

Nicotine improves young smokers' short-term memories, study shows

■ But researchers say cigarettes' health risks outweigh the good news.

BY HOLLY HART
STAFF WRITER

On a day designed to remind people of the consequences of smoking, student smokers can take solace in a new study stating that young smokers' short-term memories are slightly better than those of non-smokers.

In a study released two days before the Great American Smokeout, researchers

at the University of California at San Diego said cigarette smoking sharpened short-term learning and memory among young people.

The study added that the improvements were slight.

"I'm very suspicious of this study," said Ahron Leichtman, executive director of Citizens for a Tobacco-Free Society.

"I don't think it's valid because it only studied 24 people, and they were all young."

John Banzhaf, executive director of Action on Smoking and Health, said he agreed with Leichtman.

"I hope anyone who reads it will real-

ize that this is a preliminary study based on a small group of people," Banzhaf said.

UNC senior Chris Black said he was also suspicious of the study.

"I don't know that memory has anything to do with smoking," said Black, a psychology major whose hometown is Wharton, N.J.

"I have a strong short-term memory, but I had one before I started smoking," he said.

Black said the study didn't affect his decision to continue smoking two packs a day but added that the results could influence others. "It's an incentive to smoke," he said.

Leichtman said he feared the positive spin the study put on smoking. "There are impressionable young people out there who might think they'll do better on a test because of this," he said.

Banzhaf said he hoped people would not be foolish enough to start smoking because of the study.

"Nobody in his right mind should go out and start smoking just to get a small increase in short-term memory," Banzhaf said.

Jaime Pineda, who authored the study, said he didn't intend to overshadow the negative aspects of smoking, such as cancer, emphysema, heart disease and impotence.

"This in no way supports an argument that people should go out and smoke," Pineda said.

"I've always been absent-minded. I think smoking helps you calm down and more able to remember things"

KEVIN CARTER
UNC Sophomore

Sophomore Kevin Carter said he thought the study provided smokers with a reason to keep smoking.

"There are so many negatives about smoking, and this is a positive that counteracts some of those," he said.

Carter said he smoked half a pack a

day to relax and believed the results of the study. "I've always been absent-minded," said Carter, a biology major from Concord.

"I think smoking helps you calm down and more able to remember things," he said.

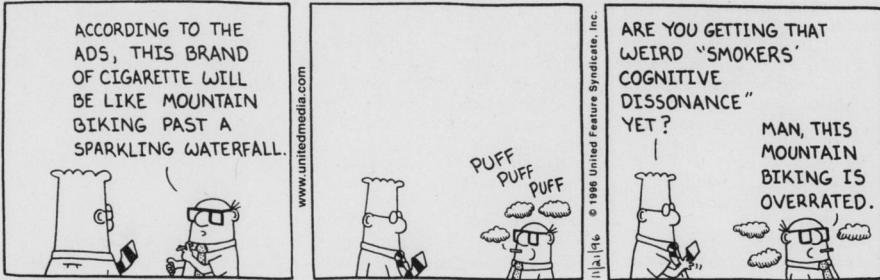
This increase in short-term memory might be linked to nicotine, Pineda said Wednesday.

Pineda conducted the study in an effort to discover the precise effects of nicotine on the brain.

Leichtman said the effects of nicotine were already established, and the study was conducted for other reasons.

"Coming two days before the Great American Smokeout, one wonders if this study was motivated by the tobacco industry."

