

## Press Release

### **Why don't Spiders Stick to their Webs?**

And Other Everyday Mysteries of Science

**Robert Matthews**

**"A thrill-ride for curious minds"**

John Rennie, editor-in-chief of *Scientific American*

- Is it possible to hurt your brain if you think too much?
- Which properties give you the best chance of winning Monopoly?
- Why is it so difficult to get ketchup to come out of a full bottle?
- What would happen if you fell into a black hole?

These are just some of the baffling, intriguing and sometimes downright odd questions asked by members of the general public. And, as award-winning scientist Robert Matthews shows, the answers are no less fascinating. From the mysterious fate of odd socks, to the whereabouts of the Big Bang, this collection unravels the science that surrounds us. Entertaining, enlightening, and often inspired, this book is a must-read for all inquisitive minds.

*"Matthews has done a heroic job in revealing the science behind a broad and entertaining range of questions that real people ask, from whether it is better to walk in the rain than run (no, just about) to whether there is a universal definition of left and right(yes)." Roger Highfield, author of Can Reindeer Fly? The Science of Christmas and The Science of Harry Potter: How Magic Really Works*

**Author: Robert Matthews** is Visiting Reader in Science at Aston University in Birmingham. He has published pioneering research in fields ranging from code-breaking to the probability of coincidences, and won an Ig Nobel Prize for his studies of Murphy's Law, including the reasons why toast so often lands butter-side down. He is also an award-winning journalist who writes about science for publications including *Sunday Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Focus*, and *New Scientist*. His book *25 Big Ideas: The Science that's Changing our World* is also published by Oneworld.

**Why Don't Spiders Stick to their Webs? is published in paperback on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 by Oneworld Publications in association with The Sunday Telegraph priced £7.99/\$14.95. For a review copy or for further information please contact Lizzie Curtin at Oneworld on Tel: 01865 315915 or Email: [lcurtin@oneworld-publications.com](mailto:lcurtin@oneworld-publications.com)**

