

Disney's Plot for World Domination

By Palmira Muniz
Reporter

What was once just Steamboat Willie has now become a multi-billion dollar franchise. It's on our TV's, radios, computers, iPods, movie screens, clothing, and practically in our brains. Disney isn't just about amusement parks and Mickey Mouse anymore. The Walt Disney Company may be taking over the world. We should not take this news lightly.

I, like many of my peers, have grown up with Disney TV shows and movies as a child, and enjoyed each and every one of them. To this day, I could probably recite lines from Toy Story and The Lion King, and I know that I am not the only one. But that may be the problem; even as young adults, Disney

has become a part of us that we refuse to let go of. Being able to recite lines from childish cartoon movies is something we should not be exactly proud of.

Disney Channel isn't the only thing I plan to complain about: there are also Disney Channel Stars! A bunch of pretty kids who are 17 and younger, or at least portray themselves that way, and who probably make more money than the president would ever dream of. But for what? To come on our television sets, tell a few poorly written jokes with mediocre acting skills and even less than mediocre singing talent?

With all due respect Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez, Demi Lavato, all the Jonas Bros., Mitchell Musso, Emily Osment, all the Cheetah Girls, Raven Simone, (my personal non-favorite) Ashley Tisdale, and all the other starlets I forgot to mention; you're kind of

forming a zombie like generation that may fall back into the conformity we tried many years ago to break out of. Because of the characters you portray and the meaningless things you do, you have brain washed the youth of America, possibly of the world. And the worst part is: we as the youth have let you brain wash us.

We, well, as society, spend millions and millions of dollars on dolls and stuffed animals, CDs, DVDs, movie tickets, and days at the amusement parks that come from the Walt Disney Franchise, not to mention the \$7 cans of Coca-Cola. But these temporary or sometimes permanent prized possessions and trips to the happiest place on earth create many fond memories that we forever hold very near in our hearts, so the Disney Franchise may not be all that bad - wait a minute... Disney bought Marvel

Comics for \$4 billion just this August.

Disney is pure evil and wants to take over the world!

But let us not jump to conclusions or get too dramatic. Yes, it is disappointing that there may be an episode of Hannah Montana where she has to choose between her two love interests, Spider Man or Iron Man, or the possibility of a High School Musical 7, but I'm sure it was not Walter Disney's intention to have his franchise become the guilty pleasure that is irritating at the same time. With the way things are going now and the way Disney stars have become as important and Oscar and Grammy winners, Mickey Mouse is soon on his way to the unemployment office. Disney isn't the only channel that is trying to take over the world...look at Nickelodeon ...

Technology Advances: Is it Taking Over?

By Wan Po
Reporter

My friend just got his new phone last week. My friend just got his new phone last weekend. From my recollected memory, it had very shiny surfaces on both sides and there was a digital small screen on the front. At the back, the camera lens was looking right through my eyes. The phone was "flappable", on the inside it had numerous keys for the user to enjoy its functions, especially for texting his friends. Oh, the screen was "touchable" also.

It sure was a nice phone, but maybe until next week the company will start to promote another one of these? Now my friends can not take his hands off that new thing he bought; he texts everyday, every second.

Looking at my friend's rapid fingers moving on his phone reminds me so much of writing letters. Remember when we used to send letters?

I love receiving letters; they always warm my heart. Besides the

words in the letter, I delicately look at the choice of paper and envelope. Every single procedure is finished by the same person who sent it to you. To be honest, it does take quite a long time to pick a paper to write and to put it into the mailbox. But the entire idea about sending a letter to a dear friend or to a distanced family member is to share our moments through words. Not only just letter, but also just a little handwritten note can make a person's day. And this is going to sound very cliché, but receiving words from a dear one definitely represent our love for one another.

To give technology some credit, I have to say that it really has done so much for our society, in a way...sort of. I think our generation is very special because we are living between both the modern and the future ages. We are living in an age in which technology is becoming essential for people of all ages, but especially the youth. Communication is no longer done in person, but through online networking sites or instant messaging with no emotion. While these advancements certainly make

things much more efficient for us, people no longer take the time to enjoy the moment or connect with people.

Looking at this in a darker perspective, however, if one was to say that technology is taking the personal touch out of our communication, they wouldn't be wrong at all. It's true that it makes our lives much easier, but back in the good old days, when we used to write letters, at least that was in our own handwriting, as opposed to the default, generic fonts we use on our computers and through text messaging. And as for the expression "sealed with a kiss" - well, it's pretty much extinct, since I don't know anyone that bothers kissing their computer screens or phones before they click/press "send."

And what about the kids of our generation? And even before that? I'm sure your parents have made you turn off the television multiple times, claiming when they were young, all they had to entertain themselves was the great outdoors. This is a big lie - television has been around since the 1930's and I don't think your parents are even that

old. The lie gets bigger and fatter as we progress into younger generations.

Kids these days are growing up on television and computers, and less and less of them are living healthy lifestyles because of this. A few years ago, cell phones seemed to be exclusively for adults. Then teenagers started getting their hands on them, and even preteens. Nowadays, it's not even an uncommon sight anymore to see an eight-year-old toting a phone fancier than your own as if they actually have a real need for it. It's difficult to imagine what might happen to children in ten or twenty years from now. In fact, at the rate technology is advancing, who knows how things will be in a mere five years in the future. Convenient? Yes. Entertaining? Definitely. But healthy? Not always.

Although technology is necessary in many ways, and to some extent, entertaining, we must remember to interact with our close relations and not forget about our own lifestyles in addition to this.

TMZ: Our Future CNN?

By Ben Cercea
Editor-in-Chief

This may not be traditional, but I will still start with it. Who knows the two Senators of Alaska—no cheating. If you just did what most of the people who are reading this did, look it up on www.google.com, you are just like me. Not many people know this information off their top of their heads because it is not relevant. New question, who had taken the stage and interrupted Taylor Swift during her VMA award ceremony? Easy right, there really is no need to search that question up—everybody and their mothers know that.

As a society, all we care about is what the paparazzi give us; we are spoon fed the "facts" they want us to hear. TMZ is our BBC World News. Real information has ceased to exist. We do not really care about anything that hasn't been broadcast by famous celebrities. Celebrities are our news. Michael Jackson's death was broadcast for over a month, yet did anybody see anything on the news about the remembrance of September 11, the day that shocked the U.S?

Our knowledge about our own country is pathetic. Information like "Where is Arkansas?" take us minutes when, hypothetically, it should only take us seconds. Answering questions such as when the popular T.V show,

The Office, airs is somewhat simple.

Our minds remember only what we think is useful. Most of us know more about what happens in Hollywood than what happens in Washington. We don't really care about things such as politics or informative subjects, all we care about is celebrities.

What I am trying to say is that information dealing with important things, such as our own senator of California, can't be answered by most people. Why? Well, because we don't use that information every day, we talk about Gossip and television more than anything else. Is that a bad thing? Well, not necessarily. Talking about politics and random facts can be quite boring. Even our forefathers talked about

gossip during their evening cups of tea.

It does, however, scare me that gossip and celebrities are more important than what is going on in Washington. Where has the line gone that we shouldn't have passed? There is a point where we need to know more about other affairs than those of our Politician's "scandals".

Turn off the television and start listening to your radios (and yes, there are news programs on the radio). If you don't have a radio, go on the internet and listen to a meaningful pod cast, one with information regarding something other than who is the new "It Girl". Better yet, grab a newspaper. Cannot afford one, RSS feeds are very useful. Subscribe, free of course, to your favorite news subscriber via online.