

306 words, column #27
Java Talk
(for October 25, 2007 to October 31, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

Facing the Midterms

Around this time, university students (as well as high school, middle school, and elementary ones, in their own ways) are going to be facing their midterms. They will be swamped with papers and work and stress and all-nighters, and learning so much from those who have gone before them, and adding this new knowledge to the mix of what they know and are experiencing, and synthesizing all of it, and living in what is called the ivory tower. They are too busy to know what it is going to feel like and be like, when it is time to go out into the rest of the world, with their diplomas and degrees and awards. They will all make a difference, of course, but how so remains to be seen. We are all life-long-learners and doers.

Is there anyone who doesn't want to be amazing in some way? I think it is impossible to not be. Perhaps it is daunting to see what some can do, whether young or old. What about the Nobel Awards? "Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been honoring men and women from all corners of the globe for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and for work in peace." The youngest winner, William Bragg, was 25 years old when he shared the position with his dad as the Physics Laureate, way back in 1915. The oldest Nobel Laureate, to date, is Leonid Hurwicz, 90, who shares this year's place as Economics Laureate.

Meanwhile, Doris Lessing, 88, won this year's Nobel Prize in Literature. She is a novelist whose writings extend "from the realistic to the fabulous" and she is the oldest person to receive the award for Literature. It takes a while to understand that we are all progressing, even when it seems otherwise. For lots of inspiration, check out <http://nobelprize.org/>.

Deidre Hill