

The Society of Physics Students & The Math Club Present

# Richard Feynman

## The Character of Physical Law: Lecture 2: The Relation between Mathematics and Physics.

Richard Feynman was both one of the greatest physicists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its greatest expositor. Feynman had a way of getting to the heart of a matter: physically and mathematically. During the investigation of the Challenger disaster in 1986, after being tipped off to the true nature of the problem, on national TV Feynman dipped an O-ring into ice water and then broke it to demonstrate the loss of elasticity that caused the Challenger to explode. This was an example of his "lecture style," a kind of freewheeling tour-de-force of physical and mathematical magic! In 1964, Cornell asked Feynman to give a series of popular lectures on The Character of Physical Law. As Feynman notes, he refuses to accept the challenge of speaking about physics without speaking about mathematics. Mathematics is the language Nature speaks in and, as Feynman says, it does no good to keep searching for non-Mathematical descriptions of Nature. In this lecture, Feynman talks about the (sometimes contentious) interplay between Mathematics and Physics using nothing beyond some geometry and a touch of calculus --- yet infusing everything with his own deep knowledge of the universe.

**Come Join Us!!!**

**WHERE: SI 117** in the SCIENCE BUILDING

**WHEN: 12:00 Noon** on Tuesday, **April 24<sup>th</sup>**

**FREE PIZZA, SODA, AND COOKIES!!!**