

COLUMN



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Back to a time of fun and games

Kids today. It's a statement I feel too young to say, and yet here I am at 21, griping already.

The other night, I'm sitting at Maggiano's, getting ready to eat a big bowl of spaghetti and meatballs. A family of three walks in, and as the mother and father sit down with their son, he takes a portable television out of his bag and turns on some cartoon. In the middle of the restaurant. His mother orders his food for him, and when she tries to turn the TV off and include him in the conversation, he snaps at her and tells her, "I need to finish my show first!"

How did we get here? Walk into any toy section at a Target or a Walmart, and almost all of the toys for sale contain some sort of electronic something or other. LeapFrog learning "tools" and Little Einstein DVDs have almost entirely replaced children's books. Barbie comes complete with her own cell phone now. And there's a separate section in the iPhone App Store designed for kids' games.

When I was little, Mom practically pushed me outside, even when all I wanted to do was sit in front of the TV and watch "Winnie the Pooh." I would grab weeds from the garden and leaves off of trees and make potions in the backyard with my sister. We became characters from stories or movies — I always wanted to play the hero, while she wanted to play the caring mother with the helpless infant. It was a good system.

Happily, I still see children playing outside. But very rarely do they play make believe, dress up or "war" anymore. Usually, they're bouncing a ball around in their hands or playing tag — all good things in a country where as many as 33 percent of children and adolescents are obese. But it seems that their ability to imagine, to create worlds for themselves, is slowly slipping away. And this may be detrimental to an America that's going to need creative thinkers in the future.

Creating new stories and situations helps build critical thinking skills necessary to leading a successful life. If a child develops the ability to think up plots and play them out, then he or she may grow into an adult capable of figuring out certain actions may produce a particular outcome. The ability to think ahead — and think quickly — seems to come from the ability to imagine.

A study published by Illinois State University stated that imaginative play is also crucial to the children developing self-regulatory skills — mastering their own emotions, gaining a sense of morality and developing the ability to cope in a variety of different situations.

We're college students, and most of us don't have kids yet. But it's vital that we start thinking about how we want them to grow up. The world is becoming more and more digital. As our electronic gadgets get more advanced, it's going to become harder to remember how important imaginative play in this very real world can be.

Let's remember what it felt like to pretend to ride a dragon or play with fairies. And let's work to make sure that when we have our own children, they know what that feels like, too.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Daniela Madriz, daniela.madriz@gmail.com



EDITORIAL

Students must DREAM on

New immigration policy gives hope to students without documents.

President Obama's new immigration policy promises to "lift the shadow of deportation" from students that "are Americans in their hearts, in their minds, in every single way but one — on paper."

As Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said, the policy sets "good, strong, sensible priorities ... These young people really are not the individuals that the immigration removal process was designed to focus upon."

The policy reprioritizes deporting criminals while granting two-year waivers and eligibility for work permits to young people with a clean record who have demonstrated a commitment to the United States through their studies or military service.

You know these students — bright, determined, hard-working students constantly giving of themselves to a country that presents them with obstacles.

Emilio Vicente, a sophomore public policy and political science major from Guatemala, was brought to the United

States when he was 6 years old. While his impressive resume granted him out-of-state admittance to UNC and qualified him for several merit-based scholarships, he was unable to accept most of them, due to his immigration status.

Since coming to the United States, Vicente has immersed himself in social justice initiatives, establishing a tutoring program at his local elementary school. He's worked toward comprehensive health education policies for youth and is particularly passionate about granting rights to those that don't, but should.

Vicente says the policy provides the ability and incentive for students like himself to pursue higher education. Since students are able to access jobs that match their qualifications, they will be better able to afford the hefty student fees that accompany their immigration status.

As Vicente said, it also means he can pay even more taxes.

The policy is by no means perfect. As a temporary stop-gap measure, it could disappear if the administration changes.

It also falls short of the provisions in the Development, Relief and Education for Alien

Minors — or DREAM — Act that provide exceptional young people with a pathway to citizenship. As the president said, "These kids deserve to plan their lives in more than two year increments." Congress must work diligently to pass the DREAM Act quickly.

