

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Trips down memory lane

### Students reminisce about summer childhood memories

By Lyndsey Sage  
THE BATTALION

Once upon a time, summer equaled carefree days of riding bikes, running around barefoot, lips stained red from cherry snow-cones and hours of jumping off the high dive at the community pool. Some of the most cherished memories come from the little league, music lessons and dance camp summers of childhood.

As students reflect on their childhood days of summer, much more than the excitement of no school for three months comes to mind.

For David Aycock, a junior marketing major, a family trip is a memory that he will keep with him from his childhood.

"I went to Disneyland and Universal Studios when I was five," Aycock said. "I remember seeing Mickey Mouse and all. I also walked on that one guy's feet; I think it was the guy who is Captain Hook's first mate on his ship."

Memories such as this become priceless as college students find their summers consumed with school and work. No longer is summer three months of play, as it was in the childhood days when school was a distant thought and work was designated for "grown ups." As Aycock discovered, time for amusement and recreation become scarce.

"My family still takes vacations," Aycock said. "But without me."

Jennifer West, a junior journalism major, recalls the weeks of her younger days spent at summer camp as she contemplates memories from her childhood.

"When I was younger, like in middle school, I would go to camps for a week at a time," West said. "We could do a ropes course and go swimming and all those kinds of things."

According to West, some things never change because the best part about going to camp was that you went with all your friends.

As many students join West in counting their favorite summer memories at camps as a child, those same students are heading back to camp for the summer, only this time as counselors helping shape childhood memories.

Kicking off her shoes and running barefoot around the neighborhood is a favorite memory

that Mindi Ethridge, a junior psychology major, values from her childhood.

"I couldn't wait for summer because I could go barefoot all day," Ethridge said.

"Every time I ran across the pavement or street, my feet would burn and melted tar would stick to them. Even though it hurt, I still did it every time."

Ethridge also reminisces on the games

of basketball, football and cops and robbers. After the sun went down, neighborhood kids would congregate to play murder in the dark.

"There were about 15 kids that were around the same age, so we all played together every day,"

Ethridge said. "We would get on our bikes and cruise down the street picking up kids as we went."

Every once and awhile, Ethridge is reminded of those memories when she comes across one of her former childhood buddies. According to Ethridge, even though everyone moved away, they still see each other sometimes and stop to chat about the good old days of summer.

For Matt Matherene, a junior recreational management major, the feeling of winning a junior golf tournament is among his most prized memories from his summers as a child.

"There were two tournaments a week all over East Texas. My folks would take me to them," Matherene said. "It was so cool to win when you were 10 or 11 years old."

The pride of winning was enough for Matherene, although winners of each tournament received medals. Matherene saved the medals from his first place finishes, which are stored away in his closet.

Matherene is now assisting in the same tournament that he played in as a kid.

Family vacations, camps, sports and neighborhood games all shape childhood summers. However, summer would not be complete without a bathing suit and water.

For Michalea Daggett, a junior genetics major, summer was a time to cool off from the sweltering Odessa heat by running through the sprinklers.

"In our backyard, my sister and I would get up the sprinklers," Daggett said. "We would put on our bathing suits and run through them. We would also set up the Slip 'N Slide with the neighbor boy."

Driving down the street not too long ago, Daggett was brought back to this childhood recollection when she saw a group of college students who had set up a sprinkler in their front lawn and were running through it.

"It looked like so much fun," Daggett said.

Although students may outgrow their childhood bathing suits and tennis shoes, there are some things that one will never grow too old to do. One of those things being taking a trip down memory lane to the summers of childhood and possibly even reliving those memories.



SARAH FOWLER • THE BATTALION

#### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Charlie Sheen, Denise Richards married

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charlie Sheen, one of Hollywood's best-known bachelors, has married actress Denise Richards, his publicist said.

Sheen and Richards were wed Saturday night at the home of producer Gary David Goldberg in Los Angeles, publicist Tracy Shaffer said Sunday.

It was the 36-year-old actor's second marriage and the first for his 29-year-old bride.

The couple wore custom-made Giorgio Armani designs. Richards dressed in a white satin gown with a plunging back; Sheen wore a two-button tuxedo.

Richards has appeared in the films "Wild Things," "Starship Troopers" and the current "Undercover Brother." She met Sheen while shooting the independent film "Good Advice" in 2000.

They began dating after Richards did guest spots on the sitcom "Spin City," which stars Sheen.

Sheen's film credits include "Platoon" and "Wall Street." He is the son of actor Martin Sheen of NBC's "The West Wing."

### Crowe accuses men of extorting money from him

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The trial of two men accused of attempting to extort money from Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe was adjourned for two days Monday so prosecutors can finalize their case and to ensure enough potential jurors are available.

Crowe, believed to be shooting a film in Mexico, was not present for Monday's scheduled start of the trial at Coffs Harbour District Court.

Crowe, whose movie credits include "Gladiator" and "A Beautiful Mind," owns a cattle ranch in the rolling hills outside Coffs Harbour, an upscale resort town in eastern Australia.

Philip Antony Cropper, 36, and Malcolm Brian Mercer, 37, are charged with trying to extort money from Crowe in exchange for destroying a security video. They face a maximum sentence of 10 years if convicted.

The video allegedly shows Crowe in an altercation outside a Coffs Harbour nightclub in 1999.

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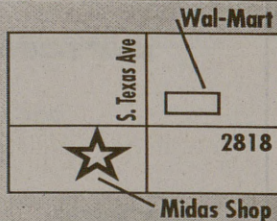
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