

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Old school cool

1980s and 90s memorabilia make a collegiate come back

By Lyndsey Sage
THE BATTALION

Lindsay Kirk, a sophomore biochemistry major, was in second grade when "New Kids on the Block" became the rage. Although the group's late 1980s pop music is a distant memory for many, Kirk still pops in the tapes every once in awhile to remind her of those childhood days.

For many students, reverting back to "old school" trends has helped bridge childhood memories to college.

"I was a big fan of 'New Kids on the Block,' but not a fanatic," Kirk said. "I remember I hung out with one friend just because she had all the 'New Kids on the Block' stuff, like the dolls."

During her senior year in high school, Kirk was cleaning out her room when she came across her collection of "New Kids on the Block" tapes. She added them to her CD collection and brought them with her to college.

"I still have the original tapes, and most of them are singles because they came out with a lot of singles hits at the time," Kirk said.

Kirk said as she was looking over the tapes, she noticed she had written the names of the band members above the photograph to remember who was who.

"I listen to them every once in awhile," Kirk said. "I listen to them when I'm in a cheerful or silly mood, or when I am doing something like cleaning my room and need something to keep me going."

Min Park, a senior industrial distribution major, said he tries to incorporate grade school terminology into his life. Park said he is trying to bring back the word "syke," which was a popular slang term when he was in fifth- and sixth-grade.

"I had a friend named Ike who was an exchange student and had very broken English," Park said. "He did and said a lot of stupid things, and we would make fun of him. One way we did this was by calling him 'syke-alike.'"

According to Park, "syke" is used when someone is faked out or mentally not in the right place.

"I use it all the time now," Park said. "Even though it's old school, it is such a cool word."

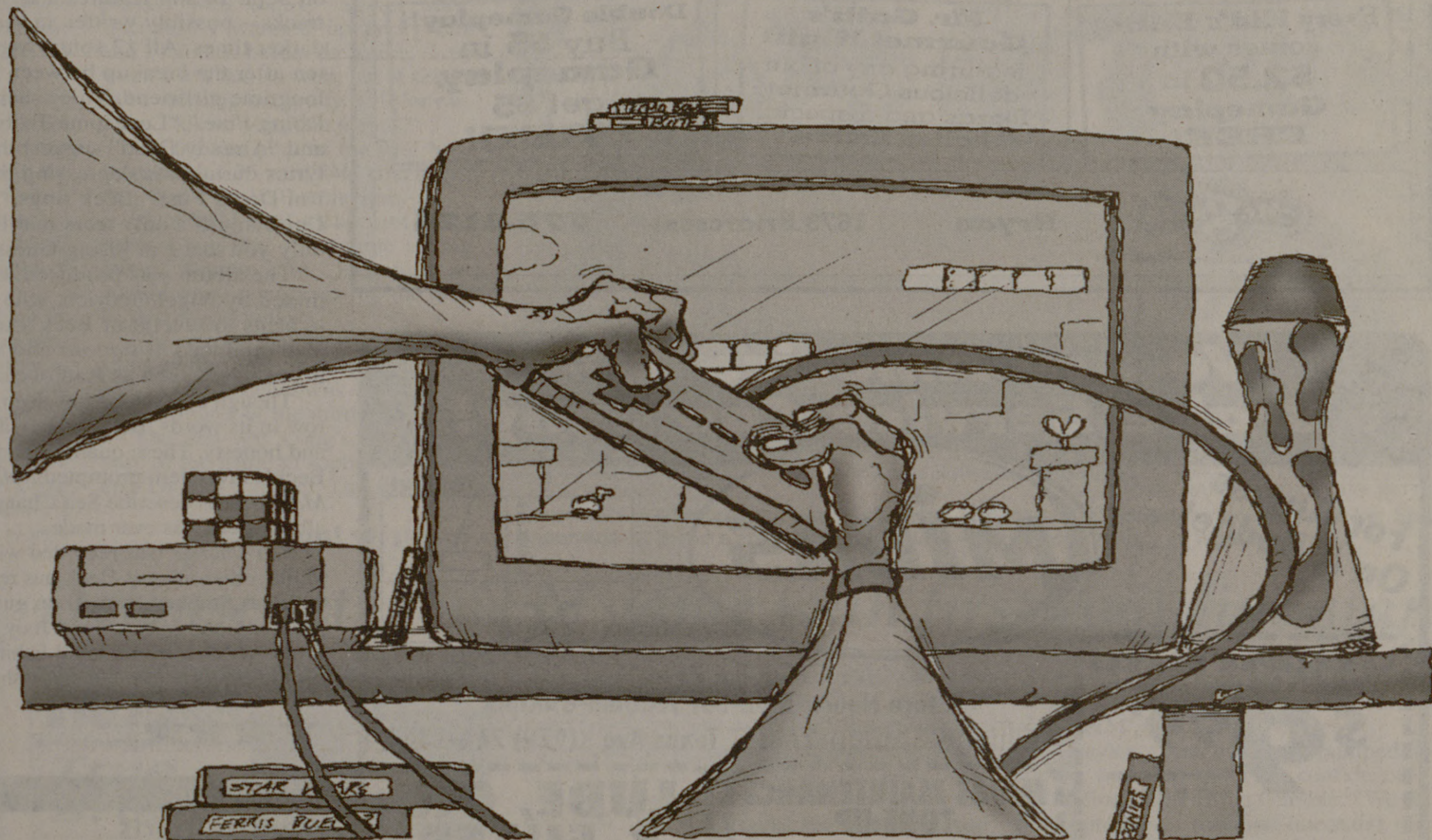
Park said he often hears, "I remember that!" when he uses his favorite old school term around other people.

