American Needs

**Americans use sixteen thousand tons of aspirin each year. (*Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 65)***

**Catalog nation: 19.2 billion: Number of catalogs mailed to U.S. customers in 2005, a 5.5 percent increase over 2004, which recorded a 5.3 percent increase over 2003. 400 million: How many catalogs Victoria Secret mails annually, or 1.33 for every American. *(Direct Marketing Association / BusinessWeek, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, December 12, 2006)***

**Forty-nine percent of Americans view cell phones as necessities instead of luxuries, according to the Pew Research Center. Back in 1996, Pew didn't put cell phones in its survey of necessities and luxuries. *(New York Daily News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 16, 2007)***

**What This Country Needs Is . . .**

**. . . a good, dishonest bathroom scale. *("Graffiti")***

**. . . more united notions. *(Jan Mckeithen in Camden County, Georgia, Tribune.***

**. . . dressing rooms with curtains that meet. *(Gloria Schlesna)***

**. . . a pickle that's as easy to get out of as to get into. *(Irv Cohen)***

**. . . a set of brakes that will stop the car behind us. *(Mae Maloo, in Chicago Tribune)***

**. . . a scale that takes off five pounds for good intentions. *(Quoted by Earl Wilson, News America Syndicate)***

**. . . something that outlasts the box it came in. *(Bill Walton, in National Enquirer)***

**. . . self-destructing campaign posters. *(Don Maclean, United Feature Syndicate)***

**. . . an alarm c lock that awakens you with the aroma of bacon and eggs frying. *(Ed Scott, in Nashville, Tennessee, Tennessean)***

**. . . a five-course, 500-calorie, five-dollar dinner. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

**. . . some political malpractice insurance. *(Funny Funny World)***

**. . . a jumper cable for people who are slow starters. *(Bob Pearcy, in Danville, Indiana, Gazette)***

**. . . a wind-up furnace. *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**. . . fewer people who live across the street and more neighbors. *(Elk River, Minnesota, Sun-News)***

**During your lifetime, you’ll eat about 60,000 pounds of food, that’s the weight of about 6 elephants! *(Kids’ Pages, 2007)***

**Americans eat about 10 billion cows, chickens, pigs, and other animals every year. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 8, 2008)***

**Claim is that Americans eat chickens at a rate of almost 10,000 a minute. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Americans spend over one million dollars on energy every minute. *(Chevron advertisement, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 10, 2006)***

**If you’re like the average American consumer, you go through 570 gallons of gasoline every year. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits, September 10, 2007)***

**For all its glitz and glamour, not to mention guacamole (43.8 million pounds of avocados were eaten during Super Bowl XXXIX), Super Sunday has produced plenty of special moments on the field. *(Lynn DeBruin, in Rocky Mountain News, February 3, 2006)***

**Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have moved their growing brood into a Manhattan hotel suite costing $100,000 a month, says the New York Post. The couple and their four children are now ensconced in a 6,000-square-foot suite at the ritzy Waldorf Towers, close to both the exclusive French school their son Maddox attends and the United Nations, where Jolie is a goodwill ambassador. *(The Week magazine, October 19, 2007)***

**U.S. builders will need to construct nearly 60 million housing units by 2030 to shelter an estimated 94 million more Americans, and to replace destroyed or aging homes. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January7, 2005)***

**About 1 out of 12 gallons of milk produced by U.S. dairy farmers goes to make ice cream. The average American ate 21.5 quarts of the stuff last year. *(Newsday, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 22, 2005)***

**100,000 pounds of Red Vines licorice are produced every day by the American Licorice Company. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 6, 2005)***

**The Pentagon is waging another type of battle that just keeps growing in scale: meeting the demands for military vehicles, ships and aircraft around the world. Reuters reports that according to the Defense Energy Support Center:**

**$6.7 billion: What the military paid for 144.8 million barrels of fuel in 2004.**

**$8.8 billion: The cost of 128.3 million barrels in 2005 as the average price per barrel of oil rose by almost 50 percent to $68.**

**$10 billion: What the Pentagon estimates it will spend this year for 130.6 million barrels at a cost of more than $77 per barrel. *(Rocky Mountain News, March 21, 2006)***

**Am advised New York City drinks from a reservoir about as big as the state of Delaware. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**U.S. consumers spend $1.2 trillion on nonessential goods and services annually, according to the Commerce Department. Consumer spending on discretionary luxury items, including jewelry, yachts, sports cars, alcoholic beverages, and candy, has risen to 1.2 percent of total consumer spending – up from 4 percent in 1959. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)***

**Every day, Saudi Arabia receives more than $500 million from oil-consuming nations, including nearly $100 million from the United States. *(Fortune, as it  appeared in The Week magazine, March 17,  2006)***

**If you’re like the average American, the amount of paper you use in one year is the equivalent of what could be made by processing a 100-foot-high tree that’s 16 inches in diameter. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits, 2007)***

**Every year, the average American uses paper and wood equivalent to one 100-foot-tall tree. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 86)***

**On average, the Pentagon uses 666 rolls of toilet paper in one day. As they say in government circles, no job’s finished until the paperwork is done. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 90)***

**Domino’s Pizza sells 1.2 million pies nationwide on Super Bowl Sunday, a 42 percent increase over the average Sunday. Sales at Papa John’s spike 48 percent on the day of the big game. *(Consumer Reports, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 4, 2005)***

**60 percent of Americans will order pizza on Super Bowl Sunday, according to Uno Chicago Grill. Also, the company says: Americans will eat more than 100 million pizza slices before halftime that day. More pizza is ordered on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day. *(Rocky Mountain News, February 3, 2007)***

**Plastic wrap is a staple of the American kitchen – in fact, you probably have a roll or two stashed in a drawer or cupboard right now. But did you know that in the U.S., we use enough of the stuff every year to cover the entire state of Texas? *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**What the country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds. *(Will Rogers)***

**Then and now: The average American used between 5 and 10 gallons of water a day in 1904. Today’s American uses 100 gallons of water per day. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 101)***

**Of the 400 gallons of water the average family of four uses every day, about one-third go to irrigate lawns and gardens. Americans drench their yards with 7 billion gallons of water every day*. (The Wall Street Journal, in The Week magazine, August 3, 2007)***

**What We Need Is . . .**

**. . . a room deodorizer to get rid of the smell of room deodorizers. *(Sydney J. Harris)***

**. . . a windshield wiper that won't hold parking tickets. (*Bud Lowy)***

**. . . a good five-cent anything. *(Changing Times, The Kiplinger Magazine)***

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