
Subject: On balance
Posted by [b_twin_1](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:21:18 GMT
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On balance
:)

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:27:27 GMT
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‡‡‡ Does Cthulhu keep horses?

Not for very long, certainly!

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [b_twin_1](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:28:33 GMT
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Of course what would make it even worse would be if the horses actually liked him. Because they say that animals are a good judge of character. (Most of the time.)

::sigh::

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:38:44 GMT
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First, Robin, if you manage to read this--just pick up with the forum where it's at now. Don't kill yourself trying to read everything. At least that's what I think. ;-}

Did anyone ever post these?

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:40:13 GMT
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Argh. Poor Computer Men. That really sucks. :(

For your sake (and ours ;), I hope things get sorted out soon.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:40:22 GMT
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What can I say? Dentist misery is bad. Expensive dentist misery is worse. Expensive painful dentist misery is a bad joke. And having to wait makes the joke doubly on you. But if you bond over horses, and this just slightly relieves the general misery, what can I say? In a sea of darkness a single candle glows bright! Take whatever consolation you can.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:44:19 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 19:38First,

Did anyone ever post these?

Ooh, I had those slippers. I gave them away, they were kind of uncomfortable... (not in an unearthly squeamish way, more in a "I keep tripping on things and my feet are too hot" way.)

I've got a rather sizable collection of stuffed Cthulhian goodness... not to mention the t-shirt collection. Sigh. My nerddom knows no bounds.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 00:03:12 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 02:44 Sigh. My nerddom knows no bounds.

There, there, you're already a member of the club. Who here will not admit to a smidgin, or even an avalanche of nerddom? But there is always the dreaded tick list:

1. Do you use a pocket protector and carry around a pocket calculator? (this is an outdated image, but still holds true in many instances)
2. Do you wear sandals with socks in public? (Yes, we know the Romans did - they've found a little pocketknife in County Durham whose handle is: a foot wearing a sock in a sandal - but just because the Romans did, doesn't mean you can get away with it, unless the socks are amazing)
3. Can you name all of Isaac Asimov's books?
4. Are your glasses thicker than 5mm?
5. Are you a graduate student in physics? (some cases cannot escape nerddom)

If you tick yes to two or more you are in trouble :)If not, there are definite boundaries to your nerddom.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Maren](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 00:10:24 GMT
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I think Robin will appreciate this, if it doesn't make her computer crash:

Made by this guy.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Melissa Mead](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 01:19:57 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 19:27: Does Cthulhu keep horses?

Not for very long, certainly!

There's a T-shirt out there with Clthulu (and other monsters) horseracing. (World Fantasy 2007.)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 01:56:50 GMT
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Maren wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 20:10I think Robin will appreciate this, if it doesn't make her computer crash:

Made by this guy.

Every 4 years at Gencon there's a big Cthulhu for Pres rally; The standard incumbent chant "Four More Years!" is replaced with the more fitting "NO MORE YEARS! NO MORE YEARS! IA! IA!" I didn't make it to this year's rally, but the one in 2004 was a blast...

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Blogmom](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 02:19:10 GMT
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Quote: our chat about simplifying my life and recovering my forum from the dustheap therefore has been put off. Sob. Meanwhile . . . I'm just about managing to read the blog-entry threads, between random crashes, but even copying and pasting raises the crash level to avalanche#8224;.

Five minutes. Download Firefox. Install. Browse and don't crash.

I'm just sayin'.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [holmes44](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 02:45:53 GMT
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i agree, change to fire fox. as soon as we got our computer set up we doanload fire fox and never looked back.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 04:09:13 GMT

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Black Bear wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 17:44ssshunt wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 19:38First,

Did anyone ever post these?

Ooh, I had those slippers. I gave them away, they were kind of uncomfortable... (not in an unearthly squeamish way, more in a "I keep tripping on things and my feet are too hot" way.)

I've got a rather sizable collection of stuffed Cthulhian goodness... not to mention the t-shirt collection. Sigh. My nerddom knows no bounds.

