



Chronicle

Volume IV, Issue Three

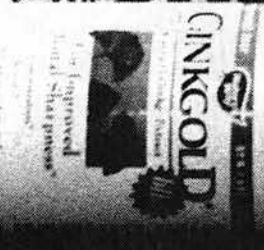
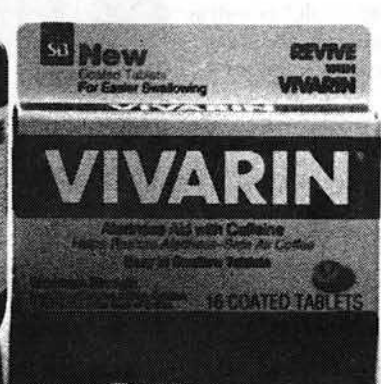
Spring Edition

Winner of the 1998 National Honors Newsletter Contest

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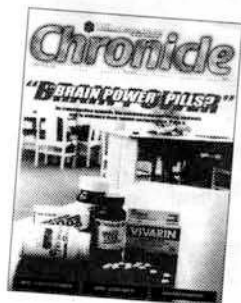
“BRAIN POWER” PILLS?”

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Chronicle

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE STAFF ...

If you have been in the University Honors College (UHC) for a while, you know that the *Chronicle* has been in a state of perpetual evolution since its founding in 1995. At one time, it was an actual newspaper or newsprint and then it developed into a newsletter. After a while, we started inserting graphics. Now we are trying to make it into a professional magazine.

It is an ambitious undertaking, especially since we didn't have as many people to help out this term due to everyone's busy schedules. However, by Fall term we hope to get more students involved so that we can make this something even more dynamic.

There isn't any student news "magazine" here at OSU. Needless to say, there isn't any publication at OSU that focuses on empowerment and education reform as much as we do. As you know, well-written articles on such matters are desperately needed.

One of our current projects is to set ourselves up as a student organization in the university so that we are able to apply for grant money. It would make our lives a little easier if we did not have to worry about finances each term and, more importantly, we believe that this is something that Oregon State University would be proud to sponsor.

Look for our website in the Fall Term on the Honors College webpage at <http://www.orst.edu/dept/honors>. You will soon be able to read all the back issues of the *Chronicle*.

We hope everyone has a great summer!



-The Chronicle Staff

Chronicle

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The *Chronicle* is published every term of the school year by UHC students. Articles may reflect views of the *Chronicle* staff, but do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Oregon State University Honors College.

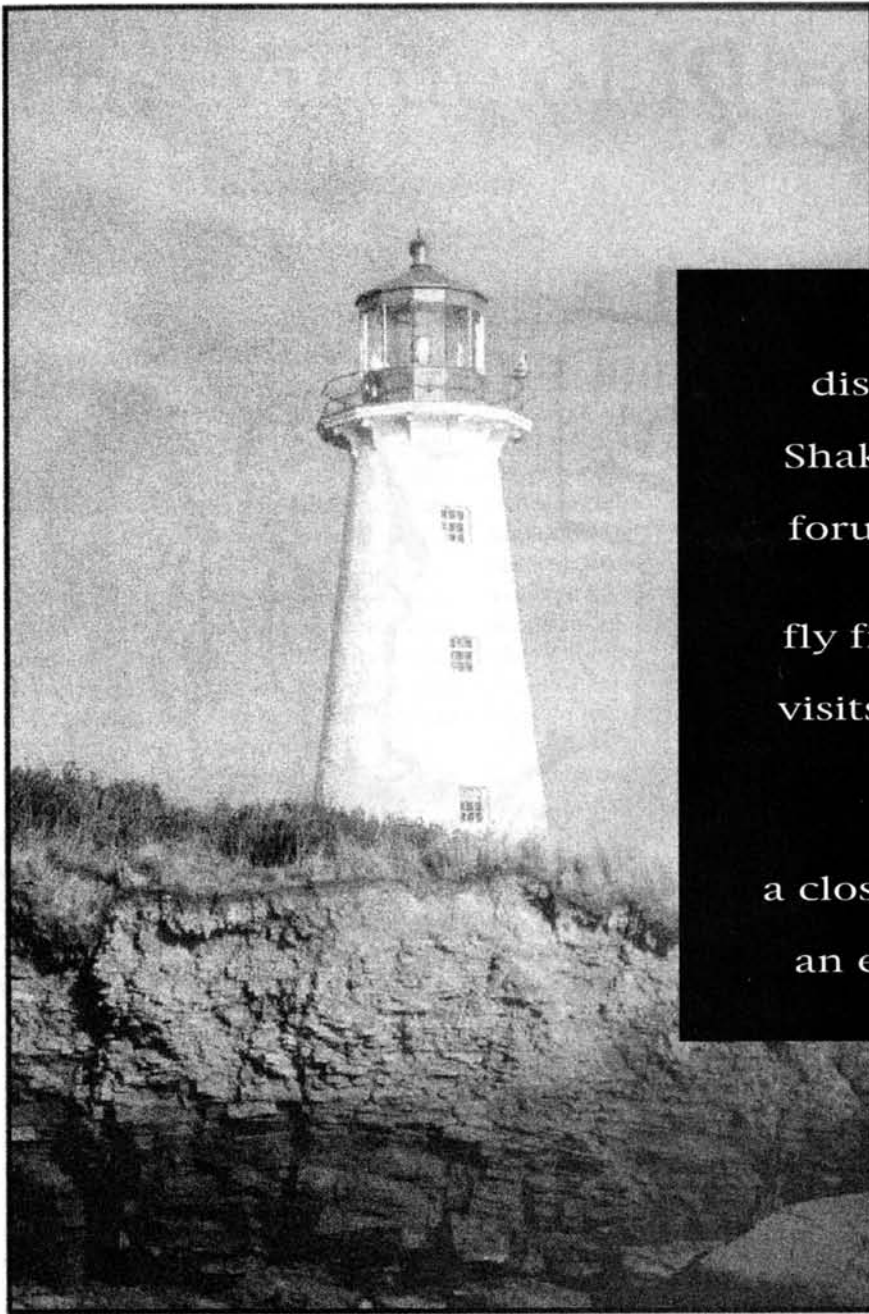
The *Chronicle* welcomes letters to the editor. Signed letters or comments can be placed in Winston Cornwall's box at the UHC office, or e-mailed to johnsale@ucs.orst.edu. Suggestions or submissions may also be dropped off in the UHC student lounge located in the basement of S1AG (Strand Agricultural Hall).

