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# Opinions

## Adderall same as steroids in school

**Y**ou've heard, of course, of athletes secretly taking performance-enhancing drugs to enable them to play emotionally and physically above their natural ability.

But how about the students sitting on both sides of you during a crucial exam? Are they "high" on something?

I would have scoffed at the idea of students pumping up on chemicals just to get a higher grade until I took the grueling Law School Admission Test, high on nothing, and found out I was on an uneven playing field.

I worked hard for months using nothing but my own God-given ability to build up my endurance for the intense, 175-minute exam. I later learned that other test-takers had come up with another, less ethical solution: Adderall.

While I struggled to stay focused, other students were "zoned in" throughout the exam with little effort thanks to their performance-enhancing drug.

Like baseball players juiced up on steroids, they were hitting the ball out of the park, surpassing those of us who could have passed a drug test.

Like steroids in baseball, using Adderall on exams is cheating — unless you are diagnosed with attention-deficit disorder.

There's a reason the LSAT and other exams are designed to test endurance. Graduate schools



**JORDAN STOVER**

require hours of hard work every day. If you can't handle that work without performance-enhancing drugs, you are not likely to succeed.

Yes, caffeine is a performance-enhancing drug, and I use it like it's going out of style. I can't make it through the day without a cup of coffee, and I drank some the morning of the LSAT.

The difference is that caffeine is legal, and available to everyone.

It's illegal to obtain Adderall without a prescription. It was designed to help people with a disorder perform at a normal level, not to give lazy students a short cut to good standardized test scores.

Do yourself and everyone else a favor — don't cheat.

You don't want to be the Mark McGwire of standardized tests. You might get a high score, but as McGwire's home run record will be tainted forever by his acknowledged steroid use, your academic record will always be surrounded by a cloud of doubt.

— Jordan Stover is a senior from Rome majoring in magazines and sociology



## Mailbox

E-mail and letters from our readers

## Pay cuts for highest-paid University employees potential help for budget

I would like to propose an alternative solution to fill in the holes left by the State of Georgia's proposed budget cuts.

During tough economic times, tough decisions must be made. In the choices laid out in the Summary of Reductions presented to Board of Regents, the University proposes eliminating 1,418 positions.

These budget cuts will certainly leave deep gouges on the more than 1,000 who may end up jobless, but they will also affect many thousands more by reducing availability of community-oriented projects and endeavors supported by the University.

Within the University community, 81 employees held salaries paying more than \$200,000 in 2009.

I don't wish to suggest that such levels of compensation were undeserved, but rather that sometimes individuals need to take a look at what is best for the greater good.

If those 81 persons were willing to take a voluntary 10 to 30 percent pay cut in order for the University to restructure and find other ways to bridge the gap created by our economic downturn, how many of those 1,418 jobs could be saved?

A 10 percent reduction in salaries could save \$2,267,607.67, and 30 percent saves \$6,802,823.00. I call upon the faculty of the University to consider putting the greater good ahead of themselves.

I would like to see how many are

willing to make a sacrifice to save the livelihood of another. I know if I made \$200,000, I certainly would.

**ROY JOHNSON**  
Alumnus, Marietta  
Biology

## Wrestling team places 6th in national meet

Over spring break the UGA Wrestling team traveled to Virginia Beach, not to frolic with Atlantic sea cucumbers, but to finish its competitive season in the NCWA National Championships at Hampton University.

UGA placed 6th among 46 Division II clubs and 20th overall out of over 100 teams nationally.

Senior Alan Taylor was only one victory away from becoming an All-American. Taylor (157), an exercise and sports science major from Columbus, GA, finishes his college career as the SEC Runner-up and one of the best middleweights to ever duckwalk through Ramsey's practice mats.

The overachiever of this season was Frankie Miller, a sophomore history and LACS double-major from Dacula, GA, who fought hard to become the National Runner-up! Miller (125) scrambles into his spot as UGA Wrestling's very first two-

time All-American.

The young Mat Dawgs had a great season, often competing out of state against solid wrestling programs.

The bar has now been reset at a "potentially dangerous" height, but the club's singlets and philosophy remain unchanged.

Veteran or rookie, anyone interested in practicing the world's oldest sport is welcome to join the camaraderie of this student run organization.

"It's lots of fun!" comments junior Mason Deal (149). For more information: please visit uga.edu/wrestling.

**AN PHAM**  
Sophomore, Homer  
Biomedical engineering

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters must include name, year in school, hometown, phone number, major or job title or other appropriate identification. Letters are edited for spelling or grammar and are subject to editing for length, style and libelous material. All letters will be published — either in print or online.

## Overlooked degree smart career move

**F**orget what you think you know about computer science majors. Are you picturing dorks with glasses and a Commodore 64?

Well, picture this — they're the ones who will have jobs after graduation.

And not just any jobs. They likely will be working for companies like Google and Facebook, or perhaps testing and designing video games or creating Web sites.

