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## Mardi Gras lifts off with wild festivities

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — For more than a million celebrants with painted faces, shimmering costumes and few inhibitions, the countdown to Mardi Gras ended today and the wild Mardi Gras lift-off began.

From the raunchy French Quarter to the sedate Garden District, residents and visitors set aside their troubles — and in some cases, their good sense — to whoop it up in a final Carnival blowout before the religious restraints of Lent.

"It's very, very different," said Peter Richie of Devon, England. "You get a complete cross-section of all sorts of different people."

"It's one big party from start to finish, which doesn't do well for the body."

Police said more than a million people

were expected to pack a few square blocks of the city today for a full schedule of Mardi Gras activities.

Three parades rolled through the city and its suburbs Monday night as some revelers stepped back to sober up and take a deep breath before Fat Tuesday itself.

Other merry-makers plunged right in, packing the streets of the French Quarter, lining up outside temporary bars and exuding confidence they could make it until midnight.

"I love it, I love it," shouted Larry Finch of Meridian, Miss., his face covered with glitter in the official purple, green and gold of Mardi Gras. "My favorite thing to do is just walk around and get kisses from the beautiful ladies."

As dictated by Carnival tradition,

Fat Tuesday began with an odd assortment of strolling musicians, led by jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain's "Half-Fast Marching Club."

The all-black Krewe of Zulu was up next, spoofing white man's Mardi Gras in its wild run through the city. Zulu marchers wore redundant blackface, carried toy spears and passed out sequined coconuts.

Rex, the king of Carnival, was slated to go off in mid-morning, riding in from the Garden District atop his golden float to toast his queen at the Boston Club on broad, bannered Canal Street.

In the French Quarter, however, there is nothing regal about the end of Carnival. Police cars plow through the rubbish-strewn streets, sirens blaring the head-pounding arrival of Ash Wednesday.



A live Valentine

staff photo by Ronnie Emerson

Janus Retterer, right, gives Lauri Mullins a different kind of Valentine Monday in the sports information office in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Here, Mullins receives an Eastern Onion singing telegram. See related story, page 5.

## EPA papers controversy may reach compromise

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The White House is attempting to defuse a snowballing controversy over the Environmental Protection Agency by offering to provide Congress access to EPA files it previously refused to surrender, sources say.

However, the sources said Monday apparent conditions set by the administration made it unclear whether a House subcommittee chaired by Rep. Elliott Levitas, D-Ga., would accept the offer and drop contempt of Congress charges against EPA chief Anne Gorsuch.

Sources say the major sticking

point in the agreement is whether the administration will provide copies of the documents or only open them for congressional review at the agency's offices. Because of their sheer bulk, access to the files without being able to make copies of them would be of almost no value, one source said.

One congressional source estimated between 5,000 and 10,000 documents have been withheld from the Levitas subcommittee, which is seeking files on the first 160 toxic-waste sites to be declared priority sites under the "Superfund" cleanup program.

The Washington Post reported to-

day more information on the agency's enforcement of toxic wastes may have been destroyed.

The newspaper said dozens of memorandums, notes and other records related to the files sought by Congress have been purged from a computer memory bank. No logs were kept on what was destroyed.

Discovery of the purge prompted acting agency assistant administrator Michael Brown to issue an order Monday forbidding "destruction, alteration or other disposition" of records "without my written authorization," the Post said.

## Zoning vote rejected by Bryan City Council

**by Kelley Smith**  
Battalion Staff

The Bryan City Council, by a 5-2 vote, said it would not include zoning on the April ballot, but instead would take other measures to help solve city planning problems.

At its meeting Monday, the council decided to strengthen present city ordinances as an alternative to zoning regulations.

The council also decided to look at deed restrictions to see if those could be used to help with the city's planning problems.

"We decided to look at the alternatives and decide what are the major

concerns of the citizenry in land-use planning," Councilman Ron Blatchley said.

Blatchley, who voted to keep zoning off the ballot, said that a zoning ordinance would be considerably more expensive than alternative measures decided on at the meeting. Alternative measures should be tried first because they would be less of a hassle, he said.

