

Students participate in dry rush

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

This Saturday, 200 men accepted bids after going through an alcohol-free rush, a new process mandated by Texas A&M University's Interfraternity Council (IFC).

The IFC Constitution now states that all rush activities will be dry (without alcohol).

The constitution states that "the possession, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited during fraternity rush. No chapter members, graduate brothers or other individuals connected to the chapter shall purchase for, serve to or sell alcoholic beverages to any rushee."

Brandon Drake, IFC President, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and a senior construction science major, said the alcohol-free rush was something the fraternities anticipated.

"We wanted it this way so we could prepare the men for real-world recruitment," Drake said. "When we go out into the business world, our prospective companies don't take us to happy hour to see how tanked we can get."

From Saturday Jan. 22 to Friday Jan. 28, men went through a recruitment process for the 19 participating fraternity houses. Each fraternity house hosts a different event such as barbecues, pool and date parties each day during the week.

Drake said the events are for the rushees to meet the members of the fraternity and for the active members to observe how the rushees handle themselves in different social and formal environments.

"We wanted to meet the men in a business setting because we take men in by how they conduct themselves and what

they can bring into each house, not by how much the drink," Drake said.

Drake said Fall Rush has bigger numbers, but this Spring was as successful as he hoped.

"The numbers show it was a successful event, and I have ten feedback from alumni, rushees and fraternity members how much they appreciated the new program," Drake said.

Trey Mooney, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and a management major, said the changes for the male Greeks at A&M will improve the organization's future.

"It is good that IFC and the University are working together to make things safer for all of us; it will help a long run," he said.

Mooney also said being in a fraternity enhances social business skills, paving the way for the future.

Jason Adam, a member of Kappa Alpha (KA) and a sports management major, said the new dry rush will help the reputation of the Greek community on campus.

"I joined KA for what it stands for — Southern gentleman brotherhood and philanthropy. With the new dry rush, others can see what each fraternity stands for, and finally it isn't about drinking," Adam said.

Adam said each rushee has to live up to standards on grade point ratio, membership and community work or else are not allowed to participate during rush.

Mooney said the false ideas people have about fraternities start to change for the better.

"People focus on the bad things, but we take care of our members," Mooney said.

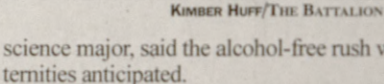
"Hazing is history; it is impossible to be close to someone support them in tough situations when hazing is involved, it brings on unhealthy relationships and there is no reason point for it."

Adam said with the alcohol-free rush and positive attitudes, fraternities can focus on setting strong goals for new members.

"Now we can highlight our strong points," Adam said. "Everyone can stay open-minded and looked into these organizations, they will find a place."

Drake said his judicial board has set high standards for the new semester.

"Without sounding too cliché, people need to live the stereotype. I feel the 1,000 male Greeks on campus are a lot going for them now. Stop shunning us and get into because you can never go wrong with a life-long brotherhood," he said.



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Rams win first Super Bowl, 23-16

ATLANTA (AP) — The St. Louis Rams rediscovered their offensive firepower just in time, and the Tennessee Titans came up just 1 yard short.

Kurt Warner's 73-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce with 1 minute, 54 seconds left gave the Rams their first Super Bowl win Sunday, 23-16.

The TD capped an improbable turnaround for St. Louis, which was 3-13 a year ago and 13-3 this season as they scored 526 points, third best in NFL history.

But Steve McNair and Eddie George almost led Tennessee to another miracle finish, rallying them from a 16-0 deficit. On the game's final play with six seconds left, McNair's pass was caught by Kevin Dyson at the Rams 5.

He scrambled for the end zone only to be stopped just short by Mike Jones, as Dyson's outstretched arm held the ball toward the goal line in vain.

"I always believed in myself, and had a whole bunch of people who believed in me," Warner, the Super Bowl MVP who

"We're the world champions! How about the Rams!"

— Kurt Warner
 Super Bowl MVP

did a victory lap around the Georgia Dome, said, "We're the world champions! How about the Rams!"

Warner, a former Arena League and NFL Europe quarterback, finished 24-of-45 for 414 yards and two touchdowns.

The Rams dominated for much of the game but had to settle for three field

goals to take a 9-0 lead before scoring a touchdown.

St. Louis seemed to have put the away when Warner threw a 9-yard Torry Holt with 3:59 left in the first quarter to take a 16-0 lead.

But suddenly the Titans' offense to life and the St. Louis defense wear down behind the battering and short passes from McNair.

Tennessee scored on its next two sessions, both on 1-yard runs by George to make it 16-13 with 7:21 left.

It would have been 16-14, but the tans chose to go for two points on their TD and failed.

Al Del Greco's 43-yard field goal with 2:12 left. Then the Rams' quick to a touchdown set up one of the exciting finishes in Super Bowl history.

The Titans, however, just didn't enough at the very end.

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The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and biweekly on Thursday during the summer session (except University holiday exam periods) at Texas A&M University, Periodicals Postage Office, College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

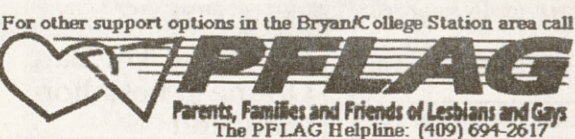
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