

EDITORIAL

Daily average concerns

What does an average person do on an average day in an average town in this not-so-average land of ours? People with a passion for averages have collected some facts about what some of them do.

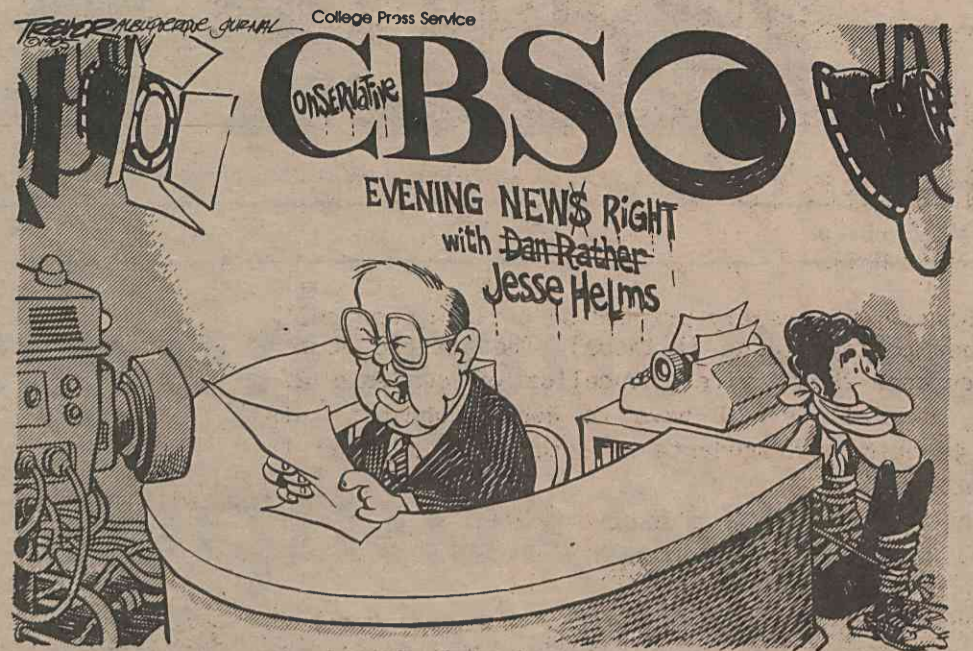
According to the book, *American Averages*, the following things take place on an average day in the United States:

- . 500 million cups of coffee are drunk.
- . 1,253 people are arrested on marijuana charges.
- . 1.6 billion cigarettes are smoked.
- . People drink 90 million cans of beer.
- . Drunk drivers do \$18 million worth of damage.
- . 68,493 teenagers come down with VD.
- . Everyone of us, on the average, produces 6 pounds of garbage.
- . 1.1 million people are in the hospital.
- . 5,200 people die.
- . 1,070 people die from cancer.
- . Tobacco chewers chew 1.3 million packages of the stuff.
- . One American in eight has a beer.
- . 2,740 kids run away from home.
- . Fires kill 32 people.
- . 63,288 cars crash, killing 129 people.

Statistics such as these interest us. We like to discover what the rest of the country is up to. We like to see how our actions and lives compare to the actions and the lives of others.

Perhaps we even gain comfort from learning how many people share our less than healthful habits. We probably also try to ignore, however, the possibility of connections between some of these habits and our nation's high rate of alcohol-related destruction, as well as its high incidence of death from cancer.

Being average has never been a laudable goal; but these statistics indicate some averages from which we might well earnestly seek exclusion.



"...FINALLY, SALVADORAN LIFE SQUADS REPORT SUCCESS IN THEIR POPULATION-CONTROL PROGRAM...AND THAT'S THE WAY I SAY IT IS, TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 1986..."

IN YOUR OPINION

AD defends pool policies

Dear Editor:

We are responding to Chuck Greenwood's letter that appeared in the last edition of *The Blue Banner*.

First, we would like to dispel the illusion that Mr. Greenwood created by stating that pool hours are "auctioned off." The Athletic Department has made it a policy to share facilities with the community, particularly the pool, because there are many unused pool hours, despite the increase in hours where it is available to students, faculty, staff, and yes, the community.

Total hours that the pool is open have risen from 15/week to 35/week. These 35 hours do not include the times a Masters swimming club, two Buncombe Parks and Recreation swim teams, a McDowell County high school swim team, Christ School, and UNCA PE classes occupy the pool.

Many of these times are either very early or late in the day, and hence are unattractive to others. We cannot afford to staff hours when the pool is not utilized by several people. Perhaps Mr. Greenwood expects the pool to be open all day to accommodate just one swimmer? We do our best to target pool hours for times when the most people can use it.

The only adjustments of recreational use hours that have been made as a result of swim team use, are two days per week that Christ School uses the pool until 5 p.m., plus three scheduled swim meets.

These changes were posted at the beginning of the semester. Other closings are due to holidays and basketball games. The arrangement with Christ School is temporary, ending Feb. 15, when Monday and Wednesday hours return to 4-8 p.m.

We have a great facility and it seems foolish not to maximize its usefulness by allowing other groups to use it during off and idle times. This

certainly does not strike the department as being "inconsiderate." Just the opposite, as a matter of fact!

If it were not for this policy of sharing, many high school students and other youngsters would not have the opportunity to develop their swimming skills or to be part of a swim program.

There are other reasons for this policy. One is that the funds derived from these sources subsidize our operations. In other words, if it was not for this outside income, the \$27 a year that students pay, would not be enough for the Athletic Department to staff expanded hours (for a net increase of 10 hours a week); or provide front desk equipment check-out, sign-in, and building supervision.

The latter two are services which we feel make the gym a more secure and smooth running facility. People in the past wondered why we did not just open the pool and allow them to swim at their own risk. Aside from the issue of liability, state regulations require that a pool larger than 1800 square feet must be staffed by a qualified lifeguard.

Let's not forget the value of community relations. Opening our facility to Asheville residents is our way of showing appreciation for their support of our programs.

If we provided only what his \$27 fee would cover, Mr. Greenwood would not be satisfied. Any of the staff would have been more than willing to respond to Mr. Greenwood's questions and suggestions, but none of us were approached by him on the matter.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS ALWAYS THE UNCA STUDENT! Anyone who has questions or suggestions, or is dissatisfied, please talk to us. We are always willing to make every attempt to meet your needs.

Helen J. Carrol, Interim Athletic Dir.
Dede M. Allen, Pool Manager

THE BLUE BANNER

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Nothing in the editorial or opinion sections necessarily represents the position of the entire BANNER staff, the staff advisor, or UNCA's Student Government Association, administration or faculty. Editorials represent the opinion of the editor and/or of a majority of the seven-member editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the views of their authors. The editor makes the final decision about what the BANNER prints.

The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name followed by year in school, major or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

All submitted articles or letters are subject to editing. The BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted. Deadline for submissions is Friday noon.

Due to limited space, letter and opinion writers should restrict their submissions to 500 words in length.