

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. So why not now? As I tell people, I'm in the fourth quarter and the clock is running. I'm going through boxes I've saved (some would say hoarded) and computer files I've kept, and came across these. I hate to throw them away, yet I hate to leave them for someone else to indiscriminately pitch.

I've been collecting this stuff for years. I've used it in my classroom, shared it with my executive board, worked it into speeches. Some of it has

inspired me,

motivated me,

amused me,

made me laugh,

made me cringe,

made me think.

While I've put together a couple books with quotes, many of these escaped print. I thought of doing another book, but that's more work than I want, plus I already have boxes of past publications to deal with. So I thought why not do it electronically. That way you can access it on your computer, tablet, phone, watch, or easily trash them.

But before you hit trash, think if there is someone else in your world who might be able to use some of these: a teacher, a preacher, a speaker, a friend (just like me!). Especially someone younger. A lot of these need to be preserved and passed down.

And for many of you who receive this, like me, you have a lot of time on your hands to read, reflect, remember. So enjoy. I've tried to keep most of the files to fifty messages so it doesn't slow down your mind or your computer.

And please don't yell at me for sending these. My feelings get hurt really easy!

Law of the Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!'

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.'

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally.

Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so ...

Love the people who treat you right.

Forget the ones who don't.

Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a blessed, garbage-free day!

Laws of Existence

Mechanical Repair Law:

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

Workshop Law:

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Telephone Law:

When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

Alibi Law:

If you fib to the boss that you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Traffic Law:

If you change traffic lanes, the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

Bath Law:

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Close Encounters Law:

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Broken Machine Law:

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Biomechanics:

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Theatre Law:

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Coffee Law:

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Locker Law:

If there are only two people in a locker room they will have adjacent lockers.

Dirty Rugs & Carpet Law:

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Logical Argument Law:

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Brown's Law:

If the shoe fits it's ugly.

Oliver's Law:

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Lessons for a Good Life

Make up your mind to be happy. Learn how to find pleasure in simple things.

Make the best of your circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow intermingled with gladness of life. The trick is to make the laughter outweigh the tears.

Don't take yourself too seriously. Don't think that somehow you should be protected from misfortune that befalls other people.

You can't please everybody. Don't let criticism worry you.

Don't let your neighbor set your standards. Be yourself.

Do the things you enjoy doing, but stay out of debt.

Never borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than real ones.

Since hate poisons the soul, do not cherish jealousy. Avoid people who make you unhappy.

Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about new places.

Don't hold postmortems. Don't spend your time brooding over sorrows or mistakes. Don't be one who never gets over things!!

Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.

Keep busy at something. A busy person never has time to be unhappy.

LESSONS ON IRONY

These three statements tell you a lot about how America's values and culture have changed.

1. We are advised to NOT judge ALL Muslims by the actions of a few lunatics, but we are encouraged to judge ALL gun owners by the actions of a few lunatics. Funny how that works.

2. We constantly hear about how Social Security is going to run out of money. How come we never hear about welfare running out of money? What's interesting is the first group "worked for" their money, but the second didn't.

3. The Food Stamp Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is proud to be distributing the greatest amount of free Meals and Food Stamps ever --- 20 % of the people, living in the USA in 2013.

Meanwhile, the National Park Service, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks us "Please Do Not Feed the Animals." The stated reason for this policy is because "The animals will grow dependent on handouts and will not learn to take care of themselves."

Thus Ends Today's Lesson On Irony

LIFE IS ABOUT YOU

Life is about you. If it weren't about you, you wouldn't be here.

You are not an accident.

You are here for a reason.

You have a destiny.

You have a purpose.

You have gifts and talents.

You do things that only you can do in the way you do them.

You and only you can leave your mark on the world.

Life is about more than you. It's about knowing you were made for relationships:

To love

To mentor

To learn

To serve

To create

To work together

To change for the better

It's about living for more than you.

For a bigger purpose.

For a greater cause.

For those who will become your legacy.

It's about you knowing you are part of something much bigger than you.

You live in a universe.

Uni-verse means "one song."

Songs don't happen by accident.

Songs are created by organizing notes into arrangements and patterns.

And so there is a Creator of one song.

You are an expression of the Creator.

You are a note in the greatest of symphonies.

It's about you!

It's about you contributing to the one song.

It's about you playing your part to the best of your ability.

It's about lifting others up.

It's about you living the purpose God created you for.

It's about you, the Creator, and the song becoming one.

Life is about you, and *what you do* is up to you.

**-JON GORDON
THE SEED**

LIFE IS FUNNY

The closest I ever got to a 4.0 in school was my blood-alcohol content.

Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.

I don't do drugs anymore. I can get the same effect just standing up fast.

I have my own little world. But that's okay. They know me here.

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

I don't approve of political jokes. Too many of them get elected.

If life sends you lemons, make lemonade. If life sends you tomatoes, make Bloody Marys. But if life sends you a truckload of hand grenades, now THAT'S a message!

Shopping tip: You can get shoes for only \$1.00 at the bowling alley.

I am a nobody. Nobody is perfect. Therefore, I am perfect.

I married my wife for her looks. But not the one's she's been giving me lately.

Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

If carrots are so good for your eyes, how come I see so many dead rabbits on the highway?

Why do we choose just two people to run for President, and fifty to run for Miss America?

Isn't having a smoking section in a restaurant like having a peeing section in a swimming pool?

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.

Life is short.

Break the rules.

Forgive quickly.

Kiss slowly.

Love truly.

Laugh uncontrollably.

Never regret anything that made you smile.

**Life may not be the party we hoped for,
but while we're here we should dance.**

LIFE JUST ISN'T . . .

Life isn't about keeping score.
It's not about how many friends you have
Or how accepted you are.
Not about if you have plans this weekend or if you're alone.

It isn't about who you have kissed,
It isn't about who your family is or
how much money they have
Or what kind of car you drive.

Or where you are sent to school.
It's not about how beautiful or ugly you are.
Or what clothes you wear, what shoes you have on,
Or what kind of music you listen to.

It's not about if your hair is blonde, red, black, or brown,
Or if your skin is too light or too dark.
Not about what grades you get, how smart you are, how smart
everybody thinks you are, or how smart
standardized tests say you are.

LIFE JUST ISN'T.

Life is about who you love and who you hurt.
It's about who you make happy or unhappy purposely.
It's about keeping or betraying trust.
It's about friendship, used as a sanctity or as a weapon.

It's about what you say and mean, maybe hurtful, maybe heartening.
It's about starting rumors and contributing to petty gossip.
It's about what judgments you pass on and why.
And who your judgments are spread to.

It's about who you've ignored with full control and intention.
It's about jealousy, fear, ignorance, and revenge.
It's about carrying inner hate and love,
letting it grow and spreading it.

But most of all, it's about using your life to touch or poison
other people's hearts in such a way that could have
never occurred alone.
Only you choose the way those hearts are affected, and those
choices are what life's about.

Let this remind your friends and family
of what life is really about.

LIFE'S A PIECE OF CAKE

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake"

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

A little steam engine had a long train of cars to pull.

She went along very well till she came to a steep hill. But then, no matter how hard she tried, she could not move the long train of cars.

She pulled and she pulled. She puffed and she puffed. She backed and started off again. Choo! Choo!

But no! the cars would not go up the hill.

At last she left the train and started up the track alone. Do you think she had stopped working? No, indeed! She was going for help.

"Surely I can find someone to help me," she thought.

Over the hill and up the track went the little steam engine. Choo, choo! Choo, choo! Choo, choo! Choo!

Pretty soon she saw a big steam engine standing on a side track. He looked very big and strong. Running alongside, she looked up and said:

"Will you help me over the hill with my train of cars? It is so long and heavy I can't get it over."

The big steam engine looked down at the little steam engine. Then he said:

"Don't you see that I am through my day's work? I have been rubbed and scoured ready for my next run. No, I cannot help you,"

The little steam engine was sorry, but she went on, Choo, choo! Choo, choo! Choo, choo! Choo, choo!

Soon she came to a second big steam engine standing on a side track. He was puffing and puffing, as if he were tired.

"That big steam engine may help me," thought the little steam engine. She ran alongside and asked:

"Will you help me bring my train of cars over the hill? It is so long and so heavy that I can't get it over."

The second big steam engine answered:

"I have just come in from a long, long run. Don't you see how tired I am? Can't you get some other engine to help you this time?"

"I'll try," said the little steam engine, and off she went. Choo, choo! Choo, choo! Choo, choo!

After a while she came to a little steam engine just like herself. She ran alongside and said:

"Will you help me over the hill with my train of cars? It is so long and so heavy that I can't get it over."

"Yes, indeed!" said this little steam engine. "I'll be glad to help you, if I can."

So the little steam engines started back to where the train of cars had been standing. Both little steam engines went to the head of the train, one behind the other.

Puff, puff! Chug, choo! Off they started!

Slowly the cars began to move. Slowly they climbed the steep hill. As they climbed, each little steam engine began to sing:

"I-think-I-can! I-think-I-can! I-think-I-can! I-think-I-can! I-think-I-can! I-think-I-can! I think I can - I think I can - I think I can I think I can--"

And they did! Very soon they were over the hill and going down the other side.

Now they were on the plain again; and the little steam engine could pull her train herself. So she thanked the little engine who had come to help her, and said good-by.

And she went merrily on her way, singing:

"I-thought-I-could! I-thought-I-could! I-thought-I-could! I-thought-I-could! I thought I could - I thought I could - I thought I could - I thought I could - I thought I could - I thought I could --"

THE END

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

In a certain railroad yard there stood an extremely heavy train that had to be drawn up an unusually heavy grade before it could reach its destination. The superintendent of the yard was not sure what it was best for him to do, so he went up to a large, strong engine and asked: "Can you pull that train over the hill?"