I don't suppose you know anyone names Dhes?

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [L.R.K.](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 08:43:39 GMT
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***I'm just about managing to read the blog-entry threads, between random crashes, but even copying and pasting raises the crash level to avalanche;. At the moment I'm assuming that I'll have the mother and father of all catch-ups when I'm finally fit to boogie again, but it had better happen soon.

Yes, we are quite active here. :)

My sympathies - again - re bonding with dentist. And when he uses his money for such laudable purposes as keeping horses! Well...I mean, I don't particularly want a lot of money - but it would be nice to have horses - and somewhere to keep them - and a donkey. I want a donkey and a little carriage that I could drive - even I should be able to drive a little donkey-carriage without becoming public enemy nr 1! :)

Anyway, do keep your visiting on the forum to a minimum for now - there is nothing so trying to the temper as a malfunctioning computer! And in the spirit of Pollyanna - you - and we! - will be so much more glad when everything is working and you can be on the forum as much as you like (or as you have time for, obviously - there being only so many hours in a day...) Meanwhile you can console yourself with what a resounding success your forum is - and how many forum-shy people have ventured on it!

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [AJLR](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 12:23:37 GMT
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Robin wrote: Quote:and recovering my forum from the dustheap
Eh, it's great over here on the dustheap. ::scuffles happily:: I never knew I had so much in common with a dust bunny... :)

And, in case anyone else would like to do a bit of virtual scuffling (in leaves this time)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7681729.stm>
OK, the UK doesn't have the specific tree varieties/climate for a New England-type autumn display but it certainly is proving spectacular this year in terms of our own elements.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 13:16:07 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 20:03
4. Are your glasses thicker than 5mm?

Aeeee, well, thank apostrophes for fancy new lens condenser thingies.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 13:32:56 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 00:09

I don't suppose you know anyone names Dhes?

I know a fella named Des, but that's as close as I got. He lives in Nottingham. :) Why, who's Dhes?

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [AJLR](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 13:53:01 GMT

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jmeadows wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 14:16 Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 20:03

4. Are your glasses thicker than 5mm?

Aeeee, well, thank apostrophes for fancy new lens condenser thingies.

I concur wholeheartedly! :)

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Lucy Coats](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 14:11:57 GMT
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Quote:You too will have noticed that mail order plants tend to arrive on days or in weeks when you can't possibly deal with them due to brain surgery, pirates, etc. Rain. Dentists

Brain surgery and pirates, eh? What a perfectly excellent concatenation (love that word--use whenever possible) of events. But as you say, Robin, bound to happen on plant arrival day. Mine, good looking bulbs all this year, elected to appear just as the plumber was giving me the good news that the water jacket on the boiler had burst (£8000 later...is another story), and my sweetiepops husband picked that morning also to have a badly slipped disc on the sciatic nerve possibly requiring surgery. Next day (planting day) was dentist day too. And it rained And the dentist told me I had to have a 2 part root canal... Is this beginning to sound a little too parallel? Almost wish for the pirates.... ;)

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [tylik](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 14:50:43 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 20:03. Do you use a pocket protector and carry around a pocket calculator? (this is an outdated image, but still holds true in many instances)

Piffle. I have the entire internet in my pocket. (Or at least in the lumbar pack that I try to pass off as a "purse".) With my four colored engineering pen, my leatherman, my collapsible chopsticks and titanium spoon, headlamp, iodine tablets... oh, I'd better stop.

Quote:2. Do you wear sandals with socks in public? (Yes, we know the Romans did - they've

found a little pocketknife in County Durham whose handle is: a foot wearing a sock in a sandal - but just because the Romans did, doesn't mean you can get away with it, unless the socks are amazing)

And I'm from Seattle. If you're from Seattle, it's allowed. Seriously. Look it up. In Seattle Birkenstocks with socks even count as business casual as long as the Birks are in good shape and the socks match and don't have holes.

Quote:3. Can you name all of Isaac Asimov's books?

