

LEADERSHIP A LA MURPHY

Presenter: Terry B. Goodman, PCC

Dr. Terry B. Goodman served as 100% district governor of district 44N in 1990-91 and as council chairman in 1991-92. He has been a presenter at multiple New Hampshire, Connecticut, New England, West Virginia, and USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forums. He was selected as a faculty member for the 2001 Lions Senior Leadership Institute. Since joining the Milford, N.H. Lions Club in 1978 he has been invited to speak on a wide range of Lionistic topics at clubs around the state. Both his club and his district have named him Lion of the Year, and he has been recognized by Lions Clubs International by being presented an International President's Certificate of Appreciation, an International President's Leadership Award and an International President's Award. PCC Terry is a Melvin Jones Fellow, a Granite State Fellow, a 1500 Club member and a progressive key member. He was chosen the Derryfield School's Distinguished Alumni for 1997, received the N.H. Association for the Blind's 1997 Vision of N.H. award and was awarded the Fidelco Dog Guide Foundation's Partners for Life Award in 2002. He has served as a director of the N.H. Optometric Association. A second generation Lion, Terry, his wife Lion Elda and their daughter, honorary Lion Aleeza live in Bedford, N.H.

I have always lectured on the psychological aspects of leadership, self-development and motivation. My focus has always been in psychology. Today, I venture into the world of philosophy by analyzing what have become known as Murphy's Law. Murphy's laws were designed as a sort of emotional crutch to help people understand how a carefully planned and executed event could fall totally apart. It wasn't because of anything they did or didn't do. It was just because of Murphy's law. Murphy's law started out as "anything that can possibly go wrong will." This was later expanded a couple of times to include "at the worst possible moment and in the sequence of events that will do the most damage."

It soon became obvious that no single law could explain away all of life's frustrations, so other laws were put forth to add to the armor. Eventually thousands of laws were recorded to turn what was a crutch into emotional Kung Foo, not only a defense for explaining life's little failures, but providing offensive weaponry to ward off the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune at their source. These new laws run from the sublime to the ridiculous, from A to Z. From Anderson's Axiom:

"You are only young once, but you can be immature forever",

to Zappa's Law:

"There is nothing wrong with sex on television as long as you don't fall off."

I have culled dozens of sources, looking for bits of philosophy that relate to leadership, and boy, did I find them. We are going to have a good time, and you might learn a few things. This course is designed to be biphasic event. The initial reaction will be a lot of laughter and head nodding as the laws hit a familiar not in your life. Not all the laws will mean something to everyone. Not now anyway. But life brings new challenges and new understanding. This second stage will come sometime in the future when you sit up in the middle of the night and say, "that's what he meant!" Another problem solved thanks to Murphy's laws.

NEGATIVES - *don't do these.*

1. Evan's Law: Once you give up integrity, the rest is easy.
2. Kenyon's Law: Once you have learned how to fake sincerity you have made it.
3. Spark's 4th Rule: Don't engage in arguments, but if concerned, ask an irrelevant question and lean back with a satisfied grin while your opponent tries to figure out what's going on. Then quickly change the subject.
4. Goodman's Restatement of Spark's 4th Rule: If you can't convince them, confuse them.
5. Goodman's Restatement of Spark's 4th Rule: If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle with B.S.
6. Finagle's 8th Rule: Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else.
7. Green's Law of Debate: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.
8. Fox on Power: Arrogance is too often the companion of excellence.

REACTIVE - *Use these to feel better.*

9. The 5th Rule: You have taken yourself too seriously.
10. Dykstra's Law: Everyone is somebody else's weirdo.
11. Hanlon's Razor: Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.
12. Harrison's Postulate: For every action there is an equal and opposing criticism.
13. Evan's and Bjorn's Law: No matter what goes wrong there is always someone who knew it would.
14. Goulu's Law: A carelessly planned project takes three times longer to complete than expected; a carefully planned project takes only twice as long.
15. Jenkinson's Law: It won't work.
16. Goodman's Response to Jenkinson's Law: If we spent as much time doing it as we did saying it couldn't be done, it would be.
17. Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor: People are always available to work in the past tense.

