

Seniors prepare to face outside world

Pressure, stress and responsibilities all part of the fun

by Beth Gibson
Battalion Reporter

With that shiny Texas A&M senior ring comes a couple of serious diseases, one known fondly as Senioritis and another less-so-fondly as Senior Panic.

Senioritis comes first — a giddy mixture of plan-making and delirium associated with impending graduation. Symptoms include class-skipping, lots of sunbathing and Frisbee-throwing.

After Senioritis comes Senior Panic — realization of the enormous responsibilities and pressures, ranging from concrete to psychological, which combine to put unbelievable stress on the graduating senior.

The first of a number of pressures involves final grades. Current University policy authorizes an end-of-semester exam exclusively for graduating seniors, but several restrictions limit the exam procedure.

University regulations specify that an end-of-semester exam:

- Must be scheduled to comply with the registrar's schedule for submission of graduating seniors' grades;

- Must be given during a regular class period, and should not be a direct substitution for the final exam;

- May only include material covered since the last major

exam:

- Must be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

See Focus for Senioritis

A graduating senior's average, without the final exam, counts as his final grade. If a student's grades do not meet graduation requirements, he can take the regularly scheduled final exam in any course in which he wants to improve his grade.

If the grade on the final exam meets graduation requirements, he will receive his degree the next time degrees are granted. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his intention to take the final exam. If the grade doesn't meet graduation requirements, the student will have to retake the course.

Associate Registrar Donald D. Carter said if a senior already has a job secured, the registrar's office can send a letter to his employer saying he has completed all the requirements for a degree.

"This is an official letter from the University and will help the student keep his job," he said.

Lisa Colson, alumni secretary for the Placement Center, also has some advice for these stu-

dents. "We've tried to tell students not to tell prospective employers they're bombing out in a

course," she said. "They'll never see your transcripts after they've hired you.

"You can tell them you want to take a break — maybe a little vacation after four years ... of school. Then you can retake the course and graduate the next semester."

More pressures are created by responsibilities — which start with payment of a \$15 graduation fee and then application for a degree in the Registrar's Office. This should be done 90 days before commencement, but Carter said those who miss the deadline may apply late.

"Up to a certain point, we can let them apply late, but after that, it's too late," Carter said. "They'll have to graduate the next time around.

"We make a great effort to help the students, though we feel it's really their responsibility."

Pressures continue to mount for the graduating senior as commencement approaches, along with thoughts of leaving Texas A&M to go out into the

cruel, cruel world.

Dr. Paul Bradbury, assistant director of the Texas A&M Personal Counseling Service, said the most obvious pressure on graduating seniors is the move from a protected environment to the outside world.

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"Some people think of college as an extension of adolescence. To some extent most students still have some financial and emotional support from their families. The amount a student has supported himself in college will decide how well he will adjust."

Bradbury said more self-discipline might be necessary to make up for the change from the gentle prodding of the University — schedules, grades, professors' warnings — to the cold indifference of the open market.

"We promise ourselves we'll keep these friends forever," he said. "But we just can't keep up. We have to adjust to the loss, brush off our old social skills and learn new ones for a new circle of friends."

Bradbury said the unpredictable economy is another source of stress. When students are unable to secure jobs fresh from graduation, Bradbury said they must view the situation as temporary and try to support themselves until something acceptable comes along.

"You're going to feel cheated when this happens," he said. "You've spent four years getting good at something and the

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Looking for fire in all the wrong places

by Cathy Saathoff,
Bill Robinson and
Phyllis Henderson

Quest For Fire was definitely worth the price. We were guests Thursday night at the opening of Plitt Cinema III in Post Oak Mall.

The theatre is nice and generic-looking, down to its mandatory gaudy curtains. And the auditorium floors were clean, something you may never get to see because the preview audience already messed them up.

Quest For Fire is a generic caveman movie with better-than-average caveman effects. Hot-headed cavemen battle over a hot commodity — fire.

The Ulams and the Wagabous are the warring factions, as

story — sort of an Ice Age *Endless Love*.

Quest For Fire could be realistic, but no one alive today knows for sure.

It's another boy-meets-girl story — sort of an Ice Age *Endless Love*.

The acting is superb. After all, not many people can act so primitive. The entire film is grunted in strange tongues created specially for it by Anthony Burgess.

But spears speak louder than words. They had no trouble with inter-tribal communication.

The action is messy, the story old, the make-up wonderful. Taken all together, it's funny.

It could replace *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* as a cult

film, but it does not compare with *2001* or *Star Wars* like the ads say it does.

Our hopes for an epic about

make friends with a herd of elephants wearing tusk-to-tusk carpeting.

The special effects efforts obviously are directed toward the human actors. Bare bottoms, barbecued arms and bashed heads are displayed prominently throughout the film.

The cavepeople had no concept of the social graces.

Some in the audience thought *Quest* was disgusting, but some parts were so funny the gore was almost bearable.

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FALL '82 MEAL PLAN INFORMATION FOR OFF CAMPUS STUDENTS

Food Services will validate off campus students desiring a contract board plan, to dine at the facility of their choice, limited only by the capacity of each facility. There will be no quota or waiting list. Validation will begin at the Sbis Office on August 9, 1982, with personal presentation of paid fee slip.

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