

# Collection of krewes put face on revelry

By JANICE SIMON  
The Daily News

GALVESTON — The party's begun.

Mardi Gras 1995, with the theme "Masks of Asia," kicked off with a dragon dance on Pier 25 Friday night and continues with parades, balls and revelry today.

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But this party — expected to draw 150,000 to 200,000 visitors this weekend — wouldn't be possible without krewes, those groups of fun-loving folks who like to throw parties.

Krewes are as individual as fingerprints and draw different kinds of personalities.

The mysterious Knights of Momus is for men only, and the Krewe of Venus boasts an all-women membership. The Krewe of Thalasar is filled with Aggies, and who knows who's in the Krewe of Who.

The second oldest krewe in Galveston, the Krewe of Aquarius, was formed by Johnny Lidstone, his parents and two



Krewe of Aquarius member Cynthia Skinner decorates one of the floats that will be used in the Mardi Gras parade at noon today on the seawall. Skinner will ride on the float, dressed as a bird. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)

friends.

"I've been going to Mardi Gras in New Orleans for many, many years," said Lidstone. "We all just formed a krewe. We're kind of an independent group of people. We do our own thing."

For the younger crowd, the Krewe of Munchkins is geared toward children. The krewe con-

sists of young parade participants. The parade was started 10 years ago by a priest at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

"Adults were having all the fun, and we got the children's parade going to get the kids involved," said

Peggy Listowski, one of the parade organizers.

Membership in the Munchkins' Krewe depends on the number of children who sign up to enter the parade, Listowski said. The krewe has 400 to 500 members.

Selecting the name of a krewe is about as important as deciding to have a parade.

Members of the Hermes Grand Mystic Pleasure Krewe wanted a witty, lighter name so members turned to the messenger of the gods.

"Hermes, as history tells us, relies on his wit," said Phillip Brown, krewe president. "We would like to think of ourselves as being somewhat witty."

The Krewe of Aquarius chose its name because it referred to the god of the water-bearers.

"We wanted something about water, since we are near the water," Lidstone said.

The Krewe of Munchkins was named for the little people who helped Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz."

Members in the Krewe of Harlequins dress in the familiar black-and-white costumes of the harlequin clowns.

The Krewe of Brew celebrates King Gambrinus, the mythical god of beer.

The Krewe of the Knights of Regina parades in white suits and red plumed hats.

The Krewe of Togetherness got its name when members opened its membership to anyone who wanted to join.

Krewes also are not only about revelry and bead-throwing.

Krewes generally are non-profit organizations and donate proceeds to local charities.

Members of



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