18. Workman's Dilemma: A. No matter how much you do, you'll never do enough.
B. What you didn't do is always more important than what you did do.
19. Clark's Law of Revolutionary Ideas: Every revolutionary idea evokes three stages of reaction.
 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.
20. Weiler's Law: **Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.**
21. Loftus' 5th Law: Some people manage by the book even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book.
22. Voltaire's Law: There is nothing more respectable than an ancient evil.
23. Edelstein's Advice: **Don't worry over what other people are thinking about you. They're too busy worrying over what you are thinking about them.**
24. The Roman Rule: The one who says it cannot be done should never interrupt the one who is doing it.
25. Lowe's Law: Success always occurs in private, and failure in full public view.
26. Felson's Law: To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
27. **1st Rule of Acting: Whatever happens, look as if it were intended.**
28. Oliver's Law: Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
29. Oppenheimer's Law: There is no such thing as instant experience.
30. Gabirol's Observation: The wise are pleased when they discover truth, fools when they discover falsehood.
31. Gerrold's Law: A little ignorance can go a long way.
32. **Joubert's Rule: Never cut what you can untie.**
33. Army's Axiom: You can't get ahead while getting even.
34. Washington's Rule: You can't hold a man down without staying down with him.
35. Ducharm's Axiom: If one views his problems closely enough, he will recognize himself as part of the problem.
36. Einstein's Equation: If A is success in life, then $A=X+Y=Z$. X is work, Y is play and Z is keeping your mouth shut.
37. Durant's Discovery: One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do, and always a clever thing to say.
38. Courtois' Rule: If people listened to themselves more often, they would talk less.
39. 1st Rule of Negative Anticipation: You can save yourself a lot of needless worry if you don't burn your bridges until you come to them.
40. Sieman's 2nd Law: Focus only on what you can control.
41. Crawford's Law: You can't give to others what you don't have yourself.
42. Crawford's Maxim: The truth ain't hard to remember.
43. Tichner's Law: Always err on the side of greatness.
44. **Cusiak's Observation: Insanity is repeatedly performing the same action the same way and expecting different results.**
45. Blanchard's Law: If you don't toot your own horn every once in a while, sooner or later someone will use it as a spittoon.
46. Mal's Principle: Never argue with a jackass. After awhile people watching might not be able to tell you apart.
47. Ruth's Rule: Never try to teach a bullfrog to sing. You'll annoy the frog, frustrate yourself, you won't get far and the music stinks.
48. Gourd's Axiom: A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost.
49. Goodman's Rule: It is far better to enjoy insanity than to suffer from it.
50. Myer's Law: It's amazing how much gets accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.
51. Cousey's Law: You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.
52. Terry's Truism: No one is useless. They can always serve as a bad example.
53. Goodman's Rule: It is far better to enjoy insanity than to suffer from it.
54. Terman's Law of Innovation: If you want a track team to win the high jump, find 1 person who can jump 7 feet, not 7 people who can jump 1 foot.
55. Stewart's Law of Retroaction: It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
56. Goodman's law of responsibility: You can't stick your nose in without sticking your neck out.
57. Van Herpen's Law: The solving of a problem lies in finding the solvers.
58. Hlade's Law: If you have a difficult task give it to a lazy man- he will find an easier way to do it.

59. Gate's Law: The only important information in a hierarchy is who knows what.
60. Hutchin's Law: You can't outtalk a man who knows what he is talking about.
61. Horowitz's Rule: Wisdom consists of knowing when to avoid perfection.
62. De Never's Law of Debate: Two monologues do not make a dialogue.
63. Stenerup's Law: The sooner you fall behind, the more time you will have to catch up.
64. Meyer's Law: In a social situation, that which is most difficult to do is usually the right thing to do.
65. The Ire Principle: Never try to pacify someone at the height of his rage.
66. Berra's First Law: You can observe a lot just by watching.
67. Toomey's Law: Things are always easier to get into than to get out of.
68. Curran's Law: All experts are twits.
69. Sieman's Law: When you are through changing, you're through.
70. Stevenson's 3rd Law: He who stops pushing stops being good.
71. Stevenson's 1st Law: Future success is not inevitable because of past triumphs.
72. Stevenson's Concept: Most progress results from the idea "I think we can do this better."
73. Goodman's extension of Stevenson's Concept: The rest comes from dumb luck.

EXTRA PEARLS:

74. Schwartzkoph's 1st Rule: When placed in a position of command, take charge.
75. Schwartzkoph's 2nd Rule: Do the right thing.
76. Biggs' Observation: The things I have done in life of which I am most proud are also the things that have gotten me into the most trouble.
77. Frank's Law: You can't stick out your chest while ducking.
78. Goodman's Dictum: Never confuse education with intelligence.
79. Aleeza's Law: When everything has gone to hell in a hand basket, go out and play.
80. Roger's 1st Law: Never miss a good opportunity to shut up.
81. Roger's 2nd Law: There are 3 kinds of people. The ones that learned by reading, the few that learn by observation, and the rest who have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.
82. Roger's 3rd Law: If you are riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
83. Roger's 4th Law: If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.
84. Roger's 5th Law: Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
85. Roger's 6th Law: When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.
86. Rocheford's 1st Rule: If you have to swallow a live frog, you don't want to stand around looking at it for a long time.
87. Rocheford's 2nd Rule: If you have to swallow more than one, swallow the largest one first.
88. Rosalynn's Observation: A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.

CLASS DISCUSSION

Leadership a la Murphy's Law