4. Are your glasses thicker than 5mm?

No, and no. Well, unless... no. Because I said so. (Okay, I did buy these glasses because they look so hot with my lab coat.)

Quote:5. Are you a graduate student in physics? (some cases cannot escape nerddom)

In Physics? Just Physics?! I'm insulted. I get nerdier things than physics grad students free in my breakfast cereal. (Okay, that my roommate and I take turns mixing up batches of our oat bran, rice bran, flax seed, nuts and cinnamon cereal. Which we eat while we put in our morning hour working through the most rigorous calculus book ever - for fun - before getting in a half hour of sparring... actually, I think that proves my point.) I have physics grad students sending me desperate emails asking for help on their linux installs. (<=Truth! Yes, I returned to open source as soon as I bailed on Microsoft. Live free or die.)

Quote:If you tick yes to two or more you are in trouble :)If not, there are definite boundaries to your nerddom.

You are neglecting whole fontiers of nerddom. A minor illustration... *Realizes I probably shouldn't admit to any of the following....*

So, um, back something more than a decade ago, when I was still at Microsoft, ("Strike One!") every Friday night a bunch of us would reserve a conference room to play D&D ("Strike two!"). So the majority of the group were game developers, though I was high volume backend server chick. One day, someone brought in a copy of the nerdity test. (A previous version compared to that posted on the official web page, but same general idea.) So in that exclusive company, again, composed primarily of male programmers in the game division who had nothing better to do on a Friday night than play D&D at work, we all took the test and... well, I had the highest score by about ten points. ("You're OUT!")

It wasn't really fair, though - I'm the daughter of a CS professor, and have been on the net since '78. (I was very young then, and 300bd was faster than I could read or type.) Heck, a lot of these folks didn't even know what modem stood for. Or that it stood for anything. And my father started

buying me college math text books when I was seven or eight because... well, I liked them. (I try to rebel, and got a liberal arts degree in my undergrad, but eventually I was sucked back in.)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 15:58:23 GMT

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Black Bear wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 07:32ssshunt wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 00:09

I don't suppose you know anyone names Dhes?

I know a fella named Des, but that's as close as I got. He lives in Nottingham. :) Why, who's Dhes?

Dhes is someone I know on another forum who is a HUGE Lovecraft fan. Just wondering. ;-}

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 16:36:57 GMT

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ssshunt wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 11:58

Dhes is someone I know on another forum who is a HUGE Lovecraft fan. Just wondering. ;-}

:) I fear I'm less an actual fan of HP Lovecraft per se, and more a fan of the mythos around his writings--particularly the Call of Cthulhu role-playing game. I have trouble taking HPL himself too seriously, all those adjectives... Thus my somewhat vast collection of t-shirts and toys spoofing his creations.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 16:40:04 GMT

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NOW the truth comes out...

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 20:50:07 GMT
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tylik wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 17:50

And I'm from Seattle. If you're from Seattle, it's allowed. Seriously. Look it up. In Seattle Birkenstocks with socks even count as business casual as long as the Birks are in good shape and the socks match and don't have holes.

Dear Tylik, I'm not sure whether you're arguing you are a nerd or you aren't. Anyway, look at the general proviso: LIMITS to your nerdism and only some. I personally have long since accepted I am a nerd: I went to Caltech: i.e. I am a nerd - there is no escaping it. I just like to think that I am a very well adjusted former nerd with open horizons. I have interests beyond simple nerdism. But most of my friends (scratch that) all of my friends are nerds in some fashion or another (I believe in variety being the spice of life). Not in keeping your nerdism under wraps, just not in having take over your entire life. :) My nerdiness takes on all kinds of forms including mentally correcting all truly bad translations I see. Tonight I was appalled to see, in an exhibition on nanotechnology (which I was only peripherally at, being as it was held at the same venue as the classical music concert I was going to), somebody had mucked up the translation so badly they referred to R. Feynman as a "physician" instead of a "Physicist". I freaked.

Jodi and AJLR I saw you trying to duck. You didn't make it girls!

