

inside

Dear Readers:

This Tuesday was a day of partying for thousands of people around the world as they celebrated Fat Tuesday, more commonly known as Mardi Gras. But the parties started well before Tuesday, and some of the biggest parades were held this weekend. We decided to devote an entire issue of At Ease to some of the hottest Mardi Gras celebrations in the South. So for all of you who did not get the chance to attend Mardi Gras, here's a glimpse of the festivities. And for all of you who did get to celebrate, here's a reminder of what went on.

We have three big stories this week, one on each of three big celebrations: New Orleans, Galveston and Texas A&M. New Orleans, home of one of the biggest Fat Tuesday gatherings, played host to hundreds of thousands of people during the 1988 Mardi Gras season. And the amount of money spent by these festive folks is absolutely incredible!

Galveston also saw thousands of people during the Mardi Gras season, and visitors there this past weekend saw parades with elaborate floats and renowned marching bands (including our own Aggie Band). The parade participants were not the only ones decked out in colorful costumes. The dress-up display lining the streets was almost as fine as that on the floats.

But A&M is not to be left off the list of sites of Mardi Gras celebrations. Although the parade was not as long and the floats were not as elaborate, this celebration attracted quite a few spectators, and also earned money for a worthwhile cause.

Our profile this week focuses on the director of A&M's Mardi Gras '88, a student who had to balance the full-time job of organizing the event with his school work.

We did not include an Aggienizing Answers column or several days' television logs in this week's issue as we wanted to devote as much room as possible to Mardi Gras pictures, but both will return next week. The pictures you see this week were taken by many talented photographers, which we would like to thank at this time.

We'd also like to thank you for all the attention!! submissions which have come pouring in. Don't stop now; you're doing great!

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Music Reviewer	Shane Hall

Party in New Orleans _____ 8

Did you find yourself having an intense craving for virtually worthless plastic beads this week? We'll try to soothe your cravings by giving you an overview of Mardi Gras and Carnival in New Orleans.

Fat Tuesday in Galveston _____ 10

Galveston revived the Mardi Gras tradition several years ago and has seen it blossom into a huge celebration with parades, balls and other events. We will take you to the island to see the festivities.

A&M's Mardi Gras _____ 13

A&M was not to be left out of this festive holiday. The parade that wound through campus may not have been as elaborate as the big ones in New Orleans, but it has that Aggie character.

Reasons to Party _____ 6

Even though college students rarely need an excuse to party, Mardi Gras does provide one. The origins and traditions date from pre-history to the present and give the reason behind the partying madness that is Mardi Gras.

Parading Profile _____ 6

We interviewed the person behind the Mardi Gras celebrations at A&M. The director of this Off-Campus Aggies program says even though he has never been to the original Mardi Gras in New Orleans, he had helped the local program make a profit for charity.

Movie Review _____ 4

Matt says "Moonstruck" is a film dealing with people trying to figure out who they actually love. He points out subtle facets of the movie that make it different.

Live Music _____ 4

Shane saw Dana Cooper perform this weekend, and says his blend of folk, rock and country style made for a good performance.