



Adults deserve tasteful, not crude, animation



Trevor Hamblin

sex and drugs, combined and repeated indefinitely — and it's done with the same kinds of repetitive animation. Cartoons like "Archer," which operates like an animated TV dramedy, rely mostly on these themes.

I'm not saying we can't have those kinds of cartoons. Could we stand to have less of them? Probably. The main problem here is they are the only shows targeted towards adult audiences, because for some reason no one is willing to take animation seriously as an art style, despite the fact animation is the most grueling kind of art you can possibly do. For traditional animation, one has to draw and redraw and repose and redraw in a near-endless loop until it matches what one needs. And then they do it again for the next character, rinse and repeat. Then you have backgrounds to consider, props to move — and what about drawing animals or vehicles? CGI animation has a different set of problems. You have to create the model, create a texture, apply the texture, develop a movement rig, make sure the physics are working, then do this for every single model. And that's before you even get anything moving.

Animation is another medium to tell a story, just like film or literature. But for some reason it is one of the least-respected mediums, to the point where the Oscar committee for "Best Animated Feature" doesn't even watch all of the nominations. This means they don't even do their job because they consider it beneath them. That was the case for the 2014 Oscar nominations, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Of the seven Oscar voters the Hollywood Reporter spoke with, four abstained from voting because they hadn't seen all the animated features, and the other three voted for "Frozen" without even talking about the other options, thus not doing their job.

With the movie "Sausage Party" coming out, it will be even longer before animation for adults can or will be taken seriously. I just can't help but be sad about the cruel irony of animation — frankly, kids are getting higher quality shows with deeper and more complex stories and characters. They are tackling tough issues and doing so in style. But shows like "Family Guy" or "South Park" just make shallow jokes about people and issues — or sex, drugs, and violence — for shock value. Maybe one day adults will get more tasteful animation.

Trevor Hamblin is a sophomore English and communication major from Moberly, Mo.

Do you think Truman fosters a more collaborative environment?



John Murry
Freshman

I believe that Truman does foster a creative environment. I mean, that's part of the experience of going to a liberal arts college.

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The trailer for Seth Rogen's "Sausage Party" came out last month, and once I saw it I knew nothing good could come of it. For those who haven't seen it — and believe me, you have been blessed if you haven't — it's, simply put, a raunchy, inappropriate parody of Pixar that relies on the juxtaposition of a children's cartoon with jokes exclusively meant for adults. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the entire script was leaked to WikiLeaks, so early internet critics could tear apart the entire movie. But the movie itself isn't what upsets me the most. For some reason, "Sausage Party" has decided to contribute to a myth that has forever haunted animation — that animation is only for children, unless it is wildly inappropriate, sexual and filled with politically incorrect jokes. But it doesn't need to be like that.

Children's cartoons like "Adventure Time" or "Avatar: The Last Airbender" are smartly written and tackle complex plots and complicated issues. They have sophisticated characters where no one is just a punchline and manage to convey deep themes and ideas to their audiences. But somehow, cartoons like these are still just for kids. Adult cartoons should be complex and tell stories that can only be told through animation because the style is better for conveying impossible events or emotional responses. Cartoons for adults should allow characters to mature and be as good as any drama for adults.

Instead, adult cartoons are in the realm of shows like "Family Guy" or "South Park." I'm not commenting on the quality of the shows — that'd be another topic entirely — but rather they are part of the only cartoons that are deemed adult-oriented. And in many cases, the quality of the animation of these shows is nothing compared to that of shows for kids. Here, we have the same kinds of things happening in "adult" cartoons — death,

It's okay to ask for help



Lesley Reno

Freedom and independence are widely celebrated concepts of our generation. We are obsessed with doing everything by ourselves to feed the expectation that we don't need anyone or help from anybody. I am not ashamed to admit I have fallen prey to this expectation, but as I continue to mature I have found there are times where I need help, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. For example, last semester I was having issues with college algebra. Math has never been my strong suit, and I thought if I asked for help I would be belittled for not knowing how to do the math. Because I didn't ask for help, I had to drop out of the class and retake it this semester. Fortunately, I learned from my mistake and asked a friend for help. Not once did she make fun of me or talk to me as though I was beneath her. She explained the process in a way I could understand, and as a result, I am now passing math. If I had asked for her help last semester, I would have saved money and time. In most cases the benefits of asking for help outweigh what you

think the negatives are going to be.

