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Freyd examines trauma, memory

■ **BOOK:** Jennifer Freyd explores the reasons for the amnesia that can result from a childhood trauma

By Amy Palanuk
Higher Education Reporter

Traumatic events can cause people to forget, and for those who were abused as children, there is now a logical explanation for this phenomenon.

"The need to remain in a close relationship can cause a child to forget a situation, because by forgetting, they continue to behave in a way that makes them lovable," said psychology professor Jennifer Freyd.

This is the focus of Freyd's new book, *Betrayal Trauma: The Logic of Forgetting Childhood Abuse*.

The book explains why psychogenic amnesia is necessary

for children to survive the emotional trauma of being abused by a parent or care giver to whom they are emotionally or physically dependent.

Freyd wrote the book after conducting research on people who were sexually abused as children. In many instances, the abuse was not remembered by the victims until years after it happened.

Freyd used both a scientific and humanistic approach to help readers understand her theories.

"I think that to really understand a complex issue like this, it helps to look at it from different perspectives," Freyd said.

After reading Freyd's book, many people have called to help out with research and to share their own experiences of childhood abuse. The reaction to the book has been positive so far.

The theory of repressed memory, however, has sparked controversy from critics about its accuracy. Some say the claim that the mind can erase and then later recapture traumatic memories is hard to prove.

Yet other critics are supportive of Freyd's thesis.

"Betrayal Trauma is a thoughtful, judicious and thorough scholarly analysis of a subject that has hitherto generated more heat than light," wrote Derek Bickerton in the January 26 issue of the New York Times Book Review. "She has a complex enough case to argue: She argues it fairly and with virtuoso skill, blending vivid anecdote with statistical evidence, first person accounts with research reports, in a highly literate and engaging style."

Freyd's book is on sale now at the University Bookstore for \$24.95.

TODAY'S NEWS

BRIEFLY

Art show opens for Eco Arts Week

Eco Arts Week is underway, and tonight from 5 to 7 p.m., OSPiRG and the EMU Cultural Forum will host an opening for the Art for Environmental Advocacy Show. The show runs until April, and includes the third annual Eco Design Arts Conference from April 11-13. Tonight Art Graham, a manufacturer of environmentally sound art supplies, will be speaking at the opening. There will also be an information table about hazardous art supplies as well as information about environmental and health issues in the art community.

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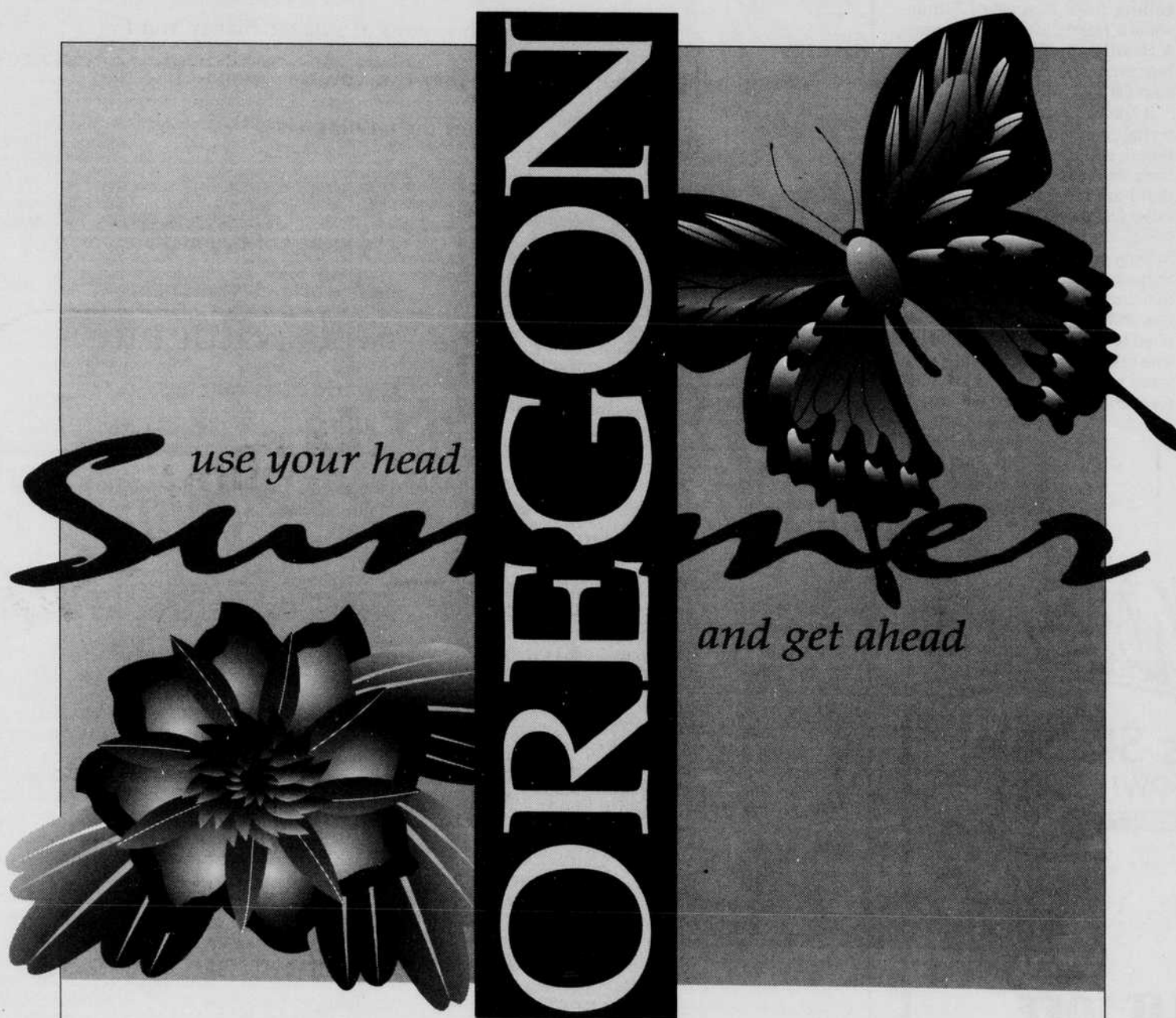
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