Dilbert

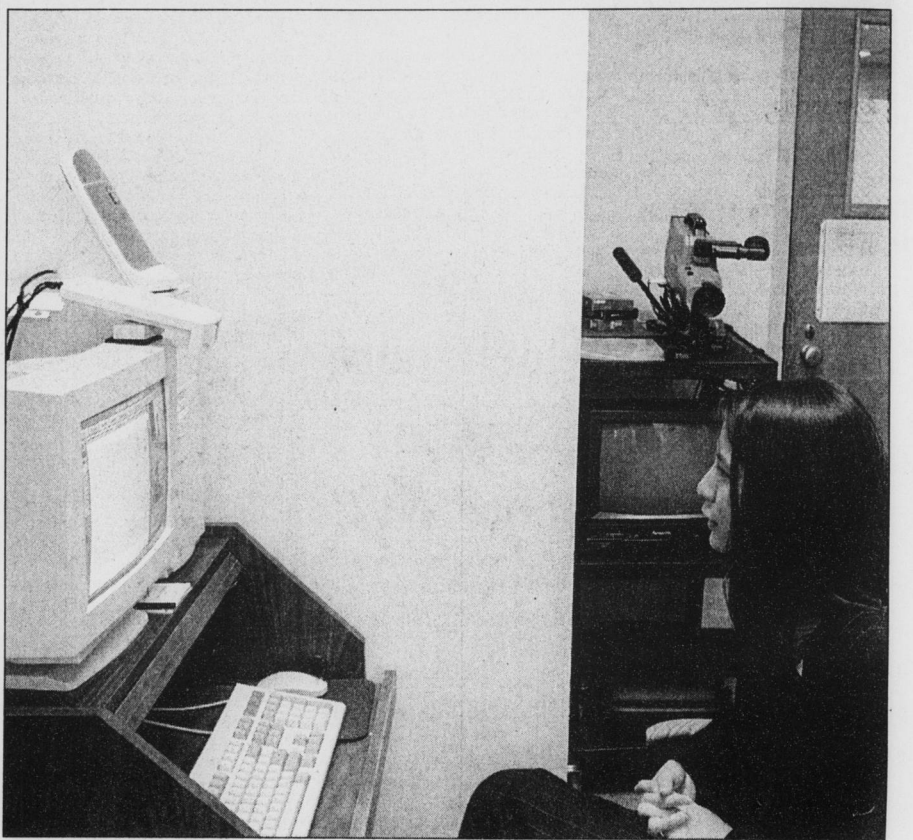


THE Daily Crossword

by Bernice Gordon

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ACROSS	mammals	thoroughly	worker	42 Rectangular column	50 Made haste
1 Young lady	54 Attic	5 Smith and — (pistol)	30 Part of a table setting	44 Swallowed hard	51 Spectral
5 Opened one's eyes	57 Part of a table setting	6 Eggs	31 M. Zola	46 Former U.S. coins	52 Part of a church
9 An ump's call	59 Dimensions	7 Scottish wear	32 Certain gambler	48 "...turn one's back —" (H. Ellis)	53 Farm structure
13 Director Kazan	60 Gaelic	8 Musical John	35 Dams		55 Basso Pinza
14 Wickedness	61 Different	9 Lustrous	38 Tailor: Lat.		56 Williams and Lewis
15 Pelvic bones	62 Author Bagnold	10 "— ever need..."	39 Signature on a check		58 Hallucinogenic
16 Australian prime minister	63 Changed color	11 Arbitrary order	41 Famous skater		
17 Part of a table setting	64 Gives approval	12 All — (attentive)			
20 Musical shows	65 Selves	18 Barrel maker			
22 Containers for nuts and bolts		19 Comic character, Fudd			
23 Grain blight	DOWN	21 Protection: var. once			
25 AK city	1 Funny man Lew, once	24 Mountain range in Wyoming			
26 Kitchen utensil	2 Ingredient in body lotion	26 Gatherings for men			
29 Wrote	3 Part of a table setting	27 Pith helmet			
33 Urban areas	4 Serving to soak	28 Mechanical			
34 Minaret					
36 French friend					
37 Pit—					
38 Subdued					
39 "Iliad," e.g.					
40 Bonn's land: abbr.					
41 Vietnam city					
42 Leg joint					
43 "If I Had A Hammer" singer					
45 More fashionable					
47 Biblical preposition					
49 Squelched					
50 Aquatic					



Grace Chu, a senior business major, takes part in an interview earlier this week via computer. UNC students were able to interview using teleconferencing during University Career Services' Virtual Job Fair this week.

New technology connects students, employers at UNC's Virtual Job Fair

BY TRAVIS MILLER
STAFF WRITER

A new technology showcased at UNC's first Virtual Job Fair this week enabled job hunters to have live, video interviews with as many as 40 possible employers.

ViewNet, which the University purchased in April 1995, allows desktop interviews with companies that own or have access to this same equipment.

"The purpose of the virtual job fair was to promote the awareness of this technology among employers," said Marcia Harris, director of University Career Services.

This form of long-distance interviewing is meant to facilitate the interviewing process for UNC students, Harris said.

"The whole idea behind our purchasing ViewNet is to expand the opportunity to our students to interact with employers at remote locations," Harris said.

The technology is beneficial for companies because it saves travel expenses,

said Nathan Harwell, a second-year graduate student in information science who interviewed through ViewNet.

The equipment also enables companies to interview in a more cost-effective way at universities where there are few interviewees, Harwell said.

Harris said ViewNet allowed job hunters to have what feels like a face-to-face interview.

The computer monitor contains an animated image of the two people involved in the interview. The sound is clear and the image quality is good, Harwell said.

The location of the interviews in Hanes Hall could make the interview process more comfortable for students, Harwell said. "You don't have that pressure of being in someone else's environment."

The job fair was held in conjunction with 20 other colleges and universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Southeastern Conference.

The network of colleges and universities was important because not all com-

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MARCIA HARRIS

Director of University Career Services

panies have ViewNet, said Julie Pendergraph, a recruiting coordinator at University Career Services. She said an Atlanta-based company could get on ViewNet at Georgia Institute of Technology to interview a person using ViewNet at UNC.

Harwell said this technology was indicative of upcoming trends in interviewing. "I think that this kind of videoconferencing will become more commonly used in the future."

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Wed	Nassau	9:30am	
Thurs	Nassau		3:30am
Fri	CocoCay	8:00am	5:00pm
	Miami	9:00am	

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