgraduate Scholarship for the University of Canterbury. There is only one given out each year. Well done Sam!

ALAN WALTON'S ADDRESS:

The people who are redirecting Alan's mail just felt that it was unphysical to send it to a Physics Department.

Dr A J Walton
Dept. Of Civics & Astronomy
University Of Canterbury
Pb 4800
Christchurch
New Zealand

FAREWELL TO RENE REICHEL

We would like to take this time to say our farewells to Rene and his wife as they travel back to Germany on Monday. We wish you both the best, and please keep in touch.

JUNE 2007 SCHOLARSHIPS – WEB SITE

View General Scholarships at:-

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/resources/currentnoticeboard.shtml>

College of Science Scholarship

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/noticeboard/june2007sci.shtml>

NEWS FROM THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

1. Additional opening hours for Mid-year exams, 11-29 June.
Engineering, Physical Sciences & Law will be open...
Monday – Thursday close at 11.00 pm
Friday 15 & 22 June close at 9.00 pm
2. Other Library News - including Instant Messaging Survey & Matariki Art Competition for Children of Staff and Students <http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/news/index.shtml>
3. Top tip for UC Library catalogue...
Use asterix i.e.* to truncate words e.g. New Zea*

Adam - <http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/people/cath.shtml>

FOX TROT

BILL AMEND

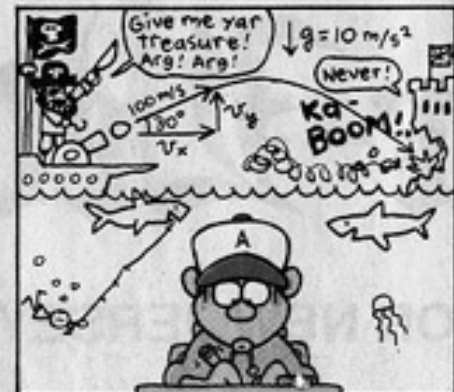
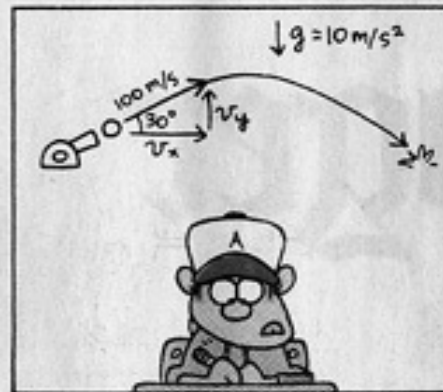
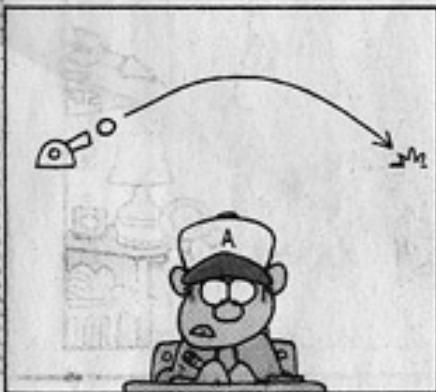
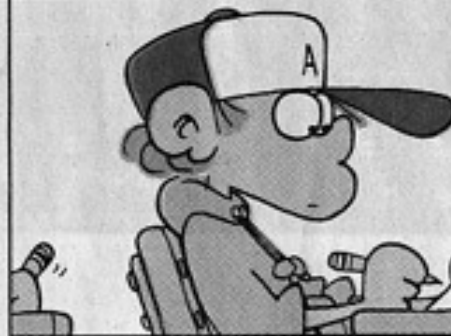
Name: Peter Fox



Date: Not as often as I'd like to, sadly.



1. A projectile is fired from a cannon at a 30-degree angle with the ground and an initial velocity of 100 m/sec. Assuming no air resistance and $g = 10 \text{ m/sec}^2$, calculate the time it will spend in the air.



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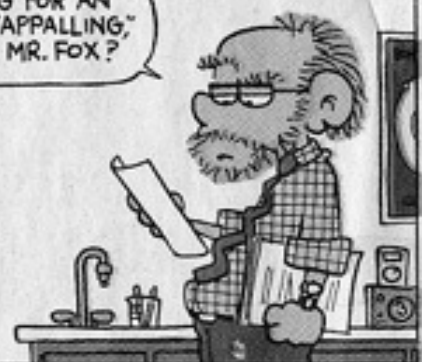
TIME'S UP, EVERYONE. PLEASE PASS YOUR TESTS FORWARD.



DOODLERS SHOULD NOT TAKE PHYSICS.



SHOOTING FOR AN "A" FOR "APPALLING," ARE WE, MR. FOX?



If you have anything you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, please email Ro on rosalie.reilly@canterbury.ac.nz: Newsletter, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, Phone: +64 3 364 2404, Fax: +64 3 364 2469.