Question #266

Shown in the photograph below is a tiny cartesian diver in the shape of a little devil. The diver is now on the bottom of the water tube, but when the pressure is released it will squirt water out of its tail, become lighter, and rise to the top, as seen in an mpeg video by clicking your mouse on the photograph below. The tail curves clockwise around the little devil so when the water squirts out it creates a counterclockwise rotation of the devil as it rises.

When it is at the surface, you can compress the air in its body by increasing the pressure in the tube to force water into the tail, causing the little devil to sink. The question this week is: what will the little devil do as it sinks? In particular, will it rotate clockwise (the opposite from when it rises and squirts water out), counterclockwise (the same direction), or neither (sink straight down with no rotation).

As the little devil moves down, it:

- (a) will rotate clockwise.
- (b) will rotate counterclockwise.
- (c) will not rotate.

Click here for Answer #266 after December 11, 2006.

Question of the Week

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For questions and comments regarding the *Question of the Week* contact
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