

supporting us in our lives. I feel so sorry for those children who have either lost a parent or whose parents are divorced. I know that I cannot sympathize with them completely, but I think that I have some idea of how they feel.

CHILDHOOD REMAINS

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As one grows older it is the normal belief in society that they must transform into an adult. Contrary to this belief I prefer to remain in the simplistic, pure stage of childhood. For nineteen years now I have been perfecting my abilities of acting like a child. I would like to inform others of what it takes to be a kid, and remain joyful in a sorrow-filled society. The tasks are simple but they must be followed accurately. If any step is disregarded you will lose yourself and fall into the vile depths of adulthood. I have seen this happen to many of my friends and even to my family. Adulthood is a scary episode that will hold a person forever no matter how hard they try to escape.

The first, most dangerous, thing you need to remember is never to drink coffee. This is the strongest poison in the life of a child. All it takes is one pleasing sip of coffee and you are lost forever. I can not stress how important this is. Coffee is like chemotherapy. Once it gets in you it slowly kills every part of you, and you are gradually mutated into a totally different person. Experience crosses your lips and you are gone forever.

If someone offers you coffee my advice is to politely ask for hot chocolate instead. This drink offers a lot to those who are trying to remain infantile. It is pure sugar. Hot chocolate offers the same caffeine rush that coffee does, but it also provides one with a rich, sugary taste. The best part of hot chocolate is that it can be drunk with whipped cream on top. This offers more sugar, which is always a good thing, and the chance to have a whipped cream mustache.

Getting a mustache from a drink is an art that anyone trying to remain infantile must master. You can basically get it from any drink. the

best drinks to use however include kool-aid, milk, and the before-mentioned whipped cream on hot chocolate. Some people who have not mastered this yet just end up with little spikes of the drink on either corner of the mouth. Others who have perfected it have stains the full width of their mouth which spikes up at the ends. A good example of a mustache are those in the celebrity milk advertisements. This is a hard thing to master, it might take at least a year or two. The rewards are great, filled with laughter, and joy. This is a necessity of remaining a child.

Along with watching what you drink it is also extremely important to watch what you eat. Too many vegetables can be very dangerous. The most important idea to remember is that you should at least eat vegetables and junk food daily in some amount. If at all possible eat extra helpings of junk food. In other words if you eat two servings of vegetables, then you should at least eat two servings of your favorite junk food. The more junk food you eat, though, the better. Some good junk foods include ice cream, cake (that has a lot of frosting on it), chips (Doritos are my favorite because they also make your breath smell really bad), and cookies. Nothing fat free can ever be substituted for junk foods and oatmeal raisin cookies don't count either. Animal crackers are a fabulous treat only if you make a zoo out of them, have them talk to each other, then make screaming noises as you eat them bit by bit.

There are also many great places to go that will keep you in a state of youthfulness. One of the best places to go is a huge toy store like Toys R Us, or Kiddy City. As the advertisement for Kiddy City says these places can really "turn a frown upside down." They offer all the latest and best toys on the market. Toys are a must in the life of a child. You must have many cool items. My favorites are those little hot wheels cars. They are perfect for any occasion. If you get bored at work you can make a ramp for the cars, then shoot them off your desk and send them flying across the room, into the waste paper basket. The best use for them though would be to shoot them down the aisle after the bride during a wedding. Always keep in mind, though, that not everyone in the wedding will enjoy this as much as you might. And, to really do it properly you have to make a loud vroom sound as it goes racing after the bride, splattering all the guests with spit as you do so.

Other great places to go include amusement parks like Six Flags, Kings Dominion, or a Disney park. Amusement parks are the greatest places to visit. Not only will you get the chance to meet all your favorite stars like the Flintstones, Captain Cave Man, Bugs Bunny, the Anamaniacs, and most importantly the Mouse family, but they also give you the opportunity to eat a lot of junk food and scream as loud as you can.

You must be very careful though because there are many places that can simply kill your childhood. Some places to stay away from include any opera house, art museums, and fancy restaurants. A basic rule of thumb is to stay out of any place that requires a fancy dress, a black tie, or generally clean cloths. One reason that these places are very dangerous is because they don't serve meals in the proper required diet proportions. The setting also proves to be very dangerous to any one attempting to remain a child. It can quickly pull you into the forsaken realms of adulthood.

Worse places do exist. This would include the bar or the coffee house. The same dangers of coffee exist with alcohol. That makes these two places more dangerous then any other place on earth. All it takes is one step into any such location, and your childhood will be lost forever. Consider yourself viciously forewarned of the dangers of these places. Never even think about entering one.

Some suggested places to eat would be Chuck E Cheese, or Discovery Zone. These places not only offer great food, but they also have indoor play areas, including video games and pools of balls. They are designed so that you can "discover what [you] can do own [your] own." Basically they are places which allow you to eat way too much, goof off, get dizzy, then get sick. These are fabulous exercises for any one attempting to remain a child.

There are many other great activities you can involve yourself in. One truly fabulous thing to do is to take all the great toys that you bought with your last pay check and share them with the other kids in your neighborhood. This is a great thing to do because it shows off your well-rounded manners to the other adults in your neighborhood. It is also very important to make sure that the kids always know that you are the boss of the place. Some great games to play with them include "kick the can", "tag", "prisoner", and "anni anni over." The most important thing to remember is that you must always beat them, even if it means that you have to cheat. It is always better to win and have fun, then to not have fun at all.

Along with having all the best toys, you should also keep a very specific library in your house. Books that should be included are any book by Dr. Suess, or Shel Silverstein. Joke books are also a necessity. Not only are these books educational but they also provide a tremendous amount of amusement. The only way to use the joke books properly though is to go through and memorize your favorite jokes. Then tell them all to your friends until they have heard them so many times that they all

have them memorized. This is a fabulous way to share your knowledge with the world.

I must advise that you should be careful of what books you do read. Any books by Dickens or Shakespeare are a sheer tragedy to the childhood world. If you dare read them you will surely be swept into adulthood. I recommend to stay far away from classics, poetry and other such adult reading. If you desire something more challenging then Dr. Suess try Encyclopedia Brown, Cam Jansin, Goosebumps, or Choose Your Own Adventure novels. Be very careful, anything beyond this level could very easily rip you into adulthood.

The most important thing to remember, besides never to drink coffee, is that people will try to get you to change. If you do decide to remain in a child's personality, adults throughout society will mock you. Many people have not yet realized that it is better to stay young. Society will tell you to grow old gracefully. The truth remains that adults don't get up Saturday mornings and laugh while eating breakfast and watching cartoons. Adults lose that certain sense of pure joy that can only be found in children. Remaining infantile can be hard to do, but it reaps many rewards. As a youthful person you can enjoy a fun, pure, simplistic life, that many adults have completely forgotten about.

THE CAFETERIA

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Food. Everyone must have it in order to survive. Most of us eat three times each day. In high school, one meal was consumed in the cafeteria, and the other two at home. Now, here in college, if you want to eat, it is either pizza in your dorm room or it is off to the cafeteria. Since everyone goes to the cafeteria at one time or another, I have found that this student stop-off is a very interesting place here at VU.

I like to observe the people in the cafeteria and how they interact with each other. The interaction of people at college is not quite the same as it was in high school. The easiest thing to notice is with whom people