

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

Being a woman of sharp wit, keen eye, and vast intelligence, I consider it a gift to be offered an opportunity to ponder one of life's mysteries. Luckily, a mystery-pondering opportunity recently offered itself and with it a host of discoveries without which I'd be sorely uninformed.

I was at a doctor's office having a check up when a brilliant little nurse popped in with a chart.

"I need to make sure your information is current," she said.

She proceeded in nursely fashion to double check that my address and phone number hadn't changed and then earnestly asked me, "And your birthday is still May eleventh?" I was struck with the instantaneous self-esteem-dashing sense that I was apparently – despite my sharp wit, keen eye, and vast intelligence – out of the loop. Surely a universal law – namely the one that states a birthday shall remain a constant over a lifetime (except, of course, in soap operas and for Joan Rivers) – had changed and I had somehow missed the headline on my AOL Welcome screen. But given that this nurse was part of the medical community and definitely privy to universal law changes (our

local community college having quite the state-of-the-art universal law update program), I had to believe she knew something I didn't know.

So I did some research and found that I had indeed missed out on some pivotal universal law changes in recent years.

Apparently, the universal law that states "what goes up must come down" was debunked in 1997 by Pietros Viagras who, despite his morally questionable and vulgar research methods, proved that sometimes staying up was "a heck of a lot of fun."

Not to mention the bombshell that $E=MC^2$ is no longer on record since the Eastern North Carolina Competitive Square Dance Team argued that the formula too closely resembled the logo printed on the fronts of their road trip sweatshirts and made square dancing appear unfairly boring.

And in a monumental court decision in the 1989 *Tipper Gore vs. Board of Education* case, "you reap what you sow" was stricken from universal law status when it was proven that reaping was distracting to the learning abilities of public school children (not to mention that when the word "reap" is said backwards, it clearly sounds like, "I love Satan."). Later, when it was uncovered that a court clerk (one W4anD.a fFatfin.ge,r) had made a typing error and that it was actually "rapping" that was causing the ruckus, the clerk was docked one hour's pay but the court's decision stood as it was decided that none of the school children knew what reaping was anyway and, in fact, nobody had reaped in quite a long time. This was quite the gift for me to learn, as I had been openly reaping for years and was lucky to have not been fined for it.

And speaking of gift, did you know that today is my birthday? And so is tomorrow. And the day after that.