

Features

What type of driver are you?



Sean Clancy
Columnist

Last week in my psychology class, we discussed the fundamental attribution error. My professor explained it through the example of road rage. In our culture, we automatically assume that the driver who drives slowly, obstinately and thoughtlessly is a moron.

However, the error comes in when we fail to realize situational possibilities. The driver could be thinking about terribly important things, and just can't pay that much attention to driving.

Well, I'm no psychologist, but I think people who drive like they can't, make me insane when they attack in numbers.

How many times have you said @#%&!\$%^&*^&@? I know, too many times to count. Almost every time I get in my car, I encounter someone who displays, at best, a vague grasp of motor vehicle use.

They obviously knew how to get the car started, they just have to work on that other

stuff. The funny thing is that bad drivers can't learn to drive any better with practice.

You know that friend who has wrecked four cars since high school, or perhaps your grandmother who scares the bejesus out of you when she's driving? As an example, my grandfather was legally blind the last four years he had his license.

A few summers ago, while riding my bicycle to the beach, I met an older gentleman when he introduced himself by launching me into the windshield of his Volvo. He told the police that he hadn't seen me, and I believe him, but it was a cloudless Saturday morning and I was the only thing moving on my side of the road.

Even if I knew about the fundamental attribution error, I don't think I would be very open to considering his situation.

Notwithstanding, the person most likely to be ruining my day over five seconds is the

guy in the left lane. He is constantly, perpetually and permanently doing something wrong. He's right in front of you, crawling along while the infinite line of cars in the right lane whiz past you, each "whoosh" an implacable reminder of your hapless position.

Your head drops as you exhale and wonder why this person is driving so slowly in the passing lane. Then the fundamental attribution error kicks in and the only realistic, reasonable and possible explanation for his behavior is that he's a bloody idiot.

He's slamming on the brakes, coming to a complete halt before putting on the left turn blinker, announcing your intermission from going anywhere. Your heart palpitates, because you weren't paying attention either, and you just realized he's stopping and the only thing you can think of is what a jerk this guy is.

Then there's the guy behind you, pushing his car doggedly closer because you signaled that you were about to move into his lane (to avoid the bloody idiot in front of you) and he doesn't want you to be ahead of him. Then he passes you and moves over into your lane, only to slow down so you have to pass him. The third time you pass him, you resent him, and wish that he would speed off or slow down

or exit or do anything but pass you again.

He and his buddy are staring at you at a red light and he is revving his engine because they want to race your 1985 Toyota Camry. You are laughing at them and thinking how silly they are. He is making a right turn, right now.

Do you know the lady who is doing everything besides drive? She is doing her hair, her nails and her make-up. She is looking for a tape while adjusting the volume on the one playing. She is the one who gets to the four-way stop first but has to wait to engage you in that weird "You go," "No, you go," nonsense.

She is parked in the middle of the road talking to her friend on the sidewalk, oblivious to the line of cars quickly lining up behind her. She is thinking about where she is. She is contemplating the meaning of life and admiring the sunset. She is on the phone.

Then, of course, there is the driver who is fully aware of the ulcer that he is causing you, but is coldly indifferent or perhaps amused. The kind of person who cunningly steals your spot in the parking lot even though you were there first.

This is the girl who's six inches behind your bumper because she's mad that you can't magically make the traffic around her disappear.

Writers

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ily living in New Mexico in 1944.

She meets an American Indian named Johnny, who deserts her before the birth of her children. She goes to live with his grandmother, and cross-cultural horizon-widening ensues.

The excerpt Harrow read takes place in 1964. Johnny has been exposed to radiation working at the Los Alamos nuclear testing facility and is dying of cancer.

The most accurate way of characterizing both of these works-in-progress was "easy-listening fiction," both in form

and in content. The style was understated, unvarnished and professional.

The Great Smokies Writing Program is intended to bridge the gap between the growing community of writers in Western North Carolina and UNCA.

The GSWP has collaborated with the UNCA Creative Writing program to put on workshops, such as the one taught by writer Van Jordan last spring. These extension courses are offered by the UNCA Special Academics department and may be taken for credit.

Waltz

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component of the artistic spirit, exploring the inspiration behind the music and the inner world of the composer.

The closing is the most touching scene in the film and it was my favorite until the director explained how he had staged it for impact. The shot is of Bowles lying in bed with a young Arab man sitting be-

side him singing a lullaby. As he sings, he tenderly kisses Bowles on the forehead and Bowles drifts off to sleep as the movie ends and the credits start to roll. I felt it was a cheap way to manipulate the emotions of the audience, but they knew what they were doing. It worked and I loved it.

Correction — The Headwaters Office is in Karpen Hall 240. Reed Wood's poem is entitled "American Myth." Stephen Kirbach is a UNCA alumnus.



For Your Information



Get the rest of your education...

Sept 28 thru Oct 5

FYI is a service of the Student Activities and Student Affairs offices.

