

**THERE ARE MANY
MURPHY'S LAWS—
ALL (SOB) TRUE**

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Since you have already printed some variations on Murphy's Law, perhaps you ought to go full circle and give your readers the story from the beginning.

Ever since C. Northcote Parkinson established his famous law of bureaucratic growth—namely, work expands in order to accommodate the time allotted to it—several administrators have been inspired to establish laws of their own to explain why human beings behave the way they do. I hope you will share their laws with your readers.

Problems day after day can become tiresome, even to a dedicated soul like you. A change of pace will refresh your spirit.

(1) Chisholm's First Law of Human Interaction: If anything can go wrong, it will.

(2) When things are going well, expect something to explode, erode, collapse or disappear.

(3) When you've come to the conclusion that things can't possibly get any worse, you will be proven wrong.

(4) Your motives for doing whatever good deed you may have in mind will be interpreted differently by somebody.

(5) If you explain something so clearly that nobody could possibly misunderstand, somebody will.

(6) Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it will only make it worse.

(7) When too much emphasis is placed on delegation, responsibility, like sediment, sinks to the bottom.

(8) The length of discussion of any item in a proposed budget will be in inverse proportion to the amount of its cost. (Example: A decision to spend \$8 million on real estate will be reached within three minutes or less. A \$2,000 difference in the type of wastebaskets will be argued for five hours.)

Unfailing Law of Second-Ratedness:

(1) Never be first to do anything.

(2) Under controlled conditions, organisms do as they damned well please.

(3) All things being equal, you are bound to lose.

(4) The planning for the summer "quiet period" must be based on the actual time after July 4 and the onset of Labor Day, which is two weeks.

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