Everyone on the staff welcomes input on their work. Their e-mail addresses are: Alexander Johnson: johnsale@ucs.orst.edu, Dow Yeh: yehd@ucs.orst.edu, Kara Sutton-Jones: suttonjk@ucs.orst.edu, Jenny Druckenmiller: jennyd@dnc.net, Beth Tilgner: tilgnereb@ucs.orst.edu.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the only student news magazine at Oregon State University, The *Chronicle*, please e-mail Alexander Johnson or call him at 757-6340 to find out how you can help keep the tradition of students writing for a better tomorrow alive.

Thanks to Kevin Blount for taking the cover picture and pictures for the back page ad. He can be contacted for free-lance work at: visionquest@angelfire.com.

The *Chronicle* is the first prize winner of the 1998 National Honors Newsletter Contest.



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OSU, Inc.?



by Kara Sutton-Jones
Education Editor

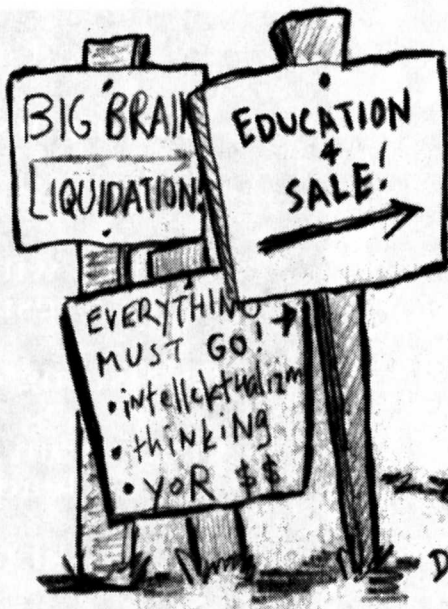
ABOUT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, MY mailbox was bombarded with hordes of slick, glossy college brochures. Feeling overwhelmed, my usual reaction was to shove them in the recycle-bin after a cursory inspection. However, I did not fail to take notice of the common descriptions of a “community of scholars” or a “place where the value is on academics.” Why is it then that the promises are not what I see when confronted with the reality?

The truth is that the reality of higher education is beginning to resemble big business--something akin to Proctor & Gamble--in other words, a corporation.

The idea of the university as a corporation is not too surprising considering the world today. We would be fooling ourselves if we thought that Oregon State would not be swept up in the trend along with every other institution of higher education. What *is* surprising, and more than a little troubling, is the role the student takes on: that of a consumer.

In this model, the student is a valuable commodity to attract. Millions of dollars are spent each year in the attempt to sell a school to a potential student. Once the student is enrolled, the key word here is *retention*. Does this remind anyone of product advertising and cultivated customer loyalty? It should.

A student’s tuition dollar holds much more clout than it once did. In American consumer culture, there is the saying that “the customer is always right.” Now I’ve heard some individuals on campus voice their concerns in dealing with this attitude as it pertains to education, and I must say that I agree. A student does not have the luxury of “always being right,” especially when it comes time for evaluation. The result over several years is the “dumbing down” of grades. An



“A” today is not symbolic of the level of mastery it took to earn one twenty years ago.

Even two decades ago, the direction the university system was taking had to be somewhat apparent. Students were beginning to come solely for the purpose of acquiring skills and resume building. Knowledge for the sake of knowledge seemed a thing of the past. Unfortunately, skills and a decent-looking resume were then and are now the tools of survival in the corporate jungle. Suddenly, the emphasis of an education shifts to producing workers and consumers, rather than individuals with full self-actualization.

I’m sure that some will think that what I am writing seems too idealistic, at least if you want to “get somewhere.” However, we lose something significant if people cease learning to think critically, which is the true purpose of an education. Granted, the money may continue to flow, but without the learning, debating, and challenging of ideas that is supposed to take place in the university, the world becomes very stagnant.