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 21:19:24 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 16:50

Jodi and AJLR I saw you trying to duck. You didn't make it girls!

Aw, it's tough naturally having crummy eyes. *fetches contacts* What about now?

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 21:45:06 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Wed, 22 October 2008 00:19 Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 16:50

Jodi and AJLR I saw you trying to duck. You didn't make it girls!

Aw, it's tough naturally having crummy eyes. *fetches contacts* What about now?

The question is how you do on the rest of the questionnaire. Trying to get out of the glasses clause leads to suspicion on the remaining terms.

(Confession time: I have glasses too, but my eyes are only slightly ruined. I've had them since 6th grade, because we were always early to bed and I've always been an insomniac, so I damaged my eyes by reading books in bed using the light coming through the opaque glass of the bathroom door. I am still surprised by the fact that my parents never cottoned on to the fact that they didn't forget the bathroom light on: I always switched it on and read by its light. Eye strain resulted, but I only need glasses for long distance and function most happily without them most of the time)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 22:04:37 GMT

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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 17:45

The question is how you do on the rest of the questionnaire. Trying to get out of the glasses clause leads to suspicion on the remaining terms.

Quote:1. Do you use a pocket protector and carry around a pocket calculator? (this is an outdated image, but still holds true in many instances)

I do not, though I have a cell phone I carry in my back pocket that happens to have a calculator!

Quote:2. Do you wear sandals with socks in public?

I don't even wear sandals in public. Not without a lot of pressure from my pushy sister who thinks sandals are God's gift to feet.

Quote:3. Can you name all of Isaac Asimov's books?

This will actually disqualify me from the SFF fandom, but, no. I can't name even one of them. :|

Quote:4. Are your glasses thicker than 5mm?

Thank technology, no, but they would be. I've had glasses since I was four years old.

Quote:5. Are you a graduate student in physics? (some cases cannot escape nerddom)

They don't let me near physics. All my science comes from nerdier friends.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Tue, 21 Oct 2008 22:47:23 GMT

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So I guess Jodi, by my, admittedly scewed definition, you escape the stigma of unbounded nerddom? ;) What about yarn-nerd?

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 00:35:41 GMT

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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 18:47So I guess Jodi, by my, admittedly scewed definition, you escape the stigma of unbounded nerddom? ;) What about yarn-nerd?

Totally guilty. ;)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [b_twin_1](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 09:57:42 GMT

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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 18:47So I guess Jodi, by my, admittedly scewed definition, you escape the stigma of unbounded nerddom? ;) What about yarn-nerd?

Ahem. It needs some more oomph. "Yarn Nerd" is more accurate. LOL

But that's okay. After all, I'm a supplier of Yarn-nerds everywhere.... ;)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Krystolla](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 12:06:26 GMT

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I remember my computer science professor saying that I should expect an extra \$10,000 per year

if I wasn't allowed to wear birkenstocks to work. Of course, that was before the tech crash . .

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 13:42:52 GMT

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b_twin_1 wrote on Wed, 22 October 2008 12:57 Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 21 October 2008 18:47 So I guess Jodi, by my, admittedly scewed definition, you escape the stigma of unbounded nerddom? ;) What about yarn-nerd?

Ahem. It needs some more oomph. "Yarn Nerd" is more accurate. LOL

But that's okay. After all, I'm a supplier of Yarn-nerds everywhere.... ;)

And I am an apprentice yarn nerd. The number of my planned projects and patterns is increasing exponentially faster than any knitting I am actually accomplishing. :) But I am happy while I'm at it. So Jodi is a mood-enhancing yarn nerd with viral capabilities ;)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [tylik](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 17:33:44 GMT

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Well I did start trying to argue - though largely in jest, or at least favoring an updated image - but clearly any such attempt was doomed to failure.