Not so dorky now. There are nearly 3.4 million computer science jobs in our country, and that number is expected to grow by 22 percent through 2018, according to the latest edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

With unemployment at a whopping 10 percent, 4.13 million potential jobs doesn't sound half bad. And the pay ain't too shabby, either. The median annual salary for computer science jobs is \$75,800. Compare that to \$33,600, the median annual salary for all workers.

My undergrad advisers didn't tell me about this.

"In advising students, I try to listen to what their interests and career goals are," said Kathy Mengak, academic adviser in Franklin College of Arts and Science, in an e-mail. "I don't promote a major unless I hear something that a student says that may lead me to believe it's something they'd be interested in."

Perhaps students would show an interest in computer science if they knew what the field was really about.

Some students do. Take Brooklyn Mundy, a senior from Lawrenceville. Despite the fact that none of Mundy's advisers — she's had three — ever mentioned computer sci-



**KATE PARHAM**

ence as a potential major, Mundy knew CS was a smart choice.

"[I chose CS because] I saw it as a hard skill," she said. "Something that would be viable, as in once I graduated, I'd have a career path laid out for me."

She couldn't be more right. The jobs are in demand, the field is growing and the pay is great. And yet, computer science is 39th in line for top majors at UGA, preceded by majors like art, English, history and political science. Not exactly the most practical majors, career-wise.

Why aren't more advisers recommending computer science as a potential major to their students? Why aren't they more aware of job opportunities and industry trends?

"Although basic programming has moved overseas, there are still plenty of opportunities for CS careers here in the U.S.," said Jennifer Patrick, academic adviser in Franklin College of Arts and Science, in an e-mail. 3.4 million to be exact.

And to take some of the blame ourselves, why aren't we doing the necessary research about which fields are growing and hiring?

It's our life, after all. If you haven't already figured out what you want to do with your life, consider computer science. I hear tech geeks are making a comeback!

— Kate Parham is a senior from Roswell majoring in magazines

## Students must bear share of financial burden

**B**ring on the budget cuts. That seems odd coming from a student, but hear me out.

We know the facts. The General Assembly has proposed a \$300 million reduction in spending for the university system. One-fifth of that financial burden — \$60 million — is on UGA's shoulders.

What I hear around campus is that students are incensed — not at the notion that faculty and staff are losing their jobs, but that tuition will be increased and classes will be reduced, making it harder to graduate on time.

What I hear is, "me, me, me." When President Obama presented his proposed budget to Congress last month, we thought little of a \$1 trillion deficit. Many of us do not remember the years when the national budget not only balanced, but there was a surplus. We have always lived with national debt, and we are doing fine, right?

Now the red ink has trickled down to the states. Georgia's financial situation is dire. Suddenly, we care! This could actually affect us.

We cannot expect to live on the government's dime for much longer. It is time to be adults and bear some of the burden of this national financial crisis.

Chancellor Erroll Davis' statement — that a 77 percent tuition hike would be necessary to balance the budget — has been blown out of proportion. No, tuition will not



**EMILY JARVIS**

"Georgia's financial situation is dire. Suddenly, we care! This could actually affect us."

rise by 77 percent — not this year, anyway.

But even a modest tuition hike would sink the HOPE scholarship. I relied on HOPE for my undergraduate education, and Georgia students don't know how good they have it.

Students in states without free financial aid somehow manage to go to college. It takes a little more planning and a lot more work, and that is a reality Georgia students may soon be facing.

I am not coming at this argument as an outsider. These budget cuts will tax me, too. As a graduate assistant, my tuition is paid by UGA.

My small salary comes from the school as well. Amid the fat-trimming, I am well aware that my position could be the first to go.

After all, I don't teach. I don't

build or fix things. I go to class and help out my professors with research when they ask. I'm grateful — without my assistantship I would be in bad financial shape. But I am not arrogant enough to think that I deserve what I am getting.

And neither should you be. Ask an out-of-state student what its like to pay tuition. If their parents aren't backing them up, they will probably tell you that it takes a job on the side and a lot of ramen noodles.

Student loans are in the near future for many of us. While your parents may be fighting the credit crunch by cutting the plastic, don't shy away from a little borrowed cash. Low interest rates and generous grace periods make student loans the best investment you can make right now — an investment in your education.

SGA president Katie Barlow got it right at the budget rally Wednesday night: "For the caliber of education that we get here ... we have to offer something."

Education is a commodity to which we are not entitled. The state doesn't owe us anything. The bottom line is this — we have to give a little to get a lot.

— Emily Jarvis is a graduate student from Valdosta in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication

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The Red & Black is published Monday through Friday fall and spring semesters and each Thursday summer semester, except holidays and exam periods. By The Red & Black Publishing Company Inc., a non-profit campus newspaper not affiliated with the University of Georgia. Subscription rate: \$195 per year.