“SUDDENLY, THE EMPHASIS OF AN EDUCATION SHIFTS TO PRODUCING WORKERS AND CONSUMERS, RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS WITH FULL SELF-ACTUALIZATION.”

The Virtue of Introspection



by Alexander Lavidge Johnson
Editor

I THINK IT WAS MARK TWAIN WHO DECLARED "there isn't anything more important than finding out what you want to do with your life because if you don't know, someone else will always be more than happy to tell you." This is likewise why Aristotle once commented, "the unexamined life is not worth living."

As college students there isn't a day that this self-evident truism doesn't agonize us. With all the reading that accompanies Honors classes, working at our jobs and maintaining our social lives, we don't always have the time to really sit down and ask ourselves "Who am I? What do I really value in life?"

So the question is usually answered for us. Some of us are taught by our parents, either explicitly or implicitly, what to do with ourselves. Their definition of success can literally shape our own preconceptions if we are not careful. (Culture is also powerful when designing schemas for success, beauty, and love. Watch out.) Others are so influenced by the forces of capitalism that they don't really care what they do as long as they can make "good money." They don't follow their hearts; they follow the market. For a couple of others, a career is chosen based on the appearance that it "sounds good."

All of these motives could lead to decisions that in turn literally suck the life force out of you. Even according to Seligman, a famous psychologist we study in Psychology classes: "the discrepancy between the 'is' self (who you are) and the 'ought' self (who you feel as though you just have to be) is one of the primary reasons why college students get depressed." Students are driven to excel, but often aren't sure what goals they want to achieve or how to achieve them, thus they feel compelled to settle for less than their ideals.

So how can we find those jobs which lead to personal fulfillment? How can we create a life for ourselves where we wake up each morning with enthusiasm - as if we're going to go play? I don't know about you, but discovering the secret is why I came to college. I don't just want a job; I want to live.

After two years of higher education, I think that I might be one step closer to figuring

it out.

The most effective tools that I have found to steer me in the right direction are personality assessment tests. More specifically, the Myers-Briggs test which is offered here at Oregon State University in programs such as the Exploratory Studies class and in departments such as Career Services. Even the UHC Ethics in Leadership meetings are using them, emphasizing a point that Peter Drucker repeatedly advocates: "Only when you understand yourself can you begin to understand others, the first criteria for becoming a good leader."

There is a slight problem.

According to John Edwards, a Social Psychologist at OSU, "a lot of academic psychologists really don't like the Myers-Briggs test too much ... no one is really sure just how reliable it actually is." Indeed, in a

personality class I took last term (PSY 370) with Professor Douglas Derryberry, the Myers-Briggs test wasn't even taken into consideration. Instead, the entire class, based on the assumption that the students actually wanted to get jobs in the field of psychology, learned within the context of the "five-factor model."

Otherwise known as the "Big-Five," the paradigm measures five characteristics that were based on the "lexical hypothesis," which assumes that our language contains sufficient information to account for individual differences in personality. These characteristics measure N (Negative Emotionality or Neuroticism), E (Extraversion or Surgency), O (Openness, Culture, or Intellect), A (Agreeableness) and C (Conscientiousness or Will to Achieve.)

For the most part, the entire psychological community is, for the first time in history, coming to a consensus on what is the quintessential paradigm upon which to assess personality differences. Famous names such as Matarazzo, Digman, John, Angleitner, Ostendorf and Goldberg are all in agreement that the Big Five is the most objective taxonomy of personality differences.

The list goes on.

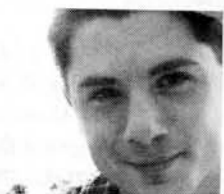
"THERE ISN'T ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN FINDING OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WILL ALWAYS BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO TELL YOU."

What's even more interesting about this test is that its participants give it the highest approval rating of any other personality tests around. According to recent studies, over 90% of the people that took the test feel as though the results are accurate. This is impressive, especially in comparison with the 35% approval rating of the Myers-Briggs test. This dissatisfaction is expressed by verbal complaints from

"don't put me in a box," to "the world is not composed of opposites - it is composed of shades of gray." It is easy to see why people feel this way. There are questions like, "do you think of yourself as outgoing or private?" The answers to this particular question will be different depending on the context. For instance, I can be gregarious around people with whom I am comfortable though at other times I am very reserved. Another question asked on Myers-Briggs tests is whether "common sense is usually reliable or frequently questionable?" Again, it just depends on the context. Answering the question doesn't really reveal anything about an individual's nature. It is hard to force yourself to choose just one answer.