"It is a very heavy train," responded the engine.

He then went to another great engine and asked: "Can you pull that train over the hill?"

"It is a very heavy grade," it replied.

The superintendent was much puzzled, but he turned to still another engine that was spick and span new, and he asked it: "Can you pull that train over the hill?"

"I think I can," responded the engine.

So the order was circulated, and the engine was started back so that it might be coupled with the train, and as it went along the rails it kept repeating to itself: "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can."

The coupling was made and the engine began its journey, and all along the level, as it rolled toward the ascent, it kept repeating to itself: "I ---think ---I can. I ---think ---I--- can. I ---think--- I ---can."

Then it reached the grade, but its voice could still be heard: "I think I can. I---- think----I---- can. I ----think---- I---- can." Higher and higher it climbed, and its voice grew fainter and its words came slower: "I -----think -----I-----can."

It was almost to the top.

"I -----think"

It was at the top.

"I -----can."

It passed over the top of the hill and began crawling down the opposite slope.

"I -----think----- I----- can-----I----- thought-----I-----could I----- thought----- I----- could. I thought I could. I thought I could. I thought I could."

And singing its triumph, it rushed on down toward the valley.

LEROY AND THE BIKE

Little Leroy came into the kitchen where his mother was making dinner. His birthday was coming up and he thought this was a good time to tell his mother what he wanted.

"Mom, I want a bike for my birthday." Little Leroy was a bit of a troublemaker. He had gotten into trouble at school and at home. Leroy's mother asked him if he thought he deserved to get a bike for his birthday. Little Leroy, of course, thought he did.

Leroy's mother, being a Christian woman, wanted him to reflect on his behavior over the last year, and write a letter to God and tell him why he deserved a bike for his birthday.

Little Leroy stomped up the steps to his room and sat down to write God a letter.

LETTER 1:

Dear God:

I have been a very good boy this year and I would like a bike for my birthday. I want a red one.
Your friend, Leroy.

Leroy knew this wasn't true. He had not been a very good boy this year, so he tore up the letter and started over.

LETTER 2:

Dear God:

This is your friend Leroy. I have been a pretty good boy this year, and I would like a red bike for my birthday.
Thank you, Leroy.

Leroy knew this wasn't true either. He tore up the letter and started again.

LETTER 3:

Dear God:

I know I haven't been a good boy this year. I am very sorry. I will be a good boy if you just send me a red bike for my birthday.
Thank you, Leroy.

Leroy knew, even if it was true, this letter was not going to get him a bike. By now, Leroy was very upset. He went downstairs and told his mother he wanted to go to church. Leroy's mother thought her plan had worked because Leroy looked very sad.

"Just be home in time for dinner," his mother said.

Leroy walked down the street to the church and up to the altar. He looked around to see if anyone was there. He picked up a statue of the Virgin Mary, slipped it under his shirt and ran out of the church, down the street, into his house, and up to his room. He shut the door to his room and sat, down with a piece of paper and a pen, and wrote his letter to God.

LETTER 4:

I GOT YOUR MAMA. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, SEND THE BIKE.
Signed, YOU KNOW WHO.

Live a Life That Matters

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, no hours, no days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from, or on what side of the tracks you lived, at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter?

How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstances but of choice.

Choose a life that matters.

Michael Josephson

Lost Words From Our Childhood

Words gone as fast as the buggy whip! Sad really! The other day a not so elderly (65) lady said something to her son about driving a jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said what the heck is a jalopy? OMG (new phrase!) he never heard of the word jalopy!

So they went to the computer and pulled up a picture from the movie "The Grapes of Wrath." Now that was a jalopy!

She knew she was old but not that old. I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

WORDS AND PHRASES REMIND US OF THE WAY WE WORD

by Richard Lederer

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included "Don't touch that dial," "Carbon copy," "You sound like a broken record" and "Hung out to dry." A bevy of readers have asked me to shine light on more faded words and expressions, and I am happy to oblige.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker and straighten up and fly right.

Hubba-Hubba! We'd cut a rug in some juke joint and then go necking and petting and smooching and spooning and billing and cooing and pitching woo in hot rods and jalopies in some passion pit or lovers lane.

Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley, and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back. Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

Like Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle and Kurt Vonnegut's Billy Pilgrim, we have become unstuck in time. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, I'll be a monkey's uncle! or This is a fine kettle of fish! we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, poof, poof go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone, evanesced from the landscape and wordscape of our perception, like Mickey Mouse wrist-watches, hula hoops, skate keys, candy cigarettes, little wax bottles of colored sugar water and an organ grinders monkey.

Where have all those phrases gone? Long time passing. Where have all those phrases gone? Long time ago.

Pshaw. The milkman did it. Think about the starving Armenians.

Bigger than a bread box. Banned in Boston. The very idea! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Turn-of-the-century.

Iron curtain. Domino theory. Fail safe. Civil defense. Fiddlesticks!

You look like the wreck of the Hesperus. Cooties. Going like sixty.

I'll see you in the funny papers.

Even as one enters, words are swept downstream into the past, forever.

Don't take any wooden nickels. Heavens to Murgatroyd! And awa-a-ay we go!
Oh, my stars and garters! The Katz Pajamas.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter had liver pills.

This can be disturbing stuff, this winking out of the words of our youth, these words that lodge in our heart's deep core. But just as one never steps into the same river twice, one cannot step into the same language twice, making a different river.

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeful times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It's one of the greatest advantages of aging. We can have archaic and eat it, too?

See ya later, alligator!

LOTUS TOTUS

ONE: Give people more than they expect, and do it cheerfully.

TWO: Marry a woman/man you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.

THREE: Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.

FOUR: When you say "I love you," mean it.

FIVE: When you say "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.

SIX: Be engaged at least six months before you get married.

SEVEN: Believe in love at first sight.

EIGHT: Never laugh at anyone's dreams. People who don't have dreams, don't have much.

NINE: Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt, but it's the only way to live life completely.

TEN: In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.

ELEVEN: Don't judge people by their relatives.

TWELVE: Talk slowly, but think quickly.

THIRTEEN: When someone asks you a question that you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"

FOURTEEN: Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

FIFTEEN: Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.

SIXTEEN: When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

SEVENTEEN: Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.

EIGHTEEN: Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.

NINETEEN: When you realize you made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

TWENTY: Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

TWENTY-ONE: Spend some time alone.

THE KIND MAN

One afternoon a wealthy man was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate the situation.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We HAVE TO eat grass."

Shocked, the man said, "Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you!"

"But sir. I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree."

"Bring them along," he replied. Turning to the other poor man he said, "You come with us, too."

The second man said, "But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!"

"Bring them all!" the man answered. So they all jammed into the huge limo.

Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to their benefactor and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

Genuinely touched, the man replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really love my place; the grass is almost a foot high!"

THE LAW IS THE LAW

So if the U.S. government determines that it is against the law for the words “under God” to be on our money, then so be it. And if that same government decides that the “Ten Commandments” are not to be used in or on a government installation, then so be it. And since they already have prohibited any prayer in the schools, on which they deem their authority, then so be it.

I say “so be it” because I would like to be a law-abiding U.S. citizen. I say “so be it” because I would like to think that smarter peopler than I are in positions to make good decisions. I would like to think that those people have the American public’s best interests at heart.

BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE I’D LIKE?

Since we can’t pray to God, can’t trust in God, and cannot post His commandments in government buildings, then I don’t believe the government and its employees should participate in the Easter and Christmas celebrations which honor the God that our government is eliminating from many facets of American life.

I’d like my mail delivered on Christmas, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

After all, it’s just another day.

I’d like the U.S. Supreme Court to be in session on Christmas, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, and Easter as well as Sundays.

After all, it’s just another day.

I’d like the Senate and the House of Representatives to not have to worry about getting home for the Christmas break.

After all, it’s just another day.

I’m thinking that a lot of my taxpayer dollars could be saved if all government offices and services would work on Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. It shouldn’t cost any overtime since those would be just like any other day of the week to a government that is trying to be “politically correct.”

In fact, I think that our government should work on Sundays (initially set aside for worshipping God. . .) because, after all, our government says that it should just be another day.

What do you think?

THE LIST

The most destructive habit?	Worry
The greatest joy?	Giving
The greatest loss?	Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work?	Helping others
The ugliest personality trait?	Selfishness
The most endangered species?	Dedicated leaders
The greatest natural resource?	Our youth
The greatest "shot in the arm"?	Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome?	Fear
The most effective sleeping pill?	Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease?	Excuses
The most powerful force in life?	Love
The most dangerous pariah?	A gossip
The world's most incredible computer?	The brain
The worst thing to be without?	Hope
The deadliest weapon?	The tongue
The two most "power-filled" words?	I can
The greatest asset?	Faith
The most worthless emotion?	Self-pity
The most beautiful attire?	SMILE!
The most prized possession?	Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication?	Prayer
The most contagious spirit?	Enthusiasm

THE LITTLE RED HEN

Once upon a time, a cat and a dog and a mouse and a little red hen all lived together in a cozy little house. The cat liked to sleep all day on the soft couch. The dog liked to nap all day on the sunny back porch. And the mouse liked to snooze all day in the warm chair by the fireside. So the little red hen had to do all the housework.

She cooked the meals and washed the dishes and made the beds. She swept the floor and washed the windows and mended the clothes. She raked the leaves and mowed the grass and hoed the garden. One day, when she was hoeing the garden, she found some grains of wheat. "Who will plant this wheat?" cried the little red hen.

"Not I," said the cat. "Not I," said the dog. "Not I," said the mouse. "Then I will," said the little red hen. **And she did.** Each morning the little red hen watered the wheat and pulled the weeds. Soon the wheat pushed through the ground and began to grow tall. When the wheat was ripe, the little red hen asked, "Who will cut this wheat?"

