

CONTACTING US

NEWSROOM:

(541) 346-5511

E-MAIL:

ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

ONLINE EDITION: www.uoregon.edu/~ode

ADDRESS:

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159

Eugene, Oregon 97403

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Sarah Kickler
EDITORIAL EDITOR
Mike Schmierbach
NIGHT EDITOR
Nicole Krueger

ADD adds to challenge of finals week

Doctors are learning more about Attention Deficit Disorder while those diagnosed continue to deal with the symptoms

Heading into Finals Week, there is an elite number of us who have to study particularly long and hard, usually by ourselves in a very quiet environment, if we are serious at all about doing well in our studies. It's not because we've procrastinated and now need to cram. It's not because we've been hanging out all quarter comfortable to have school as a context, but rendering its requirements secondary to our lives. And it's not because we need to compensate for the deficits of our intellect. (On the contrary, as a group — particularly those of us who have managed to make it to college — Dr. Mike Dunn at our Student Health Services and other "experts" in the field claim that the majority of us have been identified as possessing a high degree

OPINION



Hannah Dillon

of intellectual ability with excellent compensatory skills). We have to really crank up the studying because we have an invisible disability which makes writing papers and doing exams a greater challenge than they already are.

The first time I had ever heard the name of this particular disability was when an acquaintance blamed her string of non sequiturs on it. I thought she was either invoking a line out of "Saturday Night Live" or coining her own witticism in response to a wry (and now NOT!) P.C.-ism, "vertically, horizontally, rectilinearly, etc., challenged." She claimed she had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and I was duly amused, then. But not now.

There has been a lot of hype around ADD in recent years. After its identification by the medical community, it began to be officially diagnosed beginning in 1975. Since then, it is being diagnosed with more frequency in school kids these days who display a hyperactive component and are disruptive in class. The debate has been raging as to whether or not restless, bored and inattentive students actually have ADD/ADHD (hyperactive component). Should

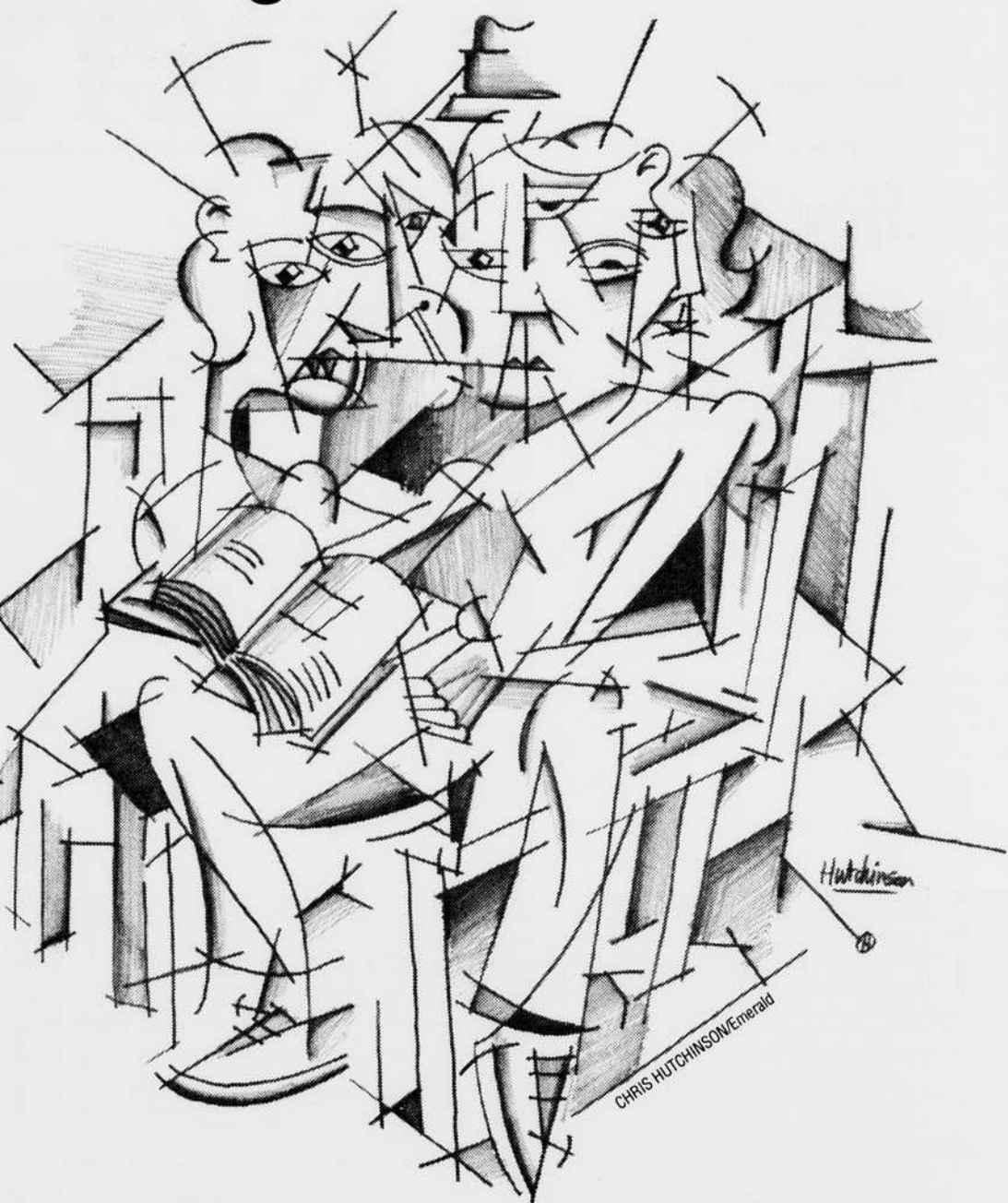
they be given medication to ameliorate it? Should their behavior be medically managed? Or are they manifesting such behavior for reasons other than a neurological, biochemical one?