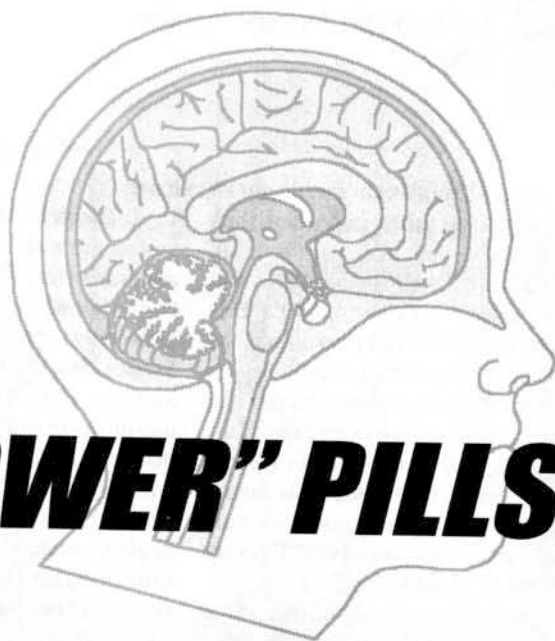
The entire Myers-Briggs evaluation is based on the ambiguous theories of Carl Jung,

(continued on page 8)



"BRAIN POWER" PILLS?

by Alexander Lavidge Johnson
Editor



YOU READ ALL THE TIME, WHETHER IT IS FOR SCHOOL OR FOR PERSONAL fulfillment. Personally, I can't get enough of it - learning is just too much fun. However, I'm often frustrated by the fact that my memory isn't as keen as I'd like for it to be. I frequently find myself reading things over and over to make sure I retain all of it. It often results in my having little time left over in the day to pursue my own intellectual interests.

SINCE I DON'T HAVE MORE TIME, I NEED more speed. There isn't a day I don't fantasize about learning faster and being able to get more done. So naturally, one day while reading through a nutrition magazine, my eyes lit up once I started to read about natural herbs and supplements that supposedly can improve mental performance and memory. Yet, at the same time I was a little skeptical, so I decided to ask around and see what other people thought.

According to Wesley Stoker, owner of a health food store (Stoker's VitaWorld) located in downtown Corvallis, "it depends on what you take. You have to remember that the body is made up of nutrients, thus taking natural supplements is going to be better than taking drugs." Later he mentioned that "there's been a lot of research in this area for quite some time and not that many people know about it." He

gave me some material to take home and look over, as well as a few references to other people I could ask for more information.

Here are some samplings of what I found:

Vitamin C

When I first saw the ad for the "brain power" pills, my initial reaction was to wonder whether or not the geniuses of the world took similar supplements? One day in a class I heard a rumor that Linus Pauling had taken nutritional supplements to help boost his brain performance. I decided to write the Linus Pauling Institute (LPI) asking for any information they could offer on the matter.

Stephen Lawson was a close associate of Linus Pauling and is now the Administrative Officer at LPI. He informed me through e-mail

that indeed, "[Pauling] began taking supplementary vitamins and minerals as part of his therapy for glomerular nephritis, which was diagnosed in 1941 when he was about 40 years old. It wasn't until he was in his mid-sixties that he began taking gram quantities of vitamin C and larger quantities of the other vitamins." Later in his message, Lawson stated "Dr. Pauling advocated an intake of vitamins in excess of the RDA because he was convinced by the evidence in the scientific and medical literature and by the theoretical arguments that such a practice would lead to better health and help prevent disease."

Pauling is well known for inventing the term "orthomolecular medicine" which is used to refer to "varying the concentrations of substances normally present in the human body to maintain good health and to prevent and treat

disease.” Lawson continued, saying “[Pauling] introduced the term in ‘Orthomolecular Psychiatry,’ in *Science* in 1968, to describe the treatment of mental illness with certain vitamins.”

Lawson later wrote to me about Pauling’s book, “How to Live Longer and Feel Better,” in which he cites studies from the 1960’s that demonstrated that a small but significant increase in IQ was produced in children who were given orange juice for six months. “At baseline before the juice was given, there was a significant difference in blood vitamin C levels between children with a higher or lower IQ. After supplementation with orange juice, the IQ increased in the children who had the lower initial value but did not change in the group with the higher IQ. A 50% increase in the level of vitamin C in the blood resulted in a significant improvement in IQ, which corresponds to a dietary increase from 100 mg/day to 150/mg in adults. Pauling also cited some studies that suggested that the cognitive abilities of mentally retarded children improved with vitamin/mineral supplementation.”

As a side note, Lawson mentioned that several studies have shown the influence of antioxidants, including vitamins C and E and beta-carotene on the elderly. Overall, there has been a high correlation between better memory performance (as well as the prevention of cognitive impairment) and the intake of higher doses of Vitamin C and beta-carotene.

“OK,” I’m thinking. “I need to drink more orange juice.”

Ginkgold (Ginkgo Biloba)

This is perhaps the biggest fad, even with most college students. According to the October 1997 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), the authors concluded that Ginkgo Biloba extract “improves cognitive performance.”

Ginkgo Biloba comes from the Maidenhair Tree and has been used as medicine by the Chinese for over 5,000 years. It is a phenomenal tree that is resistant to most disease and pollution, thus making it suitable for planting in urban parks and sidewalk gardens.

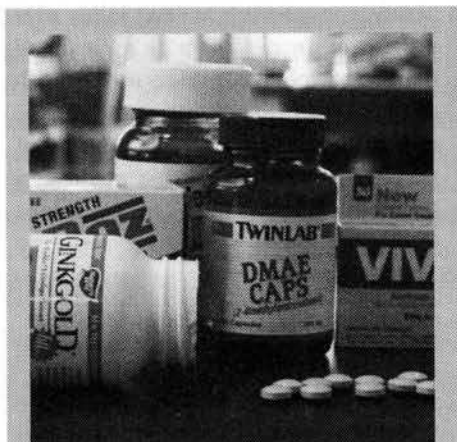
Its leaf is a natural herb that works as an antioxidant and as a blood thinner. By thinning the blood, ginkgo assists in guaranteeing a good supply of blood (and oxygen) to the brain.

