

# Presidential Address PVSS 2008

W. Charles Sternbergh, III, MD  
Section Head  
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery  
Ochsner Health System  
New Orleans



# MCV, 1988 - 1995



H.M. Lee

# Emory 1995-1996

Elliot  
Chaikoff

Alan  
Lumsden



Bob  
Smith

Tom  
Dodson

Atef Salam

# Ochsner

(Jazzfest 1999)



Sam Money



# Carnival

- From the latin “carnelevamen”
- Translation: “Farewell to flesh”
- Officially begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Twelfth Night (Feast of the Epiphany)
- Ends on Midnight, Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- Most locals refer to the 2 week season immediately prior to Mardi Gras as carnival



# Mardi Gras

(Fat Tuesday)

- Last day of this pre-Lenten celebration known as “carnival”
- Originally created by the Catholic Church for “the masses” to celebrate prior to Lent
- Next day is Ash Wednesday
  - Beginning 40 days of Lent prior to Easter



# When is Mardi Gras ?

- 47 days prior to Easter
  - (40 days of Lent + 7 Sundays)
- Always on Tuesday
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 9<sup>th</sup>



# Carnival Organizations: “Krewes”

- All private organizations
- No external funding allowed
- Most Krewes have a parade
- Riders on the floats mostly members
- Each member pays for his own “throws” (beads, stuffed animals, etc)
  - ~\$ 500 – \$ 2000 per person
  - 53 parades, 150-1500 riders per parade





# Krewes

- Most Krewes have a King and Queen
  - Selection process varies
- Some Krewes have a ball
  - Many connected with debutane presentation and formal tableaux
    - Invitation only, very formal
  - Other with HUGE parties
    - More fun ! Tickets can be purchased
- Many (but not all) Krewes parade



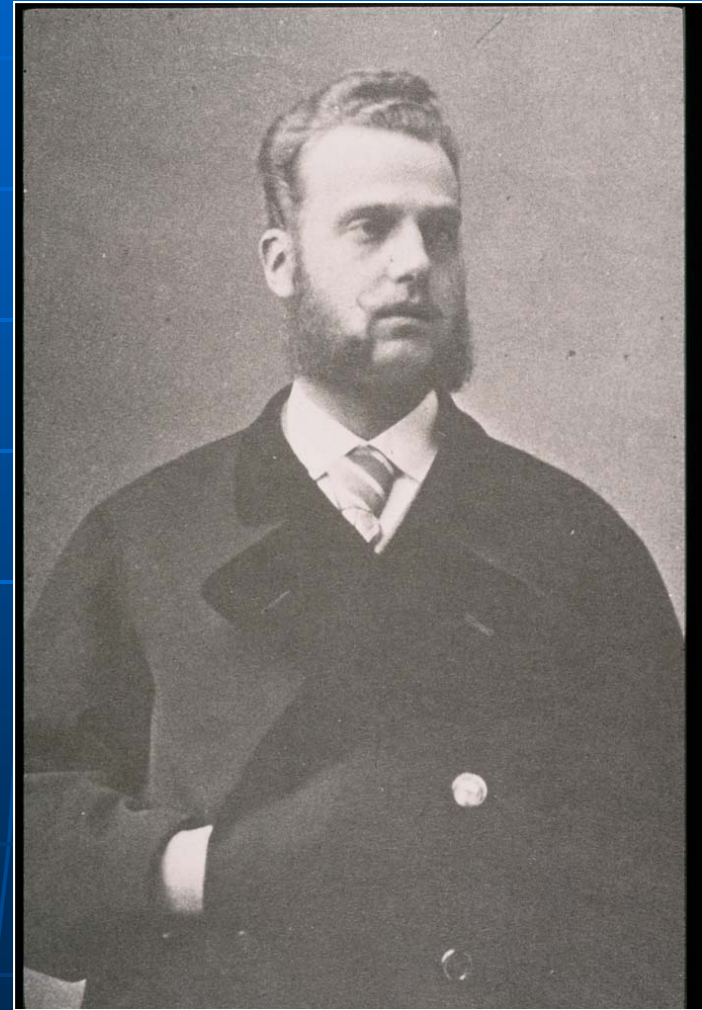
# Carnival History in New Orleans

- “old-line” Krewes (all male)
  - 1857 Mistick Krewe of Comus
  - 1870 Twelfth Night Revelers
  - 1872 Rex, Momus
  - 1882 Proteus
- 1901 Zulu, first African-American Krewe
- 1959 Iris, first Female Krewe
- SuperKrewes (co-ed)
  - 1967 Endymion
  - 1969 Bacchus
  - 1994 Orpheus



