

Murphy's Law of Journalism?

We're all familiar with Murphy's Law, which reads "if something can go wrong, it probably will."

There is a little known offshoot of that famous Murphy's Law. It's called Murphy's Affiliated Law of Journalism.

It reads in a similar way. "If something can go wrong, it probably will, when you least need it, most likely when on deadline."

Now that I've set the tone for this column, it's fair to say it's being written under duress. You see, I'm approaching my deadline.

That's not all bad. Writing under pressure can bring out those little known qualities about someone, most never knew existed.

...like if I get one more #\$\$%&#! system error on this computer I'm gonna take a hammer to it...

Oops that slipped out.

Where was I? Oh yeah, after waiting for the reboot, I was writing about Murphy's Law.

As I said, it's the case of things happening at the most inopportune time—like...

INTERCOM: "Ted on Line Two."

"Oh, hi Ted, you don't know me, but I know you, and I just wanted to call and suggest a subject for a column. It's really cute and about our family, and .. blah, blah, blah."

"Thanks, but I'm right in the middle of writing a column..."

She didn't take the hint, (they never do,) and I was subjected to a full litany of the cute antics of her family, complete with the pets. Of course, she didn't want to give her name...

After thanking her again, dripping with professionalism, I return to my keyboard.

It occurs to me that I haven't collected the e-mail for the office yet.

Connect to ISP, (and get on the first try.)

So much for Murphy's Law, eh? (smirk)

I find a half dozen e-mails, and one is taking a very long time to come across. Hmmm, it must have an attachment. I wait...

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

"Your Internet Connection has become unstable, and you must reconnect."

You know, it never pays to get cocky.

Okay, after reconnecting, the e-mail came across without a hitch. A couple of hockey write-ups, a letter to the editor, and now I get to see the one that screwed up the first time.

How wonderful, it's a press release from some special interest group about saving the redwoods in British Columbia, complete with an attached image of a redwood.

Okay, 'nuff of that, back to the column... you know... the one about Murphy's Law?

EDITOR: "You gonna have a column this week Ted?" (Shattering the concentration.)

ME: "I'm working on it..."

COMPUTER: "A System Error Type blah, blah blah has just occurred."

Good thing the coffee truck just arrived, cuz if I time it right, the computer will be back up and running by the time I'm back.

A co-worker needs my Norton Utilities CD to give his computer a tune up. (I'm thinking I should be doing the same thing.)

Back to the column... where was I? And what was it about? Oh, right, Murphy's Law...

After giving it full consideration, I've come to believe Murphy's Law is simply an excuse for people to explain their lack of time management skills. Most times, that is...

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