

Re: Course Pre Reading

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.physics.relativity/2006-06/msg00596.html>

- *From:* "Ken S. Tucker" <dynamics@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 8 Jun 2006 11:52:59 -0700
-

Bill Hobba wrote:

"PD" <TheDraperFamily@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1149713578.047250.248500@xx

Ken S. Tucker wrote:

Phineas T PuddleDuck wrote:

In article
<1149703396.935315.182190@xx>,
"Ken S. Tucker"
<dynamics@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

shuba wrote:

Bill wrote:

The
study
bug
has
bit
and
I
have
decided
to
actually
enroll
in
a
degree
in
physics.

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Because
my
math
degree
is
25
years
old
now
they
won't
give
me
exceptions
for
the
math.
Not
really
a
problem;
don't
mind
a
bit
of
revision.
Does
anyone
have
and
ideas
on
some
good
prereading
other
than
the
obvious
Feynman
lectures,
Landau
etc
that
I
already
have?
I

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really
would
like
to
hear
from
guys
like
PD,
Bilge
etc
that
actually
teaches/has
taught
this
stuff,
but
any
comments
most
welcome.

It's so great
when
people
decide to
pursue
educational
experiences
for pure
intellectual
enjoyment.
You are a
delightful
person, Bill,
and I fully
expect you
will have a
wonderful
time.

GAG, who want's an old
fossil plugging up
the education system? A
university is NOT
an OLD FOLK's HOME.
If he can't muster the
resources to learn the

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material – for himself – at
his age, he never will.
Ken

I hope that's sarcasm.

Nope

I'm a mature student in his late 30's 3/4 of
the way through a physics
masters. Education should never be
restricted, or the sole property of
one age
group. Agism really pisses me off.

You're far from retirement and your skill improvements
will benefit society, OTOH Hobba suggested he wishes
to take up university space as a hobby, he should by
now become a member of the faculty, even as honorary.

Ken you have missed the point. Students learn for all sorts of reasons –
but by far the best IMHO is for the pure fun of it and that has nothing to
do with age.

I suggested you take a crack at teaching rather
than being taught, you might learn better subjected
to that stress and you can always *sit-in* classes.
You're the one who defined yourself as a pure
student, which I questioned. If your less-than-confident
you might be a Teaching Assistant in Lagranges for
example...& =>

Ken

I'll remind you that a young person can muster the same resources that
an older person can to teach himself, if that were an effective way of
doing things. In fact, they routinely do when they go to a university,
paying a premium for the latest edition of a book that hasn't changed
substantially for two decades, and for access to services that they may
never use. Mustering those resources is precisely why they live on
macaroni and cheese for a number of years. The reason they DON'T muster
the resources to teach themselves is that it is not an efficient way to
learn material. The only reason to try to learn something completely on

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your own is that you've got plenty of time to kill and you don't particularly care about the quality of the outcome. If you want to learn to play billiards really well, you don't teach yourself, you compete with someone who is better than you.

I'll also remind you that a university student PAYS for the service of being taught the material in an effective manner. If someone wants to pay for that in support of a hobby, there is no reason in the world they should not do it.

I'll also remind you that those tuition fees support, in part, the research program at that university, so that going to school DOES benefit society.

Very well said. I want to add that I consider the tuition I pay a bargain as well as the texts I purchase. It is pure luck on my part that here in Australia the government loans you the money and you pay it back later when your income allows. Because I will be formally retired by then my income will be low so it is unlikely I will pay it back before I die.

=>...and you can teach Acturial statistics for life insurance companies.

Ken

But even if that was not the case I would still spend the money and cut back in other ways eg other retirees travel the world which has never really interested me much. Learning can never be done effectively on the cheap. The so called 'University of the Third Age' is a growing phenomena worldwide.

Thanks
Bill

PD