Perhaps I have let my nerdiness take over my life. I "retired" from Microsoft, and went into computational biochemistry, which somehow turned into doing a doctorate in neurobiology. I am an obsessed researcher - but then, I'm in an environment where that is appreciated. (And when I come up with some completely cock-eyed scheme to do something that's never been done before, people *like* it. It floors me. I suspect I'm never going to escape academia...) When I'm not doing official research, or unofficial research, or studying something for one of my hobbies - and the lines there can be blurry, most of my official research used to be a hobby at one time - I'm studying or teaching martial arts, or cooking, reading, writing, or sleeping. That's pretty much it. I do research and study and spar with my roommate. I gossip with my taiji students and yoga classmates. (Okay, I've been doing yoga too recently.) Oh, and I go to the farmers' market a lot. There's *food* there.

100% nerd? Balanced wholesome life? I don't even know what the terms mean anymore. I kind of thought that after 1994 and the September that never ended nerddom so much came into its own

that it became kind of a meaningless term.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 01:06:54 GMT

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tylik wrote on Wed, 22 October 2008 20:33 which somehow turned into doing a doctorate in neurobiology.

Congratulations! Enjoy the process and get out as soon as possible with a PhD and a good letter of recommendation.

tylik wrote on Wed, 22 October 2008 20:33 I'm studying or teaching martial arts, or cooking, reading, writing, or sleeping. That's pretty much it. I do research and study and spar with my roommate. I gossip with my taiji students and yoga classmates. (Okay, I've been doing yoga too recently.) Oh, and I go to the farmers' market a lot. There's *food* there.

That sounds pretty balanced for me. If you actually have time to talk to people and have a hobby outside of lab, it's a more rounded experience than my grad student life was. And Taichi is great. I did Yang style for ten years and am always intending to go back. The most grounding, centering thing I ever did :)

Quote:that it became kind of a meaningless term.

But can be used with affection? I mean you know non-nerds don't you? A few of them? Think what they are missing out on!

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 07:08:11 GMT

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ssshunt wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 18:38

Did anyone ever post these?

These seem too cute to be Cthulhu--maybe the Disney version?

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Reading Angel](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 15:13:02 GMT
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Disney's Cthulhu! Haha! I can't wait to see the Disney version...

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Maureen E](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 20:12:27 GMT
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What about English nerd-dom? If I can recited authors and titles of books I've never read? (And on occasion opening lines--Moby Dick, for example.)

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 20:34:01 GMT
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Yeah--but Moby Dick is easy! Can you do Pride and Prejudice?

I once found this card that had the drawing of a workman taking out his lunch from his lunch box, and the caption was, "Oh no, not whale on rye again!" And when you opened it up it said, "Call me, Ishmael."

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Maureen E](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 22:33:28 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Thu, 23 October 2008 16:34Yeah--but Moby Dick is easy! Can you do Pride and Prejudice?

I once found this card that had the drawing of a workman taking out his lunch from his lunch box, and the caption was, "Oh no, not whale on rye again!" And when you opened it up it said, "Call me, Ishmael."

Well, yes. But then I've actually read Pride and Prejudice, and that's one of the most quoted first lines ever. I haven't read Moby Dick.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 00:23:12 GMT
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Excellent!

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 21:57:28 GMT
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Maureen E wrote on Thu, 23 October 2008 23:12: What about English nerd-dom? If I can recite authors and titles of books I've never read? (And on occasion opening lines--Moby Dick, for example.)

I used to be able to quote whole segments. And know all the books and authors and publishers, even some of the publication dates. I was needlessly, yea, even embarrassingly, arrogant about this and disdainful of my mother, who did not possess this ability.

As time has gone by, and the number of books has increased exponentially and my memory has declined or been taken over by other information, this ability has lapsed. Some books never enter the memory system. As "memory almost full" some have been deleted. Some are still in there but the computer no longer has access to those files. You too will see.... ***cue ominous music*** I am proud however, of knowing at least one poem off by heart in each of the languages I know - except for German. Even Ancient Greek (little though I know). So that is something. I recite them to myself while waiting for buses, or walking aimlessly around, particularly on the beach. It is most comforting. I am not like Field Marshall Wavell, whose book "Other Men's Flowers" is an anthology of poems he knew by heart. I wish I were. That is a whole lot of comfort.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [tylik](#) on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 23:30:40 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Wed, 22 October 2008 21:06: Congratulations! Enjoy the process and get out as soon as possible with a PhD and a good letter of recommendation.

