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Frank Finocchiaro Memorial Scholarship

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Benedictine Military School (Grade 11 Only) Scholarship Entry Form

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Personal Statement

I attest that the attached Essay is my original work and that all personal information is true. I understand that once the Essay and Resume have been submitted, they become the property of The Italian Society of Savannah for whatever use they deem appropriate. When asked, I agree to cooperate with The Italian Society of Savannah in any and all promotional activities related to the scholarship competition, and should I be selected a winner, I give them my permission to use my name and photograph in their promotional activities.

Signed by: Lawson Rennler Date: 3/11/16

Teacher Verification

I have read the enclosed essay and attest that the above named student is in good standing and verify that the Essay reflects the student's original work.

Signature: Karen W. Marshall Date: 3-14-16

All entries must be submitted to the Guidance Office by March 15th, 2016

Lawson Remler

3/11/16

Joseph Barbera:

The Man Who Entertained Generations

When asked to name people of great influence most people immediately think of doctors who cured diseases, or politicians who freed the oppressed. These people are definitely heroes, but those who affect culture are just as important. Cartoons are a very important part of our culture because we almost all see them as children, and the things we see as children affect us much later down the line. Joseph Roland Barbera was the co-creator of cartoons such as *The Flintstones*, *The Jetsons*, *Tom and Jerry*, and *Scooby Doo*.

Hanna-Barbera is most known for their children's cartoons. For instance, *Tom and Jerry* was one of Barbera's earliest works. He wrote his first short in 1940 about the beloved cat and mouse duo. Each short cartoon depicted Tom and Jerry as adversaries with Jerry, the mouse, usually getting the best of Tom, although occasionally they would unite against a common enemy. *Scooby Doo* was another popular cartoon that they produced mainly for children. Unlike *Tom and Jerry*, it was a full thirty-minute show that aired on Saturday mornings, and each episode revolved around a mystery. Four teenagers and their dog Scooby traveled in their van, the mystery machine, solving crimes.

Although known for his children's cartoons he was an innovator of prime-time television. *The Flintstones* was one of the earlier cartoons produced by Hanna-Barbera Production, Barbera and his partner's company. A parody of *The Honeymooners*, the show was a hit because of its humor and the uniqueness of its characters being a prehistoric family with modern appliances like a phonograph. *The Flintstones* was the first cartoon to address family

issues that were normally deemed too sensitive to show in that format, largely due to it being a prime time television program. Two characters, Fred and Wilma, were the first couple to be shown sleeping in the same bed together in a cartoon. More importantly was when it addressed infertility; Fred and Wilma have a daughter in the show named Pebbles. After Pebbles is born Betty and Barney cannot have a child so they adopt a son, Bamm-Bam. *The Flintstones* were such an important show that there are gummy vitamins named after them as well as the cereals Fruity Pebbles and Cocoa Pebbles being named after characters in the show.

The success of *The Flintstones* led to the creation of Hanna-Barbera's next prime-time hit, *The Jetsons*. *The Jetsons* were basically the opposite of *The Flintstones* because they were from the future rather than the past. The futuristic look of *The Jetsons* came at a time when space travel was new. For instance, cars were given fins to look futuristic and the most popular designs were the ones that had similarities to rockets. *The Jetsons* followed that trend. Some of the main features of the show were that George had a flying saucer instead of a car and that they could clean the house simply by push of a button. The show originally only ran one season of 24 episodes but those same episodes were run on repeat for many years, so many people knew every detail about the show. When speaking about the future, people often make comparisons to *The Jetsons*.

All of these shows came from a man who lost his job at MGM because the animation studio went out of business. He struck out on his own and created television characters still loved today, more than fifty years later. People my parent's age still sing the theme songs about a modern stone aged family that kids my age still see on TV. In that respect a man who revolutionized TV also saved road trips for an entire generation.

Sources:

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"Scooby-Doo: American Cartoon Series." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. n.d. Web.

"Tom and Jerry: American Cartoon Series." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. n.d. Web.