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WRITER'S BLOCK

The Picture of Dorian Gray
Oscar Wilde
Published by Tor Books

Oscar Wilde paints a picture of the perfect man in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, one of his best known works. Dorian Gray is the most handsome man in London. Born in an illustrious family and extremely wealthy, he is the best England has to offer. Not surprisingly, he is the talk of the entire female population of the country. But romance, and its downfall, is only one aspect of this novel. Larger moral questions are concerned, especially for a man who will never feel the effects of his crimes.

Gray is symbolic of man and the moral dilemmas he faces. This book questions the very moral fiber of mankind by asking: If a man could do anything without fear of retribution, would he? According to Wilde, every man must face temptation and, specifically, the devil and God. In this book, those opposing factors take human faces. While Gray's friends are not literally God and the devil, they represent the two by giving op-

posing advice in every moral situation.

These decisions are difficult enough, but what if one could live forever? Would the boredom of everyday life lead one to commit acts that would be unthinkable in a normal life?

These questions stem from the fact that Dorian Gray will remain the same charming, and, most importantly, young, man forever. Through a pact with a force that is never revealed, Gray trades his soul for the ability to stay young forever. In his place, a portrait of him will bear the marks of his sins. Throughout the book, the reader is able to see how a man in Gray's position, a man with nearly unlimited powers, would act.

The Picture of Dorian Gray is one of Wilde's best works and definitely one of the most thought-provoking. It is definitely worth a read, but the language can be difficult to force one's way through. The book begins rather slowly, but picks up pace. Readers should give the book time to develop and not be discouraged by the extensive foreshadowing. (Grade: B+)

— Jason Bennyhoff



A = Literary classic	D = Don't buy it
B = A cut above	F = Waste of paper
C = Passable reading	

ANOREXIC

Continued from Page 3

body after regurgitation, resulting in a deceptively healthy appearance.

Shannon Lippa, a junior speech communications major, said she knows several girls who have eating disorders. Many of her friends with the disorder are freshmen, who are worried about gaining the "freshman 15."

"Two of my friends have been hospitalized for bulimia," Lippa said. "It makes me so sad to think that my friends are destroying their bodies in order to live up to society's image of a perfect body. Everyone wishes that they are skinnier, but there are healthy ways to go about losing weight."

Rahn said there are many side effects to eating disorders. Some of the short-term side effects are loss or thinning of hair, irregular or no menstrual periods, insomnia, dizziness

and moodiness. Some of the long-term effects are tooth decay, malnutrition, loss of muscle mass and, for bulimics, stomach and esophagus problems. She said many people do not realize that women can hurt their reproductive organs and that death can occur.

Reed said that even though bulimia is the most common eating disorder, it is not the most severe. Anorexia can cause the body to go into starvation mode and basically waste away. When asked, an anorexic may say she has been eating. However, she may not mention that she is not getting proper nutrition.

One student who wishes only to be known as "Lynn" had an encounter with a girl who had anorexia. Lynn was on an organizational trip when she noticed that one girl was not eating.

"She kept saying that she didn't like this, or she didn't like that," Lynn said. "I kept telling her that she

needed to eat because we were doing a lot of stuff outside. She got really upset with me, as if I was condemning her. I had never been exposed to eating disorders, and it had never crossed my mind that she would intentionally not eat."

Rahn said that if someone suspects a friend may have an eating disorder, it is important to be sympathetic to the individual. It is important not to tell the person that he or she needs to "fatten up" or that he or she is "too skinny." The focus needs to be on the friend and not just on the friend's body. It is best not to even mention food in the conversation. It is important for the friend to remember that they do not need to be the counselor.

Rahn said that the friend should suggest that the person may need to seek help from a counselor.

Having a friend with an eating disorder may leave some people feeling hopeless about the situation.

Beth Priolo, a sophomore general studies major, said she feels helpless when discussing a friend who has an eating disorder.

"Having a friend with an eating disorder is scary," said Priolo. "I don't know quite how to help her, but you can't force her to do something that she doesn't want to do." "When I first saw her, I felt compassion for her situation, but at the same time, I just wanted to talk to her and ask her what she was doing to herself. She looks like she is fighting her own concentration camp. It is getting the best of her."

Reed said the treatment for eating disorder is multifaceted. A sufferer can have counseling, see a dietitian or visit a doctor. By psychology department and offer counseling services, group therapy and individual counseling. Reed said that even though eating disorder is potentially fatal, there is hope.

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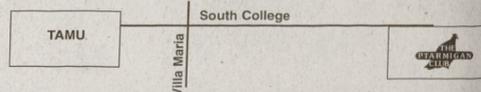
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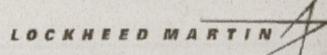


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