I am enjoying it, for the most part. But so many things to do! I'm seriously looking at getting a clinical degree as well... And even just on the basic research side I have a bunch of work that I didn't have a chance to finish at my old lab, and my former PI has made noises about having me post-doc there... but that would be back on the biochem side, and there's so much to do in neuromechanics, too!

Quote:That sounds pretty balanced for me. If you actually have time to talk to people and have a hobby outside of lab, it's a more rounded experience than my grad student life was. And Taichi is great. I did Yang style for ten years and am always intending to go back. The most grounding, centering thing I ever did :)

The martial arts kind of come first. I had a somewhat dreadful spine injury, that I wasn't supposed to really recover from, so I quit my job and did martial arts full time, and got much better (I still have periodic problems, but compared to "accept that you will never live an active life again" I kind of figure I win.) If I don't stay physically active, my spine will try to fall off. This is why I'm working on a PhD and not an MD/PhD right now, though if it stabilizes enough I might change that. (Though I'm leaning towards a DO at the moment.)

The Taiji... well, it might not have literally saved my life, but it had a lot to do with saving the parts that I like. Chen is somewhat removed from Yang in flavor - lots of slow flowing movements, but in much lower stances, and with a lot of fa jin ("power release") moves as well. I do some Yang, but Chen is my primary art.

What did you do grad school in?

Quote:But can be used with affection? I mean you know non-nerds don't you? A few of them? Think what they are missing out on!

I'm not sure I really understand the difference. I mean, are the farmers and the farmer's market non-nerds? Or is it on a case by case basis? (Okay, the organic farmer who recognized the heme on my t-shirt is probably a nerd anyway you cut it.) Maybe the eco-freaks are more nerdy than the traditional farmers? I'm kind of vaguely aware that there are a lot of people who do jobs that they don't care about, eat mostly prepared food and watch a lot of television, but this has so little to do with my life I really don't know what to make of it.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 00:07:21 GMT

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tylik wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 02:30

What did you do grad school in?

Molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics. I took a batch of Neurobiology courses but ended up in plant developmental genetics. I have no moral problems with ethical animal experimentation but found I couldn't do it myself. And the flower genes were so interesting too...

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 23:50:00 GMT

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Gak. You know SMART things. I'm so impressed. That sounded sarcastic. It wasn't meant to be. I have a friend with 3 PhDs--English/Creative Writing, Philosophy, and Biology. And he's thinking about going back for another but I don't know what it is--the man is brilliant, though. As I imagine you are.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 00:04:38 GMT

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Not in the least. Intelligent and organised, with a talent for exams. I quit grad school. Being a good student does not mean you will be a good scientist. Or even want science as a research career. It was NOT FOR ME! (Huge respect for those who do go that route). Much happier and more balanced now. Of course, choice of grad school also plays a role :)

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 00:14:28 GMT

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Oh yes, grad school--OMG. I came out of my undergrad work this star pupil and went into grad school thinking it would be just a little bit harder. It was more like jumping from 5th to 12th grade. Yikes.

I didn't finish either, but it was due to my health. I only have a bit left to do, so I may finish someday and have myself an MFA--who knows. But right now the world seems more exciting, somehow. You know? I was studying English, creative writing, gender studies, and classical Greek (not that I remember much). I do get ticked off when people translate "telos" as "beauty" though because that's like saying "logos" means one written word. Sorry. A small rant.

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [librarykat](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 03:49:48 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 19:14Oh yes, grad school--OMG. I came out of my undergrad work this star pupil and went into grad school thinking it would be just a little bit harder. It was more like jumping from 5th to 12th grade. Yikes.

