**Mission 4 – The Animation Career of Walt Disney**

Luke Michael Murray Towers

Animation 20

Saskatoon Catholic Cyber School

Jason Sand

April 8, 2013

Walt Disney’s Animation Career

By Luke Towers

Walt Disney's love for animation started when he was just a young boy with a talent for art. That love blossomed and he became a determined animator that wouldn't give up, especially when he ran into hard obstacles.

Walter Elias Disney was born on December 5, 1901 in Chicago, Illinois. His love of drawing began when he was about four, and a family friend, "Doc" Sherwood, payed him to drawn some pictures of his horse. About four years later, the Disney family moved to the Kansas City area where Walt was introduced to films. That exposure sparked his interest in film making.

Walt and his brother Roy set up a cartoon studio in Hollywood where they created a series of animated shorts called "Alice's Wonderland". They needed to find a distributor, so they sent some samples of their work to Margaret Winkler, a New York distributor. She then responded that she was interested in distributing the series, so Walt Disney began his career in animated films. From there, Walt created the character "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit". Unfortunately, Walt discovered that he didn't own the rights to the character when Margaret's husband took them. Not one to back off when the going gets rough, he created his own studio and released one of the most successful animations ever, "Snow White", in 1937.

Walt Disney's career as an animator began because he was unable to obtain a job as a newspaper artist. His brother Roy managed to get Walt a job with the Pesmen-Rubin Art College where Walt created advertisements for magazines, newspapers, and movie theatres. He then managed to obtain a job as an animator at the Kansas City Film Ad Company, where he met his good friend Ubbe Lwerks. They later tried to start up a studio in Hollywood, but it failed and Walt went back to work at the Kansas City Film Ad Company to raise money. It was working here as an animator that Walt's love was fully realized.

Walt Disney secured a contract with a local theatre owner, Frank L. Newman, (one of the most successful "showmen" in the Kansas City Area at the time) to screen their cartoons which they entitled Laugh-O-Grams.

Walt Disney's career ended when he died in St. Joseph's hospital on December 15, 1966. He had been a heavy chain-smoker all his life, and he was killed by it. He died from Acute Circulatory collapse caused by lung cancer ten days after his 65th birthday. Although he had died, his legacy remained and Walt Disney Studios released many successful films. Today, they are a major corporation with two giant theme parks and many branches of production. They even make video games! However, I am not so sure that Walt would have liked what his company turned into. With hidden references to sex in children's movies and a purely business approach (just check out Disney's disbanding of Lucas Arts) Walt may not have liked what his studio turned into.