

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

## Reliving those awkward years College students confess addiction to TV shows about high-school teens

BY EMILY HARRELL  
The Battalion

Brad Wineman, a graduate student at Texas A&M, "didn't wanna wait" for the new season of the hit teen show "Dawson's Creek" to begin.

Wineman said he began watching "Dawson's Creek" when some of his friends invited him over to

I like it so much because I don't take it seriously," Wineman said.

While he said he likes the light-heartedness of the show in general, the teen-aged characters were also a draw.

"In a strange way, it is a throwback to high school. It's interesting to see the characters take on some of the same problems that I had to deal with in high school. And while I'm not that far out of high school — I'm only 22 — I can look back on how they deal with everything and be glad that I'm past all that," he said.

Wineman said the differences between the characters on "Dawson's Creek" and real high-school students made the show more appealing to adults.

"It gives you a chance to vent over people who over dramatize everything. And I also love how elaborate the characters' vocabularies are. I mean, I didn't know the word 'pedantic' in high school," he said.

Although Wineman calls "Dawson's Creek" a "girl show," he said he does not care what others think of his viewing habits.

"I've got nothing to prove. I don't take it that seriously. It's just how I spend my Wednesday," he said.

However, some fans take their viewing a little more seriously.

Angela Fields, a senior biomedical science major, said she watches "Dawson's Creek" and "Felicity."

"I used to watch a lot more, though, back when we watched [Beverly Hills,] 90210 and 'Party of Five' every week. I just don't have time to anymore — not that I wouldn't if I did," Fields said.

"Between 'Dawson's Creek' and 'Felicity,' 'Dawson's Creek' is my favorite because I've been watching it since the first time, the very first show."

Fields said she and her friends find some interesting ways to show their support of the teen melodrama.

"One time, [during] the first season, we taped the

season finale of 'Dawson's Creek,' because the season finale is always the best, especially when you're waiting for two people to hook up, and they do. We watched it so many times that we memorized it, and then we would recite it to each other," Fields said.

Fields said that her love of the show has not waned in the three seasons that "Dawson's Creek" has been on the air.

"This season, for the season premier, we had a party at my friend Lauren's house, and we had cupcakes decorated with D's on them, and I made her a card that said 'Happy Dawson's Day,'" Fields said.

While Fields said she is obviously an active fan, she added that her friends have made more overt displays of allegiance to the show.

"My friend Lauren is worse than me. She has a shrine to 'Dawson's Creek' above her laundry closet with pictures and articles and everything," she said.

Although Fields said she downplays her support of "Dawson's Creek," she said she once took support of another teen show, "Saved By the Bell," to a whole new level.

"Freshman year, when I had more time on my hands because I didn't think I needed to study, my friends and I watched 'Saved By the Bell' every day, because the reruns were on every afternoon. Then one day, we found out about these 'Saved By the Bell' action figures that were supposedly found at the Dollar General. We searched all over the state for them, because we wanted to make a 'Saved By the Bell' diorama and put it over our TV. We were going to make it a scene from the show where Jesse is hooked on pills that keep her awake to study," Fields said.

Some fans are a little more low-key about their support of teen shows.

Jacy Benton, a senior education major who calls herself a "TV junkie," said that of all the shows that she watches, "90210" is the one she wishes she didn't watch, but is addicted to because of her familiarity with the show.

"I know the characters, and you don't have to pay attention all the time. It's just goofy and fun, and it's

usually not sad. I am glad that it's in its last season. It's not a show that you get anything out of. You don't learn anything from it. It's just a fun show," she said.

Benton said she is glad that the show is in its final season.

"The story lines aren't good anymore," she said. "About once a month they have a good show, but it has gotten too materialistic and stereotypical."

Benton said that she continues to watch "90210" despite its shortcomings.

"Maybe because I watched [the characters] in high school, and they are so familiar, and you don't have to pay a lot of attention. You can miss a couple of weeks, and still catch right up, sort of like a soap opera," Benton said.

Unlike Fields and Wineman, Benton said that she has some qualms about being an adult who watches a teen series.

"I don't know if it's something a 22-year-old should still be watching, or at least admit they're watching on a weekly basis, but I do," Benton said.

She said that although she is devoted to the show, she has never collected anything pertaining to it.

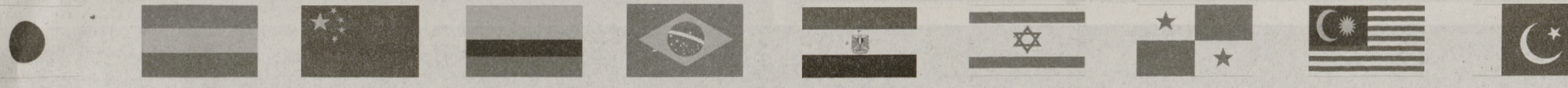
"No, I never have, thankfully. That would be really sad."



watch once. He said he has been "addicted" ever since. "[What I like about 'Dawson's'] is really kind of an intangible thing. It's so over-dramatized that it's alluring, kind of like a soap opera. It's just a fun show.



GRAPHICS BY RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



## International Week 2000 Welcome the New Millennium!!!



### Opening Ceremony:

MSC Flag Room: Monday, February 28, 2000 – 11:30 A.M.  
Admission: Free

### Cultural Display:

First Floor of the MSC  
Monday, February 28 2000 – 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, February 29, 2000 – 9:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.  
Admission: Free

### International Buffet:

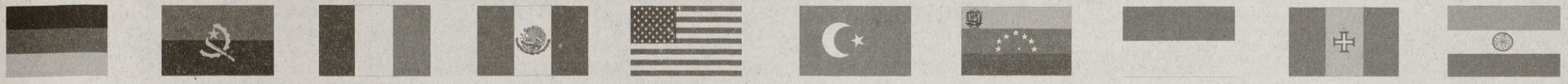
Second Floor of the MSC: Wednesday, March 1, 2000  
7:00 P.M to 10:00 P.M  
Admission: \$8.00

### International Talent Show and Traditional Dress Parade:

Rudder Auditorium: Friday, March 3, 2000 – 7:30 P.M to 9:30 P.M\*  
Admission: \$5.00

### International Party and Award Ceremony:

MSC 201: Friday, March 3, 2000 - 10:00 P. M. to 1:00 A.M.\*  
Admission: Free



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