# 1872

- Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff visited New Orleans
- Help inspired a "royal" event
- The Rex organization was born





# Early Rex Proclamations





# The colors of carnival

- Purple - Justice
- Gold - Power
- Green - Faith

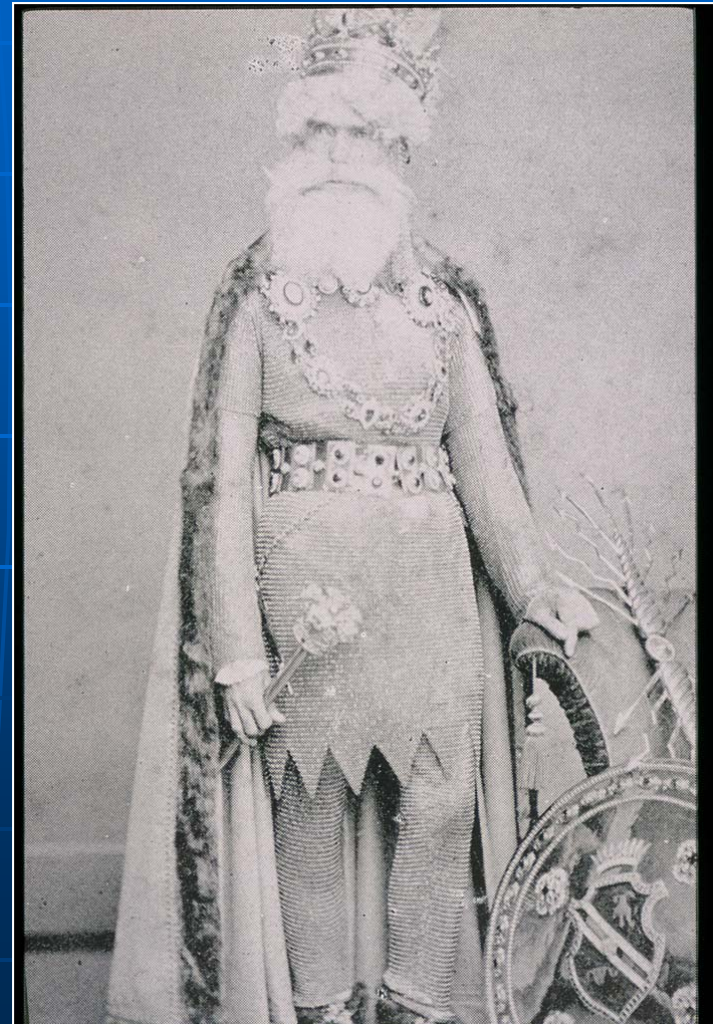


# Rex – King of Carnival

- Rides at the front of the Rex parade on Fat Tuesday
- A member of the Rex Organization
  - ~60ish men with major civic/business impact on New Orleans
- HUGE honor within the city



