

Ed looks at numbers shaping America

by Ed Miseta

I like statistics. Statistics about people, specifically. So you can imagine how happy I was when I opened up the Parade Magazine in my newspaper last Sunday and found statistics on "We, The Americans." Compiled from more than 200 reports, journals and opinion polls these statistics show, in percentages, how and what Americans think about various ingredients which comprise their lives.

Since it's hard for most people to fully understand what some of these stats actually mean, I've decided to fill you in on a few of them.

1) 90 percent of Americans consider themselves happy people.

This means, of course, that 10 percent of Americans are not happy campers. If you broke down that 10 percent you would find that three percent are college graduates who can't find a job (probably Accounting majors), three percent are Americans living below the poverty level, and four percent are disturbed individuals requiring the assistance of self-help groups. These self-help groups include A.A., COPE, Al-Anon, Fraternities, and Sororities.

2) Eighty-three percent of Americans feel close to God.

Of these, 60 percent are Christians, 20 percent are atheists who lied during the survey, and 3 percent are Nittany Lion fans who develop a close relationship with God every time Tony Sacca drops back to pass.

3) Eighty-one percent of American abortions are performed on unmarried women.

This is because fine, upstanding young men like myself refuse to sleep with married women.

4) One percent of Americans do not believe in God.

This is probably the segment of our population that are Chicago Cub fans.

5) Forty percent of Americans do not think a college education is important to succeed in the business world.

They do, however, feel that being able to shed tears at will, being able to handle a switchblade, and being able to

perform ethics violations without batting an eyelash are necessities to succeeding in the business world.

6) Three percent of American women need more than 25 minutes of intercourse before they reach orgasm.

These are the women that I seem to keep meeting. The only problem is that I'm one of those males that require approximately 25 seconds of intercourse before I reach orgasm. You can see how this might put a strain on a relationship.

7) Three percent of Americans think Elvis Presley was history's most exciting figure.

These same people also believe that Nixon will run again in 1992, that Roseanne Barr is America's greatest actress, and that Jim Morrison is still alive and living near Panama City, Panama.

8) Six percent of Americans feel the single greatest element in happiness is great wealth.

I'm proud to say that I am one of those 6 percent. Let's face it, if you have a lot of money, you can go out and buy all of those things that make you really happy. Things such as boats, houses, cars, beer, and even women that orgasm after only 25 seconds.

9) Thirty-five percent of Americans do not drink alcohol.

If you broke down this statistic you would find that 20 percent are followers of Jerry Falwell who feel it is against their religion to drink, 10 percent are recovering alcoholics who are not allowed to drink, and 5 percent are Behrend students who, if they dare consume a beer, risk being arrested by Campus police, thrown in jail, and getting slapped with steep, outrageous fines. Once campus police start carrying guns, this number will rise even higher.

So there you have it. Statistics on We, The Americans, properly broken down and analyzed. If you ever come across any stats in other publications and can't quite figure them out, please feel free to send them to my attention here at the Collegian. I'd be happy to analyze them for you.

Till next week, Thanks for your support.

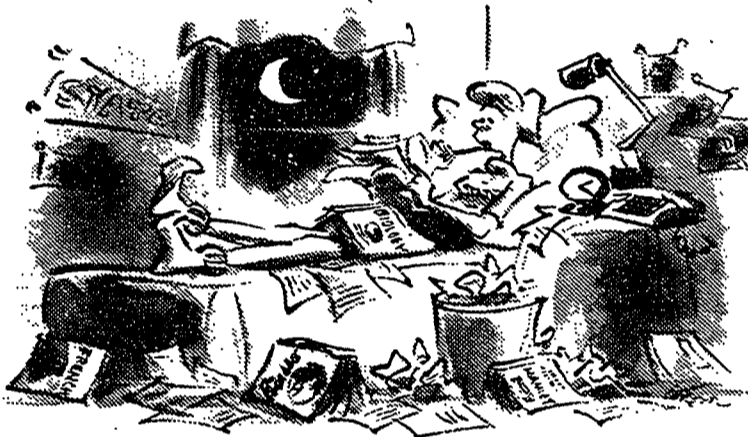


Ask Louanne

The Collegian Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton,
Psychologist

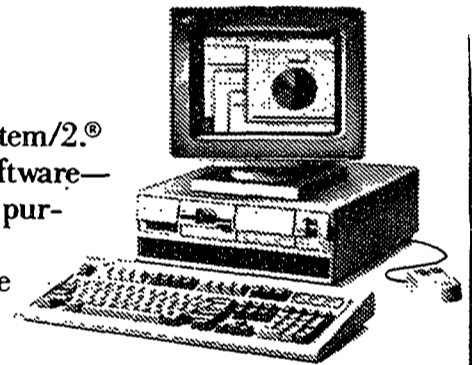
Dr. Barton is taking this week off from her regular column but will return next week. If you'd like to write a letter to Dr. Barton, simply drop it off in the counseling center on the first floor of the Reed Building or place your letter in campus mail

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