

Students remember their 'old school' favorite shows

Television programs that students remember watching growing up are now reruns

Mary Cunningham
Reporter

Remember all the television shows you watched when elementary school?

Maybe now they're in reruns, or maybe they went off the air years ago never to be seen again? Do you ever find yourself in a conversation about one of these "old school" television shows? If so, you are not the only one. Have you ever wondered why though?

"It serves as a connection between other people my age," said freshmen David Vollrath, "because it's something we all have in common."

"Everyone has more than likely seen at least one episode, so we can all talk about it," said Jennifer Heilman, a junior. Television shows come on across the country, so almost anyone can relate regardless of hometown.

"It is an easy subject to talk about with people you don't really know," said Steve Sypole, a senior. Students look for a common bond to help them connect with friends and help them meet new people.

"It helps them reminisce about their younger years and sort of forget about adulthood problems," said Lindsay Eney, a freshman. Though not all college students may feel as though they are in the "real" world, they know they are that much closer to it, which may seem scary. Talking about times when things were simple and easy helps students temporarily forget their stress.

Many students find themselves in conversations about old school shows, but what exactly makes a show "old school?" Students defined these shows as reminders of the good times. The specific definitions, however, differ.

"They are shows that have been off the air for several

years and were pop culture staples while on the air," said sophomore Heather Shuler.

Some, like Heilman, consider "old school shows" to be those on "Nick-At-Night." Others consider them to be shows that were on TGIF or Nickelodeon. Everyone's opinion is different, but that does not make the shows any less enjoyable to talk about.

The favorites vary, just as definitions do. Some consider the continent and genre, while others think of the characters.

"It was a good family show we all watched together. It was funny and I learned a lesson each week. Plus I was in love with Jonathan Taylor Thomas," said Eney whose favorite old school show is "Home Improvement."

"Most 'old school' TV shows are better than most TV shows on now," said sophomore Ashley Stafford of why she would watch reruns.

Even if college students did not like to talk about older shows, they still like to reminisce, at least according to Facebook. There are multiple fan clubs for older shows and other groups such as "90's Nickelodeon-The Passing of an Era (Elon Chapter)" and "Salute to Old School Nickelodeon Shows," which has 274 members, so it would be hard to deny that college students are talking about the shows they used to watch.

Regardless of individual definitions, old shows bring everyone back to a time when they were younger and more care-free.

Contact Mary Cunningham at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Photo courtesy of: <http://www.nick.com>

Marc Summers hosts Family Double Dare. This show asks families to compete to answer questions and physical challenges.

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