If citizens are not satisfied with the measures the council voted on Monday, zoning most likely will become a council issue again, Blatchley said.

Zoning has been rejected by Bryan residents in three previous referen-

## Israeli ambassador accepts defense minister position

**United Press International**  
TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel's ambassador to Washington Moshe Arens accepted the position of defense minister Monday as Ariel Sharon gave up the office, saying he was "not leaving as a beaten man."

Arens confirmed he accepted the defense post in a brief telephone interview from Washington. He declined to say what his priorities would be in running the No. 2 position in Israel's government and did not give a definite date for his departure from Washington.

Sharon, who resigned Friday because of the Beirut massacre commission report, said goodbye to his staff, who hugged and kissed him as he left.

Contingents from the air force, navy and the army stood at attention as Sharon entered the courtyard of the Defense Ministry for the brief ceremony.

"I am not leaving as a beaten man,"

Sharon said. He will stay in the Cabinet as minister without portfolio despite calls by the opposition Labor Party that he be ousted completely from the government. The Knesset, or parliament, was convening later to ratify the government's decision to remove Sharon from the defense post.

Sharon repeated his rejection of the massacre commission's conclusion that Israel bore indirect responsibility for the Beirut slaughter, saying the report will be "a mark of Cain on Israel for generations."

The massacre commission report issued Feb. 8 blamed Sharon, architect of the Lebanon war, for not foreseeing the danger of a slaughter when he ordered Lebanese Christian militiamen into two Beirut refugee camps Sept. 16 to remove remaining Palestinian guerrillas.

The massacre commission said Sharon should resign or be fired, and the Cabinet voted unanimously — ex-

cept for Sharon — to accept the recommendations. On Friday he agreed to give up the defense post.

The Cabinet Sunday said Sharon's removal fulfilled the commission's recommendations, but the opposition Labor Party and other government critics demanded Sharon be ousted completely from the government.

Sharon's spokesman Uri Dan said Sunday night, "whoever did not want him as defense minister, will have him as prime minister" one day.

Arens, 57, has served a year as ambassador to the United States. Born in Lithuania, he was educated in the United States as an engineer and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reaching the grade of sergeant. He emigrated to Israel in 1957 and later served as vice president of Israeli Aircraft Industries.

## New technology renewing economy, jobs, Reagan says

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, declaring the start of "a new economic era," called on business and industry Monday to exploit high technology to revitalize the economy and create new jobs.

Reagan, in remarks prepared for delivery via satellite to a conference of business executives in Arizona, said the government and business must work together to help Americans cope with a changing economic base.

The president attributed current economic problems to years of "big spending, big taxing and over-regulation," as well as to the transformation from an industrial society to a service and information society.

"We are stepping into a new economic era and one of the most challenging and exciting decades in our history," Reagan said. "High technology is revolutionizing our industries, renewing our economy and promising new hope and opportunity in the

years ahead."

Reagan said traditional, basic industries should not be abandoned, but leaders of business and government also cannot ignore fundamental changes stemming from "this technology phenomenon."

Reagan said continued growth requires retooling factories and retraining workers, the latter to be addressed in long range job training and incentive legislation he intends to submit shortly to Congress.

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## Adviser makes transition easier for foreign students

**by Melissa Adair**  
Battalion Staff

When you walk into Tina Watkins' office, the first thing you notice is a display of foreign souvenirs. The shelves and walls are covered with relics from Mexico, Africa, Japan, Brazil, Taiwan, India ... and the list goes on.

The souvenirs might not hold any special significance for most people. But Watkins, who has served as Texas A&M's international student adviser for the past four years, can tell you immediately where they came from and the names of the students who gave them to her — no easy feat for a person with more than 2,000 international students to advise.

"I've always had good rapport with international people," she said. "And when I saw the advertisement for an international student adviser, I knew I was the right person for the job. I had all the right qualifications and I wanted this job more than anything."

Watkins' official duties include writing certification letters to document the students' good standing with the University and preparing expense statements for the governments of the students' home countries.