"Not I," said the cat. "Not I," said the dog. "Not I," said the mouse. "Then I will," said the little red hen. **And she did.** When the wheat was all cut, the little red hen asked, "Now, who will take this wheat to the mill to be ground into flour?"

"Not I," said the cat. "Not I," said the dog. "Not I," said the mouse. "Then I will," said the little red hen. **And she did.** The little red hen returned from the mill carrying a small bag of fine white flour. "Who will make a cake from this fine white flour?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the cat. "Not I," said the dog. "Not I," said the mouse. "Then I will," said the little red hen. **And she did.** She gathered sticks and made a fire in the stove. Then she took milk and sugar and eggs and butter and mixed them in a big bowl with the fine white flour. When the oven was hot, she poured the cake batter into a shining pan and put it in the oven. Soon the delicious smell filled the cozy little house. The cat got off the soft couch and strolled into the kitchen. The dog got up from the sunny back porch and came into the kitchen. The mouse jumped up from his warm chair and scampered into the kitchen. The little red hen was just taking a beautiful cake out of the oven.

"Who will eat this cake?" asked the little red hen? "I will," cried the cat. "I will," cried the dog. "I will," cried the mouse. But the little red hen said,

"All by myself I planted the wheat, I tended the wheat, I cut the wheat, I took the wheat to the mill to be ground into flour. All by myself I gathered the sticks, I built the fire, I mixed the cake. **And all by myself I am going to eat it!**" **And she did, to the very last crumb!**

THINK ABOUT IT!

by Paul Galdone

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IN 1955

Thanks to a spend thrift Government, printing money, out of control, the crash is coming. Why I remember when...

Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging 7 cents just to mail a letter?

If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.

When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 25 cents a gallon? Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.

I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying damn in *GONE WITH THE WIND*, it seems every new movie has either hell or damn in it.

I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas .

Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.

I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They're even making electric typewriters now.

It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet.

It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.

I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.

Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to government.

The fast food restaurant is convenient for a quick meal, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.

There is no sense going on short trips anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay in a hotel.

No one can afford to be sick anymore. At \$15.00 a day in the hospital, it's too rich for my blood.

If they think I'll pay 30 cents for a haircut, forget it.

A New Day

This is the beginning of a new day. I have been given this day to use as I will.

I can waste it, or use it. It can make it a day long to be remembered for its joy, its beauty and its achievements, or it can be filled with pettiness. What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever, but I shall hold something which I have traded for it.

It may be no more than a memory, but if it is a worthy one I shall not regret the price.

I want it to be gain not loss, good not evil, success not failure.

The Man In the Glass

By Unknown

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please - never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

Mean Moms

Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them, as my Mean Mom told me: I loved you enough . . . to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

But most of all, I loved you enough . . . to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it.

Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too. And someday when your children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates parents, you will tell them.

Was your Mom mean? I know mine was. We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast.

When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches.

And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had, too

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, empty the trash and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds and had eyes in the back of her head. Then, life was really tough!

Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16.

Because of our mother, we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. Now that we have left home, we are all educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was.

I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean moms!

MEANINGS

Standing for what you believe in,
regardless of the odds against you,
and the pressure that tears at your resistance,
... means courage.

Keeping a smile on your face,
when inside you feel like dying,
for the sake of supporting others,
... means strength.

Stopping at nothing,
and doing what's in your heart,
because you know it is right,
... means determination.

Doing more than is expected,
to make another's life a little more bearable,
without uttering a single complaint,
... means compassion.

Helping a friend in need,
no matter the time or effort,
to the best of your ability,
... means loyalty.

Giving more than you have,
and expecting nothing,
but nothing in return,
... means selflessness.

Holding your head high,
and being the best you know you can be
when life seems to fall apart at your feet;
facing each difficulty with the confidence
that time will bring you better tomorrows,
and never giving up,
... means confidence.

MEN ARE HAPPIER

Men are just happier people. What do you expect from such simple creatures?

Your last name stays put.

The garage is all yours.

Wedding plans take care of themselves.

Chocolate is just another snack.

You can be President.

You can never be pregnant.

You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.

You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth.

The world is your urinal.

You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.

You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.

Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental-\$100.

People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected.

New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.

One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.

You can open all your own jars.

You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.

If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.

Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

You almost never have strap problems in public.

You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color.

The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.

You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can play with toys all your life.

Your belly usually hides your big hips.

One wallet and one pair of shoes one color for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.

You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife.

You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache.

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.

MENTAL HEALTH EXERCISE

This is a quiz for people who know everything! These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S."

Answers on back, but no peeking!

Answers To Quiz:

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends? **Boxing**

2. The North American landmark constantly moving backward is **Niagara Falls** (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.

3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons? **Asparagus and rhubarb.**

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside? **Strawberry.**

5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. **(The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.)**

6. Three English words beginning with dw? **Dwarf, dwell, and dwindle.**

7. What are the fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar? **Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.**

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh? **Lettuce.**

9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with "S" ? **Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In light of your failure in recent years to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.) Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, which she does not fancy).

Your new Prime Minister, David Cameron, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').

2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like' and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u" and the elimination of '-ize.'

3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.

5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.

8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.

9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialect in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).

12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.

13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).

15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!

PS: Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour (NOT humor)!

MONDAY MORNING INFORMATION

Coca-Cola was originally green.

Every day, more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury.

Smartest dogs: 1. Border Collie; 2. Poodle; 3. Golden Retriever

Dumbest dog: Afghan

The Hawaiian alphabet has twelve letters.

Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.

Chances that an American lives within fifty miles of where they grew up? 1 in 2

Amount American Airlines saved in 1987 by taking one olive out of each salad served in First Class? \$40,000

City with the most Rolls Royces per capita? Hong Kong

State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work? Alaska

Chances of a white Christmas in New York? 1 on 4

Portion of U.S. rainfall that falls in April? 1/12

Percentage of Africa that is wilderness? 28%

Percentage of North America that is wilderness? 38%

Estimated percent of American adults who go on a diet each year? 44%

Barbie's measurements if she were life-sized? 39-23-33

Average number of days a West German goes without washing his underwear? 7

Percentage of American who say that God has spoken to them? 36%

Percentage of Americans who regularly attend religious services? 43%

City with highest per capita viewership of TV evangelists? Washington, D.C.

Percentage of American men who say they would marry the same woman if they had to do it all over again? 80%

Percentage of American women who say they would marry the same man if they had to do it all over again? 50%

MORE MONDAY MORNING INFORMATION

Number of different family relationships for which Hallmark makes cards? 105

Average number of people airborne over the US at any given hour? 61,000

Percentage of Americans who have visited Disneyland or Disney World? 70%

Average lifespan of a major league baseball? Seven pitches

Portion of ice cream sold that is vanilla? 1/3

Portion of potatoes sold that are French fried? 1/3

Percentage of Americans who eat at McDonalds each day? 7%

Number of US states that claim test scores in their elementary schools are above national average? 50%

Portions of Harvard students who graduate with honors? 4/5

Chances that a burglary in the US will be solved? 1 in 7

Portion of land in the US owned by the government? 1/3

Only President to remain a bachelor? James Buchanan

Only First Lady to carry a loaded revolver? Eleanor Roosevelt

Only President to win a Pulitzer? John F. Kennedy for "Profiles in Courage."

Only President awarded a patent? Abraham Lincoln, for a system of buoying vessels over shoals.

Only food that does not spoil? Honey

Only person to win the \$64,000 Challenge and the \$64,000 Question? Dr. Joyce Brothers (subject was boxing)

Only bird that can fly backwards? Hummingbird

Only continent without reptiles or snakes? Antarctica

Only animal besides humans that can get sunburned? Pigs

Ostriches stick their heads in the sand to look for water.

MORE IMPORTANT THOUGHTS

When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?

What would a chair look like if your knees bent the other way?

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

What do birdies see when they get knocked unconscious?

Is there another word for synonym?

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

If quitters never win and winners never quit, what fool came up with "Quit while you're ahead"?

If a tin whistle is made out of tin, what exactly is a fog horn made out of?

If a man is standing in the middle of the forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him, is he still wrong?

How much deeper would the oceans be without sponges?

If FED EX and UPS were to merge, would they call it FED UP?

SOME BUMPER STICKERS:

Your kid may be an honor student, but you're still an idiot.

Forget about world peace. Visualize using your turn signal.

Lottery: a tax on people who are bad at math.

Horn broken. Watch for finger.

We have enough youth. How about a Fountain of Smart?

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

It **IS** as bad as you think and they **ARE** out to get you.

Cover me. I'm changing lanes.

Help me be careful of the toes I step on today, as they may be connected to the butt I may have to kiss tomorrow.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I cannot accept, and the wisdom to hide the bodies of those people I had to kill today because they pissed me off.

A MORNING PRAYER

Dear Lord:

So far today, I am doing all right.

I have not gossiped,

lost my temper,

been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent.

I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate.

I have charged nothing to my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I think that I will really need Your help then.

AMEN

***May your troubles be less,
Your blessing be more
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.***

If anyone speaks badly of you, live so that none will believe it.

**Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have,
and where you are.**

Most people can't read this and stay in a bad mood!

