

# Writer Samples Spanish Life

**Kit Foss**  
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the summer, my principle goal in coming to Spain was to experience the Spanish culture to the utmost of my ability. Three weeks later, this is still a realistic objective.

But today I strayed from my chosen path: I went to McDonald's for the cheapest and most delicious soft-serve ice cream in Sevilla. (The "cono de helado" is available in chocolate and vanilla and sells for fifty pesetas, which is roughly thirty cents.)

I tried to reassure myself that it wasn't that bad to go to McDonald's if only for ice cream, but the fact remains that I'm an American tourist whose experiences here are reviving memories of home.

Because of its great height, the view from the Alhambra in Granada brings to mind the sweeping Northern view of UNC's campus from the eighth floor of Davis Library.

As a Tar Heel, I hate to admit it, but the architecture of the thirteenth century Muslim palace is easily more incred-

ible than Davis, not only because the immense amount of space that the buildings occupy, but because of the painstaking creation of the sculpted stucco walls and wooden ceilings and the sheer number of fountains.

During my tour of the Alhambra, I was reminded of Chapel Hill's claim to the author Thomas Wolfe, who used his life experiences to write "Look Homeward Angel," among other works, when I learned that Washington Irving lived in the Alhambra and incorporated its legends with his travel experiences in "Tales of the Alhambra".

In between lunch at 3:00 p.m. and dinner at 10:00 p.m., what wouldn't I give for an ice-cold sweet tea, a baked potato and a salad drizzled with Ranch dressing.

Despite my cravings, the food in Spain is wonderful: my host mother prepares a different dish for every meal, and fresh bread is always a constant factor. Gazpacho, a cold soup composed of tomatoes, carrots, garlic, and olive oil, is a favorite with my family. I've also enjoyed eggplant, lentils, and various other legumes for the first time.

Reminiscent of the "fertile fields" of the U.S., Spain is studded with olive trees everywhere; consequently, the vegetable dishes I encounter here are prepared with olive oil. The citrus orchards in Valencia, on the eastern coast of Spain, produce the best oranges I've ever eaten, and the "cafe con leche" is bar none.

What I love most about Spain is the way everyone takes the greatest pleasure in the smallest things. A long talk with loved ones during a stroll in the street is the recipe for contented relaxation for my host family.

And do the Spaniards ever know how to party: a typical evening begins with a late dinner followed by going to a bar or a discoteca, sometimes until 6:00 a.m.

Spanish culture for an American in Sevilla may be inhibited slightly by the presence of McDonald's and its fifty peseta helados, but this tourist has every intention of living the ideal Spanish lifestyle before her return to Chapel Hill.

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Disney's "Fantasia" mixes beautiful animation with a range of musical selections for an impressive experience combining both visuals and sound.

## Feast for Eyes, Ears With 'Fantasia'

**ARIADNE GUTHRIE**  
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When Walt Disney introduced the concept of "Fantasia" over sixty years ago, his hope was to translate music into pictures, to allow the eyes to work in concert with the ears. The marriage of sight and sound in "Fantasia 2000" is a beautiful, if somewhat boring, tribute to its creator's dream.

Like the previous "Fantasia," Fantasia 2000 is an eclectic mix of both music and imagery. The music ranges from the booming sounds of Beethoven's "Symphony #5" to George Gershwin's jazzy "Rhapsody in Blue." Eye candy includes abstract shapes, which appear to be butterflies, flying whales, caricature-style New Yorkers and, of course, Mickey Mouse.

The two elements are perfectly

paired. Take, for example, the four droning marches of "Pomp and Circumstance." Instead of a graduation ceremony, the music provides a backdrop for the procession of animals into Noah's Ark, led by Donald Duck. The story, like the music, could lull children to sleep.

Animation takes a magnificent leap in an interpretation of "Pines of Rome." Sweeping crescendos are seen as giant Arctic whales flying across gleaming oceans and into space.