FYI is published each Thursday. Deadline to submit information is Friday at 2 pm, for the following week's publication. Send basic information to K. Keane at HC 27 or kkeane@unca.edu. See FYI on Banner online at www.unca.edu/banner/fyi

Academic Notices

- Student notification letters go out for SOARS Grant •9/29
- NCUR Applications due •10/13

Athletics

- Volleyball vs. Charleston Southern, 2pm, JG •9/30
- Men's Soccer vs. Elon, 2pm, GF •9/30
- Women's Soccer vs. South Carolina State, 4pm, GF •9/30
- Volleyball vs. Coastal Carolina, 2pm, JG •10/1
- Men's Soccer vs. Belmont Abbey, 4pm, GF •10/2
- Volleyball vs. Winthrop, 7pm, JG •10/4

Career Center/Jobs

- E-jobs: Part time jobs listserv-contact mwhitson@unca.edu
- JobTrak.com: Graduating Seniors register for full time jobs www.unca.edu/career

Concerts/Live Entertainment

- Loonis McGlohon, Jazz Trio, 4pm, LH Aud., •10/1
- Performance Poetry, 7pm, HCL •10/3
- Drag Show, spon. by Sigma Nu, 9pm, HCL •10/3
- "Macbeth" by Theater UNCA, CBT •9/28-10/8
- Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate of the US, 8pm, LH Aud. •10/5
- Radio Free Bubbas, writers/radio hosts tell stories, 8am/KH 232, 11am/KH 033 •10/6
- UNCA Pep Band, 12 noon, Quad •10/6

Etc.

- Study Break, spon. by Residence Life, 8:30pm, HC Lobby •10/3
- Homecoming '01 interest meeting, 5:30pm, HC Coffeehouse •10/4 or 10/6
- Blood Drive, spon. by SGA, 10am, HCL, (x6587) •10/4
- Family Weekend •10/6-10/8
- Chancellor James H. Mullen Installation, 2pm, Quad •10/6
- ISA Dance, 7pm, HCL •10/6
- Night Sky Viewing on the Quad, 9 pm •Mondays/Tuesdays
- Super Saturday for grades 3-8, 9am, RH •Saturdays
- Bulldog Express, free bus service around Asheville-Downtown, Wal-Mart, Mall, Beaucatcher Cinema (7:30pm-12:30am Friday and Saturday) from UNCA and return

Exhibits

- Terry Godfrey Installation, Blowers Gallery •thru 9/30
- UNCA Art Alumni Exhibition, University Gallery •10/6 thru 10/17
- Deborah Misch Exhibition: "Making Waves," Opening 6:30-8:30pm, OH •9/29 thru 10/17
- "Native American Art," Blowers Gallery •thru 10/28

Films

- "Spaceballs" and "American Psycho," Movies on the Quad, 8pm, UNCA Quad •9/29
- "Visages de Femmes," Women's Cinema Tuesdays, 8pm, Mills 232

Hispanic Heritage Month

- Film "Al Masir (Destiny)," 6pm, Whitman Room •9/28
- Film "Abre Los Ojos (Open your eyes)," 7pm, Whitman Room •10/2
- Vera Gomez, Performance Poet, 7pm, HCL •10/3
- Laura Fuentes y Calicanto, Chilean Folk Music, 9pm, HCL •10/4

Leadership Opportunities

- Orientation Leader 2001 applications available, HC 31 •due 10/25

Lectures/Workshops/Seminars

- "Encountering Drama," First Year Seminar, 7pm, RL •9/28
- "Other Doctorates and Degrees of the Health Professions," 12 noon, HC 37 •9/28
- "Managing the Changes," First Year Seminar, 11am, LF •10/5
- "Stepping Down From the Ivory Tower - A University's Commitment to Its Community," 12:45pm, HCL, (x5180) •10/5
- "Recruiting A New Generation Of Teachers," by Kathy Sullivan, 4pm, LF •10/9

Outdoor Activities (Sign Up in HC)

- Intro to Climbing, \$20 - transportation/rentals/food •10/14-10/18
- Horseback Riding, \$10 - transportation/instruction •10/21

Recreation/Intramurals

- Intramural Info Meeting - kickball, racquetball, indoor soccer, ultimate frisbee, 3 on 3 basketball, 7pm, HFC 203 •10/9
- Kayaking, 7-9:30pm, pool •Wednesdays
- UNCA Swing Club, 9pm, Dance Studio •Wednesdays

Tickets in HC 27

- Asheville Art Museum -\$2
- Carowinds-\$22
- Biltmore House-\$24
- Chimney Rock -\$6 with voucher
- United Artist Movie Theater-\$4
- Robert Pinsky, Poet-\$5 •10/5
- Teatro Hugo & Ines -\$5 •10/10

Upcoming Events

- Fall Fling 2000, Festivities on the Quad, 1-5pm, Concert: Mandoriko, 8pm, Quad •10/7
- "This is the Place Where I Live," program of NC Poetry, 7:30pm, LH Aud. •10/7
- Foreign Language Placement Exams, HLH •(10/18, 1pm)(10/19, 9:30am)
- "Short Stories," Puppet Theater by Teatro Hugo & Ines, 6 & 8pm •10/10

Volunteer Opportunities

- For service-learning opportunities Key Center for Service-Learning, 251-4600 or lweinberg@unca.edu
- Help needed at Kituwah Festival (10/12-10/15), receive t-shirt/admission/meal tickets, apply RH 116 •deadline 10/3