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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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for University junior Jessica Nelson, who says she usually tries to get at least seven and a half to eight hours of sleep each night.

All-nighters: People low on

sleep are not at full potential

FACTORS THAT

AFFECT SLEEP

- Psychological factors such as

job- and school-related stress or

- Physical factors such as sleep

which causes involuntary limb

movements during sleep

right before bedtime

apnea or Restless Legs Syndrome,

- Lifestyle stressors, such as caf-

feine or alcohol use late in the day;

irregular schedules; shift work; or

- Environmental factors such as

being too hot or cold or being in a

room that's too noisy or brightly lit

- Sleeping partners who snore or

have different sleep preferences or

intense mental or physical activities

family problems

without sleep can be slim.

between 10 p.m. and

ies are set up, we're

supposed to sleep

when it's dark and be

awake when it's

Lack of sleep also

"If you are sleep-

affects moods and

may add to already

deprived you tend to

be more irritable,"

Skellcerf said, adding

that it's also easier

to cry or get into

Leith said even try-

normal conversation

can be difficult with

prolonged lack of

sleep, which may be

something students

should consider if

to have a

confrontations.

light," Leith said.

high stress levels.

'The way our bod-

2 a.m., Leith said.

"It's actually worse for the

ability to remember," Leith said,

adding that sleep allows the brain to

for sleep," so people cannot put off

sleeping for prolonged periods because

the body is designed to rest at certain

times. The optimal times to sleep are

Leith said there is no "space bank

regenerate and process information.

She said while she was at Lane Community College, she was the "queen of procrastination" and once stayed up all night to do a paper.

"The paper ended up being crap," Nelson said, adding that if she stays up too late she starts to lose concentration.

"If I stay up late cramming, it's going to be a waste of my time,' Nelson said.

Senior Adrian Trumbo usually sleeps for about nine hours per night. But with the term almost over, he expects five to six hours of sleep time he had two projects and a Web site assignment due this week and has four exams to prepare for next week.

He said he tries now to get enough hours of sleep to function.

cause they may have a

"If I got three hours of sleep, I'd be a mess,'

sleep problems themselves he said. Certain medications such as de Even if students do want to sleep, stress may keep them awake be-

congestants - Jet lag

Source: National Sleep Foundation

they are preparing for an oral presentation. Staying up has also been associated

with excessive eating and high blood sugar levels.

"When you stay up all night, there's a change in the hormone affecting food intake," Skellcerf said. She said people usually feel hungry, in part because of an increase in the levels of stress hormones, and they crave highfat and high-sugar foods but do not burn as many calories.

"People who are chronically sleepdeprived tend to have higher levels of those stress hormones," she said.

Lack of sleep can also make one more prone to illnesses

"It suppresses the immune system," Skellcerf said. Those who have been sick should try to get more sleep in order to allow their bodies to recover, she said.

However, some students believe they have few choices as they deal with busy college schedules.

Senior Deanna Johnson said she usually gets six hours of sleep each night during the term and that during Finals Week she will probably sleep about three to four hours each night.

"I guess I feel I work really well under pressure." Johnson said. "I usually try to do typical cram sessions, and it works for me so far. I guess it keeps it fresh in my mind."

Johnson said she does have to drink "lots of coffee in the morning.

While many people gulp down cups of coffee or soda to stay awake, experts say these stimulants can only help so much

'They do keep you awake," Skellcerf said. "(But) even though you're awake, you're not performing as well."

All-nighters have not worked well

"Students are stressed; that's one of the reasons why they can't fall asleep," Leith said.

lot on their minds.

Stress and sleep deprivation go hand in hand, Leith said.

"Because of stress and because of other obligations, the thing (students) neglect the most is their

sleep," she said.
Aside from stress, sleep disorders may also cause sleep deprivation. These disorders include insomnia, where one has difficulties falling or staying asleep, and sleep apnea, where breathing is interrupted repeatedly for short periods of time. According to the NSF poll, 75 percent of Americans suffer from at least one symptom of a sleep problem such as snoring or awaking during the night.

Most people learn to live with however much sleep they can get, but Leith said even if people adjust to minimal sleep patterns, they are not working at their full potentials when awake.

'You can get used to it and be able to function, ... but your body still needs that sleep," Leith said. "When your body is ready to sleep, you should sleep.'

Both Skellcerf said Leith said better long-term time management and prioritizing can help students avoid the last-minute pressure of late nights and

"It takes making sleep a priority," Leith said. "I believe when you're able to do that, you'll definitely see a beneficial difference.

Johnson said she would like to get more sleep but that it's not possible.

"Between school and work and homework, it's just not feasible,"

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