If you saw a loved one struggling with something, what would you do? If your roommate or best friend was stressed to the point where they couldn't sleep or eat, would you offer to help? Most people, or at least I, would offer to help in any way possible. It is so easy and natural to offer a hand, a shoulder or a listening ear to a loved one who we see struggling. If it is so easy to offer help, why is it so hard to seek and accept help?

It can be difficult to ask for help because of the twisted outlook on independence many people have. We feel like we are giving up control if we ask for help, and because of that we feel weak. It can feel as though we just admitted defeat. Asking for help makes us feel vulnerable. It opens us up to questions like, "Are you ok?" and "What's wrong?" I hate to feel that I can't hold my own, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Allowing yourself to feel vulnerable and reach out to others when you need help is a strength — not a weakness. It is normal to not understand everything, or feel anxious or upset, and you should not feel ashamed of this fact. There is always going to be someone out there to help you and no one will think less of you for asking for help. You are allowed to ask for help with schoolwork. You are allowed to ask for help when you are feeling stressed. You are allowed to ask for help when you are feeling anxious or depressed. The bottom line is — you are allowed to ask for help.

Lesley Reno is a freshman communication major from Renick, Mo.

Do you think Truman fosters a more collaborative environment?



Tony Anderson
Sophomore

I've had a lot of opportunities, and I'm only a sophomore, for like poster design, even though it's not really my area of expertise.

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Aim for health, not just for wealth



Wyatt Beckman

The U.S. has been, and will continue to be, the global poster child for freedom. The topic seems to show up in political and presidential conversations as frequently as selfies on social media. The very essence of Americana is based on honoring this value — to live in a place where everything you can imagine is supposed to be within reach if you're willing to work hard enough. This is why we have laws, publicly funded basic education and social welfare programs — to give everyone a fair shot at accomplishing their own personal American dream. Somewhere over the years, however, between running from white-haired red coats and running with touch screen watches, we began to take a of a core aspect of the American dream for granted — our health.

To say the U.S. is a healthy country is a bit of stretch. Ask any European about their image of an American and it's likely to include an obese Wal-Mart shopper riding a motorized shopping cart. While none of us have a "right to health" as plainly laid out as our freedom of speech or freedom of religion, our very "life, liberty, and the pursuit

of happiness" is dependent on the collective and individual health of the nation. Despite the undeniable and indispensable value of health in fostering a prosperous and just society, far too often we fail to fully recognize and invest in ensuring this unwritten freedom for our citizens. This isn't to say that fostering health is easy — quite the contrary. Any public nutrition program, warning or tax on harmful products, workplace safety laws or parental leave allowances will always disproportionately benefit some segment of the population over another. The task for those who work for the greater good of society, our elected leaders, is to pick policies and interventions that benefit the most people while harming the least. When it comes to health-centered decisions, this often equates to balancing economic viability with empowering individuals to attain and maintain good health. Often this balance is not achieved, and we quietly decrease the individual's freedom to be well in the name of saving money and increasing profits, a trade-off that robs us of the potential contributions healthy citizens would have provided.

The examples are numerous. We make sure our kids get a "balanced meal" at school lunches, but force schools to rely on profits from junk-food-selling vending machines to balance the budget. We have national campaigns to get kids more active, yet increasingly direct funding away from physical education to "more important" subjects. We tell mothers that breastfeeding is the best nutrition source for newborns, but fail to provide the necessary workplace support or maternity leave to make it possible. We tell people to drink more water, but react slowly or not at all when entire communities are poisoned from lead contamination. We recommend eating more fruits and vegetables, but do nothing

to make that feasible for the single parent working paycheck to paycheck. We eventually stop dreaming of a long healthy life and instead accept a societally imposed rule that only some of us can be healthy — that health is not an indispensable resource we should be free to foster, but rather reserved for a privileged few.

As we move closer to the presidential election in November, we will continue to hear about foreign policy, education reform and our crumbling infrastructure — all immensely important challenges facing our country — but if any presidential candidate truly wants "a future to believe in" or to "make America great again," we must start seeing health as one of society's most valuable resources. Healthcare reform, while necessary, is not enough. Relying on healthcare reform to change our nation's health is like jumping a car every time you need to travel instead of buying a new battery — getting a new battery can be expensive and they seem to weigh more every time you pick one up, but you and your car will be much happier if you do.

The American dream is sick, but I believe the very values that push us to ensure all of our treasured freedoms also can empower our journey towards a healthier nation. The pride we take in being a country of boundless opportunity — in the freedom to make our dreams a reality — should drive us to create a new paradigm. It is time for "the land of the free and the home of the brave" to be brave enough to fight for our collective and individual freedom to live a healthy American dream.

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