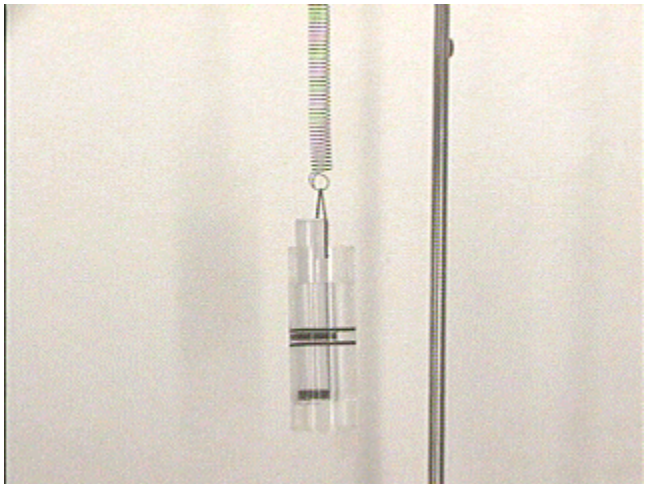
Question #70

In the question and answer last week we saw that a floating object does not change its equilibrium position when the water container in which it is floating executes simple harmonic motion along a vertical line. This system can be observed in an mpeg video by clicking your mouse on the photograph below.



Now suppose that, rather than simply allow the container to oscillate, while it is moving downward and when it is near its equilibrium position we place a hand under the container so that hen it hits the hand it stops *immediately* from its greatest **downward** velocity. The question this week is what the floater will do just after the container is stopped.

When the container is stopped the floater will:

- (a) move down with respect to the container.
- (b) move up with respect to the container.
- (c) remain at the same position in the water bath.

Click here for Answer #70 after June 25, 2001.

Question of the Week

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For questions and comments regarding the *Question of the Week* contact
Dr. Richard E. Berg by e-mail or using phone number or regular mail address
given on the Lecture-Demonstration Home Page.