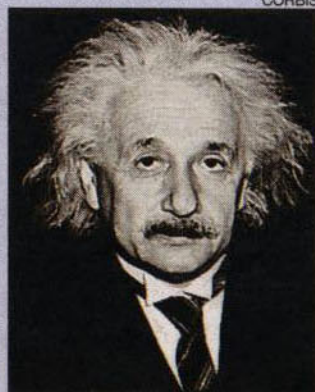
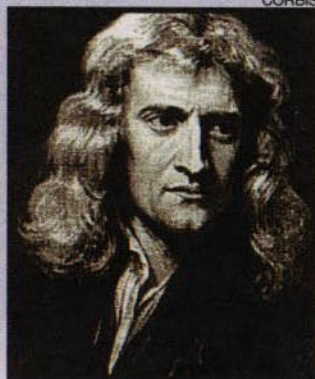




JOEL CHANT



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Hair apparent: Simon Coles (left), chemical diffractionist at the University of Southampton, joins distinguished company such as Einstein and Newton (above) in the Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club for Scientists. Coles says: 'I find my hair most useful as protection from radiation — especially cosmic rays'

Lushiest locks in the lab

They are science's true high-flyers (in a strong wind), ahead of the game, a cut above the rest.

Now these men and women are being recognised for the contribution their hairstyles make to the promotion of scientific brilliance with *The Times Higher's* science barnet of the year competition.

The competition will be part of the Ig Nobels UK tour that will bring the lighter side of laboratory life to ten locations across the British Isles from March 11.

There has long been association between the lab and locks — Sir Isaac Newton's heavy tresses were subject to a formidable gravitational pull, Charles Darwin naturally selected a flowing beard, while Albert Einstein's hair obeyed its own laws of space and time.

An expert panel will judge entrants on glossiness, condition, length, style, flow and luxuriance. The winner will get a makeover by a top London stylist.

Every worthy candidate will be put up for membership of the Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club for Scientists, inspired by Steven Pinker, the evolutionary psychologist.

Tour dates and competition details:
www.thes.co.uk

See ad, page 12