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Going to grad school twenty years later is a whole 'nother experience. Not mine, but my husband's. He got his J.D. and practiced law for about 20 years, was doing very well as a deputy prosecuting attorney in Honolulu, then ... he got the Call. We gave up everything so he could attend Seminary. Try learning two ancient languages when you're in your 40s. Hebrew and Koine Greek. He survived, earned his MDiv, and has been a pastor for 5 years. He is still learning more about Hebrew and Greek as he prepares each week's sermon, and he continues to study on his own, occasionally asking one of his former professors at the Seminary if he's on the right track. So, grad school years later is possible, and success at it is possible. To me, though, the key is your passion for the subject; without it, you might not have the drive to succeed, whatever the subject may be, whether it's in the sciences or in fine arts or in literature, or in theology.

I am deeply impressed with everyone who actively posts here. Well, it just goes to show, that Robin's books appeal to highly intelligent people. Makes me wonder how I managed to get here.
^_^

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [ssshunt](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:07:03 GMT
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And I bet your husband knows what logos REALLY means. ;-}

Subject: Re: On balance
Posted by [Susan from Athens](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 11:47:08 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 03:14 I do get ticked off when people translate "telos" as "beauty" though because that's like saying "logos" means one written word. Sorry. A small rant.

Shelley, why would anyone translate "telos" (the end) as "beauty"? Do you mean "kalos"?
scratches head

librarykat: Koine is the easiest form to learn, because it was a language form constructed on logical grammatical terms for foreigners. It was the efforts of the philologists and grammarians of Alexandria to set out a clear set of rules so that the vast tracts of land that were ruled by Alexander's successors had a language that was clear for all to use. In classic (as you see when you try to read the epigrams on plinths etc) they wrote with no majuscule-minuscule separation and no separation of words.

SOONECONTINUOUSWORDANDYOUHADTOKNOWWHERE TO BREAK IT ALL UP.

It took some work to read that fluently :) And that was when they chose to write it left to right, because they often didn't (see ancient urns, where things are often written right to left, or in a circle) aaargh. Of course we read all ancient texts in the Alexandrine manner, as this is how they were preserved, due to medieaval diligence, or archaeological luck.

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 12:38:51 GMT

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Susan from Athens wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 07:47 In classic (as you see when you try to read the epigrams on plinths etc) they wrote with no majuscule-minuscule separation and no separation of words.

SOONECONTINUOUSWORDANDYOUHADTOKNOWWHERE TO BREAK IT ALL UP.

Figuring this type of puzzle out was one of the best/hardest things about doing medieval paleography, back when I was doing that kind of thing. While you do get occasional majuscule letters to show breaks, the minims all run together--so a word like "minimum" looks like "iiiiiiiiiiiiiii." :) Some eras are better than others, mind you. But my Latin is poor enough that it was a struggle to figure out what a word or ending MIGHT be, much less what it acutally was...

Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Julia](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 13:21:15 GMT

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Subject: Re: On balance

Posted by [Julia](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 13:22:41 GMT

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Black Bear wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 08:38

Figuring this type of puzzle out was one of the best/hardest things about doing medieval paleography, back when I was doing that kind of thing. While you do get occasional majuscule letters to show breaks, the minims all run together--so a word like "minimum" looks like "iiiiiiiiiiiiiii." :) Some eras are better than others, mind you. But my Latin is poor enough that it was a struggle to figure out what a word or ending MIGHT be, much less what it acutally was...

Oooh! You did paleography?! How cool! I remember my high school Latin teacher talking about paleography-- I was so fascinated by that- probably part of the reason that I keep wanting to pick up classes in Greek and Latin and Old English and so on. I've forgotten so much Latin, I'd probably have to start from the beginning, and the only Greek, ancient or modern, that I know is from one college visit to Mount Holyoke when I sat in on a class and loved it but had no clue what was going on... but I keep saying that if I can find time in my schedule, I'll have to pick up at least one more language. I wonder if that would be something that a linguistics course would cover..... Hmm. Time to start planning for next semester! :)