Dr. John Ochsner, 1990



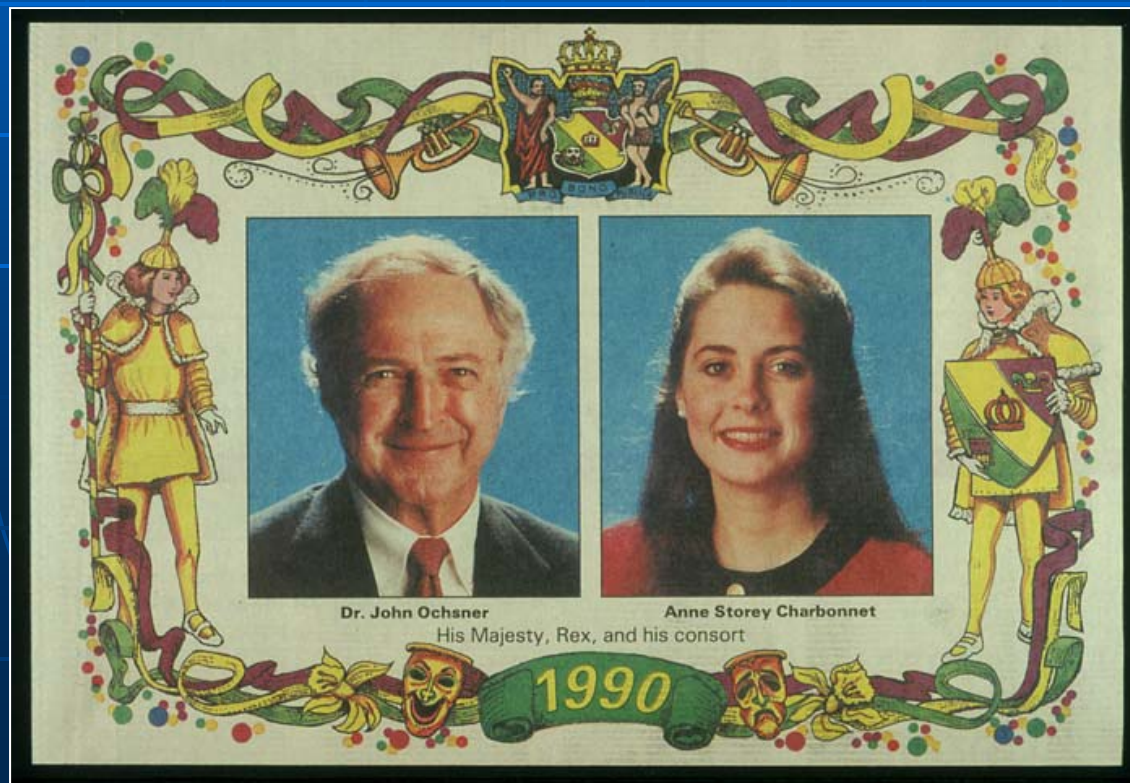


Rex and his royal pages, toasting prior to the beginning of the parade



# Queen of Carnival

- The queen of carnival
  - 20 year old debutante
  - Daughter of a Rex Krewe member
  - Also an immense honor within the city



