

Letter to the Editor

In your comprehensive and educational article about “neuroenhancing” drugs (Brain Gain, April 27), Margaret Talbot begins her article using the pseudonym, “Alex,” for the Harvard graduate who uses Adderal to allow him to more successfully accomplish a host of academic tasks. The article does not compare the utilization of drugs which aid people’s cognitive functioning with the utilization of drugs to enhance athletic functioning. But, is the use of the name, “Alex,” a coincidence or a meaningful association to Alex Rodriguez, our contemporary symbol of the athlete who wishes to excel beyond his incredible in-born capacities?

The search for herbs and drugs to expand the mind, improve physical functioning, and avoid the decline of the mind and body as we age has been with us since time immemorial. For example, Ponce De Leon, who sailed with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the New World, discovered Florida as he searched for the Fountain of Youth, which he never did locate.

Leon Hoffman