Since this is a blood thinner, it can be potentially dangerous. There have been some infrequently reported side effects such as bleeding in the eyes. Also, according to the label, anyone taking a prescription of a blood thinner or anti-thrombotic medication (or, for

that matter, aspirin) on a regular basis, should consult a healthcare practitioner before taking ginkgo.

MegaMind/Mental Edge

SourceNaturals, a pharmaceutical company based out of Santa Cruz, CA sells several brands such as “Mental Edge” and “MegaMind” which claim that, with the proper combination of B complex vitamins (helps support brain function), Antioxidants (helps protect the brain), DMAE (Bitartrate, helps with memory), Ginkgo Biloba Leaf Extract (see above), L-Pyroglutamic Acid (a post-synaptic receptor that helps with memory) and other natural supplements, you can nourish your brain for optimum performance. It’s claim: “All this contains significant amounts of natural compounds known to support your brain in its



There really isn't a universally accepted optimum level of these supplements for people. It's up to the individual to find out and experiment, if they are so willing, what is the best choice for them.

endeavor to concentrate, remember and learn.”

I was a little inquisitive after seeing the fine print at the bottom of their labels and brochures. “This above information [or product] has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.” But when I asked Wesley Stoker, owner of Stoker’s VitaWorld, he pointed out that it was merely a “disclaimer used to protect the sellers.” In other words, it doesn’t disprove the validity of their claims.

I also checked the company out with the Better Business Bureau (a common defense for a layman such as myself) and found that the company has hardly any complaints regarding the products they sell.

“OK,” I say to myself. “It’s not going to

hurt to try this stuff out for just a little while. It’s all natural and it says I should see results in little under two weeks.”

Caffeine Pills

The only thing left that I could think of that I hear of students using all the time were caffeine pills. They aren’t necessarily known for boosting brain performance but supposedly keep you awake and focused on the task at hand.

According to Bill Boyce, director of Pharmacy in the Student Health Center, “for the most part caffeine pills are as safe as coffee ... but I would not recommend them. The best thing to do is to reschedule your time more efficiently so that you aren’t staying up all night cramming.”

Final thoughts

In the end, I started taking a few of the supplements and could see a significant difference in my ability to think well and retain information. But let’s just be practical for a second.

We’re in a culture that is surrounded by pills claiming a solution for every obstacle in our lives. For instance, people are convinced that they can control their appetite with pills and not discipline. Others think they can overcome depression with the right herbs and drugs. Some even use pills to try to relieve stress.

When you look at the big picture, these things are often unnecessary. Much of this nation’s populace has developed a lethargic attitude towards working harder than is asked, and has grown accustomed to survival on a rather low level of discipline and operative critical thinking skills.

Case in point, if you have a serious weight problem, perhaps the best thing to try first is to consider the source of the problem and go on from there. Perhaps it’s tied into depression and you just need to get some more exercise, or improve your diet? According to a recent USDA study, at least “92% of the population doesn’t eat according to the food pyramid as prescribed by the USDA.” Whether you’re trying to lose weight or enhance brain performance, the first step is always to make sure that you get plenty of fruits and vegetables each day. (It may be a challenge with all the fast food junk around, but it’s not impossible.)

Of course, diagnosing the cause is not always going to be that simple. Problems tend to have confounding variables and dimensions; but, by addressing the problem from a holistic

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perspective, the results will be longer-lasting than the results you get from "popping pills." Prevention, not intervention, is the way to better medicine.

Finally, according to experts like Dr. Andrew Weil and Dr. Deepak Chopra, the body isn't built to digest nutritional supplement pills well. They assert that the best way to get your daily vitamins and minerals is to eat a balanced diet. In other words, when trying to get these nutrients for your brain, it's always better to eat the food in which they occur naturally. Only as an alternative should you rely on nutritional supplements.

Putting common sense aside however, I'd still like to believe that the sky is the limit when it comes to the capabilities of the human intellect - and taking a little extra Vitamin C and other supplements could help us get there.

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Don't just take my word for it. For more information check out Stoker's VitaWorld in downtown Corvallis on 215 SW 3rd Street (next to the State Theatre).

Virtue

(continued from page 5)

not empiricism. The new five-factor model is based on actual statistics. Think of it this way: suppose you had the opportunity to go around and get to know over 50,000 different people, personally. (According to sample size theories, this group represents just about all the different personality traits known to us.) Now, imagine finding the people most like you out of this group and then discovering those among them who are doing what they love. Once you find out, you can apply their knowledge to your own life and make informed decisions that will bring about equal fulfillment.

Another test that incorporates this technique is offered by the Johnson O' Connor Institute - the most widely used aptitude assessment test among Fortune 500 companies. Unlike the personality assessment tests, this evaluation method measures innate aptitudes (cognitive functions) such as dexterity, memory, creativity and reasoning. These traits are stable throughout the course of a person's life. Granted, people can go against their talents and by sheer force of will accomplish what they set their minds to. However, chances

CLASS REVIEW FOR TCS 200

IF YOU'RE IN THE LIBERAL ARTS College, you know it's tough to find classes that really encourage you to think for yourself.

