

Philosophy professor publishes unique children's book

BY AUBREY KING
STAFF WRITER

A philosopher gathers, interprets and learns from the varied outlooks of the world. A writer uses pen and paper to communicate an outlook. Philosophy interprets life, while writing expresses it.

By crafting a heartwarming parable of perseverance in his new children's book, "I Built My House on a Volcano," Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy Joe Cole proves he embodies the traits of both philosophers and writers.

In 2009, Cole began crafting "I Built My House on a Volcano." This September, the process finally came to fruition.

The newly published story is about an adventurer named Herman who finds himself drawn to Volcano Dorado. Though the villagers in the town below the volcano discourage him, Herman sets out to live on the volcano he so enjoys.

"The book is about living life to the fullest," said Professor of Philosophy Nancy Daukas. "It's about being willing to take risks to follow your dreams. I think that is how Cole aspires to live, and I think he succeeds."

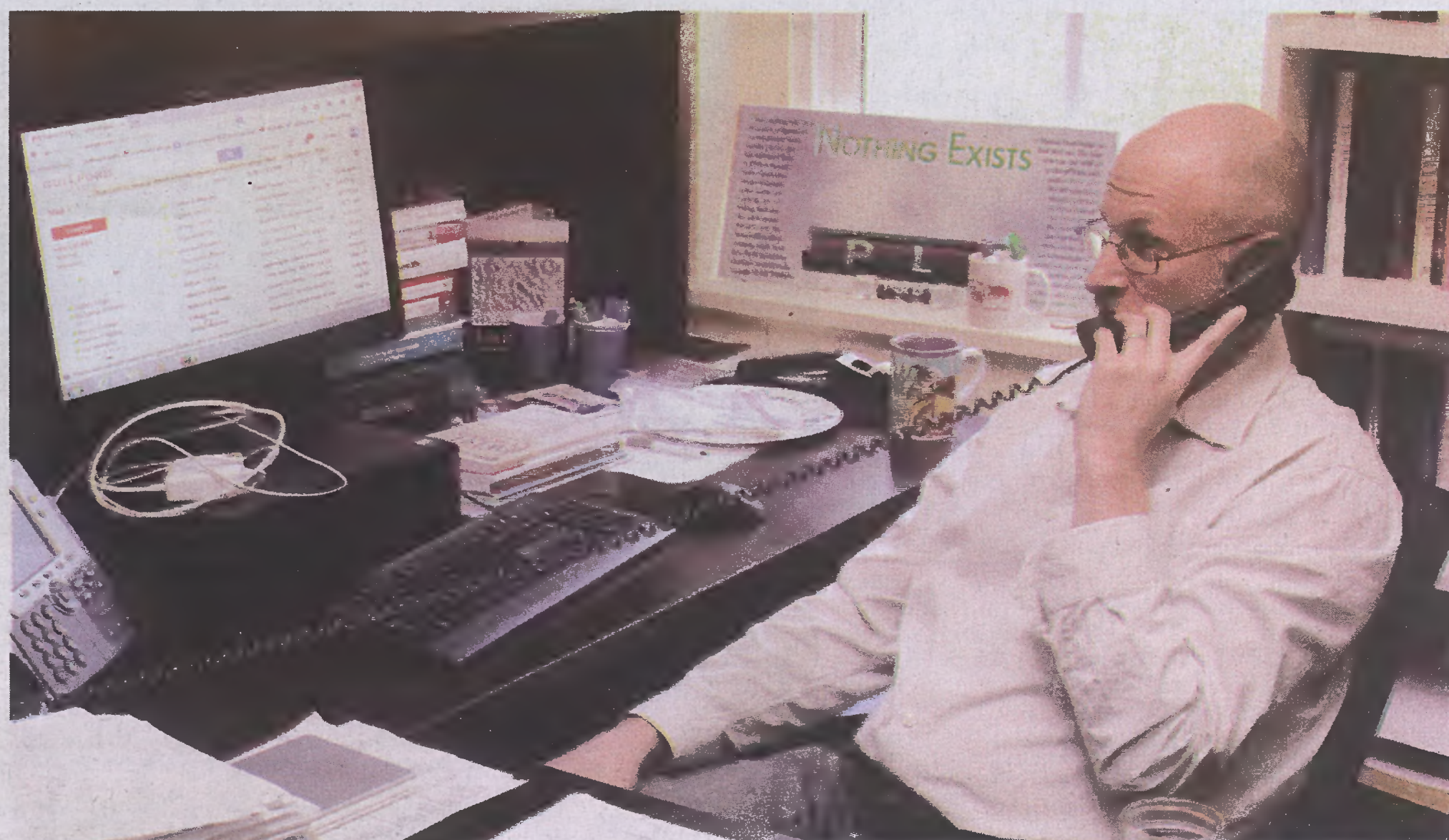
The trials Herman encounters in the story evolved from difficulties Cole faced himself.

