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NEWS BRIEFS

Texas lawmakers dispute Louisiana liquor sales

HOUSTON (AP) — Louisiana lawmakers have beaten him to the punch, but that's not stopping Texas Congressman Steve Stockman from waging a federal war on the Bayou state over liquor sales to underage East Texas drinkers.

Using a Beaumont mother's grief as an illustration, Stockman has been drumming up support in his district this week for a House bill that would close up Louisiana's "liquor loophole" and make it unlawful to sell alcohol to 18- to 20-year-olds.

Until this year, it was illegal for those between 18 and 20 to buy alcohol, but it was not illegal for retailers to sell it to them.

Talks of Time Warner takeover by Ted Turner

NEW YORK (AP) — Ted Turner is weighing a takeover bid from Time Warner Inc. in what sources said would be an \$8.5 billion deal making the brash and fiercely independent Turner second-in-command of the biggest media and entertainment company in the world.

Sources said Time Warner offered \$8.5 billion in stock to make Turner Broadcasting a wholly owned subsidiary. Ted Turner would become a vice chairman of the new company, said one source close to the deal.

"Ted would not be the kingfish but he'd still be a very significant fish in a much larger pond," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two drugs researched as possible abortion pills

BOSTON (AP) — Doctors can quickly and safely induce abortions at home with a combination of two drugs already on the market for other uses, researchers reported in a study that could pre-empt the political debate over whether to make the French abortion pill available in the United States.

The two-drug combination may be as effective as the French abortion pill, RU-486, which is undergoing testing in this country. The two kinds of drug-induced abortion have not yet been compared directly, and neither is likely to work as well as surgical abortion.

Any doctor can legally prescribe the new combination for abortion, even though the medicines have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for this purpose. However, because so few studies about the technique have been published, doctors may be vulnerable to malpractice lawsuits if something goes wrong.

Frats expect high turnout for Rush

□ About 500 men are expected to turn out for Rush this year. This is an increase from last year's number of 450.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

The Interfraternity Council is ready to hit the ground running for Rush 1995.

Steven DiPasquale, IFC Rush chairman, said he expects 500 men to rush this year, a better turnout than the 450 students who rushed and the 360 who pledged into the 25 fraternities last year.

"We've been getting ready for Rush since last spring," DiPasquale said. "It is a year-long process."

Tents and information tables will be set up at 10 a.m. today at Rudder Fountain, where prospective rushees can pick up schedules and sign up for Rush.

Chris Nelson, IFC president, said rushees will attend a number of activities throughout the week.

"Each fraternity has a house party," Nelson said. "The rushees will also be taken to a gun club for skeet shooting and out to pool halls for some pool."

The rushees will get to participate in volleyball games, paint wars and afternoon cookouts as well.

Rush '95 will formally close Sept. 8 when the rushees attend Bid House at the University Administra-

tion Building.

At Bid House, the rushees receive their bids. Those rushees who are invited to join a fraternity and accept the invitation will sign a grade-release form and join their fraternity on the Administration Building's lawn.

To promote interest in fraternities this year, the IFC published a Rush book and sent information to incoming male freshmen and transfer students.



DiPasquale said Rush makes the fraternities more visible around campus.

"I am excited about [Rush] personally, because the Greek system is finally getting recognized around campus for its achievements," DiPasquale said.

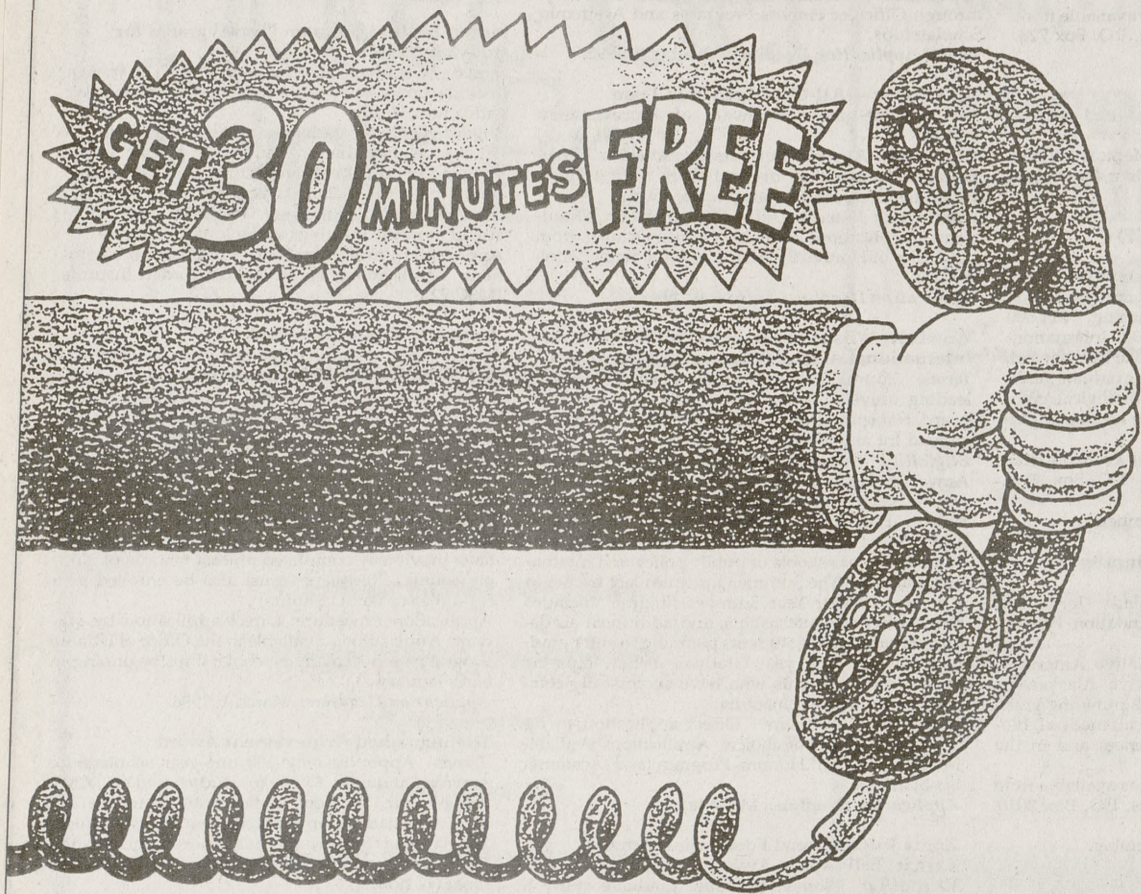
John Price, IFC student activities adviser, said that joining a fraternity is a great opportunity for young men. He would like to see some of the residence hall's over-assignments consider joining and living with a fraternity.

He also said Rush serves as a benchmark for the Greek organizations.

"Every year, we look forward to Rush, because it is another opportunity to evaluate where we are," Price said. "We've got to sell ourselves again, and that is a good way of looking at all of our strengths and weaknesses."

"Rush is healthy. This is where fraternities get their new members so that they can endure."

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