However, last term I took a class called Twentieth Century Studies 200 (TCS 200) that completely went against the anti-intellectual trend. Administered by the Center for the Humanities at OSU, TCS 200 is a class that helps you develop your critical thinking skills enough so that you're able to start looking at American culture from a holistic and objective perspective. Out of the pragmatic illusions we analyzed, such as family roles being definite, the myth of beauty, consumerism holding virtue over production, materialism as a means to fulfillment, volitional poverty and the myth of equal educational opportunities, the education topic was my favorite. (Much of the material I used for my last article, "An Academic Awakening or Pompous Cynicism?," came from the material we

read in the class on the myth of an educational system that reinforces equality and meritocracy.)

Each essay we read was written by a distinguished author and the class discussions were always profound. Seldom has there been another time when I was in a class where the students were so involved and energized to express their thoughts.

There are two maxims to take into consideration while choosing classes. The first one is that "success isn't determined by how much you know, it's what you know." The other one is "learn what others don't want you to know." TCS easily met the criteria and I felt empowered as an individual to see the contemporary world from a different perspective. After finals, I thought "wow ... *that* was worth my time." Chances are you will find it equally worthwhile.

- Alexander Lavidge Johnson

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are that if people do what comes naturally to them, they'll find it more fulfilling and be successful. Success is a precursor to more success and this leads to enthusiasm. And, as Jefferson once pointed out, "nothing great is created without enthusiasm."

According to Rebecca Sanderson, the director of University Counseling and Psychological Services, "[it's] difficult to subscribe to the notion that personality assessment is important for students." She later disclosed that personality tests are usually used to explain why a particular problem is occurring within a patient and not for self-actualization. Overall, she emphasized that though "there are literally hundreds of personality assessment instruments, some facets of our self-understanding can only be uncovered with experience and self-reflection ... In other words, I believe that students who are intensely involved in the learning environment should, by necessity engage in activities that press them to understand themselves. Part of this certainly is to gain some understanding of their own personality strengths and weaknesses as well as their value system and the congruence between their behavior and their values."

Thus, it sounds as though OSU, or at least the UHC, needs to start telling students about

the "Five-factor" model, as well as the Johnson O' Connor test. Since both tests are expensive, it wouldn't be out of the question to have them offered at a discount.

Granted, there are always going to be things that personality tests can't tell you. We are all as unique as our fingerprints, faces and personalities. We may never be able to understand everything about human nature, however we have a lot in common and can learn from one another.

I would strongly encourage you to look into this on your own, as well as to look inward to discover what you really want out of life. Humanity, objectively speaking, is an aggregate of individuals. Thus, in the end, it is the fulfillment of individuals that lead to the well-being of humanity.

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For more information and statistics about the Big-Five Model, check out www.centacs.com

For more information and statistics about the Johnson O' Connor Human Engineering Laboratory, check out an informative web-site at <http://members.aol.com/jocrf19/index.html> or call the Johnson O' Connor Foundation at (404) 261-8013 for your free information packet.

BOOK REVIEWS

"The Quotable Einstein"

with a forward by Freeman Dyson
Collected and Edited by Alice Calaprice

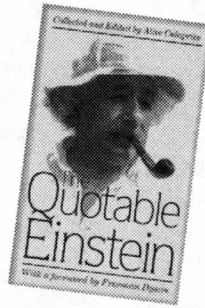
★★★★

WASN'T IT BERTRAND RUSSELL THAT ONCE commented "the best way for the layman to get educated like the best of them is to read all the good quotes they can?" I tend to agree.

Imagine getting into the mind of one of the greatest minds humanity has ever known: Albert Einstein. According to him, "imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited; imagination encircles the world." In

other words, imagine being able to not only know his thoughts but being able to understand them as well. "I want to know God's thoughts; the rest are just details." His ideas literally change your life.

Alice Calaprice, a senior editor at Princeton University, has spent over 18 years working through Einstein's papers and memoirs. The result is a complete compendium of quotes from this genius, organized thematically, usefully indexed and thorough in its inclusion and documentation of attributed



material, sources, and dates.

"The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility ... The fact that it is

**"GET TO KNOW
AND UNDERSTAND
EINSTEIN'S
THOUGHTS IN THIS
COMPENDIUM OF
QUOTES."**

comprehensible is a miracle." If you ask me, the fact that this book can be read in under three hours and can give you a comprehensible holistic view of his personality and thoughts is even more miraculous.

You'll want to read it again and again.

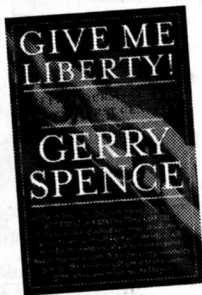
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"Give Me Liberty"

By Gerry Spence

★★★★

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN HIM ON *LARRY KING Live*. He even once had his own television show on CNBC. He's Gerry Spence, the nationally acclaimed criminal and civil trial lawyer that has never lost a case. According to the *New York Times*, he's widely known as "one of America's few original thinkers." Author of such classics as "The Making of a Country Lawyer" and "How to Argue and Win Every Time," he has now written a book that is even more profound. It's one of the most life-changing books you'll come across.