- 1. How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit? Unique Up On It.**
- 2. How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit? Tame Way. Unique Up On It.**
- 3. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest ? They Take The Psycho Path**
- 4. How Do You Get Holy Water? You Boil The Hell Out Of It.**
- 5. What Do Fish Say When They Hit a Concrete Wall? Dam!**
- 6. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting On The Ice Too Long? Polaroid's**
- 7. What Do You Call a Boomerang That Doesn't Work? A Stick**
- 8. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours? Nacho Cheese**
- 9. What Do You Call Santa's Helpers? Subordinate Clauses**
- 10. What Do You Call Four Bullfighters In Quicksand? Quattro Sinko**
- 11. What Do You Get From a Pampered Cow? Spoiled Milk.**
- 12. What Do You Get When You Cross a Snowman With a Vampire? Frostbite**
- 13. What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches? A Nervous Wreck**
- 15. Where Do You Find a Dog With No Legs? Right Where You Left Him.**
- 16. Why Do Gorillas Have Big Nostrils? Because They Have Big Fingers.**
- 17. Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive? Because It Scares The Dog.**
- 18. What Kind Of Coffee Was Served On The Titanic? Sanka**
- 19. What Is The Difference Between a Harley And a Hoover? The Location Of The Dirt Bag**
- 20. Why Did Pilgrims' Pants Always Fall Down? Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.**

**21. What's The Difference Between a Bad Golfer And a Bad Skydiver?
A Bad Golfer Goes, Whack, Dang! A Bad Skydiver Goes Dang!
Whack.**

**22. How Are a Texas Tornado And a Tennessee Divorce The Same?
Somebody's Gonna Lose A Trailer**

Now, admit it. At least one of these made you smile.

MURPHY'S LAWS

First Law of Electronic Devices

It works better if you plug it in.

First Law of Gambling Sociodynamics

A Smith & Wesson beats four aces.

First Law of Hierarchical Visibility

The less important you are to your company, the more likely your boss will notice you leaving early.

First Law of Mechanical Engineering

For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.

First Law of Revision

New information requiring a change of design will be conveyed only after the plans are complete.

Corollaries:

It is often wiser to choose the obviously wrong way to accomplish a project in order to expedite the subsequent revision.

First Law of Supply Logistics

Supplies needed for yesterday's project will be ordered no later than the end of next week.

First Law of Thought

If you don't think too good, don't think too much.

Corollaries:

And don't vote.

First Law of Time Warp Mechanics

Time speeds up when you are trying to get to work.

Fixed Law of Capabilities

Those who can, do . . .

Those who can't, teach . . .

Those who can't teach, administrate.

Foster's Law

The only people who find what they are looking for in life are the fault finders.

Fourth Law for Naive Engineers

Any test installation that functions perfectly will be the design specification for production units, which will fail completely.

Friday's Law

No design can be completed after 4:45 PM on a Friday.

Futility's Law of Research

No experiment is a complete failure. Your professor can always use it, with full accreditation, as a negative example.

Gavin's Law of Bidirectional Software Imbecility

- If you're a developer then the users look like idiots.
- If you're a user then the developers look like idiots.

Ginsberg's Law

1. You can't win.
2. You can't break even.
3. You can't even quit the game.

Corollaries:

Every philosophy that attempts to make life understandable is based on the negation of Ginsberg's Law. For example:

1. Capitalism is based on the assumption you can win.
2. Socialism is based on the assumption that you can break even.
3. Religion is based on the assumption that you can quit the game.

Glatum's Law

The perceived usefulness of an item is inversely proportional to its actual usefulness once it is paid off.

Glib's 1st Law of Reliability

Computers are more reliable than humans, which isn't saying much.

Glib's 2nd Law of Reliability

Any system that relies on humans is unreliable.

Glib's 3rd Law of Reliability

Undetectable errors are infinite in variety, as opposed to detectable errors which are by definition limited in scope.

Glib's 4th Law of Reliability

Investments in additional reliability will escalate to exceed all cost and time estimates, or until someone insists on getting useful work done.

Gordon's First Law of Research

If a research project is not worth doing, it is not worth doing well.

Corollaries:

If a research problem is not worth doing, the government gets involved.

Gray's Law of Trivial Dynamic Compression

'n+1' trivial tasks are expected to take no longer than 'n' trivial tasks. However, 'n+1' trivial tasks take twice as long as 'n' trivial tasks.

MURPHY'S LAWS #2

Gresham's Law

Trivial matters are handled promptly. Important matters are never addressed.

Gummidge's Law of Expert Communications

The amount of expertise varies inversely with the understandability of the statements made by the expert.

Gumperson's Law

The probability of something happening is inversely proportional to its desirability.

Hartley's Law of Psychotic Sex

Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself.

Harvard's Law of Research

Under the most controlled conditions or pressure, temperature, volume, humidity, and other variables, the observed organism will do whatever it damn well pleases.

Heller's Law of Management Mythology

The first myth of management is that it exists.

Corollaries:

Nobody really ever knows what is going on in their organization.

Hersh's Law of Research

Any scientific research project will grow to consume every available minute from start to publication deadline.

Hoare's Law of Large Problems

Inside of every large problem is a small problem that would simply resolve the big problem, but which will not be discovered because everyone is working on the large problem.

Idiots Law

Make it idiot proof and someone, somewhere, will make a better idiot.

Iles's Law

There is always an easier way to do it. However, when looking directly at the easier way, you will not see it.

Immutable Laws of Procrastination

1. Procrastinating shortens the amount of time you spend on a job, and ultimately transfers the burden to someone else.
2. Procrastinating reduces anxiety by reducing the expected quality of the finished product.
3. Procrastination helps avoid boredom as there is always something important left to do.

Inverse Law of Authority

At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.

Issawi's Law of Reactive Politics and Evil

The total amount of evil in the universe is a constant, and any attempt to reduce it will have a negating counter-reaction. Attempts to reduce poverty and unemployment will result in increased crime and air pollution.

Issawi's laws of Progress

1. Most things get steadily worse.
2. A shortcut is the longest distance between two points.
3. Direct action produces direct reaction.

Jacquin's Law of Congressional Liberty

No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while Congress is in session.

Jenkinson's Immutable Law

It won't work.

Johnson's Law of Competitive Entertainment

If over the course of several months only three events worth attending come to pass, they will be scheduled for the same evening.

Johnson's Third Law

If you miss one issue of a magazine, it will contain the article that would have otherwise defined your career.

Corollaries:

All of your friends, neighbors, and coworkers either missed it, lost it, or threw it out.

Jone's Law of Accountability

Anyone who can smile when things go terribly wrong has thought of someone else he can blame it on.

Juhani's Law of Compromises

Any compromise will always be more expensive than either of the alternatives it is compromising.

Kaa's Law

In any sufficiently large group of people, most are idiots.

Corollaries:

All corporations are, by default, sufficiently large groups of people.

Kanter's Law

Everything looks like a failure in the middle.

Katz's Law of Testosterone Politics

Men and nations will act rationally once all other methods have been exhausted.

MURPHY'S LAWS #3

Kelly's Law

Nice guys don't finish nice.

Kerr-Martin Law of Faculty Advisors

In dealing with their own situations, faculty members will use conservative solutions. When dealing with your situation, faculty members will use the most liberal solutions imaginable.

Kitman's Law

Pure drivel tends to drive ordinary drivel off the TV screen.

Klipstein's Eighth Law of Prototyping and Production

Only after all screws securing an access cover have been removed will it be discovered that they were for the wrong access cover.

Klipstein's Fifth Law of Prototyping and Production

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

Klipstein's First Law of Prototyping and Production

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty to assemble.

Klipstein's Fourth Law of Prototyping and Production

A fail-safe circuit will destroy all other circuits.

Klipstein's Laws of Applied Engineering

A patent application will be preceded one week by a similar application made by an independent worker.

Klipstein's Ninth Law of Prototyping and Production

Only after an access cover has been secured by all of its retaining screws will it be discovered that the gasket has been omitted.

Klipstein's Seventh Law of Prototyping and Production

A purchased component will meet specification only long enough to pass incoming inspections.

Klipstein's Sixth Law of Prototyping and Production

A failure will not appear until that unit has passed final inspection.

Klipstein's Tenth Law of Prototyping and Production

After a component has been assembled, extra parts will be found on the work bench.

Klipstein's Third Law of Prototyping and Production

A newly installed motor will rotate in the wrong direction.

Last Law of Organizations

If you rise to the top of an organization, the lowest level worker will inappropriately look small to you, and you will look appropriately small to them.

Law of Applied Confusion

The one component that the factory failed to ship will support 90% of the rest of the assembly.

Corollaries:

Overnight shipments of the critical component will be shipped "seven day ground" instead.

Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of Coffee

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Law of Committee Participation

The number of committees you are assigned to is inversely proportional to how much you like working on committees.

Law of Financial Morality

It is morally wrong to allow a fool to keep his money.

Law of Individualism

Nobody really cares what anyone else is doing, unless it is being done to them.

Law of Logic

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of Long-term Relationships

Friends come and friends go, but enemies accumulate.

Law of Lost

He who hesitates not only is lost, but is miles from the next exit.

Law of Mechanical Persuasion

Don't force it -- get a bigger hammer.

Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to pee.

Law of Meeting Importance

Meetings eventually become more important to the participants than the problem they were to address.

Law of Organizational Communications

Improving organizational communications will increase the level of internal misunderstanding.

MURPHY'S LAWS #4

Law of Organizational Regulation

Simple rules lead to complex and intelligent thinking. Complex rules lead to simple and stupid thinking.

Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Law of Situational Understanding

If you can keep your head while all around you are losing theirs, then you really don't understand the situation.

Law of Socio-Economics

The rate of pay for a job is inversely proportional to the degree of its unpleasantness.

Law of Socio-Genetics

Celibacy is not hereditary.

Law of Stupidity

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of the Theater

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Law of Useful Inaccuracies

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation.

Laws of the Working Class

1. No matter how much you do, you'll never do enough.
2. What you fail to do is more important than what you did, unless what you did was an error.

Levy's Law of Genius

No amount of genius can overcome a preoccupation with details.

