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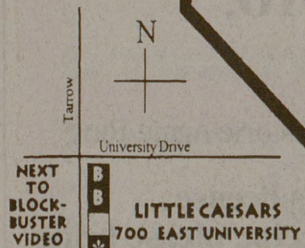
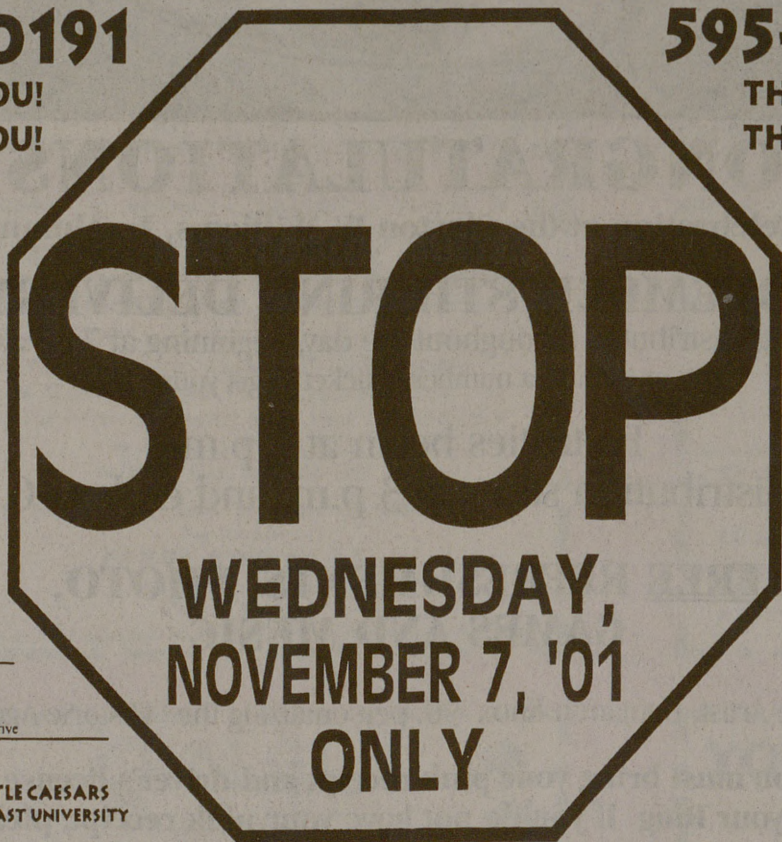
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# AggieLife

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, November 6, 2001

## Letting Go

Aggies tie loose ends before graduation

By HEATHER CAMPBELL  
THE BATTALION

The countdown begins for many as the day nears that students proudly will walk away from Texas A&M with a freshly sealed diploma. Graduating seniors reflect and express their feelings of excitement and a tinge of apprehension as they look toward the future.

Joni Forfter, a senior math major, said she wants to spend her last few months at A&M focusing on friendships.

"After you leave, everyone splits apart, and you may never see them again," Forfter said. "It's not like graduating from high school when you could just go home or visit other colleges to see your friends."

Becky Niederstadt, a senior marketing major, said she will spend her remaining time at A&M by making the most of every moment.

"When you're a graduating senior, you want to make sure all ties are strong when you leave and that you take advantage of every opportunity," he said. "I'm really excited to be finished, and I'm anticipating what will be next. It will be very different because for the first time you won't have a set routine, but being independent can outweigh the structure of going to school for 17 years."

With crisp, black graduation gowns and caps soon to fill Reed Arena, students prepare to embark on new adventures as the world lies at their fingertips. For some, this means more

school but for others, the "real world" awaits them.

The search is on for Trent Vacek, Class of 2001, as he looks for a job in sales or real estate.

"I'm ready to have a change of environment and a different atmosphere," Vacek said. "I know it's going to be different, especially in the aspect of more financial responsibility."

The Sept. 11 attacks have caused frustration for many as the economy suffers. The downturn has affected many people and deterred some from searching for jobs.

