



Who are you?

staff photo by Ronnie Emerson

Bear, the dog, pauses briefly to bark at the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross in front of the Academic building. Bear's owner is Mike Earhart, a bartender at a local nightclub.

Austin to observe its own Mardi Gras celebration

United Press International
AUSTIN — The spirit of Mardi Gras is moving across the Mississippi River from its traditional home in New Orleans to a saloon-decked downtown drag in the capital city of Texas.

Mardi Gras, a religious holiday whose name means "Fat Tuesday" in French, marks the end of feasting before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the solemn Lenten period of fasting. But despite its sacred background, it is considered a prime time for merry-making in Louisiana, Brazil and other parts of the world.

Although New Orleans will continue to host its rowdy Mardi Gras celebration, Erasmo Andrade, a 10-year Austin resident and member of the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, decided late last year that there was no reason his city couldn't take advantage of the ready-made party season, too.

"It's a chance to have some fun," said Andrade, chairman and founder of Austin Mardi Gras Inc., which is partly sponsored by the Mexican-American chamber.

"We are not trying to match Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but the idea is to bring out the various cultures and rich heritage

we have here in central Texas," Andrade said.

The Austin Mardi Gras celebration will take place during the three-day period leading up to Fat Tuesday next week. Much of the activity will occur on Sixth Street, a popular attraction for University of Texas students and tourists.

The downtown avenue has undergone extensive renovation in the past two years and now bears a striking resemblance to famed Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Although not as historic or as colorful, Sixth Street does sport horse-drawn buggy rides down

a roadway flanked with flower and food vendors, shabbily-dressed street musicians and every imaginable motif of restaurant and bar.

Andrade said at least 60 entries will be featured in a parade along the street with riders on the floats tossing beads, baubles and aluminum doubloons to spectators on the evening of Mardi Gras — just like New Orleans.

Two masquerade balls also are planned. One will be held Saturday night at The Ritz, an avant garde theater bar on Sixth Street, and another is scheduled for next Tuesday at the more

posh Driskill Hotel, where the king and queen of Mardi Gras will be crowned.

Admission to each affair is \$5 per person. This is the major difference from the more snobbish New Orleans affairs that are open only to invited guests and members of the "krewes, or clubs, that sponsor the different Mardi Gras parades.

Another difference involves liquor. The Austin city council has outlawed open containers of booze on Sixth Street so merry makers won't be able to saunter outside the bars with their refreshments as is the case in the French Quarter.

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United Press International
Not all sand dunes are small, low-lying mounds. In southern Iran, dunes have been measured at over 700 feet, even taller than the Washington Monument.

Socialist enters race for Dallas mayoralty

United Press International
DALLAS — A Socialist Worker's Party member who once ran for the Dallas school board has announced plans to run for mayor on a platform of lower unemployment and an effective mass transit system for the city.

Greg Preston, 34, an electronics test technician, said he has written a proposal that would create 50,000 additional jobs in Dallas.

Preston said he also would work for better public housing. He said he supports the rail and bus package recently proposed by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit board.

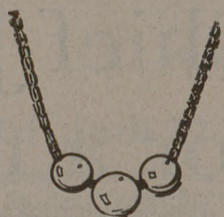
"We think the DART plan is a good plan and should be implemented as soon as possible," Preston said.

He made the candidacy announcement Sunday and joined City Councilman Wes Wise, developer Starke Taylor, businessman DeWayne Dallas, publisher Marvin Watts and Kenneth Rich in the race for the office of mayor.

Preston said the underlying causes of urban crime are unem-

ployment, poverty and misery. "If we want to solve the problem of crime, we've got to solve the economy," he said.

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