Lewis' Law

The moment after you have purchased an expensive item, it will go on sale.

Locomotive Law

Momentum always wins.

Lowery's Law

If a device jams, force it. If the device breaks, it needed replacing anyway.

MacIntosh's Law

Build a program that only a fool can use, and only fools will want to use it.

Maier's Law of Research

If the facts do not conform to the theory, the facts must be disposed of.

Corollaries:

The research can be considered a success if no more than 50% of the research data is tossed out.

Maritime Law

Tonnage always has right of way.

Mathis Law of Superstition

It is bad luck to be superstitious.

Meskimen's Law of Time

There is never enough time to do it right, but there is always enough time to do it over.

Montaigne's Understanding

Men are most apt to believe what they least understand.

Corollaries:

The better one understands government, the less he is inclined to believe anything that it says.

Murphy's Constant

Matter will be damaged in direct proportion to its value.

Murphy's Law

Anything that can go wrong will.

Corollaries:

Nothing is as easy as it looks.

Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Murphy's Law of Research

Enough research will support any theory.

Corollaries:

Enough data can statistically prove (or disprove) anything.

Murphy's Law of Thermodynamics

Things get worse under pressure.

MURPHY'S LAWS #5

Ninth Law for Naive Engineers

Components requiring service or adjustment will be the least accessible.

O'Brien's Auditing Law

Auditors will reject any expense account evenly divisible by 5 or 10.

O'Toole's Commentary on Murphy's Law

Murphy was an optimist.

Old and Kahn's Law of Committees

The effectiveness of a committee is inversely proportional to the number of participants.

Corollaries:

The camel is a horse designed by committee.

Oliver's Law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Osborn's Law

Variables aren't and neither are constants.

Oscillating Law Of Bad

Bad things come in waves.

Parker's Law of Beauty

Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clean down to the bone.

Parkinson's First Law of (dis)Organization

Work expands to fill the time available for completion.

Parkinson's First Law of Research

Successful research attracts larger grants, which makes further successful research impossible.

Parkinson's Law of Bureaucratic Efficiency

A properly functioning bureaucracy will always find a way to delay an important decision.

Parkinson's Law of Group Dimensions

The number of people in a work group will expand regardless of the amount of work, until such time as the group is disbanded for being a drain on corporate resources.

Parkinson's Law of Organization Peerage

Officials within a bureaucracy create work for each other.

Parkinson's Second Law of (dis)Organization

Expenditures rise to meet income.

Parkinson's Second Law of Research

The progress of science varies inversely with the number of journals published.

Parkinson's Third Law of (dis)Organization

Delay is the deadliest form of denial.

Patterson's Law of Market Acquisition

A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.

Patterson's Laws of Expectation

Negative expectations yield negative results.

Positive expectations yield negative results.

Peer's Law

The solution to a problem changes the nature of the problem.

Peter's Law of Justification

Spend enough time justifying the need for procuring valuable items and the value will go away, along with the need.

Peter's Principle of Organizational Inertia

Internal consistency is valued more highly than intelligent and efficient service.

Peter's Principle of Competence

In a bureaucracy, competency is more objectionable than incompetency.

Pharaoh's Law

Nothing ever gets built on time or within budget.

Poter's Law of Flack

The amount of flack received is inversely proportional to the importance of the subject.

Primary Law of Analysis

A painstaking and thorough analysis of a specimen will result in that problem being identified as the wrong specimen.

Project Management Law

Project teams hate weekly status reports because they clearly show their lack of progress.

Pudder's Laws

Anything that starts off well ends badly. Anything that begins badly ends worse.

Putt's Law of Technology Management

- Those who understand a technology do not manage it.
- Those who manage a technology do not understand it.

MURPHY'S LAWS #6

Richard's Complementary Laws of Possession

1. If you keep something long enough, you will have ample justification for throwing it away.
2. The moment you throw it away, you will immediately need it.

Rosenberg's Law of Impossible Outcomes

If all possible outcomes are planned for, the one that occurs will be an impossible outcome.

RTFM Law

When all else fails, read the **&@%@! manual.

Rudin's Law

In crises that force people to choose among alternate courses of action, people will choose the worst alternative.

Rule of Greatness

When someone you admire and respect appears to be thinking deeply, they are probably thinking about lunch.

Scott's First Law

No matter what goes wrong, it will probably look right.

Corollaries:

If it doesn't look right, management will declare that that was the plan all along.

Scott's Second Law

When an error has been detected and corrected, it will be found to have been correct in the first place.

Corollaries:

After the correction has been found to be in error, it will be impossible to revert to the original condition.

Second Law for Naive Engineers

The very best approximation of laboratory conditions will not come close to matching conditions encountered outside the lab.

Second Law of Revision

The more innocuous the required modification to a plan, the more it will influence the design and initiate further revisions.

Second Law of Time Warp Mechanics

Time slows down in the last hour before getting off work.

Seifert's Law of Theory and Practice

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is.

Seventh Law for Naive Engineers

Manufacturer performance specifications must be multiplied by 0.5. Salespeople's performance claims must be multiplied by 0.25.

Shanahan's Law of Meeting Dynamics

The length of a meeting rises with the square of the number of people attending.

Corollaries:

The length of a meeting rises inversely with how much it interests you. If you have two weeks to live, attend meetings that bore you so it seems like a month.

Simon's Law

Everything put together falls apart sooner or later.

Sixth Law for Naive Engineers

Interchangeable parts won't.

Smith's Intelligence Constant Theorem

1. The amount of intelligence in the universe is a constant.
2. The population is growing.
3. Intelligence is not being spread evenly over the growing population.

Smith's Inverse Law of Musical Taste

People with the worst taste in music have the loudest car stereos.

Smith's Law of Divine Intelligence

God did not design cows to fly for a reason.

Smith's Law of Fiscal Demise

The only two things in life that are certain are death and taxes, but death doesn't get worse when Congress meets.

Smith's Law of the Spoken Word

As soon as you mention something . . .
if it is something good, it will go away.
if it is something bad, it will happen immediately.

SNAFU's First Law

Problems containing "n" equations will have "n+1" unknowns.

SNAFU's Second Law

At the point of failure, the simple and obvious solution will become immediately apparent to everyone else.

Sodd's Second Law

Sooner or later, the worst possible set of circumstances is bound to occur.

Corollaries:

Any system must be designed to withstand the worst possible set of circumstances, but never will be.

MURPHY'S LAWS #7

Software Development Law

- A carelessly planned software project will take twice as long to complete as planned.
- A carefully planned project will take three times as long.

Stockmayer's Laws

- If it looks easy, it is not.
- If it looks difficult, it is impossible.
- If it looks impossible, run.

Sturgeon's Law

99% of everything made is crap.

Corollaries:

The other 1% plain doesn't work.

Supermarket Law

As soon as you get in the shortest line, the cashier will have to call for help.

Tenth Law for Naive Engineers

Identical units that test in an identical fashion will not behave identically in production.

The 20-80 Law of Software Applications

1. 80% of the users will only use 20% of the program's capabilities.
2. 20% of the users will demand 80% of the functionality, and in the process make the application completely unusable.

The Army Law Of Command

Any order that can be misunderstood has already been misunderstood.

The Immutable Law of Air Travel

When the plane you are on arrives late, your connecting flight will be on time.

The Peter Principle

In an organization, people rise to their level of incompetency.

Corollaries:

In time, every position is staffed by an incompetent.

Third Law for Naive Engineers

The most vital dimensions on a blueprint have the best chance of being omitted.

Tommy Lee's Law of Musical Attraction

The uglier the rock star, the more beautiful his girlfriend.

Tool Usage Law

Immediately after putting away a tool that you are certain is no longer needed, you will immediately need that tool.

Traffic Light Law

Traffic lights timed for 35 mph also are timed for 70 mph.

Troutman's Laws of Computer Programming

1. The most harmful error in a program will be discovered after five months of production data corruption.
2. Interchangeable data tapes and disks don't.
3. Compatible software applications aren't.
4. Data entry error checking that identifies 100 possible end user input error types will be defeated by the 101st user.
5. Profanity is the one universal programming language.

Vail's Law of Organizations

In any organization, work seeks the lowest level in the hierarchy.

van Braun's Law of Crash Programs

Crash programs are based on the theory that nine pregnant women can produce a baby in a month.

Venturi's Two Laws of Life

Never tell everything at once.

Watson's Law

The reliability of a system is inversely proportional to the importance of the person to whom you are showing it.

Weiler's Law of Delegation

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do the work himself.

Weinberg's Law of Immaculate Misconceptions

An expert is someone who avoids small errors while running headlong into their grand fallacy.

Weinberg's Law of Software Development

If builders built buildings the way programmers write software, the first woodpecker that came along would destroy all of civilization.

Weinburg's Law of Monday's

All progress is made on Monday, and the rest of the week is devoted to dealing with the problems that creates.

Wells Law of Government

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.

Westheimer's Law

To estimate the time it takes to do a task:

- 1) Estimate the time you think it should take.
- 2) Multiply by two.
- 3) Change the unit of measure to the next highest unit.

Thus, a one-hour task should take two days.

MURPHY'S LAWS #8

Software Development Law

- A carelessly planned software project will take twice as long to complete as planned.
- A carefully planned project will take three times as long.

White's Law

Don't lose heart . . .

Corollaries:

. . . they might cut it out. (Owen's Commentary)

Wiker's Law

Government expands to absorb revenue . . . and then some.

Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

Woman's Law of Maintenance

If it has tires or testicles, it will give you problems.

Workshop Law

Any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible corner of the workshop.

Corollaries:

On its way to the corner, dropped tools will first land on your toe.

Wrigley's Law of Organizational Duplicity

When two men in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary.

