

THE TWIG

meredith college

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A crash course in.....

Applied Physics

by L. Faith Wells

Physics, as members of the Chemical and Physical Science Department will declare, applies to every individual alive today. However, interpretations of the laws, theories, and rules of physics may vary. Some helpful interpretations of "physical laws" are presented here.

Isaac Newton's good old standby is a good beginning - what goes up must come down. Imagine this scene: A young female and her boyfriend are eating at the Barn. The girl has never been confronted with a lobster tail and creates a horribly embarrassing scene right in the restaurant because the waitress had the nerve to bring a plate containing no apparent food. Her boyfriend becomes extremely upset and his temper rises well above the

boiling point. Not to worry - what goes up must come down!

A bit more of a generalization of Newton's law of gravity indicates that the gravitational force between two objects is equal to the product of the two masses divided by square of the distance between the two objects. (There's also a constant term thrown in there but that's beside the point.) More simply, given two bodies of generally equal mass, the attractive force between the masses increases as the distance between the two objects decreases!

Newton turns out to be a pretty smart guy. He formulated several other laws of the physical world. Consider his first law of motion which basically says that an object in motion tends to remain in motion until

acted upon by some external force. Again, this law can be illustrated by the couple dining at the Barn. The embarrassing scene the girl is causing can be viewed as "an object in motion." According to Newton, this dizzy girl will continue to pitch a fit until her boyfriend intervenes with some external force. (The magnitude of this force, whether he uses a simple clue or a firm slap, will determine the acceleration of the girl's change of state.) Another of Newton's brainstorms, his idea that every action has an equal but opposite reaction, needs little or no interpretation!

So it's easy to see that a little crash course in physics can leave a person with a pretty good understanding of several applications of physical laws to everyday life.

Church Bells Brighten Day

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your editorial in The TWIG on September 27. I also think the chapel and carillon are an inspiration to the campus. When I hear the bells on my way across campus, the walk brings reflection upon the stories of Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson and others who fought for a Christian college for women. It gives a little boost to me, because it makes the campus a home as well as a school and library.

I might be the only one to feel this way about the bells, but I have other concerns. I

was brought up in a Baptist church and learned that the Sabbath was set aside for worship. I understand the reason for this was that one works the other days and should associate the holy day with rest and no work. I find it hard to find time to worship formally during the week because I, like everyone else, have a hectic schedule. However, I would like a formal time for worship on Sunday morning. I wish that I could attend a service focused directly on the lifestyle of young adult women and not to a congregation of four to 85. I

feel like college life involves a great deal of unique problems and feelings. Sometimes I feel lost in a congregation with such variety of feelings and relationships. At this point in my life when I sit through so many lectures on topics from history to art, I want to worship in a way directly relevant to my needs. Almost every time I see the chapel or hear the bells I am inspired to some devotional thought. However, I find it ironic that the bells rings on Sunday to tell me that the doors are closed and locked.

Beth Madren

EDITOR'S CORNER

Drills Douse Enthusiasm

By order of the "fire marshal," Meredith dorm students will be subjected to a fire drill every month this year. (Handbook, p. 40) It is my opinion that fire drills are good practice - within reason. However, an excessive number is neither necessary nor beneficial.

Most of us have been subjected to fire drills since kindergarten, and with the exception of the difference in location, they are pretty much the same. We know to put on our shoes and coats, close the windows, turn off the lights, and leave the door open. We have been told since age five that we are not to run, but to walk rapidly. We are told at the beginning of each year where to meet our hall advisor in case of a real fire, and common sense tells us that we may not return until we are signaled. What then is so complicated about a fire drill that we must practice it every month? Once or twice a semester seems above and beyond the call of duty.

Has the fire marshal considered that too many fire drills could do more harm than good? Like the boy who cried "wolf" the monthly fire drill becomes ignored. Students don't hurry (if they go down at all) to just another fire drill.

During the fires of last spring Meredith students proved themselves totally capable of getting out of the building in a real fire without panicking and I am sure that we could do the same this year if occasion required it.

Furthermore, it seems to me that in order to be effective, a fire drill should resemble a true fire as closely as possible. Who ever heard of fires that only occur at 7:00 a.m.? Since I have been at Meredith I have never witnessed a fire drill while in class, the library, Cate Center, or the cafeteria. We all know from our experiences last year that fire could be a threat to any of these places as well as the dormitories. Naturally fire drills during class or dinner would be both impractical and disastrous, but there is no logic to doubling dormitory drills to make up for the loss. Isn't it time the students were given credit for having enough intelligence to get out of a building without having to show them how to do it every month?

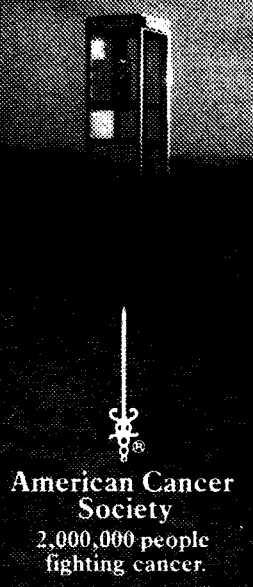
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Campus Paperback Bestsellers

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2. **Real Men Don't Eat Quiche**, by Bruce Feirstein. (Pocket, \$3.95.) A hilarious guide to masculinity.
3. **Thin Thighs In 30 Days**, by Wendy Stehling. (Bantam, \$2.95.) How to tone up and thin down.
4. **Cujo**, by Stephen King. (NAL/Signet, \$3.95.) Another tale of horror from the master.
5. **E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial**, by William Kotzwinkle. (Berkley, \$2.95.) Novel of the popular film.
6. **The Soul Of A New Machine**, by Tracy Kidder. (Avon, \$3.95.) Behind the scenes at a computer company.
7. **The Hotel New Hampshire**, by John Irving. (Pocket, \$3.95.) Latest novel by the author of "Garp."
8. **What Color Is Your Parachute?**, by Richard Nelson Bolles. (Ten Speed Press, \$6.95.) Career and job guide.
9. **The Cinderella Complex**, by Colette Dowling. (Pocket, \$3.95.) Uncovers the roots of women's inner conflicts.
10. **Color Me Beautiful**, by Carole Jackson. (Ballantine, \$8.95.) A how-to book for women.

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New & Recommended

- Letter To A Child Never Born, by Oriana Fallaci. (Washington Square Press, \$2.95) The story of a woman coming to grips with pregnancy and the struggle between society's demands and her own desires.
- New Rules, by Daniel Yankelovich. (Bantam, \$3.95) A study of the cultural and economic forces charting our future.
- Working Wardrobe, by Janet Wallach. (Warner, \$8.95) How to more than triple your wardrobe with two-color coordinated dressing.

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