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**Mark L. Lewis\*** ([lewis@math.kent.edu](mailto:lewis@math.kent.edu)), Department of Mathematical Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242. *Variations on average character degrees and  $p$ -nilpotence.*

We prove that if  $p$  is an odd prime,  $G$  is a solvable group, and the average value of the irreducible characters of  $G$  whose degrees are not divisible by  $p$  is strictly less than  $2(p+1)/(p+3)$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. We show that there are examples that are not  $p$ -nilpotent where this bound is met for every prime  $p$ . We then prove a number of variations of this result. (Received August 18, 2015)