

Sidelights

If you do not have mirth you will certainly have madness—G. K. Chesterton

By Brandon Bosworth

A survey of college students found that the ones most likely to cheat were journalism majors. According to the Center for Academic Integrity, 27 percent of **journalism students admit to cheating**, followed by 26 percent of business majors. ☛ U.S. airlines lost an average of 10,000 bags a day in 2005, a 23 percent increase from 2003. ☛ Fifteen percent of Web surfers never use search engines. ... 71 million American adults use e-mail on the average weekday. ... Over half of all Google Web searches originate in the U.S. ☛ **The average new home in the U.S. contains over 2,400 square feet, an increase of almost 50 percent from 1973.** ☛ An Australian couple found a 32-pound lump of ambergris valued at about \$295,000 while walking on the beach. Highly prized by perfumers, ambergris is a substance vomited by sperm whales. ☛ North Korea makes over \$100 million annually by producing counterfeit cigarettes. ☛ **One third of French citizens describe themselves as “racist,”** according to a poll by France’s National Commission for the Rights of Man. One year ago, the number was one fourth. ... **A third of Italians want to live in a country besides Italy,** according to a Eurispes poll. Most want to move to Spain or France. ☛ A whopping 96 percent of Singapore’s citizens favor the death penalty, according to a poll con-

ducted by the *Sunday Times* newspaper. According to respondents, capital punishment deters serious crimes, keeps the country safe, and is a just punishment for criminals. ☛ London’s *Sunday Times* reported that heterosexual foreigners are **faking homosexuality** and entering into phony gay civil unions as a way to gain British citizenship. Homosexual civil partnerships became legal in the U.K. last year. ☛ Euan Blair, eldest son of British prime minister Tony Blair, recently began a six-month stint as an intern in the U.S. Congress.

Fully 85 percent of recent **military recruits come from middle-class neighborhoods** with average household incomes ranging between \$30,000 and \$200,000, according to research by the Heritage Foundation. ☛ By the end of the decade, the number of **U.S. workers aged 55-64 will more than double**, reports *The Economist*. The number of workers aged 35-44 will decline 10 percent. ☛ Only 19 percent of American

households lack a cell phone. ... A quarter of individuals who own a personal digital assistant have lost it at least once. ☛ Americans spent \$2 billion on DVDs of old TV shows in 2005. ... **The portion of disposable income Americans spend going to the movies has dropped 17 percent** over just the last three years. ☛ Eighty-five percent of Americans oppose an increase in the federal gasoline tax, according to a *New York Times*/CBS News poll. However, 55 percent said they would support an increase in the tax if it would lead to a reduction of dependence on foreign oil. ... A Pew Research Center poll found that 50 percent of Americans believe the U.S. can end its reliance on foreign oil within the next 20 years. ☛ Des Moines resident Kimberly Du was arrested after it was discovered she faked her own death in an attempt to escape traffic fines. ... Florida middle-school gym teacher Terence Braxton was charged with letting students pay him \$1 every time they wanted to skip his class.

☛ Within the last year, 15 percent of Americans have **drunk on the job**, felt the effects of drinking while working, or come to work hung over. ☛ According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Democrats have accepted \$54 million from lobbyists in the last 15 years. Republicans have accepted \$48 million.