"A few years ago, I was living in a cooperative community in Carrboro," said Cole. "I was really passionate about living in a community that was sustainable, but they were meeting difficulties."

Overcoming the tribulations of living in a co-op inspired the follow your dreams moral of Cole's story, but the setting and expression of that idea came from another source.

While the ideas of the book were still forming, Cole traveled to Santorini, Greece, an island with a massive volcanic crater. When Cole saw Santorini citizens living around the crater, the image stuck with him.

"I kept thinking about how nice of a metaphor it was for community," said Cole. "Then I realized it could apply as a parable



Visiting assistant professor of philosophy and author of the new children's book "I Built My House on a Volcano," Joe Cole, works in his Archdale office.

to other parts of my life."

The image of a volcanic crater paired beautifully with the concept of an individual overcoming their troubles. Over the next four years, Cole began to write and contribute to the book.

"I worked on the story for a couple of years before I decided to add the bilingual aspect to it," said Cole. "That process coincided with my relationship with my wife, who is originally from Argentina."

The second-language translation, combined with South American - inspired art by Stacy Leanza, added a deeper layer to the story, setting it apart from other

children's books.

"I think the bilingual aspect adds a great deal," said Caroline McAlister, instructor of English and published children's author. "Children are hardwired for learning languages, so a children's book that introduces them to more than one language

is a good thing."

Though the book deals with larger themes, the focus on children complements its adventurous nature.

"Children have a much larger outlook on life," said senior English major Ilari Pass. "They see things we forget about with age."

If you want to purchase a copy of "I Built My House on a Volcano," go to Joe's website or stop by his office in Archdale Hall.

WWW.DRJOECOLE.COM

Consent conversations can reduce spread of sexually transmitted infections

BY AIPERI IUSUPOVA
STAFF WRITER

It is time to talk about consent. It is time to listen and understand that without consent, an individual may also be at risk of HIV if one engages in sexual activity without protection.

Consent-less sexual violence can jeopardize the victim's health. Informed consent considers partners' awareness of sexual

activity and its consequences.

Without being informed of the risks of sexual activity the partners become responsible for various health-related issues, one of which is the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus. HIV is transmitted through bodily fluids, blood residues and syringes. The virus hijacks important cells that are responsible for a human's natural defense system.

Analogous to a leech, which attaches itself to its host and depletes its energy, HIV can cause dysfunction in human immune response by delivering its genome into the cells' cytoplasm, a gel-like substance that holds cell contents. The viral component of an HIV genome becomes a part of normal cell's genetic information, which is then imported into the cell's cellular machinery.

Although the general theory

of infectious disease implies that there are less infectious, and defective, strains of HIV to which patients may develop resistance, there are only a few available treatments which can hinder the progression of HIV to AIDS.

AVERT, an international HIV and AIDS charity, states on its website, "antiretroviral treatment can suppress HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and can delay AIDS-related illness for many

years. It cannot clear the virus completely."

Since current studies on HIV infection have not developed reliable therapeutic gains, it is crucial that individuals take care of their sexual health to protect themselves from sexually transmittable diseases.

To prevent the continuation of HIV transmission, it is especially necessary to stop sexual violence.

"HIV prevention is part of consent because of communicating your status and being able to communicate your sexual health," said Danneth Corpuz of Vista Community Clinic in San Diego, in audio podcast called Consent is Mandatory: Preventing Sexual Violence and HIV/AIDS Transmission.

It is true that uninformed sexual intercourse puts the partners at risk of exchanging immunodeficiency viruses, which cause AIDS and other life threatening diseases.

Sexual violence puts individuals at risk of contracting the HIV infection. Both sex offenders and survivors could be carriers of HIV.

"Consent, sexual violence and AIDS prevention are along the same lines because if you can solve one, you (can help) solve the other," said Teresa Bedzigui, a co-leader of the AIDS Awareness Project at Guilford College.

HIV infection is one of the most common, and obscure, health-related problems which can be transmitted as a result of sex. It is time to talk about consent so that sexual assault, and the health-related issues that come along with it, can be stopped.



The Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center at Temple University's School of Medicine researches to find relationships between HIV and neurological diseases.