

Global Q&A: What do you miss most about being a kid

Epoch Times Staff

This week, Epoch Times reporters around the world invited locals for a stroll down memory lane, asking them, "What do you miss most about being a kid?" Almost universally, from New Zealand to Wisconsin, respondents longed for a past that was simpler and free from the worries of the world.

Auckland, New Zealand
Kamani Clementes, Housewife

What I miss most are my parents. I miss my parents. I lost my mum when I was 15 years old and my dad when I was 19 years old. I miss the protection, love—everything.

Islamabad, Pakistan
Nadira Tariq, 58, Teacher

I miss so many things about being a child. I miss society being liberal and open-minded. Now, sometimes I feel more restricted. As a young girl, I didn't think at all about if what I was wearing was appropriate but now when I go out I think about those kinds of things. I miss people being care-free and the way we would go outdoors to socialize ... now things are different. Things in Pakistan have really changed, things are more stressful. As a child small things really made me happy.

Rome, Italy
Antonietta Di Fratta, 89, Mother of five

The most important thing that I miss about being a kid is that state of serenity, without too many thoughts.

Chorvatsky Grob, Slovakia
Marian Krajcovic, 47, Bricklayer

I miss strolling through the flowering meadows and forests. I remember my uncle and I spending beautiful moments in nature. I miss playing hockey and football with friends on our street.

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
Burdell Mulford, 54, Internal Auditor

Life was much simpler in the 1960s. I grew up in a small town ... I mean a really small town, Hanksville, Utah, with less than 200 people. Life was very simple, we had only two telephones in the



Amritha Luthria—Bangalore, India. EPOCHTIMES

town and the nearest grocery store and hospital were over 110 miles (242 km) away. We had the longest bus ride to school in the USA, 60 miles (132 km) each way. We did our homework on the bus, so we could play and do chores when we got home.

We grew much of our own food in the garden and canned it and stored it in the root cellar for the winter. We played baseball and any game we could dream up. We were happy and content, even though we had little in terms of luxuries.

I learned to use my hands. I could fix my bicycle, and about anything else. You know, my kids can't fix anything. I have tried to interest them to use their hands and their minds, but computers and other things seem to have replaced this. Yes, they are smart, but missing basic skills. Life is too complex.

Shorewood, Wisconsin, USA
Nolan McKenzie, 23, Waiter

The thing I miss most about being a kid is the presence of wonder in place of worry; the not knowing of anything, the fun, the innocence and the naive bliss. I get



Thiago Roriz Brammer—Athens, Greece. EPOCHTIMES

a little of that innocence now, but it is waning.

Stockholm, Sweden
Andreas Grönberg, 33, Student of Psychology



Stephen Dibb—Brisbane, Australia. EPOCHTIMES

during all the high festivals, such as Easter and Christmas. All of us in the family sat and painted eggs.

I also miss the simplicity when you are young, being easily amused as you were back in those days, and going out to play war in the woods, and catch animals and watch animals.

I also miss my home town, Gothenburg, and the West Coast on the whole.

Athens, Greece
Thiago Roriz Brammer, 28, Pilot in training

My two cousins and me – I miss the fun we had. Our unity, being carefree, our innocence, our way of seeing the world with a child's eyes more innocent and clean—and how much fun we had! Then, I think that we didn't know how happy we were.

Bangalore, India
Amritha Luthria, 18, Science Student

Childhood is the most cherished time for most of us. I want to get back to the time when 'getting high' meant on a swing, when 'drinking' meant apple juice, when

Dad was the only hero, when love was Mom's hug, when Dad's shoulder was the highest place on earth, when your worst enemies were your siblings, when the only things that could hurt were skinned knees, when the only things that were broken were your toys, and when good-byes really meant only till tomorrow. Let us all keep the kid alive in us.

Lalin, Galicia, Spain
Ana Sanchez Lázaro, 25, Student

What I miss the most from my childhood is living in a state of permanent happiness, where your biggest worry was not to dream with ghosts and you could sleep deeply everywhere, on your bed, in a car, or even on a rock.

Timisoara, Romania
Adrian Laitin, 30, IT Solutions Specialist

I think I miss most the forest from around Hercules-Bad, the fresh air and the clean water full of trout.

Brisbane, Australia
Stephen Dibb, Custom Design Jeweler

I miss playing with the other kids in our neighbourhood; long, summer holidays at home and visiting the beach; seeing my mum, dad, brother and sister everyday; the fun of a watermelon fight.

Rechovot, Israel
Ayelet Shaked, 59, Lawyer

I miss the games we used to play with stones and sticks in the street, and climbing trees. It was much more fun than watching TV today.

Zouk Michael, Lebanon
Johnny Saad, 25, Electromechanical Engineer

What I miss most are those special moments spent with my grand-parents which I thought would never end. They taught me a lot. I tasted Life, experimented in its endless adventures. I also miss watching the stars at night and wondering what the future would bring. Everything was easier than now. All the people around me had that large smile on their faces, and I learned a lot by just feeling a kid's pure heart.

Possible carcinogenic protein found in Chinese dairy products

Epoch Times Staff

China's dairy industry is being hit by another contamination scandal on the heels of the melamine-tainted milk incident. A possible carcinogen, hydrolyzed leather protein, was found in many batches of dairy products produced by the Morning Garden dairy company in Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province.

According to City Express's report on April 27, someone sent an anonymous letter exposing the Morning Garden's illegal practice to boost the apparent protein content of its product by adding leather protein.

On March 18, Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision tested eight batches

of milk products, including both finished and semi-finished products, produced by the Morning Garden, and found hydrolyzed leather protein in five batches.

On April 2, the bureau tested another six batches of milk products sold by the Morning Garden to markets in various local supermarkets, and found hydrolyzed leather protein in all batches.

