

# Chaos! It's a Way of Life

## *Science Proves Murphy Right*

### **Murphy's Laws**

1. If anything can go wrong, it will.
2. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the first one to go wrong.
3. If anything just cannot go wrong, it will anyway.
4. If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which something can go wrong, and circumvent these, then a fifth way, unprepared for, will promptly develop.
5. Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.
6. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
7. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw

Many of us feel guilty when our world collapses upon us. We see things going amok and feel responsible. We question why our lives cannot be error free. There are moments when the "slings and arrows" are all aimed at us, and we wonder "why me?" There is so much coming in, there's no way out. Sometimes it feels as though we have been down so long it is now all up to us (and, in fact, it is—it always has been).

For some a level playing field is an oxymoron. The "can't beat 'em, join 'em" attitude has put "Rocky Road" ice cream in the top ten flavors. Now Science shows us why.

Since the late 1960's, spearheaded initially by theoretical works, the "Science of Chaos" has become a new branch on the tree of explanations of why things are as they are. The Science of Chaos was first derided, but eventually more and more scientists have accepted the basic tenet that the world falls apart. We live in a universe that moves from order to disorder. No less than the great English physicist Stephen Hawking confirms in his calculations that in an expanding universe it is natural for things to break apart. The saucer falls from the table and shatters. As difficult as it is to imagine, in a shrinking universe the opposite would happen (think of a black hole where everything would be sucked together).

Now, at last, science has proven Murphy correct. Murphy was just ahead of his time. We now realize the fault is neither in the stars nor ourselves. It is a fact of life that chaos is not only possible, but probable

### **Success in a Murphy-Chaos Universe**

No doubt the universe was not created to make the lives of humankind easy. It is enough that it has made life possible. Now we face the challenge of improving our own fates in a universe that may be as subject to chaos as we are driven to find order within it.

The successful will be those who plan for trouble, are ready for adversity, and catch the problems early. We must believe in "The stitch in time" approach to chaos management so we can in fact turn problems into opportunities.