Zach Smith, a sophomore international studies major, may have the newest Nintendo systems available, but that's not stopping him from playing his original "old school" Nintendo at least once a week.

"The new systems have better graphics, but the games just aren't as good," Smith said. "The games of the original Nintendo are really ingenious games."

Smith said among his favorite games to play on his "old school" Nintendo are "Super Mario Brothers" and "Donkey Kong."

Although Smith was 10 when he purchased the Nintendo, he said he stopped playing the original for awhile after newer systems hit the market. Smith said he didn't resume playing his old



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Nintendo until he came back to college.

"Entering adulthood made me want to go back to childhood," Smith said. "It brings back all kind of memories."

Apparently, Smith is not alone in his love for old school technology. He said he has participated in several original Nintendo tournaments at college parties.

The obsession with childhood memorabilia does not end with music, terminology and technology, however.

Lauren Dean, a junior elementary education major, said slap bracelets — metal bracelets which could be slapped on wearers' wrists — have made a comeback.

Dean said she was in fourth-grade when slap bracelets became a must-have accessory.

"(My friends and I) got all different kinds and colors, and then

we would always have to show them off to each other," Dean said. "We learned all different kind of tricks you could do with them and different ways to slap them on your wrist."

That same year, the slap bracelet was banned from Dean's school because it was deemed a dangerous weapon.

"The school said that they could be used as weapons because some girl had cut herself with one when the metal from the inside had come out," Dean said.

That was the last Dean saw of the slap bracelet until she recently went through the drive-through of a fast food restaurant and ordered a kid's meal. The prize in the meal was an "old school" slap bracelet.

"We used to have the fabric kind and this was just plastic, but it was kind of like a trip down memory lane," Dean said.

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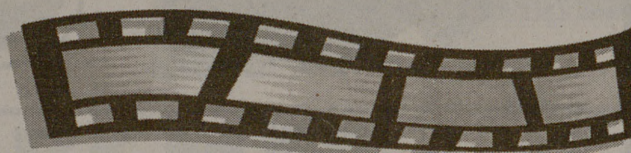
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