

The great Orville Hubbard once said, "A failure is a man who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience."

Often we blame luck for our setbacks. We say, "Well, that's the way the ball bounces," and let it go at that. But stop and think. Balls don't bounce in certain ways for uncertain reasons. The bounce of a ball is determined by three things: the ball, the way it is thrown, and the surface it strikes. Definite physical laws explain the bounce of a ball, not luck.

Suppose the CAA were to issue a report saying, "We're sorry the crash occurred, but folks, that's just the way the ball bounces."

You'd say it's time to get a new CAA. Or suppose a doctor explained to a relative, "I'm awfully sorry. I don't know what happened. It's just one of those things."

You'd switch doctors when you or another relative became ill.

The that's-the-way-the-ball-bounces approach teaches us nothing. We're no better prepared to avoid a duplication of the mistake the next time we face a similar situation. The football coach who takes Saturday's loss with "Well, boys, that's the way the ball bounces" isn't helping his team avoid the same mistakes the next Saturday.

Orville Hubbard, mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, for seventeen consecutive years, is one of the nation's most colorful and respected urban administrators.

For ten years prior to becoming mayor of Dearborn, Mr. Hubbard could have used the "bad luck" excuse and stepped out of politics.

Before becoming a perennial winner, Orville Hubbard was "unlucky" three times in trying to get the nomination for mayor.