

# WORD ON THE STREET

## Here's a little of what's been on the minds of Daily News readers lately

...  
*At a meeting to review Mardi Gras, there was a broad consensus among Galveston officials that the entertainment district should be eliminated for the first weekend.*

### Crowds were up for the parades

All we have heard and read the last two weeks is how the crowds were off significantly each weekend.

Surely, they are referring to the entertainment district.

This is casting a black cloud over the entire event when the truth is that the only place where there were considerably fewer people was the entertainment district and not the parades and other parties and events.

If you participated in or attended any of the parades like I did, you would have seen for yourself a significant increase in the crowds over last year.

This should be proof that, indeed, the parades staged by the krewees are the highlight of the Galveston Mardi Gras and not the entertainment district, which seems to be on its last leg.

I congratulate the park board for taking a step in the right direction by ditching the entertainment district the first weekend of Mardi Gras. Park board trustees should consider doing the same with the second weekend.

Let the businesses downtown and along the Seawall have their own entertainment venues. Let the krewees stage their own entertainment venues with the opportunity to recover some of the many thousands of dollars spent on their parades.

If park board trustees insist on keeping the entertainment district on the second weekend, they had better bring out the big guns — and I don't mean some up-and-coming band no one has ever heard of or some has-been group long forgotten. Imagine the Strand on a Saturday afternoon during Mardi Gras with ZZ Top as headliner.

I wish to congratulate all the krewees on fantastic parades this year — and a special thanks to Charles Olsen and his group, who saved the children's parade.

Johnny Lidstone  
Galveston



FILE PHOTO/The Daily News  
Darren Boehning of League City holds his daughters Ally, left, and Julia, in backpack, as they wait for the annual Mardi Gras children's parade.