

BALANCING

By Sarah Chamberlain

Balancing, or in another balanced. What does this mean? It means different things to different people or sometimes, the same people doing different things.

Sometimes physical things and abstract things have a balanced name.

A gymnast runs across a plank that is set on its side, at different heights above the floor.

The athlete stops at some point and flips backwards across the board, launches into the air in an aerial flip of some sort, landing on his/her feet in perfect balance, sometimes earning a perfect score of ten for his/her performance on the balance beam.

Do I run across this board? Absolutely not, sometimes I have trouble keeping my balance walking across the big floor which is perfectly level and balanced.

I don't drink, and definitely not when I drive (which is why I don't drink because I don't know when I will be driving.) I have this stupid little rule I set for myself 40+ years ago, if I drink, I don't drive for 24 hours. Does this make me confident about being asked by a police officer to walk a straight line with my fingers pointed at my nose? Absolute not, same problem as above with a hugely decreased surface area to cross. I lose my balance and always have.

That's why I call myself a klutz. It takes extreme physical prowess and balance (not) to trip up the stairs.

Other applications include Lady Justice. Her scales are out of lopsided and uneven and she does not notice because Justice is blind and her scales are unbalanced.

Most of us drive ourselves crazy, (some to drink, see above) because we never have a large enough bank balance. Money in and money out are never in balance (even).

If there is an accident or natural occurrence when someone is injured or trapped, First Responders, Police, Firefighters, and paramedics are charged with extricating and/or treating people because life hangs in the balance.

Perhaps at this point, I should leave the balance of this article for others to write and/or discuss but if you ever go to one of our national parks, enjoy the beautiful view, especially that of the large rock sitting atop another large rock that is atop an even larger, cone shaped rock in perfect equilibrium.

This is the famous Balanced Rock.