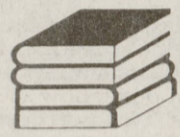


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Course: Class teaches Japanese culture, language, lifestyle

Continued from Page 1

things I noticed is that the Japanese appreciate people who try to communicate in their language," Mills said. "Japanese people get to know you first, then they do business."

Mills said that there has been an increasing emphasis on international business in the United States.

"You may work for an American company and still have an international component," she said. "Being aware and understanding other cultures and languages can really help you get a leg up when dealing with any situations and issues you may come in contact with."

Scott Pillittere, a graduate student of the A&M College of Business, said he thinks there is a definite need for international language classes, espe-

cially for those business students and faculty members planning to work abroad.

"The United States is no longer a local market," Pillittere said. "This is making it necessary for business people to understand and learn other cultures (which) they could, at some time, come into contact with," he said.

LeFlore said this non-credit class has no prerequisites. It is open to faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, or anyone else interested in learning the Japanese language and culture. She said classes in Spanish, French, Italian, German and Chinese are also available.

She said business majors are not the only people who take the classes. LeFlore said quite a few people enrolled are planning to go on vacations overseas.

Harambee: Celebrating unity

Continued from Page 1

other cultures.

"These groups encompass different races -- not just African-Americans," Harrison said. "I'm hoping we get support from the masses. These programs are not just for African-Americans at Texas A&M -- they are for everyone." Traylor said he wants the

festival to remind students to observe black history daily, not just for one month.

Traylor said he is expecting a good turnout because of the number of groups represented.

The Harambee Fest starts at 7 p.m. at the Rudder Fountain. If it rains, the program will be moved to 164 Read and will begin at 8 p.m.

Scattered violence mars Mardi Gras, but most revelers don't seem to care

Today marks the climax of the New Orleans festivities. So far six people have been wounded by gunfire during the citywide party.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — With more than 300,000 visitors in town for Tuesday's raucous climax of Mardi Gras, city officials reassured revelers Monday that the citywide party is safe despite two shootings near parade routes.

Six people have been wounded in the gunfire so far — two early last week and four Sunday night during the highly popular Bacchus parade, in which television star John Larroquette was the grand marshal. Witnesses said the shooting was near Larroquette's float and he climbed down from his throne as other riders ducked for cover.

"This incident was in no way related to Mardi Gras," Mayor Marc Morial said Monday when asked about the latest shooting. "We expect Mardi Gras to be its usual rowdy but nonviolent self." Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday,

falls each year on the day before Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lenten sobriety in this heavily Roman Catholic city. It wraps up 11 days of bawdy Carnival parties and parades.

Despite the scattered violence and a threat of rain, city officials say this year's crowds appear bigger than ever.

Tents, sleeping bags and lawn furniture lined the trolley tracks on St. Charles Avenue, the main parade route on Tuesday.

Crowds in the narrow streets of the French Quarter have been shoulder-to-shoulder since Friday.

Both recent shooting incidents erupted from what police said were private disputes.

Police Superintendent Richard Pennington said 600 police were along the parade route and they quickly restored order.

Officers on the lookout for trouble confiscated 22 guns during the Bacchus parade, Pennington added.

There was one arrest in the Sunday shooting, none in the shooting last Tuesday.

"There's some violence in general in any city," Morial said. "I've long been a proponent of reasonable gun control and I definitely think that would have helped here."

Morial's assurances weren't enough for one New Orleans resident who said she will no longer go to night parades. She was standing among the Bacchus crowd with two small children when they heard the gunshots.

"I started screaming. I didn't know what to do. Everyone was going in a different direction," the woman, who asked not to be identified, said.

But Monday's revelers were for the most part oblivious or apathetic about Sunday's violence.

"No one around here was able to run by the time Bacchus got here," joked Bob Morris, of Camden, N.J., who staked out a parade spot early Sunday and was still there Monday.

"The only thing we saw was a fight on Bourbon Street," said Robert Savage of Orangeburg, S.C., who was visiting the French Quarter with his wife, Sheila. "The cops stopped it in no time. They did a good job."

Locals joining the swarms of tourists swelled crowds to what Pennington estimated at 1.2 million people.

Morial used a time-honored New Orleans measuring stick for gauging the size of the crowds: "It appears as though the amount of garbage produced thus far is double that produced last year," he said.

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