Story-telling has always been one of Disney's strengths, and "Fantasia 2000" is no exception. Several sequences could easily stand on their own. An adaptation of Hans Christen Andersen's "Steadfast Tin Soldier" tells a charming story, and the mythical portrayal of nature and destruction in "The Firebird Suite, 1919 Version" is reminiscent of "Ferngully: The Last Rainforest."

The new production replaces its predecessor's narrator with Hollywood heavyweights like Steve Martin, Quincy Jones and James Earl Jones.

Although the star-power is impressive, the introductions are brief and uninteresting.

With the possible exception of a humorous bit by comedians/magicians Penn and Teller, these interruptions should have been edited out.

The only real disappointment in the film was the animation. It's hard to see Disney produce something as visually stunning as Dinosaur, and then revert back to its traditional animation techniques. With the exception of some impressive backgrounds, such as the rendering of Mt. St. Helens in the finale, Disney doesn't seem to make much use of new computer animation technology.

Despite some beliefs that "Fantasia" was merely created to spoon-feed classical music to reluctant listeners, "Fantasia 2000" will delight all audiences, regardless of musical preference. With any luck, we won't have to wait another sixty years for the next installment.

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### THE Daily Crossword

By Alan P. Olschwang

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<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Epic story</p> <p>5 Attention-getting sound</p> <p>9 Rani's wraps</p> <p>14 Extra added benefit</p> <p>15 Spanish painter</p> <p>16 Exchange</p> <p>17 Plumbing problem</p> <p>18 "Zapata!"</p> <p>19 Make fresh</p> <p>20 Suitable</p> <p>21 Gilpin of "Frasier"</p> <p>22 Young tom</p> <p>23 Start of Emerson quote</p> <p>26 Maxim</p> <p>27 Saturn's wife</p> <p>28 Wheel on a rotating shaft</p> <p>31 Reflection</p> <p>33 Cassowary's cousin</p> <p>34 Chesterfield</p> <p>35 Part 2 of quote</p> <p>39 Teheran's location</p> <p>40 Greek Aurora</p> <p>41 Lulus</p> <p>42 Lair</p> <p>43 Actor Erwin</p> <p>44 Pocket change</p> <p>46 End of quote</p> <p>50 One-millionth of a meter</p>	<p>53 Thin strip of wood</p> <p>54 Mrs. Eddie Cantor</p> <p>55 Ice abode</p> <p>56 At the summit</p> <p>57 Stately bird</p> <p>58 Raccoon's kin</p> <p>59 Short skirt</p> <p>60 Open position</p> <p>61 "As You Like It" forest</p> <p>62 Remits</p> <p>63 Distribute</p>	<p>ident</p> <p>4 Inquire</p> <p>5 Arrival</p> <p>6 Shag or bob, e.g.</p> <p>7 The King</p> <p>8 POW possibly</p> <p>9 Long, thin pieces</p> <p>10 Long, thin ridge</p> <p>11 Deliver a diatribe</p> <p>12 ___ fix (obsession)</p> <p>13 Darned</p> <p>21 Eucharist plate</p> <p>22 Inoperative</p> <p>24 Enter the net?</p> <p>25 Singer Perry</p> <p>28 Fit to be eaten</p> <p>29 At a distance</p>	<p>30 Staffs</p> <p>31 Footnote abbr.</p> <p>32 Inconsequential</p> <p>33 UFO crew</p> <p>34 Medicinal bush</p> <p>36 Board</p> <p>37 Cleftones' hit, "Heart and ___"</p> <p>38 Lift</p> <p>43 Sure winner</p> <p>44 Massachusetts, once</p>	<p>45 Giraffes' cousins</p> <p>46 Authored</p> <p>47 Port of Rome</p> <p>48 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The ___"</p> <p>49 Sample</p> <p>50 Complex silicate</p> <p>51 Composer Stravinsky</p>	<p>52 Attired</p> <p>56 Unit of elec. current</p> <p>57 Belief system</p>
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