



Photo by Bob Sebree

Ted Reed, a senior, and Christy Brinkly, a sophomore, cool off their legs in the "lagoon" built for the Sigma Phi Epsilon rush party last week.

Izods and Ags: no place but A&M

By SCOT K. MEYER

Battalion Staff

The house is like a pool of noise in a desert of silence.

Sounds — people talking, laughing, perhaps some familiar rock music — are reassuring to be sure, and yet ...

And yet you are the outsider.

Which is bound to make you a bit uneasy. You only heard about this thing at all from a friend of a friend, and you don't know anything (really) about anyone here, and besides, haven't you heard that these people are, if not quite decadent and depraved communists, at least not particularly wholesome?

And this is their party. They call the shots here. You can't just breeze in and check out the beer first thing, and then nonchalantly look around to see what's what. No way.

Because they've got someone

standing by the door, guarding it, and even though they aren't paying a whole lot of attention to you now, as you walk up the drive, you know they will expect you to say something (no telling what) in the way of introduction before you even get in.

So with all of this (and you know you don't even have the right kind of shirt), you are a little bit nervous. But just a little bit, because this is just a party, and you've been to parties before.

And after all, these people are not just going to check you out; you are going to check them out. So with this in mind you step up and introduce yourself, sign your name on the sheet and get yourself a name tag.

You are now a rushee attending your first fraternity rush party.

Most fraternity members agree that rush, which takes place during the first two weeks of school, is designed to allow fraternity members

to meet and get to know the potential fraternity members.

Beer and punch flow freely at rush parties, and the actives, or current members of the fraternity, circulate and try to meet all the rushees.

Tommy Rogers of Kappa Alpha, whose house is in Bryan, said a fraternity will usually have a series of rush parties, and actives try to meet rushees at more than one party.

"We try to find out more about them than just where they're from and what their majors are," he said.

Jeff Steen of Phi Gamma Delta, or Fiji, said most people could put up a "pretty good front at parties." That's why Fijis, he said, "go alot on recommendations."

"The purpose of all this is not to find out whose parents are the richest, or anything like that," Steen said. "What we're looking for are the things you look for in a friend."

Not everyone who rushes is accepted by the fraternity, and not everyone who attends the rush parties has any interest in joining the frat.

"Hell no, I'm not joining," one party-goer said. "I'm just here to enjoy the party."

Steen said the frats don't mind people who are just there to enjoy the party, as long as they don't come to start trouble. Although the rush parties function mainly to recruit new members, to a lesser degree they are an open house.

"We get alot of people who come to the parties thinking that fraternities are all communists or whatever, and are out to destroy A&M," Steen said. "Most of them leave with a different opinion."

For those who are interested in joining the frat, though, the goal is to advance from a rushee to a pledge. Robert Curlin of Phi Kappa Alpha said this change occurs when a rushee is given a bid, or invited to join the frat.

Curlin said a rush committee

meets during rush week and decides who will get bids.

The fraternity rush system is "kind of easy going," Steen said. Sorority rush, which takes place

before school starts, is said to be better organized. And since sorority rules prohibit alcohol or men at their rush parties, they are also said to be less fun.



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