But the future of comprehensive immigration policy, like the DREAM Act, also rides on the ability of Americans to participate in meaningful conversation regarding immigration.

"I would like my fellow Tar Heels to realize that while this affects undocumented students and makes a difference for them, this is not just an immigration issue," Vicente said.

"It's a human rights issue that affects everyone directly or indirectly. I want to have a conversation about what immigration is about. We're not the criminals that are depicted by the media. We're neighbors, friends, classmates. We're American at heart and we should be recognized by our contributions to the state of North Carolina and our country," Vicente said.

Despite its shortcomings, the policy calls on Americans like Emilio to dream on.

COLUMN SERIES: HEAVY ISSUES

A tiny bit of advice

This summer, find the things you love about your body.

This column is part of a summer series that will focus on college-aged men and women's perceptions of beauty and body image issues.



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When I was 7, my pediatrician told my younger brother that he would grow up to be 6 feet tall, very big and strong. Turning to me, the doctor said, "And you will always be tiny! Maybe 5 feet 2."

This is not what I wanted to hear. I wanted to be big and strong like my brother, who was already a head taller than me. To me, tiny people were only good for squeezing into small places during hide and seek.

In elementary school, I was always the smallest kid in my class and the last to grow out of Gymboree clothes. Adults talked to me as if I were in kindergarten, even though I was a third grade graduate. I was the runt, the shorty, the pipsqueak and I hated it.

I spent my preteen years stuffing my face and trying outrageous lengthening stretches so that I could start wearing cool clothes from teenager stores. (Oh, how I want to tell 12-year-old me, no! Stay away from Aeropostale!) I was all about getting bigger and taller. Nothing worked, and I

grew into a tiny adult.

I needed to be 5 inches taller, I needed sexier curves, I needed anything but what I had.

Then I moved to Chapel Hill, where all of the girls seemed to be obsessed with making their bodies as minuscule as possible. I had never seen so many body-conscious girls in one place as I did in my dorm freshman year. I'd be eating late-night Qdoba or Gumbys with my friends and suddenly I was under attack:

"I can't believe you just ate all of that." "I hate you for never going to the gym." "I'm a house compared to you."

Once, I was paid a most vicious compliment: "We can't all have perfect bodies like you."

I was stunned. First of all, the person who complimented

me had a perfect body. She was healthy and curvy, she could run a mile without keeling over — unlike me — and she had flawless skin. Secondly, I was me. I was a twig with frizzy hair and big teeth.

She thought I had a perfect body, but we were both unhappy. So does anybody like his or her own body? I've had conversations like the one above a thousand times, and it's time for the crisis of self-consciousness to end.

I'm not sure how we get out of the rut of hating our bodies. It seems that no matter what, we always think we're too fat, too thin or too short. We're too light, too dark or — to quote "Mean Girls" — our hairlines are weird.

I've resorted to an old trick. Before I hit the town or go to class, I remind myself of everything I like about my body. That hair isn't frizzy, it's curly and voluminous. You aren't a twig, you're petite. And when I see any of my beautiful, healthy and talented friends, I remind them of all of their fabulous features, both inside and out.

If you're rolling your eyes at this suggestion, give it a try. Even a small way to celebrate your body might make you feel big and strong, in all the good ways.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to have a conversation about what immigration is about. We're not the criminals that are depicted by the media. We're neighbors, friends, classmates."

Emilio Vicente, on the new immigration policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world has lost a truly wonderful Tar Heel

TO THE EDITOR:
The world lost a truly great Tar Heel on June 5. John Snipes, the owner of the 'Heel Raiser', passed away from multiple sclerosis.

John graduated from UNC in 1982. He held Carolina blue — you may remember the completely customized Carolina blue hearse that made appearances at any sporting event.

John bought and designed the 'Heelraiser' with his own money, simply because of how much he loved UNC. Not only was John a great Tar Heel, but he was a great person: he gave my family everything when we had nothing. Rest in peace, John Snipes.

