

## Disney optimism

By Zoe Epstein  
Editor-in-Chief/Product Manager

It wasn't so long ago that the world around us was brimming with opportunity; we had every reason to be optimistic. When did the glass become half empty?

As children, we listened faithfully to the messages of Disney classics and believed that "dreams really do come true." We didn't just have dreams; we had unwavering faith in the power of those dreams.

If we wanted to be artists, we would color to our hearts' content. Regardless of our talent (or lack thereof), we were sure that we would continue to improve with time until we became professionals.

If we wanted to be pilots, we would spend our days lost in imagination, flying around the garden on imaginary airplanes. Then we would sleep soundly in our beds, secure in the thought

that our imaginary planes were all we needed to achieve our dreams.

No matter what we wanted to be, at some point in our childhood, we believed unwaveringly in our ability to make our dreams come true.

We've put a few more years behind us now, and we know that realistically, the color blind can't be pilots and the untalented won't succeed. We know that there's more to achieving our dreams than just dreaming.

We understand that many people will have to find jobs they're good at instead of jobs they love. After all, someone has to do the dirty work and some jobs don't pay enough. As near-adults, many of us feel that we cannot be concerned with dreams when our survival depends on our success.

The fact remains, however, that it was adults who originally

encouraged us to believe in our dreams. They did not do this simply for profit, or because they enjoy misleading children; they encouraged us because they wanted us to pursue our dreams. It may seem impossible from our vantage point, but in hindsight we always see, as everyone before us saw, that there was a way to succeed.

No, we can't just "wish upon a star" or find a fairy godmother to make things happen for us. We can, however, work hard and stay positive. Oftentimes, we think things are impossible because we don't know how to do them, but education exists so that we can learn what we need to know.

A little of that old Disney optimism is all it takes to remind us that even though magic and wishes won't make our dreams come true, we can still succeed without making ourselves miserable.

## What really grinds our gears?

By Alexandra Michelson  
Opinions Editor

If your lunch spot has ever been commandeered, if anything has ever been thrown at you, or if anything at all has gone wrong, you can probably blame a freshman.

Freshmen may complain that everyone picks on them, but we have all been there before. Toughen up Freshmen; your self pity grinds our gears.

Freshmen are easy targets for tenth to twelfth graders. Although, the upperclassmen that subject the freshmen to their whim were freshmen themselves at one time.

When asked if they had any embarrassing stories from when they were freshmen, the upperclassmen were definitely in the same boat. Freshmen year is full of embarrassing moments.

After the Homecoming game in 2005, a few students decided to go midnight bowling. On the way back, they chose to play a game.

"I jump out of the car, and before I could get all the way back inside, Aman Bhatia steps on the gas and I'm hanging on for dear life. The senior guys

had to pull me inside the car because I couldn't get in," said Addie Rubino of only one of her many embarrassing freshman experiences.

But Rubino is certainly not the only one who has had an embarrassing freshman experience.

"I wore slippers to school!" said Bryce Hartley of his fashion faux pas that was triggered by exhaustion. "I was walking up Park [street] and was like *hmm... my feet are oddly comfortable, eke I'm wearing slippers.* So embarrassing."

But the freshmen class doesn't only embarrass itself at school; freshmen also manage to embarrass themselves at dances.

"[We drove] to Formal in an orange VW bus... and people laugh[ed] as [we got] out of the car," said an anonymous upperclassman.

Freshmen will always manage to embarrass themselves somehow, and they will remember the embarrassment until the day that they graduate.

We have no sympathy for you.

...And that is what really grinds our gears.

## Cider vs. eggnog

By: Masha Goncharova  
Editor-in-Chief/Manager

It's the holiday season again. Behind the cheer and joy lurks a debate involving all holiday participants. Creeping stealthily into the merry times, this debate has ruined many a holiday.

'Tis the ultimate decision that could make or break any bonding between family and friends.

Eggnog. Or apple cider? If your dinner host has a specific preference and you choose the one that he or she does not approve of, you are in for a harsh shunning

Since the beginning of time (practically), eggnog has been warming the throats of children and parents

around the world. Nevertheless, its critics declare that eggnog is milky, clumpy, and overall gross.

Eggnog fan Senior Jonathan Rechter said, "I love eggnog. I want a pool full of eggnog so every day I can jump into it. It would be a magical experience."

On the other hand, some thoroughly enjoy cider much more than eggnog.

A light spicy mix of apples and water, cider is the more traditional drink of America.

Spanish teacher and cider enthusiast Rod Ortiz agrees: "I like cider because it's tangy."

Junior Wilson Knapp also enjoys this tangy brew: "What is better than apples, hot water, and cinnamon? Definitely not eggnog.

Enough said."

This ongoing fight invades more than just the mugs of thirsty holiday enjoyers. It penetrates the procrastination center extraordinaire, Facebook.

Groups such "We Love Eggy" (eggnog) viciously scoff the other drink category.

Hot-tempered conversations over the better drink penetrate the walls (place to post messages) of these groups.

Jake Johnson, though, seems to have a solution to this problem. "I like Hot chocolate because it tickles my tongue."

So, will the fierce division of eggnog and cider continue, or will hot chocolate rise above both and take the title of the official holiday drink?

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