"I have considered looking for a job, but I think it would be best to stay in school with the conditions of the economy," Niederstadt said. "I will probably pursue law school, and hopefully, our country will be stable when I get out."

A&M prides itself in the Aggie network, and as graduates step out into the world, it can be a source of guidance for them. Aggies remain loyal to their alma mater and look for the Aggie ring. With graduation nearing, more rings are seen across campus. Students

anxiously wait for their and dunking ceremonies in celebration of the accomplishment.

Sarah Hill, a senior math major, said she experienced what sets apart from other schools. She traveled to Rome and met a couple wearing their Aggie caps into the air, representing other schools don't have."

Soon, the ceremony and graduates will have caps into the air, representing the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

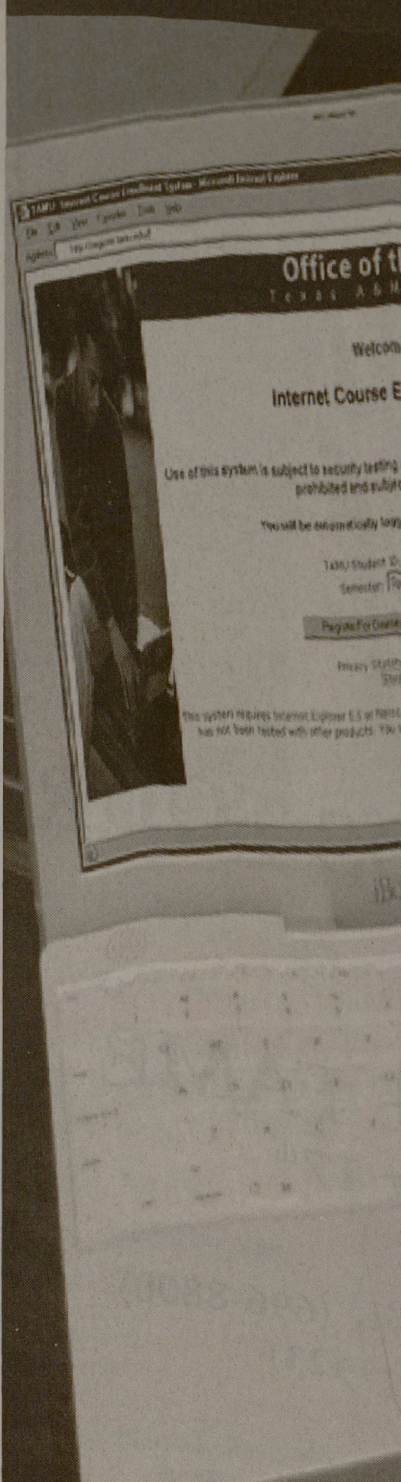
Niederstadt suggests others get involved by participating in community service activities.

"The main thing that would suggest is to build your social skills, and get into places where you can give your opinion," Niederstadt said. "You can never have much experience in dealing with different types of people."



ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

## It's time to register!



### Are you ready?

Registration for the Spring 2002 semester is underway, by Web and by phone. When the time comes for you to select classes, fees and options, you'll be able to do so by clicking or calling.

But no matter how you plan to register, you'll need to:

**•Know your start date/time.** Your registration start date and time was sent to your New account and is posted on screens 801 and 803 of the BONFIRE system.

**•Make sure you're not blocked.** You can't register if you are blocked. Check for blocks on BONFIRE screen 805 or through the telephone registration system.

**•Check out the registration instructions.** Registration instructions for Web and phone are in the Spring 2002 Schedule of Classes, available at Heaton Hall, the MSC Bookstore, and the Wehner Building on West Campus. Registration instructions are also available online through the Web registration site at <http://register.tamu.edu> as well as the Office of the Registrar's Web site at <http://www.tamu.edu/registrar/>.

If you need more information or have questions about registration for Spring 2002 by Web or by phone, contact the Registration Help Desk, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm at (979) 845-4374 during published registration periods.

<http://register.tamu.edu>