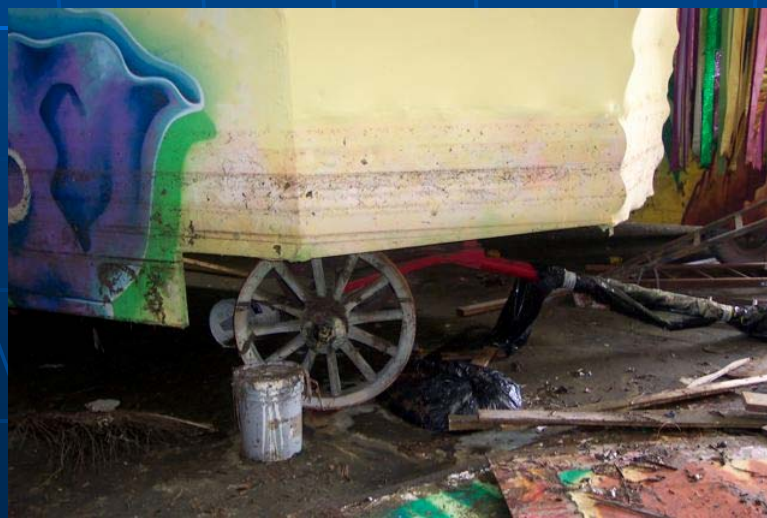


# Rex Den after Katrina



# Hurricane Katrina Damage

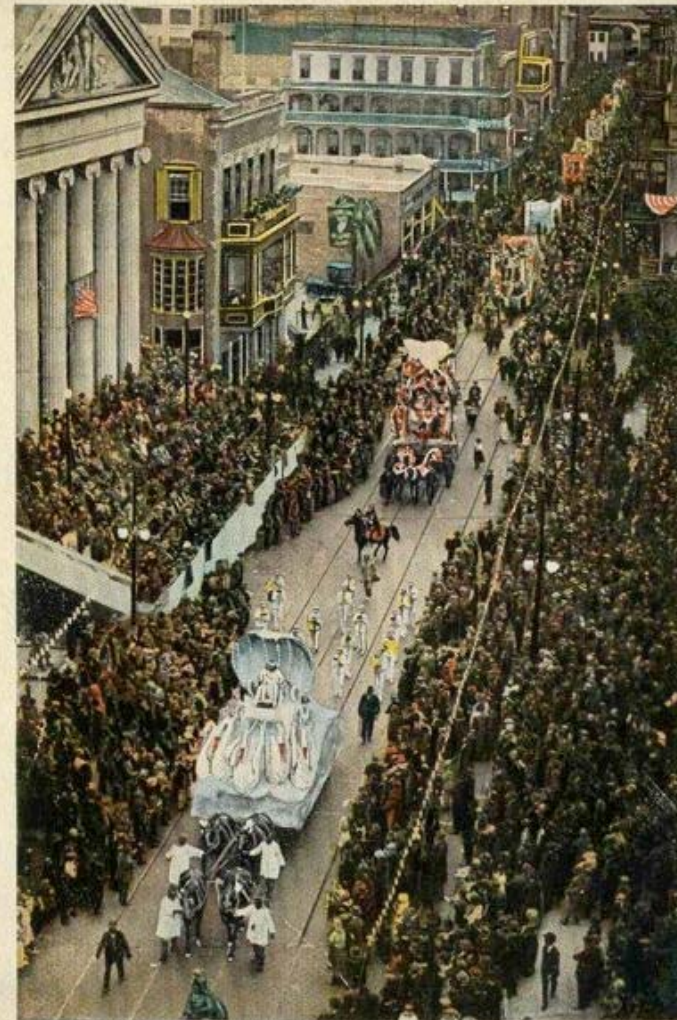
Rex Den





# Parades

- “Time slot” for each Krewe’s parade is the same each year
  - VERY steeped in tradition
- Parades almost daily for 2 wks preceding Fat Tuesday
- Parade days closest to Fat Tuesday most prized



The Rex Parade, Passing the Review Stand  
City Hall, Mardi Gras Carnival, New Orleans

# “Masking”

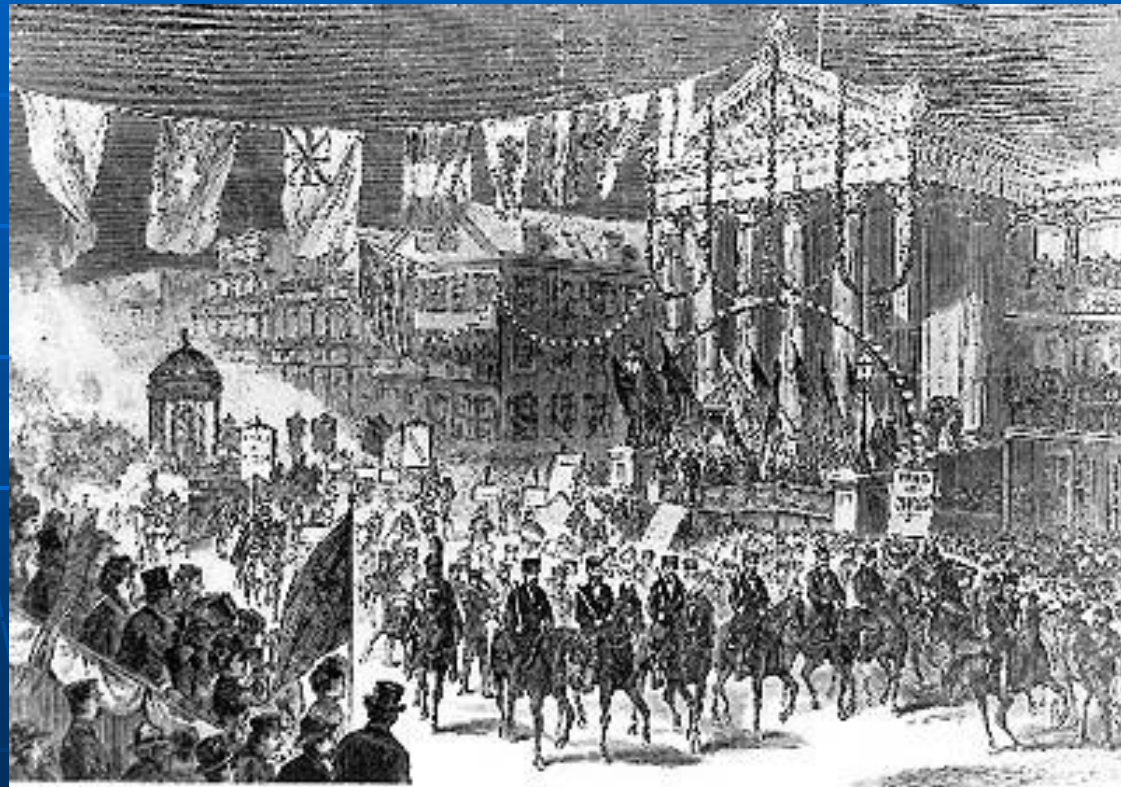
- By tradition, float riders must be masked during the parade
- The captain and leutinents remain masked during the balls