Wyszkowski's Law

When the supplier and customer agree on the units to be used, the manufacturer will supply their own arbitrary units that cannot be correlated without the use of hypermathematics.

Young's Law of Research Funding

The greater the funding, the less chance there is of making research mistakes, which delays making a discovery by reducing the mistakes that are the source of such discoveries.

Zymurgy's First Law of Systems Dynamics

Once you open a can of worms, the only way you can reseal them is to get a bigger can.

Computing's 7th Law

The management value of software is directly proportional to the weight of the reports.

Adam's Law of Impossible

The major difference between a thing that might go wrong and a thing that cannot possibly go wrong is that when a thing that cannot possibly go wrong goes wrong it usually turns out to be impossible to get at or repair.

Ament's First Law of Corporate Survival

Shut your mouth when the poo hits the propeller.

Armstrong's 1st Law of Electronic Troubleshooting

If a piece of equipment fails to operate, threaten it with replacement.

Baker's Law of Inanimate Objects

Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories:

1. Those that don't work
2. Those that break down
3. Those that get lost.

Barth's Law of Segregation

There are two types of people in the world. Those that divide everyone into two groups, and those that don't.

Baxter's Law of Hygienics

You don't get anything clean without getting something else dirty.

Beauchemin's Law of Presentation

Power corrupts, PowerPoint corrupts absolutely.

Beckhap's Constant of Female Desirability

Among all women, beauty times intelligence is a constant.

Beifeld's Law of Attraction

The probability of meeting a desirable, available and receptive female increases geometrically if the male is:

- a. on a date
- b. with his wife
- c. has a better looking and wealthier friend in tow.

Blaauw's Law of Technology Inertia (a.k.a. The COBOL Syndrome)

Established technology tends to persist in spite of new and superior technology.

Boling's Law

If you feel good, don't worry. You'll get over it.

Booker's Law

An ounce of application is worth a ton of abstraction.

Boren's Laws of Management

1. When in doubt, mumble.
2. When in trouble, delegate.
3. When in charge, ponder.

Brien's First Law of Organizational Success

At some time in the life of every organization, its ability to succeed in spite of itself runs out.

MURPHY'S LAWS #9

Brook's Software Development Law

Adding programmers to a behind-schedule project will extend the completion date further.

Brook's 1st Law of Software

All programmers are optimists. They have to be.

Brown's Law of Physical Appearance

If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

Bucy's Law of Accomplishment

Nothing is ever accomplished by reasonable men.

Burke's Law of Theatrical Promotion

Movies with the most advanced publicity have the worst acting, directing, and plot (also known as the Ishtar Effect).

Buttered Bread Law

Buttered bread will always fall with the buttered side down.

Corollaries:

You cannot determine in advance which side of the bread to butter.

Caen's Law of Change

The more things change, the worse they get.

Campbell's Law of Research

Nature abhors a vacuous experimenter.

Carpenter's Law of Computational Chemistry

An hour of bench work is worth a month on the supercomputer.

Cats' First Law

When your cat falls asleep in your lap, and looks perfectly content and adorable, is when you will need to go to the bathroom most urgently.

Cheops' Law

Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget.

Chisholm's Second Law

When things are going well, something will go wrong.

Corollaries:

Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

Chisholm's Third Law

Proposals, as understood by the proposer, will be misjudged by the reader.

Corollaries:

If you explain things so clearly that nobody could misunderstand, somebody will.

Churchill's Law of Truth

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will rise and continue on unaffected.

Clarke's First Law

When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.

Clarke's Law of Great Ideas

Every great idea creates four distinct phases in the mind of your boss:

1. "It is impossible - don't waste my time."
2. "It is possible, but it is not worth doing."
3. "I said it was a good idea all along."
4. "Members of the board, here is my idea."

Cohen's Law of Spin

What matters is the name you impose on the facts, not the facts themselves.

Commoner's Law of Ecology

Nothing ever goes away.

Corollaries:

The bad stuff reappears first.

Computing's 1st Law

When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.

Computing's 2nd Law

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's obsolete.

Computing's 3rd Law

The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.

Computing's 4th Law

When the going gets tough, upgrade.

Computing's 5th Law

He who laughs last probably made a back-up.

Computing's 6th Law

A complex software system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.

Computing's 7th Law

The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.

Computing's 8th Law

A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want to do.

MURPHY'S LAWS #10

Computing's 9th Law

Software engineers will code to consume all available computing resources ... and then some.

Cooper's Law of Documentation

If you do not understand a word in a piece of technical writing, ignoring it will cause the sentence to make sense.

Cooper's Law of Laws

The proliferation of new laws creates a proliferation of new loopholes, which creates a new proliferation of laws (repeat until dizzy).

Cornuelle's Law of Organizations

Authority tends to assign jobs to those least able to perform them.

Cosby's Law of Advertising

Avoid concrete promises and cultivate the delightfully vague.

Cybernetic Entomology Law

There is always one more bug.

De la Lastra's Law of Mechanical Precedence

After an access cover has been secured by sixteen hold-down screws, it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted.

Desgrange's Law of Carburetors

If you rebuild a carburetor enough times, you will have enough left-over parts to build a new carburetor.

Desgrange's Law of Design

A good design can be confirmed when the Chinese make a knock-off of a Philippine knock-off.

Desgrange's Observation on the Two School's of Thought

Old School: If it works, don't fix it.

New School: If it works, upgrade it.

Desgrange's Transistor Operation Law

A transistor will work as long as you keep the smoke inside of it. Once you let the smoke out, it will no longer work.

Door Threshold Law

When moving between rooms, passing through the door threshold will cause you to forget why you went into the other room.

Dot Com Law

The opulence of the office decor varies inversely with the solvency of the firm.

Doyle's Law of Taxi Economics

No matter how many participants share a cab, and no matter who pays, each will put the full fare on his own expense account.

Drew's Law of Highway Biology

The first bug to hit a clean windshield lands directly in front of your eyes.

Drunkard's Law

You cannot fall off of the floor.

Duffy's Law of Destiny

Everything happens for the wrong reason.

Dunne's Law

The ground behind rhetorical battlelines is often mined with equivocation.

Ehrman's Laws

Things will get worse before they get better.
Who said things would get any better?

Eighth Law for Naive Engineers

The receiving department will discard all important documentation shipped with a critical component.

Einstein's Law of Stupidity vs. Genius

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

Eleventh Law for Naive Engineers

Warranty and guarantee clauses are voided by payment of the invoice.

Ennis' Law of Perpetual Preparation

All details are born pregnant.

Essential Laws of Project Management

Speak with authority, but expound only on the perfectly obvious.

If in doubt, ask irrelevant questions and then change the subject.

If a subordinate asks a pertinent question, act as if he has lost his mind, then later rephrase the question to him.

When leaving the office, walk briskly to minimize questions from subordinates and superiors.

Keep your office door closed to discourage questions, problem reports, and to create the air of being occupied.

Farber Law of Politics

Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows.

MURPHY'S LAWS #11

Explanation of the Epstein-Heisenberg Principle

In any project, only two of the three parameters can be defined at any given time. Those parameters are the task, the time, and the money:

If the task is known and a time limit is established, then the cost cannot be estimated (or even fathomed).

If the time and the available resources are clearly detailed, then the project definition must change.

If the project definition is clear and the budget is set, then the time-to-completion will be extended indefinitely.

Fifth Law for Naive Engineers

All estimated delivery promises must be doubled.

Finagle's Rules

To study a subject, understand it thoroughly before you start.

Always keep a record of data - it indicates that you have been working.

Draw your curves first, then plot your data.

If in doubt, make it "sound" convincing.

Experiments should be reproducible - they should fail in the same way every time.

Do not believe in miracles, rely on them.

Fingle's First Law

If an experiment works, then something has gone wrong.

Fingle's Fourth Law

Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it only makes it worse.

Fingle's Second Law

No matter what the anticipated result, there will always be someone eager to [a] misinterpret the results, [b] fake it or, [c] claim it as his own pet theory.

Fingle's Third Law

In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need for checking, is the mistake.

Corollaries:

No one whom you ask for help will see it.

First Law for Naive Engineers

In any formula, constants obtained from text books are to be treated as variables.

First Law of Accuracy

Knowing the answer in advance speeds the process of finding a solution. Most commonly used in statistical analysis of a political issue.

First Law of Bicycling

No matter which direction you ride, it will be uphill and against the wind.

First Law of Comparative Queues

The other line always moves faster.

Corollaries:

The moment you move to the faster line, the line you were in will speed up and the line you joined will stop moving all together.

First Law of Debating

Never argue with a fool as it obscures the difference.

First Law of Dentistry

A toothache will start on a Friday night.

First Law of Electrical Engineering

It works better if you plug it in.

First Law of Gambling Sociodynamics

A Smith & Wesson beats four aces.

First Law of Hierarchical Visibility

The less important you are to your company, the more likely your boss will notice you leaving early.

First Law of Mechanical Engineering

For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.

First Law of Revision

New information requiring a change of design will be conveyed only after the plans are complete.

Corollaries:

It is often wiser to choose the obviously wrong way to accomplish a project in order to expedite the subsequent revision.

First Law of Supply Logistics

Supplies needed for yesterday's project will be ordered no later than the end of next week.

First Law of Thought

If you don't think too good, don't think too much.

Corollaries:

And don't vote.

First Law of Time Warp Mechanics

Time speeds up when you are trying to get to work.

Foster's Law

The only people who find what they are looking for in life are the fault finders.

MURPHY'S LAWS #12

Fixed Law of Capabilities

Those who can, do.

Those who can't, teach.

Those who can't teach, administrate.

Fourth Law for Naive Engineers

Any test installation that functions perfectly will be the design specification for production units, which will fail completely.

