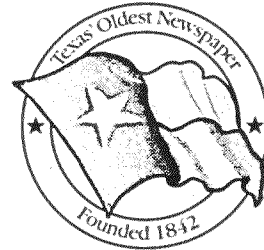


HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SCENE TAKES SHAPE — SPORTS, PAGE 1-B



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High-spirited Aquarians end Mardi Gras in style

By **MAGGIE SIEGER**
The Daily News

GALVESTON — The Krewe of Aquarius' high-spirited Fat Tuesday parade rocked through downtown Tuesday as the island celebrated the last day of Mardi Gras.

The short parade, which featured four floats, is a relaxed celebration after the hundreds of thousands of visitors leave.

"It's a lot more low-key than the others, but that's what makes it fun," said Bonnie Kargar of Galveston. "This is the parade that's just for Galveston people. The

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crowds are gone."

Several hundred people watched the parade. Some of them stumbled upon it by accident. Charles Bell, a valet for the Wentletrap Restaurant on The Strand, said he didn't know the parade was coming until he saw it. "I'm having a great time," Bell said, reaching for more beads. "It breaks up the monotony of the day."

Marchers and watchers greeted each other by name. And there were plenty of enterprising crowd members who caught

beads and doubloons as the procession passed on The Strand, then ran for Mechanic Street for a second helping.

Johnny Lidstone, Aquarius president, said his krewe came up with the idea about three years ago, since no activities were actually scheduled for Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, the last day before Lent.

Most of the marchers, like the Krewe of Thalar, participate in Aquarius' big parade, which kicks off Mardi Gras each year. "This one is a little sad because starting tomorrow we have to be good," Thalar president Tammy Lobaugh lamented.



Beads are thrown to spectators as the Krewe of Aquarius' Fat Tuesday procession heads down The Strand Tuesday evening. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)