# Early Parades

Comus 1872



# Mardi Gras then....













# Turning the corner of St Charles and Canal Street



# The Boeuf Gras

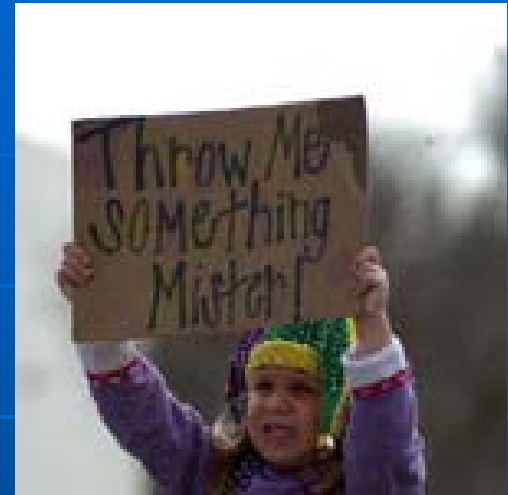
Rex











# Rex Captain and Leutinent





# Zulu







# Some Kings Take themselves More Seriously than others....



# Night-time parades







Flambeaux



# Bands on the Parade Route



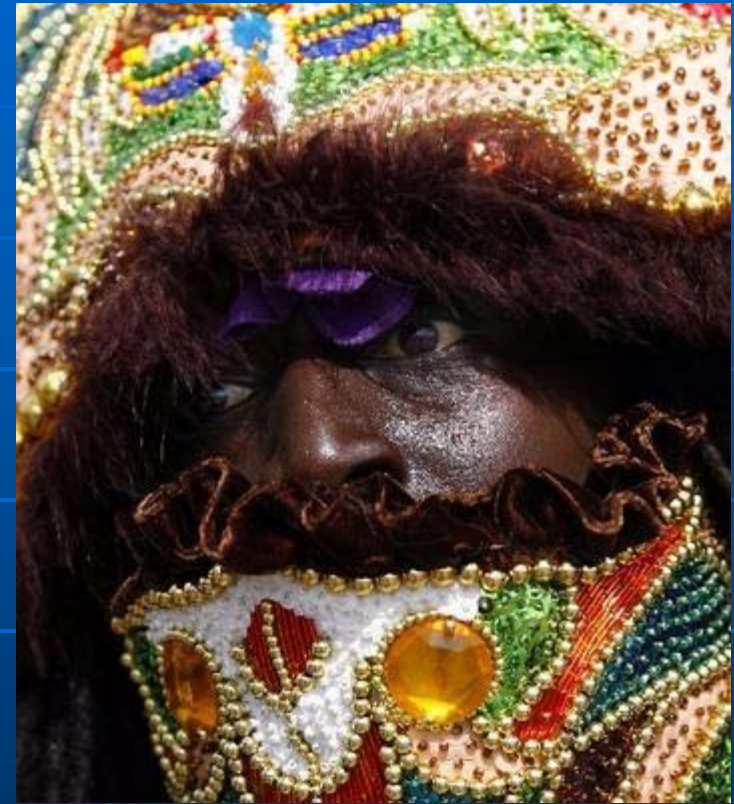








# Mardi Gras Indians



# Costuming

- Traditional for the public to costume for Fat Tuesday





















# The Best Kept Secret....

- For the locals, Carnival is about the four "F" s
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Food
  - Fun