Morning Garden is a big food manufacturing plant based in Lanxi City with 100 employees, 70 tons of daily production, and 18.2 million yuan of annual sales revenue. So far, the local authorities have detained three persons, including the company's legal representative, Mao Jianhua.

Food experts said that when used as a food additive, hydrolyzed leather powder is mainly added to milk powder or milk beverage to boost protein content and to lower the cost.

Produced from leather scraps, hydrolyzed leather powder contains potassium dichromate and sodium dichromate, both of which cannot be broken down by the human digestive system, and will therefore be accumulated as toxins in the human body and eventually lead to swollen joints or even death in children.

Experts also said that leather protein is similar to melamine but different in that leather protein is harder to detect because it is a real protein that is also toxic.

Report on baby bath product toxins prompts legislation

By CHRISTINE LIN
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will be introducing a bill in the House this week to require that the FDA investigate the safety of ingredient byproducts in baby bath products. Currently, manufacturers are not expected to list those byproducts on the bottle, or to stop using the processes that lead to their presence in products.

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics commissioned an independent laboratory to test 48 commonly used baby products for 1,4-dioxane and formaldehyde. The products tested include both generic and name brands of baby shampoo, bath wash, lotion, wipes, sunblock, and toothpaste. Of those, 67 percent contained levels of 1,4-dioxane, 82 percent contained levels of formaldehyde, and 61 percent contained both.

While formaldehyde is not put directly into the product, it may emerge with the eventual breakdown of preservative ingredients, according to Jane Houlihan of the Environmental Working Group. She and health and environmental advocates joined Gillibrand in announcing the proposed legislation.

The chemical 1,4-dioxane is used in the processes that make the product "gentler" for young skin and can be easily removed through a process called air-stripping. However, given little incentive, manufacturers often refuse to take the extra step.

Formaldehyde is an allergenic and carcinogenic preservative used in the embalming of dead animal tissue. The chemical 1,4-dioxane poses more risk inhaled than through dermal contact, according to research gathered by the CDC. In high concentrations, it causes kidney and liver alterations.

While exposure in the small amounts present in children's bath products is unlikely to cause harm, report authors say, the long-term effect has not been well studied. Formaldehyde gas, for one, is emitted from pressed wood in furniture, cleaning products, and clothing, and is likely also contained in



Marian Feinberg of For a Better Bronx holds up baby products that tested positive for toxins as U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand looks on. CHRISTINE LIN/THE EPOCH TIMES

cosmetics marketed toward adults. Continued use of products containing formaldehyde may be linked to the increase in allergies and asthma incidences in recent years, says Houlihan.

Because of the lack of required labeling, the public can only assume that the products are safe. "Parents cannot shop around this problem," Houlihan said. Often these products are recommended by physicians and pediatricians," said Marian Feinberg from For a Better Bronx. She said that when she presented the report to her group, parents were shocked—one of the products that tested positive for 1,4-dioxane was recommended by doctors for children with eczema.

Expectations for the FDA

Gillibrand's bill, the Safe Baby Products Act, would require the FDA to investigate the safety of baby products, publicly announce their findings, and create manufacturing guidelines to quell the presence of the toxins in them.

But for the FDA to look into the allegations would be a challenge.

A report compiled by academics, industry, and governmental agencies said the FDA is able to check only a minuscule portion of imports and food manufacturers, and that its information technology is outdated. The FDA itself admitted as much last year. "It is no secret in Washington that as the FDA's responsibilities have grown, the resources devoted to them have not kept pace," said FDA food and drug commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach.

However, Gillibrand is confident that the government can come up with the resources to fund the investigation. "In the last administration, that was not the case, but now we know that [the current administration] will fund this initiative," she said.

While the Obama administration has been busy tackling the economy during its first 100 days, the President has indicated that reform of the FDA and other food safety agencies is on his agenda.

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics report, titled "No More Toxic Tub," is available in full at <http://www.safecosmetics.org>.

Albania applies for EU membership

By KREMENA KRUMOVA
Epoch Times Staff

Albanian Premier Sali Berisha filed an official application for his country to enter the European Union as a full-right member on Tuesday. The negotiations process is expected to take several years.

"We have made the important decision to submit the formal request to be a candidate country to the EU on April 28," Mr. Berisha declared during a televised meeting last Sunday.

The premier of one of the poorest countries on the old continent added that the decision for candidature was made after consultations with major European states.

"Albania will be a member of the European Union and France fully supports this idea," French president Nicolas Sarkozy announced on Saturday, according to Euob-server.com.

However, the real procedure for negotiating Albania's entry into the EU has not yet begun. After receiving the initial bid, the Euro-

pean Commission has to make an assessment of the application. This takes at least one year. If the estimation is positive, current member states would have to agree unanimously to grant the applicant-state full-member status in the EU.

Despite France's first positive reaction to Tirana's bid, there is some apprehension about considering enlargement of the 27-member community.

German chancellor Angela Merkel appealed for a pause before a new wave of enlargement. Sarkozy meanwhile warned that after Croatia, which is next to enter, there cannot be further member accession without final ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon, which aims to optimize working processes and further drive democracy in the EU. So far, the Treaty has been approved by 25 member-states.

Apart from the current economic crisis, Albania seems to still have many things to improve in order to qualify for acceptance in the European family. In a report of the European Commission from Novem-

ber 2008, it stated that corruption and organized crime remained a "major challenge" for the Albanian government, in addition to money laundering and drug trafficking.

Despite France's first positive reaction to Tirana's bid, there is some apprehension about considering enlargement of the 27-member community.

Former communist Albania is the latest ex-Yugoslavian country to apply for EU-membership. It was preceded by Montenegro which filed for entry last December, and Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia. Serbia's candidate-status still depends on its cooperation with the UN War Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.