

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Meeting that special someone

Students talk about the pros and cons of meeting people on the Internet

By Daniel Chapman
THE BATTALION

Dating Web sites have sprung up all over the Internet, allowing people to create profiles in hopes of meeting that special someone. However, a negative stigma is attached to this new trend.

Eric Aley, a 2003 Texas A&M graduate, feels Internet dating is not a good way to meet people.

"There is no quality control in Internet dating because it's too quick, easy and free to create a profile," he said.

However, Jason Salas, a senior biomedical sciences major, agrees that Internet dating is easy for everyone, but it allows people with similar interests to find each other.

"Some people think that meeting someone online is only for unpopular people who can't get dates the traditional way, but it's not true," he said. "It only makes it easier to meet someone with similar interests, but once that is done, you still have to see if you're compatible in person."

Christina Croxell, a senior environmental design major, said the easy access to online dating services is what makes it worth her time.

"It's faster to meet people over the Internet because once you actually meet in person, you have already learned the basic facts about the other person so you can skip the small talk," she said.

Keeping with the trend of Internet dating and finding people with similar interests, A&M students can now access a dating site, AggieDating.com, that aims to bring Aggies together.

Entrepreneur Brad Armstrong has set up several online dating sites that are designed for people who already have something in common.

"The great thing about AggieDating.com is that it focuses on a particular market segment that already has something in common," Armstrong said. "With most online dating services, you're dealing with a national base of people who have very disparate interests and experiences. AggieDating.com, on the other hand, starts off with

a common denominator - either an association with or interest in Texas A&M."

His desire to bring people together can be seen in his other ventures.

With AggieDating.com being his fourth site, he has already helped out runners with runningsingles.com, University of Texas students with long-hornsingles.com and cyclists with cyclingsingles.com.

The creators of AggieDating.com have found that online dating has become an increasing avenue that

many people are using.

Experiencing growth daily, they hope to expand to make the site as effective as possible.

"We have had an amazing response," Armstrong said.

"With nearly 3,000 registered users, one third providing photographs, and dozens online every day looking for a special relationship. Thus far, less than 10 percent of the registered customers have decided to send an e-mail to another person they've

found on the site and begin paying for confidential e-mail service, but the number of paid subscribers increases each day."

Some students agree that bringing people with the same interests together has never been an easy thing to do, and now they can do just that with this site.

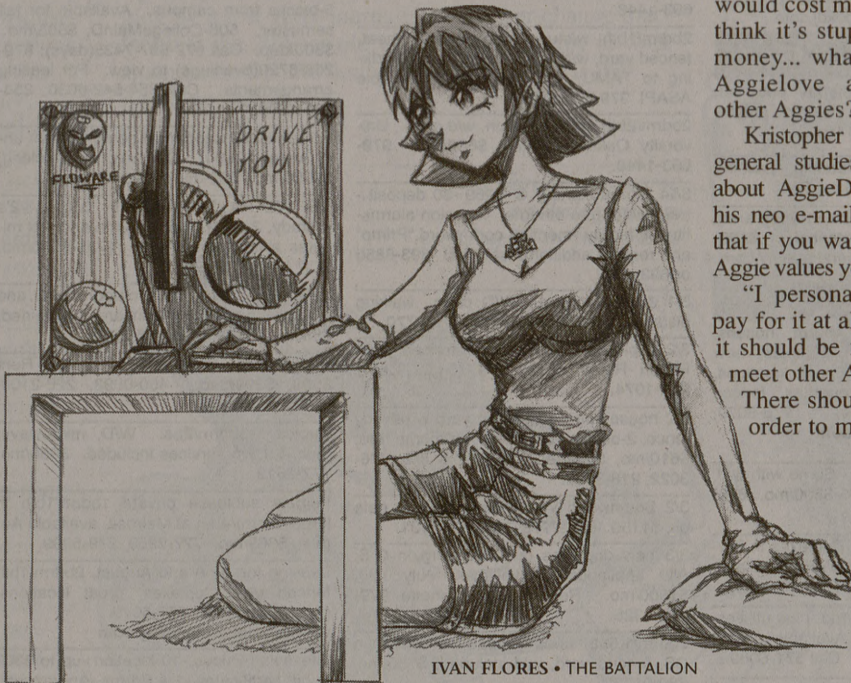
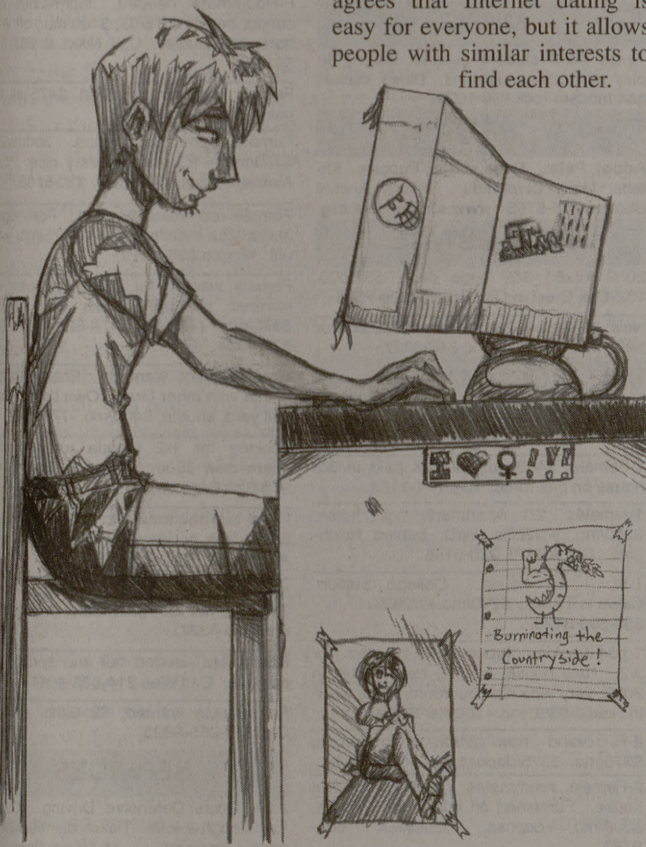
Mary Wesson, a sophomore child psychology major, felt slightly betrayed when she found out the site wasn't free.

