

Drugs allegedly harm psychotics

One of the most commonly prescribed drugs for psychotic patients, Thorazine, damages the learning ability of the patients, says John Gillis, psychology department chairer at Oregon State University (OSU). Gillis spoke on "Psychoactive Drugs and Social Judgment" in Straub Hall Thursday afternoon.

Gillis has been studying the effects of drugs on psychotic patients for six years. He explains a psychotic as "a person who has been cut off from reality."

"Psychotic patients are put in cognitive straight jackets (by drugs) and don't respond to counseling. So what good are they?" Gillis answered his question by saying Thorazine is useful with patients who need to be restrained.

Gillis studies have compared the effect of commonly prescribed drugs on a patient's ability to complete structured learning exercises. A placebo, an inert substance, was also given to patients, and its users were the best learners.

Gillis recently completed a study of 18 doctors at Oregon State Hospital in Salem. He asked doctors what drugs they would prescribe in various hypothetical situations.

Gillis said the study will probably show some doctors dispense drugs without respect to their patients' symptoms. "They are Thorazine guys," says Gillis.

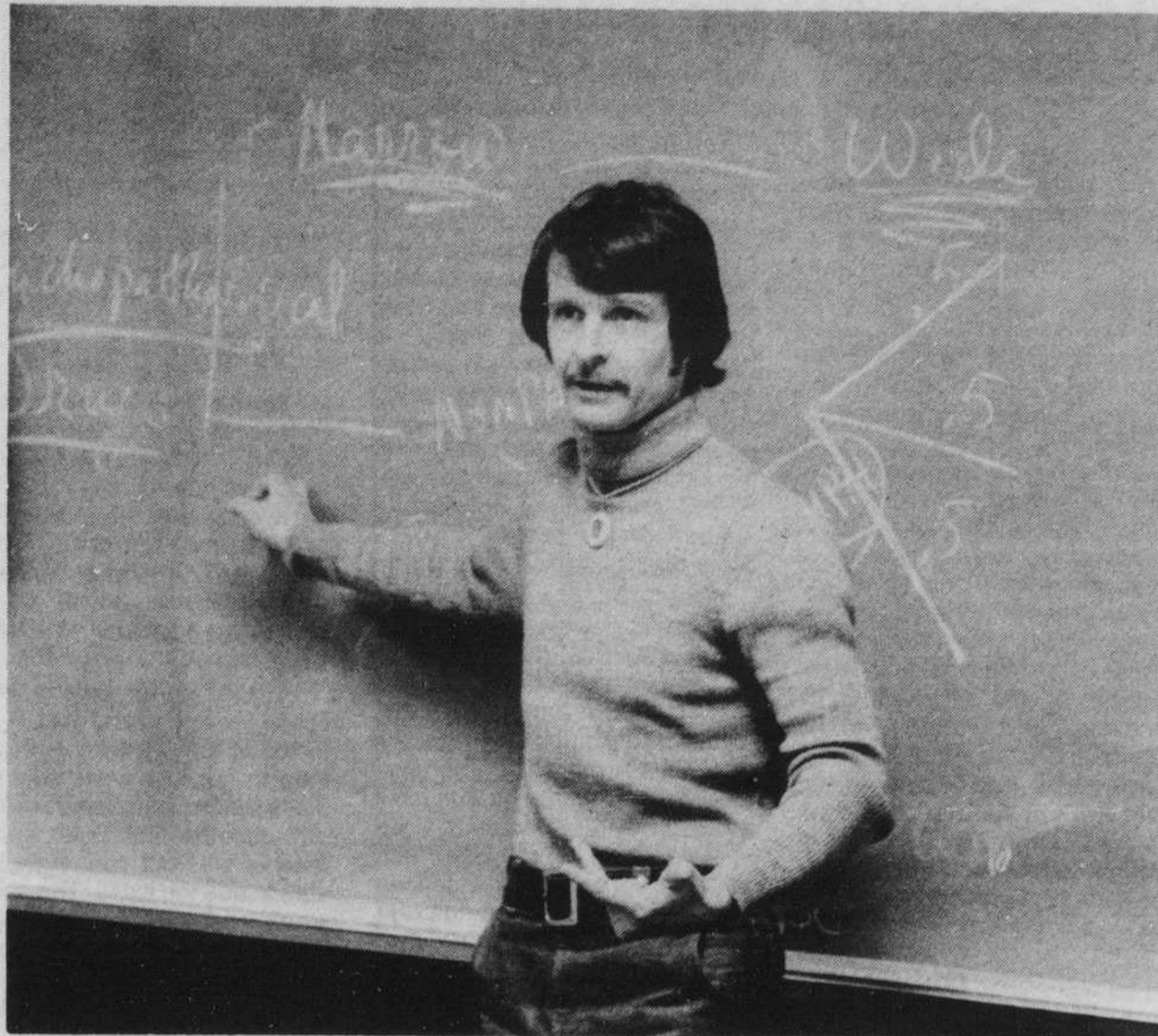


Photo by Patrick Sullivan

John Gillis of the department of psychology at OSU, presents his six-year research on prescribed drugs that seem to have an ill effect on the learning abilities of psychotic patients. He has studied the practices of doctors at Oregon State Hospital and alleges they disregard patient symptoms.

In another study Gillis found that a "good psychotherapist" is judged by patients and doctors alike to be one who is

warm, gives advice and interprets the patient's problems. During his speech Gillis said

he'd like to have University graduate students, interested in psychology, help researchers at OSU.

Blacks gear up for week

As part of National Black History Month, the University's Black Student Union (BSU) is gearing up for its own recognition of National Black History Week, next Monday through Friday.

BSU Director Robert Scarborough says the week is designed to give blacks "a sense of pride to know that they are celebrated as a people." Even though the week celebrates the black race, "our main audience to reach is not necessarily the black community," says Scarborough.