Bryce McCulloch
Chapel Hill Resident

Paul Frampton needs your help, Chapel Hill

TO THE EDITOR:

Paul Frampton, a professor in the physics department at UNC, has been held in prison in Argentina since January 2012 after 2 kilograms of cocaine were found in one of his bags in the Buenos Aires airport. He has not yet had a trial.

Paul has stated and we strongly believe that he was the victim of a setup, and the standard punishment for carrying 2 kilograms of cocaine is a prison term of four and a half years.

He's being held in the notorious Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires, where riots occurred in 1972 (62 dead), 1978 (50 dead), 1990 (33 dead) and 2005 (33 dead). In order to get decent food, Paul has to pay for it himself. As he is no longer receiving his salary from UNC, we are seeking donations to help him buy decent food at the prison and pay his lawyers.

Donations may be sent in the form of a check made out to Paul Frampton to his ex-wife at the following address:

Anne-Marie Frampton
414 Millspring Dr
Durham, NC 27705.

She will deposit the checks in Paul's account, and he is able to access the money by telephoning her. Character references should be sent to his lawyers Laura Vouilloud and Vanina Bessante at defensoriap1@hotmail.com.

Hugon Karwowski
Professor of Physics

Mark Williams
Professor of Mathematics

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES

- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
 - Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
 - Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
 - Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
 - Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.
- SUBMISSION**
- Drop-off: at our office at 151 E. Rosemary Street.
 - Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

Clarifying points from AFAM article last week

TO THE EDITOR:

I was disappointed that the June 14 story about the Department of African and Afro-American Studies left out important information the dean's office provided regarding our confidence in the department and our ongoing commitment to its faculty members and students. I appreciate the opportunity to emphasize these points here.

The Department of African and Afro-American Studies has been an integral and important part of the College of Arts and Sciences for more than four decades. The department's talented and dedicated faculty members make many important contributions to the University's research, teaching and service mission. The department has over 90 undergraduate majors and many non-majors take its courses. The issues addressed in the review of the department relate to a very small portion of the curriculum.

The department has an outstanding new chair, professor Eunice Sahle. Under her leadership and with support from the department faculty, new policies and procedures are now in place. As a result, the department and the College of Arts and Science are stronger now in teaching, research and service in this vital area of study.

Karen M. Gil
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Kvetching board™

kvetch:

v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

If you kvetch during the summer and nobody is around to hear it, does it make a noise?

Our chem lab consisted of analyzing the alcoholic content of Busch Light and listening to Free Bird. I didn't realize I enrolled at Alabama.

Oh, you're getting married? Please continue to tell me about your centerpieces.

To the girl in front of me at YoPo who asked to try the vanilla: try to keep that Type T personality in check.

To the CTOPS attendee wearing the phone clip: I bid your social life good luck for the next 4 years.

Send your one-to-two sentence entries to opinion@dailytarheel.com, subject line 'kvetch.'

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
119 years
of literary freedom

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The Daily Tar Heel

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The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Media Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, Monday through Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

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151 E. Rosemary St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3539



ISSN #10709436

Member

EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board, which is made up of board members, the opinion editor and the summer editor.

Weekly QuickHits

I-40 closing
It's not happening until 2013, but part of I-40, traveled by 30,000 cars a day, will close for repaving in 2013. Get ready for the traffic headaches, people. The Triangle might become the new Atlanta.

Kvetches
A kvetch about kvetches. Come on, y'all, you're a witty bunch. Turn up the funny and turn down the kvetching. It's time to kick back and do what we do best — complain hilariously.

Russia vs. Syria
As if Syria wasn't messed up enough, now Russia's offering weapons to continue the violent civil war. We know you lost the soccer game, Putin. But follow in a different way. Like with ice cream.

Summer TV
From Weeds to True Blood to Breaking Bad, summer television's got us hooked. Whether you're looking for sexy vampires or sympathetic drug dealers, you can find pretty much anything.