Friday's Law

No design can be completed after 4:45 PM on a Friday.

Futility's Law of Research

No experiment is a complete failure. Your professor can always use it, with full accreditation, as a negative example.

Gavin's Law of Bidirectional Software Imbecility

If you're a developer, then the users look like idiots.

If you're a user, then the developers look like idiots.

Ginsberg's Law

You can't win.

You can't break even.

You can't even quit the game.

Corollaries:

Every philosophy that attempts to make life understandable is based on the negation of Ginsberg's Law. For example:

Capitalism is based on the assumption you can win.

Socialism is based on the assumption that you can break even.

Religion is based on the assumption that you can quit the game.

Glatum's Law

The perceived usefulness of an item is inversely proportional to its actual usefulness once it is paid off.

Glib's 1st Law of Reliability

Computers are more reliable than humans, which isn't saying much.

Glib's 2nd Law of Reliability

Any system that relies on humans is unreliable.

Glib's 3rd Law of Reliability

Undetectable errors are infinite in variety, as opposed to detectable errors which are by definition limited in scope.

Glib's 4th Law of Reliability

Investments in additional reliability will escalate to exceed all cost and time estimates, or until someone insists on getting useful work done.

Gordon's First Law of Research

If a research project is not worth doing, it is not worth doing well.

Corollaries:

If a research problem is not worth doing, the government gets involved.

Gray's Law of Trivial Dynamic Compression

'n+1' trivial tasks are expected to take no longer than 'n' trivial tasks. However, 'n+1' trivial tasks take twice as long as 'n' trivial tasks.

Gresham's Law

Trivial matters are handled promptly. Important matters are never addressed.

Gummidge's Law of Expert Communications

The amount of expertise varies inversely with the understandability of the statements made by the expert.

Gumperson's Law

The probability of something happening is inversely proportional to its desirability.

Hartley's Law of Psychotic Sex

Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself.

Harvard's Law of Research

Under the most controlled conditions of pressure, temperature, volume, humidity, and other variables, the observed organism will do whatever it damn well pleases.

Heller's Law of Management Mythology

The first myth of management is that it exists.

Corollaries:

Nobody really ever knows what is going on in their organization.

Hersh's Law of Research

Any scientific research project will grow to consume every available minute from start to publication deadline.

Hoare's Law of Large Problems

Inside of every large problem is a small problem that would simply resolve the big problem, but which will not be discovered because everyone is working on the large problem.

Idiots Law

Make it idiot proof and someone, somewhere, will make a better idiot.

MURPHY'S LAWS #13

Iles's Law

There is always an easier way to do it. However, when looking directly at the easier way, you will not see it.

Immutable Laws of Procrastination

Procrastinating shortens the amount of time you spend on a job, and ultimately transfers the burden to someone else.

Procrastinating reduces anxiety by reducing the expected quality of the finished product.

Procrastination helps avoid boredom as there is always something important left to do.

Inverse Law of Authority

At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.

Issawi's Law of Reactive Politics and Evil

The total amount of evil in the universe is a constant, and any attempt to reduce it will have a negating counter-reaction. Attempts to reduce poverty and unemployment will result in increased crime and air pollution.

Issawi's laws of Progress

Most things get steadily worse.

A shortcut is the longest distance between two points.

Direct action produces direct reaction.

Jacquin's Law of Congressional Liberty

No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while Congress is in session.

Jenkinson's Immutable Law

It won't work.

Johnson's Law of Competitive Entertainment

If over the course of several months only three events worth attending come to pass, they will be scheduled for the same evening.

Johnson's Third Law

If you miss one issue of a magazine, it will contain the article that would have otherwise defined your career.

Corollaries:

All of your friends, neighbors, and coworkers either missed it, lost it, or threw it out.

Jone's Law of Accountability

Anyone who can smile when things go terribly wrong has thought of someone else he can blame it on.

Juhani's Law of Compromises

Any compromise will always be more expensive than either of the alternatives it is compromising.

Kaa's Law

In any sufficiently large group of people, most are idiots.

Corollaries:

All corporations are, by default, sufficiently large groups of people.

Kanter's Law

Everything looks like a failure in the middle.

Katz's Law of Testosterone Politics

Men and nations will act rationally once all other methods have been exhausted.

Kelly's Law

Nice guys don't finish nice.

Kerr-Martin Law of Faculty Advisors

In dealing with their own situations, faculty members will use conservative solutions. When dealing with your situation, faculty members will use the most liberal solutions imaginable.

Kitman's Law

Pure drivel tends to drive ordinary drivel off the TV screen.

Klipstein's Eighth Law of Prototyping and Production

Only after all screws securing an access cover have been removed will it be discovered that they were for the wrong access cover.

Klipstein's Fifth Law of Prototyping and Production

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

Klipstein's First Law of Prototyping and Production

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty to assemble.

Klipstein's Fourth Law of Prototyping and Production

A fail-safe circuit will destroy all other circuits.

Klipstein's Laws of Applied Engineering

A patent application will be preceded one week by a similar application made by an independent worker.

Klipstein's Ninth Law of Prototyping and Production

Only after an access cover has been secured by all of its retaining screws will it be discovered that the gasket has been omitted.

Klipstein's Second Law of Prototyping and Production

In any project that requires 'n' components, the warehouse will have 'n-1' in stock

MURPHY'S LAWS #14

Klipstein's Seventh Law of Prototyping and Production

A purchased component will meet specification only long enough to pass incoming inspections.

Klipstein's Sixth Law of Prototyping and Production

A failure will not appear until that unit has passed final inspection.

Klipstein's Tenth Law of Prototyping and Production

After a component has been assembled, extra parts will be found on the work bench.

Klipstein's Third Law of Prototyping and Production

A newly installed motor will rotate in the wrong direction.

Last Law of Organizations

If you rise to the top of an organization, the lowest level worker will inappropriately look small to you, and you will look appropriately small to them.

Law of Applied Confusion

The one component that the factory failed to ship will support 90% of the rest of the assembly.

Corollaries:

Overnight shipments of the critical component will be shipped "seven day ground" instead.

Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of Coffee

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Law of Committee Formation

If you leave the room, you are elected.

Law of Committee Participation

The number of committees you are assigned to is inversely proportional to how much you like working on committees.

Law of Financial Morality

It is morally wrong to allow a fool to keep his money.

Law of Individualism

Nobody really cares what anyone else is doing, unless it is being done to them.

Law of Logic

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of Long-Term Relationships

Friends come and friends go, but enemies accumulate.

Law of Lost

He who hesitates not only is lost, but is miles from the next exit.

Law of Mechanical Persuasion

Don't force it – get a bigger hammer.

Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to pee.

Law of Meeting Importance

Meetings eventually become more important to the participants than the problem they were to address.

Law of Organizational Communications

Improving organizational communications will increase the level of internal misunderstanding.

Law of Organizational Regulation

Simple rules lead to complex and intelligent thinking. Complex rules lead to simple and stupid thinking.

Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Law of Situational Understanding

If you can keep your head while all around you are losing theirs, then you really don't understand the situation.

Law of Socio-Economics

The rate of pay for a job is inversely proportional to the degree of its unpleasantness.

Law of Socio-Genetics

Celibacy is not hereditary.

Law of Stupidity

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

MURPHY'S LAWS #15

Law of Useful Inaccuracies

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation.

Laws of the Working Class

No matter how much you do, you'll never do enough.

What you fail to do is more important than what you did, unless what you did was an error.

Levy's Law of Genius

No amount of genius can overcome a preoccupation with details.

Lewis' Law

The moment after you have purchased an expensive item, it will go on sale.

Lowery's Law

If a device jams, force it. If the device breaks, it needed replacing anyway.

MacIntosh's Law

Build a program that only a fool can use, and only fools will want to use it.

Maier's Law of Research

If the facts do not conform to the theory, the facts must be disposed of.

Corollaries:

The research can be considered a success if no more than 50% of the research data is tossed out.

Mathis Law of Superstition

It is bad luck to be superstitious.

Meskimen's Law of Time

There is never enough time to do it right, but there is always enough time to do it over.

Montaigne's Understanding

Men are most apt to believe what they least understand.

Corollaries:

The better one understands government, the less he is inclined to believe anything that it says.

Murphy's Constant

Matter will be damaged in direct proportion to its value.

Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Murphy's Law of Thermodynamics

Things get worse under pressure.

O'Brien's Auditing Law

Auditors will reject any expense account evenly divisible by 5 or 10.

Oliver's Law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Osborn's Law

Variables aren't and neither are constants.

Oscillating Law Of Bad

Bad things come in waves.

Parker's Law of Beauty

Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clean down to the bone.

Parkinson's Law of Bureaucratic Efficiency

A properly functioning bureaucracy will always find a way to delay an important decision.

Parkinson's Law of Group Dimensions

The number of people in a work group will expand regardless of the amount of work, until such time as the group is disbanded for being a drain on corporate resources.

Parkinson's Law of Organization Peerage

Officials within a bureaucracy create work for each other.

Parkinson's Second Law of (Dis)organization

Expenditures rise to meet income.

Parkinson's Third Law of (Dis)organization

Delay is the deadliest form of denial.

Patterson's Law of Market Acquisition

A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.

Patterson's Laws of Expectation

Negative expectations yield negative results.

Positive expectations yield negative results.

Peer's Law

The solution to a problem changes the nature of the problem.

Peter's Law of Justification

Spend enough time justifying the need for procuring valuable items, and the value will go away, along with the need.

Peter's Principle of Organizational Inertia

Internal consistency is valued more highly than intelligent and efficient service.

MURPHY'S LAWS #16

Peter's Principle of Competence

In a bureaucracy, competency is more objectionable than incompetency.

Poter's Law of Flack

The amount of flack received is inversely proportional to the importance of the subject.