But that's only the beginning of what Watkins does for international students. She listens to their problems and helps them with landlord conflicts. In general, she tries to make their transition to the United States easier.

Watkins said most international students don't have major problems adjusting to the culture change but many times they never are fully accepted by American students.

"Unfortunately many students form a stereotyped opinion (about the international students) before they ever get to know them," she said. "And although the international students tell me they don't feel rejected by the students here, I know they find it hard to become close friends with Americans."

Watkins' job usually requires more than 40 hours of work a week. She attends an average of five functions a week for various international student organizations, advises the International Student Association and usually has at least one speaking engagement a week. But Watkins said she doesn't mind because she wants the students to know she's as interested in them when she leaves the office as when she sits behind

her desk.

Last year during the celebration of Chinese New Year, Watkins attended three Chinese dinners on one night because she didn't want any group to feel left out. She ate more than enough Chinese food, she said.

But the long hours and tedious problem-solving sessions are worth it, Watkins said.

"The best part about my job is being able to help these students," she said. "Getting a new program is fun, but nothing compares to the elated feeling I get when I can help a student."

Watkins said she wants international students to leave with a positive attitude about Texas A&M and the United States.

The way international students are treated here influences how they will talk about the United States when they go home, Watkins said.

"I know it may sound trite, but I think we are influencing world affairs by the way we treat our international students," she said.

Watkins said she wants international students to get involved at Texas A&M so they can take advantage of the character of the University in addition to learning academics.

## Fresh U.S. troops arrive in Lebanon

**United Press International**  
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Fresh American troops arrived by helicopter at the international airport and landed on Beirut beachheads Monday to replace 1,200 U.S. Marines peacekeepers.

In another Western move to strengthen President Amin Gemayel's attempt to restore Lebanese sovereignty, 160 French reinforcements were sent in to make the total peacekeeping force 2,000 Frenchmen, 1,400 Italians, 1,200 Marines and 100 Englishmen.

U.S. envoy Philip Habib met with Gemayel to discuss the bogged-down troop withdrawal talks between Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. officials. Negotiators met in suburban Khalde Monday for their 15th round of negotiations since the talks began Dec. 28.

Quoting government leaks and newspaper reports, official Beirut radio said Habib had no new plan for a withdrawal of the 30,000 Israeli, 40,000 Syria and 10 Palestinian troops in Lebanon, but rather "ideas and visions."

The radio said Habib would move on to Israel later in the day after separate meetings with Foreign Minister Elie Salem and Christian Phalange party chief Pierre Gemayel, the president's father.

Habib's return to Israel came within hours of Israeli Ambassador to

Washington Moshe Arens publicly accepted the office of defense minister to replace Ariel Sharon.

The talks at the Lebanon Beach hotel in Khalde, 8 miles south of Beirut, were not expected to produce any concrete progress, political conference sources said.

The independent Beirut daily An-Nahar said Lebanon was willing to accept a phased withdrawal of troops, if precise dates were fixed for the separate stages.

The rotation of the 1,200 U.S. Marines peacekeepers in Beirut began just after dawn with troops landing by helicopter at the international airport and tanks, trucks and jeeps ashore at Ouzai, Beirut's southern exit.

The French troops — 160 men from the 9th Marine Infantry Division based at Vannes — arrived in Beirut early Monday with 60 light tanks.

A first group of 160 French reinforcements, all Marines, arrived in Beirut Feb. 4, the day after a shooting attack that wounded two French soldiers jogging along the seafloor.

The reinforcement was taken in consultation with the United States, French diplomats said, and showed determination to strengthen President Amin Gemayel's efforts to restore Lebanese sovereignty to his country.

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**United Press International**  
Today is Tuesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 1983 with 319 to follow.

Born on this date: Italian astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei in 1564, feminist pioneer Susan B. Anthony in 1820, philosopher and mathematician Alfred North Whitehead in 1861 and actor John Barrymore in 1882.

On this date in history:  
In 1898, the U.S. battleship "Maine" exploded in Havana harbor, killing 260 crewmen and leading to a U.S. declaration of war against Spain.