

# RETTIG'S GUIDE FOR ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, ETC.

<b>First Law:</b>	If anything can go wrong, it will.
<b>Second Law:</b>	No matter what result is anticipated, there will always be someone willing to fake it.
<b>Third Law:</b>	No matter what occurs, there is always someone who believes it happened according to his pet theory.
<b>Fourth Law:</b>	No matter what the result, there is always someone eager to misinterpret it.
<b>Finagle's Creed:</b>	Science Is Truth. Don't Be Misled By Facts.
<b>Finagle's Motto:</b>	Smile! Tomorrow It Will Be Worse.

## Compendium of Ground Rules:

- A. When you don't know what you are doing, do it NEATLY.
- B. When you don't know what you are talking about, say it LOUD.
- C. Experiments must be reproducible. They should all fail the same way.
- D. First draw your curves; then plot the data.
- E. Experience is directly proportional to the equipment ruined.
- F. A record of data is essential. It indicates you have been working.
- G. To study a subject best, understand it thoroughly before you start.
- H. In case of doubt, make it sound convincing. Talk fast and authoritatively.
- I. Do not believe in miracles; rely on them.
- J. Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else.
- K. Remember: An ounce of image is worth a pound of performance.

## Wisdom of the Giants of Science, Distilled and Condensed for Your Edification:

**Patrick's Theorem:** *If it works, you must be using the wrong equipment or you left something out.*

**Skinner's Constant:** *That quantity which, when added to, subtracted from, divided by, or multiplied by the answer you got, gives you the answer you should have gotten.*

**Gumperson's Law:** *The probability of a given event occurring is inversely proportional to its desirability.*

**The Ordering Principle:** *The quantities of material necessary for yesterday's prototype must be ordered no later than tomorrow noon.*

**The Compensation Corollary:** *An experiment may be considered successful if not more than half of the data must be discarded to obtain correspondence with your pet theory.*

**Carson's Consolation:** *No experiment is ever a complete failure. It can always be used as a bad example.*

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