After telling stories of oppressed people he's come across throughout his life as well as the history of slavery in America, he offers short lessons on how we as Americans can once again recoup our energies and start the struggle for liberty. In his eyes, oppression doesn't come from any one particular group of capitalist

**LEARN HOW TO
OVERCOME YOUR
FEAR OF FREEDOM.
INSTIGATE THE LOST
AMERICAN
TRADITION OF
ASKING, "ARE WE
FREE?"**

masterminds (like too many paranoid scholars think) but rather it's an abstract system: "a n entanglement of megacorporations ... and an omnipresent n a t i o n a l government." This unholy alliance forces us to serve it when, in a truly free society, it would instead serve to empower the people, not

alienate them and subject them to adversity. Thus, despite the fact that this is a rich nation, we unthinkingly accept the poverty of millions of our citizens simply as the "way of things" and offer consent to a world we feel powerless to change. We accept this, according to Spence, because we are taught to be afraid of freedom.

The book is full of good points, although it was frustrating that it wasn't as well written as "The Making of a Country Lawyer." This guy is so busy though, he probably just didn't have any extra time to refine it. Changing the world to make it more "just" is no easy job.

Also, it was difficult to agree with all the radical proposals that he had towards the end. Change can only come with time. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend this book to everyone who wants to recover a spiritual and emotionally potent dialogue that has been done away in this country for quite some time. A dialogue that asks, "Are we free?"

C

MOVIE REVIEWS

**Life Is Beautiful**

★★★★

Starring: *Roberto Benigni, Nicoletta Braschi, Giorgio Cantarini, Horst Buchholz, Giustino Durano*
Directed by: *Roberto Benigni, Vincenzo Cerami*
Written by: *Roberto Benigni*

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL IS AN INGENUOUSLY crafted screenplay set during the horrors of WWII. The film begins as a comical farce and later combines satire, physical comedy, social commentary and a touch of surrealism into a

uniquely moving story of love.

At the center of the fable is Guido (Roberto Benigni), an enchanting individual with childlike innocence and grand dreams of owning his own bookshop. It's 1939, and he has come to the Tuscan town of Arrezzo with his poet friend Ferruccio (Sergio Bini Bustric). With unabashed humor and joy, the two seek fortune and romance, indifferent to the growing anti-Semitism and Fascist government that surrounds them. Guido falls in love with Dora (Nicoletta Braschi), a beautiful young teacher, and a fairy tale romance ensues.

Unfortunately, the reality of war strikes several years later when Guido, who is Jewish,

and their five-year-old son, Joshua (Giorgio Cantarini), are boarded on trains headed for German concentration camps. Fearing for her husband and son, Dora, who is not Jewish, demands permission to go with them. She gets it.

Guido and his son are soon separated from Dora. Yet Guido, determined to shield his child from the harsh reality of the concentration camp, makes believe they're playing a game in which the grand prize is a tank. The rules are simple: do what other people say, wear the uniforms, and play hide and seek when the mean soldiers come after you. His attempts at

(continued on page 10)

DO something **DiFfErEnT** this summer

by Beth Tilgner
Entertainment Writer

WELL, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. THE sun is showing up a little more often, and you can actually put some of your winter sweaters away. Unfortunately for many of us, this time is marked by a tragic realization—WE ARE BROKE. Here we are at the dawn of a beautiful summer full of possibilities, and there isn't enough money to fill up the gas tank and drive to the beach.

Don't despair just yet, for I have some fabulous ideas on how to earn, save, and spend money wisely while having fun and getting a great tan. The key to your summer is adventure.

First, let's discuss earning money. Since not everybody is blessed with mommies and daddies who pay for their education, earning money can be a major task for the summer. Before you apply to be a courtesy clerk at the local grocery store or agree to baby-sit for your neighbor's little angels for the summer, close your eyes and think of something you've never done before.

Anyone can put groceries in a bag or heat macaroni and cheese, but you can also set out

to make a difference in other people's lives. Did you know that there are many paid positions in almost every town for students willing to lead groups of kids in sports and activities? Check out your local parks and recreation center. Along those same lines, what about being a camp counselor? You could help out at a camp for the blind, physically disabled, or with an ESL (English as a Second Language) program. Not only do you leave feeling great because you have done something good for someone else, but you also have a pocketful of cash and one more impressive thing to list for scholarships and grad school.

If kids aren't your specialty, you can always teach a class at the local community center. It can be a craft, sport, writing skills, plant identification or whatever you find interesting. By creating your own job or business, you can set up your own hours and have plenty of time to enjoy your summer.

There are also people who need gophers. Do somebody's shopping, pick up the kids from day camp, or drive someone to the airport for a few bucks. You can even pick up soda and beer cans and recycle them or have a yard sale.

Now we are on to saving money. Remember when you were a little kid and you had two or three cans or jars to save money in? One

was for spending, one was for putting in the bank, and the third was for a good cause (your favorite charity or books for fall term). Even though you thought you outgrew that method when you gave up your nightlight, the effectiveness of it as not worn off.