"I'm always up for meeting new people, but I didn't know it would cost money," she said. "I think it's stupid that they want money... what happened to the AggieLove and helping out other Aggies?"

Kristopher Ware, a sophomore general studies major, found out about AggieDating.com through his neo e-mail account and feels that if you want to base a site on Aggie values you shouldn't charge.

"I personally don't want to pay for it at all, because I think it should be free for Aggies to meet other Aggies," he said.

There shouldn't be a price in order to make new friends."



IVAN FLORES • THE BATTALION

ON THE BIG SCREEN

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines Warner Bro.

Though it primarily functions as a 2 1/2 hour preview for "Terminator 4," "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" is an adept continuation of the technology-minded Terminator series that first brought visions of nuclear war and the ultimate fear of a machine takeover to the big screen in 1984.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is, as his famed T1 line reads back - this time as

a more sophisticated cybernetic organism, though Terminator fans will note this model is quite a bit older than his 1984 and 1991 editions. This Terminator is sent back in time to protect key target John Connor (Nick Stahl), now a twenty-something bum with no address.

A striking female Terminator called the T-X (Kristanna Loken) has just enough supremacy to outdo the T-800 Schwarzenegger model in a few important battles. The T-X's targets also include Connor's future lieutenants in the man vs. machine war of the 2020s. One thing abundant in the film is

believability. Director Jonathan Mostow, banking on the widespread success of the previous two movies, didn't work hard enough to the characters the credibility they needed to embrace the concept of a world war between man and machine. Instead, he relies on the audience's experience with the Terminator storyline to gain their trust.

In "T3," all future Connor lieutenant and love interest Kate Brewster (Claire Danes) needs to believe in the incomprehensible machine takeover is a few words of explanation from John, whom she knew briefly in junior high. Director Mostow leaves too little real

time for Brewster to process and accept all that she witnesses in the span of a few morning hours, leaving a movie grounded in science fiction in trouble with those who need a reality check.

Also absent from this Terminator movie is the basic emotion that held the story together through the first two movies. Brewster is allowed precious few tears over her dead fiancé and father, but in T1 the central emotion is shown in a brilliant and heartaching love scene, the only moments Sarah Connor and Kyle Reese have together. Sarah's disappearance from the film

is also disturbing. John tells Brewster in T3 that his mother died of leukemia after ensuring Judgment Day doesn't come as scheduled in 1997, leading critics and audience alike to wonder why Sarah was written off.

Director James Cameron's touch is missing in this continuation of the story, but the strength of the story carries fans through to the unexpected and consequential ending.

-Sommer Bunce

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THE BATTALION

All Students, Faculty and Staff are invited to attend a public hearing for a briefing on the proposed increase in the University Authorized Tuition

Monday, July 21, 2003

10:00 a.m. , 2:00 p.m. , or 5:00 p.m.

Koldus Building
Room 144

Note: While this hearing must take place before the July Board of Regents meeting, Dr. Gates will repeat the presentation for information purposes in September, after all students have returned.

Office of the President, Texas A&M University