It was once thought that the hyperactive element had to accompany ADD, which is why boys were historically identified with it and girls rarely. Girls simply did not act out like the boys, for obvious reasons. It was thought, too, that ADHD was outgrown after adolescence and never proceeded into adulthood. But such beliefs have since been proven erroneous so that there has been a growing number of women, especially, and other adults who have stumbled onto the discovery that they have had ADD all along.

Such a revelation allows one to begin to make sense of the choices made and to understand the almost instinctual, self-selecting direction pursued concerning kinds of work, friends, living arrangements, field of study, hobbies, etc. And the sensibilities one has developed have been influenced by the presence of ADD in one's life. For instance, it could be assumed that a person with ADD might have had a hard time sustaining attention on that final, 10-minute uncut scene in "Big Night." But someone with ADD is likely to insist that if he or she is going to offer attention, the quality of the object had better be very much worth attending to.

As of yet, there has been no universally accepted standardized criteria for diagnosing Attention Deficit Disorder. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM IV), compiled by the American Psychiatric Association in 1994, provides a set of descriptive characteristics of the disorder to help formulate a diagnosis. I recommend this tome to you because it makes fascinating reading on any rainy afternoon.

The DSM IV presents some of



the symptoms of ADD this way:
"Six (or more) of the following symptoms of inattention have persisted for at least six months to a degree that is maladaptive and consistent with development level: Inattention — (a) often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities (b) often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities (c) often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly (d) often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions) (e) often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities (f) often avoids, dislikes or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework) (g) often loses things necessary for tasks and activities (h) is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli and (i) is often forgetful in daily activities.

Student Health Services has created a committee to formulate and implement tools for diagnosing Attention Deficit Disorder. There are physicians, such as Dunn, who are well versed in this disorder through years of exposure to it. For others, it is unfamiliar territory. I

applaud Student Health Services for realizing its need to establish such criteria and not to simply rely on referring students out. I appreciate the committee's efforts in reaching out into the community to gather information on what is being used as diagnostic techniques for ADD which will serve to inform and aid us.

To all of you with ADD during finals: Good luck and get some sleep. It's tired and you must be late.

Hannah Dillon is a columnist for the Emerald. Her work appears on alternate Fridays. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No tolerance of rape

In light of the new Student Conduct Code and new urinal screens, which are actions that attempt to stop rape culture, it is amazing that the University finds it acceptable to lightly rap the knuckles of Danta Graham-Preston (ODE, Nov. 18). He did not just simply sexually misbehave, he violated the rights of two women — he raped them. He should be punished to the full extent of the law. I do not feel a two-year expulsion is harsh enough. This man should never have the opportunity to attend our so-called enlightened University, roam free and have the same rights as any other student. We need to send the message that any violation of the Student Conduct Code, especially those violations as

heinous as rape, will be met with zero tolerance.

Michelle Andrews
Comparative literature

Stop illegal searches

I was truly shocked and appalled as I read the recent Emerald account of another in a long line of abuses on the part of the Eugene Police Department (ODE, Nov. 12). The article outlined a situation in which an officer performed a warrantless search of a residence based upon alleged violations of open container and "minor in possession" ordinances. When the tenant exercised her Fourth Amendment rights, she was taken into custody for "interfering with police." The officer then proceeded to search the residence, where he found a small number of marijuana plants.

Although there exists a doctrine known as "search incident to arrest," the arrest must be valid. The conduct of this officer flies in the face of all notions of justice under both state and federal law. The Oregon Court of Appeals addressed this situation in State vs. DeKuyper, 74 Or. App. 534, 703 P. 2d 261, which states in pertinent part, "Police officers' entry into defendant's apartment was illegal, and any items found and seized therein were properly suppressed, as only offense which officers had probable cause to believe persons in apartment had committed was that of being minors in possession of alcohol, the latter offense was not a 'crime,' but was only a 'violation,' and thus police could not enter therein, let alone arrest people in the apartment or search them."

Please be aware that you have the right

to be secure in your persons and houses from unreasonable searches and seizures. If a police officer asks to search you, your vehicle, or your residence — "just say no."

There has been a growing problem with out-of-control parties in the West University area. This problem is being exacerbated by the conduct of our local police force. An officer was quoted as saying that the problem is due to the "attitude" of many partygoers. I submit to the Eugene police that if they had any respect for the rights of citizens, perhaps they would not be confronted with that "attitude." In the immortal words of Louis Brandeis, "If we desire respect for the law, we must first make the law respectable."

John Davis
Law