Even though everyone loves the idea of earning and saving money, as true materialists, we must SPEND; the only way to spend money without the regrets of a one-night stand is to spend it wisely. Yes, it is possible.

If you are planning on moving into a new apartment or house, forget Pier One Imports and pick up a few interior design magazines. Get an idea of what kind of theme you want to build around and hit the yard sales and thrift shops. Keep a couple cans of spray paint and some sand paper on hand for the items that are almost perfect. As for clothes, books and other stuff, the same policy of "twice is nice" applies. Just make sure to buy your undies brand new!

For those of you who cook for yourself, or are attempting to, check out places like the Farmer's Market or roadside vegetable and fruit stands. Prices and quantities are often negotiable.

Use this summer to learn something new and volunteer to make the world a better place. Have a great summer!

C

MOVIE REVIEWS

(continued from page 9)

hiding the truth are moments of unprecedented comic brilliance that leave you laughing and crying at the same time. It all builds up to a classic scene at the end with little Joshua on top of the tank. (Sniff.) It was an original and classic finale.

This is one of the few movies I've seen that carries the unique message about laughing in the face of evil and clearly reveals that life is beautiful.

Why can't Hollywood do that?



The Matrix

★★★★

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving, Joe Pantoliano, Gloria Foster

Written and directed by: Larry and Andy Wachowski

THE MATRIX IS AN AMBIGUOUS MOVIE THAT

will vary in quality depending on the eye of the viewer. On the superficial level, everyone agrees that *The Matrix* is a fast-paced, adrenaline pumping, action cyber-adventure which utilizes state of the art computer generated graphics and special effects that leave you holding on to your seat for dear life.

In the near future, a mild-mannered software programmer by day and feared hacker by night named Neo (Keanu Reeves) discovers that his paranoia about the world around him doesn't classify him as crazy. He's recruited by a guild of "cyber" dissidents, led by the profound Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and the leather-clad warrior Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss). He joins the cause for liberation from the Matrix and helps fight off the man-made robots which have taken over the earth and keep the humans in sleeping chambers, hooked up to a virtual world that doesn't exist.

On the intellectual level, the movie blows you away even more. "Man is born free, yet he is everywhere in chains." Rousseau's famous self-evident axiom is spoken by

Morpheus when explaining to Neo the reality that actually exists behind the elaborate façade created by the malevolent cyber-beings controlling the world. It reminded me of the intentionally constructed illusions that exist in our society that large in part suppress people from pursuing their potential and achieving more control over their lives.

It would have been more impressive if this had been more of a philosophical adventure than just another movie to add to the "lots of violence with special effects" genre.

Did you know that you can check out local movie listings on the web? Check out the local internet service provider www.proaxis.com. They update the movie listings weekly for the Corvallis and Albany theatres.

Did you know that you can buy and rent videos over the web? Check out www.reel.com for the best deals around.

C

Chronicle of UHC Events

April 9-11: Seattle Trip

UHC student have a great time up in Seattle and Puget Sound.

April 10: Sibling's Day

UHC host a reception on Saturday for siblings of its students.

April 21: UHC Kosovo Forum

The University Honors College joined with the Women's Center to host a forum discussing the Crisis in Kosovo. "It was a great success," Jane Siebler, Head UHC Advisor said. "We had more than 150 people show up. It makes it the most successful forum we've ever had."

April 28: Women's Symposium

Titled "What's the Point," UHC female undergraduates attended this forum that discussed women's issues at OSU.

May 1st: Mom's Weekend reception

Moms from all over the state of Oregon as well as the country came to spend time with their children at OSU. The UHC had a special reception in the UHC Student Lounge.

May 22: UHC Leadership Summit

Students in the UHC met with the leaders at OSU to discuss issues.

May 26: UHC Thesis Fair

Seniors gathered their thesis projects in the MU ballroom for display to the OSU community.

May 28-31: Rafting Trip

UHC students go rafting at Umpqua.

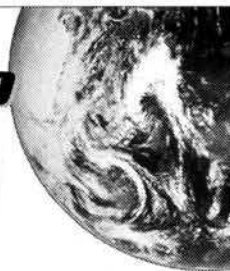
June 2: UHC BBQ Dinner

All of the students in the UHC gathered for food and ceremonies.

June 13: Commencement reception

C

WORLD EVENTS



Spring 1999

Crisis in Kosovo continues.

Columbine shootings shock nation. Other smaller shootings follow thereafter.

Dow Jones Industrial Average continues to make record highs. It passes 11,000.

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<http://www.orst.edu/dept/honors>



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Fellowship of Corvallis

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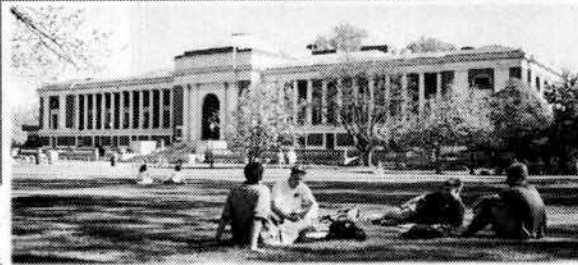
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