

Disney: Students analyze films

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"Pinocchio," "The Lion King" and short cartoons of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and other Disney creations.

"It's a film class, public relation class and economic class in one," said Andi Stein, a doctoral student in public relations. "I find it entertaining and very, very informative. You really take a look behind the manufactured illusion of fantasy and take a good look at the business that's always been there."

Doctoral student Ellen Riordan said the class made her look at the Disney corporation in a whole new light.

"It's not the same old Disney we grew up with," she said.

"[The class] made me think of Disney a little bit different. It made some students think about Disney instead of accepting it as it is."

This week students will be doing a textual analysis of Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and how it reflects Disney's morals and stereotypes concerning women.

Riordan said when she took the class, it generated discussion about the ideas that Disney deals with and the concerns it creates for children and families.

"It gives them this idea of Prince Charming and that we will find someone that takes care of us and we live happily ever after. But it's detrimental for

women who believe in that myth," Riordan said. "Disney also focuses a lot on the mainstream American white culture. If they had focused on other cultures in the beginning, they would have seen a different kind company."

Wasko has been working on a book titled "Understanding Disney" that discusses the popular cultural aspects of the corporation. It is due on bookshelves next year.

Wasko also is currently working on a global Disney project, based on interviews of Disney's audiences in 15 countries. Wasko will give her results of the study at a conference in Scotland in July.

Khalidi: Professor served as U.N. advisor

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tions. He also was an advisor to the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington Arab-Israeli peace negotiator from October 1991 to June 1993.

He has spent a lot of his time touring around the world sharing his views on the conflict. In the past year, he has spoken at several universities including Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.

"It's something I've always been interested and aware of since I was young," he said.

His recent book, "Palestinian Identity: The Construction of National Consciousness," discusses how the Palestinian identity was formed before the advent of Zionism.

"One argument made in the book is that you have two different national narratives, the Pales-

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Diane Baxter
Savage Committee Co-chair

tinian and Israelis," Khalidi said. "In fact, that is one of the roots of conflict."

Baxter said she hopes the students who attend Khalidi's speech will realize that, although there are enormous difficulties be-

tween Israelis and Palestinians, there are ways to negotiate and reach a compromise.

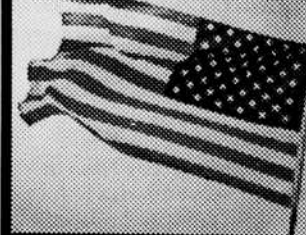
"We want people to see there is room for optimism and hope if people will decide to sit down and negotiate, and we want them to see that people can disagree and still have a relationship," she said.

Baxter said the Savage Committee, in particular, would like to encourage Muslim and Jewish students to attend Khalidi's speech.

"We hope it will lead to a dialogue between them, that the issues don't get dropped when [Khalidi] leaves, but continue for people who have something at stake."

Khalidi will speak Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. It is free and open to the public.

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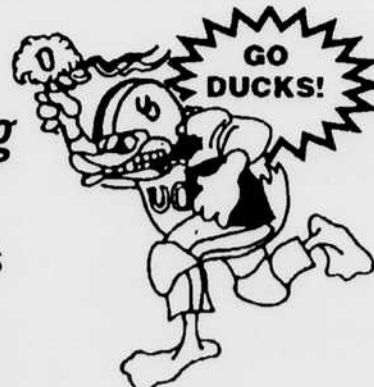


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