

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Wednesday, October 1, 2003



As the first melodic chords of his favorite sing-along, "Sweet Caroline," sounded through the crowded New Orleans bar, Travis Bragg smiled victoriously. After haggling and bargaining with the reluctant house band, he had managed to convince it to play a tune by his favorite singer, Neil Diamond, in exchange for a small fee.

Bragg, a student affairs administration for higher education graduate student, has been a loyal Neil Diamond fan since childhood. Growing up, his favorite movie was "The Jazz Singer," and he remembers belting out "Coming to America" every time he watched it.

"Neil has the best road trip music. You put that in, and everyone looks around to see if they are the only one 'uncool' enough to know the words," Bragg said.

When Matt Weber, a senior mechanical engineering major, saw the Toadies for the first time, it was late in the band's musical career. Although the band hit its prime around 1993, Weber was introduced to the Toadies' music in 1998 and confirmed his passion at a concert at Shadow Canyon in 2001. Ever since, the group has been his favorite, even if it isn't a group anymore.

"I went to two concerts of theirs. First I saw the farewell concert, and then I saw the reunion concert. It was good," he said.

Weber's bedroom is decorated with Toadies posters, one of which is signed by the lead singer.

"I felt really bad. I went to his new band's CD release party and had him sign a Toadies poster," he said. "I hadn't even heard his new stuff."

When asked about his loyalty to this band of the past, Weber explains that "the best music came out of the early '90s."

The 1990s, the 1980s and even the 1970s are decades that today's college students grew up in. Looking back over the past 25 years or so, it isn't hard to remember the great things that came from the time period, some of which have withstood the test of time.

Of course, now some of the nostalgic artifacts are hitting the mainstream yet again. For instance, Care Bears can be seen in malls and Wal-Mart's, and young adults are digging through their parents' attics to find the boxes marked "toys." TV stations such as Cartoon Network are bringing back childhood classics such as "Thundercats" and "Speed Racer." Movies from long ago, such as "Animal House," are now being rereleased on DVD.

All of these things are well remembered and even celebrated, but they aren't the only ones. Everyone has some obscure piece of history that is near and dear to his heart, and Aggies are no different. Whether they admit it or not, these memories, although deemed cheesy by some, can still bring a smile to their faces and put a twinkle in their eyes.

Cabbage Patch Kids will never go out of style for freshman education major Kara Crowley. Her love for these once-popular dolls was established the day she was born when she received her first and favorite one: Maryhadrena.

She still has more than 50 of them, most of which decorate her bedroom at home in San Antonio. She remembers playing house and school with them and even recalls taking them on grocery store outings.

Whenever her neighbors' kids ring the doorbell and want to play dolls, Crowley happily joins them. Her vast collection of Cabbage Patch Kids gets another chance to play with its devoted owner.

Every time senior agronomy major Nick Mims goes home, he and his sisters take a little trip to Showbiz Pizza, now known as Chucky Cheese. Mims has been going to Showbiz since he was a small child with nothing but a dream of someday owning the umbrella with the smiley face on it. Unfortunately, it was priced somewhere in the 4,000 ticket range, an amount of tickets that seemed a bit out of reach.

"I loved that place so much that I worked there," Mims said.

He recalls his favorite Showbiz attraction with a smile on his face. Nothing can ever compare to the rocket ship that ascends into the hole in the ceiling, giving its passenger a view of what is intended to represent stars, he said. Mims still squeezes into the ship and enjoys the view even now.

Video games are a favorite pastime for many. It seems as if every year a new gaming system hits the shelves, but none compare to the original Nintendo system, said senior anthropology major Justin Luckenbach.

Luckenbach got his Nintendo when he was in third grade and still has it set up. At one time he had about 30 games. Now he doesn't have quite as many, but he still plays on a regular basis.

Luckenbach also has an abiding love for "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "Transformers." He has action figures from both and has been a fan as long as he can remember, he said. Whenever he sees a "Transformers" episode on TV, he watches it, and he said he religiously keeps up with the new "Ninja Turtles" cartoon episodes.

New Kids On The Block were the teen idols of the early 1990s. Most pre-teen and teenage girls were obsessed with the five heartthrobs, and senior agricultural economics major Allison McClendon was no different.

"I found out that I loved NKOTB the first time I heard one of their songs on the radio," McClendon said.