Primary Law of Analysis

A painstaking and thorough analysis of a specimen will result in that problem being identified as the wrong specimen.

Project Management Law

Project teams hate weekly status reports because they clearly show their lack of progress.

Pudder's Laws

Anything that starts off well ends badly.

Anything that begins badly ends worse.

Putt's Law of Technology Management

Those who understand a technology do not manage it.

Those who manage a technology do not understand it.

Richard's Complementary Laws of Possession

If you keep something long enough, you will have ample justification for throwing it away.

The moment you throw it away, you will immediately need it.

Rosenberg's Law of Impossible Outcomes

If all possible outcomes are planned for, the one that occurs will be an impossible outcome.

RTFM Law

When all else fails, read the **&@%@! manual

Rudin's Law

In crises that force people to choose among alternate courses of action, people will choose the worst alternative.

Rule of Greatness

When someone you admire and respect appears to be thinking deeply, they are probably thinking about lunch.

Scott's First Law

No matter what goes wrong, it will probably look right.

Corollaries:

If it doesn't look right, management will declare that that was the plan all along.

Scott's Second Law

When an error has been detected and corrected, it will be found to have been correct in the first place.

Corollaries:

After the correction has been found to be in error, it will be impossible to revert to the original condition.

Second Law for Naive Engineers

The very best approximation of laboratory conditions will not come close to matching conditions encountered outside the lab.

Second Law of Time Warp Mechanics

Time slows down in the last hour before getting off work.

Seifert's Law of Theory and Practice

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is.

Shanahan's Law of Meeting Dynamics

The length of a meeting rises with the square of the number of people attending.

Corollaries:

The length of a meeting rises inversely with how much it interests you. If you have two weeks to live, attend meetings that bore you so it seems like a month.

Simon's Law

Everything put together falls apart sooner or later.

Sixth Law for Naive Engineers

Interchangeable parts won't.

Smith's Intelligence Constant Theorem

- 1) The amount of intelligence in the universe is a constant.
- 2) The population is growing.
- 3) Intelligence is not being spread evenly over the growing population.

Smith's Law of Divine Intelligence

God did not design cows to fly for a reason.

Smith's Law of Fiscal Demise

The only two things in life that are certain are death and taxes, but death doesn't get worse when Congress meets.

Smith's Law of Fortune

The upside is finite. The downside has no bottom.

Smith's Law of the Spoken Word

As soon as you mention something . . .

- . . . if it is something good, it will go away.
- . . . if it is something bad, it will happen immediately.

MURPHY'S LAWS #17

SNAFU's Second Law

At the point of failure, the simple and obvious solution will become immediately apparent to everyone else.

Sodd's Second Law

Sooner or later, the worst possible set of circumstances is bound to occur.

Corollaries:

Any system must be designed to withstand the worst possible set of circumstances, but never will be.

Software Development Law

A carelessly planned software project will take twice as long to complete as planned.

A carefully planned project will take three times as long.

Stockmayer's Laws

If it looks easy, it is not.

If it looks difficult, it is impossible.

If it looks impossible, run.

Sturgeon's Law

99% of everything made is crap.

Corollaries:

The other 1% plain doesn't work.

Supermarket Law

As soon as you get in the shortest line, the cashier will have to call for help.

The 20-80 Law of Software Applications

80% of the users will only use 20% of the program's capabilities.

20% of the users will demand 80% of the functionality, and in the process make the application completely unusable.

The Army Law Of Command

Any order that can be misunderstood has already been misunderstood.

The Peter Principle

In an organization, people rise to their level of incompetency.

Corollaries:

In time, every position is staffed by an incompetent.

Third Law for Naive Engineers

The most vital dimensions on a blueprint have the best chance of being omitted.

Tool Usage Law

Immediately after putting away a tool that you are certain is no longer needed, you will immediately need that tool.

Traffic Light Law

Traffic lights timed for 35 mph also are timed for 70 mph.

Troutman's Laws of Computer Programming

The most harmful error in a program will be discovered after five months of production data corruption.

Interchangeable data tapes and disks don't.

Compatible software applications aren't.

Data entry error checking that identifies 100 possible end user input error types will be defeated by the 101st user.

Profanity is the one universal programming language.

Venturi's Two Laws of Life

1. Never tell everything at once.

Weiler's Law of Delegation

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do the work himself.

Weinberg's Law of Immaculate Misconceptions

An expert is someone who avoids small errors while running headlong into their grand fallacy.

Weinberg's Law of Software Development

If builders built buildings the way programmers write software, the first woodpecker that came along would destroy all of civilization.

Weinburg's Law of Monday's

All progress is made on Monday, and the rest of the week is devoted to dealing with the problems that creates.

Wells Law of Government

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.

Westheimer's Law

To estimate the time it takes to do a task:

1. Estimate the time you think it should take.
2. Multiply by two.
3. Change the unit of measure to the next highest unit.

Thus, a one-hour task should take two days.

White's Law

Don't lose heart . . .

Corollaries:

. . . they might cut it out (Owen's Commentary)

MURPHY'S LAWS #18

Woman's Law of Maintenance

If it has tires or testicles, it will give you problems.

Zymurgy's First Law of Systems Dynamics

Once you open a can of worms, the only way you can reseal them is to get a bigger can.

Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor Relativity

People are always available to help after the project is finished.

Adam's Law of Impossible

The major difference between a thing that might go wrong and a thing that cannot possibly go wrong is that when a thing that cannot possibly go wrong goes wrong it usually turns out to be impossible to get at or repair.

Ament's First Law of Corporate Survival

Shut your mouth when the shit hits the fan.

Baker's Law of Inanimate Objects

Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories:

1. Those that don't work
2. Those that break down
3. Those that get lost.

Barth's Law of Segregation

There are two types of people in the world. Those who divide everyone into two groups, and those who don't.

Baxter's Law of Hygienics

You don't get anything clean without getting something else dirty.

Beauchemin's Law of Presentation

Power corrupts. Power Point corrupts absolutely.

Beifeld's Law of Attraction

The probability of meeting a desirable, available and receptive female increases geometrically if the male is:

1. On a date
2. With his wife
3. Has a better looking and wealthier friend in tow.

Boling's Law

If you feel good, don't worry. You'll get over it.

Brown's Law of Physical Appearance

If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

Bucy's Law of Accomplishment

Nothing is ever accomplished by reasonable men.

Chisholm's Second Law

When things are going well, something will go wrong.

Corollaries:

Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

Chisholm's Third Law

Proposals, as understood by the proposer, will be misjudged by the reader.

Corollaries:

If you explain things so clearly that nobody could misunderstand, somebody will.

Churchill's Law of Truth

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will rise and continue on unaffected.

Clarke's Law of Great Ideas

Every great idea creates four distinct phases in the mind of your boss:

"It is impossible - don't waste my time."

"It is possible, but it is not worth doing."

"I said it was a good idea all along."

"Members of the board, here is my idea."

Cohen's Law of Spin

What matters is the name you impose on the facts, not the facts themselves.

Commoner's Law of Ecology

Nothing ever goes away.

Corollaries:

The bad stuff reappears first.

Computing's 1st Law

When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.

Cornuelle's Law of Organizations

Authority tends to assign jobs to those least able to perform them.

Cosby's Law of Advertising

Avoid concrete promises and cultivate the delightfully vague.

Desgrange's Law of Design

A good design can be confirmed when the Chinese make a knock-off of a Philippine knock-off.

Desgrange's Observation on the Two School's of Thought

Old School: If it works, don't fix it.

New School: If it works, upgrade it.

MURPHY'S LAWS #19

Door Threshold Law

When moving between rooms, passing through the door threshold will cause you to forget why you went into the other room.

Duffy's Law of Destiny

Everything happens for the wrong reason.

Ehrman's Laws

Things will get worse before they get better.

Who said things would get any better?

Essential Laws of Project Management

Speak with authority, but expound only on the perfectly obvious.

If in doubt, ask irrelevant questions and then change the subject.

If a subordinate asks a pertinent question, act as if he has lost his mind, then later rephrase the question to him.

When leaving the office, walk briskly to minimize questions from subordinates and superiors.

Keep your office door closed to discourage questions, problem reports, and to create the air of being occupied.

Finagle's Rules

To study a subject, understand it thoroughly before you start.

Always keep a record of data - it indicates that you have been working.

Draw your curves first, then plot your data.

If in doubt, make it "sound" convincing.

Experiments should be reproducible - they should fail in the same way every time.

Do not believe in miracles, rely on them.

First Law of Bicycling

No matter which direction you ride, it will be uphill and against the wind.

First Law of Debating

Never argue with a fool as it obscures the difference.

First Law of Thought

If you don't think too good, don't think too much.

Corollaries:

And don't vote.

Foster's Law

The only people who find what they are looking for in life are the fault finders.

Everyone seems to be wondering why Muslim terrorists are so quick to commit suicide..
Let's see now. . .

No Jesus

No Christmas

No television

No cheerleaders

No baseball; No football

No hockey; No golf

No tailgate parties

No Wal-Mart

No Home Depot

No pork BBQ

No hot dogs; No burgers

No chocolate chip cookies

No lobster; No shellfish, or even frozen fish sticks

No gumbo; No jambalaya

No Beer

Rags for clothes and towels for hats.

Constant wailing from the guy next-door because he's sick and there are no doctors.

Constant wailing from the guy in the tower.

More than one wife.

You can't shave.

Your wives can't shave.

You can't shower to wash off the smell of donkey cooked over burning camel dung.

The women have to wear baggy dresses and veils at all times.

Your bride is picked by someone else.

She smells just like your donkey, but your donkey has a better disposition

Then they tell you that when you die it all gets better!

I mean, really, is there a mystery here?