One aim is educate whites and other people to many of the more obscure black leaders. The Black Collegian, a black student magazine, says "Black History Month should not be the unconditional celebration of 'great Negro contributions' to the American mainstream."

Along with dispersing information about various black leaders, the BSU has several activities planned. Today at 11:30 a.m. in the EMU, room to be posted, English Professor Ed Coleman, Eugene Minority commission member Louis Merrick and Elwanda Ingram will give a poetry reading "to kick off the week," Scarborough says.

Dean Williams, who works in the Financial Aid Office, will play the piano next week during the lunch hour as one of the EMU's "noon gigs." Next Friday, members of the BSU choir plan to visit the State Penitentiary in Salem and "fellowship with them black inmates about the things we've been doing here and share with them the things they've been doing," says Scarborough.

February marks the 52nd annual National Black History Month.

Army labor unions

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Germany have organized to watch over servicemen's interests — is to set up separate associations for office, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.

The reason for unionization in Europe, the social scientist says, is not political but economic. He says the armed forces feel deprived because their earning power has fallen below civilians' standards.

The Dutch and West Germans, Harries-Jenkins notes, maintain near parity with civilian pay and working conditions and the Swedes now pay overtime to military personnel. But the Belgians, British and Americans have

fallen behind and Britain especially, military pay is "25 to 30 percent below civilian levels," he says.

Luebbers, however, believes he is probably paid for what he is worth. The 12-year Air Force veteran receives about \$18,000 per year.

But he adds the generous retirement benefits help compensate for any possible discrepancy between civilian and military pay.

After 20 years, military personnel retirement benefits are half of the current pay. If Luebbers' salary remains the same after 20 years, he will receive \$9,000 in retirement benefits.

Luebber adds Congress is considering extending the retirement period to 30 years of service instead of 20, but that has raised the wrath of many servicemen.

He thinks the 20-year-stretch is justified because most other jobs don't require one-year stints in Vietnam or transferring families every three or four years.

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