Ever since fourth grade she has had an undying love for the boy band. She still has her original cassette tape and recently burned a CD composed entirely of its music, including her favorite song, "Hangin' Tough." She also had a large collection of paraphernalia including posters, T-shirts, bed sheets, action figures and signature buttons, but was devastated when her parents sold it all in a garage sale when she was a sophomore in high school.

Every day since sixth grade before she left for school, student affairs administration for higher education graduate student Vanessa Roberts set the VCR to record "Days of Our Lives." She enjoyed the storyline, but her real interest was in characters Jack and Jennifer.

Roberts knows everything about their relationship, starting with the beginning all the way up to the present. At home, she has magazine articles and photographs including their wedding picture and a small collection of videotapes with every episode up until they changed actors.

Fortunately for Roberts, the originals are back on the show and she once again watches so as not to miss a minute of the Jack and Jennifer saga.

Another TV show that hasn't lost its edge for Dan Long, a senior industrial distribution major, is "Hogan's Heroes." Long would skip lunch in high school every day to go home and watch it. He has been a fan since fifth grade.

"You'd think that I would have seen all the episodes by now, but every time I watch it, I'm like, 'this is hilarious! I haven't seen this one before,'" Long said.

He can name every character from the television show, which aired from 1965-1971, and also which actors played them.

"Star Trek" is another show that is still appreciated by a few. Watching "Star Trek: The Next Generation" is a favorite pastime for Stephanie Thompson, a senior animal science major. She has watched it with her parents since it first came out and is now hooked. During her high school years, she wrote a paper about all the different species of aliens for an English class and got an "A."

"I never got into the newer Star Treks," Thompson said. Thompson still watches it in syndication and has seen almost all of the episodes. She also likes the Star Trek movies.

"It's a lonely yet exciting time when a new movie comes out and no one wants to go watch it with me," Thompson said.

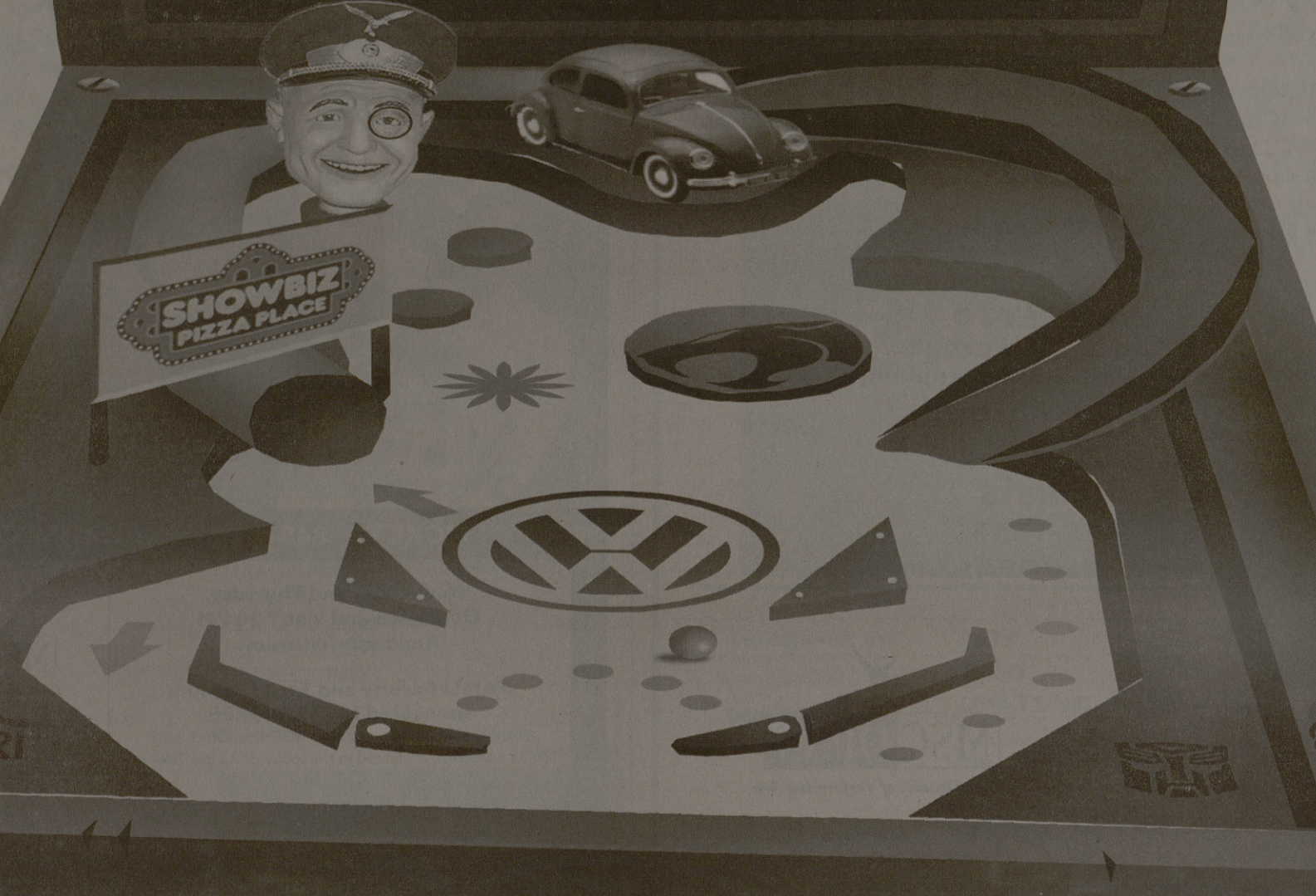
The ultimate blast from the past has to be "Saved By The Bell." Jon Boben, a sophomore business administration major, and Leigh Henderson, a senior psychology major, are in their own words, "obsessed" with the TV show. Together, they exchange away messages and text messages consisting of notorious quotes from "Saved by the Bell." They watch it everyday and have even been known to play Bar Trivia locally against players throughout the nation, including the cast itself. They are currently ranked in the top 10.

