Frosh treated to parties

By Gordon R. Haff

Ed note: Gordon Haff is experiencing his first R/O Week. He filled these observations with the Tech.

The big weekend is finally over. Although many frats are still trying to fill their slots and although the dorm assignment process is not yet complete, the pace of rush as a whole is slowing down.

The striking thing about Rush weeks is not any differences but rather the similarities from year to year. Even with Ed King’s drinking bill which some thought would drastically affect R/O week, Rush still goes on the same as ever. Certain dorms and frats even held their parties on the same nights as previous years. Without even looking at a Daily Confusion, I still had a good idea of what was going on where and when.

To be part of the first weekend of Rush either as a freshman or an upperclassman is a truly unique experience. There are almost as many parties during that weekend as during all the rest of the year combined. The parties range from small, sedate affairs to raucous, expensive blasts.

Over the frats, the days are spend on picnics, amusement park trips, tours of Boston indeed just about anything imaginable. Thousands of dollars are spent entertaining the freshmen during this weekend although many of the upperclassmen take full advantage of the parties as well.

What is the reaction of the typical freshman to this? That’s hard to answer because there are so many different reactions to the weekend as there are freshmen. Some freshmen have been partying to their heart’s content and feel that they are having the time of their lives. Others seem to be overwhelmed with the entire thing, there are so many living groups and so much going on that they don’t know where to start. Still others are just tired of the entire thing. The constant moving and talking at both the dorms and the frats has tired them out and made them a bit sick of the weekend.

I wandered around the frats and dorms this year as I have in the past and the parties were much the same as always. Rush week sets the same for some of the biggest and best frat parties of the year.

Down Beacon Street and Bay State Road, bands blared their music out onto the street and almost every frat had a party on Friday or Saturday night. Some even had parties on both nights.

The dorms had their share of activity as well. During the day barbecues and football games were used to entice freshmen to visit. At night Amherst Alley and Ames Street rocked with their share of parties.

The dormitory parties were generally set on a less lavish scale than were the frats. However, enthusiastic upperclassmen were ready to make up the difference. Indeed some of the parties seemed to be more for the benefit of the upperclassmen than for the freshmen.

Although R/O Week means a lot of hard work, particularly at the frats, many people here feel that R/O is the best time of the year. There is nothing else which is quite like R/O and indeed the biggest barrier to it is getting through and not collapsing from exhaustion. It is a time of decision-making, but it is also a time to have fun and a lot of it. I guess that’s what makes R/O memorable.

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