

Opinions

Editorial: Murphy's Miracles

by Julia Brittain
editorialist

Murphy was right when it came to computers.

As a mathematics major, I've had my fair share of computer programming classes and I've hated every last one of them.

I've spent many, too many, long hours staring blankly at a monitor trying to debug a program that was originally intended to just balance my checkbook, but had somehow ended up controlling the weather in the computer lab.

I made it snow in the Wall lab a couple of times last semester.

I've learned a lot from computers though - a precious hard earned knowledge, rich in wisdom and insight.

I've learned that there are forces beyond us that totally control our lives.

I've learned that, yes, computers do have their own lives to live and we really shouldn't bother them the way we do. They just don't have the time for it.

I've learned that Murphy was the greatest thinker of the modern age - he knew just what to make of computers, and everything else too.

You know, we all could learn a lot from Murphy. I firmly believe that as requirement for graduation, Mars Hill should offer Murphy 101 (a rigorous axiomatic development of Murphy's laws) instead of GE 111.

This requirement would ensure that Mars Hill graduates were well prepared for life, the universe and everything.

I mean, what could be worse than 10 minutes before a program is due than watching a perfectly good printer lock with over half of my documentation still in it - neatly tucked away in the abyss of a computer's memory.

If I had known Murphy then, and knew him well, then not only would I have accepted this occurrence as an unavoidable fact of life, but would have expected it and prepared for it.

Life with Murphy is a lot less stressful.

You see, Murphy knew the true secrets of life.

Murphy knew that the best way to study and application, or anything else for that matter, is to know it thoroughly before you begin.

Murphy knew that the solution to any problem changes the problem.

Murphy knew not to believe in miracles, but to rely on them.

As a student of Murphy, I've experienced and proven several of his axioms, have changed my life accordingly and feel now, much better about a lot of stuff.

I no longer allow myself to be tested in any class at any time during the semester in which it is offered. I wait until the following one at least, longer if necessary.

I think of solutions before I experience problems, then change the problem to fit my solution. If it can't be changed then it doesn't exist.

And I experience miracles in my life daily.

Every time I go through the Drive Thru and come out with my order correct, I know that I am in the presence of a miracle.

Every time I wake up in the morning I know I am in the presence of a miracle.

Every time my pencil has lead in it, the tank has hot water in it, my keys are in the ignition and my homework is in my bookbag, I know that I experience miracles.

I do rely on them.

I carry them with me everywhere.

Maybe Murphy realized minor miracles are just as important as huge miracles that change the space and time relationship.

Maybe we should too.

I don't know. I would still like to pack the Wall computer lab with dynamite and blow those computers sky high, but I don't think I will.

As soon as I started to light the fuse, it would begin to rain just as the police showed up.

A Parking Fable for Peasants

Dear Editor,

Within the folds of a lackluster valley in the mountains of Western North Carolina, lay an anachronism: a land that the runaway truck of time had flattened into a pustulant roadkill. Life was simple in this medieval hold-over: The lords sipped coffee from mugs made of vegetarian lasagna, and the vassals rose daily at 5:00 to vie for the inadequate animal parking on the campus of the Marshell University.

One morning, a certain peasant mounted his trusty but ailing pony and trotted through the university on an errand. As he passed each parking lot, he regarded the sign that indicated

which animals could be sequestered there: Designated areas for oxen, sheep, pigs, chickens, and goats he saw, but no allowance for male horses, could he detect (Plenty of space for mares was available because the university practiced a rather pedantic chivalry.). Finally, he located a vacant lot beside the temple of Bronco, god of safety and security.

When the peasant returned to find a sword imbedded in his steed with a tax notice flapping from the hilt, he was incredulous. Then, he noticed the unobtrusive sign nailed to a tree: "Parking for Asses Only."

Anthony Aycock



Taking Time Out The First Commandment

by Crystal Grzella
staff writer

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. (Matthew 22:37-38. KJV)

In an arrangement by Dwight Gustafson, Philip Doddridge write these words:

Do not I love thee, Oh my Lord.
Behold my heart and see,
and turn each curses idol out,
that dares to rival thee.

Do not I love Thee from my soul,
then let me ever love,
dead be my heart to every joy.
When Jesus cannot move,
I love Thee, but oh,
I long to soar far from the sphere
of mortal joys,
and learn to love Thee,
learn to love Thee more.

These words humble my heart. Is Jesus in your life? When He looks into your heart what does He see? If Jesus is not in your heart invite Him in and He will teach you how to experience a peace which soars far from mortal joys.

"REGISTER AND VOTE"

by Dwayne Kennedy
political commentary

There is one question I would like to address to the entire student body. Are you registered to vote? Everyone I have asked so far has answered this question affirmatively. However, if you are not yet registered to vote the deadline for registration for the Nov. 3rd election is Oct. 5, 1992.

It is essential that as a college community that the student body achieve 100% participation in the election process. We should strive to set a shining example of responsible citizenship. The decisions our elected leaders make in the next few years will directly affect the types of jobs, housing, and standard of living to which we can aspire. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of active participation in the political process. The two presidential candidates that we can select from were chosen by only 20% of the eligible voter population. We allegedly live in a democratic society. However, democracy is not a spectator sport and your vote

does make a difference. Voting is a privilege that we should exercise diligently.

As a student of Mars Hill College you have a right to vote in North Carolina. The requirements are as follows:

- 1.- Be a U.S. citizen (native born or naturalized)
- 2.- Be at least 18 on or before Nov. 3, 1992
- 3.- Have resided in N.C. and your voting precinct 30 days prior to the next general election.

Almost every student meets these 3 basic requirements and thereby is eligible to vote in North Carolina. The most convenient place to register in Mars Hill is Town Hall (Main St.). The town hall is open Mon. - Fri. 8am to 5pm. In addition on Sept. 28th there will be a voter registration drive on campus:

**WOMEN'S HILL
Stroup Dorm Lobby
7pm to 9pm**

Becky Carlton will be there to assist students with the process of voter registration. We all have a vested interest in the Mars Hill community since we spend more time here during our col-

lege years than at our permanent home address. However, if your interest lies in your own community then you need to insure you are registered and obtain an absentee ballot. You will have to contact your local Board of Elections or have your parents assist you.

We can have a voice in local, state, and national government by electing leaders that will represent our needs and interests. It is up to "we the people" to elect responsible leaders at all levels of government. Politicians respond to people that elect them into office. College age people have the lowest percentage of participation of any age group in the United States and that helps explain the cutback of funding in educational programs. Send a message to the politicians in your local area, state, and nation: REGISTER & VOTE.

I would like to extend my appreciation to The League of Women Voters for their time, efforts, and knowledge concerning Voter Registration. THANK YOU!!

SPIDER'S WEBB

by Amy Webb
assistant editor

Most of the time when we think of a soldier, we get an image of a young man in a uniform. He's brave and strong; the "All-American." Traditionally speaking, there is nothing wrong with this image. However in today's world the "All-American" isn't just "him;" it's "her" too. As of the 1990's women make up 10.8 percent of all armed forces. However, women are still prohibited by law from serving in combat positions. Today many women have chosen to make the armed forces their career. Almost 25 percent of all medical and dental specialist are women. Also, in the fall of 1976 women were allowed admission in service academies, and the numbers rise every year. So, as young women in the 1990's are not limited to certain traditional roles. This is one door that is not closed to women anymore.

The OPINIONS Page

The Opinions page is intended to be a forum for any member of the campus or associated with the campus of Mars Hill College to express his opinion. The ideas or opinions presented on this page are not necessarily those of the staff or of Mars Hill College.

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