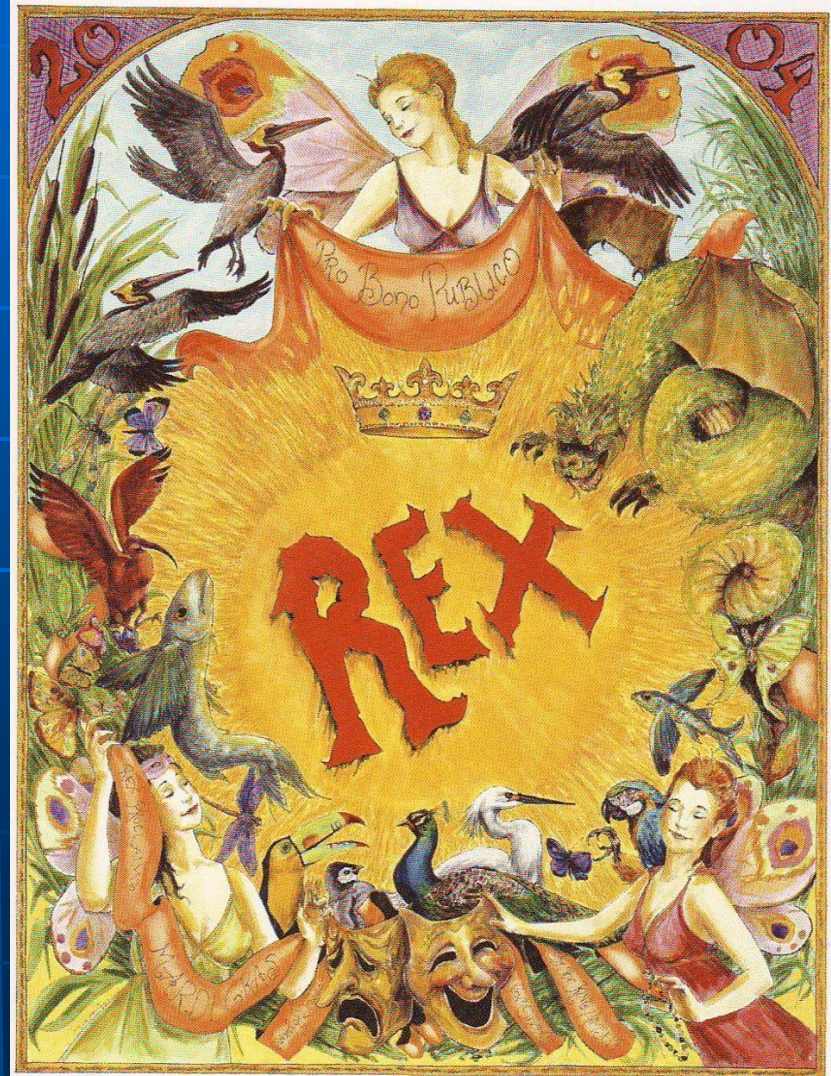








# Ball Invitations





# Early Rex Ball Invitation





# Rex Ball



# Rex Ball – The Grand March





# Early Rex Court



# Rex Court 1990



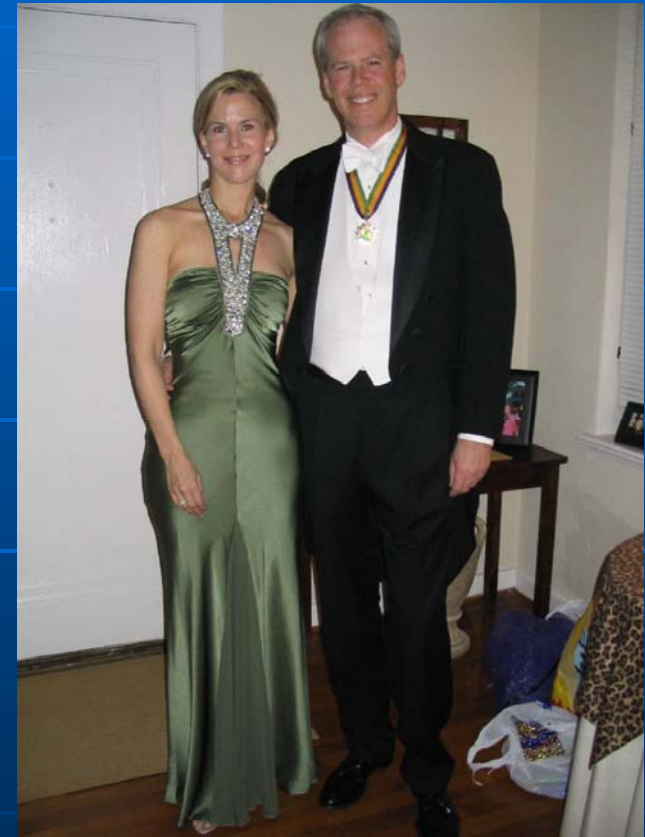


# Rex Court 2008



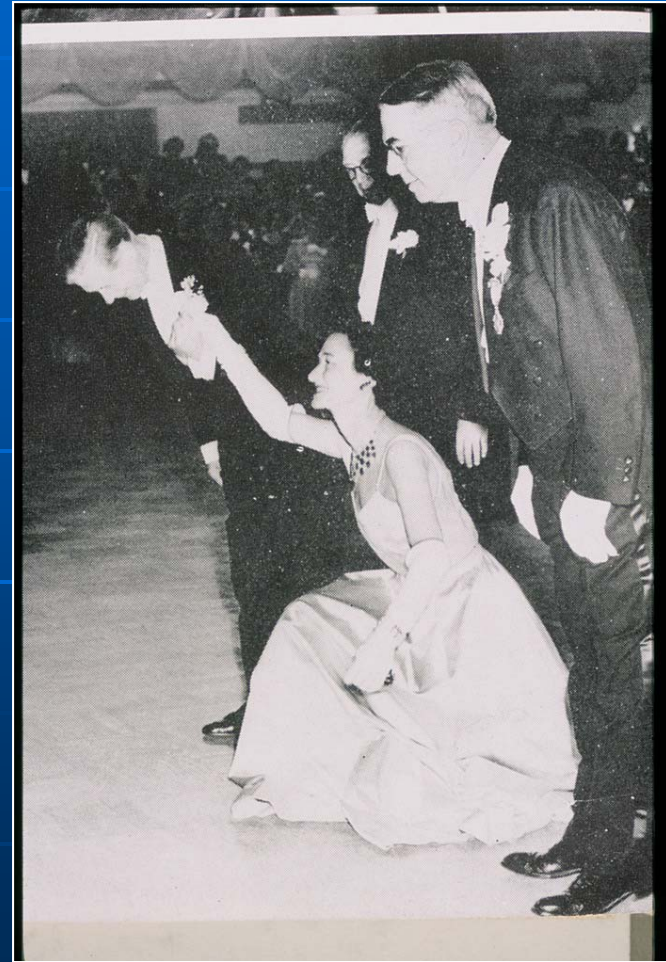
# Rex Ball Attire

White ties and tails (men), Ball gowns (women)





# Bowing to the Court



Duchess and Duke of Windsor

# Bourbon Street





# Bourbon Street

(It's a tourist thing, really....)



But REALLY, this is not  
what Carnvial is all about !

(at least not for the locals)





# COME VISIT !



Ask a local to give you the "skinny" on the REAL Mardi Gras