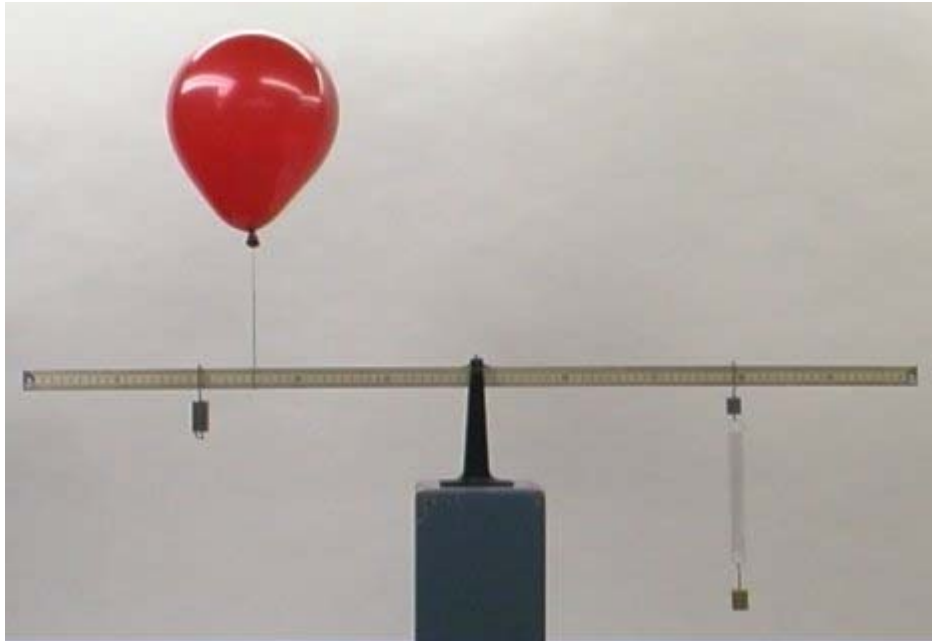


## Question #240

The meter stick shown below is held by a low-friction support on the black stand. A single weight and a balloon are attached to the left side of the meter stick and a weight with a spring, to which a second weight is attached, hang from the right side of the meter stick.

The meter stick is in equilibrium because the torques exerted on each side are equal and opposite.



When the string breaks:

- (a) the right side of the meter stick will go down.
- (b) the left side of the meter stick will go down.
- (c) the meter stick will remain balanced.

Click here for [Answer #240](#) after February 6, 2006.

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For questions and comments regarding the *Question of the Week* contact [Dr. Richard E. Berg](#) by e-mail or using phone number or regular mail address given on the [Lecture-Demonstration Home Page](#).