Boben and Henderson have started a collection of episodes that they have downloaded and burned onto DVDs and are currently trying to find anything they can pertaining to the show on e-Bay.

"To us, 'Saved By The Bell' embodies everything that is 'real,'" Henderson said. "Let's just say, I'm so excited, I'm so excited, I'm so ... scared."

STORY BY NANCY DUBINSKI • THE BATTALION  
GRAPHIC BY JOSH DARWIN • THE BATTALION

243,924,005 NEW GAME 3 BALLS LEFT



NEWS  
THE BATTALION  
NEWS IN BRIEF  
Public Convocation  
at Cushing  
A&M's 2003 Academic  
will begin today at  
front of the Cushing  
culty and administra  
arch across campus  
Auditorium. Viewers  
essed in the auditor  
p.m. by James J.  
it, president emeritus  
ersity of Michigan.  
chancellor of  
ny to speak  
ohl, former chance  
many who oversaw  
ne Berlin Wall, will  
re to students today  
isit to Texas A&M.  
eceive the first annu  
Bush Award for  
in Public Service  
Bush Foundation  
o the Bryan-College  
le, the recipient of  
s chosen by former  
eorge Bush.  
his office as chan-  
1982 to 1998, when  
mocrat Gerhard  
was elected.  
ony will begin at 6  
in the Annenberg  
Conference  
the George Bush  
Library and  
ree tickets can be  
Memorial Student  
office.  
an elections  
omorrow  
elections will take  
and tomorrow, start-  
n. Wednesday and  
gh 5 p.m. Thursday,  
of the Class of  
vote online at  
du. Candidates  
ne offices of presi-  
dent, treasurer,  
ary and freshman  
e posted profiles  
viewed under the  
guide  
.edu.  
runoff elections  
week, Oct. 9 and 10.  
supporters  
in Belgium  
S, Belgium (AP)  
uesday convicted  
— including one  
blow up a base  
old U.S. nuclear  
for involvement  
ean terror ring  
al-Qaida and  
dants were sen-  
to 10 years in  
Study Abroad to  
Double Your  
Employment  
Opportunities  
FREE info kit  
Abroad/Russia.com  
ee: 1-866-889-9880  
Largest Closure  
danako  
store.com  
48-CLOG  
an Church  
et  
h of the  
rner of  
treet  
SERVICE'  
and service  
beginning  
0 pm  
sistant  
du  
5 am  
ION  
e fall and spring sem-  
ys and exam periods if  
MASTER: Send address  
-1111.  
in the Division of Student  
uilding, Newser  
www.thebattalion.net  
The Battalion, For cam-  
945-0569, Advertising  
h Friday, Fax: 845-2878  
pick up a single copy of  
oot year, \$30 for the full  
MasterCard, Discover, if